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TWO SECTION

School nurse accuses principal of sexual harassment

By Brian Pedersen
Managing Editor

Eileen Rogers, a nurse at James Caldwell School in Springfield for 10 years, has filed a sexual harassment and discrimination complaint against Ken Bernabe, the school's principal, and the Springfield Board of Education.

The charges against the school board and Bernabe were filed with the state Department of Law and Public Safety Division on Civil Rights on May 19, but Rogers, a Springfield resident, did not come forward publicly with the information until this week.

"The kids witnessed it," said Rogers, as she described some of the incidents that allegedly took place involving herself and other female employees at the school.

According to Rogers, the alleged incidents included the principal massaging her neck, making comments to

her about her sex life, and making sexually suggestive remarks and gestures to Rogers and other women in her presence.

She said the incidents allegedly occurred roughly two to three times a week from September through December even though she had asked him to stop repeatedly.

"I was tired of seeing women debased and humiliated," said Rogers. She described him as always being a "touchy, feely guy."

In one incident, Rogers said she saw the principal allegedly place his ear to a pregnant woman's belly and, in a separate incident, kiss a female employee's neck.

"It just made it a very hostile workplace for women," said Rogers. "It's very demeaning to think that your boss thinks he can do that to you."

Rogers alleges that Bernabe caused a bruise on her skin by jabbing

her with his finger on one occasion and in another, held an uncapped pen at her in what she described as a "threatening manner."

Rogers said a letter of reprimand was placed in Bernabe's personnel file by Superintendent of Schools Walter Mahler, acknowledging that sexual harassment took place as defined by the law of sexual harassment, a claim denied by the school board's attorney.

According to her complaint document, Rogers allegedly told Bernabe that his remarks and gestures were inappropriate to the female staff. In December and on Jan. 30, she complained about what she described as a "hostile work environment" to Mahler. In January and April, she complained about the environment and retaliation she experienced to the district's affirmative action officer, Judy Zimmerman, and they both failed to take "prompt, effective

remedial action" according to her complaint.

Bernabe and Mahler did not return several phone calls by pre-staff and Zimmerman, who also serves as assistant superintendent of schools, is currently on vacation.

Rogers said the board filed its rebuttal and acknowledged that sexual harassment had taken place, but that school officials did not think it was "final action." According to Rogers, the only action taken was a reprimand from the superintendent to the principal asking him to attend a one-day sensitivity training seminar.

She added that both she and Barbara Muller-Ackerman, a guidance counselor at the school for 22 years, experienced sexual harassment from Bernabe and Mahler during their jobs and that it was their responsibility to file the complaint.

As a school nurse, Rogers said she

was no longer involved in such things as handling Division of Youth and Family Services complaints involving children.

Muller-Ackerman said she had filed the affirmative action complaint against Bernabe after everything she knew she could count on as being part of her job changed, such as being denied certain information and decision-making abilities. She alleges that Bernabe monitored her mailbox and left her out of a lock-down practice, even though she's co-manager of the school's crisis team.

"What I think is important is that it's not just between me and Ken and Eileen," said Muller-Ackerman. "There is a hostile work environment at Caldwell. Even if I have not experienced harassment myself."

Muller-Ackerman said there's a broader number of people involved and doesn't think the one-day sensitivity training course was enough of a

response from the officer and superintendent.

"One session isn't going to undo habits that were part of his practice," Muller-Ackerman said.

Serving as the New Jersey Education Association Unserv field representative, George Huck said the Springfield Education Association filed a grievance with the superintendent. One part of this grievance was mediation, which took place June 24 with Barbara Lee, dean of the Graduate School of Labor Management Relations at Rutgers University as the mediator.

"That was only partially successful," said Huck. "What our clients wanted, the district said, wasn't acceptable."

Huck said the Division of Civil Rights is conducting the investigation and is already starting the process. He

See MEDIATION, Page 3

Local parks get mixed reviews

By Marc Lightdale
Staff Writer

While a number of township parks and fields are in good condition, there are a number of others that appear to be in shoddy condition.

Whether the fields are in disarray is debatable. Several residents interviewed on the topic seemed to show unwavering support for the township officials responsible for the upkeep of their parks.

At the same time, other residents have expressed indignation over the condition of some of the parks relative to parks in nearby towns like Berkeley Heights, Summit and New Providence.

Fields littered with trash and playgrounds covered with weeds can be found at some of the local parks in Springfield while others trim their grass and apply coats of paint to the benches. However, some of the jungle gyms could use a cleaning.

Several hornet's nests were seen on the backside of Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School. The back wall of Gaudineer looks as though animals have burrowed holes into the building. On a storage shed at Gaudineer, trees and weeds are growing into the side of the building.

Michael Moore, director of Buildings and Grounds for the Springfield School District, said that they are using bait blocks from the Health Department for rodent control.

"There are bees everywhere on the earth," according to Moore. The nests can be knocked down with a broom early in the morning or late in the evening, he said.

"We try not to use pesticides if we don't have to," said Moore.

Moore said the tennis courts at Thelma I. Sandmeier School are taken care of by the township which does the upkeep, according to Moore, who added that Recreation Director

Michael Tennaro has workers trimming back tree growth.

Some of the things that appear to be unkept would look different during the school year, according to Moore. In the summer, resources are focused on getting the insides of the buildings as clean as possible.

"We are not keeping school fields play-ready during the off-season," Moore said.

The township's Recreation Department is responsible for the upkeep of nine of the parks in Springfield. New playground equipment has been installed in each park over the past six years and wood carpeting is replaced each year as necessary, according to Tennaro.

These parks are used continuously throughout the year by an overwhelming number of people, Tennaro said.

"Unfortunately, day-to-day projects sometimes deter this department from improvements that everybody would like made, but we do attempt to do what we can with our staff," said Tennaro.

Despite some local townspeople who criticize the playgrounds and fields, a number of people appreciate the local parks.

Charlie Irwin, with the YMCA 4- to 9-year-old summer camps said that upkeep is done, the field is maintained, and garbage is dumped at Ruby Park.

"The groundspeople keep up the area and the garbage is taken away. Grass is cut every day," said Irwin, a YMCA employee.

Meanwhile, a woman who previously taught at James Caldwell School, Eve Lombardi was spending her Tuesday afternoon at Ruby Park with her grandson.

Lombardi remembered the park as a location where she was seeking peace and quiet when she taught in



A collapsed bench lies in ruin at Ruby Park in Springfield. These are just some of the poor conditions found at a few of the township and Board of Education-owned parks and fields located in the township.

Photo by Reina Rose Sibayan

the area. Lombardi said everything appears to be well kept at Ruby Park.

She described the park as "clean." "I grew up in Brooklyn so this is heaven to me," Lombardi said, who taught in Springfield for 30 years. "Everything looks beautiful."

Lorinda Morlock of Piscataway works in Springfield as an administrator for a dental lab, and she described Ruby Park as very clean.

Two teens played basketball at

Henshaw Park. Joe Palumbo and Jesse Galinkin rate the park as a "10 on a scale of 1 to 10. They don't like see the curse words on benches, and said the benches had been bugged up since they had been in the sixth grade. They both recently finished their freshman years at Jonathan Dayton High School.

Tennaro said the turf areas at several of the parks will continue to improve thanks to an aerating and reseeding program the department continues to establish each year.

This department, along with the Department of Public Works continues to make efforts to improve these parks with limited help, time, and funds," said Tennaro in a written statement.

At Sandmeier School, the soccer goals are tucked into the corner of the field near the tennis courts. The tennis courts continue to have a gate broken off the hinge. The nets are low and there are cracks in the pavement.

Ruby Field contains paint splatters on benches and the metal fence is open near the ground on the baseline. During a recent visit, there was lots of garbage on the ground. Litter is located on the first and third baseline. One of the benches is blue and could use a new coat of paint.

Tennaro said there will be a new scoreboard and foul poles at Ruby Park. In addition, there will be new clay and conditioner on all township fields, new bleachers, new lights, new backstops, and a sprinkler system at Roessner, Chisholm, and Ruby parks.

One local man taking a stroll up the block talked about kids on the tennis courts at Henshaw Park. He said teenagers rollerblading on the courts are ruining the surface and the nets are hanging too low. Water bottles are

See NEW, Page 3

BOE reveals mold remediation efforts

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

A letter about the opening of Beechwood School in Mountainside is being sent to parents in the district, signed by Board of Education President Peter Goggi and dated July 22.

The news came at Tuesday night's Board of Education meeting, where he repeated the information about the mold contamination found at the construction site, caused from roof damage, by Randazzo Construction, the former contractor.

The letter said a remediation of the mold is being implemented, and he was candid about the frustrations of the current contractor. "He promised a contingency plan in the event that all is not ready at Beechwood, and stressed that school will open on one matter what" on Sept. 4.

An addendum to the Tuesday night meeting agenda listed materials and services which must be supplied immediately to have the construction continue.

The written statement revealed that Hartford has thus far declined to accept financial responsibility for said materials and services. "It continues that under duress, and with full reservation of rights to seek recourse against Hartford and/or any other parties with ultimate financial responsibility for the materials and services, we hereby approve these change orders."

Five items followed. The first was to excavate, expose and backfill underground electric service conduits at a cost of \$10,283. Second, the mold

remediation, at a cost of \$22,166. Third was humidity control for \$25,875, fourth, replace sheet rock after mold remediation at a cost of \$6,627, and finally, repainting of the new sheet rock, for \$2,221.

The change orders totaled \$67,172.

"As my letter indicated, there are and will be incidents not up to standard by our previous contractor," Goggi said. "We will approve the change orders so that we can keep the construction on path, but we reserve the right to sue anyone to get this money back."

He said the board is doing this to preserve the time line for Beechwood School. The money is coming out of the district's surplus, Goggi said. The board had discussed the matter in a closed session previously, and approved the amount unanimously.

During the public participation, the matter was discussed by those in attendance. Mark McManus asked if this is the first money amount for Beechwood and if more was to come. Goggi said he didn't know.

Board member John Perrin said, "We already know this is the second resolution, and we already know it will be another item for testing the remediation of the mold problems. We have to be absolutely sure that is corrected — that is out there."

Another man wanted to know about the use of additional subcontractors, but Perrin explained, "Paul Otto is the general contractor, and he hires others if he needs them. That is strictly up to him."

District to begin search for new superintendent

By Marc Lightdale
Staff Writer

The challenge before the end of his career was too much to pass up.

That's what Walter Mahler, superintendent of schools, said about his new opportunity to be superintendent of the Bridgewater-Raritan School District. Mahler said his new position will give him ample opportunity to continue to work with facility improvements, including a new 550-student primary school.

"I could not pass up an opportunity to lead a district of that quality and size," Mahler said.

Mahler said that he had learned when you have really good people who are passionate about the work they do, the most important thing a superintendent can do is to remove whatever obstacles that they possibly can.

"In some ways, the most important part of my job is to make everybody else's job easier," Mahler said.

In the meantime, the Springfield Board of Education has started a search to fill the superintendent position and is also looking for an interim superintendent.

"He was very well liked, we have no bad words for him," said Board President Larry Levee.

A \$19.6-million expansion project will continue as planned, according to Mahler. Work has already begun with improvements at James Caldwell School.

"My leaving will not change any of the improvement initiatives," Mahler said.

The 54-year-old resident of Jefferson Township will stay officially through Oct. 22, which would be the 90 days notice stipulated under the separation clause in his contract.

Mahler said he will miss all of the "great people," including the residents of the community, Township Committee and PTAs.

"The school district personnel are top-notch," said Mahler.

Levee had no comment on the possibility of Mahler leaving earlier than Oct. 22, other than to say that it would have to be a Board of Education decision.

Mahler acknowledged the possibility that he could potentially leave sooner if the Board of Education were to bring an interim superintendent to start right away and take over for Mahler.

Mahler's new contract with Bridgewater-Raritan is for an annual salary of \$165,000, which is \$22,000 more than his current contract with annuities, which works out to be \$143,360.

"I would hope people realize, it's not like I was looking to leave, I don't have nor did I intend to send out any other resumes, it was just this one resume that I could not pass on the chance to lead a district of that quality and size," Mahler said.



A vandalized picnic table sits at Henshaw Park in Springfield. Scratches and various marks are scrawled across the seats and table top. Some new work is slated for several parks and fields in the township.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the *Echo Leader* to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To mail a schedule, send it to *Echo Leader*, Attn: Managing Editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J. 07083.

Today

- The International Film Festival continues at the Springfield Public Library, 160 Mountain Ave., with screenings of "Same Old Song," a satirical romance, at noon and 7 p.m. For information, call 973-376-3030, ext. 230.
- The Mountanside Newcomers Club have a "Ment's Night Out" at L.J.'s grille off Route 22 West, Kentonville, at 8 p.m. Call Tom Lerek for information.

Saturday

- CPA for the Professional Restaurateur is a course offered by the Westfield Mountanside Chapter of the American Red Cross from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Chapter House, 321 Elm St. in Westfield. For information and to register, call 908-232-7090.

Sunday

- Evangelical Baptist Church, 242 Shunpike Road, Springfield, offers the "Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure" from 8:30 to 8:45 p.m. through Aug. 8. The event is for children in grades pre-K through junior high. For information, call 973-376-4183.

Tuesday

- The Mountanside Board of Education conducts a special meeting at 8 p.m. in Council Chambers, Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East, Mountanside, off 1385 Route 22 East. To the extent presently known, the agenda will include discussion of the construction project at Deerfield and Beechwood Schools and other regular agenda items.
- The First Aid/Basics course for teens ages 11 and older, offered by the Westfield Mountanside Chapter of the American Red Cross, teaches participants how to respond to injuries and check the condition of unconscious and conscious victims. The course takes place from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Chapter House, 321 Elm St. in Westfield. For information and to register, call 908-232-7090.
- The Springfield Free Public Library, 160 Mountain Ave., concludes its "Lunchtime Video Series," featuring videos, at noon with a screening of "The Sheriff's Dream" and "Cold Hard Cash."

Wednesday

- The Springfield Planning Board convenes in the Committee Room of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave. at 8 p.m.
- Park Naturalist Ruth Yablonsky leads guests on a tour of the "Reptiles of New Jersey" at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountanside, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Participants can meet live snakes and turtles up close. For information, call 908-789-1670.

Aug. 7

- "A Ladies' Night Out" for the Mountanside Newcomers Club will

Vandals damage town pool

Between late Friday evening and early Saturday morning, unknown persons vandalized the Springfield Municipal Pool, throwing tables, chairs and plants into the water and breaking several jets off the side of the pool.

POLICE BLOTTER

At 9:14 a.m. Friday, a Millburn resident reported an attempted theft of a motor vehicle, which was parked in the Staples parking lot on Route 22 East.

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New work slated for facilities

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How did he do that?



Volunteer Alex D'Amato, 7, holds a balloon up for Mr. Fish — John James Lepiarz — who magically inserts a giant needle through it without popping it. Mr. Fish later revealed the mysterious secret: Scotch Tape. The educational show was part of the Phenomenal Physics performance at Trailside Nature & Science Center in Mountanside on July 23.

Dayton not immune to violence prevention measures, tactics

By Brian Pedersen, Managing Editor

The Columbus High School massacre may be more than four years old, but the memories of that day linger on in the hallways of high schools everywhere. They've recently reawakened when three teenagers from Columbus High School in Camden County were arrested for plotting a similar massacre earlier this month.

Architect to be selected for renovations by 2004

By Marc Lightdale, Staff Writer

Plans will be forthcoming for the expansion of Springfield's Police Department's headquarters, when a currently housed within the old fire headquarters.

"We hope to select an architect by the end of 2003 or early 2004. At that point, a firm timeline will be developed," said Richard Sheola, Springfield township administrator.

Regarding the construction of the new firehouse, Sheola and Marie Sedlak, the township's chief financial officer, explained several bonding issues related to the project.

The township's debt prior to adopting the ordinance for the firehouse was \$13,522,125, which was 0.95 percent of equalized valuation.

Firefighters put out minor fire at Trailside Museum

Mountain Side

FIRE BLOTTER

At 2:14 p.m. July 22, firefighters responded to a central station fire alarm at the Trailside Museum at the Watchung Reservation. Firefighters at the scene found a heavy smoke condition and a minor fire in the basement.

BOE to conduct special meeting

The Mountanside Board of Education will conduct a special meeting at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Council Chambers at Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East in Mountanside.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

This doesn't add up

One year from now, Gerard Schaller will no longer be chief school administrator for the Mountainside K-8 district. Despite this fact, the Mountainside Board of Education agreed to give Schaller a salary increase for this year of approximately double the standard 4 percent raise given to teachers. This doesn't add up to a whole lot of sense.

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 now gone from \$119,000 in 2002-03 to \$129,000 for the 2003-04 school year. On many levels, this raise represents an unnecessary and unconscionable increase. Knowing the public's perception of the Board of Education in light of the many difficulties of completing the Deerfield and Beechwood School construction and renovation projects, how could the board approve this raise?

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 more than 4 percent depending on the scale and which career stage the teacher is at.

Schaller said he received this raise simply because he had been evaluated this year and not last year. The evaluation never took place because the process was delayed in the furor that erupted over the renovation and reopening of Beechwood School. Board President Peter Gogger said Schaller received no salary increase 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.

This line of reasoning still doesn't lead to a justification for a \$10,000 raise, particularly at a time like this September is less than two months away and until parents see their children walking into Beechwood on the first day of school, they are not going to fully believe that the school will open on time, no matter what the board tells them. A leaky roof and lighting problems are still plaguing the school and another delay would not sit well, to say the least, with an already skeptical public.

The board should have taken this into consideration when evaluating Schaller for his salary increase. Since he will be leaving in one year, a better solution would have been to withhold his increase, whether he's doing a terrific job or not. As it stands, Mountainside residents continue to see their school taxes rise, while the reopening of Beechwood is still up in the air, despite all the problems the board already encountered with the previous contractor.

Giving the chief school administrator a \$10,000 raise amidst all this upheaval is a slap in the face to taxpayers and an insult to parents sending their children to a school that may or may not even open. Again.

A sound plan

Providing sound planning, the land use ordinance has the power to allow for more control over how a community develops, giving more strength to a town's Master Plan. The ordinance was adopted by the Springfield Township Committee July 8, and looks like it will help the township control opportunities for business based on state guidelines for planning a municipality.

This will make it difficult for such things as adult-oriented stores to sprout up in the neighborhood by designing the zone to curtail that activity. This land use ordinance can stipulate what zone they are allowed in and can prohibit them in the neighborhood commercial zone, which is not a place where they belong.

Several designs in the ordinance control this type of activity. The highway commercial zone is desirable to large types of businesses on Route 22 and good for roads with heavy traffic and each zone has its own set of standards.

This is good for Springfield because it will help the township continue to develop in a way that will conform to proper zoning regulations.

While this land use ordinance is beneficial for the township's Master Plan, it does shed light on the status of the township's downtown on Morris Avenue. For years, vacant storefronts and outdated businesses have dominated the downtown area, with little activity. The Township Committee should look at how they can improve the downtown, possibly using the land use ordinance to control the types of businesses the township can attract to this location to revitalize the area.

"We do not help children when we simply walk them off from information and ideas that are controversial or disturbing. If they are to succeed in the Information Age, they must learn to be discerning users of information."

Ann K. Symons, president, American Library Association, 1999



THEY CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW — Brothers Joseph, 8, and Vincent Ruzek, 4, can see clearly once they come up for air during a hot summer day at the Mountainside Community Pool.

Photo By Art Wolfe

This rail line failed once, and it will fail again

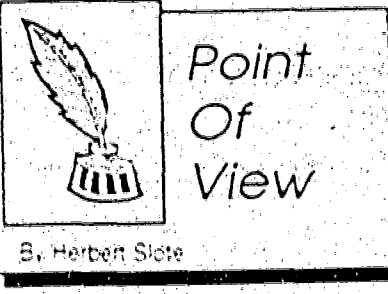
Editor's note: This letter was also sent to the Department of Environmental Protection.

A careful businessman makes certain of his market and closely calculates his costs and profit before producing his product.

Such prudence has been successfully avoided by the Union County Freeholders and other promoters renewing diesel freight service on the defunct and abandoned Rockaway Valley Railroad.

Intended as a means making money, the RVRB stopped operating in 1991 when its customers disappeared. Whatever the reasons for the disappearance, the evolving nature of the communities and commercial industry along the route have now made the railroad even less relevant.

There is not a single facility along the railroad to support existing or potential users. The freight cars are not even being used as a storage facility for such operations as there are no sites along the line adequate for such industry.



By Herbert Slovic

The treatment argument in support of the project is that "freight trucks off the road." This is a facile generalization without reference to the facts. It provides an unthinking, authoritative sounding pronouncement without the substance of having to consider the actual circumstances in the specific proposal.

On the other hand, the negative aspects of the proposal are glaringly evident: environmental impact, degradation of quality of life, distribution of road traffic and emergency response of real estate values and tax base, lack of any evidence of the need for such an enterprise, the highly contrived and unproven financial survival.

All this makes nonsense of the Freeholders' published statements that "materials transported over the line will be locally generated from businesses along the corridor and that it will be a short line operation serving

only 10 to 15 local municipalities with no through traffic from New York City to the west."

It all indicates a poor assessment of need for this initiative. It is a single-track, "freight" line, not a railroad, and against its financial viability, why is there such an urgent pressure to put it back on operation? For that answer, we have to look for the money.

The State of New Jersey spent \$25 million to acquire the Rockaway Valley and the State Board of Railroads another \$2.5 million for 20 years of taxes and law enforcement based on a State Order dated Aug. 24, 2002. Later by Resolution #12003, the Freeholders dropped another \$8.5 million into the project.

So far, there has been no official estimate of the total cost of putting the line back on operation. The entire total had been estimated to be in the range of \$50 million.

Whether this is a public enterprise or a private one, the project will be a financial disaster. The cost of acquisition, the rebuilding of the road, including the control of the money, has been assigned to the Mountainside and Erie Railroad. Upon completion, MKE will then become the operator of the road to make a profit at its own operating industry to walk away free of charge.

It is this privilege that will pay the costs two dollars a year and a percentage of the presumed profit. This does not suggest any irregular behavior, it is just a lousy deal for the county and for the taxpayer.

Absent a hidden agenda, the obvious fact is that there simply is no economic justification for this project.

Rather than success, failure is already anticipated by County Manager DeVincentis' published statement. And at the end of the day, there is no business to run a train line, they are going to run a train and lose money," according to the *Six Leader* journal, 2003.

So in the final analysis, it is not just those who live in proximity to the right-of-way who have good cause to stop the train, but also all taxpayers and voters who expect a higher standard of living and responsible government elected officials.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sudden resignation was a shock

I was shocked to hear of the sudden resignation of Springfield Superintendent Walter Mahler. What to do... what decision... what starting for the school children, the school staff, and the residents of Springfield?

He has a five-year contract in Springfield, and has only fulfilled 24 months of it when announcing that he was going to leave. We had an excellent school system when he came. In his term of less than two years, specifically what did he do to improve it or downgrade it? His crowning achievement was to push through a \$230 referendum on Jan. 28, for a gigantic school construction project which certainly could have been more prudent and modest without detriment to the children. He allowed no townwide public hearings for questions and suggestions he revealed in now-sprint before the election that they "were not required by law." The referendum vote was won by only 81 votes, which was primarily a 50-50 split by the voters.

Now, he just decides to leave Springfield with a large unfinished project for this community of 14,200 people as his phase, a \$50 million school expansion project for the Bridges over Barton Park, plus a new school with an increase of \$200,000 in salary on the next 4th. His salary was \$127,000 at the start of 2003. Let's hear from you, all members of the Springfield Board of Education as to how he was allowed to do this without any rebukes or monetary commitments?

Hazel Hargrove
Springfield

Resignation was well-kept secret

Apparently, the resignation of Superintendent Walter Mahler of the Springfield school system was a well-kept secret. It seems that the Springfield Board of Education did not know about it until, probably, he had made careful future plans. His decision to resign as superintendent did not come suddenly. School boards take months of meetings over a year to select a new school superintendent.

Applications are received months in advance and reviewed again and again. I guess that Mahler was thinking of Mahler and his children and adults of Springfield when he chose to resign. It was a well-kept secret that he is leaving in Springfield? He should be congratulated for immediately and peacefully fulfilling his five-year contract, a job that takes years to get done.

Mahler is resigning, and the Springfield taxpayers will be left with the massive bill for his unfinished school assignments. It is his tax to the people of Springfield. The Springfield Board of Education must answer some tough questions about this matter.

Suzanne Gubala
Springfield

Springfield Y opens fall 2003 registration

Registration for the Fall 2003 season at the Springfield YMCA is beginning in the Chisholm Community Center, will begin Aug. 11. The two-week session runs from Sept. 8 through Nov. 10.

The Y will offer a variety of programs and activities for children and adults. The fall season will include: 1) 2- to 4-year-olds to help develop their motor skills through jumping and tumbling games.

Mass for boys 7 to 12 years old, 13 to 18 years old and girls 13 to 18 years old, and girls 13 to 18 years old. Registration begins at 5 p.m. Aug. 11. The program will be held at the Chisholm Community Center, 300 Morris Ave., Springfield, N.J. 07081. For more information, call 973-467-2600.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stories speak volumes about BOF

The Editor: I have read the stories in the *Echo Leader* about the BOF. The stories speak volumes about the BOF. The BOF is a very important part of our community.

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RECREATION

Registration kicks off for Minutemen Football

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

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

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

For information, call 973-467-2600.

Special courses instruct how to save lives

The Westfield Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross offers a series of educational courses this summer. All courses are conducted at the Chapter House, 721 Elm St. Westfield.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required for all courses. For information or to register, stop by the Chapter House, call 908-232-7000 or email solomon@crossnet.org.

Pet First Aid
This class has just been added. Created in conjunction with the Humane Society of the United States, this course provides valuable information needed to keep your pet safe. It teaches owners to act with confidence during an emergency.

Adult Lifesaving Skills
The Westfield Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross has announced that August classes are in progress.

Child CPR
The first-aid basics class teaches participants how to check the condition to conscious and unconscious victims and how to recognize and care for life-threatening bleeding, sudden illness and injury.

Adult CPR
The first-aid basics class teaches participants how to check the condition to conscious and unconscious victims and how to recognize and care for life-threatening bleeding, sudden illness and injury.

Professional Rescuer
The first-aid basics class teaches participants how to check the condition to conscious and unconscious victims and how to recognize and care for life-threatening bleeding, sudden illness and injury.

Babysitters Training
A babysitters training course for teens ages 11-15 years old. The course helps teens learn what it takes to be a better, safer babysitter from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Aug. 9. The fee is \$55.

Mountainside Newcomers meet for more activities
The Mountainside Newcomers Club announces the following activities:

Men's Night Out at 8 p.m. tonight at Elys Grille, off Route 22 West. Westfield Police will be on hand for questions or directions.

Ladies Night Out Meet at Elys Grille, off Route 22 West, at 7 p.m. Aug. 12. To relax and meet with old and new friends.

Members who arrive at 8 p.m. will have a cover charge, so get there early.

Moopys & Me group will meet at Moopys on Route 22 West, at 7 p.m. Aug. 12.

Bring little ones for a summertime favorite and watch those ice cream cones disappear fast!

Community Affairs chairperson Kara O'Keefe is collecting back to school supplies for the needy children in Union County. Please consider donating pens, pencils, notebooks, folders, staplers, markers, paper, etc. Other items: backpacks, water bottles, etc. are also items highly in need.

The Mountainside Newcomers Club is a social-oriented club related to providing a friendly greeting to new members, to help them meet others and to extend a welcome to the community.

For membership information, call Susan Buchner at 908-928-9291.

Call it with a classified ad, (973) 564-8911.

CPC Players present spiritual 'Showdown' musical

On July 19, the CPC Players of Mountainside's Community Presbyterian Church presented the musical 'Showdown' at Dry Gulch. The performance brought an ancient biblical tale to modern audiences.

The show told the story of how the evil King Ahab, his wicked Queen Jezebel and their devotion to the false god Baal, are put to the test by a drought foretold by the prophet Elijah. This adaptation puts forth the

story of the Bible story that was told all ages could enjoy.

The cast included David Blevins as Elijah, Samantha Stewart as Queen Jezebel, Matthew Keresey as King Ahab, Kevin Morgan as the prophet Elisha, and the rest of the cast.

The show was a great success and was enjoyed by all who attended.

For more information, call 973-467-2600.

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WHAT? WHY?
and
HERE'S A CHANCE for all readers to share their answer to questions presented in this column. We will publish responses a week later. Send comments or suggest another question to WHAT and WHY, P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J. 07083 or e-mail to editorial@thelocalsource.com. Please include your town name.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION TO THE PARKWAY TRAFFIC PROBLEMS BOTH MORNING AND AFTERNOON WHERE ROUTE 280 AND THE PARKWAY MEET IN THE ORANGES? WILL THE MERGING OF THE TURNPIKE AND THE PARKWAY AUTHORITY SOLVE THIS PROBLEM?

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OBITUARIES

Katherine Lindauer, 92, of Fort Myers, Fla., formerly of Springfield, died July 16.

Born in McKee, Ga., Mrs. Lindauer lived in Springfield for 55 years and in Sarnell, Fla., for several years before moving to Fort Myers.

Surviving are two daughters, Dana Mehling and Elise Lindauer, two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 1, at the Springfield Methodist Church.

Burial will be in the Springfield Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 31, at the Springfield Methodist Church.

Surviving are a son, Ronnie, two daughters, Dana and Elise, two grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 1, at the Springfield Methodist Church.

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Anyone who is a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse or an emergency medical technician with current credentials is encouraged to call the chapter house at 908-273-2076.

Watercolor painting class helps cancer patients

A watercolor painting class for individuals dealing with cancer will be offered at Overlook Hospital in August.

Use quiet time to unwind, relax and learn how to paint. Cancer patients are invited to this free, family social experience. No experience is necessary. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information or to register for this free course, call Lee Ann Caffery, RN, MSN, OCN, at 908-522-8349.

Dates are Monday, Aug. 11, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; and Tuesday, Aug. 12, 9 a.m. in Conference Room 1, 99 Beauvoir Ave., Summit.

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Welcome aboard



Nora Holley, board chairwoman of the Women's Resource Center, welcomes Beth Brier who was installed as a new board member of the WRC. Beth is an attorney who lives in Summit with her family. She has been a regular Tuesday volunteer this year and served on the Blue Moon Gala Committee.

Red Cross conducts blood drive Monday

The Summit Area Red Cross will host a blood drive from 2:30 to 8 p.m. Monday at 695 Springfield Ave. in Summit.

The drive is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to donate. NJ Blood Services will conduct the blood drive.

Blood is in constant demand for treatment of accident cases, cancer victims, hemorrhages, and for use during surgery.

Donating blood is safe and those between the ages of 17 and 76 can donate every 56 days. Remember one hour of a donor's time can mean a lifetime for someone in need of a blood transfusion.

Donors will need to know their Social Security number and have ID. For information, call the Summit Area Chapter Red Cross at 908-273-2076.

The Summit Area Chapter serves Berkeley Heights, Tongue Hill, Summit, New Providence, Summit and Springfield.

Program explores Alzheimer's disease

"Look Good, Feel Better" is a special program at Overlook Hospital that offers help with appearance and

related side effects for women undergoing cancer treatment from 10 a.m. to noon Aug. 18.

Each participant will receive a free "Look Good, Feel Better" kit.

For information or to register for this free course, call Lee Ann Caffery, RN, MSN, OCN, at 908-522-8349.

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SPORTS

Summit Area YMCA has tryouts set for Sept. 2-4 at Hurst Pool

The Summit Area YMCA will hold tryouts for the Summit Seals swimming team Sept. 2-4 at the six-lane Hurst Pool, located at 67 Maple Street in Summit.

These tryouts are conducted each year to select young men and women for the Summit YMCA's competitive swimming program.

On Sept. 2, tryouts for those age 8 and younger will be held at 8 p.m. with tryouts following at 7 p.m. for the 13-18 age group.

On Sept. 3, tryouts for ages 9 and 10 will be held at 8 p.m. with tryouts for ages 11 and 12 at 7:30.

On Sept. 4, makeups will be held at 6:30 p.m. for the 13-18 group and at 7 for swimmers 12 and younger.

A swimmer's age as of Dec. 1, 2003 determines the age group for tryouts.

The Summit Area YMCA also has a developmental team for those who may not make the Seals team but might, with extra coaching, be capable at a later date.

The developmental team will compete in smaller meets to gain experience for later major competitions. The YMCA also has an outstanding progressive lesson program for developing swimming skills.

The Summit Seals swimming team practices under the direction of a knowledgeable and experienced coaching staff. The low coach-to-swimmer ratio allows coaches to tailor training techniques to best suit each swimmer.

Head coach Hank Buntin's coaching career spans more than 35 years. He is designated a Master Coach by the National YMCA and he is the recipient of the 2002 YMCA National Coach of the Year award.

Under Buntin's direction, swimmers develop their physical skills and strengthen values which can be utilized in all aspects of their lives, not just in the pool.

Even though all Seals train together in their age groups, the swimmers are divided into three girls' teams and two boys' teams. These teams vary in swimming intensity and competitiveness, providing the appropriate level of challenge and competition for each group.

As members of the Summit Seals, swimmers will compete in meets against other YMCA teams, as well as swim at USA meets. There are also opportunities to swim in state, regional and national meets.

PRE-TRIAL TUNE-UP CLINIC: Buntin and his assistant coaches will conduct a Pre-Trial Tune-Up Clinic the week of Aug. 18-22 at the Summit Area YMCA Hurst Pool.

A morning session from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. will be held for swimmers 13 years of age and older. An afternoon session from 4:45 to 6 p.m. will be held for swimmers 10 years of age and younger.

The Pre-Trial Clinic is designed to show swimmers techniques associated with the Summit Area YMCA facilities, with the Seals program and with the instructional philosophies and methodologies of the Seals coaching staff. Participants will also gain an appreciation of the value of their skills prior to the official tryouts.

More information about the Summit Seals tryouts and the Pre-Trial Clinic may be obtained by calling Buntin at 908-273-3310, ext. 150 or aquatic director Wendy Westberg at ext. 149.

The Seals' website, www.summitseals.org, is also an excellent source of team information.

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As members of the Summit Seals, swimmers will compete in meets against other YMCA teams, as well as swim at USA meets. There are also opportunities to swim in state, regional and national meets.

PRE-TRIAL TUNE-UP CLINIC: Buntin and his assistant coaches will conduct a Pre-Trial Tune-Up Clinic the week of Aug. 18-22 at the Summit Area YMCA Hurst Pool.

A morning session from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. will be held for swimmers 13 years of age and older. An afternoon session from 4:45 to 6 p.m. will be held for swimmers 10 years of age and younger.

The Pre-Trial Clinic is designed to show swimmers techniques associated with the Summit Area YMCA facilities, with the Seals program and with the instructional philosophies and methodologies of the Seals coaching staff. Participants will also gain an appreciation of the value of their skills prior to the official tryouts.

More information about the Summit Seals tryouts and the Pre-Trial Clinic may be obtained by calling Buntin at 908-273-3310, ext. 150 or aquatic director Wendy Westberg at ext. 149.

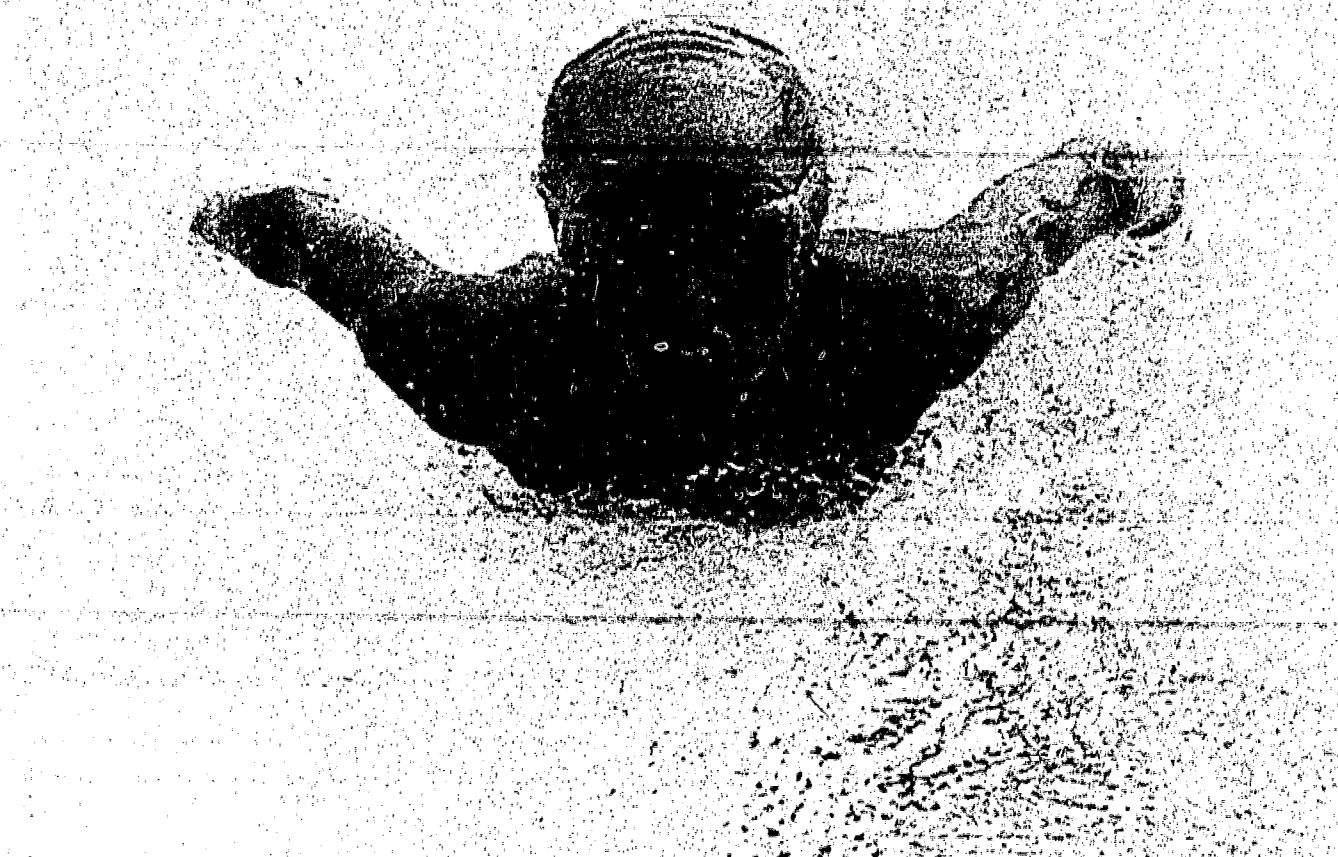
The Seals' website, www.summitseals.org, is also an excellent source of team information.

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Clare Demberger finished first in the ages 11-12 girls backstroke for Springfield in its 20th North Jersey Summer Swim League meet against Mountainside.

Springfield swimmers excel in setback to Mountainside

The Springfield swimming team fell just short in its bid to top Mountainside as it was downed by a 201-188 score on July 14 in North Jersey Summer Swim League competition in Springfield.

Here's a look at some excellent results turned in by Springfield swimmers.

</

AT THE LIBRARY

'Same Old Song' plays in foreign film festival
The International Film Festival continues tonight at the Springfield Free Public Library...

'Same Old Song' will be shown at noon and 7 p.m.
Thinking "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg" meets "Pennies from Heaven" from the director of "Hiroshima, Mon Amour" and "Last Year at Marienbad"...

This satirical romance is essentially an homage to the quirky, off-beat quasi-musicals of the late Denis Potter, in which unlikely characters burst into lip-synched songs often in reversed gender...

It all adds to a tale of young Parisians on the lookout for love, usually with the wrong person. In its French plot, Simon is secretly in love with a girl, who loves Marc, who is trying to sell an apartment to Camille's sister, and so on...

Funding for the film festival has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council of the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and the Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library...

Lunchtime video series continues Tuesday
The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its lunchtime video series...

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its lunchtime video series "Hogan Phibes," on Tuesdays with "The Staff of Dreams" and "Gold Hand Cash" at noon.

Scholars explore the meaning of the most enduring golden myths, and join modern-day treasure hunters searching for sunken Spanish galleons off the Florida Keys in "Volume Three: The Staff of Dreams"...

The video is 50 minutes. "Volume Four: Gold Hand Cash" visits the epicenter of the constant and the bustling trading floors of Wall Street to explore the impact of money and gold in society. This film is 50 minutes.

Funding for the video series has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council of the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and the Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library...

Bring a brown bag lunch to the program, which is free to the public. Coffee and cookies will be provided. For information, call 973-326-4930.

Exhibit takes a look at 'Small Faces'
An exhibit of photographs titled "Small Faces," by David J. Lipman will be displayed at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library...

"Small Faces" is an ultra close-up portrait of the very small. The faces of reptiles, insects and crustaceans rarely get to be seen up close. Their personalities emerging from the large color images, give a rare look at the individuality, a quality we rarely see in the world of the very small.

Lipman was born in London and has been a resident of New Jersey for 30 years. He is a photographer and artist, which he has combined with new digital techniques to create commercial and artistic works. His photographic work has appeared in Life, National Geographic, Vogue, Time and Newsweek as well as in newspapers and specialized magazines...

Trustees meetings

The Board of Trustees of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will meet at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month in one of the library's meeting rooms.

Dates of the meetings are Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Nov. 13 and Jan. 8.

'Gold' video series examines obsession

The Functioning Video Series "Volume Three: The Staff of Dreams" examines the obsession of gold.

Subplots explore the meaning of the most enduring golden myths, and viewers will join modern-day treasure hunters searching for sunken Spanish galleons off the Florida Keys.

"Volume Four: Gold Hand Cash" is the next video, which visits the epicenter of the constant and the bustling trading floors of Wall Street to explore the impact of money and gold in society.

Con artists converge in 'Nine Queens'

The International Film Festival continues Tuesday at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. "Nine Queens" will be shown at noon and 7 p.m.

What if Argentina held a system-writing competition and a novice writer determined to create Alfred Hitchcock and David Mamet, won the funds to realize his dream? It happened and the result has been described by critics as a thrilling, hilarious, funny and sharply satirical movie, a work within a work.

By taking the county clerk's machine, the Board of Elections counts absentee and professional ballots.

The Union County Clerk's Office has purchased a new optical scan absentee voting system to make the counting of absentee ballots more streamlined and efficient.

This new system will replace the old manual system used for decades by the Board of Elections to count ballots.

By taking the county clerk's machine, the Board of Elections counts absentee and professional ballots.

County Clerk Joanne Rappaport said she took the initiative to make the \$2,000 purchase of hardware and software in order to promote efficiency.

COUNTY NEWS

Mental health advisory board seeks members

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is searching for people interested in serving on the Union County Mental Health Advisory Board.

Applicants must be Union County residents and have an interest in the needs of people with mental illness and their families, and be prepared to attend meetings on a regular basis.

Vacancies on the Mental Health Advisory Board exist in the categories of Medical Association representative, Parent-Teacher Association members, and at-large members.

Some of the duties of members to the board include reviewing consent for state-funded mental health services, identifying needed services, and making recommendations for new programs, including specialized services for adults and youth, providing oversight to ensure residents have access to quality services, ensuring that patients and outpatient mental health services are integrated within the county, and advocating for the needs of the consumers of mental health services and their families.

Board meetings are held at the Union County Administration Building in Elizabeth from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on the third Monday of each month.

If you or someone you know is interested in being considered for appointment to the Union County Mental Health Advisory Board, call for a donation of a Union County mental health administrator, at 908-527-4346.

Optical scan will aid in counting absentee ballots

The Union County Clerk's Office has purchased a new optical scan absentee voting system to make the counting of absentee ballots more streamlined and efficient.

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Operation Red Shield

Operation Red Shield, which deals with Salvation Army services to Armed Forces personnel and their families.

The website contains a plethora of information about the Salvation Army's mission, history, programs and services in New Jersey. Each Salvation Army facility throughout the state is listed with contact numbers and weekly schedules providing a valuable resource for people seeking assistance.

Simple to navigate, the site brings a wealth of information to visitors, links also will facilitate online monetary donations to the Salvation Army, as well as a link to Operation Appreciation, which allows the public to purchase tons of food items for the Armed Forces.

Of special interest during this time of war and interest will be a quick link to "Request Prayer" or the ability to join the Presidential Prayer Team located in the Operation Red Shield section.

Comments and suggestions regarding this Web site are welcome. Call Linda Pellegrini at Divisional Headquarters at 908-527-4227.

Patriots' Path Council in search of alumni

The Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America, is searching for Eagle Scouts to join their Eagle Alumni Association.

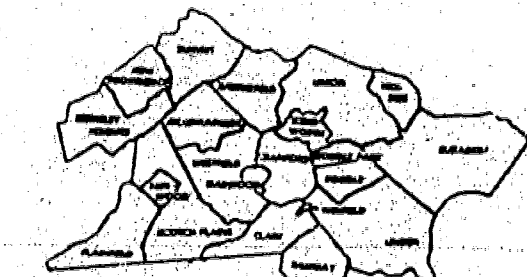
The award was received many years ago and is still valid. Almost 100 remain one of the most significant events in a young man's life.

Whether you received your Eagle as a member of one of the two councils that now form the Patriots' Path Council — Morris, Sussex Area and Washington Area — or another council, you are invited to become a founding member of the Eagle Alumni Association.

You will be joining a group of impressive men, many of whom are now in positions of responsibility and prominence in industry, government, military, business, and education.

Only 2 Eagle Scout Award and once an Eagle, always an Eagle. The council would like this chance to reconnect all fellow Eagles to this event.

For more information, call Liz Dunbar at 908-683-2979, ext. 130.



WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Union County

THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2003 - SECTION B

- News
Arts
Entertainment
Classified
Real Estate
Automotive

The road we love to hate

It's not right to laugh, but the photos of pedestrians dashing across traffic on Route 22 are very funny. The shots were taken by the Union County Bureau of Transportation Planning studying pedestrian crossing options on the roadway.

An analysis of the problem of getting across the road are contained in a report prepared for the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority. The area under review is a 3.5-mile stretch from Fairway Drive in Union to Springfield Avenue in Springfield.

Left Out

The obstacles in making the joint are pretty dangerous. The report estimates that on a workday, 58,645 cars zoom on the eastbound lane on the road.

The reasons for the jam include it being the final leg on a bus trip to the growing commercial spots and condos on the road. For some, the lane of the restaurants and fast-food spots gives them the courage to make the run.

It is ironic that at the time Route 22 was declared a dangerous area by the state, the lanes get across the highway with a run has grown.

A part of the runner group comes after bus routes 65, 66, 94 and 114-117 leave the passengers off. For the bus' trying to get to work, back to his condo, there isn't much choice.

The stiles are amazing. If a group is left off, they may try marching across feeling secure in their number. It looks like Charlton Heston parading the sea. There are also examples of solo runners.

One young county professional says the pictures remind him of the video game "Frogger," as he saw the runner, avoiding the cars. A planning expert confided, "Everybody knows about Route 22. It's the road we love to hate."

Still, having freeholders Dan Sullivan and Chester Holmes serve as the county's representatives to the state planning group is positive. There is a battle of more need and less funds with a Congress more inclined to send money to the Southwest.

The study they will present will show that in one recent four-hour period, 105 pedestrians made the run across Route 22. It strikes me that the people dealing against use of their auto for commuting should not have to run a gauntlet akin to a Marine base obstacle course.

Among the options are either an underground tunnel or a walkway at least 14 feet, 6 inches wide. See DODGING, Page B9.

Local hotels cringe at state's new tax

Towns can tack on another 1 percent
By Joshua Zaitz, Staff Writer
Tax rates for patrons throughout Union County's hotels and motels will increase beginning Sept. 1, as a new state law mandates a 1 percent occupancy tax statewide and gives municipalities the option of adding 1 percent for themselves.

Municipalities have the option of raising their share to 1 percent by next July, when the state portion will drop to 5 percent.

Despite the occupancy tax's intention to lessen the state's high property tax burden, Union County Chamber of Commerce President James Coyle calls the new tax a "tax primarily against New Jersey businesses."

"Though it is billed as a tax on out-of-state people, in reality, especially in this region, most of the hotel rooms are purchased by New Jersey business," said Coyle. "A pharmaceutical company will be running people in and out of a telecommunications company. The airlines all buy big blocks of rooms. They're constantly moving people in and out."

The new occupancy tax will be on top of the 6 percent sales tax that hotels already charge.

"By raising this tax on these rooms, you are in fact raising a tax on New Jersey businesses," said Coyle.

Coyle said that the occupancy tax will raise the cost to operate business which will make the state even less attractive than it already is to businesses.

"It will affect business," said Chuck Pomeroy, general manager of Wyndham Hotel Newark, a 400-room facility located on Routes 1&9 in Elizabeth, who explained that the tax increase makes their room rates closer to the cost of staying in a New York City hotel.

"We typically get a new business from people who didn't want to pay the 22 percent tax rate in New York. But now that it's so much closer, they might decide to stay in New York."

Mark Grangulio, general manager of the Grand Summit Hotel, a 150-room facility in Summit, said many customers who did business in the county will now consider going back to New York because of the New Jersey's new occupancy tax.

"Now the competitive advantage that we did have over that market place has diminished," he said.

Grangulio said the tourism and hotel business has already been negatively affected by the bad economy, war in Iraq and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"This could really be a nail in the coffin for us," he said.

More than 75 percent of the Grand Summit Hotel's business are New Jersey-based residents in companies.

"Now you're already living in New Jersey," he said. "You're paying 1 percent tax increase, however, it's more about putting something in place for the future as well as for what's there right now," said Gorman.

Gorman is not certain how much revenue the 1 percent tax increase will generate for Rahway, but he said it could be anywhere between \$20,000 and \$50,000 annually.

"With some future hotels being built and occupancy levels and room rates being higher than what's there right now, the gross revenue will increase," said Gorman. A 75-unit Best Western Hotel being constructed in Rahway will implement the additional 1 percent tax increase, however.

Several towns hit with another disposal fee

By Joshua Zaitz, Staff Writer
To help pay off the \$80-million debt on the Union County incinerator in Rahway, seven municipalities that do not have long-term contracts to use the incinerator have had their disposal rates increased by 40 percent.

Beginning July 20, Berkeley Heights, Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Mountaintide, Scotch Plains and Westfield had their disposal rates increase from \$50 per ton to \$80 per ton.

Steve Changaris, manager of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Solid Waste Management Association, called the county's new increased tonnage charge a "flow control ordinance." He said mandatory waste flow controls are a "non-competitive, inefficient garbage monopoly that chokes off the benefits of competition from reaching customers."

"It's jacking up the price of disposal," he said. "How that translates to the homeowner remains to be seen."

The Union County Utilities Authority, which owns the incinerator, will require haulers from those seven municipalities to send their trash to select dump sites that have agreed to collect the fees on behalf of the county.

Union County Manager George Devaney said the increases will average out to less than \$4 per month per household in the seven municipalities.

"Local elected officials should be trying to craft solutions that maximize the positive influence of competition while at the same time securing a stable funding source to help their program meet its debt service and operational costs," Changaris said.

The incinerator was constructed for the U.S.A. in the early 1990s by Ogen Martin, a subsidiary of Ogen Corp., a Fairfield-based company that has since changed its name to Covanta Energy Corp. The \$300-million incinerator can process up to 1,540 tons of solid waste daily, converting it into electrical energy.

After the incinerator opened in 1994, federal courts ruled against New Jersey. See TOWNS, Page B9.

Advisory board chairman: Reactivation is no surprise

By Mark Hrywna, Regional Editor
The chairman of the Union County Transportation Advisory Board is surprised that anyone would be surprised about the reactivation of the Rahway Valley rail line while the chairman of the Board of Chosen Freeholders told residents to take their questions to the railroad company during a freholder meeting last week.

Mars in Gersten of Westfield, chairman of the Union County Transportation Advisory Board, was surprised that anyone would say the rail reactivation comes as a complete surprise.

Reactivation of the Rahway Valley rail line has been a continuing agenda item at every advisory board meeting for the last decade or so, he said.

Kentworth just this year sent new members to the advisory board. Gersten said "I do not understand why certain people are surprised. This issue didn't come out of the blue."

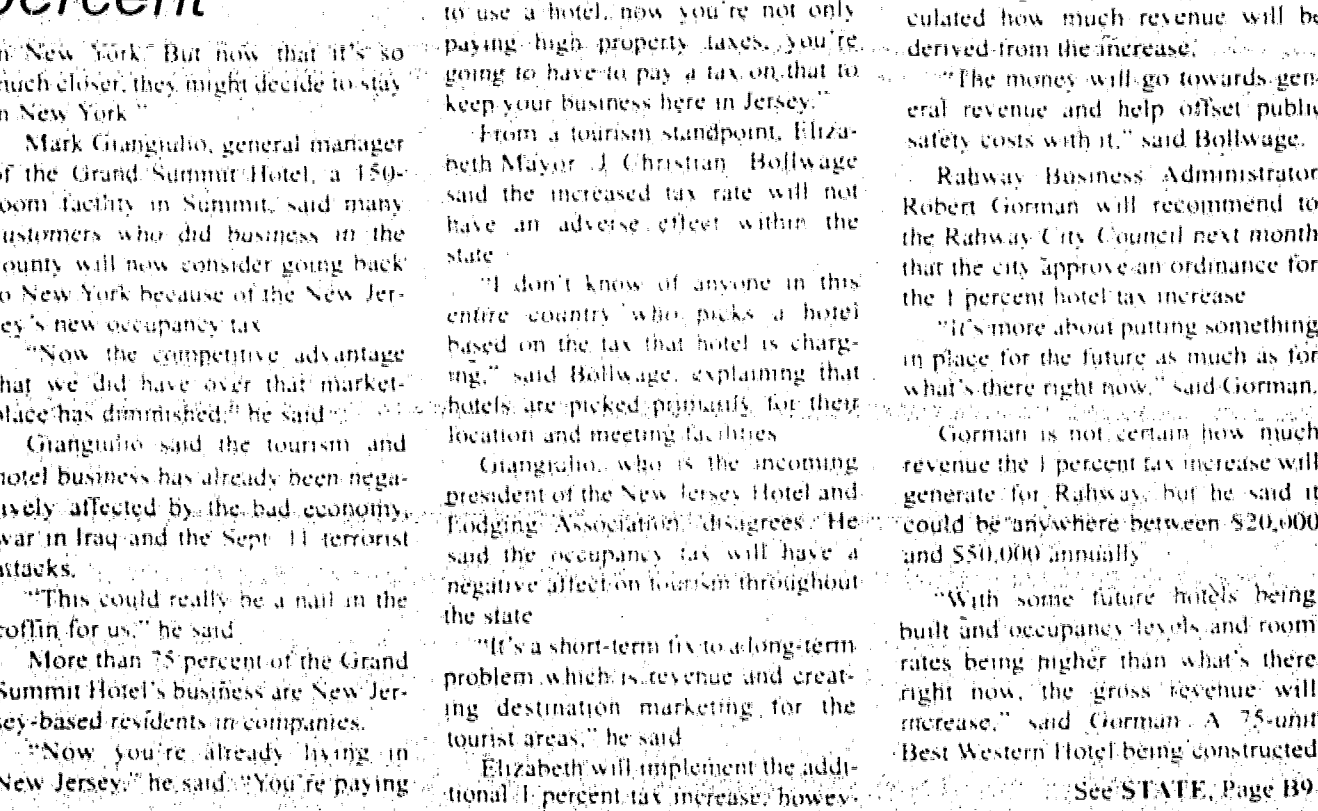
Kentworth Mayor Michael Troppi countered that the TAB is merely an advisory board at it is the freholder board that must approve policy and take action. "If they receive input from TAB, if they take action on what is discussed, it's incumbent upon the freholder board to take the town's business."

"There's lots of discussion that is not necessarily going to happen," Troppi said, such as passenger service along the Rahway Valley line.

The reactivation "wasn't communicated to the communities," Troppi said, adding that the county should share studies and reports about the rail line with affected towns.

"This is a huge, regional development issue that is being made up as they go along," he said during a telephone interview Monday.

Thanks for the cash



USB Senior Vice President Larry Rudolph, left, and Branch Manager LOUIS STORZA, second from right, present Union County College President Thomas Brown, right, and Louise Yohalem, executive director of Development at UCC, with a check for \$10,500 to go toward the UCC Foundation.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Kids' tours at Liberty Hall provide education disguised as day of fun

In 1772, there was no PS2. In 1862, there were no PCs, DVDS or CDs. And no matter how much they may have wanted it, folks in 1942 never got their MTV.

Present-day youngsters would be horror-stricken at the thought of such a span, deprived existence, which is all the more reason to take advantage of a "A Children's View of History," being presented at Liberty Hall Museum in Union throughout the month of August.

Every Saturday, the historic landmark is offering special tours geared specifically toward children, highlighting the 200-plus years of the house's history and, specifically, its younger inhabitants.

This past weekend, I took my kids, Tom, 10, and Reid, 8, to Liberty Hall to check out this new tour. What we came away with was a deep appreciation for the country's history as well as this hidden treasure tucked out of view on Morris Avenue across from Kean University.

The tour is a journey through time. Since the house was occupied by the Livingston-Kean family from 1772 until 1905, the artifacts and memorabilia are not tucked into one particular era. The tour, which begins with a short video narrated by Cox Thomas Kean in the "Visitors' Center," is chronological, from the Colonial period kitchen through to the circa-1940 family room. At each stop, the youngsters are informed by a guide as to what a child's life would have been like in the era being featured in that room.

Our guide, volunteer Gary Freeman, communicated to the kids in a way that was easy for them to grasp while still being chock full of historical information. Various hands-on activities further draw the children into the experience, such as the stere-

Family Fare
By Bill VanSant
Associate Editor

ocope in the Victorian parlor and the flax in the Colonial-era kitchen.

As the tour progresses, children are informed of the assorted day-to-day realities of youngsters from the past. The candle-pouring and flax-spinning techniques of the Colonial period are discussed in the old kitchen, and in the Martha Washington bedroom, the kids learned of a rather unpleasant task, a daily chore for the youngest child in the family was to gather all the chamber pots and take them to the privy. This prompted Reid to comment, "All I have to say is, I'm glad I'm not a Colonial boy."

In the Victorian parlor, the rules of courtship are explained, with special mention of the language of the fan, the unspoken messages a young lady could send a suitor by how she held and used her fan. At each stop, the kids are given costume pieces to wear, from bonnets and tricorn hats to opera-length gloves, top hats and masks. In addition, today's kids are introduced to such antiquated items as bed warmers, spinning wheels, chamber pots, stereoscopes, and a wealth of playthings in the Toy Room.

The tour culminates with a round of games played by children of the past. Ball and Cup, Stick and Hoop, and the Game of Graces. Tom found the past games to be "very different and interesting," singling out Stick and Hoop because "I was good at that one." Reid was more partial to the excitement of the Game of Graces. As a note to parents, all three of these games are available in the gift shop at

the Visitors' Center.

Following the tour, the kids and I had our customary "debriefing," which proved as informative to me as the tour did to them.

Tom's favorite part of the outing involved a particularly feminine aspect. "I like when we dressed up," she said, favoring the bonnet and long gloves in the Victorian parlor.

As Reid singled out elements from that room, "I like the masks and the thing that was kind of like a View-Master, only old version," he said of the hands-on activities there.

Among the highlights of the tour for kids is the bedroom last used by May Kean in her late adolescence and young adulthood. In this room is displayed an 18th-century furnished dollhouse. This proved to be Tom's favorite room on the tour, especially when Freeman informed her that it would have been her room had she been a member of the Kean family.

While Reid found the detail of the dollhouse interesting, he also made note of the parlor with its bearskin rug and mounted heads on the wall, and ornamental lamps "like in Beauty and the Beast."

The tour is peppered with anecdotes of the family history. Tom particularly enjoyed the story of Kitty Livingston, scolding the Hessian soldiers one night during a thunderstorm.

She was also fascinated by the standing bath in the Martha Washington bedroom, which she described as "weird... it's a good way."

The tour extends beyond the Main House and onto the grounds, but Reid liked the Main House best "because you could actually go into it and there was so much to see and so much to learn."

Tom concurred: "There were so many things to explore in that one." Freeman's style with the children was informational without being dull. Neither Tom nor Reid felt the day was



A tour guide at Liberty Hall Museum introduces young visitors to the standing bath, a personal-hygiene device used by past generations. In the foreground are two other necessities of early American life: the chamber pot and the bed warmer.

"too educational," and came away from it with a more tangible idea of life in the past.

"It's so cool," Tom said, "and it's a lot better than reading from a book." Reid had had tell his friends "to try and go there because it's really fun."

Having joined me at performances of various artistic disciplines, both Tom and Reid enjoyed the interactive

change of pace. "You're not watching," Reid said. "It feels like you're really there" in the time period.

Both kids said that the video helped give them a point of reference for the tour that followed.

With the wealth of historical diversions, a trip to Liberty Hall offers a welcome alternative to the hustle and bustle of the 21st century. Appealing to both children and adults

alike, it's a family outing that is sure to inspire prompt table discussion that might and should prompt requests for return visits.

Liberty Hall Museum is located at 1003 Morris Ave., Union. For information on the various tour packages and programs, call 908-527-0400 or visit the Web site at www.libertyhallnj.org.



The Toy Room at Liberty Hall Museum is a treasure trove of playthings used by children in the Livingston-Kean family over the course of more than 200 years. The room is but one stop on the children's tour.

MVP's 'Little Shop of Horrors' draws viewers in

On the Boards
By Brian Pedersen
Staff Writer

Much like the persuasive pull of the human-eating plant, which sucks its unsuspecting victims into its maw, MVP's "Little Shop of Horrors" draws unsuspecting viewers immediately into a wacky world of macabre comedy and bizarre events.

The plot centers on Mushnik's Flower Shop, a small business struggling to stay afloat in tough times and owned and operated by Mr. Mushnik, played by Dan Rucard. One of his workers, Audrey, played by Wanda Toro, tries to persuade her boss to display an unusual plant in the store window to drum up more business. The tactic works and the plant, dubbed "Audrey II" by co-worker Seymour, played by Christopher D. Smith, quickly proves successful.

The only drawback, of course, is that the plant requires human blood instead of water to survive. As the musical progresses, the plant keeps getting bigger and bigger, and for Seymour, its request to "Feed Me" gets harder and harder to resist.

The plant itself is a real showstopper and quickly becomes a character in its own right. It starts out as a tiny, puppet-like Venus Flytrap and grows into an enormous monster, filling up the tiny shop with a distinct personali-

ty that's humorously menacing under the voice of Khy Garner, Audrey II is able to speak in a soothing, confident voice, seducing victims and persuading Seymour to do its bidding with an accomplished aplomb.

As the puppeteer, Will Morgan makes his debut as a plant and under his lively manipulation, Audrey II gyrates, trembles and dances while its expressive mouth opens ever wider, demanding to be fed.

MVP's "Little Shop of Horrors" after succeeding largely based on the confident handling of the two leads, Audrey, played by a superb Wanda Toro, and Seymour, effective as the geeky but sympathetic yellow flower shop worker.

Dressed in tweed, sees nuttins and sporting a blonde bombshell wig, Toro strikes a refreshing balance with Audrey, making her both endearing and innocent, yet fragile and damaged by her life experiences.

Her voice has an incredible range that carries her through her signature tune "Somewhere That's Green," which finds her over-emoting and stepping in and out of her deeply powerful voice with natural ease.

Likewise, Seymour, her potential love interest, is a good match for Audrey as they both share similar dreams of escaping their humdrum lives. Smith does a great job interacting with the plant and anchoring the great "strong musical" performances, including "Grow for Me" and the hilarious "Mushnik and Son" which has to be seen to be believed.

Other standout performers include Chiffon Crystal and Ronnette, the duo of singing street urchins played by Lisa Campion Van Doren, Kristen Pazdera and Cristina Jimenez, respectively.

Together, the trio adds a distinct visual flavor to the musical, whether strutting across the stage or singing the ingeniously good opening number of crossing as they sport their mid-night-black "sparkling" gowns and matching sunglasses and stard quality outfits to the stage. Their presence is always felt, even when they are off stage.

If there's a weak link to be found, it's in a Joe Zedney's portrayal of

the clearly unskilled dentist Gen Scavelli. Audrey's abusive boyfriend, whom she tries to flee.

After a rough stage as a plant, Zedney takes a while to contain a strong stage presence which, for his unusual character, should be done from the moment he steps out on stage.

It takes him a little too long to work up to the meticulous piece he forces Seymour to stay put in the dentist chair while he devises some seriously diabolical dental work for him. Still, Zedney manages to convey a thoroughly unlikable character, even though his delivery is a little off.

Despite this minor flaw, MVP has come through again with a spirited, energetic showcase of impressive talent. The finale, as always, is a show stopper in itself, but extra kudos go to that plant for being such a convincing human character, one whose presence will linger long after the curtain closes.

Mystic Vision Players' production of "Little Shop of Horrors" runs through Saturday at Linden High School. For information, see the "Fheater" listing in the Step-Out calendar on Page B8.

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ACROSS

- Doc. in Durango
- Giant step
- Tiny boy
- Like Schoenberg's music
- Meara
- Dander
- Secondhand transaction
- The facts
- populi
- Home Economics class
- Nobel physicist
- Moss Hart book
- Franks law
- Rose
- Club steak
- Gold, in 13 Down
- Farm animal
- The facts
- Tropical fruit tree
- World book
- Intense longing
- Union mts
- Golfer Ernie
- Mark of Zoro
- Sublime Zero
- Fighty?
- Employment
- Invariable
- Walks slowly
- Brazil actor
- Writer Levin
- Stain paint
- Water down
- Is able
- Where ender
- Assured the win
- State
- "Hobby-horse" art
- Reasonable, in 13 Down

CO-ORDINATE

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79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104

ACROSS

- 21 Waiting for
- 23 Waterway
- 25 Ignore
- 27 Surpass
- 28 A man mouse
- 29 Nidre
- 31 Ordinary people
- 33 a loaf
- 36 Tropical fruit
- 38 Get... of observe
- 40 Submachine gun
- 41 Barents is one
- 42 Prime time
- 44 Took, as questions
- 47 Songwriter Sp
- 48 Steller
- 49 Granddad of 40
- 50 Down
- 51 Metal alloy
- 52 Like some threats
- 55 Cloud
- 56 Lava spill
- 59 Topless designer
- 60 Aunctor
- 63 Olga design
- 65 Ike's Eur. command

DOWN

- 1 Spoil

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET
SUNDAY August 3rd, 2003
EVENT: Flea Market & Collectible Show
PLACE: Bellevue High School, 100 Passaic Avenue, Bellevue, NJ (off JORALEMON STREET)
TIME: 9am-5pm
PRICE: New merchandise, crafts, collectibles and a garage bag sale. For information call 201-997-8535
ORGANIZATION: BHS Crew

RUMMAGE SALE
SUNDAY & MONDAY August 10th & 11th, 2003
EVENT: Annual Giant Rummage Sale
PLACE: Temple SHAWNEY SHALOM, 78 South Scribble Avenue, Springfield
TIME: Sunday 10am-3pm, Monday 10am-12noon
PRICE: Free admission. Donating for everyone \$4. Brown Bag Day, Monday, August 11th. Bargains, jewelry, clothing, linens, books, housewares, toys, etc.
ORGANIZATION: Sisterhood Temple Shalomey Shalom

NEWS CLIPS

RR Club offers savings
 The Model Railroad Club Inc., an activity of the Union County Park System, announced recently its Family Summer Savings Program. Every Saturday in July and August, all children 5-years-old and younger will be admitted free of charge.

"We get many repeat visitors throughout the year and a majority of them are families," said club President Ray Russell. "With the economy still a bit shaky and the summer vacation season in full swing, we want to offer families an incentive to visit an enjoyable attraction for the whole family close to home."

The Model Railroad Club Inc. was founded in 1949 in the basement of Paul Mullery, a pioneer of the hobby of model railroading. The club occupies a building on Union County parkland designed, built and maintained entirely by the members, under a unique arrangement with the Union County Park System. The club building is located off Route 22 east behind the Home Depot in Union. Free parking is available on site and the building is wheelchair-accessible.

For more information, contact the club at 908-964-9224 during school hours, or 908-964-8808 for recorded message, or by visiting the club's Web site at www.mrrc.com.

Guild seeks artists for annual exhibition
 The Arts Guild of Rahway is seeking artists from artists who live or work in Union County for "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 16 by 16 inches framed. There is no fee required to submit slides. For an entry form and/or prospectus, contact Lawrence Cappiello at 732-887-7831. No entry will be accepted without an official entry form and compliance with conditions.

Jurors for the exhibit this year are Hugo Bastidas, artist, Fulbright Fellow, professor of art at New Jersey City University, Johann Jochowitz, artist, professor of art at Kean University, Nancy J. Orin, photographer, New Jersey Media Center, and an instructor at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts and Somerset Art Center.

Deadline for submission of slides is today. Judging will take place in early August and artists whose work is selected for the exhibit will be notified by late August.

The exhibit will be held at the Arts Guild of Rahway, 1000 Oak Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

"Celebrating Excellence" is a juried exhibition 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 1000 Irving Street, Rahway. For information, visit www.rahwayartsguild.org, call 732-887-7831, or send e-mail to regal@rahwayartsguild.org.

'King John' to begin reign at Shakespeare Theater in Madison

On the Main Stage in Madison through Aug. 17, the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey will unfold the Bard's gripping political drama about the king who was forced to enact the Magna Carta.

While Moliere's comedy "That Sounder Scapin" is being performed on the Shakespeare Theater's "Outdoor Stage" in Morristown, down the road in Madison the company opens its third Main Stage production of the season Shakespeare's "King John" Directed by Paul Mullins, the play features Andrew Weems, who earned rave reviews for his performance in the company's 2000 season production of "Rhinoceros," as the 13th-century monarch King John. Appearing opposite Weems as the adversarial Constance, mother of John's rival to the throne, is nationally acclaimed actress Lita Robins.

Performances are Tuesdays through Sundays, through Aug. 17, at the E.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theater on the campus of Drew University in Madison.

First published in 1623, this rarely performed and woefully updated revisionist history of the king who was forced to enact the Magna Carta explores one of Shakespeare's great obsessions: the nature of good government and the ethics of rule.

Following the death of his brother Richard the Lionhearted, John claims the throne by questionable means — not as a legitimate successor, but through Richard's bequeathment of the title. In protest, France threatens war, demanding that John abdicate the throne to the rightful heir, John's nephew Arthur, portrayed by 11-year-old New Jersey actor Austin Colafella. In this compelling saga, fraught with political intrigue, conquest, power, greed and domestic strife, the men and women of the Plantagenet dynasty manage to wreak havoc upon the notions of Britain and France — as well as each other — in epic fashion. This fascinating, true story shows that 13th-century politics were as complex and unerring as those of today.

The cast

Andrew Weems returns to the Shakespeare Theater in title role of the ruthless King John. He received accolades for his transformative performance as man-turned-beast in the Shakespeare Theater's 2000 production of "Rhinoceros," also directed by Paul Mullins. A sought-after stage actor of national repute, Weems has appeared in "Troilus and Cressida," directed by Sir Peter Hall, "The Green Bird," directed by John Lynton, "Cymbeline," which he performed in New York City and at the Royal Shakespeare Company, and many other prestigious projects.

As Constance, Prince Arthur's mother, is award-winning actress Lita Robins, who is back for her seventh season with the Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey. She has received great acclaim for her work and collaboration with artistic director Bonnie J. Monte on productions of "Three Sisters," "The Homecoming," "Ileaira," "Arms and the Man," "The Seagull," "The Comedy of Errors," "Twelfth Night" in 1991. On Broadway, she appeared in "The Merchant of Venice" and "The Real Thing" opposite Jeremy Irons. Her off-Broadway and national tour credits include "Mrs. Klein" opposite Lita Hagen, for which she received a Joseph Jefferson Award and a Helen Hayes nomination. "The Film Society" and "Tiny Alice" at Second Stage, which won a Lucille Lortel Award for Best Revival, and "The Merchant of Venice" at The Public Theater, for which she won a Calloway Award. Among her recent regional theater credits are the Gurnee Theater, the Mark Taper Forum where she earned a Drama-Lodge Award, the Manhattan Theater Club, Steppenwolf Theater where she received a Jefferson Award, McCarter Theater, Hartford Stage and Baltimore Center Stage. Among her film and television credits are "An Innocent Man," "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles," "Welcome Home, Roxy Carmichael," "Gabriel's Fire" opposite James Earl Jones, and "The Sopranos."

Brian Reddy, who portrays Cardinal Pandolph, will be familiar to audience members for his portrayal of Eckard, Pappy's staff member, in the acclaimed film "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" He is a veteran of stage, film and television.

Rounding out the cast of 21 are newcomers and Shakespeare Theater regulars, including Christine McMurdo-Wallis as Queen Eleanor, John's mother; Eric Hoffmann as Salisbury; Ian Kahn as Philip Faulconbridge, the Bastard; Edward James Hyland as Philip, King of France; Haynes Duggan as Lewis, the Dauphin; and John Ahlin as Hubert.

About the director

Act/director Paul Mullins, a favorite of Shakespeare Theater audiences, returns for his 13th consecutive season with the company, where his credits include past seasons' much lauded plays "The Illusion" and a celebrated production of "Rhinoceros," among many others. As an actor, Mullins has performed in more than 20 Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey productions and has appeared at major theaters around the nation.

The artistic staff

Creating the world of the Plantagenet dynasty as scenic designer Antu Shaw, art lighting designer Michael Gammitt, composer sound designer David Maddox, costume designer Lora Layton, and fight director Rick Sordelet.

Tickets and general information

Preview performances of "King John" are at 8 p.m. through today, offering the thrill of seeing a work in progress before the show officially opens. Preview tickets are \$23 to \$28.

Mingle with the actors at an exclusive after-party on Opening Night, this Saturday. Tickets are \$55 for orchestra seats and \$50 for balcony — a bargain for the excitement of an opening night performance, a champagne intermission and private post-show reception with the cast and company. Curtain time is 7 p.m.

Area crafters and artisans are being sought for county's annual Harvest Festival

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is looking for artists, craftspersons and food vendors to demonstrate colonial or Native American work craft skills and to sell their wares at Union County's 22nd annual Harvest Festival on Sept. 28.

The event is a celebration of colonial and Native American life featuring music, Native American dancing, Revolutionary War encampment, children's crafts, colonial food, games and much more. The 22nd annual Harvest Festival will take place rain or shine, at Fairside Nature and Science Center in Mountaintop on Sept. 28 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Harvest Festival is a popular autumn event that draws approximately 5,000 visitors, said Freeholder Chester Holmes, liaison to the Union County Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board.

"By participating, artists, vendors and demonstrators will receive excellent exposure and have a great opportunity to educate others about their art, craft or work skill and the colonial time period in general," Holmes added.

Examples of craft and work skills being sought are blacksmithing, kick wheel pottery, broom making, shoe making, hat making, jewelry making and quilting, plus other colonial and Native American crafts or skills.

HOROSCOPE

Aug. 4-10
ARIES (March 21-April 19) Take a break from the norm and experiment with a different, creative product or idea. Stay away from speculative ventures and save your cash.

TAUROS (April 20-May 20) Do yourself a favor and invest in something this week. Avoid overreacting while conversing or hanging with family members.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Communication will be your forte. It will not take you long to figure out the people you're necessary to get your point across. Spend time.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Confidently assert yourself financially, and abundance is sure to follow. Keep thoughts of poverty to yourself and project prosperity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Your star is about to rise. Keep in mind that timing is everything. Be aware of and follow your inner voice and you can easily hit the right target.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) There is a lot of potential in your investment involved with walking a crowded or uncharted path to reach your goals. Be flexible and adaptable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Seek the reassurance or support you need in a club or group environment. Get involved and make a timely and worthwhile contribution.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) You have a bossy week on tap. Use your astute edge to surpass the competition. Do your homework and be ready for whatever comes your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your ability to think ahead is clearly your best asset. Take time to assess a situation, and design plans to complete the task.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Look for resourceful ways to finance a net profit. Connect with the perfect investor who happens to be in search of what you have to offer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Love is not always enough. Establish a solid friendship before becoming involved, emotionally in a personal relationship.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) This is a high-energy period for you. Use your stamina and fortitude productively. Follow up on a unique concept or proposal.

Theater explores history
 The Union County Arts Center, located in the downtown section of Rahway, announced its plans to reach out into the local community for archival material related to the theater's past history.

In preparation for its 25th anniversary season, the Union County Arts Center, formerly the Rahway Theater, will seek submission of archival material from local residents. Selected material will be on display for the 2003-04 season in the theater's inner lobby starting this fall.

All submissions will become property of the Union County Arts Center, unless other arrangements are made in advance.

For more information, call 732-887-0441 ext. 602. To mail an item to the Arts Center, use the theater's address: 1001 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065.

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Summer Dining

Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Arts and Entertainment Editor Bill Van Sant, Worrall Community Newspapers, 463 Valley St., P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040.

Stepping Out

ART SHOWS

2003 UNION COUNTY TEEN ARTS EXHIBIT will be on display at the Roselle Municipal Building, 210 Chestnut St., Roselle, through August 1. For information, call 908-256-2556. Relay Service users call 311.

NOTHING GOLD CAN STAY. Multi-media works by Andrea Lambert inspired by a poem by Robert Frost will be on exhibit in the Warner Museum at Roselle Reed Arboretum in Summit through Aug. 7.

Hours are Mondays to Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Roselle Reed Arboretum is located at 165 Hotchkiss Ave. Summit. For information call 908-256-2556.

SELECTED WORKS of the American Impressionist painter J.M.W. Turner will be on exhibit through August at Swan Galleries in Plainfield.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Swan Galleries is located at 732 Washington St. Plainfield. For information call 908-756-1707.

SMALL FACES. Photography by David J. Lipman will be on exhibit at the Donald B. Plummer Museum in Springfield Free Public Library through Aug. 28.

Gallery hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 12 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Tuesdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Springfield Free Public Library is located at 605 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information call 973-376-4940.

FOR TAYLOR MADE, NO ALTERNATIVES. Works by Katharine Anne Taylor of Union will be on exhibit in the Les Malenfant Art Gallery in Union Public Library through Sept. 3.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Open Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave. in Englewood Park. Union. For information call 908-815-5450.

A NATURAL CONNECTION. Landscape photography by Nancy Orin and Dwight Heschel will be on exhibit at Bouras Galleries in Summit through Sept. 8.

Gallery hours are by appointment only. Bouras Galleries is located in Bouras Properties LLC, 25 DeWitt Ave., Summit. For information call 908-273-6354.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL. The Metropolitan State University works of photographer Deborah Ann Newcomb will be on exhibit in the Les Malenfant Art Gallery in Union Public Library through the month of August and September. 605 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information call 908-273-6354.

CONCERTS

ABSOLUTE SOUNDS OF THE CITY will be presented by the Newark Symphony Performing Arts Center in Newark through Aug. 21.

Today The Simon Brothers Quartet, Camille Slay, George Gori and the Jump Jivers.

Aug. 7 "Swing and the Trill." Ensemble Michel.

Aug. 14 Diana Silva Blue Number Nine, the Emani Sextet.

Aug. 21 Burnt Sugar The Arkestra Chamber Lab Adopts the Oliver Lake Steel Band.

Admission is free. All concerts are from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. except July 3, on the plaza in front of NJPAC, 1 Center St., Newark. For information call 888-466-5722 or visit the Website at www.njpac.org.

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS outdoor concert series will be presented every Tuesday through next week on the Village Green in Summit.

Tuesday The Gordon James Band. All concerts are at 7:30 p.m. and are free of charge. Audience members are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

Aug. 12 "The Linden Summer Concert Series" will take place every Tuesday through next week.

Tuesday Jobanango and the Goodsons of Soul at Wilson Park, Summit Terrace, Linden 7:15 to 9:15 p.m.

All concerts are free of charge. For information call the Gregorio Recreation Center at 908-474-9627.

RAHWAY'S ANNUAL MAYOR'S SUMMER CONCERT SERIES will be presented in Downtown Rahway every Thursday in August at West Main and Irving streets.

Aug. 7 "The Cornell Gunthers Coasters"

Aug. 14 The New York City Swing Aug. 14 June Gioa Heroes on Aug. 21.

Aug. 28 The B-Street Band. Admission is free, bring a lawn chair, snack and enjoy the music. The concerts will be from 7 to 9 p.m. in case of rain the concerts will be held at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 North St., Roselle. For information call 732-827-2055 after 5 p.m.

EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRITERS' CIRCLE

will meet the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantan Road, Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

CLASSES

CLASSES BOOK CLUB meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information call 973-376-8544.

CLOAK AND DAGGER READING GROUP will meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantan Road, Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS meets the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information call 973-376-8544.

MYSTERY READING GROUP meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantan Road, Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP will meet every other Monday at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information call 973-376-8544.

FRIENDS OF THE CLARK PUBLIC LIBRARY will sponsor a series of films featuring Shakespeare every Thursday at 4 p.m. through Aug. 21.

Today, "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Aug. 7 "A Winter's Tale." Aug. 14 "The Taming of the Shrew." Aug. 21 "The Merchant of Venice."

The library also will host two evening events at 7 p.m. on Fridays.

Aug. 8 "The Outsiders" Aug. 22 "A Walk to Remember"

THE FRIENDS OF THE CRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY will present a series of films in the coming weeks.

Monday, "The Being Bicycle" Aug. 13 "The Being Bicycle" Aug. 20 "The Being Bicycle" Aug. 27 "The Being Bicycle"

Aug. 3 "The Being Bicycle" Aug. 10 "The Being Bicycle" Aug. 17 "The Being Bicycle" Aug. 24 "The Being Bicycle"

WOMEN'S READING GROUP meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantan Road, Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD READING GROUP meets the first Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantan Road, Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

JEWISH BOOK LOVERS meet the second Monday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information call 973-376-8544.

WOMEN'S LIKE. A reading group featuring staff members of the library will meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantan Road, Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

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CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL. The Metropolitan State University works of photographer Deborah Ann Newcomb will be on exhibit in the Les Malenfant Art Gallery in Union Public Library through the month of August and September. 605 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information call 908-273-6354.

CONCERTS

ABSOLUTE SOUNDS OF THE CITY will be presented by the Newark Symphony Performing Arts Center in Newark through Aug. 21.

Today The Simon Brothers Quartet, Camille Slay, George Gori and the Jump Jivers.

Aug. 7 "Swing and the Trill." Ensemble Michel.

Aug. 14 Diana Silva Blue Number Nine, the Emani Sextet.

Aug. 21 Burnt Sugar The Arkestra Chamber Lab Adopts the Oliver Lake Steel Band.

Admission is free. All concerts are from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. except July 3, on the plaza in front of NJPAC, 1 Center St., Newark. For information call 888-466-5722 or visit the Website at www.njpac.org.

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS outdoor concert series will be presented every Tuesday through next week on the Village Green in Summit.

Tuesday The Gordon James Band. All concerts are at 7:30 p.m. and are free of charge. Audience members are encouraged to bring a lawn chair.

Aug. 12 "The Linden Summer Concert Series" will take place every Tuesday through next week.

DANCE

Y-SQUARES a local square dance club meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Clark. Clark is located at 1180 Rantan Road, Clark. For information call 908-256-2556.

DISCUSSION

JOURNAL WRITING GROUP led by professional life coach Nancy Novak meets the fourth Thursday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantan Road, Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP will meet every other Monday at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information call 973-376-8544.

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JAZZ

"JAZZ IN THE GARDEN," sponsored by the Newark Museum, will be presented Thursdays from 12:15 to 1:45 p.m. in the Alice Hanson Dreyfuss Memorial Garden at the museum June 12 to Aug. 14, with no concert July 3.

Today Lennie Smith, keyboards. Aug. 7 Donald Harrison saxophone.

Aug. 14 Carrie Smith, vocals. Suggested donation is \$2 for adults. \$1 for senior citizens museum members and children are admitted free. The Newark Museum is located at 149 Washington St., Newark. For information call 973-596-6550 or visit www.newarkmuseum.org.

KIDS

LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM in Union will sponsor tours of the facility from a child's point of view for children every Saturday in August at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. The tours are for 6- through 12-year-olds. Admission for children is \$4. Liberty Hall is located at 1003 Morris Ave., Union. Across from Keen Union. For information call 908-827-2430 or visit the Website at www.libertyhall.org.

REEVES-REED ARBORETUM in Summit will sponsor several classes for children in the coming months in its Family Fun Series.

Aug. 8 "Nature's Palette" 6 to 10-year-olds.

Aug. 11 and 15 "Nature's Palette" 3 to 5-year-olds and caregivers.

Each workshop is \$15 per child. Reeves-Reed Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave., Summit. For information call 908-273-8797 ext. 35.

CRAFF TIME for children ages 5 to 12 years old will be presented every Monday at 11 a.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information call 973-376-8544.

BARNES AND NOBLE 240 Route 22 West, Springfield, will sponsor "Tales for Tots," preschool storytime Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and the Kids Writing Workshop, Saturdays at 10 a.m. For information call 973-376-8544.

POETRY

POETRY OUT LOUD will take place at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information call 973-376-8544.

OPEN MIKE POETRY NIGHT takes place the second Sunday of every month at 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Rantan Road, Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

RADIO

TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION will meet at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays of the month at the Worrall Library, located at 1980 Morris Ave. in Englewood Park. Union. For information call 908-815-5450.

SINGLES

DINNERMATES an 89 Entrepreneurs Group invites business and profes-

THEATER

MYSTIC LITTLE PLAYERS of Linden will present "The Shop of Horrors" by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman through Saturday at Linden High School, 121 W. St. Georges Ave., Linden. Show times are 7 p.m. today, Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$10. For information call 908-926-8689.

THE SHAKESPEARE THEATER OF NEW JERSEY will present "The Merchant of Venice" by William Shakespeare through Sunday on its Outdoor Stage, the Green Theater on the campus of the University of Delaware, Newark. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for children 12 years old and younger. For information including show times call 973-428-5600 or visit www.shakespeareNJ.org.

STAGE PRESENCE of Union will present "The Merchant of Venice" by William Shakespeare through Sunday on its Outdoor Stage, the Green Theater on the campus of the University of Delaware, Newark. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$15 for children 12 years old and younger. For information including show times call 973-428-5600 or visit the Website at www.shakespeareNJ.org.

TAVERN IN THE PARK in Roselle Park will present Today's Hales in "An Evening of Frank Sinatra" Saturdays at 9 p.m. in the Park is located at 1405 W. Westfield Ave., Roselle Park. For information call 908-241-7400.

VAN GOGH'S EAR 10:17 Slayesant van Gogh presents a series of musical events Tuesdays are "Acoustic Tuesdays" some of which feature open mike from 8 to 9 p.m. for folk singers, poets and comedians, followed by a featured folk performer. Open mike participants sign up at 7:30 p.m. and get 10 minutes at the microphone. Jazz and blues are featured Sundays at 8 p.m. Cover charge is \$3 for all Sunday concerts.

Sunday Shamo.

Tuesday Knave Brooks.

Aug. 10 John Playaz.

Aug. 12 Paul Brubaker and Friends 8 p.m.

Aug. 17 Cuban Jazz Trio.

Aug. 19 The Jazz Garage.

Aug. 24 The Jazz Garage.

Aug. 26 Virginia Hood.

Aug. 31 The Dave Hessel Quartet.

Sept. 2 Jeremy Manjoni.

Sept. 7 Pam Puvan and Bob Ackerman.

Sept. 9 Steve Smith, 8 p.m.

Sept. 16 Ginny Johnston.

Sept. 21 The Pat Clare Trio.

For information call 908-919-1844.

THE WAITING ROOM, 1433 Irving St., Rahway, at the corner of Lewis Street, presents Open Mike Night every Wednesday night. For information call 732-241-6129.

THE WASHINGTON AVENUE PUB 704 Washington Ave., Linden, will present karaoke and the 100-Pool Duo Band every Saturday night. In addition Thursday is Ladies Night. For information call 908-925-3707.

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Helen Argers is an award-winning, published novelist and playwright.

Bill Van Sant, Editor

WORRALL NEWSPAPERS

Aug. 16 The John Lister Blues Band.

Aug. 21 Locket and Rt. 18 Sweatpants Hoekers.

Aug. 22 Soft Parade in a tribute to The Doors.

Aug. 23 Primitive Soul.

Aug. 28 Shula and Balinlub/Gin.

Aug. 29 Chubb Funk.

Aug. 30 The Boogieizers.

For information call 908-232-5666 or visit www.wrorrall.com.

EAT TO THE BEAT Coffeehouse in Rahway will feature appearances by musical acts. Eat to the Beat is located at 1465 Irving St. at East Cherry Street, Rahway. For information call 732-381-0505.

FLYNN'S IRISH PUB and Steakhouse in Rahway will present entertainment at various times. Flynn's Irish Pub is located at 1482 Main St., Rahway. For information call 732-381-4700.

THE INTERNET LOUNGE in Fairwood will present an Open Mike Karaoke Night on Sunday at 7 p.m. The Internet Lounge is located at 256 South Ave., Fairwood. For information call 908-490-1234 or visit the Website at www.theinternetlounge.com.

MOLLY MAGUIRE'S IRISH PUB for every Casual Times in Clark will present an Open Mike Night on Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$10. For information call 908-926-8689.

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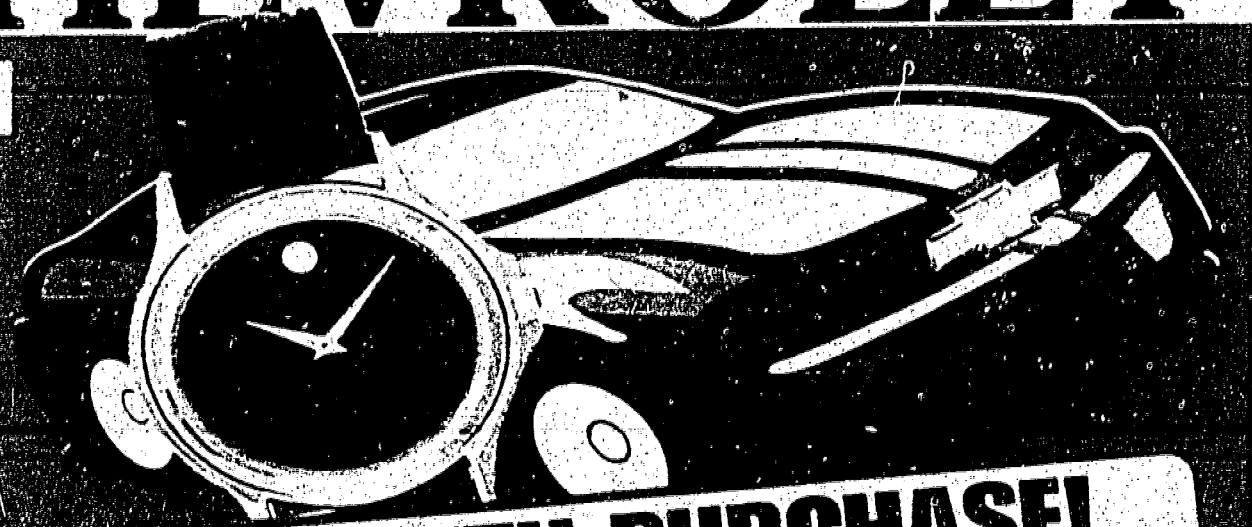
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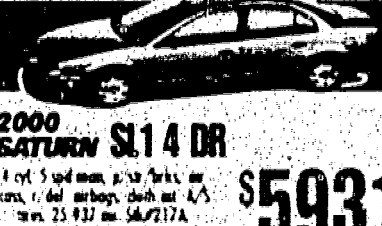
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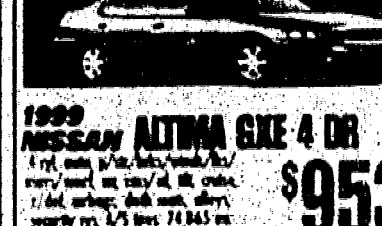
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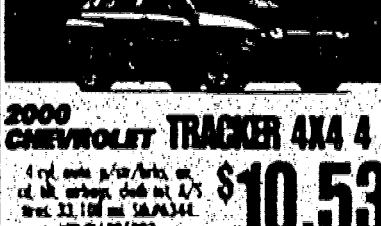
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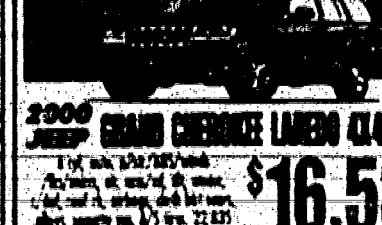
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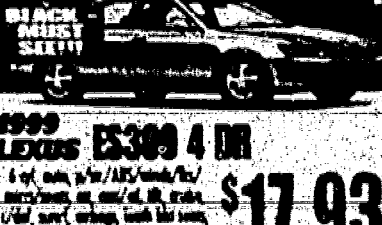
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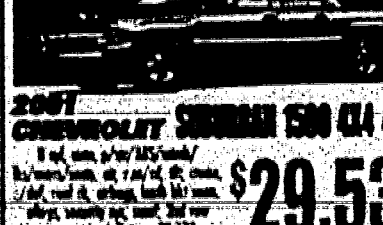
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1999 LEXUS ES300 4 DR




\$17,931

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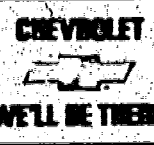
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