

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 74 NO. 47

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2003

TWO SECTION

Schaller's salary jumps 8%

By Marc Lightdale
Staff Writer

Gerard Schaller, chief school administrator of Mountainside's K-8 district, received a salary increase for this year of approximately double the standard 4 percent raise given to teachers.

Schaller is resigning from his position in July 2004 and gave his letter of resignation to the board at a meeting in June.

His annual salary has gone from \$119,000 in 2002-03 to \$129,000 for the 2003-04 school year.

The pay hike amounts to an 8.4 percent increase, about twice as much as the state average settled for teachers unions. The state average for a teacher's raise is a little over 4 percent depending on the scale and which career stage the teacher is at.

As of June, Schaller said he has been evaluated so that he has received the corresponding raise.

Borough President Peter Goggi said Schaller received no salary increase in the previous year, and that was taken into consideration when he received this year's \$10,000 raise, after a unanimous vote from the board.

"If you look over a two-year period, it works out to be something like a 4.2 percent increase per year," said Goggi.

Schaller said he never received a salary increase last year because the evaluation process was held up since the Mountainside district was under a great deal of pressure with the renovation and reopening of the Beechwood School project.

Problems with the opening of the school arose from the first general contractor who did not complete the work on time. The school board terminated the contractor.

"Every time, we made three steps forward, we went three steps backward," Schaller said.

The evaluation was never written because the board was focusing on problems with the reopening of the Beechwood School.



Photo By Kat Wolfe



Photo By Barbara Kukalis

PLAYTIME AT THE POOL — The community pools in both Springfield and Mountainside are bustling with wild water fun for the young ones. Above, Liana Tizzio, 2, explores the 'Little Pool' at the Mountainside Pool. Left, Jared Zignoli, 4 and A.J. Wisniewski, 4, are neighbors who enjoy spending the day playing at the Springfield Pool.

Officials list benefits of new FD structure

By Marc Lightdale
Staff Writer

Springfield Township Committee member Roy Hirschfeld fielded the questions thrown in his direction about whether the township needed a new firehouse during a discussion of the governing body's July 8 meeting.

The main question deals with the size and the cost of the new firehouse. The consensus from the Township Committee is that while it is expensive, it is something that is desperately needed to bring the Fire Department into the modern era.

The current firehouse, built in 1921, is a little outdated, Hirschfeld said.

The firehouse will be a welcome addition, according to Hirschfeld, because the bonding will be minimal. The tax impact of the firehouse is expected to be approximately \$19 per household for the first couple of years, the payment is spread out over a 30-year period. He compared the bonding to the bonding for new school expansion.

"We got an excellent bond rate at a low interest rate. It's spread out over 30 years just like a mortgage. It is not one lump sum payment," said Hirschfeld, who added that the payments are dependent upon how much of the bond is used.

The new facility has many more resources and will include emergency management, fire suppression and fire safety. The old firehouse in the rear of the Municipal Building will be updated to be used for the Police Department.

The new firehouse is set to finish construction by Aug. 29. The \$3.5-million facility will be 26,000 square feet. The current firehouse building is 6,500 to 7,000 square feet.

The new firehouse will be equipped with a sprinkler system, a smoke detector, and a fire alarm. The new facility makes room for all five vehicles in the front of the building and three vehicles will be housed in the back of the building. There will also be room for a ladder truck.

The firehouse is not too large, according to Committee member Clara Hareluk, who added that the new

building on Mountain Avenue will not only house the Fire Department but also the Emergency Management team which includes the police auxiliary with a large degree of communication equipment.

In terms of personnel for the Office of Emergency Management, there are 25 auxiliary police, a part-time clerk/planner, a communications group of 10 people, Coordinator John Cottage and Deputy Coordinator Scott Sendei.

The Office of Emergency Management will be located on the second floor of the building and will mirror the current set-up at Sarah Bailey Elementary on Church Mall. The Office of Emergency Management will move into the new building as soon as it opens.

Since the Department of Emergency Management will not be spending nights living at the facility unless there is an emergency, Hareluk said.

"We don't normally have anyone living there unless there is a state of emergency that required us to be there 24 hours a day. We have a bathroom and sink and could get by if we had to," said Cottage.

Although Cottage is looking forward to moving into the new firehouse, he said there are certain advantages to being at the current location at Sarah Bailey. A meter facility, where there are coins and blankets to use those who needed homes during Tropical Storm Floyd in 2004.

There is a big room on the second floor of the new firehouse that will be used for meetings of the Police Auxiliary and Office of Emergency Management similar to the large room that is currently utilized for the police at Sarah Bailey, Cottage said.

It is the same kind of setup in the new firehouse. For example, Cottage said the group will not be having accessibility because there will be a kitchen in the new firehouse that will be used by OPM.

Hareluk said that this is a building that will be needed.

"For those people who think nothing is wrong with the old firehouse,"

See FORMER PAGE

Borough plans to regulate practice of vehicle sales on Route 22

By Brian Pedersen
Managing Editor

For years, Mountainside has had situations where gas stations on Route 22 are selling vehicles. Now, the borough has plans to regulate the businesses that are doing this.

The recommendation came before the Borough Council from Construction Official George McGrath, requesting a change in the borough code regarding vehicle sales on commercial properties.

Mayor Robert Vigilanti put this proposal on the table for the council to put limits on the amount of vehicles that could be sold at one time, but not everyone agreed.

"I think you're opening yourself up for the potential of

Bill Lane. McGrath said the borough has put some control in the code regarding how many vehicles can be sold, but a week later, a different car is there. He said there are several places that are doing this on a regular basis — mainly gas stations and auto repair shops. He added that AK Stamping has a boat out for sale.

"One in particular is a recurring nightmare on Route 22," said McGrath. He said that if nothing gets done, the problem will not be solved and will keep going on.

Post suggested making it a rule that gas stations and repair shops that put out vehicles for sale are not violating the code, but emphasized that putting out a boat would be a violation. He added that vehicles put out for sale at an

office building would also be a violation depending upon the circumstances.

Vigilanti raised the issue regarding the Exxon gas station on New Providence Road. He said it was clear when the borough rewrote the code that it was specified that the selling of vehicles would not take place at that location.

"I think there has to be surveillance and prevention," said Schone. "If you do this on a regular basis, you will be fined. I've seen it on Route 22 on a continual basis."

Post is expected to work on the code issue, with council discussing it further. He said council members concluded that they were not going to issue zoning violations for occasional sales from auto-related businesses.

New pastor comes back home

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

Father John McCrone — the new pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Mountainside is a people person.

"Not only is this my first full pastorate, but the interesting thing is, I was ordained right here in 1982," said the priest. He had been a deacon at the parish church back then, and he feels like becoming pastor there is just like "coming home."

McCrone assumed the full pastorate at Our Lady of Lourdes on June 14, replacing Father Patrick Leonard, who has retired. Father McCrone is very aware of the large, active and challenging parish.

"There are about 1,300 families registered here on the books, with many new young families and children among them now," McCrone said. He recalled how Mountainside itself has grown. "There is a definite change in demographics. It used to be primarily a parish of older people; not anymore, young people have moved in and are still doing so."

He cites the reopening of the church school as proof of this. "We now have 160 children all in pre-K and kindergarten."

When he arrived, it was their last day of school but he went over to

meet the children and tour the building. "I will always be visible there," he said smiling. "but will get to know the teachers and kids better come September."

Did he always want to become a priest?

"No," he said. "I grew up in Newark and we lived there until about 1978. Still, when you go Catholic grammar school, it becomes part of you," he said. He did graduate from Irvington High School, and had two years off before entering Seton Hall University.

Meanwhile, he worked full-time at Howard Savings Bank, rising to assistant manager. "I liked it, but there was a void in my life," he recalled. Soon he decided there was more for him, and he entered the Seton Hall Seminary which was in 1973. "I was 23, and it was called the Immaculate Conception Seminary then. It was a slow discerning process, but I knew by that time it was right for me," said the priest.

Within the priesthood, his interest is and always has been with the Police Department. "I am strongly drawn to law enforcement—I guess because many from my family were in the field — and I became chaplain for the PBA. I coordinate the annual Blue Mass which is at the Cathedral of the

Sacred Heart in Newark, conducted by the Archbishop," he added.

McCrone had been assistant pastor at St. Mary's Church in Dumont before coming to Mountainside, and while there, served with Port Authority Police in New York as chaplain. When Sept. 11 happened, he recalled that he was back and forth every single day. "This went on for about two months with that crisis, they lost a lot of men."

"I have been a priest now for 21 years and I love what I do," he said. Father McCrone said in his first sermon at Our Lady of Lourdes, he told the people it was nice to be back home. "And I really meant that; this parish is home to me. Fortunately, I had maintained friendships with many people here."

He considers one of his friends the Police Chief and Borough Administrator James Debbie. "He is a great guy. I don't know if he has an official chaplain, but he knows I am here for him if he needs me."

He gave an illustration of the kind of people in the parish. "We were just sitting around and having coffee after Mass one Sunday, and I casually said, I wanted to gather all together and celebrate, celebrate the end of summer, celebrate that I am here, celebrate whatever, maybe with a picnic,

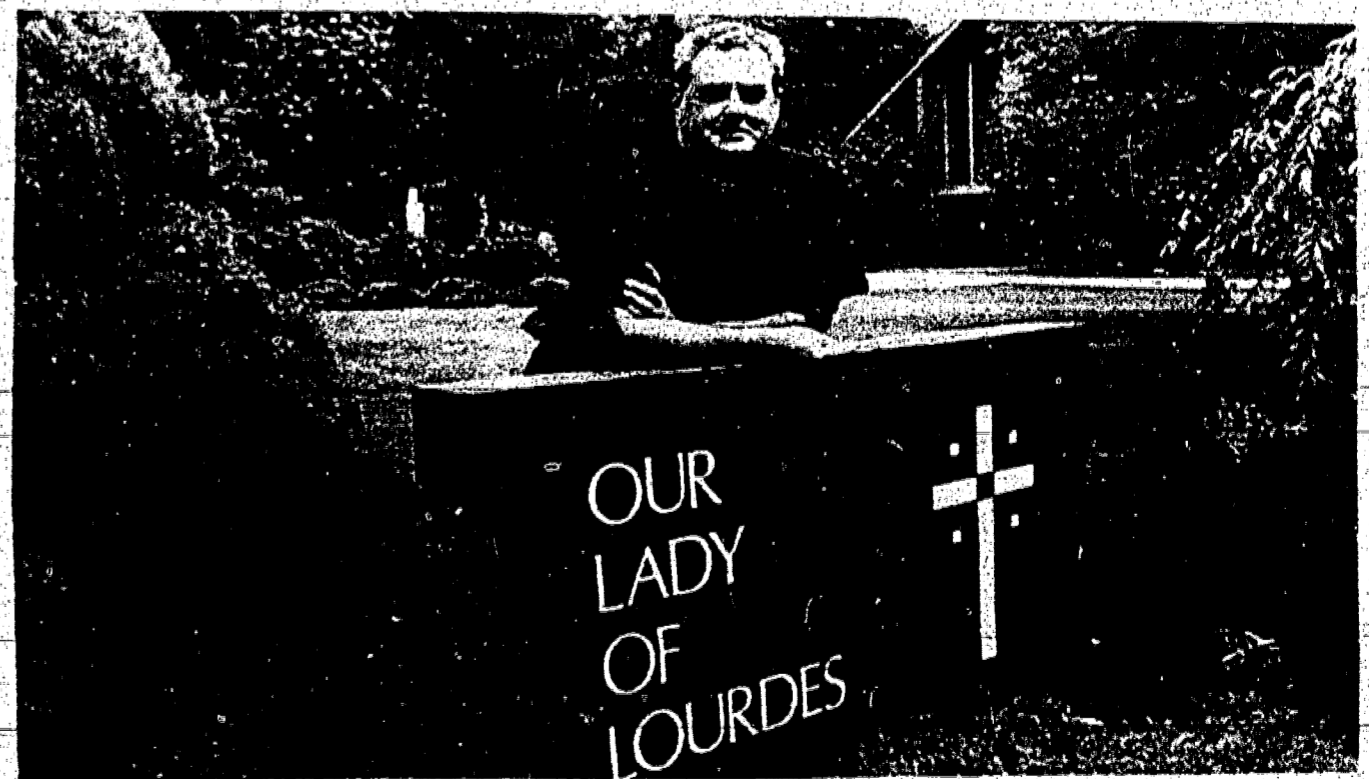


Photo By Barbara Kukalis

Father John McCrone enjoys his journey back home. He was originally ordained as a deacon of Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Mountainside in 1982. Now, 21 years later, he has assumed the full pastorate of the church.

and that I thought the fall would be a great time to do this."

The next thing he knew, one of the men who had been there called him to say there was now a committee of seven people available to plan the picnic. "And he asked, when could they meet with me? Isn't that great? That is how giving they are."

He said there were other things. "It is so much more than I expected. It is established, it is comfortable, and it is fully operational. Many of the programs are already in place—there is a very good foundation going way back," he added.

He approaches the future with excitement — and yes, there will be a

welcome-back fall picnic. Details to follow. Mainly, this new priest will be connecting to every member of the community if he can. Part of his team are two associate priests, Father Peter Michota and Father Kim JaeHwa.

"They are both great," said McCrone. "Our Lady of Lourdes is a lucky parish."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Community Calendar:** Prepared by the ECHO LEADER to inform residents of various community events and government meetings. To mail a schedule, send it to: ECHO LEADER, Managing Editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083.
- Saturday**
 - The Union County Police Department will provide a child safety seat clinic, weather permitting, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Children's Specialized Hospital, 1500 New Providence Road, Mountainside.
- Sunday**
 - The Springfield High School will provide a child safety seat clinic, weather permitting, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Children's Specialized Hospital, 1500 New Providence Road, Mountainside.
- Monday**
 - The Springfield Board of Education will meet in the media center at Jonathan Dayton High School on Monday, July 14, 7:30 p.m.
 - The Springfield Township Council will meet for a work session in the Annex Building, 20 N. Trenton Ave., at 7:30 p.m.
 - The Lunchtime Video Series presents an evening at World: History of Man's Greatest Obsession, at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., at 6 p.m. For information, call 908-686-7700.
 - The Springfield Township Council will meet for a work session in the Annex Building, 20 N. Trenton Ave., at 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday**
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 - The Springfield Township Council will meet for a work session in the Annex Building, 20 N. Trenton Ave., at 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday**
 - Mr. Tish, a recognized vocal performance presents "Phenomenal Physics," an education of the physical world in a series of scientific explanations, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at The State Nature & Science Center, 432 New Providence Road in Mountaintop.
 - The 2003 Union County Science Fair has 30 exhibits at Echo Lake Park in Mountaintop with a free admission. Proceeds will benefit the "Wolfman" Washington at 7:30 p.m. in the park. Proceeds go to the Mill Lane Senior Center and picnic baskets. For more information, call 908-686-7700.
 - For weather information, call 908-686-7700.
- Upcoming**
 - July 30**
 - The Read and Create Magic Show, a family good look at reading and explores the adventures of a girl named Lily. The show takes place at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 432 New Providence Road in Mountaintop from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. For information, call 908-686-7700.
 - July 31**
 - The Springfield Free Public Library is presenting the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., at 6 p.m. For information, call 908-686-7700.
 - Aug. 4**
 - Evangelical Baptist Church, 244 Springfield Road, Springfield will offer the "Super Gospel Under the Stars" event, from 6 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. through Aug. 8. The event is a celebration of the church's 100th anniversary. For information, call 908-686-7700.
 - Aug. 10**
 - The Sisterhood of Temple Shalom, 85 Springfield Ave. in Springfield, will conduct their annual garage sale at the temple's social hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, call 908-686-7700.
 - Aug. 11**
 - The Sisterhood of Temple Shalom, 85 Springfield Ave. in Springfield, will conduct their annual garage sale at the temple's social hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, call 908-686-7700.
 - Aug. 21**
 - The Alzheimer's Foundation of America will present a free educational program on Alzheimer's Disease at Brighton Gardens of Mountaintop, 1550 Route 22 West in Mountaintop from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration is at 8:30 p.m. For information, call 908-686-7700.

Collaborative hotline available for those who need it

Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountaintop, in collaboration with Contact We Care, an organization with 27 years of experience responding to the community, recently launched the area's first 24-hour crisis hot-line. The hotline provides people with a way to solve their concerns with complete confidentiality to trained volunteers who will listen and offer judgment.

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State mandate blamed

By Marc Lightdale
Staff Writer

The consensus from the July 8 Township Committee meeting was that the cost of pension by 5 percent has led on a state mandate, translated into increased property taxes, and the township officials are not happy about watching property taxes go up.

Committee member Steve Mullman said he was angry at the state office. He mandated a 5 percent increase in coverage of the police and fire departments. The number jumped from 70 to 75 percent or 65 to 70 percent depending on the individual, and made people reach for their pocket books.

"It's a state mandate, let the state pay for it," Mullman said. "I don't think it's fair that the taxpayers have to foot every single bill that we have to pay on."

Committee member Steven Goldstein said that he felt this was going to be done, it should have been done by the Township Committee. He also emphasized that he didn't begrudge people making money, but he said it placed another burden on property taxes.

Goldstein said the Township Committee should be making decisions on the matter as opposed to having the state dictate future pension increases.

"Our position is that we treat our uniformed people fairly well to begin with. I don't begrudge anybody getting more money, if we wanted to pay some more we would rather be the ones who pass it up," Mullman said.

Mayor Gregory Clarke expressed concern about the property tax increase that resulted from the state mandate, but said on the surface, it made it seem as though it were the work of the municipality, which is not true.

Police receive report of grass fire at Loews Theater

At 9:01 a.m. July 17, there was a grass fire reported between JMK Motors and the parking lot of the Loews Theater.

There was an old seat cushion on fire. The JMK employees sprayed it with a fire extinguisher, the fire department showed down the area as a precaution.

A victim came to headquarters to file a report of harassment on New Providence Road, filed at 6:03 p.m. July 16.

Scout members inducted into honor society

Boy Scout Troop 73 members were recently inducted into Scouting's National Honor Society.

James M. Kukučka and John Cottrill of St. James Boy Scout Troop 73 in Springfield, earned and were inducted into the Order of the Arrow, which is Scouting's National Honor Society.

Membership in the Order is based on peer nomination and one's ability to complete an Ordeal, which has the candidate reflect on his own Scout life and character and deeper understanding of the Scout Oath.

In addition, Assistant Scoutmaster James P. Kukučka was inducted in the Order of the Arrow for adult leaders.

These young men will represent Springfield Troop 73 in the Wyalapa Valley (July 22) at Camp Moccasin Lodge 43.

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Animals, animals



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Artists invited to city's exhibit

The Summit Chamber of Commerce invites all area craft artisans and artists to exhibit their work at the 26th annual Summit Summer Fair on Aug. 2.

Attendance at the popular event runs between 5,000 and 10,000 people.

Artists and artisans from as far away as Florida exhibit in the show and there is space for approximately 100 vendors at the fair.

The fair is a pre-arranged show and photographs or slides of the applicants' work must be submitted with the registration form. In addition, only those crafters and artists who do their own work are allowed to participate.

For information and to receive a registration form, call Diane Gallo, Summit Promotions, at 908-522-1781.

Former site dubbed 'outdated'

Continued from Page 1

However, the police renovations cannot begin until the new firehouse is completed and the firefighters move into their new building.

Harek said the township has to plan for the future and the new firehouse has enough space for storage of the fire equipment and trucks. The boys' house at the department vehicles, but the new firehouse's five bays allow for growth in the future.

Regarding the completion date, which had been extended several times, the primary reason for the delays given by Nelson, the head of the project was weather related. Originally, the project was to be a 400-day completion with the contract awarded Jan. 24, 2002.

FD responds to sparking outlet

At 12:24 p.m. on July 10, Springfield firefighters responded to a Wentz Avenue residence for a sparking electrical outlet.

Firefighters responded to Moser Field for smoke in the area at 2:28 p.m. July 9.

At 10 p.m., firefighters responded to a free Top Drive residence for an activated fire alarm.

Firefighters responded to a Maple Avenue apartment complex to assist the police at 10:43 p.m. July 9.

At 4:45 a.m. on July 7, firefighters responded to a South Springfield

Contract negotiations continue

By Marc Lightdale
Staff Writer

"There's been no indication that cooperation would diminish between the two sides," Mahler said. Jacqueline Shanes, a board member who is closely involved in the negotiations, said that working in the negotiations for contract negotiations is a good thing.

"Things are going well, and it's a good thing that people are discussing the issues over the summer," Shanes said.

Hopefully, there will be a teacher's contract by the beginning of the school year, she said. There was a meeting Monday night and meetings have been scheduled throughout the summer.

The fact that we're working towards this together is a good thing. We'll have a contract and finish negotiations," Shanes said. "We're working on all the issues. Nothing will be finalized until the memorandum of understanding is signed."

Learn Craddock Ponce, who is representing the teachers' side of the contract, could not be reached for comment at press time Tuesday.

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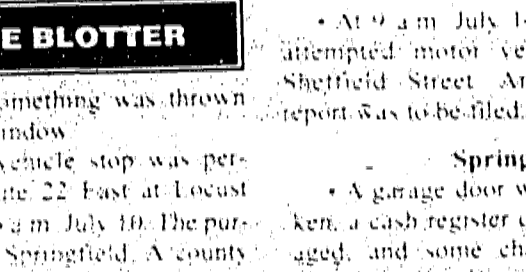
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Tennis players may have to pay for use of tennis courts at night

By Marc Lightdale
Staff Writer

Some people really enjoy playing tennis at night under the bright lights at the Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield. Depending upon the weather, tennis playing at night is fun or miserable.

While nobody at the Board of Education knows of anybody interested in playing at night, the township has received the impression from the public, that there is a genuine interest in the use of the courts at night.

The township would like to initiate a metered system on 2 per fee basis so that the public can still enjoy the use of the courts despite the fact that they are under the per-view of the Springfield Board of Education.

In order to trim the debated school budget, the board decided to cut spending by \$2,000 to \$4,000 and eliminate the full-year cost of electricity for using lights at night.

As for a metered or fee-based system for using the courts at night, Matthew Clarke, the board's business administrator, said there had not been any communication with him.

Walter Mahler, superintendent of schools, said he has not been approached by the Township Committee. Mahler spoke with Committee member Steve Mullman, a proponent of the idea, but the issue has not yet been discussed by the board.

Rumors of vandalism were dispelled by Clarke, who said the wiring remained in place.

"There is no vandalism that I'm aware of," Clarke said. Mullman suggested that the lights could be metered and paid for by the Township Committee, who would raise funds by charging on a fee basis.

Mahler said that neither he nor Mike Moore, supervisor of buildings and grounds, had heard of any requests for the use of the courts at night.

Council agrees to proper burial

By Marc Lightdale
Staff Writer

The Mountaintop Borough Council unanimously passed a resolution at its regular meeting Tuesday that calls for a proper burial of the ashes for the victims of the attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Previously, the ashes were being held at the Fresh Kills Landfill in Staten Island, N.Y.

"I said 'rest their souls,'" said Mayor Robert Vigilante at the July 8 meeting.

Council President William Lane and Councilman Thomas Perrotta were absent, leaving four members of the governing body present: Glenn Mortimer, Paul N. Mirabelli, Werner Schon, and Keith Turner, who all voted to pass the resolution.

"It is fitting and proper for the state to honor the victims of Sept. 11, 2001 by returning their ashes to the site of a memorial at the World Trade Center," according to the resolution.

The two bills, A-2753 and S-1024 require the Port of Authority of New York and New Jersey to honor the victims of the World Trade Center attacks by conveying the ashes of their remains, placing them in containers, transporting them to the World Trade Center site to be utilized in a memorial in their honor.

These two bills will become official when passed into law by the New Jersey State Legislature. The Borough

Police receive report of grass fire at Loews Theater

At 9 a.m. July 14, there was an attempted motor vehicle theft on Sheffield Street. An investigative report was filed.

At 2:10 p.m. on July 10, an incident report was filed at the Loews Theater, 100 East 22nd Street, regarding a cash register drawer was damaged, and some change was taken during a burglary of a Mountaintop Avenue station at 5 a.m. July 7.

A burglary of a vacant Mt. Pleasant Avenue residence took place at noon on July 7. The front door lock and jamb was damaged.

A burglary of another Maple Avenue residence occurred at 12:30 p.m. July 7, with damage including the front door lock and jamb of unknown amount.

A cellphone, a Sanyo 5300, valued at \$400 was taken from behind the counter of a business on Mountain Avenue residence took place at noon on July 7. The front door lock and jamb was damaged.

The incident occurred at 9:05 p.m. July 9.

A vehicle entered the parking lot at 1000 N. Springfield Ave. and a trail caught the cable wire attached to a pole.

The cable wire was registered to Fedex Freight in Eastersburg, Tenn. While the trailer was registered to Fedex Freight East of Harrison, Ariz.

Artists invited to city's exhibit

The Summit Chamber of Commerce invites all area craft artisans and artists to exhibit their work at the 26th annual Summit Summer Fair on Aug. 2.

Attendance at the popular event runs between 5,000 and 10,000 people.

Artists and artisans from as far away as Florida exhibit in the show and there is space for approximately 100 vendors at the fair.

The fair is a pre-arranged show and photographs or slides of the applicants' work must be submitted with the registration form. In addition, only those crafters and artists who do their own work are allowed to participate.

For information and to receive a registration form, call Diane Gallo, Summit Promotions, at 908-522-1781.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

How to reach us:
The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Worrall Community Newspapers, an independent family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below.

Voice mail:
Our main phone number 908-686-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system to better serve our customers. During regular business hours a receptionist will answer your call. During the evening or when the office is closed your call will be answered by an automated receptionist.

To subscribe:
The Echo Leader is mailed to the homes of subscribers and delivered every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$26.00, two-year subscriptions are \$47.00. College and out-of-state subscriptions are available. You may subscribe by phone by calling 908-686-7700 and allow at least two weeks for processing your order. You may use MasterCard, Visa, American Express or Discover Card.

Missing newspaper:
If your Echo Leader did not get delivered please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation. Additional charges may apply.

Back issues:
To purchase back issues of the Echo Leader please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation. Additional charges may apply.

News items:
News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at 4 p.m. for consideration for publication the following week. Pictures must be black and white glossy prints. For further information or to report a breaking news item, call 908-686-7700 and ask for Editor.

Story reprints:
For permission to reprint any item printed in the newspaper you must call Tom Canavan at 908-686-7700. All material is copyrighted.

Letters to the editor:
The Echo Leader provides an open forum for opinionated and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed, double spaced, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and a day time phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

E-mail:
The Echo Leader accepts opinion pieces by e-mail. Our address is editor@echoleader.com. E-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

To place a display ad:
Display advertising for placement in the general news section of the Echo Leader must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m. for publication that week. Advertising for placement in the B section must be in our office by Monday at noon for publication that week. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Call 908-686-7700 for an appointment. Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To place a classified ad:
The Echo Leader has a large, well read classified advertising section. Advertisements must be in our office by Tuesday at 3 p.m. for publication that week. All classified ads are payable in advance. We accept MasterCard, Visa, American Express or Discover Card. A classified representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please stop by our office during regular business hours or call 1-800-554-9911, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To place a public notice:
Public Notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers. Public notices must be in our office by Monday at noon for publication that week. For more information, call 1-908-686-7700 and ask for the public notice advertising department.

Facsimile transmission:
The Echo Leader is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by Fax. Our Fax lines are open 24 hours a day. For classified please dial 201-763-2557. For all other transmissions please dial 908-686-4169.

Web site:
Visit our Web Site on the Internet called LocalSource online at <http://www.localsource.com>. Find all the latest news, classified, community information, real estate and hometown chat.

Postmaster please note:
The ECHO LEADER (USPS 512-720) is published weekly by Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc., 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. Mail subscriptions \$26.00 per year in Union County, 75 cents per copy, non-refundable. Periodicals postage paid at Union, N.J. and additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the ECHO LEADER, P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J., 07083.

Contract negotiations continue

By Marc Lightdale
Staff Writer

"There's been no indication that cooperation would diminish between the two sides," Mahler said. Jacqueline Shanes, a board member who is closely involved in the negotiations, said that working in the negotiations for contract negotiations is a good thing.

"Things are going well, and it's a good thing that people are discussing the issues over the summer," Shanes said.

Hopefully, there will be a teacher's contract by the beginning of the school year, she said. There was a meeting Monday night and meetings have been scheduled throughout the summer.

The fact that we're working towards this together is a good thing. We'll have a contract and finish negotiations," Shanes said. "We're working on all the issues. Nothing will be finalized until the memorandum of understanding is signed."

Learn Craddock Ponce, who is representing the teachers' side of the contract, could not be reached for comment at press time Tuesday.

FD responds to sparking outlet

At 12:24 p.m. on July 10, Springfield firefighters responded to a Wentz Avenue residence for a sparking electrical outlet.

Firefighters responded to Moser Field for smoke in the area at 2:28 p.m. July 9.

At 10 p.m., firefighters responded to a free Top Drive residence for an activated fire alarm.

Firefighters responded to a Maple Avenue apartment complex to assist the police at 10:43 p.m. July 9.

At 4:45 a.m. on July 7, firefighters responded to a South Springfield

Former site dubbed 'outdated'

Continued from Page 1

However, the police renovations cannot begin until the new firehouse is completed and the firefighters move into their new building.

Harek said the township has to plan for the future and the new firehouse has enough space for storage of the fire equipment and trucks. The boys' house at the department vehicles, but the new firehouse's five bays allow for growth in the future.

Regarding the completion date, which had been extended several times, the primary reason for the delays given by Nelson, the head of the project was weather related. Originally, the project was to be a 400-day completion with the contract awarded Jan. 24, 2002.

Child Placement Review Board seeks volunteers

The Child Placement Review Board Program in Union County is looking for volunteers to assist the courts in speeding up permanency for children.

Liberate an special requirements, other than the ability to read and write. A one-year commitment is appreciated.

The CPRB volunteers are appointed by a judge to review cases of those children placed outside of their natural homes by the Division of Youth and Family Services.

"Based on a thorough review of case records and discussion," the CPRB makes recommendations to the Family Court judge.

CPRB makes every attempt to make certain that these children do not remain in placement for longer than is necessary, but permanency is resolved to their lives.

Permanency for a child could mean return to a parent once stabilization has occurred, adoption, long-term foster care, placement with a relative or individual stabilization.

The CPRB meets bi-weekly on Mondays in Elizabeth.

Depending on the amount of cases scheduled for review, each board meets between two and three hours. All information regarding the cases will be sent to one's home to read ahead of time.

Training is given by court staff, experienced CPRB volunteers, and professionals in related fields.

If one is looking for a worthwhile way to contribute his or her time and would like to make a difference in a child's life, call Donna Madrigal at 908-687-3589 or e-mail her at donnam@njcourts.gov.

Summit On-line FIND IT Quick & Easy mysummitinfo.com

Wouldn't it be more convenient to receive your paper in the mail each Thursday?

FOR EASY HOME DELIVERY CALL 1-800-698-7794

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the ECHO LEADER to inform residents of various community events and government meetings. To mail a schedule, send it to: ECHO LEADER, Managing Editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083.

Saturday
The Union County Police Department will provide a child safety seat clinic, weather permitting, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Children's Specialized Hospital, 1500 New Providence Road, Mountainside. For more information, call 908-686-7700.

Sunday
The Springfield Board of Education will provide a child safety seat clinic, weather permitting, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Children's Specialized Hospital, 1500 New Providence Road, Mountainside. For more information, call 908-686-7700.

Monday
The Springfield High School will provide a child safety seat clinic, weather permitting, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Children's Specialized Hospital, 1500 New Providence Road, Mountainside. For more information, call 908-686-7700.

Tuesday
The Springfield Board of Education will meet in the media center at Jonathan Dayton High School on Monday, July 14, 7:30 p.m.
The Springfield Township Council will meet for a work session in the Annex Building, 20 N. Trenton Ave., at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Mr. Tish, a recognized vocal performance presents "Phenomenal Physics," an education of the physical world in a series of scientific explanations, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at The State Nature & Science Center, 432 New Providence Road in Mountaintop.
The 2003 Union County Science Fair has 30 exhibits at Echo Lake Park in Mountaintop with a free admission. Proceeds will benefit the "Wolfman" Washington at 7:30 p.m. in the park. Proceeds go to the Mill Lane Senior Center and picnic baskets. For more information, call 908-686-7700.
For weather information, call 908-686-7700.

Upcoming July 30
The Read and Create Magic Show, a family good look at reading and explores the adventures of a girl named Lily. The show takes place at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 432 New Providence Road in Mountaintop from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. For information, call 908-686-7700.

July 31
The Springfield Free Public Library is presenting the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., at 6 p.m. For information, call 908-686-7700.

Aug. 4
Evangelical Baptist Church, 244 Springfield Road, Springfield will offer the "Super Gospel Under the Stars" event, from 6 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. through Aug. 8. The event is a celebration of the church's 100th anniversary. For information, call 908-686-7700.

Aug. 10
The Sisterhood of Temple Shalom, 85 Springfield Ave. in Springfield, will conduct their annual garage sale at the temple's social hall from 10 a.m. to

COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Take the time

It takes only a moment, and it could save a life. Giving blood is something many people can do, but surprisingly few people actually do it.

Summer is always a dry spell for voluntary blood donations, but this year, the shortage has reached a critical level for many hospitals.

Every donation counts, and on any given day, an average of 34,000 units of red blood cells are needed. This includes blood transfusions for trauma victims, heart surgery, organ transplants and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or other diseases.

This time of year, many blood banks are having difficulty meeting the needs of hospitals, and as a result, surgeries sometimes have to be postponed.

Of course, not everyone can give blood, for various reasons, but those who can should do so. At some point in our lives, more than half of all Americans will require a transfusion. The reality is that most of us will rely on a very small group of donors for that transfusion.

It's important to remember that people in need of blood transfusions are depending upon you. These people are someone's friend, mother, father, brother, sister or relative. They are strangers that you may never see, yet their need is the same. Imagine knowing you were in need of a transfusion but were delayed from receiving it, just because a potential donor just didn't have the time.

Blood drives are always being offered in local hospitals and American Red Cross Chapters. All you have to do is call them and find out the date and time.

For example, summer hours for donating blood at Rahway Hospital are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays. For information at the hospital, call the Community Outreach Office at 322-490-6193.

The fact is, if everyone waited for someone else to do it, chances are, it wouldn't get done. Do something that will truly change someone's life for the better. Give blood today.



SUPER STUDENTS

Florence M. Gaudinier Middle School's Student of the Quarter recipients for the fourth quarter of the 2002-03 school year are from left, eighth-grader Alex Fish, seventh-grader Justin Churchill, sixth-grader Colin Greten and fifth-grader Jonathan Lewis and Stephen Silva. The program is sponsored by the Springfield Elks 2004 as part of their Youth Activities Program.

Can government be reflected in its agendas?

You might not know it, but meeting agendas are a primary communication between a governing body and its constituents. Complete ordinances are required to be published as legal notices, but in some cases those are not always easy to find when it comes to larger towns that use daily newspapers.

I always judge agendas by how much information is provided. My measuring stick is if a resident with the knowledge of government or meeting protocols were to appear at a meeting, how confused or enlightened would they be?

As with anything, some towns are good, others are not when it comes to their meeting agendas.

Here's a look at a few towns we cover and see who does it well and who doesn't. For the purpose, I graded only councils and not boards of education, because I do that another time.

Clark: Short but sweet. Nothing that trips out at you, but the basics are there, what's being approved, how much and a brief explanation of what's being done.

Cranford: One of the few towns that makes available to the public, gratis, everything that the governing body has done, such as minutes, their committee reports and agenda items related to what's on the agenda. The resolutions and ordinances for approval unfortunately do not include the cost of doing so.

Hillsdale: The price lists at the back of all individual ordinances, in addition to a general agenda, a few pages long that lists the resolution topics and the public gets.

They could improve by adding a monetary amount to the agenda, when applicable. But it's a good start credit for having agendas easy to read online.

Roselle C: Not bad, but another case where a dollar amount would be a long way. The title of the resolution is not not enough to explain what the ordinance is.

Roselle Park C: Nothing really stands out, but the agendas, but it's a good start. They do explain fairly well what the ordinance is, but it's not easy to find.

Union B: Similar to Roselle, but with more information related to the agenda items and a good explanation of what the ordinance is.

Springfield F: I debated giving a D, but looking at their agendas prompts me to give a C. It's not the best, but it's not the worst either.

Union County A: Maybe I'm biased because I've worked there, but the agendas are a model of what they should be. They are well written, clear and easy to read.

As a resident, I can always ask questions, but the agenda helps you understand what you're voting on. It's a good idea to have a good understanding of what you're voting on.

The short-term special introduces members to all the benefits of a YMCA membership including use of the fitness center and unlimited group fitness classes including yoga.

Family members receive free baby-sitting, weekend swim at the Summit Y and priority registration for fall programs.

Individual membership is \$195 or family membership at \$195.

Senior and college student rates are also available. Some restrictions may apply.

For more facts and details visit our website at www.ymca.org.

The YMCA is located at the Chesholm Community Center, 100 S. Springfield Ave.

Memberships available for Springfield pool

The Springfield Recreation Department announces that memberships to the Springfield Community Pool are now available at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall, Springfield.

They are available 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays.

The cost for a family is \$275, family caregiver \$125, individual \$155, senior citizen \$80, and senior or citizen married \$150.

Nonresident memberships are also available on a limited basis. Nonresidents must be sponsored by a Springfield resident with a sponsoring letter.

The cost for nonresidents is \$485 for family, \$465 for family caregiver, \$485 for individual, \$265 for senior citizen, and \$315 for senior or citizen married.

The day camp hours at the pool are: Camp A: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Camp B: 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Mark Hrywna can be reached at mhrywna@thelocalsource.com.

County Seat

By Mark Hrywna, Regional Editor.

includes all the vital information any constituent is seeking. Also, it's available on the Web.

Kennilworth: What's interesting here is they include on the agenda resolutions and ordinances received from other towns, whether it's a resolution supporting some type of state legislation or a local ordinance and other community initiatives received from other towns or other towns are doing.

Hillsdale: Resolutions are a little vague at times, such as when authorizing funds, or in some cases it's incomplete with specific information about appointments, which may be late coming in.

Union B: Lacks length, it lists resolutions and ordinances, but there's no explanation of what's on the agenda. It's sometimes a good idea to have the agenda available to the public, gratis, as it is the largest city in the county. The agenda staff is very helpful.

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EVENTS

Trailsire science show has fun with physics

Mr. Fish, a renowned circus performer who toured for seven years with The Big Apple Circus, will present "Phenomenal Physics" at Trailsire Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountaintide at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

"Magic Tricks, Circus skills and audience participation will encourage children to explore and experiment with science," said Freeholder Chester Holmes, liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

The program develops their curiosity and inspires children to seek information for themselves and enjoy finding their own solutions and answers.

Using everyday household objects, Mr. Fish offers a humorous and exciting performance incorporating "kid-friendly" demonstrations on the principles of aerodynamics, friction, air pressure and more.

"Phenomenal Physics" is for children ages 4 and older, only 50 infants or babies in strollers are allowed in the auditorium. Tickets are \$4 per person and go on sale 15 minutes before each show.

Trailsire is a service of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. For information about this and other programs, call 908-750-3670.

Also included: Visits to Rathausplatz and the Imperial Palace of Schonbrunn, Argarten China Factory and "Adventspiel."

For brochures and information call Tony Graziano, 973-376-5612.

St. James Church offers Austrian holiday trip

St. James the Apostle Church in Springfield presents a trip to Austria for Austrian Christmas Markets from Dec. 13-14.

The fee is \$1,200 per person, double occupancy, plus \$139 tax and service.

Special features include: Round-trip air transportation from Newark.

All transfers and luggage handling at overseas airports & hotels.

Five nights accommodations in a deluxe, 5-star hotel in Vienna.

SerVICES of an English-speaking guide and deluxe motorcoach.

Breakfast/daily welcome coffee and five dinners, including a dinner in Salzburg, one dinner in the Rathauskeller and a farewell celebration.

The half-day camps are \$475. The all-day Camp C is \$700.

Nonresident day camp memberships are \$225 for half-day sessions and \$350 for all day camp. For information, call 973-312-2222.

Registration kicks off for Minutemen Football

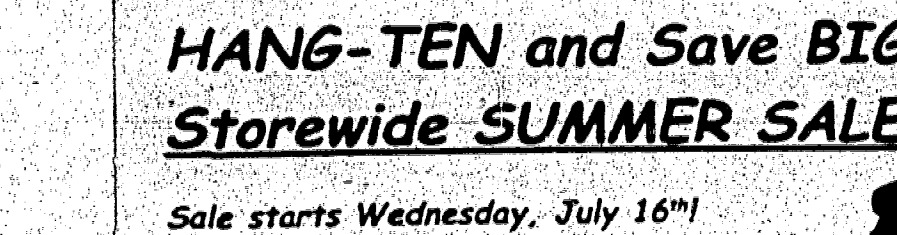
Registration for the Springfield Recreation Minutemen football team at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall.

The program is for children entering grades four through eight in September 2003.

A nonrefundable enrollment in two separate checks is required, including a \$20 check payable to Township of Springfield and a \$95 check payable to Springfield Minutemen Organization.

Discount rates for multiple players from the same family are available.

What an award



Nicolas Barbera, a sixth-grade student at Deerfield School in Mountaintide, accepts his award from Sylvia Kieszczka, an associate from Johns Hopkins University Center for talented youth—Nicolas was among the highest scoring participants in the state of New Jersey on the Plus Academic Abilities Assessment.

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Temple conducts annual rummage sale

The Sisterhood of Temple Sha'arey Shalom, Springfield, will conduct their annual rummage sale at 78 So. Springfield Ave. in the temple's social hall from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 10 and from 10 a.m. to noon Aug. 11.

Sisterhood co-presidents Robin Miller and Ilene Rotenberg and Event Chairperson Marcia Gincel announced that this year's rummage sale will be the largest and best ever.

Items for sale include housewares, clothing, furniture, toys, and more. Additionally, Aug. 11 will be "Brown Bag Day." A brown grocery bag can be filled up with assorted items for \$4.

Information can be obtained by calling the temple office at 973-479-5187.

Show uncovers magical world of reading

"The Read and Grow Magic Show" presents a magical look at reading and what can be found between the pages of a book.

Bob Conrad of Conrad Productions pulls out all the stops and lets his imagination run wild, as he explores the fun, adventures, mystery and magic of books.

The event will take place from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. July 30 at Trailsire Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountaintide.

RECREATION

YMCA offers special summer memberships

The Springfield Y.M.C.A. is offering special summer memberships through September.

The short-term special introduces members to all the benefits of a YMCA membership including use of the fitness center and unlimited group fitness classes including yoga.

Family members receive free baby-sitting, weekend swim at the Summit Y and priority registration for fall programs.

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Discount rates for multiple players from the same family are available.

Golf memberships are now available

The Springfield Recreation Department announces that memberships to the Minutemen Golf Club are now available to township residents.

The fee is \$195 per year, including a green fee, clubhouse access, and access to the clubhouse. The fee is available to township residents.

For more information, call 973-312-2222.

Summer Playground Program begins

The Springfield Recreation Department presents the Summer Playground Program at the Chesholm Community Center, through Aug. 15.

The \$45 registration fee for the entire eight-week program includes a camp T-shirt.

For information, call 973-312-2222.

Sherman on dean's list at Emory University

Laurie Nicole Sherman, daughter of Debbie and Alan Sherman of Springfield, and a student at Emory University in Atlanta, has made the dean's list for the spring 2003 semester.

Students who achieved dean's list honors are required to have a 3.5 or higher grade point average.

Ciullo makes dean's list at Boston University

Sean S. Ciullo, a resident of Springfield, has recently been named to the dean's list at Boston University for the spring semester.

Caldwell Swimming Chiefs to meet

The James Caldwell Swimming Chiefs invite all individual swimmers and swim teams to participate in their 4th Annual Summer Invitational Swim Meet on July 26 at the Cedar Street Pool in West Caldwell. Each event—freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly, will be open to all age groups.

The meet starts at 8:15 a.m. For information or an application, call Elaine Pollara at 973-228-4109 or Steve Trivino at 973-228-6855.

They'll think twice

Every day, we're bombarded with ads. If we turn on the TV, our favorite shows and movies are punctuated with sometimes annoying commercials selling everything from cars to baby shampoo.

Of course, you can't escape ads on the radio either. At your home, your mailbox is flooded with junk mail, and your telephone has become a favorite tool of the requisite telemarketer.

To be fair, ads are necessary for business and without them, people wouldn't be buying much.

But on a stretch of Route 22 in Mountaintide, the Borough Council is seeking tighter restrictions on people who display ads in the form of flags, banners or signs for a certain period of time.

They're hoping to make that time frame much shorter to discourage people from displaying these ads at all.

The signs they're talking about involve advertisements of activities not permitted under the zoning ordinance, basically meaning anything that resembles retail sale.

It's a good thing the borough is enforcing the land use ordinance, as it was created to protect against commercial ads being displayed on Route 22. This is important, as Mountaintide is a small town and Route 22 is a major artery leading into and out of it.

It's often the first thing newcomers see when they enter the town and it's probably the most heavily traveled road for people already living in the community.

Mayor Robert Vighanti said commercial business advertising would violate the land use ordinance on Route 22 and that this is a recurring problem. People just don't seem to follow the ordinance, erecting these signs repeatedly, sometimes as much as four times.

These people are not doing it to follow the ordinance and they still do not do it. It makes sense for the borough to insert these restrictions if they want to protect the image of the whole community.

What happened in the past was that the borough's zoning officer would send a letter to those who violate the land use ordinance, asking them to comply within 30 days. Instead of this rule, the borough is now going to give violators one letter, with a warning and five business days to respond to the request to remove the ad. Instead of having a second letter, the borough is simply going to issue a fine.

The land use ordinance would now include a minimum \$200 fine, followed by a second offense with a minimum \$500 fine.

This should come down hard on those who violate the ordinance and make people who have businesses in the borough think twice about advertising on Route 22.

Think About It

By Brian Pedersen, Managing Editor.

It's nothing. That's what happens every time I hear about new plans for wildlife management.

The parks are apparently a perfect gathering place for the geese, having been removed from Foho Lake Park in Mountaintide, Nomahagen Park in Cranford, Rahway River Park and Warnaco Park in Roselle. The plan is originally called for three days of "removing" the geese but the county will determine if enough have been removed before continuing.

Once the Department of Environmental Protection has ensured that other methods have been tried, they sign off, along with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, issuing a permit to terminate the geese. We have the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal, and Plant Health Inspection Service to thank for establishing this inhumane goose management program and implementing it.

According to various reports, these 700 geese were destroyed by forcing

the birds into the back of pickup trucks or something like that. It's a cruel, inhumane, and unnecessary way to deal with a common nuisance. And, it's not a humane event, either. Since when is it humane to use force to deal with a common nuisance?

It's the most inhumane act I've ever seen. And it's not just the geese, it's the people who are attacking their own animal. A geese has been attacked, it's pain and fear, it's a death sentence. It's a death sentence.

Whether it's geese, deer or fish, killing these animals is a cruel act. It's a death sentence. It's a death sentence.

These geese do not deserve to be treated like a vermin, to be destroyed simply for the fact that they co-exist with humans and are an inconvenience or nuisance for some.

Believe it or not, if people actually tried living with animals instead of trying to destroy them, they might learn a thing or two.

Now, New Jersey will be conducting a bear hunt. This will be the first in 35 years in the state. It would be nice to know that as the years progress, we would also move forward in our thinking about the treatment of animals, but it looks like that's asking too much.

I'm sure this is going to make the New Jersey Fish and Game Council quite happy. After all, they gotta keep those guns polished and ready to go.

I think I feel my blood getting warmer already.

People need to be educated on the danger of over animals to the natural ecosystem.

These geese are gathering in parks because there are fewer open spaces in New Jersey than there used to be.

It's why we see them in strip mall parking lots and along busy highways and outside corporate office centers. When you rip through open space, where do you expect animals to go?

These geese do not deserve to be treated like a vermin, to be destroyed simply for the fact that they

AT THE LIBRARY

Video series reveals man's quest for gold

Lunchtime Video Series at the Springfield Free Public Library...

On Tuesday, volume one will be shown of "The Gold Wars"...

"Volume Two Gold Fever" will be shown right after...

On Aug. 5, "Volume Three The Stuff of Dreams" will be shown...

"Volume Four Gold Hard Cash" visits the opulent temples of Constantinople...

For information, call 973-376-4930...

'Antigone' comes alive

At 1 p.m. July 29 the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey's next stage ensemble brings a live theater classic...

Which is the honorable and righteous path? Sophocles' tale of loyalty and morality is more timely than ever...

Greek tragedy topic of Great Books meeting

In its 41st session, the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey is the state's only professional theater dedicated to the presentation of Shakespeare's canon...

It is the eighth-largest Shakespeare festival in the nation...

Funding for this program has been made possible by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts...

Admission to this program is free by ticket only...

Exhibit takes a look at 'Small Faces'

An exhibit of photographs titled "Small Faces" by David Lipman will be displayed at the Donald B. Palmer Museum...

"Small Faces" is an ultra close-up portrait of the very small, the face of people...

Lipman was born in London, England, and has been a resident of New Jersey for 37 years...

For information, call 973-376-4930...

Chinese Folk Art exhibit has historical origins

An exhibit of Chinese Folk Art presented by the Asian American Cultural and Heritage Corp. will be displayed at the Springfield Free Public Library...

The exhibit will be shown at the Meeting Room of the Springfield Free Public Library...

Springfield newcomers offer summer fun

The newcomers and Neighbors Club of Springfield is a community organization offering social events for residents who wish to get to know others in town...

For information, call 973-376-4930...

New social group takes flight in Springfield

The "Infant Playgroup" resumes this month. Dates and times to be determined...

For information, call Wings at 973-921-0222...

Worship Calendar

BAPTIST: SERVING CHRIST IN THE 21ST CENTURY... 242 Shunpike Rd. Springfield...

JEWISH-REFORM: TEMPLE SHARAY SHALOM... 1000 Westfield Ave. Westfield...

JEWISH-ORTHODOX: ISRAEL OF SPRINGFIELD... 139 Mountain Avenue, Springfield...

LUTHERAN: HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH... 440 Mountain Ave. Springfield...

PENTECOSTAL-NON-DENOMINATIONAL: VISIONS OF GOD FAMILY WORSHIP... 242 Shunpike Road, Springfield...

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL... 224 Vermont Ave. Springfield...

JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE: TEMPLE BETH AIM... 1000 Westfield Ave. Westfield...

A summertime BBQ



Susan Buchner and Elisa Roland taste appetizers during the annual Mountainside Newcomer's summer barbecue held in Mountainside...

CLUBS IN THE NEWS

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Worship Calendar continued...

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Wine Library advertisement with logo, address (8 Millburn Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081), phone (888-980-WINE), and website (www.winelibrary.com).

Wine Library's Biggest Sale of the Year is Here!

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION SALE 2003

Save up to 70% on selected wines! Includes details about the sale and a coupon for \$199 on Chardonnay, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon.

Your Favorite Wines from around the world!

Sale Going On Now - Hurry In!

Driving directions to Wine Library from various locations in New Jersey.

Log on to WineLibrary.com and look for this banner on our home page.

There are limited quantities on all wines. Hurry!

RP - ROBERT PALMER - ST. STEPHEN TANZER - WL - WINE LIBRARY - WS - WINE SPECTATOR - W & S - WINE AND SPIRITS - WE - WINE ENTHUSIAST - CG - CONNOISSEUR'S GUIDE

Evangel Baptist Church of Springfield advertisement for S.C.U.B.A. diving.

Inventory Closeout Mattress Factory advertisement for futons and mattresses.

Town Bank Westfield advertisement for Piggybank Savings Account.

Helping 'Women Build'

Lynne Blaesser doesn't know the woman who will live in the house at 278 Littleton Ave. in Newark she will help build. But she does know the importance of owning your own home...



Lynne Blaesser of Summit pitches in with 'Women Build,' an all-women habitat for Humanity effort that helps bring women together to partner with women homeowners to fund and build homes in Newark.

The first challenge for the Women Build team was to raise the initial funding of \$100,000 for the cost of a Habitat for Humanity house in Newark. This far, the group has raised about \$25,000. When they reach \$100,000 they can break ground and start actual construction.

Not all women helping other women have a better life," said Blaesser. "There is an acute shortage of decent affordable housing in Newark. Through the combined efforts of a lot of dedicated and talented women, we can change the lives of at least one woman and her children."

HEALTH

Volunteers sought for blood pressure readings

The Summit Area Red Cross is looking for volunteers to take blood pressure readings. Readings are taken between 1 and 3 p.m. on one Tuesday afternoon every other month at the chapter house at 605 Northfield Ave. in Summit.

Pathways offers support for breast cancer patients

Pathways offers free community-based breast cancer support groups for people whose lives have been affected by breast cancer.

Pathways' monthly evening and Wednesday evening groups are for women at any stage of their diagnosis and offer a safe and supportive environment in which to share resources and ways of coping.

Program explores Alzheimer's Disease

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America is offering education...

NJCVA's summer workshops allow artistic vision exploration

As summer continues, thoughts are turning to relax and renew. The practice of art, the learning of a new discipline and the excitement stemming from a completed project are a few ways to renew the spirit.

SENIOR NEWS

SAGE presents program on acupuncture today

Ross Rosen and Ann Tomoko, certified acupuncturists and board-certified herbalists, will present a program, "Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine: Help for the Middle Years," as part of the SAGE Women's Issues Group Seminar.

Summit AARP prepares for upcoming tours

Summit AARP members will be offered the upcoming tours. Day tours include: September, New York show; October, Maui Dinner, Chiefs Market.

Speaker shares exotic voyage with Old Guard

A week after his retirement from Equistar Chemical, Bob Kastner took a trip that he had dreamed about for years. He will talk to the Summit area Old Guard at 10 a.m. Tuesday at New Providence Municipal Center, 300 Elkwood Ave. His dream trip was a seven-day cruise around the Seychelles Islands.

SAGE shoppers are at your service

Can you spare an hour or two a week to shop for groceries or run errands for senior citizens who are unable to do these chores for themselves? The SAGE Shopping Service has an urgent need for volunteers to help elderly persons with grocery shopping once a week on Tuesday or Wednesday morning.

Editor: JR Parachini Can be reached in Maplewood at 973-763-0700

SPORTS

Sports copy fax numbers Union County: 973-763-2557 Essex County: 973-674-2038

Springfield swimming squad solid in season's first victory Splash way to many first-place performances

The Springfield swimming team did well to turn in many first-place performances in its July 3 North Jersey Summer Swim League home victory against Madison. Springfield won its first meet of the season by a commanding score of 234-165 score.

- Springfield's outstanding results: Here's a look at Springfield's outstanding results. INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 12-under girls: 2-Kim Baldwin, 12-over girls: 1-Carolyn Maul, 3-Joanna Galante, 13-cover girls: 1-Steve Stocki, 1-Kelsey Baldwin.



The Springfield age 11 baseball team captured the Chatham Invitational Tournament, sweeping to a 4-0 record. Kneeling, from left, are Marquay Mayo, Mike Stigliano, Mike Tarantula, Chris Kemp, Aakash Patel, Brandon Helfand, Nick Circelli and Eric Ston.

A total team effort sparks Springfield to baseball title

A total team effort. That's what the Springfield Minutemen age 11 baseball team used to go 6-0 and also capture the Chatham Tournament two weekends ago. The Minutemen won two regular season games during the week and then went a perfect 4-0 in Chatham Tournament play that concluded July 6.

Local players outstanding for North in All-Star game MVP Saint-Dic, Rothery, Solomon, Stapleton all excel

On the South's first drive of the second half, an drive from the North 45 to the North to before stalling and giving the ball back on downs. Saint-Dic, Rothery, Solomon and Linden's first ten Solomon all had tackles in the series.

With less than a minute remaining, Elizabeth's Jonathan Saint-Dic looked to put his team in position to win when he sacked quarterback Marc Taylor deep in South territory and caused a fumble that the North recovered.

Fall soccer registration for boys and girls is at Bailey Civic Center

Springfield Recreation-Fall Soccer Program registration, for youngsters in grades 4-8, is taking place at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center on 30 Church Mall in Springfield. Registration may be done in person or by mail to the Civic Center.

After Taylor hit wide receiver Kelly Tripanera on an out pattern to put the ball at the South 23-yard line, the Asbury Park signal caller gained five more on a keeper to bring the ball to the 10 with six seconds left.

Union grid All-Stars are anxious

After a week and a half of practicing and other commitments, now the fun begins. The Union County football All-Stars have victory on their minds and for good reason.

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

Grid of business and service advertisements including categories like ADDITIONS, AIR CONDITIONING, CARPENTRY, SPACE AVAILABLE, CLEANING SERVICES, etc.

Large advertisement for 'WANT TO MAKE MONEY? ADVERTISE HERE!!!' with contact information for Helene.

Advertisement for 'We'll help you reach your goals. Especially if your goal is to find the best rate on a refinance loan.' with a 4.49% APR offer.

- News
- Arts
- Entertainment
- Classified
- Real Estate
- Automotive

Union County

http://www.localsource.com

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2003 - SECTION B

AT THE LIBRARY

Film series takes a look at family tragedy

The International Film Festival continues July 24 at the Springfield Free Public Library. "The Sons of Sam" will be shown at noon and 7 p.m.

Christina leads a contented middle-class life as a publicist with a thriving practice, loving wife and well-adjusted athletic teenage son. One day her lives change in a shocking, even fatal, way.

But happiness does not come with a guarantee. Tragedy has a way of coming from out of nowhere, leaving those behind stunned, regretful, angry and searching for answers.

What if one small event in a life, a tiny "what-if" moment, could an accident, death resulting in so much grief, could have been avoided? And now can the emotionally devastated survivors possibly, perhaps, resume their lives?

Director, Mervyn Frank, tells the story of a woman who has a way of coming from out of nowhere, leaving those behind stunned, regretful, angry and searching for answers.

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'Same Old Song' plays in foreign film festival

The International Film Festival continues on July 23 at the Springfield Free Public Library on Mountain Ave. "Same Old Song" will be shown at noon and 7 p.m.

Think of the musicals of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. Think of the musicals of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. Think of the musicals of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

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Meeting explores weapons waste

On June 16, at a farewell meeting, the former Rev. Kathryn Avery of the Springfield Methodist Church presided over a meeting with residents of Springfield and surrounding towns on the issue of Depleted Uranium Weapons.

These slides originated in Basra in Southern Iraq and were described in a booklet by Jakeshi Muzumdar, a Hiroshima journalist in 2001. He had visited Iraq six times to verify the accuracy of what he was presenting.

He dealt with children in every day life showing the effects of U.S. imposed sanctions as well as depleted uranium weapons and their medical consequences on these children.

Dr. Bakir Altai is an Iraqi doctor who fled his country to study medicine in the United States many years ago.

Children are particularly vulnerable to radiation," said Dr. Bakir Altai. Altai is the guest speaker at the meeting a presentation with slides of "Children at the Gulf War — A Different Kind of Nuclear War."

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Grant moves SAGE closer to relocation

SAGE Executive Director Jacqueline Vagstad announced that SAGE has been awarded a \$40,000 challenge grant from The Kresge Foundation to support its New Horizons capital campaign.

The Kresge Foundation awards grants to nonprofits operating in the areas of higher education, health and long-term care, arts and humanities, child and public affairs.

"We're excited that the Kresge Foundation has recognized the need for a new headquarters to house our services," said Vagstad.

The Kresge Foundation is a private foundation that focuses on the areas of higher education, health and long-term care, arts and humanities, child and public affairs.

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Historically disfavored

Clark school teachers Nancy Heller, Diane Molloy, Maria Silver and nine of their colleagues did not get the contract with their lawsuit about reverse discrimination in New Jersey that some federal cases permit the use of race as a factor in admissions, a lawsuit by the teachers asserting reverse discrimination in their jobs was quietly dismissed by the Appellate Division last week.

Back in 1997, 26 teachers "retreated" from the old regional district back to the Clark system because they thought since they were disproportionately of color and had a long history of reverse discrimination in their jobs, it was a fair trade to get into the old district.

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Where do trust fund dollars go?

More than \$2 million spent in first full year of operation

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

After its first full year of existence, the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund collected more than \$9 million in taxes and spent approximately \$2.4 million.

The trust fund collected \$2.83 million during the second half of 2002, after it was created following a November 2000 referendum. The freeholder board created the trust fund by ordinance early in 2001 and first started collecting taxes in the third quarter of that year.

DMR Associates of Maywood was paid \$394,900 for architectural designs for the expansion of Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountaintide.

Architectural and engineering services for improvements to baseball fields at the county's Vocational-Technical High School in Scotch Plains cost \$78,000.

The county also approved the spending of \$50,000 to create a park and observation area at Rahway River Park. Through 2002, \$24,387 had been spent for design elements from the approved amount, toward that project.

Another \$167,805 was spent for appraisals and architectural fees for various projects.

Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, who is chairman of the Open Space Trust Fund Committee, said the trust fund money can be used toward any of the trust fund's three components: open space, historic preservation and recreation.

"We examine what exactly is allowable through our trust fund," said Mirabella, explaining that the architectural fees are something the county can pay for with trust fund dollars.

Freeholders had approved \$9.5 million in trust fund projects, with \$2.07 million of that spent, as of Dec. 31, 2002. Of the \$2.07 million that had been spent by the end of 2002, approximately one-third, or \$665,991, has been used for architectural and design purposes.

Writers want reality

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

"Has anybody heard of a crime scene exception to a search warrant?" asked Union County Assistant Prosecutor William Kolano.

"No," replied the 64 writers seated in front of him.

"That's good because it does not exist," complained Kolano. "A lot of people think that they own the police. The police can come in and do whatever they want. That's true only to a certain extent."

Members of the Kiss of Death chapter, which includes 70 aspiring authors who write mystery and suspense tales, came to a pre-conference in Elizabethtown.

O'Dwyer, who retired from his position as county counsel last month, died July 10 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. He was 71.

"Jerry was an icon in Union County government," said Freeholder Chairwoman Deborah Scanlon. "He was a guiding light for all Union County freeholder boards throughout his 10-year service."

O'Dwyer began working for the county in 1986 as assistant county counsel. He served as attorney for the Union County Planning Board in 1988.

"It was both an honor and a pleasure to work with someone who was so dedicated to public service in Union County," said County Manager George Devanney.

O'Dwyer was born in New York City and raised in Harrison. He graduated from Seton Hall University and received his law degree from Fordham Law School.

After law school, O'Dwyer came to New Jersey to practice law. He interned at the office of Dushi & Johnston in Westfield. The firm later changed its name to Dushi, Johnston & O'Dwyer.

O'Dwyer was associated with the firm until 1980, when he joined Judge John Malone in a law firm known as O'Dwyer & Malone, based in Westfield.

O'Dwyer was also a humble, unassuming and generous man, who gave much of his time for many worthwhile causes," said Scanlon.

O'Dwyer was a member of the Union County Bar Association, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and Dyslexia Association of New Jersey. He was also a founding member of the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the Immaculate Heart Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. He was a sponsor of the Fresh Air Fund and Project Children.

"I think the whole county really lost a good friend," said Freeholder Alexander Mirabella. "Not only was he an excellent attorney and terrific county counsel but he was genuinely a nice guy."

O'Dwyer is survived by his wife of 49 years, Azella, and his son Dennis of Basking Ridge.

He was a member of the Union County Bar Association, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and Dyslexia Association of New Jersey. He was also a founding member of the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the Immaculate Heart Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. He was a sponsor of the Fresh Air Fund and Project Children.

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Spent	
Field of Dreams grants	\$1,030,000
Trailside expansion architectural plans	\$395,000
Development for acquisition of land in Summit	\$365,000
Appraisals and architectural fees	\$167,805
Designs for Vo-Tech school ballfields	\$78,000
Designs for Rahway River Park observation area	\$24,386
	\$2,070,000
Approved but not spent	
Esposito Farm acquisition in Clark	\$5,450,000
Designs for baseball/softball backstops	\$350,000
Historic master plan consultant	\$67,000
Kimberly Historical Society	\$40,000
	\$8,050,000
Allocated	
All figures are as of Dec. 31, 2002	\$9,127,229
	Source: Union County

"We've spent the money and the commitment has been made on those purchases that the money come out of the trust fund."

Other allocations as of Dec. 31, 2002, included \$5.45 million for the Esposito Farm acquisition in Clark, \$350,000 on the county's historic master plan, \$350,000 for three projects: engineering and designing plans for the installation of lights at Baseball Field 8 at Warnansko Park in Roselle, engineering and designing plans for improvements to Warnansko Skating Center, and the replacement of baseball/softball backstops at various county parks, and \$40,000 for the Kimberly Historical Society.

"Before we can spend any money on historical purposes, we need to get the historical master plan adopted," said Mirabella.

"So far in 2003, the county purchased about five acres of land on Green Lane in Union from the YMWHA of Union County for \$3.4 million, with the help of a \$750,000 state grant. In addition, matching grants have been awarded to urban municipalities through a program called Green the Streets. Another matching grant program announced this year, Preserve 1000 County, will provide \$500,000 to municipalities for historic preservation purposes. Freeholders also have approved \$1 million for the planning and development of the children's museum.

"We've been actively looking into open space opportunities," said Mirabella.

Foundation honors local teens

Robert and Yveta Fish of Springfield have established the Jordan Lee Fish Foundation Inc. in memory of the recent passing of their son Jordan Lee, who succumbed to leukemia last month.

They said they thought those around him how to live, laugh and face life with a positive attitude, courage and strength.

The foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) charity, will serve as a continuing legacy through granting of endowments and scholarships. It will honor:

- Academic achievement
- Sports participation
- Community service
- Leadership

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Assistant Union County Prosecutor William Kolano hands evidence photos to Sandy Levin of San Diego, who was part of a group of romance and mystery writers that visited the Prosecutor's Office, and other county offices on Tuesday.

County mourns the passing of O'Dwyer

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Red-stemmed roses adorned Jeremiah O'Dwyer's empty seat at the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders meeting last week.

O'Dwyer, who retired from his position as county counsel last month, died July 10 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. He was 71.

"Jerry was an icon in Union County government," said Freeholder Chairwoman Deborah Scanlon. "He was a guiding light for all Union County freeholder boards throughout his 10-year service."

O'Dwyer began working for the county in 1986 as assistant county counsel. He served as attorney for the Union County Planning Board in 1988.

O'Dwyer was also a humble, unassuming and generous man, who gave much of his time for many worthwhile causes," said Scanlon.

O'Dwyer was a member of the Union County Bar Association, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and Dyslexia Association of New Jersey. He was also a founding member of the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the Immaculate Heart Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. He was a sponsor of the Fresh Air Fund and Project Children.

"I think the whole county really lost a good friend," said Freeholder Alexander Mirabella. "Not only was he an excellent attorney and terrific county counsel but he was genuinely a nice guy."

O'Dwyer is survived by his wife of 49 years, Azella, and his son Dennis of Basking Ridge.

Completion delayed

(Continued from Page B1)
 "We had to do a couple of change orders to get the utility companies in to move lines and to relocate lines so that none of the facilities on campus would lose any services," said Bistochchi, explaining that the construction costs are still in line with the anticipated expansion budget despite the completion delays.
 "In anticipation of the expansion not being completed until December, Bistochchi said students at the high school will be "crowding into the existing facility."
 "UMDNJ has been gracious enough to give us some space that they use primarily in the late evening or early morning which we can use during the day," said Bistochchi. "It's going to be tight but it's only going to be tight for about four months."
 This year's incoming freshman class will have approximately 129 students. Last year's freshman class had 110 students.
 Bistochchi anticipates approximately 1,100 students attending the vocational-technical school this year, 500 full-time students and 600 part-time students, who only attend the vocational-technical school for half a day, either in the morning or afternoon.
 Once the expansion is completed, the school could hold an additional 50 full-time students in addition to managing the school's current share-time student numbers.
 State construction funds provided 40 percent of the funding, approximately \$5.6 million, with the remainder, approximately \$8.4 million, coming from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The \$14-million expansion will allow the vocational-technical high school to make the transition from a shared-time program to a full-time basis. The project will add 12 academic classrooms, three computer labs, four science labs, a multimedia center/library, nurse's office, administration office, and fitness center and gym, which will serve as a multipurpose room for theatrical productions.
 "This is an opportunity for young people to come in, access the county vocational-technical school on a full-time basis for a four-year program," said Bistochchi. "It's a great opportunity for the kids who want to do that."
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The reality of writing

(Continued from Page B1)
 out of 10 you won't have any witnesses."
 Kolano said that a lot of the crime programs people watch on television just are not realistic.
 "It makes it seem like police get fingerprints all the time," he said. "In all of the 13 years of trying homicide cases and being involved, only two times have fingerprints become critical to the case."
 The majority of the crimes prosecutors see are drug or gang related, explained Kolano.
 "It's not a big question mark as to why this happened," he said. "It was a fight over drugs. It was a turf war."
 "I write fiction dealing with a lot of suspense and murder and justice and things like that, so I'm hoping to gain some information from the court system," said Nancy Kleinkopf, a Kiss of Death writer who resides in Phoenix, explaining why she attended the writing seminar hosted by the county.
 Kleinkopf has completed four

manuscripts and is working on another. She has been writing for four years.
 "I began writing when I was in high school, writing short stories," she said. "As I got older I got away from it and I began reading a lot more. I decided I could do this a lot better."
 During the seminar, writers learned that in New Jersey, when prosecutors try a case they do not have to prove motive.
 "We can prove it and it's there, the jury can consider it," said Kolano.
 Prior to visiting the county courthouse, the writing group visited Jersey Gardens Mall in Elizabeth, where they listened to a presentation conducted by mall security personnel.
 "We talked to the head of mall security and it was fabulous," said Kathy Greyle of Illinois. "I never even thought of that as a potential story idea." She said that many of the people who work for her company are multitasking just because malls tend to have multitalented customers.
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COUNTY NEWS

Community blood drives
 The Blood Center of New Jersey and the Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross will sponsor the following blood drives:
 • Sunday, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Union Flix Lodge, 281 Chestnut St., Union, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Mary's of the Assumption Church, 155 Washington Ave., Elizabeth.
 • Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., SuperRite supermarket, 501 North Ave., Garwood.
 • July 24, 3 to 8:30 p.m., Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, 875 Raritan Road, Clark, 7:30 p.m., Gran Community, 440 Madison Hill Road, Clark.
 • July 25, 3 to 7 p.m., A non-Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union.
 • July 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., Cranford, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Foundation of Salvation Church, 50-52 Atlantic St., Elizabeth.
 Donors must be 17 years of age. There is no upper age limit to donors, provided they meet health requirements. Donors should know their Social Security number and bring a signed or picture-form of identification.
 For more information, call the Blood Center at 1-800-652-5663, ext. 140, or the Red Cross at 908-353-2500.

Senior Farmers' Market
 The Union County Division of Aging in the Department of Human Services has announced the locations of the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for the month of July.
 The Senior Farmers' Market features locally grown fruits and vegetables available to eligible participants age 60 and older. Vouchers are limited and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.
 Bilingual staff from the Division of Aging will be available to assist seniors in filling out the information for the vouchers.
 Vouchers will be distributed at the following locations:
 • Fridays, First Baptist Church of Elizabeth, 402 Union Ave., Elizabeth. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The market will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 • Fridays, Plainfield Senior Center, 407 E. From St., Plainfield. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The market will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Mondays, Shiloh Baptist Church, 95 Munro St., Elizabeth. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The market will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 • July 24, Union Township Senior Center, 2343 Morris Ave., Union. Registration begins at 9 a.m. The market will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 The USDA recommends that at least five servings of fruits and vegetables be eaten every day. Americans frequently eat fewer than the recommended number of servings. Studies indicate that consuming five servings of fruits and vegetables a day can decrease the risk of heart disease and cancer.
 For more information about the Farmer's Market Program, call the Union County Senior Nutrition Program at 908-527-4860.

Volunteers sought
 Calling supportive and committed individuals are asked to step forward to volunteer to assist rape survivors during day, evening and weekend shifts at the Union County Rape Crisis Center.
 "There is especially a need for volunteers who not only speak English, but other languages as well," Freeholder Mary Ruotolo, liaison to the county's Commission on the Status of Women, said. "People familiar with other cultures are also helpful."
 Training will prepare advocates to respond with information and support of the 24-hour hotline, provide emotional support and accompaniment at the hospital, police department, Prosecutor's Office and court.
 The 40 hours of specialized training to become a rape crisis advocate, which is mandated by the state, will be scheduled twice a week from Sept. 30 to Nov. 20. Training addresses ways to assist survivors of the different types of sexual assault, the trauma experienced by sexual assault survivors, their family members and related issues.
 In addition to serving as rape crisis advocates, volunteers may become involved in making educational presentations to schools or groups in the community on sexual assault topics.
 The Union County Rape Crisis Center is located at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield. The center is a program in the Department of Human Services, Division of Planning that is designed for comprehensive work with survivors of all types of sexual assault. Some people may believe that only young women would need its services, but they are offered to adult males, females, teenagers, children and their families whether the sexual assault abuse took place recently or in years past.
 The center also offers crisis intervention, short-term counseling and therapy, which are provided free by qualified professionals. Referrals for long-term services are provided.
 Dates for the volunteer training are as follows: Sept. 30, Oct. 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30; Nov. 6, 13, 18, 20. Training is from 6:30 to 10 p.m. Attendance is required at all training sessions in order to be qualified to become a volunteer rape crisis advocate.
 Interviews for prospective volunteers will be held during July and August. Interested individuals should call as soon as possible.
 For more information, call 908-233-RAPE(7273) between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SANE seeks more nurses
 Nurses who want to be part of an exciting project to assist crime victims and be paid \$4 per hour just to be on call can now participate in the Sexual Assault Nurse-Examiner program in Union County.
 Prosecutor Theodore Romankow said the program has provided important services to nearly 150 persons during its first two years of operation. "As we mark in the second year anniversary, it's important to highlight the need to bring more talented and dedicated nursing professionals into this extremely worthwhile effort," he said.
 There are only 12 nurses currently in service for the on-call list, and they receive \$250 each time they respond for a call-out plus the hourly rate while they carry a beeper, according to Coordinator Felicia Infante.
 "Our nurses respond, along with the Rape Crisis Advocate and the case detective, to any case of sexual assault where the victim is 13 or older," Infante said, and there are special rooms with equipment set up at Trinity, Mahlenberg, Overlook and Rahway hospitals.
 The nurses only have to be on call for 24 hours each month and they can split the times on a very flexible schedule, Infante said. The setup has

Program can help to rehabilitate homes

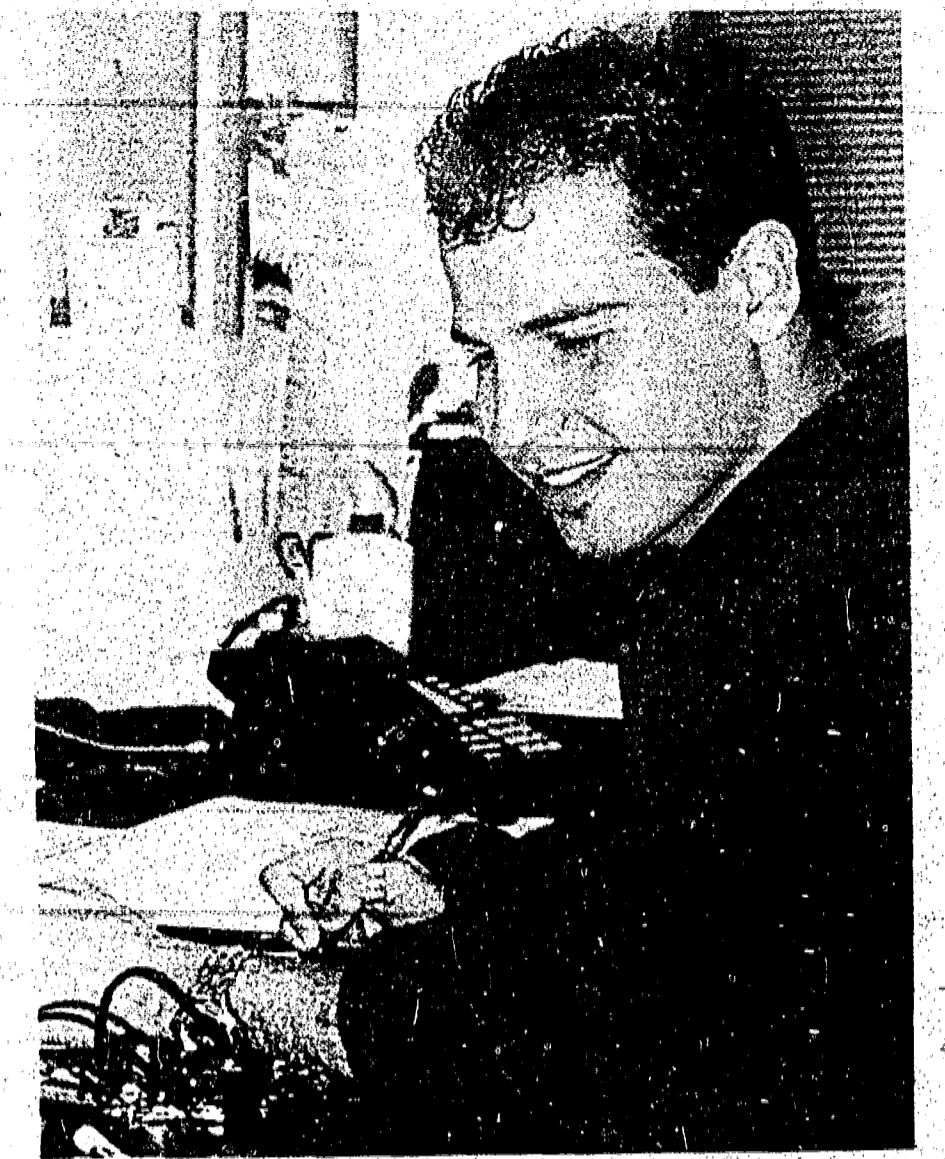
The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has approved a program to help Union County residents rehabilitate their homes. The Multi-Jurisdictional Housing Rehabilitation Program is funded by Union County with \$560,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds.
 The program is designed to improve single and two-family owner-occupied homes in Union County. It's available to low and moderate income homeowners in Berkeley Heights, Clark, Fanwood, Garwood, Hillside, Kenilworth, Mountainside, New Providence, Roselle, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains, Springfield, Summit and Westfield.
 Homeowners may be eligible for up to \$250,000 in financing packages for improvements that include repair or replacement of substandard heating, plumbing, and electrical systems; structural repairs; repairs to correct code violations; lead-based paint remediation and stabilization measures; and energy saving measures such as insulation, new windows and storm doors.
 When the program is complete, the stage manager will have his own union. Interestingly, stage managers are members of the actors' union. One of the reasons for this is that it's not unusual for a stage manager to replace an actor on stage in a pinch. Melchiorre pointed out that on the off-Broadway production of "Grease" at Paper Mill, the assistant stage manager doubles as the company understudy. When Melchiorre worked as a production assistant on Paper Mill's "King and I" last season, he found himself being wigged and put on stage as a Stamese man to remove a set piece. This same "actor's nightmare" threat would loom over his head on "Grease" before the day would be out.
 In addition to his normal checklist, Last Thursday brought Melchiorre some additional duties. An actor had alerted the staff that he'd be missing the matinee and evening performances, and it fell to Melchiorre to do all the "I's and cross all the T's in terms of the understudies going on."
 Actress Becky Galsvog, who plays cheerleader Patty Simcox, watched Melchiorre tend to his surprise duties. "You picked a crazy day," she told this writer before moving on to her own preparations.
 Despite the apparent confusion, Melchiorre seemed to have everything under control — a fitting quality for a stage manager.
 "I think of Matt as staying calm in pretty much all circumstances, which is very important," assistant stage manager Alison Harma said. "You have to roll with the punches and stay calm and fix what's going wrong."
 Although Melchiorre's job title in the "Grease" program is listed as production assistant, now that the show is running, his duties are more in line with those of an assistant stage manager. "I've always liked to think of it as a non-actor's job," he said. As such, he takes his place right before curtain time in the stage-right wings and assumes command, his makeshift necklace of pens around his neck.
 Actresses Leslie Kritzer, Sarah Stiles and Heather Lane Rollif are discussing their shops and trying to unload an extra ticket to see Bruce Springsteen, John Jeffrey Martin is rubbing the shoulders of a castmate. And then Melchiorre, having taken attendance, wishes them a good show — and it's time to start.
 In addition to overseeing the stage-right wings, various set changes, assorted prop issues, and a collection of costume matters, Melchiorre also serves as something of a comforting shoulder for the actors, soothing feathers and easing concerns as he attends to his more theatrical duties.
 Production stage manager Kevin Fredrick referred to Melchiorre as "M*A*S*I*H" in summing up the job Melchiorre does. "It's my Radar," he said. And Tom Jerardo, the other assistant stage manager who completes the trim team, describes Melchiorre as "ambitious."
 Ambitious, indeed. It wasn't that long ago that Melchiorre was being shown the ropes at Bloomfield High, and now it's what he really wants to do.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Union status means new jobs for Melchiorre

By Bill VanSant
Associate Editor
 Matthew Melchiorre didn't always plan on being a stage manager, but by the end of this month, the former Bloomfield resident will be fully qualified to take the job — complete with a union card.
 Melchiorre, who's currently serving as a production assistant on the current run of "Grease" at Paper Mill. The State Theater of New Jersey is close to accepting the last of the required points to join Actors Equity Association, the stage actors' union which also handles stage managers.
 It was while a student at Bloomfield High School under director Cormac McGowan that Melchiorre first found what would ultimately be his career path.
 "One of my friends said, 'Why don't you stage manage?'" he said. "I'd never done it before, but he was our choreographer and he literally took me by the hand and did it. I was like, 'This is kind of interesting.' And I did it the next year, and that year I was nominated for a Rising Star Award, which was nice."
 Following his second stint in the wings, Melchiorre found himself drawn to the multi-faceted job of stage management. He relates thinking at the time, "This is really something that interests me."
 "So I tried it in college and I was looking for a major," he said, "and I just continued to do it."
 When his educational path took him to Fordham University, Melchiorre continued his quest and love of stage managing. While a student at Fordham, he worked as a production assistant on shows at the Manhattan Theater Club and the Roundabout Theater Company, where he worked with such stars as Barbara Barrie, Christine Ebersole, Sarah Jessica Parker, Joel Grey, Kate Burton, and Justin Guarini, among others.
 "Then I came here," he said, gesturing around the Paper Mill wing space, "toward the end of my senior year of college and I stayed here for a year."
 Prior to the show, Melchiorre's responsibilities include making sure everything is in its place in order for the performance to begin — including sets, costume pieces and actors.
 Because of union regulations, the stage manager or production assistant is not permitted to perform certain tasks. For example, during the pre-show preparations, Melchiorre discovered that a wig had not been placed on a set piece. The hairdresser union prohibits anyone but a union member from touching the hairpieces, so Melchiorre had to inform the correct department, but couldn't simply grab the wig and place it on the set. The same applies to the movement of set pieces or the handling of costumes. He can oversee operations, but may not touch the items himself.
 Even though Melchiorre will have his own union, interestingly, stage man-

agers are members of the actors' union. One of the reasons for this is that it's not unusual for a stage manager to replace an actor on stage in a pinch. Melchiorre pointed out that on the off-Broadway production of "Naked Boys Singing," the assistant stage manager doubles as the company understudy. When Melchiorre worked as a production assistant on Paper Mill's "King and I" last season, he found himself being wigged and put on stage as a Stamese man to remove a set piece. This same "actor's nightmare" threat would loom over his head on "Grease" before the day would be out.
 In addition to his normal checklist, Last Thursday brought Melchiorre some additional duties. An actor had alerted the staff that he'd be missing the matinee and evening performances, and it fell to Melchiorre to do all the "I's and cross all the T's in terms of the understudies going on."
 Actress Becky Galsvog, who plays cheerleader Patty Simcox, watched Melchiorre tend to his surprise duties. "You picked a crazy day," she told this writer before moving on to her own preparations.
 Despite the apparent confusion, Melchiorre seemed to have everything under control — a fitting quality for a stage manager.
 "I think of Matt as staying calm in pretty much all circumstances, which is very important," assistant stage manager Alison Harma said. "You have to roll with the punches and stay calm and fix what's going wrong."
 Although Melchiorre's job title in the "Grease" program is listed as production assistant, now that the show is running, his duties are more in line with those of an assistant stage manager. "I've always liked to think of it as a non-actor's job," he said. As such, he takes his place right before curtain time in the stage-right wings and assumes command, his makeshift necklace of pens around his neck.
 Actresses Leslie Kritzer, Sarah Stiles and Heather Lane Rollif are discussing their shops and trying to unload an extra ticket to see Bruce Springsteen, John Jeffrey Martin is rubbing the shoulders of a castmate. And then Melchiorre, having taken attendance, wishes them a good show — and it's time to start.
 In addition to overseeing the stage-right wings, various set changes, assorted prop issues, and a collection of costume matters, Melchiorre also serves as something of a comforting shoulder for the actors, soothing feathers and easing concerns as he attends to his more theatrical duties.
 Production stage manager Kevin Fredrick referred to Melchiorre as "M*A*S*I*H" in summing up the job Melchiorre does. "It's my Radar," he said. And Tom Jerardo, the other assistant stage manager who completes the trim team, describes Melchiorre as "ambitious."
 Ambitious, indeed. It wasn't that long ago that Melchiorre was being shown the ropes at Bloomfield High, and now it's what he really wants to do.



Matthew Melchiorre goes over the many details of his job as a production assistant on "Grease" at Paper Mill: The State Theater of New Jersey. This production will bring him membership in Actors Equity Association, enabling the Bloomfield native to hold the jobs of stage manager and assistant stage manager.

Backstage schedule keeps 'Grease' production assistant hopping

By Bill VanSant
Associate Editor
 Two of the most important tools of a stage manager's trade are his watch and his clipboard.
 With one eye on the minute hand and the other on a checklist, the stage manager is the production's internal clock, reminding the actors how long they have until curtain time, making sure everything is accomplished on schedule, and so forth, keeping the ship running smoothly. To best illustrate that, Matthew Melchiorre does as a stage-management apprentice on "Grease," I faked myself out in the traditional techie attire — black jeans, black T-shirt — and shadowed him during an afternoon performance at Paper Mill last week.
 Thursday, July 10, 1 p.m.: 1 hour to curtain. I arrive at the theater and a flurry of activity. Benjie Randall, the actor who plays Roger, the winning champ of Rydell High, has been felled by suspected food poisoning and will miss both the matinee and evening performances. Noah Weisberg, who normally plays fiery Eugene, is the understudy and is in the process of going over what he needs to know. Melchiorre is making sure the other actors are aware of the changes, and that Colin Cunliffe, the swing, is ready to step into the role of Eugene, and also is prepared to perform his normal role of Mickey in the scenes where Eugene doesn't appear. This division of scenes for the dual role — called "tracks" — tell Melchiorre after he learned of Randall's absence at noon while on the train from New York.
 2:02 p.m.: Using a flashlight, Melchiorre lights the path for the

actors to take their places on the upstage platform behind the scrim. As he walks offstage, he checks the locker.
 2:15 p.m.: The crew and off-stage actors watch Weisberg and Cunliffe on the wings as the two play their first scenes. They nod to each other in approval.
 2:25 p.m.: The actors come off stage after "Summer Nights," laughing at a minor onstage mishap involving "Ragdolls." Melchiorre double-checks Weisberg on his track's particulars.
 2:38 p.m.: Melchiorre checks the locker again — that's the anal-side of me coming out," he says. He promptly directs actors out of the way so a set change doesn't collide with a group exit, noting his job involves "a little traffic cop."
 2:40 p.m.: The locker unit rolls onstage, having only been checked four times.
 2:47 p.m.: Melchiorre and a stage hand meet Jennifer Hope Wilks, who plays Sandy, in the upstage wings for her offstage vomiting scene. "This where we judge the throw-up," he says in transit. The actress' wretches into an empty wastebasket are amplified to comic effect, and Melchiorre et al. return to their places.
 2:49 p.m.: Leslie Kritzer, who plays Rizzo, stands in the wings to watch Weisberg in "Greased Lightning," a cabaret he's never performed before today. "He's pretty good," she whispers to Melchiorre — it's hardly had any rehearsal, right? Melchiorre confirms this.
 2:49 p.m.: Heather Jane Rollif, who plays Jan, sits on the picnic table in the wings and checks her prop.
 3:10 p.m.: The house curtains fall and Act I is finished. Melchiorre attends to his normal functions, not unlike his pre-show checklist. In addition, he addresses "The Mystery of

the Vanishing Hula Hoop" in passing, ascertains that Stiles' wig has been set on the beauty station, and makes sure that Weisberg meets with dance captain Jordan Ballard, who plays Marty. The two have to go over the big Act II number, "Born to Hand Jive," before the second act begins. Cunliffe, who normally appears in the number as Mickey, does not need to rehearse.
 3:26 p.m.: Melchiorre takes attendance of the actors in the stage-right wing.
 3:29 p.m.: Musical director Vicki Carter has taken over as conductor and appears on the monitors, leading the backstage actors in the "Rama Lama Ding Dong" at the top of Act II. The actors then take their places on stage for "Shakin' at the High School Hop."
 3:30 p.m.: Melchiorre and a stage hand move into place in the downstage wings to catch props that are thrown out of stage by the actors and clear the path for Sandy's bed, the next unit to roll on. Without missing a beat, he quickly moves onto the upstage platform behind a drop and oversees the placement of the set for the stage of the Rydell High gym, a process that involves set pieces and props, and the coordination of the entire crew. "That's as exciting as it gets," he says with a laugh when the task is complete.
 3:32 p.m.: Melchiorre holds aside the Black marking curtain so Goodson can see Carter on the monitor while she sings "It's Raining on Prom Night." He joins the stage hands in good-naturedly harassing the actress while she sings at the offstage microphone.
 3:18 p.m.: Melchiorre slowly crosses the empty stage with Rollif, his arm around her shoulders, engaged in a tele-a-tête.
 3:20 p.m.: Melchiorre checks to make sure the Act II props are in place and that the Act I set pieces that won't be used again have been properly staked.
 3:26 p.m.: Melchiorre takes attendance of the actors in the stage-right wing.
 3:29 p.m.: Musical director Vicki Carter has taken over as conductor and appears on the monitors, leading the backstage actors in the "Rama Lama Ding Dong" at the top of Act II. The actors then take their places on stage for "Shakin' at the High School Hop."
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 See TECHNICAL, Page B4

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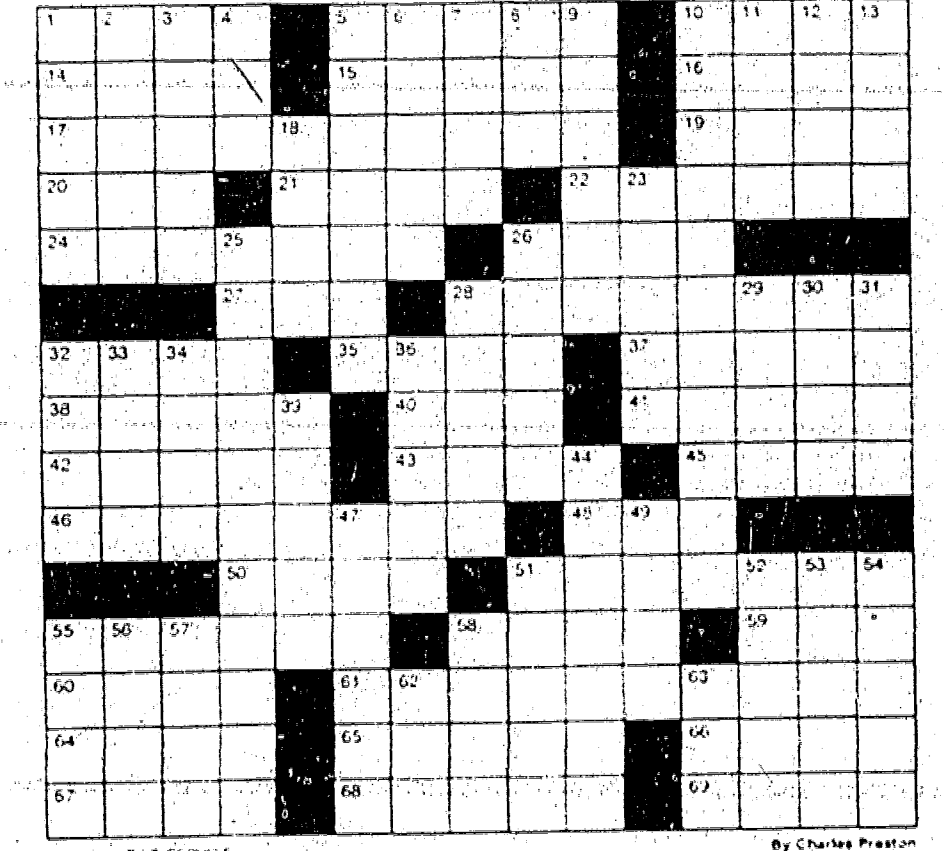
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ACROSS

- 1 Count on
5 Casino lineup
10 Mid-month date
14 78 terminus
15 Spin
16 Queen of the heavens
17 Martin Luther King Jr. but boycott scene
19 Wistful word
20 Indiana town
21 Kind of cloth
22 Ritzy
24 Baseball championship goal
26 Group of badgers
27 Poem of praise
28 Gateway
32 After that
35 San N.Y.
37 Perfect
38 Throw, as a shot put
40 Building site
41 Doctor's Fleet Center, e.g.
42 Senator Hatch
43 Gossip bit
45 TV's Jeannie
46 MacIntyre
48 Fertility lab need
50 Balcyny section
51 Prickly shrub
55 Overnight flight
58 Sam's son
59 Baba ingredient
60 Michigan county
61 Award won by Martin Luther King Jr.
64 Joe Paterno, e.g.
65 '12 Angry Men' event
66 By and by
67 'Signed sub, sank
68 Rundown
69 Look after

HISTORIC



- 12 Prohibition and Reconstruction, e.g.
13 Waistband
18 Jumping joy
23 Pieces in the heart
25 Martin Luther King Jr. byword
26 Big bill of
28 Crew the scenery
29 Sharp pointed instrument
30 Nursing home aid
31 Vivacity
32 Skapoor of the Kon-Tiki
33 Feed count reply
34 Bring home the bacon
36 Upper crust
39 Go-between
44 In a virtuous way
47 FBI operatives
49 Tomzies
51 Food pyramid item
52 Pickle juice
53 Manna's island
54 Blue pencil
56 Balcyny section
57 'At Wit's End'
58 Rose Murphy's man
59 Copper container
63 'The Wind in the Willows' character

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY July 27th, 2003 EVENT: Flea Market & Collectible Show

PLACE Hoffman-LaRoché, Nutley Address: Georgia Pacific Lot on Kingslane Ave.
PRICE: New merchandise, crafts, collectibles and a garage, tag sale section! For information call 301-997-9535. ORGANIZATION: Hoffman-LaRoché Employees Activity Association.

SUNDAY July 28th, 2003 EVENT: Flea Market, Craft & Collectible Show

PLACE: Rex Plex, 1062 Dixie, Elizabeth (Exit 13A off NJ TPAE, Access from Ave.)
PRICE: New merchandise, crafts, collectibles and a gift tags & tag sale section! For information call 301-997-9535. ORGANIZATION: The Noble Fund.

Technical, personnel matters fill duties

(Continued from Page B3) phone. Her smile indicates that this is part of the ritual.
3:35 p.m.: Sandy's bed rolls offstage and is placed in the downstage track with the doorway to the Burger Palace. As with the Melchior, can only oversee such steps as he and a member of the applicable union.
3:40 p.m.: Woodson and Melchior watch Canille play Eugene's scene with Rizko.

Zen Tricksters return to Garwood location

On July 24, the Zen Tricksters will be appearing at Crossroads, 78 North Ave. in Garwood, at 9:30 p.m. in support of their recently released CD, "Shaking Off the Weirdness." For information, call 908-232-5666.

The new album features all originals, including new titles such as "High Horse" and "Sleepwalking," plus staples of their live shows, "Light of Life" and "The One." and boasts a colorful roster of special guests including former Trickster and current member of The Deal and Phil Lesh & Friends, Rob Barraco, Buddy Cage of New Riders of the Purple Sage, and Jason Crosby, a former Zen Trickster, now with Susan Tedeschi and One and the Peacemakers. The CD is available through the Zen Tricksters Web site, www.zen-tricksters.com, and at other shows.



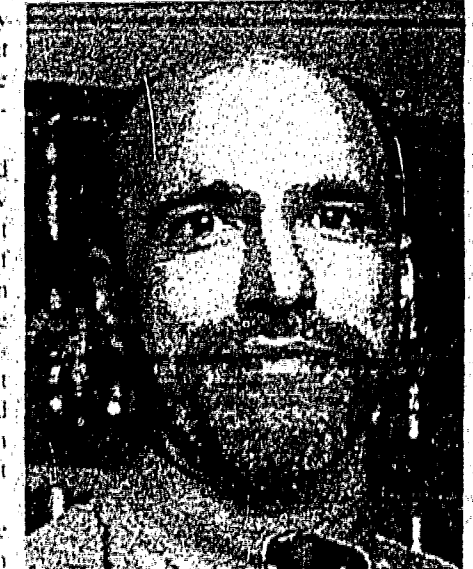
The Zen Tricksters — from left, Tom Cirosta, Jeff Mattson and Klyph Black — will appear in concert at Crossroads in Garwood on July 24.

Tom Cirosta goes back a long way with Mattson, to a time in the early 1980s when the band was called the Acclimators. With the band for a number of years, Cirosta later took some time off to pursue other interests, but returned to the fold several years ago to play the music that is his life's dream. Cirosta has a fine ear for harmonies and counterpoint and always manages to come up with the perfect rhythm guitar to complement the lead. He is an incredibly talented arranger and singer and along with Black and Mattson, creates solid and beautiful harmonies. He has been playing with Mattson so long that their musical minds are often one, making for unbelievably complex and lovely guitar duo bits.

Formed 24 years ago, the Zen Tricksters' mission is to blend traditional originals with fasty fad musings to create live audiences only dreamed about hearing. Phil Lesh was so impressed with the band's ability to be part of the Phil and Friends collective. In an interview with Klyph Black of radio station KGLI in June of 2000, Lesh said, "The Tricksters are more than just a cover band. They have their own stuff and they are brilliant, their stuff is brilliant. They are great players!"

NJSO meets \$1 million mark in matching funds

The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra announced that it has met the \$1 million challenge posed to the organization in March by philanthropists Herbert and Evelyn Axelrod.



The terms of the challenge stated that the Axelrods would match every dollar the orchestra raised from that point through June 30 — the end of the NJSO's fiscal year — in an amount as much as \$1 million. The challenge generated by the challenge resulted in a 24-percent increase in individual Annual Fund donors and a 38-percent increase in individual contributions over the last season.

"The challenge presented by the Axelrods and the resulting influx in donations from the citizens of New Jersey, clearly demonstrate the broad and deep community support for the NJSO throughout the state," notes NJSO President Lawrence Tamburri. "But these are extremely difficult financial times. Like most arts organizations throughout the country, the NJSO has seen the financial support it receives from foundations drop by one-half, and its corporate support flat. While the Axelrod's challenge and their generous match have added the NJSO tremendously, we are still struggling through a fiscally difficult time. This success only helps lessen the impact of an anticipated shortfall for the year. In fact, while we have preliminary indications that the economy is improving, the NJSO must anticipate another season of financial challenges, and is planning accordingly."

"The orchestra, its Board of Trustees, its musicians and the people of New Jersey are deeply grateful for the vision and commitment of the Axelrods to the welfare and success of the NJSO," states Dr. Victor Parsonnet, chairman of the NJSO's Board of Trustees. "Their keen awareness of the difficulties that many American arts face, and their willingness to assist is impressive and greatly appreciated. This most-completed challenge and the acquisition by the NJSO earlier this year of 30 rare Italian string instruments from the 17th and 18th centuries from their collection set the stage for great successes in the future."

State's professional theaters will conduct auditions

The New Jersey Theatre Alliance, the consortium of the state's professional Actor's Equity theaters, will hold auditions Aug. 18 and 19 for equity performers and Aug. 20 for non-equity performers to be from 10 to 12 participants. New Brunswick-based performers only. Preference will be given to New Jersey-based actors. More than 100 professional New Jersey theaters are expected to attend including representatives from McCarter Theater, Paper Mill, George Street Playhouse, the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey and two Rivers Theater Company, along with many others.

envelope have a current address. The audition site in New Jersey is easily accessible by car, train and bus. Directions will be sent if an actor is selected for an appointment. All of New Jersey's professional theaters are equal opportunity employers. Actors of color and actors with disabilities are encouraged to submit their picture-resumes for this audition.

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The Bible Teaches: Bishops, overseers, Pastors, Elders must be married, having a wife and children. 1 Tim 3:1-5
God said that marriage is honorable. (Gen. 2:18-25; Heb. 13:4). Thus, both the Old and New Testament priests were married men. Therefore, I found the Pope religion and teachings to be out of harmony with the Bible and a direct contradiction of the Gospel of Christ.

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Met will bring two operas to state's parks

The Met in the Parks series of free outdoor concert performances by the Metropolitan Opera in the parks of New Jersey will open Aug. 26 for a four-concert series of two operas: Giacomo Puccini's "Turandot" and Gaetano Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor".

All the performances are free of charge and begin at 8 p.m. No tickets are required.

"Turandot" opens the New Jersey series Aug. 26 at Brookdale Park in Montclair with Esa-Pekkanen in the title role, Hei-Kyung Hong as Liu, Oleg Kulko as Calaf, and Joseph Colaneri conducting. "Turandot" will be repeated Aug. 29, in Buccleuch Park in New Brunswick with Esa-Pekkanen in the title role, Jennifer Check as Liu, Eduardo Villa as Calaf, and Joseph Colaneri conducting.

"Lucia di Lammermoor" will be performed Aug. 27 in Brookdale Park with Olga Makarova as Lucia, Aquiles Machado as Edgardo, William Stone as Enrico, Dimitri Kasarov as Ramondo, and Edgardo Mueller conducting. "Lucia di Lammermoor" will be repeated Aug. 30 in Cooper River Park in Pennsauken with Maureen O'Hagan as Lucia, Francisco Casanova as Edgardo, Richard Zeller as Enrico, Julien Robbins as Ramondo, and Edgardo Mueller conducting.

This is the 17th consecutive season of summer parks concerts by the Metropolitan Opera in New Jersey. This season's concerts are part of the three-week-long Met in the Parks series which, in addition to the performances in New Jersey, visits New Haven, Conn., and all five boroughs of New York City for a total of 12 performances, six each of both operas.

The Met in the Parks series receives major funding from the Lisa Achenon and DeWitt Wallace Endowment Fund and corporate sponsor Fleet.

Additional major funding has been received from the Robert Wood Johnson Jr. Charitable Trust's Met Parks Concert Fund and the Recording Industries Music Performance Trust Funds. Funding has also been received from New Jersey State Council on the Arts, The Barker Welfare Foundation, and The Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation.

The Met in the Parks series in New Jersey is presented in cooperation with the Camden County Board of Freeholders Department of Parks, and the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. Funding has also been received from the Elizabeth B. McGraw Foundation.

For directions to the performance sites, run dates, or additional information concerning the Met in the Parks concert series, call the Metropolitan Opera at

This is the 17th consecutive season of summer parks concerts by the Metropolitan Opera in New Jersey.

212-362-6000. Information concerning the concert series can also be found on the Metropolitan Opera's Web site at www.metopera.org.

Aug. 26, 8 p.m., Brookdale Park, Montclair. Puccini's "Turandot" with Joseph Colaneri conducting, Esa-Pekkanen (Turandot), Hei-Kyung Hong (Liu), Oleg Kulko (Calaf), Hao Jiang Tian (Timur), Daniel Sutin (Ping), Tony Stevenson (Pang), Eduardo Valdes (Pong), Charles Anthony (Emperor Altoum), James Courtes (Mandarin), and Belinda Oswald and Elaine Flynn Young (Handmaidens). The run date is Aug. 28.

Aug. 27, 8 p.m., Brookdale Park, Montclair. Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" with Edgardo Mueller conducting, Olga Makarova (Lucia), Aquiles Machado (Edgardo), William Stone (Enrico), Dimitri Kasarov (Lionel), Diane Elías (Alban), Tony Stevenson (Arturo), Eduardo Valdes (Normando). The run date is Aug. 28.

Aug. 29, 8 p.m., Buccleuch Park, New Brunswick. Puccini's "Turandot" with Joseph Colaneri conducting, Esa-Pekkanen (Turandot), Jennifer Check (Liu), Eduardo Villa (Calaf), Andrew Gangstad (Timur), Kim Josephson (Ping), Michael Forest (Pang), Charles Reid (Pong), Charles Anthony (Emperor Altoum), Alfred Walker (Mandarin), and Belinda Oswald and Elaine Flynn Young (Handmaidens). The run date is Aug. 31.

Aug. 30, 8 p.m., Cooper River Park, Pennsauken. Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" with Edgardo Mueller conducting, Maureen O'Hagan (Lucia), Francisco Casanova (Edgardo), Richard Zeller (Enrico), Julien Robbins (Ramondo), Diane Elías (Alban), Charles Reid (Arturo), Eduardo Valdes (Normando). The run date is Aug. 31.

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Arts Guild seeks entries for annual juried Merck exhibit

The Arts Guild of Rahway is seeking artworks from artists who live or work in Union County for its "celebrating Excellence: The Merck 2003 Juried Union County Art Show".

This marks the fifth consecutive year that this exhibit will be held at the Arts Guild of Rahway.

Artists may submit as many as three slides for consideration. All media will be considered, except sculpture due to the multiple use of the art gallery for The Arts Guild Music Series. Craftwork is also not accepted. The maximum size for submitted works is 36 by 36 inches framed. There is no fee required to submit slides. For an entry form and/or prospectus, contact Lawrence Cappiello at 732-381-7511. No entries will be accepted without an official entry form and compliance with conditions.

Judges for the exhibit this year are Hugo Bastidas, artist, Fulbright Fellow, professor of art at New Jersey City University; Johann Jochnowitz, artist, professor of art at Kent University, New Jersey; photographer, News-Jersey Media Center; and an instructor at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts and Somerset Art Center.

In-hand deadline for submission of slides is July 31. Judging will take place in early August and artists whose work is selected for the exhibit will be held notified by late August.

The exhibit will be held at the Arts Guild of Rahway from Oct. 19 through Nov. 14.

"Celebrating Excellence" is a partnership exhibit sponsored and organized by the Arts Guild of Rahway in collaboration with the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and funded by Merck and Co. Inc.

The Arts Guild of Rahway is a nonprofit multidisciplinary center for the arts located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway. For information, visit www.rahwayartsguild.org, call 732-381-7511 or send an e-mail to rahway@artsguild1670.com.

The Cook's Nook

For great summer burgers, cooks only have to say, 'Cheese!'

- What's more popular — hamburgers or cheeseburgers? If the idea of warm, melted cheese dripping off a juicy burger sends you running toward your grill, you're in the majority. According to research conducted by the National Cattlemen's Association, more than 70 percent of Americans prefer burgers with cheese over plain burgers.
- Then again, today's burgers are far from plain stuff, they're grazing the menus of popular restaurant chains, down-home diners, and trendy eateries nationwide, including Manhattan's Jackson Hole and Comfort Diner. The cheeseburgers of today are more than just melted American cheese on top of a burger; chefs are thinking outside the bun and adding varieties such as Gruyère, Pepper Jack, mozzarella, and Brie, both on top and stuffed inside the meat.
- Ifa Firehof of Manhattan's Comfort Diner says the secret to his Blue Cheeseburger is freezing the cheese in advance. "We freeze the blue cheese first so it won't turn into a puddle out of the burger, but will stay somewhat intact," he explains.



The Ultimate Bacon Cheeseburger from Chef's Diner is an example of today's creative and trendy cheeseburgers. Featuring several types of cheese, including Swiss, Jack and American, this burger is sure to please the palate.

- Keep the lid down on the grill and cheese will melt faster.
- Defrost frozen ground beef patties in the refrigerator. If not completely thawed, they might look cooked on the outside, but may not be done on the inside.
- After handling raw ground meat, wash hands and utensils with hot, soapy water.
- Grill 1/2-inch-thick patties until the center is no longer pink. Turn once halfway through cooking. The USDA recommends cooking burgers to medium doneness — 160°F. Cook over medium, ash-covered coals.
- Brush dark sauces, such as teriyaki, onto the surfaces of cooked beef patties. When mixed into raw ground beef, it's difficult to determine doneness.
- Put cooked burgers on a clean platter.

- Wild West Cheeseburger**
Yield: 4 burgers
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms (button, brown, or shiitake)
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 4 slices (1 ounce each) Colby cheese
- 4 slices (1 ounce each) Muenster cheese
- 4 lettuce leaves
- 4 slices (1/4-inch thick) tomato
- 8 cooked batter-coated onion rings
- Cook mushrooms in butter in a small skillet over medium to low heat just until tender, about 3 to 5 minutes, set aside. Shape ground beef into four 1/2-inch-thick patties. Place patties on grid over medium coals. Grill 10 to 12 minutes for medium or to desired doneness, turning once and topping with a slice each of Colby and Muenster cheese the last 1 minute of grilling. To serve, arrange lettuce on bread slice, top with burger, tomato slice, reserved mushrooms and onion rings. Serve immediately.

- Italian Burger**
Yield: 6 burgers
- 1 pound ground round
- 1 pound mild Italian sausage, casing removed
- 1/4 cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1/4 teaspoon each: garlic powder, pepper
- 1/2 cups (6 ounces) shredded mozzarella cheese
- Combine all ingredients except cheese, mix well. Form into six hamburger patties. Cook over medium-hot coals approximately 6 minutes per side, or until medium-well doneness is achieved. Sprinkle 1/4 cup (11 ounce) cheese over each. Grill until cheese is melted, about 2 minutes. Serve immediately.
- Note:** Do not serve medium-rare because of risk in sausage.
- Blue Cheese Burger**
Yield: 4 burgers
- 2 pounds of ground sirloin, 80 percent lean
- 6 ounces of blue cheese, salt and pepper to taste
- 4 good quality hamburger buns
- Grill or broil burgers, place on rack in broiler pan. Broil about 4 inches from heat source 9 to 10 minutes for medium or to desired doneness, turning once. Top with cheese during last 30 seconds of broiling.
- Turn burgers just once during cooking and use a long-handled spatula. A pronged utensil pierces the burgers and causes them to lose natural juices.
- Never press the cheeseburger with a spatula. This is the most common mistake — it drains the meat of flavor.
- Wait to salt burgers until after they have been turned.
- Take cheeseburger off the grill just as the cheese is beginning to run down the sides — but before it starts to drip into the coals!

Southwestern Blueburger With Ripe Avocado and Fresh Sprouts

- Yield: 8 mini burgers
- 1 cup (4 oz.) blue cheese
- 1/4 pound lean ground beef
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup ground black pepper
- 4 slices Monterey Jack cheese, cut into quarters
- 1/2 avocado, peeled and sliced into 8 sections
- 1/2 cup sprouts, i.e., alfalfa, bean, clover, sunflower
- 8 mini Kaiser rolls
- Preheat grill. Take 1/2 ounce or 2 tablespoons of blue cheese and form into small ball. Mix together ground beef, salt and black pepper. Divide ground beef mixture into eight. Take one-eighth of ground beef mixture and form a patty about the size of the cheese ball. Repeat this process with the blue cheese and ground beef mixture, forming a total of eight servings.
- Grill over medium heat until desired doneness, about 6 to 8 minutes. Top each cooked burger with 2 slices of Monterey Jack cheese, avocado slice, and 1 tablespoon of sprouts. Serve on mini Kaiser rolls with desired condiments.

Preparation and grilling tips

- Use your hands to gently shape ground beef patties, but keep handling to a minimum. The more the beef is manipulated, the less juicy the burgers will be.
- To grill burgers on a charcoal grill, place on grid over medium coals. The coals are considered medium when they appear to glow through the layer of gray ash that covers them. This usually takes 30 to 45 minutes. Another way to tell if the coals are medium is if you can hold your hand, palm down, about 4 inches above the coals for 4 seconds before the heat becomes uncomfortable.
- Grill burgers about 10 to 12 minutes or to desired doneness, turning once. Top with cheese during last minute or two of grilling. If using a gas grill, refer to owner's manual for proper grilling instructions.
- To broil burgers, place on rack in broiler pan. Broil about 4 inches from heat source 9 to 10 minutes for medium or to desired doneness, turning once. Top with cheese during last 30 seconds of broiling.
- Turn burgers just once during cooking and use a long-handled spatula. A pronged utensil pierces the burgers and causes them to lose natural juices.
- Never press the cheeseburger with a spatula. This is the most common mistake — it drains the meat of flavor.
- Wait to salt burgers until after they have been turned.
- Take cheeseburger off the grill just as the cheese is beginning to run down the sides — but before it starts to drip into the coals!

- Christopher Columbus Burger**
Mix minced garlic and Italian seasoning into the ground beef and then shape and grill patty. Serve topped with pizza sauce, mozzarella cheese, and grated Parmesan cheese.
- Quick cheeseburger fix-ups**
Mix ground beef with flavorful ingredients like chopped onions, salsa and shredded Monterey Jack.
- Roll blue cheese into patties before grilling.
- For extra flavor and juiciness, add a few tablespoons of tomato or vegetable juice.
- Go "country" and top burgers with BBQ sauce, bacon and melted white cheddar.
- Melt Cheddar over mini-burgers and garnish with pickle relish and potato chips.
- Make a mega-burger by piling on shredded Parmesan, cucumbers, sprouts and Thousand Island dressing.
- Have a fiesta by crowning burgers with sour cream and guacamole.
- Smother burgers with sautéed onions, mushrooms, and melted Swiss.
- Take a classic bacon burger and give it a special kick by adding smoked Gouda.
- Spice things up by adding hot sauce, green peppers, Pepper Jack cheese or jalapeños.

NATIONAL RECREATION & PARKS MONTH

<p>Barnegat Lighthouse State Park The site of Barnegat Lighthouse on the northern tip of Long Beach Island in Ocean County was regarded as one of the most crucial "change-of-course" points for coastal vessels. Vessels bound to and from New York along the New Jersey coastline depended on Barnegat Lighthouse to avoid the shoals extending from the shoreline. The swift currents, shifting sands, and the offshore shoals challenged the skills of even the most experienced sailor. The park is included as a maritime site on the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail.</p>	<p>Princeton Battlefield State Park On January 3, 1777, the peaceful winter fields and woods of Princeton Battlefield were transformed into the site of what is considered to be the fiercest fight of its size during the American Revolution. During this desperate battle, American troops under General George Washington surprised and defeated a force of British Regulars. Coming at the end of The Ten Crucial Days, which saw the well-known night crossing of the Delaware River and two battles in Trenton, the Battle of Princeton gave Washington his first victory against the British Regulars on the field. The battle extended over a mile away to the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University).</p>
<p>Cape May Point State Park Although Cape May Lighthouse is a major attraction for many visitors to the area, the park's constantly changing shoreline, dunes, freshwater, coastal marsh and ponds, forested islands and varied uplands make it a well-known location for viewing the fall bird migration. Located on the southern tip of New Jersey's Cape May Point State Park is a key site on the NJ Coastal Heritage Trail. With an environmental center, that houses a classroom for interpretive programs and a museum on the area's natural and historic features.</p>	<p>Washington Crossing Park Located on the Delaware River just eight miles north of Trenton is Washington Crossing State Park. It was here that the Continental Army under the command of General George Washington landed after their historic crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas night 1776. The Park contains over 4,000 acres in Mercer County and is easily accessible. Within the park, there is a Visitor Center/Museum which has on display nearly 600 artifacts from the Revolutionary War era. There is also an interpretive program and group tours and lectures are available by reservation.</p>
<p>Island Beach State Park Shaped by storm and tides, Island Beach State Park is a narrow barrier island stretching for 10 miles between the restless Atlantic Ocean and the quieter Barnegat Bay. Island Beach has one of New Jersey's last significant remnants of a barrier island ecosystem that once existed along much of the coast and is also one of the few remaining undeveloped barrier beaches on the north Atlantic coast. Over 7,000 trees and thousands of wetland plants remain almost untouched since Henry Hudson first described New Jersey's coast from the ship, the Half Moon, in 1609.</p>	<p>Liberty State Park With the Manhattan skyline, the Statue of Liberty, and Ellis Island as a spectacular backdrop, Liberty State Park is one of New Jersey's most dramatic parks.</p>
<p>Allaire State Park Allaire State Park is probably best known for its historic, 19th-century ironmaking town, Allaire Village, and its antique steam trains on the Pine Creek Railroad. The Munasquan River, which winds through the park, attracts canoeists and fishermen. The river floodplain provides habitat for over 200 species of wildflowers, trees and plants as well as habitat for birds and other wildlife. Hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders enjoy the many trails in the park.</p>	<p>Washington Rock State Park The strategic location of Washington Rock made it a valuable lookout point during the American Revolution for General George Washington in June of 1777 when the British army under General William Howe was moving toward Westfield. From the vantage point of this natural rock outcropping, General Washington had a thirty-mile panoramic view of the valley and was able to instruct his troops to circle behind Howe's troops and cut off their retreat.</p> <p>One of the oldest state parks in New Jersey, Washington Rock was originally purchased in 1913 to commemorate the historical events of 1777. Situated on top of Watchung Mountain in Green Brook Township, the park is best known for its scenic vista and historical significance. The park is a popular site for picnicking and relaxing.</p>

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Shakespeare Theater goes outdoors with Moliere's 'Scoundrel'

Now through Aug. 3, the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey, formerly the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, offers a unique opportunity for audiences of all ages to enjoy Moliere's rollicking farce "That Scoundrel Scapin" performed outdoors in a Greek amphitheater inspired by the Theater of Dionysus in Athens.

The theater's associate artistic director, Joe Discher, directs the production, which features perennial audience favorite James Michael Reilly as Scapin... whose outrageous schemes will delight adults and children alike... as well as Tony Award-nominee Robert L. Paine as Geronte.

In classic commedia dell'arte style, the mischievous servant Scapin's comic hijinks have been tinkered with since 1622. Hopelessly in love with ladies who don't meet their fathers' approval, a pair of stars-eyed suitors enlists the help of Scapin, who pretends to be the true love while exacting his own revenge on two miserly merchants.

'Scapin' performance will benefit College of St. Elizabeth

The Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey has chosen to have the open-air Greek Theater at the College of St. Elizabeth, 215 Morris Road, Morris Township, as the site for its "Other Stage" production of Moliere's "That Scoundrel Scapin" running through Aug. 3 with special 1.5E benefit performances July 25, Aug. 1, 2 and 3.

College of St. Elizabeth in Morris Township, at the Convent Station train stop, the grass-and-stone theater is nestled into the landscape. Audience members are encouraged to bring a picnic for a memorable family outing "date night" or get together with friends.

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Liberty Hall offers weekend tours from a Colonial child's perspective

School is out and the children of New Jersey are ready to enjoy the summer fun... Liberty Hall Museum, where the mission is to bring to life the experiences of a young child in the 18th century... offering a variety of programs... including historical reenactments and interactive exhibits.

Children's tours will have objects for them to touch and explore and will end with activities and outdoor games... In addition to the special tours geared for children, a temporary exhibit of children's toys and games is on display at the visitor's center throughout the summer.

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Chorale seeks new director

Summit Chorale, mid-sized and auditioned, is looking for a music director/conductor beginning in September 2004 to provide artistic vision and lead all aspects of preparation for three performances per year between September and May, some with orchestra.

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NEWS CLIPS

RR Club offers savings
The Model Railroad Club Inc. is holding its 15th annual Summer Savings Program.

Theater explores history
The Union County Arts Center is holding its 15th annual Summer Savings Program.

Crafters are being sought
The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is looking for artists, craftspersons and food vendors to demonstrate traditional and Native American work craft skills.

Palmer Gallery focuses on 'Small Faces' in art
'Small Faces' is an exhibit of photographs by David J. Lipman, will be displayed at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library through Aug. 24.

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'Small Faces' is an exhibit of photographs by David J. Lipman, will be displayed at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library through Aug. 24.

Gallery presents annual show of members' works
The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit will host the annual Members' Show and Sale through Sunday.

Members in good standing may submit one original work, with only the first 200 entries accepted.
NJCAV is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, including gallery hours, call 908-273-9121 or visit www.njcaav.org.

art, craft or work skill and the colonial time period in general." Holmes added.

For more information, call 732-469-0441, ext. 602. To mail any items to the Arts Center, use the theater's address: 1700 W. Elizabeth St., Rahway, NJ 07065.

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lowed by the fourth annual Hip-Hop Theater Festival, which will descend on New York City, and High 5 will offer \$5 tickets to most of its original plays and performances, with special Teen Scene opportunities at their events.
Teens can also catch the jumping jazz at the JVC Jazz Festival, featuring famed jazz performers like Chick Corea, the Onnette Coleman Trio and Spike Lee's film composer, trumpeter Terence Blanchard. More into opera? High 5 can get teen-agers into New York City Opera's productions of "Carmen" and "Madame Butterfly," as well as the Jean Cocteau Rep's production of "The Threepenny Opera." Get a taste of Shakespeare at this summer's Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey, visit MoMA at its new temporary space in Queens, or see the latest in dance at Dance Theater Workshop, Dance Theater of Harlem and the New York City Ballet.

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Sunlight fills the kitchen of this spacious one-story

The family cook will enjoy kitchen duty in this home, as the sink overlooks the breakfast room, which is shown with two full sets of glass. One side includes a door to the covered deck, for quiet outdoor meals. Nearby are an oversized laundry room and full bath, directly adjacent to the double garage.

Three bedrooms are grouped together for family privacy.

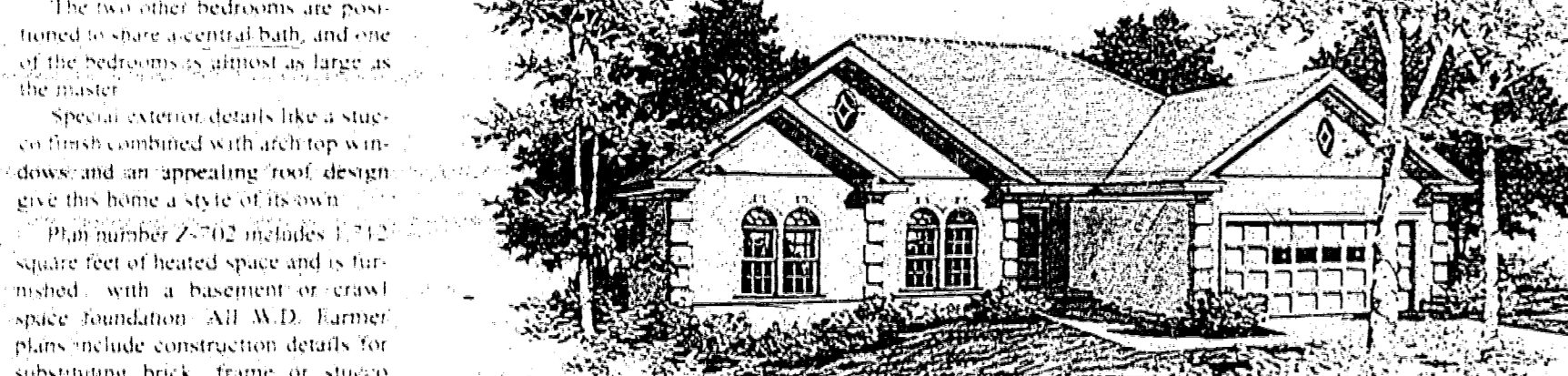
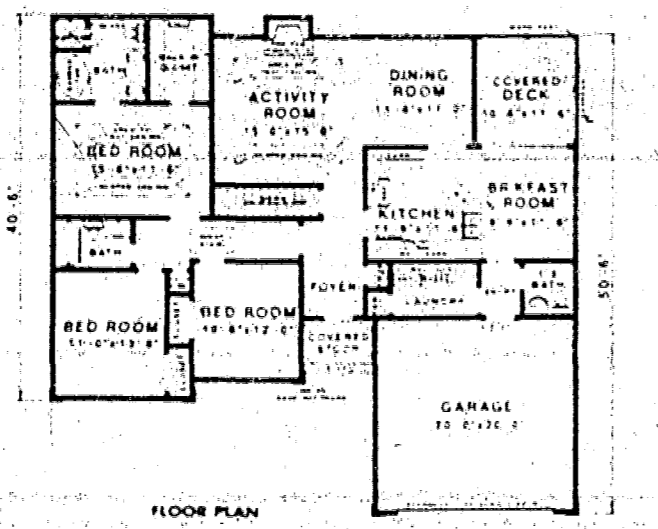
At 800-223-7526 in Georgia You can write to request the information at P.O. Box 450025, Atlanta, Ga. 31145. Visit the Web site www.wdflmreplans.com

Three bedrooms are grouped together for family privacy. The master suite includes unsurpassed elegance with a tray ceiling in the bedroom and deluxe garden bath. The master walk-in closet is sure to please.

The two other bedrooms are positioned to share a central bath, and one of the bedrooms is almost as large as the master. Special exterior details like a stone finish combined with arch top windows and an appealing roof design give this home a style of its own.

Plan number Z-702 includes 1,712 square feet of heated space and is furnished with a basement or crawl space foundation. All W.D. Farmer plans include construction details for substituting brick, frame or stucco exterior finish.

To receive an information packet on the plans, call W.D. Farmer Residence Designer, Inc. at 800-225-7526.



The classic lines of this home are accentuated by the peaked roofs and tall windows of the front bedrooms. The garage leads into a laundry room which enters the home through the kitchen.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Prudential honors five
Prudential New Jersey Properties has announced that five area sales associates have been named to the Prudential Leading Edge Society for 2002. The award winners were honored during special ceremonies at the Prudential Real Estate Network's Annual Sales Convention held in Las Vegas in March.

The Prudential Leading Edge award is presented annually to the top 1 percent of the company's residential sales agents nationwide. This year's recipients are Jeanne C. Schulz of the New Providence office; Jane Johnson, Janet Lang and Thomas McDonough of the Summit office; and Margaret Curcane of the Westfield office.

These associates go to great lengths to deliver what buyers and sellers need," said William O. Keeler Jr., chairman and CEO of Prudential New Jersey Properties. "They exhibit unparalleled dedication. Based in Somerset, Prudential New Jersey Properties offers relocation, mortgage, time savings and resort properties services. With more than 600 sales associates serving 10 counties including Essex, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Union and Warren counties, it is the second largest independently owned residential real estate company in New Jersey. For more information, visit www.PrudentialNewJersey.com.

REMAX Westfield relocates

REMAX Properties Unlimited has moved its office, and is now located at 200 North Avenue East in Westfield. All phone and fax numbers will remain the same. "Our office is expanding, and we needed a larger space to accommodate our staff," said broker-manager Ellen Troeller. "We want to let our clients know about the move, and we will continue to provide them with top-notch service." REMAX Properties Unlimited in Westfield is comprised of 14 full-time sales associates, specializing in all areas of real estate. To contact a sales associate at REMAX Properties Unlimited in Westfield, call 908-233-9192. REMAX Properties Unlimited is a 25-office company owned by Rob Lyszczarz. It is the largest RE/MAX franchise organization in the state, and the largest in the country by number of offices. Some of the unique services RE/MAX Properties Unlimited has to offer are an in-house advertising agency; an in-house marketing department; a company corporate attorney, Cornerstone Mortgage Company, and a referral company, Nassau Referral Group. With these benefits, associates are able to provide their clients with a quality of service that is unsurpassed. With 159 franchise offices and over 2,200 real estate professionals, RE/MAX of New Jersey continues to be one of the leading real estate organizations in the state.

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By Jill Guzman
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ERA flies Continental

The ERA Brokers of New Jersey announced that ERA Real Estate will be featured in an upcoming segment of Continental Airlines in-flight media program throughout this summer.

Beginning in July and continuing through August, all Continental Airlines 767 and 777 domestic and international flights will feature ERA in its "Global Trends," an in-flight video that provides information about important developments in various industries.

The two-minute video segment will focus on the products and services ERA has developed which help seller homebuyers and sellers, and also will include information about home financing. It is estimated that 2.8 million travelers will view the information presented on ERA's products and services.

"We are excited that ERA will be featured in Continental's video segment, with so many people traveling this summer, it is a great opportunity for consumers to learn our commitment to helping sellers navigate the real estate process," said Joe Guilino, chairman of public relations and advertising for the ERA Brokers of New Jersey and broker owner, ERA Princeton/Corridor Realty.

Highlighted in the "Global Trends" video will be the ERA Sellers Security Plan, a unique program in which ERA guarantees consumers that it will sell their home, or ERA will buy it. Customers are guaranteed a sale and closing date once they meet

specific requirements and accept an ERA offer.

ERA ends up purchasing a house and then resells it for more, the net profits are returned to the home seller. If ERA sells it for less, ERA takes the loss.

The plan also allows qualified buyers to borrow against equity in their home up to \$150,000 to purchase and close on their new home.

To help ERA agents better serve the growing mature market, ERA was the first global real estate franchise to provide its associates the Senior Real Estate Specialist designation through its campus training center, which includes more than 100 training courses online.

Offered through the Senior Advantage Real Estate Council, this course is designed to educate sales professionals about the special needs and concerns of mature Americans during the real estate process.

Agents with an SRES designation are part of an elite group of specialists who understand the issues related to mature clients such as real estate tax and estate implications, financing options, and the emotional issues that can experience," added Guilino.

For more information on ERA products, services and training programs, contact your local ERA office, or visit www.ERA.com.

ERA is a global leader in the residential real estate industry with more than 30 years of experience in developing consumer-oriented products and services.

has joined the company as a vice president. Sunison is working at the company's headquarters in Morris Plains. He specializes in sales and leasing of office properties in Essex, Morris and Union counties.

Prior to joining Weichert Commercial, Simon was a vice president with Huxell Realty Corp. and a vice president with Jacobson, Goldfarb and Tarman Association, now Newmark Realty Corp.

During his 15-year commercial real estate career, Simon completed numerous transactions. His office building sales include 179 Route 10 - a 193,000 square foot building in Parsippany; 1625 Route 10 - a 110,000 square foot building in Morris Plains; and 8100 Broad St. - a 70,000 square foot building in Newark.

Leasing transactions include 330,000 square feet in Piscataway and 600,000 square feet in Florham Park.

Schoner wins award from N.J. Builders
David Schoner, vice president of Coldwell Banker New Homes, one of the nation's largest residential brokerage firms, walked away with the coveted Marketing Director of the Year award at the annual Sales and Marketing Awards gala presented by the New Jersey Builders Association during its annual Atlantic Builders Convention in Atlantic City.

It was the first time this award was given to an associate member for outstanding achievements in sales and marketing management.

A real estate professional for more than 20 years, Schoner is involved in directing, supervising and managing the sales and marketing campaigns for more than 250 new home communities and builders throughout New Jersey, New York and Connecticut.

Through his leadership, Coldwell Banker New Homes has increased its builder client base by more than 100 percent.

Schoner has identified a number of emerging land-use trends and within the past few years reforecasted the firm's attention to urban and development sites.

In 2003, due to his research and insight, Coldwell Banker New Homes will be involved in the marketing and selling of more than 2,000 new condominium, townhome and apartment units.

Under his direction, Coldwell Banker New Homes has been awarded dozens of industry awards, including Best Web site - Coldwell Banker Moves.com - and Best Black and White Ad for the firm's "Revolutionary New Homes" and "Meet the Builder Day" campaigns.

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AUTOMOTIVE

New Jaguar X-Type has attitude

The last time Jaguar sold a lively sedan with a manual-shift transmission, Dwight Eisenhower was president of the United States.

For too long, luxury in a small car was grown heavy and lary.

Using one's right arm and left leg to shift gears is becoming an outdated activity, but that doesn't mean it still isn't enjoyable to a percentage of drivers.

A small percentage, perhaps, but apparently one worth Jaguar's attention.

For 2003, it offers two X-Type models with a five-speed manual gearbox, and both models come with V-6 engines and all-wheel drive.

The 192-horsepower 2.5 liter X-Type 2.5 comes with a five-speed manual or optional five-speed automatic. The 223-horsepower 3.0 liter X-Type 3.0 comes with the five-speed auto-shifter, or the no-cost manual option.

Manual shifting seems a curious addition for Jaguar, which in recent years has been leading lower-priced models with high-end features.

But the X-Type 2.5, today's test car, comes with the lower sticker of any Jaguar with a starting price of just under \$30,000, this mid-size sedan is still a shoo-in for a top-line Honda Accord, but it's almost too classy to mistreat as a family sedan.

The more likely competitors are the midsize entry-lux cars from Acura, Audi, Cadillac, BMW, Infiniti and more.

But they don't have the all-wheel drive and the amount of standard features that come with the X-Type 2.5.

And this little Jag's driving attitude should be listed among its special features.

For a British cream puff, the car is remarkably composed under pressure.

It's not a heavy-breathing sport sedan, but it is lithe and confident. The clutch won't exhaust the driver, and the shifter has smooth engagement and refined action.

Gas and brake pedals are ideally placed, flat, and well-adjusted. And, when you open it, the engine pulls strongly, and the suspension holds the car steady through corners. Steering

and braking are refined and enhance performance driving.

The double-overhead cam V-6 has an athletic rear under pressure and encourages the driver to take the long way home from work.

The power is a little light on torque for the car's 3,429 pounds, however. Fast starts and starting out on a hill require a heavy rev of the engine.

In-town driving includes frequent shifts from first, second to third, and on the highway the engine revs between 2,500 and 3,000 rpm, but the well-soundproofed cabin diminishes the droning.

All of these points would be really irritating with a gearbox and vehicle of lesser quality, but the Jaguar returns so much pleasure per mile that they are easily forgiven - especially with 192 miles per gallon city-highway and all-wheel drive.

The AWD influence is fairly well camouflaged, until you need it. Sloppy shifts can bring out some driveline lash, and although its specs, there is a faint, high pitched whine that lets you know both axes are working.

The Traction 4.0 all-wheel system splits the torque 40 percent front and 60 percent rear. Slippage at either axle will send more power to the opposite wheels.

Dynamic Stability Control, part of the optional Sport package, can detect and help prevent the always-unwelcome spin-out. Shoppers in regions of inclination or weather will appreciate that added safety feature.

If you require more bottom-end power, there's always the 3.0 liter model for \$37,595, but that's a big jump for 35 more horsepower and not that many more features.

It's not the X-Type's performance that will attract attention; it's more likely the "steering" in the hand, the well-known crest of nobility.

Even this smallest Jaguar, in its unique Pacific Blue paint and cream interior, pulled admiring looks from men and women.

Whether it was from the paint color or car design is debatable, but the British expression of luxury and design is quite different from the other makers.

The EPA fuel economy estimates: 19 mpg city, 28 highway.

Fuel capacity: 16 gallons, premium unleaded recommended.

Dimensions
Cargo space: 16 cubic feet
Front head leg shoulder room: 37.3-42.3-43.4 inches

Wheelbase: 106.7 inches
Curb weight: 3,429 pounds (3.5-ton, automatic)

1998 EPA fuel economy estimates: 19 mpg city, 28 highway.

Fuel capacity: 16 gallons, premium unleaded recommended.

Dimensions
Cargo space: 16 cubic feet
Front head leg shoulder room: 37.3-42.3-43.4 inches

Wheelbase: 106.7 inches
Curb weight: 3,429 pounds (3.5-ton, automatic)

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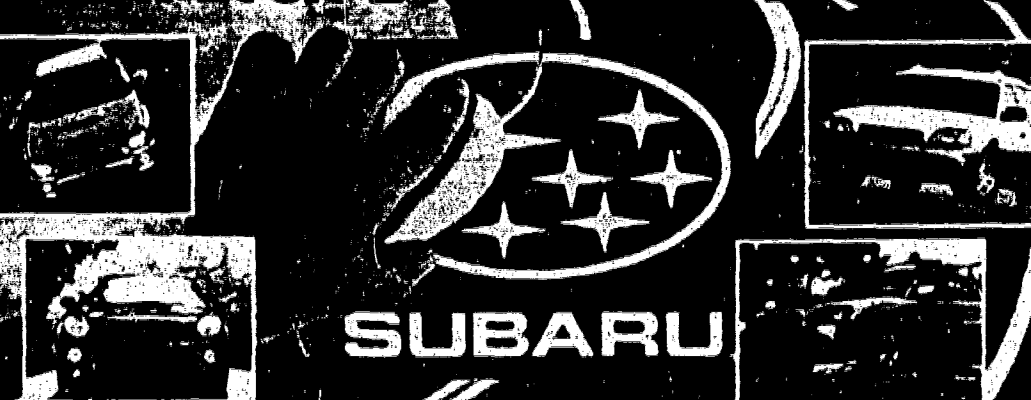
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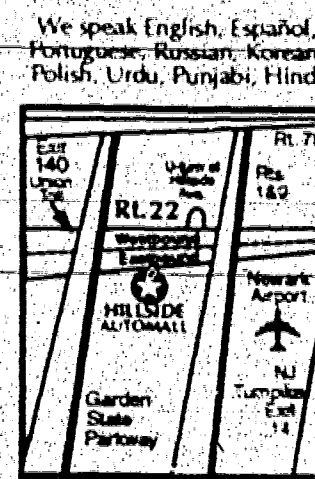
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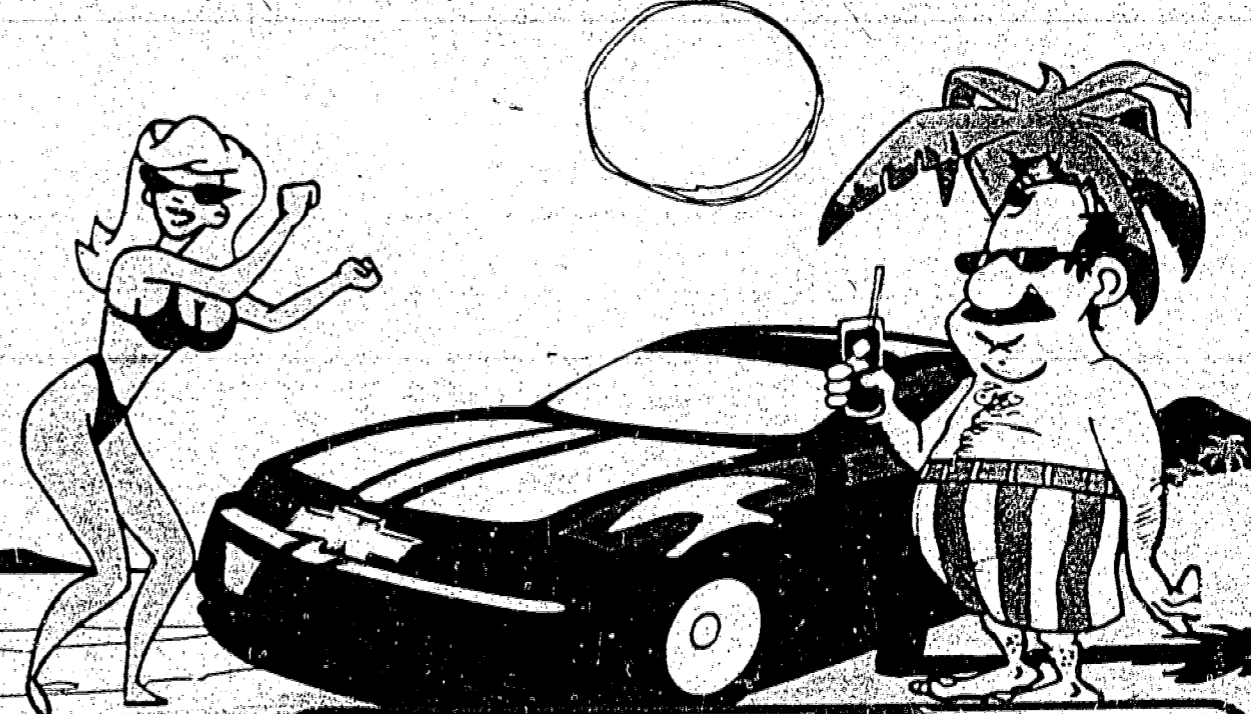
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<p>2000 CHEVROLET MALIBU 4 DR</p> <p>4 cyl. auto. p/w/brks. air. cd. 17" del. alloy wheels. cloth seat. B/W A/S radios. SA#985 VIN#37338787 MSRP \$18,850. Price includes \$4000 Factory Rebate also \$400 College Grad Rebate & \$500 Conquest Discount if Qualified.</p> <p>\$10,577</p>	<p>2001 MITSUBISHI GALANT ES 4 DR</p> <p>4 cyl. auto. p/w/brks. air. cd. 17" del. alloy wheels. cloth seat. B/W A/S radios. SA#985 VIN#37338787 MSRP \$18,850. Price includes \$4000 Factory Rebate also \$400 College Grad Rebate & \$500 Conquest Discount if Qualified.</p> <p>\$10,977</p>	<p>2000 CHEVROLET IMPALA 4 DR</p> <p>4 cyl. auto. p/w/brks. air. cd. 17" del. alloy wheels. cloth seat. B/W A/S radios. SA#985 VIN#37338787 MSRP \$18,850. Price includes \$4000 Factory Rebate also \$400 College Grad Rebate & \$500 Conquest Discount if Qualified.</p> <p>\$12,977</p>	<p>2000 CHEVROLET BLAZER LT 4X4 4 DR</p> <p>4 cyl. auto. p/w/brks. air. cd. 17" del. alloy wheels. cloth seat. B/W A/S radios. SA#985 VIN#37338787 MSRP \$18,850. Price includes \$4000 Factory Rebate also \$400 College Grad Rebate & \$500 Conquest Discount if Qualified.</p> <p>\$13,577</p>	<p>2000 CHEVROLET BLAZER 4X4 4 DR</p> <p>4 cyl. auto. p/w/brks. air. cd. 17" del. alloy wheels. cloth seat. B/W A/S radios. SA#985 VIN#37338787 MSRP \$18,850. Price includes \$4000 Factory Rebate also \$400 College Grad Rebate & \$500 Conquest Discount if Qualified.</p> <p>\$14,577</p>	<p>1999 LEXUS ES300 4 DR</p> <p>4 cyl. auto. p/w/brks. air. cd. 17" del. alloy wheels. cloth seat. B/W A/S radios. SA#985 VIN#37338787 MSRP \$18,850. Price includes \$4000 Factory Rebate also \$400 College Grad Rebate & \$500 Conquest Discount if Qualified.</p> <p>\$17,977</p>
<p>1999 CHEVROLET EXPLORER EXPRESS CONVERSION 4 DR</p> <p>4 cyl. auto. p/w/brks. air. cd. 17" del. alloy wheels. cloth seat. B/W A/S radios. SA#985 VIN#37338787 MSRP \$18,850. Price includes \$4000 Factory Rebate also \$400 College Grad Rebate & \$500 Conquest Discount if Qualified.</p> <p>\$18,577</p>	<p>2001 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN 1500 4X4 4 DR</p> <p>4 cyl. auto. p/w/brks. air. cd. 17" del. alloy wheels. cloth seat. B/W A/S radios. SA#985 VIN#37338787 MSRP \$18,850. Price includes \$4000 Factory Rebate also \$400 College Grad Rebate & \$500 Conquest Discount if Qualified.</p> <p>\$29,577</p>	<p>2003 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN 4 DR</p> <p>4 cyl. auto. p/w/brks. air. cd. 17" del. alloy wheels. cloth seat. B/W A/S radios. SA#985 VIN#37338787 MSRP \$18,850. Price includes \$4000 Factory Rebate also \$400 College Grad Rebate & \$500 Conquest Discount if Qualified.</p> <p>\$38,977</p>	<p>1999 FORD EXPEDITION 4X4 4 DR EDDIE BAUER EDITION</p> <p>4 cyl. auto. p/w/brks. air. cd. 17" del. alloy wheels. cloth seat. B/W A/S radios. SA#985 VIN#37338787 MSRP \$18,850. Price includes \$4000 Factory Rebate also \$400 College Grad Rebate & \$500 Conquest Discount if Qualified.</p> <p>\$18,977</p>		

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