'Tis the season

Brighten the holidays with some practical gift giving. See our special Holiday Gift Guide in this week's edition.

Holiday Gift Guide

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD N.J., VOL. 75 NO. 14 | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2003 | TWO SECTIONS - 75 CENTS

Firm's report on FD staff remains unseen

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

Weeks after a large public showing at a Springfield Township Committee meeting in the Municipal Building, the issue of an unreleased report concerning the needs of the town's Fire Department remains just as unresolved as the arbitrator's decision regarding the Police and Fire Department contracts.

The report, which began in December 2000, was completed in its entirety by May 2001.

According to the scheduling of events that Springfield Fire Chief William Gras relayed to his staff on Aug. 27, 2001, there would be a meeting with the Public Safety Committee, township administrator, deputy fire chief, and Gras, along with a final meeting between these same individuals and captains, and then the report would be made public.

When asked why the report has not yet been released to the public, the Township Committee has repeatedly answered that the report is being held and remains confidential until the arbitrator makes a decision.

While the Fire Department has claimed that the report recommends improvements and contradicts what the township committee wants, Committeeman Sy Mullman has stated that the report is "slanted," noting that it was conducted by a staff that was in the same line of work as those being reviewed.

In an August 28, 2000, memorandum sent to Gras from Township Administrator Richard Sheola, however, it is written, "You, your officers, and firefighters should understand this study is being proposed ... to have information from an independent, non-biased source. I'm certain this report will benefit the fire service both now and in the long term."

Although it is unknown to what extent the report is and will be beneficial to both the town and Fire Department, the areas of study included in the memorandum, consist of staffing needs and levels, mutual aid, Emergency Medical Service, and a plan for "effective dispatch center design."

While two separate memorandums say that the report will be released after certain meetings are finished, Sheola urged that it should be understood that there were no specified times when the report would go public.

Gras, who declined comment because the meetings he had with Sheola regarding the report were confidential, also forwarded a memorandum to his staff on Aug. 15, 2001, stating that he had "been directed to review the document and prepare to meet with the Public Safety Committee on Aug. 22," and, "Additionally, I have been directed to share the report with nobody as of this time."

As to whether the report is biased, James Weed, the Project Manager for the Springfield study, said, "everyone in town had input into the report. Firefighters, elected officials, Richard Sheola, the volunteer ambulance staff, and even the citizens did. In no way, shape, or form is it biased. It reflects what the town asked us to do."

TriData, which was given $25,000 to conduct the study, is a management consulting firm, that provides analysis in areas of fire protection and prevention, along with emergency management.

The company was founded in 1981 as a subsidiary of System Planning Corporation, and the two corporations are located together in Arlington, Va.

President Philip Schaeman's credentials include books on fire prevention and education; a bachelor's degree in engineering and liberal arts, electrical engineering, and a master's degree in electrical engineering.

"I can assure that the recommendations are, in fact, not biased," said Weed. "I'll stand by that comment."

According to Mullman, it's still hard to believe the report can't be biased. He gave one example that makes him feel this way.

"They recommended that the department get a quint," Mullman said, noting that a quint is a $1 million fire truck with a ladder that is 25 yards long. "We don't even have any buildings in Springfield that need a ladder like that. They said to get it because that's what everyone's getting nowadays, and our chief said that's the last thing we need."

"We ended up getting a $600,000 truck," Mullman added.

Springfield's Fireman Benevolent Association President Jim Beyer said that although contents of the report cannot be revealed, it is safe to assume that the reasons why it isn't being released are related to the demands that the Fire Department has been asking of the township for quite some time.

In response to the example of the quint truck given by Mullman, Beyer said that the thinking of TriData was probably that, "if we can't have the manpower, give them the equipment."

Still, the bigger issue continues to be when the contracts will be renewed.

According to Beyer, a recent meeting left officials to believe that the arbitrator will have a decision sometime by the end of November.

When asked if he still sees this happening, as November is quickly coming to an end, Beyer said he did.

"I still see this happening, though. I think it's time," Beyer said.

Driving home the dangers of DWI

Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

Allyson Tratenberg, a junior at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield, tries driving a tricycle around traffic cones in the gym, wearing special goggles that simulate being under the influence of alcohol. The demonstration was set up by the Police Department to illustrate the dangers of drunk driving, as part of the school's Wellness Fair activities.

School's initiative is one for the history books — Springfield's

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

The sixth-graders at Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School are on a mission to capture the history of Springfield in black and white photographs, hoping to compile the contents of what will eventually become a book titled, "Images Of."

The students have brought letters home asking families to attempt recovering old photographs that display Springfield's history.

"It's a good time to do this," said Teri Craddock-Ponce, who teaches the Gifted and Talented program at Gaudineer. "During Thanksgiving, students will have a chance to talk to their relatives and even their neighbors."

The Gifted and Talented program at the school is helping to coordinate the project, making sure that each photograph has an accurate description, including names, and that the photos are properly returned to their owners after use.

The students in Craddock-Ponce's class are also planning to promote contributions to the book in the press.

Craddock-Ponce added that she is waiting to hear back from senior citizen homes that she has contacted, hoping to receive contributions from them, as well.

"The deadline for submissions is Dec. 18," said Craddock-Ponce, "and we'd like to have everything completed by Christmas break."

The pictures will be submitted to Arcadia Publishing, which specializes in publishing this sort of book. Arcadia has done books for Watchung, Somerville and Summit, among others.

Organizers are asking that the photographs be at least 30 years old and black and white.

"I don't think there were many color photographs back then, anyway," said Craddock-Ponce, referring to the specification.

"We don't have a book that incorporates all of the history of the town," added Margaret Bandrowski, president of the Springfield Historical Society. "This will benefit the Historical Society, too, as we will have information available when asked questions about Springfield."

Bandrowski added that the Historical Society has been contacted at least a couple of times during the past several years by Arcadia, but that they were never in the position to take on such a project until this year.

Independent author and former resident of Springfield Jean-Rae Turner contacted Bandrowski and it was decided that it's time for a book to be done.

According to Bandrowski, Turner has also helped create books for Hillside, Newark and Elizabeth, and the contract for this project is between her and Arcadia.

The books are expected to be sold in Barnes and Nobles and Borders stores and by the Historical Society.

Based on the prices of other books already completed, the Springfield edition should sell for $16.99, with some of the proceeds going to the Historical Society itself.

Arcadia puts the book together in chapters, each with a different theme.

See HISTORY, Page 2

Deer hunt begins at golf club

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

Although the cold weather brings an end to the golf season throughout all of New Jersey, the Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield has found a way to use its land for a different type of activity.

From 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec. 8 to Dec. 12, licensed hunters will help reduce the herd of deer that makes the Baltusrol area its home.

In coordination with the deer management programs of the Department of Environmental Protection Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife of the state of New Jersey and Union County, the activities will involve a "controlled and professionally managed culling of the overpopulated herd."

The hunters, which last year turned out to be about 12 participants, obtain permits and operate in adherence to all state and local regulations.

Mayor Gregory Clarke estimates the herd to be somewhere close to 60 deer, noting that it's hard to [illegible] exactly.

While the hunters' strategy is usually to sit up in trees and shoot down at the deer, it's not always a guarantee that the herd will be significantly diminished.

"They usually run after the first shot is fired," Clarke said. "They run to Watchung Reservation."

The annual event has been held about six times now, this being the third consecutive year, as there was a break for one year prior to that.

According to Committeeman Sy Mullman, this is also a good time of the year for this because once the snow starts falling, the deer would starve to death.

The hunters are allowed to keep the deer that they kill.

The only objection that has ever been made concerning the event was years ago, when it first began, only because people in the area were not notified properly.

Now, the event is advertised and people in the area are given proper notice regarding the activities that will be going on during the entire week. People are refrained from entering the Baltusrol property through any point other than the main gate on Shunpike Road.

The event provides Springfield with a way of not only ridding the town of deer that can cause harm to both land and vehicles, as bucks weighing more than 1,000 pounds are not uncommon, but some hunters also donate their deer to a pantry or soup kitchen.

New Providence faces speed limit reduction

By Brian Pedersen
Managing Editor

After receiving a letter from a New Providence Road resident asking him why the speed limit on a portion of the road was posted as 35 mph while the rest was at 25 mph, Mayor Robert Viglianti raised the question of possibly changing the speed limit at a recent Mountainside Borough Council work session.

The section of New Providence Road from Deer Path Lane up to Tracy Drive is the only town-owned road with a 35 mph speed limit posted in Mountainside. Although New Providence Road is a Union County-owned road, the portion that is 35 mph, roughly one-half a mile, is owned by the borough.

Viglianti asked James Debbie, police chief/borough administrator, to see if the borough has an ordinance allowing for the road to be posted as 35 mph.

"Everything around it is 25 miles per hour," said Debbie. "The ordinance has to be fixed to a state grant."

Debbie said this portion of the road was paved and cobblestoned partially through a state grant roughly five years ago.

Councilman Paul Mirabelli said the speed limit will be changed after the council discovers what the ordinance reads.

"One way or another, we will reduce it to 25 miles per hour," said Mirabelli. "We're definitely going to do it."

Debbie said a resolution will be presented to the council Tuesday, requesting that the speed limit be reduced from 35 mph to 25 mph. The resolution will then be sent to the state Department of Transportation for approval.

Debbie agreed that the speed limit should be changed to 25 mph, adding that there is a great dip in the road as drivers come up the crest of the hill.

When author speaks, children listen

Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

With student Cooper Truman, children's book author Pat Brisson reads aloud the dedication she wrote to him in one of her award-winning books, 'The Summer My Father Was Ten,' during her visit to Deerfield School in Mountainside on Nov. 20. Looking on is Chris Cardone. Brisson talked to students about writing and the publishing process.

Newspaper is drop-off point

Worrall Community Newspapers, publishers of this newspaper, has begun collecting toys for children in the area who otherwise may not have a merry Christmas.

Worrall Newspapers' 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, address has become a drop-off point for Toys for Tots, an effort of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, to brighten the holidays of children who otherwise would not get toys on Christmas. Toys must be new and unwrapped and dropped off by Dec. 12.

Offices closed

The offices of this newspaper will be closed Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving. We will reopen Dec. 1.

The deadlines for the Dec. 4 edition will remain the same.

- Lifestyle, including church and club news, etc. — Friday, noon.
- Letters to the editor — Monday, 9 a.m.
- What's Going On — Monday, 4 p.m.
- Display ads — Monday, 5 p.m. for Section A and noon for Section B.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

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

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

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

Missing newspaper:
If your *Leader* did not get delivered please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation.

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

News items:
News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week. Pictures should be black and white glossy prints. For further information or to report a breaking news story, call 908-686-7700 and ask for Editorial.

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

Letters to the Editor:
The *Echo Leader* provides an open forum for opinions and welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be typed, double spaced, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and day-time phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

e-mail:
The *Echo Leader* acceptsaccepts news releases and opinion pieces by e-mail. Our e-mail address is Editorial@thelocalsource.com. e-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising is also accepted by email under certain guidelines at ads@thelocalsource.com.

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

To place a classified ad:
The *Echo Leader* has a large, well read classified advertising section. Advertisements must be in our office by Tuesday at 3 p.m. for publication that week. All classified ads are payable in advance. We accept Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover. A classified representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please stop by our office during regular business hours or call 800-564-8911, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

Facsimile transmission:
The *Echo Leader* is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by fax. Our fax lines are open 24 hours a day. For classified please dial 973-763-2557. For all other transmissions please dial 908-686-4169.

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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, NJ 07083.

Thursday

• The Highlanders perform at the annual Thanksgiving football game that pits Governor Livingston High School against New Providence High School. This year's game will take place at Gov. Livingston's Frey Field at 175 Watchung Blvd. in Berkeley Heights, at 10:30 a.m.

• The Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, is holding a special Holiday Book Sale of new books only, starting today.

New releases and new copies of previously published books will be for sale for holiday gift giving. All hardcover copies will sell for $5, paperbacks will be priced at $3 each.

For information, call 908-233-0115.

Friday

• The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its Out of this World Travel Video Series with "Great Festivals" at noon.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

Monday

• The Rosary Altar Society is hosting an Advent Celebration at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 300 Central Ave. A light supper will be served followed by desserts. The Rosary Novena takes place at 7 p.m., followed by the prayer service at 7:30 p.m. and the Christmas party at 8 p.m. For information, call 908-232-1162.

• The Springfield Board of Education will meet in the media center at Jonathan Dayton High School on Mountain Avenue at 7:30 p.m.

• A Retirement Planning seminar will be offered at the Mountainside Free Public Library, Constitution Plaza, at 7:30 p.m. Topics include health and life insurance and long-term care plans.

To register or for information, call 908-233-0115.

Tuesday

• The Springfield Free Pubic Library, 66 Mountain Ave., begins its Lunchtime Video Series, "Mark Twain" at noon with "Pudd'nhead Wilson." For information, call 973-376-4930.

Upcoming

Dec. 5

• The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its Out of this World Travel Video Series with "Great Historic Sites" at noon.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

Dec. 7

• The Springfield Historical Society will host a Christmas Open House from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Historic Cannon Ball House, 126 Morris Ave. in Springfield. For information, call 973-376-4284.

• "Encounters," a group of one-act plays written and directed by Naomi Yablofsky of Springfield, will be performed in the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. at 2 p.m.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

Dec. 8

• The Mountainside Recreation Department will offer etiquette classes for children with a Manners Matter Workshop for boys and girls ages 7 to 12 from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m. in the Borough Hall Conference Room, 1385 Route 22 East.

For information, call 908-730-8238.

• The Springfield Township Committee will meet for a workshop session in the Annex Building at 20 N. Trivett Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 9

• The Springfield Township Committee will meet for a regular session in the Committee Room of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave. at 8 p.m.

• The Springfield Seasons Greetings celebration begins at 6 p.m. outside Town Hall on Mountain Avenue with a tree lighting and a visit from Santa Claus, followed by refreshments at the firehouse in back of Town Hall.

Guests can drop off any new, unwrapped toy at the tree lighting for the Toys for Tots drive, sponsored by the Fire Department.

Dec. 12

• The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its Out of This World Travel Video Series with "Best Treks" at noon.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

Dec. 22

• The Springfield Board of Education will meet in the media center at Jonathan Dayton High School on Mountain Avenue at 7:30 p.m.

History book planned

(Continued from Page 1)

In Summit's edition, for example, some chapters were titled, "Schools," "Downtown," and "Houses of Worship."

Arcadia has asked Springfield to try and produce pictures of sports teams, brides from the 1920s, and the actual people whose names have been given to two schools in towns, Florence Gaudineer and Thelma Sandmeier, among other photos.

"Last year, we had a group of students in the seventh grade that took pictures for a past-present-future themed project," said Craddock-Ponce.

"This should benefit the students by giving them a history of the town, a chance to problem solve and organize, and by being able to show pride through their town. They were excited just looking at other towns' books to think that Springfield will have one."

Bandrowski added that this could lead to a second book about Springfield titled, "The Making Of," which would explore how the town of Springfield has come to be what it is today.

"This will encourage an awareness of history within the town," said Bandrowski, "through both the kids and parents. It's going to be a great exploration of the roots of Springfield."

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Munch joins bank as senior lender

Columbia Bank has announced that Robert J. Munch has joined the bank as a senior commercial lender.

Munch will maintain his office at Columbia's Regional Lending Office, located at 60 Raritan Center Parkway, Edison, and will be responsible for managing new commercial transactions within Middlesex, Monmouth and Union counties.

A well-known figure in banking, business and community affairs, Munch previously served as a senior vice president and Managing Director of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in New York City.

Munch is a graduate of the University of Miami with a Bachelors Degree in Economics and Seton Hall University with a master's degree in Finance. He and his wife, Rose Marie, reside in Mountainside.

Mountainside resident earns Prudential award

A local resident was recently recognized for contributions she has made to the community.

Barbara McLaughlan of Mountainside, a systems consulting director for Prudential Financial in the Investments Division business unit in Iselin, received a Prudential Community **Champions Shining Star Award** of $1,000 for the Contact USA, Inc. in support of Contact We Care, a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline serving the north and central New Jersey areas.

As a telephone worker with the organization for more than 15 years, she lent an ear to the elderly, lonely, physically sick and emotionally and mentally disturbed who may not have anyone else to listen.

Contact We Care aims to provide an atmosphere of nonjudmental listening that offers referrals to callers who choose to seek outside assistance.

The 12th annual Prudential Community Champions Awards Program was administered by Prudential's Local Initiatives Division, to recognize 756 Prudential associates and retirees nationally and 41 associates across Canada, Italy, Japan and Korea who excelled in volunteer commitment, leadership and service in their communities during 2002.

Grants ranged from $250 to $5,000 for each award winner's charitable organization. Grants issued by The Prudential Foundation this year totaled $616,500 and more than $6 million since the program began in 1991.

"Since Prudential's founding in 1875, we have been committed to making a difference in the communities where we live and work, through both volunteer work and corporate donations," said Gabriella Morris, president of The Prudential Foundation and vice president of Community Resources for Prudential.

Newspaper policy on weddings, engagements

Couples are encouraged to send their engagetuent and wedding announcements to the lifestyle editor. Announcements should be typed and double-spaced, no longer than one page. All announcements should have a daytime phone number for verification or if questions arise.

Information requested for engagements are parents names, high school name and town, college name, town and degree, name of employer and town where located, job title, and the date of marriage.

NEWS CLIPS

New Hibachi Steakhouse opens in Mountainside

A Grand Opening and ribbon cutting ceremony was held at the Arirang Hibachi Steakhouse, 1230 Route 22 West, Mountainside, on Nov. 13.

Presiding over the ceremony were Glenn Mortimer, Mountainside Borough councilman, Diane Barabas, chairperson of the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, and Allison O'Hara, executive director of the WACC.

On this occasion, Charles Arolla, general manager of Arirang Hibachi Steakhouse, welcomed the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce membership to a special business after-hours event to celebrate and provided light refreshments, featuring samples of their cuisine.

Rec Department sponsors child etiquette classes

The Mountainside Recreation Department is sponsoring the Manners Matter Workshop for boys and girls ages 7 to 12 from 3:45 to 5:45 p.m. Dec. 8 in the Borough Hall Conference Room.

Kerry Preton, a professional speaker and trainer, whose mission is to deliver character education and build positive self-esteem, developed the two-hour course. The program will introduce students to the do's and don'ts of everyday etiquette and dining etiquette.

The format for this class is interactive, with lots of role-playing, allowing the students to practice their new skills. Covering such topics as first impressions, telephone skills, introductions and party manners, this course will provide children with the tools needed to properly handle today's real life social situations.

For more information or to register, call the Recreation Department at 908-232-0015.

Library launches children's book drive

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., has launched its "Books for Kids" book donation drive.

Give a child the gift of reading by bringing a new book or books to the library's collection box. Books for children from preschool through age fourteen are needed.

Holiday fund-raiser featured at Foothill Club

The Foothill Club luncheon will take place at noon Dec. 4 at B.G. Fields Restaurant. "A Christmas Boutique" will be held featuring new and nearly new items. The boutique has been an annual fund-raiser for many years. The Foothill Club is a service organization and has been serving the community of Mountainside for 40 years. New members and guests are always welcome.

For reservations, call 908-232-3626.

Teen Center opens

The Teen Center at the Springfield Recreation Department, 100 South Springfield Ave. has officially opened.

For information, call 973-467-3790 ext. 10.

I think it's time...
For Christmas and Hanukkah

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Sunrise seniors have one thing in common.

They're all different.

At Sunrise, we celebrate all of our residents for the unique individuals they are. We believe no two people are alike, so the care and services we provide should never be exactly the same.

This approach helps seniors live the life they want to live, from beautifully appointed living spaces to personalized assistance and care. We call it resident-centered senior living, and it begins the day a senior walks into one of our communities.

Visit or call a Sunrise Senior Living community, and discover how we're different. In Mountainside and Westfield, we offer Assisted Living and Alzheimer's Care.

Please call us to schedule a personal consult visit or tour.

SUNRISE SENIOR LIVING

Mountainside	Brighton Gardens of Mountainside	908-654-4460	1350 Route 22 West	AL, ALZ
Westfield	Sunrise of Westfield	908-317-3030	240 Springfield Avenue	AL, ALZ

AL – Assisted Living ALZ – Alzheimer's Care

www.sunriseseniorliving.com

Organization names children's hospital as designated charity

The New Jersey Chapter of Meeting Professionals International announces that Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside has been chosen as the organization's designated charity.

Having long sought to embrace a worthy organization that has numerous locations throughout New Jersey and one that addresses the needs of many families, MPI-NJ members say Children's Specialized Hospital reflects shared goals.

Members of MPI-NJ presented Phil Salerno, executive director of the hospital's foundation, with toys to be used for the patients at the hospital facilities.

In addition, a check in the amount of $3,125, reflecting a percentage of the proceeds from the MPI-NJ Golf Tournament and the MPI-NJ Gala Dinner, was also donated to the hospital to directly benefit the children.

"One of the goals I set forth when accepting the presidency of MPI-NJ was to promote and solidify a relationship with a charitable organization which reflected the ideals of MPI-NJ," said Christine Schmieder CMP, CMM, under whose presidency the charity partnership was designated.

"I am pleased to present Children's Specialized Hospital with our gifts and donations, which are representative of the generosity of our entire membership," said Schmieder.

Children's Specialized Hospital is the largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital in the United States. Continuous and comprehensive care is available to support and meet the needs of children and their families. Treatment includes inpatient and outpatient medical, developmental, educational and rehabilitative services.

Coordinating the charitable giving efforts is the Public Relations and Marketing Committee under the leadership of Joanne Joham of Mountainside, vice president of Business Development for CMG International and Kim Davis, sales manager for the Marriot Hotel Newark Airport and a resident of Staten Island.

"The support of our members during the recent toy drive was overwhelming and far exceeded our expectations, said Joham. "We are so pleased to form this partnership with Children's and look forward to implementing additional programs during the next year. Most importantly, we are delighted to be able to share our professional talents to improve the lives of special needs children and look forward to being considered a key contributor to Children's Specialized Hospital."

The New Jersey Chapter of Meeting Professionals International recently chose Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside as the organization's designated charity. From left are: Janet Weston, director volunteer services for CSH; Kim Davis, co-chairwoman of the PR Marketing Committee; Christine Schmieder, past president of MPI-NJ; Phil Salerno, executive director CSH Foundation; Joanne Joham, co-chairwoman of the PR Marketing Committee; and Craig Hendrick of Hilton International.

Youth Film Festival continues with Asian fantasy epic

The Springfield Free Public Library continues its Youth Film Festival with "Card Captor Sakura," at 3:15 p.m. Monday.

Sakura, a Card Captor, wins a free trip to Hong Kong. She is reunited with her rival and friend Syaoran Li. But soon discovers that her good-fortune is actually the work of a powerful sorceress with a grudge against Clow Reed's shady past and Sakura's connection to him. The film is appropriate for ages 9 and older.

Popcorn and soda will be served. The Springfield Free Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information, call 973-376-4930.

Fine food and lots of fun

Monica and Frank Doenning at the 'appetizer house' during a recent Progressive Dinner held by the Mountainside Newcomers Club. Couples enjoyed drinks, appetizers and conversation before breaking into smaller groups at designated houses for dinner, and then rejoined at the 'dessert house' to cap the evening.

Vehicle accident brings FD

Springfield

At 2:17 p.m. Nov. 19, firefighters responded to South Springfield and Hillside Avenue for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

FIRE BLOTTER

• The Fire Department dispatched a pumper to a condominium complex fire in Union on a request from County Mutual Aid at 2:57 p.m. Nov. 15.

• At 8:24 p.m. Nov. 15, firefighters responded to Route 78 West for a car fire.

• At 11:38 a.m. Nov. 16, firefighters responded to Milltown Road for an arcing power line.

• At 11:22 p.m. Nov. 17, all units responded to a New Brook Lane residence for an odor of something burning.

• At 6:50 p.m. Nov. 18, firefighters responded to Tree Top Drive for a leaf fire.

• At 6:59 p.m. Nov. 18, the Fire Department responded to a Laurel Drive residence for a car fire.

• At 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18, firefighters responded to Tree Top Drive for a leaf fire.

• At 10:12 a.m. Nov. 19, firefighters responded to Route 24 West for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

• At 3 p.m. Nov. 19, firefighters responded to a Route 22 East business for a motor vehicle accident.

• At 10:25 a.m. Nov. 20, firefighters responded to a Victory Road business for an activated fire alarm.

• At 5:18 p.m. Friday, firefighters responded to a Mountain Avenue residence for a medical service call.

• At 10:09 p.m. Saturday, the Fire Department responded to a Route 22 East business for an oil spill in the parking lot.

Jeep reported stolen

POLICE BLOTTER

Mountainside

At approximately 1:11 a.m. Saturday, Mountainside Police responded to a Route 22 East Loews Theater regarding a report of a stolen 2000 Jeep Cherokee.

The victim said she arrived at the theater about 10:15 p.m., and when she returned to the parking lot, the vehicle wasn't there.

According to the victim, an IBM Thinkpad laptop computer, which was the property of Seton Hall University, was inside the vehicle, along with several Christmas gift items that totaled approximately $50.

• At 12:36 p.m. Nov. 20, police responded to a Route 22 East restaurant on the report of a stolen motor vehicle.

The car, which reportedly had a wallet and two credit cards in it, was last seen about an hour earlier.

Witnesses said that at approximately 12:10 p.m., three black males exited a jeep and drove away in the car, heading east on Route 22.

• At 3:19 p.m. Nov. 20, a report was taken regarding a car break-in at a Route 22 East restaurant.

The victim said the thief had damaged the driver's door handle and lock when breaking in, stealing a wallet, jacket, glasses and owner's manual.

• At 3:26 p.m. Nov. 20, a victim reported that the front license plate had been stolen from her car at her place of employment.

According to the victim, it did not look as though the plate was ripped off after being towed from a flood zone, as there was no damage to the area around the missing plate.

Springfield

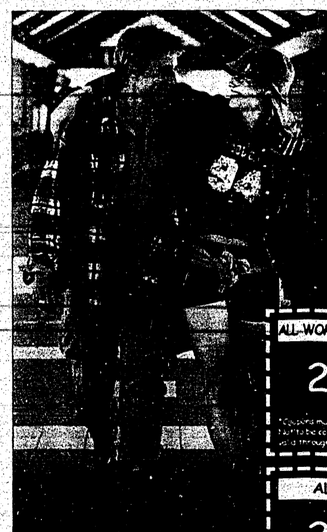
Four reports were taken between 7:15 and 8:15 a.m. Nov. 18 regarding tires being slashed overnight.

Three cars, a 1993 Ford, a 2003 Acura, and a 1992 Isuzu, parked at a North Derby residence, had a total of five punctured tires. All four tires of a 1990 Ford wagon were slashed at a Baltusrol Way residence, while another full set belonging to a 2002 Ford Expedition were also slashed.

• At 12:23 p.m. Nov. 18, an unknown party was reported to have entered a Route 22 East business and taken a product off a shelf, and proceeded to exchange the product for a Panasonic phone, valued at $89.99, and a solar calculator, valued at $20.98.

Pneumonia vaccines offered in Westfield

The Westfield Regional Health Department will be sponsoring a Pneumonia Vaccination Program from 9 to 11 a.m. Dec. 8, at the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 Broad St., Westfield. Preregistration is mandatory.



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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

The public deserves it

Recently, the Springfield Township Committee took action on the Meisel Avenue Park situation by forming a nine-member committee to put together plans of what the township would like to see at the facility.

The group includes the mayor, members of the Township Committee, high school principal, township administrator and members of the township's school and recreation boards. It's a good mix of people from different backgrounds, all striving for the same goals.

While this is a great idea, the only problem is they haven't sought any input from the township's residents through some sort of public meeting or forum. The group met in closed session several weeks ago to review and create plans for the park, but the public has no clue what these plans look like because they haven't seen them. They are also meeting with Union County officials, since it is a county-owned park. But what about Springfield's residents?

Meisel Field, which is in the midst of a $1-million remediation project to clear contaminated soil from the site and bring in new, clean top soil, has been closed to the public since September 2001, when environmental testing first began. It's been several years since students from Jonathan Dayton High School were able to use the track and football field. Currently, approximately 6 to 12 inches of soil is being removed from 10 acres of the park.

The Township Committee recently advised members of the public to attend Board of Chosen Freeholders meetings to voice their displeasure with the way the county has handled the project. This is fine, but isn't it up to the Township Committee, and more specifically, the nine-member committee creating plans for Meisel to share their ideas with the public?

Residents and the committee would benefit from this process. Residents could share with the committee what they would like to see, foremost of which is a usable football field and track. These plans may already be a part of the drawings, but since the county has the ultimate say in what will be going in the park, residential input can reinforce the township's goals. The committee may not think a public meeting is necessary, that they already have in mind what the public wants, but they cannot know this for certain until they have an open meeting. Taxpayers are owed it.

Photo By Barbara Kolkkala

TAKING A TOUR — After learning about the importance of volunteer work during a discussion in the Municipal Building court room on Nov. 17, second-grade students from James Caldwell School in Springfield got a tour of the new firehouse with Fire Chief William Gras and Township Committeeman Sy Mullman. No completion date on the project has been announced.

Novel brings suspense, romance together

A Taste of the Classics

By Leslie Micone

Daphne du Maurier is by far one of the best romance, suspense writers of all time. "Rebecca" being, in my opinion, her best.

Whether you've read "Rebecca" or seen the beautiful movie with Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine, you probably agree.

Once again we see a house that depicts its inhabitants. The house was a sepulcher, out fear and suffering lay buried in the ruins. There would be no resurrection. When I thought of Manderley in my waking hours I would not be bitter. I should remember it as it might have been, could I have lived there without fear.

We can never go back again to that much-loved, certain. The past is too close to us. The things we have touched, forget and put behind us would creep against, and that sense of fear, of furtive arrest, struggling at length to blind unreasoning panic, now merciful, stilled, thank God, might in some manner unforeseen become a living companion, as it had been before.

Maxim de Winter, a man of many friends, with a dark secret that he keeps deep inside, meets a young girl of 20.

The young girl is given name by the way, a never mentioned in the book, name throughout. He is on his duty, at least, and they meet in the south of France. They fall madly in love, marriage and marry.

Maxim takes her home to Manderley. He shows she enters the mansion Mrs. Danvers, the housekeeper, arrive to Manderley with Rebecca.

Oops, there's trouble in River City, for the new Mrs. de Winter, right off the bat.

Mrs. Danvers, constantly keeping the proverbial pot boiling by taunting the new Mrs. de Winter of the beautiful, and flawless Rebecca, and how much in love Maxim was with her. Or was he?

Then, at the "costume ball," Mrs. Danvers takes Mrs. de Winter into "round to the gallery for paintings, paintings of the de Winter ancestors, one in particular."

The new Mrs. de Winter did it look, time and spoke. We're the night of the ball approaches and she descends the beautiful staircase. Maxim standing with his sister and his sister-in-law with their backs turned, hear the young bride say, "I did everything Mr. de Winter told."

He looks up and his blue eyes to spike. "What do you think you're doing?" he repeats angrily. Then she realizes she's been tricked by the housekeeper.

The mystery begins. How did Rebecca die? Did she drown accidentally? Was she murdered? And if she was murdered, by whom?

A large yacht up over the mansion, an overturned boat has been discovered at a nearby cove. There lies a skeleton. Was it the bones of an unknown woman or was it Rebecca? How does tall, dark and gruesome handle this?

Now, kick off your shoes, pour yourself a glass of that comforting, sparkling bubbly, and read one of the most beautiful suspense novels ever written.

Throw all caution to the four winds and let your imagination run wild. It's worth a trip to the book store or your local library. Tally Ho!

Daphne du Maurier, was born in London in 1907. She was privately educated in Paris. du Maurier wrote biographies of her father Gerald du Maurier, and of Branwell Brone, the brother of Charlotte, Emily and Anne Bronte, entitled, "Vanishing Cornwall."

She has also written "The Loving Spirit," "Jamaica Inn," "Frenchman's Creek," and others of equal suspense.

Leslie Micone is a frequent contributor to this newspaper.

"In life, journalists stand side-by-side with foot soldiers and with presidents, with heroes and with victims. But in death they have too often been forgotten."

—Charles L. Overby, The Freedom Forum 1996

What is your opinion about this subject?
Send us an e-mail and let us know.
Responses will be published next week.
Send e-mails to
editorial@thelocalsource.com

Time for giving

Thanksgiving traditionally is a time for reflecting on the good fortune we enjoy. With scarcely a thought for why we are thankful, or to whom we are expressing our gratitude, we typically cast about at this time of year for some reason to be thankful: for family and friends, for the freedom we enjoy, for homes and for an unarticulated something we never can express but know is out there.

That is not enough.

It is not enough merely to give thanks. We also must give others a reason to give thanks as well. We who have, have an obligation to assist those who have not. The need, although we often profess to be unaware, is real and undeniable.

Take a look at Union County. In Summit, only 2.5 percent of the families live in poverty. Less than a dozen miles away is Elizabeth, where the prosperity commonplace in communities such as Summit and Mountainside is the stuff of dreams. In Elizabeth, 15.6 percent of all families live in poverty. Of those, approximately two-fifths are children and the elderly. Thanksgiving is a time for us to commit ourselves to remedying that disparity. It is a time for us all to donate time, money and materials to soup kitchens.

Thanksgiving is also a time of community. In that fabled first Thanksgiving of 1621, as the Puritans thanked God that they had survived their first year in the New World, they welcomed the American Indians to their celebration. In the same way, we must open ourselves to the community around us and let them join the celebration of our blessings.

Then, and only then, will it truly be Thanksgiving.

Echo Leader

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Incorporating Springfield Leader
and Mountainside Echo

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Town progress continues inch by inch

To the Editor:

There is an old saying "Inch by inch, it's a cinch." But how many more inches does the Springfield Township Committee need to accomplish some of the pressing issues which have confronted the community for years? The same people have served for the last five years, and some for a longer time.

One example is that it has been more than two years since Meisel Avenue Field was closed. There has been all kinds of excuses by the Township Committee with their manicures aiming the blame at the Union County freeholders. Let's face it, these five chummy Springfield Democrats failed miserably. With more effort, they should have been able to put a great deal of pressure on the full board of their Democratic Party freeholder colleagues. However, instead of seeking fuller cooperation with their fellow Democrats, they relaxed and procrastinated at the expense of residents who wanted to enjoy the facilities of Meisel Avenue Field including the students who need access to it for the sports of softball, track and field, baseball, soccer, etc.

At the Oct. 14 Township Committee meeting, many persons including children, most of whom were dressed in their Minutemen football uniforms, asked for more sports playing fields and more park space for all. At that meeting, I went to the microphone and asked if the township had a rough draft of a map showing what they desired on Meisel Avenue Field regarding football, soccer, baseball fields, etc. They sat on the dais and nodded their heads meaning "yes." I suggested that they give the sketch to the *Echo Leader* and *The Star Ledger* for publication for public input. It was not done.

At the Oct. 28 Township Committee meeting, I asked about the sketch. Committeeman Sy Mullman said that he was going to draw a sketch.

At the Nov. 11 Township Committee meeting, I was told that a new "architect's sketch" had been made. I asked to see it. I was informed that it was very large. I asked if I could see it after the meeting, and I was told that I could look at it. When I asked to see it after the meeting, I was advised that the sketch was "locked" in the Jonathan Dayton High School principal's office. For verification of these remarks, just listen to the audiotapes of these meetings, all of which are recorded.

I have related these facts as an example of the slow, inch-by-inch pace in which this same five-year Township Committee moves along.

Also, at the Nov. 11 meeting, I asked when the new firehouse would be dedicated. The mayor answered that he did not know. I then questioned him as to an approximate date — two months or sometime in 2004? He said that he still did not know, but explained that just a few small items had to be taken care of. Since the bulk of the construction has been completed, why could he not give a dedication date of some sort?

Let's hope that there will be fresh input by the two newly elected Township Committeemen taking office on Jan. 1, who could spur the old guard to faster service to residents, businesses, and employees for several local issues which have been delayed for years.

Hazel Hatdgrove
Springfield

Other fields are fairly impressive

To the Editor:

I had the opportunity to watch my grandson play soccer in New Providence. I was very much impressed that they have two soccer fields, two baseball fields, well-maintained, plus a recreation house on the grounds.

I would really appreciate if if we could get leaders of Springfield to visit some fields and put Meisel Avenue Field to good use for the kids of Springfield.

Jerry Kadish
Springfield

Vet Day deserved better coverage

To the Editor:

Your coverage of the Springfield Veterans Day program was, to say the least, disappointing. While *The Star Ledger*, the largest circulation newspaper in the state, assigned both a reporter and a photographer and published a lengthy article along with three photographs, the *Echo Leader's* coverage consisted of one photo with a short caption.

There were more than 100 people in attendance. Most importantly, the school children, who participated in the program, came away with a better understanding of what the veterans had contributed to the preservation of our democracy.

The veterans and the children would have been better served by your newspaper had it seen fit to give this event the coverage it deserved.

Richard D. Shipman, commander
Elm Unger Post 275 Jewish War Veterans

D.C. scouting trip was success

To the Editor:

Recently, over the Columbus Day weekend, our family took a trip to Washington, D.C. It was an organized Mountainside Cub Scout Pack 177 event. More than 92 family members attended, including parents, scouts and siblings. I would like to take the time to thank the people who organized and executed this fun, educational event which included, among other things a tour of the White House, Washington Monument and an evening tour of the memorial. So, a big thank you to Jo Vargo, Kim Choma, Mike Bennett and Rich Schmedel. Good job guys! From a very pleased scouting family.

Dale, Mary-Jo, Robert and Brian Stearns
Mountainside

Our policy on letters and columns

The *Echo Leader* welcomes submissions from its readers. Letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages.

Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification. This opportunity also is open to all residents, officials and employees of the Township of Springfield and the Borough of Mountainside and County of Union.

The *Echo Leader* reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content and style. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification.

Letters must be no more than 500 words long; longer pieces must be arranged in advance with the editor. The *Echo Leader* accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via e-mail. The address is editorial@thelocalsource.com.

Letters and essays also may be sent via U.S. mail to 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, 07083. For publication, all letters and guest columns must be received by 9 a.m. Mondays to be considered for publication in Thursday's edition.

Letters received via e-mail must be on topics of interest, preferably in response to content that appeared in the newspaper. For purposes of verification, all letters must include a name, address and daytime telephone number.

Advertising will not be accepted by e-mail.

WHAT? and WHY?

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.

SHOULD LOCAL, COUNTY AND STATE JUDGES BE ELECTED OR APPOINTED? HOW ABOUT COUNTY PROSECUTORS?

State service medals awarded to residents

Several Mountainside and Springfield residents were among the veterans who received the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal during a special awards ceremony Nov. 19 at the National Guard Armory in Westfield.

Brigadier Gen. Thomas Sullivan, assistant division commander, 42nd Infantry Division, New Jersey Army National Guard, presented the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal, the state's top military award, to 90 Union County residents who are combat veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf and Iraq.

An additional 10 county residents who are combat veterans received the New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal.

The following local veterans were honored, followed by the branch of the armed forces and conflict in which they served.

Mountainside

Technicians 4th Grade, Gabriel J. Borsellino, posthumous, Army, World War II.

Specialist Five William J. Ehrhardt, Army, Vietnam.

Sgt. William T. Leber, Army, Korea.

Specialist Four William O. Tomko, posthumous, Army, Vietnam.

Springfield

Seaman Donald A. Danser, Navy, Vietnam.

Cpl. Richard H. Oels, posthumous, Army, World War II.

The Distinguished Service Medal was originally issued in 1888 for those who had distinguished themselves in the New Jersey Militia, but was inadvertently not included in the state's military code. It was subsequently used until reauthorized by Gov. Thomas Kean in 1988.

After the Spanish American War, the Mexican Border Expedition and again after World War I, New Jersey minted special medals for returning New Jersey veterans to honor their service. After World War II, Korea, Vietnam and subsequent combat actions, no such medal was available.

New Jersey was looking for an appropriate way to honor all of these returning combat veterans and acknowledge the debt the state owed them for their service. The New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal was then authorized for that purpose. It is New Jersey's highest military award.

Since its reauthorization in 1988, more than 10,000 medals have been awarded to combat veterans from New Jersey.

In order to be eligible for the Distinguished Service Medal you must meet all the following criteria:

- currently be a resident of New Jersey;
- have been a resident of New Jersey at the time you entered into military service;
- have been honorably discharged;
- have proof of having served in combat while on active duty during wartime;
- have proof of having served in combat while on active duty during wartime;
- those recipients whose service was recognized by the award of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal or equivalent medal will receive a New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal with an oak leaf cluster.

The DSM can be awarded posthumously to the next-of-kin of a veteran who meets the criteria.

Anyone interested in applying for the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal should send a written request, e-mail or telephone call, requesting an application form to: NJDMAVA, Attn: Distinguished Service Medal, P.O. Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340. Please include full name, home address and a daytime phone number. Send e-mail to robert.wimberly@dma.state.nj.us, or call 1-800-624-0508, Press 7.

The New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal is being awarded to those combat veterans who were not residents of New Jersey when they entered the military service, but who are current residents of New Jersey and have resided in the state for the previous five years. All other qualifications are the same as for the DSM. To apply for the MSM, send the application to the same address as the DSM.

Several Mountainside and Springfield residents were among the veterans who received the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal during a special awards ceremony Nov. 19 at the National Guard Armory in Westfield. Here, Brigadier General Thomas J. Sullivan presents a medal to William Leber of Mountainside.

Teaming up for toy drive

The Springfield Fire Department and Police Department are teaming up with the U.S. Marine Corps for the the eighth annual "Toys for Tots" Program, through Dec. 12.

The nationwide program, which originated in 1947 by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Unit, has seen a success in recent years in the township of Springfield, with around 15,000 toys being donated last year.

Donations of new, unwrapped toys can be made to the Fire Department and other landmarks around town, which will be named later.

Banners across Mountain Avenue, along with notices given out at churches and schools, will help promote the program that hopes to bring happiness during the holiday season, as the Fire Department and Police Department look forward to helping the less fortunate and giving back to the community.

The program also receives support from the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses.

For information, call firefighter Tom Ernst at 973-912-2211.

Troop conducts Eagle Court of Honor ceremony

Saint James Troop 73 Boy Scouts of Springfield will be holding an Eagle Court Of Honor for Robert W. Maul on Saturday, at Saint James the Apostle Church. A dinner is planned with family and friends afterward.

Children's Specialized Hospital accepts toy, clothing donations

With the 2003 holiday season approaching, Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside is launching its annual Holiday Toy Drive.

"We have been fortunate over the past years to be able to distribute the toys and goodies, which have been generously donated by the community, to over 1,500 children in our care," said Janet Wesson, director of Volunteer Services at Children's.

"Donations have brought smiles to the faces of many and much cheer to those children who are facing rehabilitative rehabilitative challenges during the holiday season. We hope that the community once again will participate in this special endeavor and assist us in making this holiday season a special one for the children in our care."

Donations of toys and clothing must be new. Please note that Children's Specialized Hospital's Infection Control Policy prohibits the hospital from accepting stuffed animals or used toys.

Please do not wrap toys, as toys need to be sorted and distributed according to each child's developmental level, not chronological age.

Donations should be delivered to the hospital before Wednesday, to allow sufficient time for sorting and distribution and keep in mind Hanukkah begins Dec. 19.

Call the hospital's Volunteer Services Department at 908-233-3720, ext. 5379, for information and to make an appointment before dropping off donations.

All deliveries and drop-offs will be accepted at the East Wing Entrance located to the right of the hospital, 150 New Providence Road.

The following is a Holiday Gift Wish List for your consideration when making donations:

Infants and Toddlers

- Musical crib mobiles and music boxes, crib mirrors and light-up crib toys, infant rattles and developmental red/black/white high contrast toys, nesting toys and stacking rings, plastic beads and blocks, teething rings, soft "squeeze" toys.
- Cloth or heavy cardboard picture books, Fisher Price tape players and children's cassettes.
- Babies R' Us gift certificates/gift cards.
- Stretch infant one-piece outfits, "one size," and infant socks as well as preschool, ages 1 to 4.
- Cause effect push button toys that light up make sounds or play music, wooden memory games, large beads to string, Fisher Price toys, V-tech boards, fat Crayola crayons and coloring books, Play-Doh.
- Toddler sweat outfits and socks.

Children ages 5 and older

- Toys R' Us gift certificates/gift cards for ages 5 to 8.
- Crayola craft kits, Crayola crayons and coloring books, action figures, Matchbox cars, trucks and airplanes, Nerf basketballs/footballs, Koosh balls, plastic Slinky.
- Sweat tops and sweat pants and crew socks for preteens, ages 9 to 12.
- Various board games and playing cards, remote control cars, art and craft kits, Crayola marker sets.

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Michael J. Scotto
Manager Director
Smith Barney Asset Management
Large Cap Growth

DATE: Thursday, December 4, 2003
TIME: 6:30 PM
PLACE: Fairmount Country Club, 400 Southern Blvd., Chatham, NJ
RSVP: Nick Boccella, Branch Manager (973) 912-7763

The seminar is free, but seating is limited, so please reserve early. If you are unable to attend, call to receive information.

THIS IS WHO WE ARE. THIS IS HOW WE EARN IT.™
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Jazz band jams at clinic

On Nov. 14, The Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School Jazz Band in Springfield was given the opportunity to experience what a "true jazz band" sounds like.

Organized by band director Melissa Sweet, the clinic was designed to give students the chance to experience first-hand how a jazz band performs together. The professional musicians, consisting of Jay Sweet — upright bass, Mark Griffith — percussion and Bob Ackerman — Woodwinds explained to the students what steps they took to get to where they are today and what the meaning of musicianship really is.

The musicians encouraged the students to participate by asking questions, answering questions and playing along with the FMG Jazz Band. Some of the topics that they covered during the clinic were: the role of each player, how each section in the band works together, listening to one another, and how improvisation works.

To describe the clinic, band director Sweet said that it "this was a wonderful clinic that gave inspiration to all of the young musicians to pursue further study."

On Nov. 14, the Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School Jazz Band in Springfield was given the opportunity to experience what a "true jazz band" sounds like when professional musicians dropped by for a performance. They talked to the students, encouraging them to discover their own talents and pursue further musical study.

GL students earn AP Scholar designation

Forty-one students at Governor Livingston High School have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP exams.

Almost 15 percent of the more than one million high school students in more than 14,000 secondary schools worldwide who took AP exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar.

Students took AP Exams in May 2003 after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on the number of yearlong courses and exams or their equivalent semester-long courses and exams at Governor Livingston High School.

Three students qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on a 5-point scale on all AP exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

These students are: Roger Grosse, Benjamin Nhaiu and Amanda Penabad.

Twelve students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are: Yee Hei Imee Chan, Alexander Denby, Bryan Gartner, Roger Grosse, Ellen Hukkelhoven, Yusif Husain, Caitlin Masters, Benjamin Nhaiu, Deirdre Norris, Amanda Penabad, Yuming Shen and Sandra Zaeh.

Fifteen students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

These students are: Shawn Coughlin, Elizabeth Dendinger, Evan Finn, Chris Floyd, Nicole Huff, Sarah Kolb, Eric Lin, Estrella Lopez, Chandrani Monda, Satomi Morimoto, Jeremy Pfund, Matthew Sam, Veena Venkatachalam, Sean West and Kimberly Wong.

Eleven students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP exams, with grades of 3 or higher.

The AP Scholars are: Charles Bong, Jessica Davison, Amanda Farah, Kate Gombas, Sarah Hu, Sherrie Hui, Richard Koletar, Jessica Nichols, Tiffany Poon, Anna Shapiro and Jay Tann.

The designation of AP State Scholar is granted to the one male and one female student in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia with grades of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams — at least three full-year course exams or the equivalent, and then the highest average grade — at least 3.5 — on all AP exams taken.

Of this year's award recipients, 12 are sophomores or juniors: Alexander Denby, Bryan Gartner, Ellen Hukkelhoven, Eric Lin, Chandrani Monda, Veena Venkatachalam, Sean West, Kimberly Wong, Jessica Davison, Sarah Hu, Sherrie Hui and Jay Tann. These students have at least one more year in which to complete college-level work and possibly earn another AP Scholar Award.

Most of the nation's colleges and universities award credit, advanced placement, or both based on successful performance on the AP Exams. More than 1,400 institutions award a full year's credit — sophomore standing — to students presenting a sufficient number of qualifying grades.

Thirty-four AP exams are offered in a wide variety of subject areas, each consisting of multiple-choice and free-response — essay or problem-solving — questions, except for the Studio Art exam which evaluates students' original artwork.

STUDENT UPDATE

St. James students earn honor roll for fall 2003

Saint James the Apostle School of Springfield would like to congratulate the following students for their hard work this semester that resulted in their receiving a place on the school's honor roll for the fall semester of 2003.

The students were rewarded with a continental breakfast after the morning announcement on Wednesday.

First honors, all A's in the major subjects

Albert McWilliams, grade eight. Paige Williams-White, grade seven. Noelle Romano, grade six. Shadia Modi, Nicholas Rossomando, grade five. Andrew Cooper, grade four.

Second honors, all A's and B's in the major subjects

Grade eight — Nicole DeFranzo, Carla Flynn, Andrew Kosciuk, Nicholas Marcantonio, Eric McGee, Stephen Nunez, Roxane Sarraile, Eric Steven-son, Patrick-Williams-White.

Grade seven — Krystina Quow.

Grade six — Krista Cunningham, Caroline Janota, James Kocur, Tara McWilliams, Erica Ratti, Vilius Stankevicius.

Grade five — Brielle Iannuzzelli, Bridgitte Rueda, David Wightman.

Grade four — Nicole Fuscaldo, Anyssa Herlihy, Jessica Lopes, Jason Sampay.

Honorable Mention, all A's and B's with one C in any major subject

Grade eight — Colin Fondelleras.

Grade seven — Sarah Bugayolung, Maxine Pais.

Grade six — Gerlina Carey, Shaileen Garcia, Ashley Hughes, Anthony Sarafico.

Grade five — Alexis Kearney.

Grade four — Erik Gartner, Demetrios Zaffromilios.

Torzewski named AP Scholar at Villa Walsh

Kathryn Torzewski, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Torzewski of Springfield, was one of 21 students who were recently named Advanced Placement Scholars by Villa Walsh Academy in Morristown.

Home for the Holidays

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PLANNING BOARD
BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that public hearings will be held by the Planning Board of the Borough of Mountainside, the Mountainside Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22 East, Mountainside, NJ, December 11, 2003, at 8:00 p.m. the following applications:

Robert and Laschell DeCristoforo - 561 Woodland Avenue - Block 21, Lot 12. Construction of front porch contrary to Section 1009 (c) (7) Maximum lot coverage.

CMM Graphics, LLC, DBA Mountainside Press - 1139 Route 22, Block 4, Lot 4. One wall sign.

Jonathan Livingston 49 Restaurant - 449 Mountain Avenue, Block 13, Lot 4.5. One wall sign.

Kenneth Duda & Stacy Lee Fine - 1446 Woodland Avenue, Block 11, Lot 4. Preliminary site plan and preliminary subdivision contrary to Section 1009 (c) (7) Maximum lot coverage and insufficient parking.

Patricia Lee - 1139 Mountain Avenue, Route 22, Block 4, Lot 4. One wall sign and one wall sign.

CFS Acquisitions, LLC - 396 Mountain Avenue, Block 4, Lot 9. Ground sign and one wall sign.

All applications are subject to the Mountainside Land Use Ordinance and are subject to bulk variances if required.

Other issues may be discussed and action may be taken.

Ruth V. Rees
Secretary

09355 ECL Nov. 26, 2003 $516.50

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS will be received by the Board of Education of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, New Jersey until 10:00 AM on December 11, 2003 in the office of the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, at the Jonathan Dayton High School, Springfield, New Jersey for the following:

ITEMS FOR SALE

54 passenger 1990 Chevrolet Bus (Bus #36 approximately 74,000 miles) VIN#1GBJ691PXLV109827

Instruction to Bidders: Form of Proposal and description of vehicles may be examined at the office of the Secretary, at the Jonathan Dayton High School, Board of Education Office, Mountain Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey. All vehicles are for "AS IS" specifica-

PUBLIC NOTICE

[illegible]

Board of Education
Robert C. Kirkpatrick
Business Administrator/Secretary

09359 ECL Nov. 26, 2003 ($81.60)

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

Please take notice that the following decision was made at the regular meeting of the Board of Adjustment held on Tuesday, November 18, 2003:

Application # 2003-18
Applicant: Vijay Shah
Site Location: 472 Morris Avenue
Block: 108 Lot: 7
For: a left side yard variance and a variance for lot coverage to permit the construction of an addition
Was: Approved

Said application is on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Board of Adjustment, Municipal Building, Springfield, NJ and is available for public inspection.

Robert C. Kirkpatrick
Board of Adjustment Secretary

09360 ECL Nov. 26, 2003 ($11.63)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

Please take notice that the following decision was made at the regular meeting of the Board of Adjustment held on Tuesday, November 18, 2003:

Application # 2003-19
Applicant: Abundant Life Worship Center
Site Location: 35 Fadem Road
Block: 3802 Lot: 2
For: a use variance to permit the use of those portions of the [illegible] building for the [illegible] purposes
Was: Approved

Said application is on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Board of Adjustment, Municipal Building, Township of Springfield, NJ and is available for public inspection.

Robert C. Kirkpatrick
Board of Adjustment Secretary

09361 ECL Nov. 26, 2003 ($12.60)

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RELIGION

Advent celebration planned at Our Lady

The Rosary Altar Society will host an Advent celebration Monday at 7 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 300 Central Ave., Mountainside.

A light supper will be served followed by home-baked desserts.

The event begins at 7 p.m. with a Rosary Novena, followed by a 7:30 p.m. prayer service and induction of new members and a Christmas party at 8 p.m.

Advent wreath sale

Saint James Troop 73 Boy Scouts of Springfield will host their annual Advent wreath sale after Saturday and Sunday Masses at Saint James the Apostle Church, South Springfield Avenue, Springfield.

The sale will start Saturday and Sunday and continuing for the next two consecutive weekends, Dec. 6 and 7 and Dec. 13 and 14.

OBITUARIES

Edward Butler III

Edward Morris Butler III, 69, of Casselberry, Fla., formerly of Summit and Springfield, died Nov. 13 at home.

Born in Glen Ridge, Mr. Butler lived in Summit, Fanwood and Springfield before moving to Casselberry. He was the communications director with the Christian Mission, Music Mission Kiev in Orlando, Fla. Earlier, Mr. Butler worked in the sales department of Data Processing Inc., Orlando.

He served in the Army during peacetime and was a graduate of Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa.

Surviving are his wife, Sharon; four sons, David, Robert, Larry and Charles; two daughters, Elizabeth DiScuillo and Sherry Hamblett; a sister, Willis Walker; a brother, William, and 11 grandchildren.

Eugenio Novo

Eugenio Novo, 84, of Summit died Nov. 17 in the Summit home of his daughter, Amy.

Born in Cuba, Mr. Novo came to Summit in 1971. He was employed in the maintenance department of American Hoechst, Branchburg, for 15 years and retired in 1987.

Also surviving are his wife, Silvia; three sons, Leo, Peter and Freddy, and eight grandchildren.

Dorothy Conners

Dorothy T. Conners, 80, of Dover, formerly of Summit, died Nov. 18 at home.

Born in Millburn, Mrs. Conners lived in the Summit and Millburn areas for many years before moving to Dover in 1991. She worked in the claims department of Kemper Insurance Co., Summit, for more than 25 years and retired in 1991.

Surviving are her husband, Joseph J.; four daughters, Judith Beam, Colleen Fenton, Patricia Wnorowski and Virginia Conners; 14 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

John E. Byk

John E. Byk, 96, of Toms River, formerly of Springfield, died Nov. 18 at home.

Born in Newark, Mr. Byk lived in Springfield before moving to Toms River in 1984. He was a partner with Byk Catering, Newark, and also served as president of the company before retiring in 1982.

Mr. Byk was an Air Force veteran of World War II. He served with the 56th Fighters Group, also known as Zemke's Wolf Pack, and received seven battle stars and a presidential citation with two oak leaf clusters. Mr. Byk was discharged with the rank of technical sergeant.

He was the first commander and a charter member of the American Legion Falcon Post 354 in Newark.

Mr. Byk served as president of the Polish Falcons 104 from 1950 to 1959. He was a past president of the Polish Falcons District 1 of New Jersey and New York.

Mr. Byk was named Falcon of the Year in 1972, and he also received the Gold Legion of Honor from the National Polish Falcons.

He served on a business advisory committee in Newark under the former Mayor Leo Carlin.

Surviving are three sons, John R., Raymond and Martin; a brother, Andrew; two sisters, Gladys Zegar and Irene Boxill; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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WORSHIP CALENDAR

BAPTIST

EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH "SERVING CHRIST IN THE 21st CENTURY" 242 Shunpike Rd., Springfield, Rev. Frederick Mackey, Sr. Pastor. Sundays 9:30 AM Bible School for all ages — Nursery through Seniors. Spanish Sunday School 9:30 am and [illegible] 10:30 AM Worship Service and Nursery care. 6:00-7:00 PM AWANA Club Program for Children ages 4-11; 6:00 PM Evening Service & Nursery care. Wednesdays 7:15 PM Prayer, Praise and Bible Study [illegible] Ministry. Active Youth Ministry [illegible] Music Program. Ample Parking. [illegible] provided with assistance. All are invited and welcomed to participate in worship with us. For further information contact church office 973-379-4351. Mondays 2:00 pm [illegible] AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.

JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE

TEMPLE BETH AHM 60 Temple Drive, Springfield 973-376-0539 [illegible]

JEWISH-ORTHODOX

CONGREGATION ISRAEL OF SPRINGFIELD 339 Mountain Avenue, Springfield 973-467-9666 [illegible] Services are [illegible] times. There are two Shabbat morning services at [illegible]

[illegible] camp is also available to children of this age. Adult classes are held three nights a week with two weekly Torah classes. We have an active Senior Set and serve as for NCSY and Sr. NCSY. [illegible] Adult Education and Youth groups [illegible] For further information call the synagogue office at 973-467-9666.

JEWISH - REFORM

TEMPLE SHA'AREY SHALOM [illegible] Springfield Avenue, Springfield [illegible]

LUTHERAN

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 639 Mountain Avenue, Springfield [illegible] Our Sunday Worship Service takes place at [illegible] For information about our midweek children, teen and adult programs, contact the Church Office Monday through Thursday, 8:30-4:00 p.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL [illegible] Westfield [illegible]

METHODIST

SPRINGFIELD EMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH is a faith community [illegible] presented through contemporary and traditional music, scripture, prayer and Holy Communion. Families worship together prior to children leaving for age appropriate Sunday School which begins midway through the hour. [illegible] 973-376-1695 for information. We are located near Morris and Mountain Avenue at 40 Church Mall. [illegible]

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Summit is located in the heart of town on the corner of Kent Place Boulevard and DeForest Avenue. [illegible]

PENTECOSTAL- NON-DENOMINATIONAL

VISIONS OF GOD FAMILY WORSHIP "RAISING PEOPLE OF POWER FOR THE 21ST CENTURY" 242 Shunpike Road, Springfield (located at Evangel Baptist Church). Office located at 1132 Spruce Drive, Mountainside. Phone (908) 928-0212. Pastors Paul & Sharon Dean. Worship Service Sunday at 4:00 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Ministries include Singles, married Couples, Women, Men. We welcome everyone [illegible]

PRESBYTERIAN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 210 Morris Ave. at Church Mall, Springfield, 973-379-4320. Sunday School Classes for ages 3yrs — Senior High 9:00 a.m. in our Parish House. Sunday morning worship service 10:15 a.m. Children's Church is held during the worship service. Nursery care and facilities are provided. Opportunities for personal growth through worship, Christian Education, Choir, ongoing church activities, and Fellowship. Holy Communion is held the 1st Sunday of every month. The Ladies Evening Group 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., Kaffeeklatsch 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m., Men's Fellowship 2nd Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m., Choir every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. We also host various Outside group meetings: Springfield Garden Club, Children's Community Choir, Learning Disabled Group, and Alanon. For information about any of our programs or services, call Gisele at the Church Office, 973-379-4320, Mon. through Fri., 9:00 a.m.-4 p.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JAMES, 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey 07081. 973-376-3044. SUNDAY EUCHARIST: Sat. 5:30 p.m. Sun. 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 12 Noon. Reconciliation: Sat. 1:00-2:00 p.m. Weekday Masses 7:00 & 8:00 a.m.

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST

UNITARIAN CHURCH IN SUMMIT, 4 Waldron Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901. 908-273-3245. www.uusummit.org. Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Minister Susan R. Freudenthal, Dir. Religious Educ. Mitchell Vines, Music and Choir Director. Sunday Services and religious education classes at 9:30 and 11:00 AM. Adult Education and other programs.

NOTE: All copy changes must be made in writing and received by Worrall Community Newspapers No later than 12:00 Noon, Fridays prior to the following week's publication.

Please address changes to:
Connie Sluan
Worrall Community Newspapers
1291 Stuyvesant Ave
P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J. 07083 U.W.

The Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey
Founded by the Jewish Community
in collaboration with
National Council of Jewish Women - Essex County Section
United Jewish Communities of MetroWest NJ - Women's Department
present a community forum
Why is My Child Different?
Insights Into Learning and Behavioral Challenges
with
Anne Ford
Author of Laughing Allegra
Maurice J. Elias
Author of Emotionally Intelligent Parenting
Margaret Jo Shepherd
Founder of Teachers College's Learning Disability Program
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THIS IS H.S. FOOTBALL

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

The difference turned out to be slight at best.

Five Union County teams made it to NJSIAA semifinal contests, with two coming out on top.

Union won by two points and Scotch Plains by four.

Cranford lost by three, Summit by two and New Providence by four.

Cranford and Summit had fine seasons and just missed playing each other in the North 2, Group 2 final.

New Providence will conclude another winning season at Governor Livingston tomorrow morning.

Union and Scotch Plains are also scheduled to play tomorrow, although either game could be moved to Saturday because they are involved in sectional finals.

Union will bid to extend its playoff record in North 2, Group 4 by winning the section for the 11th time when it faces Piscataway. Union last won the section in 1993 and last appeared in the final in 1996.

Scotch Plains has captured one playoff title and that was in 1990 when the Raiders won the same section they are still in, North 2, Group 3.

Union County has had just five playoff champions the past eight seasons (1995-2002).

Johnson, last year's North 2, Group 2 champion, is out to finish with a winning record. The 5-4 Crusaders can clinch that achievement by beating visiting Spotswood tomorrow.

Roselle Park and Roselle seek second consecutive victories when they face each other tomorrow at Roselle's Arminio Field. Roselle won last year's game 14-0.

THANKSGIVING GAMES
Tonight, Nov. 26, (1)
Rahway at Immaculata, 7 p.m.
Tomorrow, Nov. 27, (7)
Union at Linden, 10:30 a.m.
Elizabeth at S. Plains, 10:30
Spotswood at Johnson, 10:30
Hillside at Brearley, 10:30
New Providence at GL, 10:30
Roselle Park at Roselle, 10:30
Plainfield at Westfield, 11 a.m.
Summit and Cranford seasons are complete.

NJSIAA SEMIS SCORES
Nov. 21 (1)
North 2, Group 2
Rutherford 27, Cranford 24
Nov. 22 (4)
North 2, Group 4
Union 14, B. Raritan 12
North 2, Group 3
Scotch Plains 28, Sayreville 24
North 2, Group 2
West Essex 16, Summit 14
Central Jersey, Group 1
Florence 7, New Providence 3

THANKSGIVING PICKS (8)
Immaculata over Rahway
Union over Linden
Elizabeth over Scotch Plains
Spotswood over Johnson
Hillside over Brearley
New Providence over GL
Roselle Park over Roselle
Westfield over Plainfield
Last week: 2-3
This year: 83-23-1 (.783)

UNION COUNTY
1. Union (9-1)
2. Scotch Plains (9-1)
3. Summit (9-1-1)
4. Plainfield (6-3)
5. Elizabeth (6-3)
6. Cranford (8-3)
7. New Providence (7-3)
8. Westfield (4-5)
9. Hillside (5-4)
10. Brearley (6-3)
Johnson (5-4)
Gov. Livingston (4-5)
Roselle Park (3-6)
Rahway (2-7)
Linden (2-7)
Roselle (1-8)

A nine-win season comes to an end too soon for Summit

By Jeff Wolfrum
Staff Writer

SUMMIT - Hurting itself with too many mistakes.

That's what Summit High School head football coach George DiGrande felt was the difference in his team's 16-14 loss to West Essex in the semifinal round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 playoffs in front of a crowd of 1,700 last Saturday afternoon at Tatlock Field.

West Essex, which lost to Johnson in the final last year, won it all in 2001, defeating Summit 27-7 in the quarterfinal round.

The fifth-seeded Knights (7-3-1) will now face second-seeded Rutherford (10-0), who defeated third-seeded Cranford 27-24 in the other semifinal game played last Friday night in Rutherford. The title game will be held Dec. 7 at Kean University at 11 a.m.

The top-seeded Hilltoppers, who don't play a Thanksgiving Day game, finished their season with a 9-1-1 mark.

"We gave them three turnovers deep in our territory," DiGrande said. "In a game like this between two good football teams, you can't do that. Even with that being said, we still almost pulled it out."

That's because the Hilltoppers had a chance to win the game with 8.2 seconds remaining when they lined up for a 22-yard field goal attempt.

However, sophomore kicker Will Gruetzmacher's attempt sailed wide left.

"You can take a shot at the end zone there, but we felt confident we could put it through the posts," DiGrande said. "It was a decision that we made and it didn't work this time."

Summit began the ill-fated drive from the West Essex 42 with 45 seconds remaining.

Senior quarterback Robbie Schroeder, who completed 15-of-24 passes for 339 yards and two touchdowns, found favorite target Dwayne Reid on receptions of 14 and 15 yards respectively, to bring the ball to the West Essex 13 with 16 clicks left.

After a pass interference call on the Knights brought the ball half the distance to the goal line, Summit attempted what would have been a game-winning field goal.

"I'm proud of how the defense got us the ball back after the interception," DiGrande said. "They did a tremendous job with only two timeouts left."

That happened midway through the final quarter when Summit drove from its own 37 to the West Essex 22 before an interception by Justin Bono with 1:56 left ended the march.

However, Summit's defense, led by senior Chris Dean, who had a sack in the series, forced a three-and-out on the ensuing series.

The Hilltoppers had a scare on the punt as a flag for running into the kicker was thrown on fourth-and-11. Because the flag was only a five-yard penalty against Summit and did not grant the Knights a first down, West Essex punted the ball away again.

When the game commenced, Summit came out fired up in front of its home fans and quickly put points on the scoreboard as it took the opening kickoff 74 yards on seven plays for a touchdown. The score came on a 24-yard screen pass from Schroeder to senior fullback Jeff Della Piazza. Gruetzmacher booted the extra point to make it 7-0.

The big play on the drive came on a 39-yard completion from Schroeder to Reid down the right sideline.

"Robbie's a great quarterback," Reid said. "He placed the ball just where I needed it."

After forcing West Essex to a three-and-out on its first possession, Summit committed its first turnover, which led to the Knights' first score.

Taking over on its own 42 after the punt, Schroeder threw an out pass on first down that was picked off by Steven Plucinsky, who returned it to the Summit 17-yard line.

On the next snap, senior running back Anthony D'Urso broke two arm tackles en route to paydirt. Mike Rubin drilled the point after to even the score at 7-7.

Summit then took the ensuing kickoff and drove from its own 29 to the West Essex 29 before coming up short on a fourth-and-12 as Schroeder was sacked by Joe Droz.

West Essex defensive back Frank Cerza, who had two picks in the contest, grabbed his first early in the second quarter at the Summit 32.

However, the Hilltopper defense stiffened and forced Rubin to try a 40-yard field goal that came up just short. It was Rubin's first miss on six attempts this season.

Summit took over on its own 20 and immediately went to the air as Reid hauled in catches of 43 and 32 yards to bring the ball to the West Essex five.

However, a carry for no gain coupled with a recovered fumbled pitch and a five-yard penalty brought the ball back to the West Essex 22.

After Schroeder scrambled for 11 yards on third down to bring it to the 11-yard line, the Hilltoppers went for it on fourth down. Schroeder rolled right and found senior tight end Brad Dolny at the three before he was hit hard by Droz and Cerza and tackled at the one-yard line.

Reid finished the game hauling in nine catches for 251 yards and a touchdown.

"I wanted every catch there was," Reid said. "I wasn't going to drop anything."

West Essex took the lead at 13-7 after taking the second half kickoff and marching 62 yards in four plays. The drive was capped on a D'Urso four-yard scamper. D'Urso finished with 70 yards on 18 carries and two touchdowns.

Reid helped Summit regain the lead late in the third quarter.

After he returned an interception to his own 30 with 4:53 remaining in the period, he scored two plays later as he hauled in a 61-yard touchdown pass from Schroeder. Gruetzmacher missed on the initial PAT, but a flag on the Knights allowed for another try that was good to give the Hilltoppers a 14-13 advantage.

However, a Summit fumble at its own 16 was recovered by John Picciuto with 1:57 left in the third.

The Summit "D" again rose to the occasion and allowed only a yard as West Essex had to settle for a 25-yard field goal by Rubin on the first play of the fourth quarter that gave it a 16-14 lead.

"I'm very proud of my team," DiGrande said. "They played the full 48 minutes and gave it their all. We are still growing, so we need to keep working to get to the next level."

Summit will begin next season with a 16-game unbeaten streak in the regular season (15-0-1). The Hilltoppers' last loss in the regular season was a 21-14 setback at New Providence on Thanksgiving of 2001.

HILLTOPPERS FOOTBALL

SUMMIT - The Hilltoppers are 2-4 in the North 2, Group 2 playoffs the last four seasons since qualifying in 2000 for the first time since 1995.

Summit lost at Pequannock 34-21 in the quarterfinals in 2000 to end a 5-5 campaign. The Hilltoppers were defeated at eventual champion West Essex 27-7 in the quarterfinals during a 4-6 season in 2001.

Summit lost at home in the semifinals as the top seed last year and this season, last year falling to eventual champion Johnson 22-7.

West Essex won North 2, Group 2 for the first time two years ago when it downed Orange 16-6 in the final at Kean University in Union. Johnson defeated host West Essex 29-7 in last year's final in North Caldwell.

Summit last won the section in 1994 and last appeared in the final in 1995. The Hilltoppers, with a combined record of 18-3-1 this year and last, captured the Iron Hills Conference-Hills Division championship with Mount Olive last year and alone this year.

One of last year's highlight victories was a 26-6 win at West Essex that snapped a long Knights winning streak. It turned out that West Essex was the only team Summit could not beat this year, tying the Knights 42-42 in triple overtime in the regular season.

GAME ELEVEN
North 2, Group 2 Semifinal
West Essex 16, Summit 14

FIRST DOWNS: West Essex 8, Summit 12
RUSHES-YARDS: West Essex 35-173, Summit 27-27
PASSES: West Essex 6-12-2, Summit 15-24-4
PASSING YARDS: West Essex 50, Summit 347
FUMBLES-LOST: West Essex 1-0, Summit 2-1
PUNTS-AVG: West Essex 5-27, Summit 1-39
PENALTIES: West Essex 9-80, Summit 5-45

	1	2	3	4	T
West Essex (7-3-1)	7	0	6	3	16
Summit (9-1-1)	7	0	7	0	14

Summit - Della Piazza 24 pass Schroeder, Gruetzmacher kick (S 7-0)
(First quarter: 7 plays, 64 yards, 3:44 used)
West Essex - D'Urso 17 run, Rubin kick (7-7)
(First quarter: 1 play, 17 yards, :07 used)
West Essex - D'Urso 4 run, Rubin kick (WE 13-7)
(Third quarter: 4 plays, 62 yards, 2:12 used)
Summit - Reid 61 pass from Schroeder, Gruetzmacher kick (S 14-13)
(Third quarter: 2 plays, 70 yards, :18 used)
West Essex - FG Rubin 25 (WE 16-14)
(Fourth quarter: From Summit 16 to Summit 10, 1:50 used)

RUSHING: West Essex - Anthony D'Urso 18-70, two touchdowns, Matt Ruggiero 5-64, Mark Ruggiero 8-48, Joe Droz 1-2, Frank Cerza 3-(-11). Totals: 35-173, two touchdowns. Summit - Robbie Schroeder 13-15, Jeff Della Piazza 9-13, Arthur Copperthite 1-4, Daryl Toney 3-0, Dwayne Reid 1-(-5). Totals: 27-27.

PASSING: West Essex - Frank Cerza 6-12-2, 50 yards. Summit - Robbie Schroeder 15-24-4, 339 yards, two touchdowns. Daryl Toney 1-1-0, 8 yards. Totals: 16-25-4, 347 yards, two touchdowns.

RECEIVING: West Essex - Matthew Cassera 4-43, Anthony D'Urso 1-4, Anthony Angelo 1-3. Totals: 6-50. Summit - Dwayne Reid 9-251, one touchdown, Todd Kaiser 3-23, Brad Dolny 2-17, Jeff Della Piazza 1-24, one touchdown, Daryl Toney 1-21. Totals: 16-347, two touchdowns.

INTERCEPTIONS: West Essex - Frank Cerza 2, Steven Plucinsky, Justin Bono. Summit - Todd Kaiser, Dwayne Reid.

FUMBLE RECOVERIES: West Essex - Anthony D'Urso, John Picciuto. Summit - Daryl Toney.

SACKS: West Essex - Justin Bono, Joe Droz, John Picciuto. Summit - Chris Dean.

KEY TACKLES: West Essex - Justin Bono, Frank Cerza, Mike Puchalski. Summit - Chris Dean, Dwayne Reid, Robbie Schroeder.

- JEFF WOLFRUM

File photo
Quarterback Robbie Schroeder guided the Summit High School football team to an 18-3-1 record and two state playoff berths the past two seasons.

Mountainside's Hotz earns college honor

Alexander Hotz of Mountainside earned All-Mideast Region honors as a standout member of the men's cross country team at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa.

Hotz received the recognition after finishing 10th at the regional meet, hosted by Dickinson College. The 10th-place showing matched the best-ever by a Mule runner at the regional meet, and Hotz missed qualifying for the NCAA Division 3 championships by just one place.

The all-region honor capped an outstanding season in which the Governor Livingston High School graduate emerged as Muhlenberg's top runner. He finished in the top 10 in five of the six races in which he ran and earned first-team All-Centennial Conference honors.

"Alex had a fabulous year," Muhlenberg head coach Linda Andrews said. "He put in a lot of work this summer and it paid off. Missing nationals by one place will give him incentive to do even better next year."

The Mules placed fourth at the Centennial Conference championships and 11th at the NCAA Mideast Regional.

Springfield Emerald booters post winning season

The Springfield Emeralds 9-and-under traveling girls' soccer team finished their season with a winning record of 4-2-4 after falling to the Vernon Zephyrs 7-3 last Sunday.

Amanda Greenberg scored two goals and Cara Bibbo one for the Emeralds. Casey Sheehey had an assist.

Also playing well for Springfield were forwards Meaghan Finnegan and Deirdre McElroy, midfielders Jaclyn Nardone, Cailin Curry and Jessica Condon and defenders Sabrina Bibbo, Katie Condon and Rachel Laulette. Sheehey and Laulette shared goalkeeping duties.

Summit boys' hoops in Butch Kowal Tournament

The Summit High School boys' basketball team will be participating in the John "Butch" Kowal Memorial Tournament next month.

Summit will play at Rahway on Dec. 27 at 8:30 p.m., with the winner to play the winner of the Westfield vs. South Plainfield game on Dec. 27 at 7 p.m. at Rahway.

The third-place and championship games are scheduled to be played Dec. 30 at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Rahway.

Other teams involved in the tournament include J.P. Stevens vs. St. Peter's New Brunswick and Cranford vs. Colonia on Dec. 26.

Summit is scheduled to open its season on Dec. 19 in Rockaway at 7 p.m. against Iron Hills Conference-Hills Division foe Morris Hills.

Summit Seals excel at Fall Festival meet

The Summit Area YMCA Seals swimming team sent 39 athletes to compete in the Fall Festival meet held at Princeton University Nov. 8-9.

The Seals joined with nearly 1,700 swimmers representing 39 swim clubs from around the state.

Brian Wilson set new Fall Festival records in the four boys' 13-14 individual events in which he swam. Dylan Sali, 8, set two Seals team records at the Fall Festival.

In order to compete in the event, swimmers had to qualify with either gold or silver time standards. Most events tallied in excess of 100 entries.

Wilson, swimming in his final meet as a 14-year-old, made his mark in the Fall Festival record book. In the boys' 13-14 200-yard individual medley, Wilson smashed his own 2002 record of 2:01.48, setting a new Mark of 1:58.79.

Wilson shattered the 13-14 200 butterfly record set in 1994 by more than six seconds, with a blistering time of 1:56.87. Wilson sprinted the 50 freestyle in a record-breaking 22.05, erasing the record of 22.60 set in 1999.

Wilson added four gold medals to his collection, presented for his four first-place finishes.

Sali, the youngest Seal competitor, set anew boys' 8-and-under team record of 32.76 in the 50 freestyle. Swimming in the 10-and-under division, Sali broke his own team record of 33.31 set in October. Sali set a second 8-and-under team record in the 100 IM, clocking a time of 1:22.32.

Danny Kim surpassed his fifth-place seeding to claim the gold medal in the boys' 15-and-over 100 butterfly, with a time of 53.14. Kim, 17, had strong finishes in other events, placing fifth in both the 50 freestyle and the 100 backstroke with times of 22.82 and 56.23.

Kim placed sixth in the 100 freestyle, touching the wall in 49.45, and was ninth in the 100 breaststroke in a time of 1:04.65.

Fleet Holiday Toy Drive. Make a deposit.
Just bring a new, unwrapped toy to your local Fleet branch. Or make a financial donation at the branch or through Fleet HomeLink℠ Online Banking at fleet.com. The program runs from November 10 through December 19, and all gifts go to charities right in your local community. So please give generously.
Forward. Thinking. Fleet
All donations will be distributed to local charities, including Derek Jeter's Turn 2 Foundation.

EVENTS

Historical Society hosts holiday open house

The Springfield Historical Society will host a Christmas open house Dec 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Historic Cannon Ball House, 126 Morris Ave., Springfield.

The house, built circa 1741, was the home of the family of Dr. Jonathan Dayton and during the Revolution was operated by his widow Keziah as a tavern stop on the main road between Elizabeth and Morristown, where George Washington and his army were at Jockey Hollow.

Located in the heart of the fighting during the Battle of Springfield on June 23, 1780, the house was hit by an American cannon ball which lodged in the wall and gave the house the name by which it has been known for many years. Seven rooms are open to the public and several will be decorated in colonial style for the holiday.

The society requests that anyone with photos or maps of Springfield locations which no longer exist, prominent citizens, or descendants of early settlers, call 973-376-4784 or come to the open house on Dec 7.

The Arcadia Publishing volume on Springfield for the "Images of America" series is in process and all material shared with the society will be considered for the book.

Refreshments will be served. For information, call 973-376-4784.

Tree lighting highlights town holiday festivities

Springfield's seasons greetings celebration will be in front of the Town Hall Dec. 9 at 6 p.m.

The township encourages residents to participate in lighting the Town Hall tree and welcoming a special visitor.

Everyone is welcome to Fire Headquarters immediately following the celebration, sponsored by IAMBA Local 57. Hot chocolate, cider and doughnuts will be served.

For the "Toys for Tots" collection, sponsored by the Springfield police and fire departments, anyone can drop off any new, unwrapped toy at the tree lighting.

In case of inclement weather, the holiday lighting will take place on Dec. 10 at 6 p.m.

Call 973-912-2228 after 1 p.m. on Dec. 9 if weather is questionable.

Israeli folk dance offered in Springfield

As the days get cooler, Springfield area residents are moving back indoors for aerobic exercise.

Through Dec. 16, Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive, will host Israeli folk dance lessons with master dance instructor Miriam Handler.

Handler has been teaching Israeli folk dancing for more than 25 years. All levels of dance experience are welcome for this eight-week course, which costs $100.

For information, call Genya Malfach at 973-376-0539 or e-mail Genya2@comcast.net.

Little helpers sought for Santa's Workshop

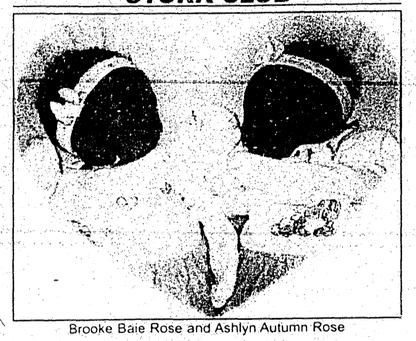
A Santa's Workshop will be Dec. 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish House auditorium, 37 Church Mall, Springfield.

Springfield Presbyterian Church will host this annual working so children get a chance to be busy little elves by making gifts for family, friends and teachers.

This event is open to children between the ages of 5 to 13. Call the church office 973-379-4320 to put a child's name on Santa's "helper list."

There is a $5 charge for this Yuletide activity to help pay for craft supplies and refreshments.

STORK CLUB



Brooke Baie Rose and Ashlyn Autumn Rose

Brooke Baie and Ashlyn Autumn Rose

A 5-pound, 14-ounce daughter, Brooke Baie, who measured 18 3/4 inches and a 5-pound, 10-ounce daughter, Ashlyn Autumn, who measured 18 inches, were born at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, Boston, Mass., to Mr. and Mrs. George Rose of Westborough, Mass., on Oct. 18.

Mrs. Rose, the former Patricia Lynn Kukan, formerly of Mountainside, is the daughter of Mrs. Joan Kukan of Springfield.

The fraternal twin girls, Brooke and Ashlyn, have "adopted" a maternal grandfather, Dominic DiNardo of South Plainfield. Mrs. Rose's husband is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Rose of Georgetown, Mass.

AT THE LIBRARY

Retirement planning seminar presents options

A retirement planning seminar open to the public will be offered at Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Financial counselor Ed Snonell will share more than 30 years of experience and personal tips to help participants focus their life-long goals for retirement. Topics to be covered include life insurance, health insurance and long-term care plans. Snonell will also review 401(k) and 403(b) plans, IRAs, Roth IRAs, annuities, bonds, indexes, and other tax-saving options.

As a financial counselor, Snonell has provided private counseling and conducted many courses and workshops at Union County College and area adult schools.

The Friends of the Mountainside Public Library sponsors the program which is free and open to all.

To register or for more information, call 908-233-0115.

Mark Twain video series begins with drama

Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will begin its Lunchtime Video Series "Mark Twain," Tuesday, at noon.

In "Pudd'nhead Wilson," America's popular storyteller Mark Twain has crafted a tale of mistaken identity, deceit and murder.

A slave woman, fair-skinned enough to switch her master's son with her own light-skinned baby, even though raised as a white man in a well-to-do society, the never fulfills her hopes and dreams for him as he becomes increasingly arrogant and cruel. Acclaimed actor Ken Howard — "Crossing Jordan," "The White Shadow" — stars as the local lawyer unraveling the mystery.

The series will continue Dec. 16 with "Life on the Mississippi."

On the Mississippi River in the 1850s, there could be no more romantic dream than to be a steamboat pilot. In "Life on the Mississippi," braving the hazards of the deceptive, ever-changing river is precisely what Sam has dreamed of, and now, signing on as a "cub" with Mr. adventure of a lifetime, emotionally and physically tested by the river and his employers, and ultimately braving the disastrous effects of a deadly riverboat explosion.

The series will conclude Dec. 30 with "The Innocents Abroad."

Holiday book sale offers gift-giving ideas

Mountainside Public Library will sponsor a special holiday book sale of new books only, starting Saturday.

New releases and new copies of previously published books will be for sale in time for holiday gift-giving.

All hardcover copies will sell for $5, paperbacks will be $3 each. The selection includes gift books, fiction, bestsellers, history, biographies, self-help and inspirational, animal stories, adventure tales and lots more.

The sale will continue until Christmas or until the supply of books is depleted. All proceeds from the sale will go for materials and furnishings for the library.

Call 908-233-0115 for more information.

Travel video series celebrates world festivals

Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will continue its Out of this World Travel Video Series with "Great Festivals" Friday at noon.

From ancient tribal rituals in Papua, New Guinea to post-modern pagan parties in the American desert, Justine Shapiro and her fellow travelers take viewers on a round-the-world celebration. Enhanced with additional footage, Pilot Guide to Great Festivals invites viewers to travel the world and celebrate. The film is 116 minutes.

Bring a brown bag lunch to the program. Refreshments will be provided.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

Armchair travelers can explore historic sites

Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will continue its Out of this World Travel Video Series with "Great Historic Sites," on Dec. 5 at noon.

Everywhere in the world, each civilization has left its mark, from the New World Mayans to the mysterious statues on Easter Island in the Pacific. Pilot Guide to Great Historic Sites gives viewers insight into ancient people and the world they lived in.

Megan McCormick and her fellow travelers take viewers on a journey through history and time, exploring some of sites around Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Asia. The film is 83 minutes.

The series will continue Dec. 12 with "Best Treks." Whether it be in the Moroccan Sahara desert or on top of the Himalayas, the Pilot Guide to Best Treks gives viewers a taste of some exceptional escapes. Ian Wright and his fellow travelers take viewers to trekking destinations across some of the harshest and remotest places on earth — across every continent from Asia to the Arctic, Australia to Africa. The film is 112 minutes.

The series will conclude Dec. 19 with "Best Beaches." Whether you are an intrepid backpacker looking for adventure, or a pleasure seeking hedonist, finding the perfect stretch of coast is one of the top priorities. Justine Shapiro and her fellow travelers offer a month-by-month guide to some of the world's best beaches. From America to the Caribbean islands, Europe, Africa, Asia, Micronesia and Australia, visit some of the far-flung shores where they have bathed, surfed, dived, and even slept. The film is 98 minutes.

Bring a brown bag lunch. Refreshments will be provided.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

One-act plays present unusual encounters

"Encounters," a group of one-act plays written and directed by Naomi Yablonsky of Springfield tells the stories of unusual encounters, bothcome and poignant, between people. The performance is scheduled for Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. in the Donald H. Palmer Museum of Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave.

In the cast are Elizabeth Chiche of Westfield, Lynn Langone of Cranford, Arianana Llanos-Carrizo and Tom Galan of Elizabeth, Stow Lovejoy of Summit, and Frank Lettera of Scotch Plains. Eliot Laneson is stage manager and Bob Murray is lighting designer.

The plays were originally produced at the Westfield Community Players.

Yablonsky has performed and directed plays at the Westfield Community Players, Cranford Dramatic Club and other local theaters.

For more information, call 973-376-4930. Pick up your free ticket at the Circulation Desk of the library.

Book group examines 'Origin of Government'

Once a month, the Great Books Discussion Group meets to examine the great books of civilization. The winter selections range from essays to fiction.

The group meets the third Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. in Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave.

"Origin of Government" by Hobbes will be the topic of the Dec. 18 discussion.

Hobbes's ideas arose not from tradition or science but from his own deep knowledge and experience of human nature. Hobbes' argument in this work is the basis for much of western political and moral theory.

The next two discussions will be Melville's "Billy Budd, Sailor" on Jan. 15 and Smith's "Wealth of Nations" of Feb. 19.

The Great Books compilation may be purchased for $20 at the Circulation Desk. The discussion group welcomes new members. Participants are invited to come to any or all of the discussions.

Lions Club conducts art auction

The Springfield Lions Club, in association with Ross Art Inc., invites the public to a gala art exhibit and auction on Sunday at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Harvard Street and Shunpike Road, Springfield.

Doors open at 1 p.m. with the auction beginning at 2 p.m. Admission is $10 per person, which includes wine and cheese, coffee, tea and snacks. A cash bar will also be available.

Oils, mixed media, lithographs, animation cells, and sports collectibles in a range of opening bid prices will be on display. There will be door prizes for those in attendance.

Items include art by Neiman, the Wyeths, Rockwell, Wooster-Scott, Tarkay, and many others. Estate jewelry will also be on display and offered for sale to the highest bidder.

Proceeds from the event will go to Springfield Lions charities, including the Lions Eye Research Foundation, Camp Marcella for blind children, local youth sports, scholarships, and the town fire and rescue services.

For tickets or information, call any Springfield Lion, or Ken Mattfield at 908-561-5267.

School's label collection continues

During the past 30 years, Campbell's Labels for Education program has delivered more than $1 million in free merchandise to schools nationwide.

Deerfield Elementary School in Mountainside is asking parents, teachers and friends in the community to collect Campbell's product labels that can be redeemed for free educational merchandise.

For information, call the school coordinator, Sandy Wilson, at 908-654-5515. The 2003-04 program runs until June 1.

Anyone in the community can help Deerfield Elementary School earn free merchandise such as computers, audio visual equipment, sports equipment, reference books, musical instruments and even a minivan, simply by collecting labels from Campbell's products and forwarding them to Deerfield Elementary School.

The products include:

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- Prego pasta sauces
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- Pace Salsa and picante sauces
- V8 vegetable juices and V8 Splash juice drinks
- Campbell's tomato juice
- Pepperidge Farm breads, cookies, crackers, and frozen products

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news:

Church, club and social — Friday noon.

Entertainment — Friday noon.

Sports — Monday noon.

Letter to the Editor — Monday 9 a.m.

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Union County

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

WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS Wednesday, November 26, 2003 - SECTION B http://www.localsource.com

Determined to turn around

Eavesdropping over the weekend, the buzz at the next breakfast table compared the voluntary buy-out plans of Schering-Plough Corp. in Kenilworth to the one offered at Verizon's office in Cranford.

Lately, the list of county corporate giants on the economic ropes should cause pause. Add to the list Merck and Co. in Rahway, Elizabethtown Gas and the closing of Kids "R" Us to the bad news list.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

Schering-Plough CEO Fred Hassan is one guy not going down without a fight. In fact, while pitching the critical Wall Street analysts over the past week, he was quoted, "This is a situation we are determined to turn around."

The situation is a combination of economic and regulatory body blows suffered by the company on the Boulevard. A $500 million fine issued by the Food and Drug Administration and the disappointing profit from their stellar sales product Claritin are two reasons for the woe. By Dec. 15, many longtime employees have to decide if they will accept a voluntary retirement plan. Job cuts are also expected.

In Rahway, the business wires reported that Merck and Co. Inc. had abandoned a new diabetes drug just before it was to be marketed. The technical name of the drug was MK-767. It turns out the drug may have caused tumors in experimental mice. Considering the company's failure to bring to market a touted anti-depression drug earlier this year, there is little holiday cheer at the Route 1 plant.

In fairness, in the rough and tumble world of drug makers, both these giants have flourished. It may be that we are all so spoiled we always expect them to hit the marketing ball out of the park. The next blockbuster cure is just around the corner for these companies, or so they hope.

Less expected has been the fiasco at NJ Corporation. They are still known as Elizabethtown Gas Company to most of their quarter million consumers. I mean after all, the gas company, run by the Keans, does it get any safer? Well maybe it does. There was the loss of $25 million last quarter in earnings. The State Board of Public Utilities is auditing the company and the state Division of Criminal Justice is supposedly also sniffing around. The company even hired the prestigious Suisse First Boston to market the utility quickly.

Just down the road on Morris Avenue in Union, a sign in the window of the Kids "R" Us store explained to "quests", also known as customers, that they will be closing their doors as of Jan. 31. A none-too-subtle reminder are the big signs in the store "Everything must go" and "Nothing held back."

Still, with sales placed at only between 10 and 30 percent, a good bet is the prices will drop even more before the lock is finally put in the door.

It reminds me of Simon and Garfunkel saying Cecilia was shaking their confidence. A survey by U.S. Trust said the big boys with income over $325,000 a year, by a whopping 79 percent, question the reliability of corporate financial statements.

Still, even in that survey most think the market will grow. Our state's unemployment is down to 5.7 percent and most merchants expect a better Christmas economically than last year.

So even with the fiasco in Iraq, and the weakened state of our corporate giants, we still have optimism. All the more reason to hope Fred Hassan has it right about turning things around.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

Photo By Barbara Kolkalis

Continuing century-old tradition, Cajia Koon of Union drops money into The Salvation Army kettle as volunteer Josette Wray looks on, ringing her bell.

Red Kettle campaign under way

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

This holiday season, many more people are coming to The Salvation Army asking for help.

"The people who have been laid off with the economy, they can't find a job," said Tricia Pellegrini, the Salvation Army's Public and Community Relations Manager. "They say that they simply cannot provide Christmas for their children this year."

The Salvation Army does not want to see a child without a toy on Christmas or without food on their table.

"The Salvation Army traditionally provides either dinner for the needy in the community or they will provide food baskets," said Pellegrini.

During the holiday season, the Salvation Army runs its Angel Tree program, where Christmas trees outfitted with tags are displayed throughout the state.

"You'll see them in malls and some stores," said Pellegrini.

Each tag has the name of a toy or article of clothing, which underprivileged kids have requested or need. Passersby take the tag off the tree, purchase the item, and then bring the item to The Salvation Army or location where they saw the Angel Tree.

"The Salvation Army then distributes the items," said Pellegrini.

Last year, A&P supermarkets displayed the Angel Trees and helped with the program. This year, the supermarket chain is continuing in its efforts.

"It's a pretty simple program but it does a lot for the needy children in the area," said A&P Director of Customer Service Tina Stockman. "Our managers did it last year and the stores were very excited about it, felt good about it, and wanted to do it again this year."

There are five A&P supermarkets located in Union County: Kenilworth, Union, Fanwood, Clark and New Providence.

Participants in the Angel Tree program need to drop off the gifts at an A&P or other Salvation Army-sponsored locations by Dec. 12 in order to get the gifts to the children in time for the holidays.

A&P will hold the gifts once they are purchased. The supermarket then contacts The Salvation Army, which picks up the gifts and distributes them to needy children.

"This is something that we feel strongly about because

See SALVATION, Page B2

Linden pushes to keep seat

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Freeholder Nicholas Scutari will vacate his seat on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders to join the state Senate, leaving county Democrats to find a replacement as the powers in Linden vie to keep the seat in the city where Scutari resides.

"Linden deserves it," said Linden Mayor John Gregorio. "Linden should get it and I think Linden will get it."

Scutari said he's not certain when he will vacate his seat on the freeholder board, where all nine seats currently are held by Democrats. He will be sworn in to a four-year term in the Senate on Jan. 13.

"After that happens then we'll start considering what I'll do next in terms of my seat on the freeholder board," Scutari said. "There's been no definite plans as to when or who and where."

Gregorio said he has a couple of people in mind to replace Scutari and he has mentioned their names to Union County Democratic Chairwoman Charlotte DeFilippo and state Sen. Raymond Lesniak, D-Union.

"I guess they'll talk about it and come up with who they think is the best person," said Gregorio.

Gregorio said he would not discuss who the possible replacements are. "We've got a lot of good people and whoever it will be will certainly be a well-qualified person."

However, names that have surfaced as possible replacements from Linden include current council members Eugene Davis and Charles Crane.

Davis, who has served on the Linden council for five years, said he believes the seat should remain in Linden.

"Linden, being a very commercial city — we have a lot of large industries and I believe that a freeholder from the City of Linden would be very beneficial because of that," said Davis.

In terms of size, Gregorio said Linden is the second-largest city by area in the county next to Elizabeth, which already has two freeholders: Angel Estrada and Daniel Sullivan.

"I think Linden certainly deserves to have someone from here," said Gregorio.

If elected to the freeholder board, Davis said he would remain on the Linden City Council and seek re-election in 2004.

"In the past there have been councilmen from Linden who have also held a seat as freeholder," he said.

Once Scutari steps down from the freeholder board, the Union County Democratic Committee will conduct a special election to decide who replaces him. The replacement would have to run in November for the remaining year of Scutari's three-year term on the board.

Although Davis and Crane are seeking the same seat, Davis said their relationship is not adversarial.

"We're going to leave it up to the committee who is going to make a choice," he said, explaining that both councilmen would be supportive of each other after the committee makes its decision.

Names from outside of Linden who have been mentioned as possible successors to Scutari include Cranford Committeeman George Jorn and Springfield Township Committeewoman Clara Harelik. Crane and Jorn could not be reached for comment by presstime Monday.

Union County Alliance marks 10th anniversary

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Billed as a tool to bring the components of business, education, labor and government together to facilitate projects that have a great advantage to the county, the Union County Alliance is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

Union County Alliance President Michael Murray said that at the time the alliance was being formed in 1993, out of all the counties in New Jersey Union County was ranked last in economic development.

"We led all counties in losing jobs," Murray said. "The future of the county was quite bleak from an economic standpoint."

Frank Lehr, a former Republican freeholder, was chairman of the Board of Chosen Freeholders when the Union County Alliance formed.

"The object was to get the county moving again, to get things going," said Lehr.

A coalition was formed to change the path of Union County's economic future.

"Instead of having government, business, labor and people from the world of education working by themselves and sometimes against each other — they brought those four entities together and formed a coalition for action to move Union County forward economically," said Murray.

Lehr said that in 1993 the alliance was started with funding from Kean College and the county. Both entities, he said, contributed $25,000.

"We got the thing going and got a lot of people interested," he said.

The alliance plans to celebrate its 10th anniversary on Dec. 15 with a dinner reception.

When the alliance was formed, Republicans held several seats on the nine-member Board of Chosen Freeholders. Since 1997, however, Democrats have won every county-wide election and now hold all nine seats.

Republicans have said that the alliance and its publication, "Union County Directions," is used as a public relations tool for Democratic incumbents.

"The Democrats now control the thing and they're just using it as a sounding board for public relations," said Lehr, who is still a member of the alliance's Board of Directors.

Union County Republican Chairman Ron Frigerio said he agrees with the alliance's initiatives but does not like the way they use their publication.

Frigerio said the latest issue came out in the fall, right in the middle of the campaign season and featured all three Democratic freeholder incumbents who were up for re-election on the front cover without any mention of Republican freeholder candidates.

"Instead of doing PR, I would like to see them try and determine what would attract business and bring business in," said Frigerio.

Murray emphasized that the alliance and its publication are bipartisan, pointing out that the alliance's honorary founding co-chairmen are state Sen. Raymond Lesniak, a Democrat, and former Acting Gov. Donald DiFrancesco, a Republican.

"The alliance is about putting labels aside and working with talented people to make changes for the better in Union County," said Murray, who prior to becoming president earlier this year was the county's director of communications.

Lesniak said it is extremely unfair of Republicans to label the alliance as a public relations tool for the Democrats.

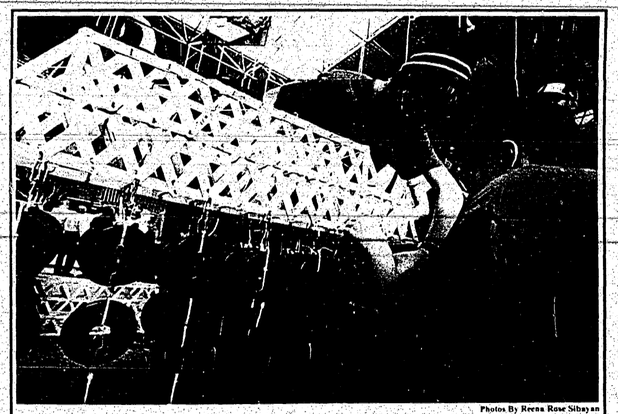
"Because it's funded for the most part by county government it's possible that some Republicans are jealous over the fact that all the freeholders are Democrats," he said. "If they elect a Republican freeholder then the Republicans on a freeholder level would be part of it. They haven't been able to elect a freeholder. That's not our fault."

Frigerio said the alliance should promote Union County's strengths, such as the Elizabeth port and Linden's industrial center.

"Reach out to other people in those trades that would be looking for a place that is attractive to them," said Frigerio.

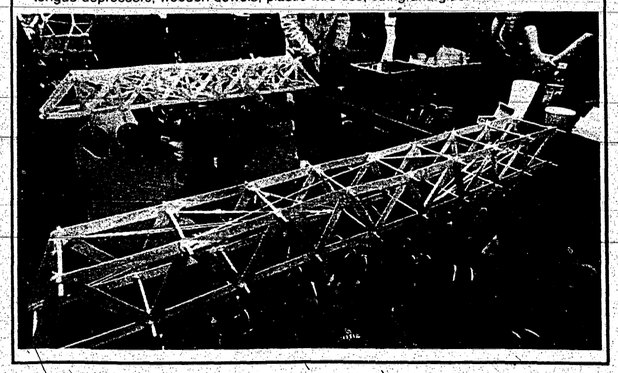
Since the alliance was formed, Union County's economic outlook has

See ALLIANCE, Page B2



Photos By Reena Rose Sibayan

POTENTIAL ENGINEERS — Students from David Brearley High School in Kenilworth, Frankie Guarala and Michael Loza, above, add another weight to their team's bridge during a bridge building competition Thursday morning at Union County College's Cranford campus. Union High School senior Rodrigo Correa, below, carefully adds another weight ot his team's creation. Teams from 11 schools in Union County competed in the seventh annual competition in which students must build a Truss bridge using only wooden tongue depressors, wooden dowels, plastic wire ties, string and glue.



COUNTY NEWS

Lenape Park clean-up

Residents, merchants, scout, school and community groups are being sought to help pull weeds and debris and trash at Lenape Park on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

The clean-up will begin at the Broad Street and Springfield Avenue entrance of Lenape Park in Westfield.

Participants should dress to get dirty and wet and bring work gloves and crab nets or large dip nets if they have them. Trash bags, some tools and gloves will be provided. Children ages 14 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Volunteers should call 908-527-4032 to register.

Nominations sought for Women of Excellence

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Commission on the Status of Women are accepting nominations for the 12th annual Women of Excellence Awards.

The commission is looking for outstanding women nominees of Union County who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following categories: Arts and Humanities, Business/Entrepreneur, Community Service, Education, Government, Law Law Enforcement, Media, Health Care, and/or Women's Advocacy.

The women selected from the nominees will be honored at The Westwood, 438 North Ave., Garwood, on March 12 at 7 p.m.

Recipients of the Union County 2003 Women of Excellence awards were:

- Edith Coogan of Cranford, Women's Advocacy.
- Stephanie Faucras of Elizabeth, Community Service.
- Carmella Marucci in the field of Business/Entrepreneurship.
- Nancy Piwowar of Plainfield, Arts and Humanities;
- Union Mayor Brenda Restivo, Government;
- Avonia Richardson-Miller, Plainfield, Business and Entrepreneurship.
- Cynthia Roemer of Union County College in Cranford, Education.
- Harriet Gibbs Russell of Union, lifetime achievement in Education
- Evelyn Stanislawczyk of Elizabeth, Medicine

Due to the overwhelming interest in this annual event, the Union County Commission on the Status of Women is encouraging all nominations to be submitted as soon as possible.

To submit a nomination, send a cover letter, resume and biographical statement about the woman, highlighting her accomplishment in a particular category to Joan Abitante, 322 Dietz Street, Roselle, 07203.

For more information, call Abitante at 908-241-4889.

UCUA annual meeting

The Union County Utilities Authority, 1400 Routes 1&9, Rahway, will convene its annual public meeting Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. regarding the Union County Resource Recovery Facility, to be conducted by Covanta Union Inc., formerly Ogden Martin of Union Inc., as the solid waste facility permittee.

The open public meeting is to provide local officials and the general public with an annual forum to allow public input and exchange of ideas relating to the Union County Resource Recovery Facility.

Following the special meeting, the UCUA's regular meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call 732-382-9400.

Tax volunteers sought

RSVP is recruiting seniors, 55 and older to volunteer to help prepare tax returns for the elderly, frail, low-income and disabled citizens of Union County. Tax counseling will be offered at various sites within Union County. A special tax law training session will be offered free at Community Access Unlimited for the volunteer tax counselors in early January.

Last year hundreds of tax returns were completed through this program.

If you are interested in becoming an RSVP volunteer tax counselor, call Steve at 908-354-3040, Ext. 369.

Community blood drives

The Blood Center of New Jersey and the Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross will sponsor the following blood drives:

- Friday, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union.
- Tuesday, 3 to 8 p.m., Westfield Mountainside chapter, American Red Cross, 329 Elm St., Westfield.
- Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Masonic Lafayette Lodge, 1550 Irving St., Rahway.
- Dec. 8, 4 to 8 p.m., Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park Avenue and Randolph Road.
- Dec. 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Our Lady of Peace Parish Hall, 111 South St., New Providence.
- Dec. 14, 1 to 4 p.m., Westfield First Street Block Association, 539 First St., Westfield.

For more information, call the Blood Center at 1-800-652-5663, ext. 140, or the Red Cross at 908-353-2500.

Donors must be 17 years of age. There is no upper age limit to donors provided they meet health requirements. Donors should know their Social Security number and bring a signed or picture form of identification.

Salvation Army here to help

(Continued from Page B1)

it goes to the needy children in the area," said Stockman. "We got a great response from our customers. Our associates felt good about it and our customers felt good about it."

Also in time for the holiday season, The Salvation Army kicked off its annual red kettle drive earlier this month. Proceeds from the drive help fund The Salvation Army's corps throughout the year.

The origin of the red Christmas kettle began in 1891, when a Salvation Army captain in San Francisco wanted to provide a free Christmas dinner to the area's poor. However, he wasn't sure how to gather enough money to pay for the dinner.

From his days as a sailor in Liverpool, England, the captain remembered a large pot, displayed on the Stage Landing, where people passing by would toss in charitable donations.

The captain thought this would be a good idea to help raise money for his dinner. He presented the idea to city officials and received permission to place a similar pot at the Oakland ferry landing at the foot of San Francisco's Market Place.

Four years later, 30 Salvation Army corps in the West Coast area used the kettle. Today, kettles now are used around the world — including Korea, Japan, Chile and Europe — to bring the spirit of Christmas to people who might be otherwise forgotten. In the United States alone, The Salvation Army annually aids more than six million people during Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The kettles have changed since that first one in San Francisco. Today, some kettles have devices such as a self-ringing bell, a booth with a system that broadcasts Christmas carols and even the capability for donors to use credit cards.

Last year, The Salvation Army provided 507,000 meals to hungry families and individuals, helped 360,841 individuals receive emergency assistance for food, rent, utilities and other basic needs, provided 18,147 nights of sheltered care, visited 121,142 shut-ins, served 73,540 seniors through senior clubs, feeding and visitation programs and helped 256,964 individuals receive clothing, food, toys and other assistance during the holidays.

Help is available from The Salvation Army through 33 corps community centers, 142 service unit programs, five emergency shelters, four adult rehabilitation centers, two regional service centers and a residential camp.

To help out this holiday season, call The Salvation Army at 908-851-9300.

Alliance will celebrate 10 years

(Continued from Page B2)

improved drastically, said Murray.

"Union had gone from quite a bleak outlook back in 1993 to one of economic prosperity," he said.

One of the most important projects the alliance had a hand in, Murray said, was the Jersey Gardens Mall in Elizabeth.

"Many of the projects are generating ratables and jobs for the County of Union," he said.

Lesniak agreed that the mall was one of the alliance's greatest accomplishments.

"It's a perfect example where it brings business interests, labor interests and governmental interests together to achieve on a non-partisan basis something for Union County," said Lesniak.

Frigerio said he is supportive of some of the projects the alliance has been involved in, such as the Jersey Gardens Mall. "I think it's a good thing," he said. "It took an area that otherwise was going downhill fast and rejuvenated it."

Some of the upcoming projects the alliance is involved in include the updating of the Union County healthcare baseline assessment. The baseline was last assessed 2½ years ago, said Murray, explaining that it needs modifications and updates. The assessment will lay a foundation for the future of healthcare in the county.

"I'm waiting to hear back on how much it costs to update it and then I'm going to publish that with a healthcare directory," said Murray.

The alliance is also involved in conducting marketing to obtain additional grants for projects such as the Brownfield Outreach Program, which will create marketing materials for Union County.

In the spring, the alliance will co-sponsor the county's third annual Public Safety Day.

Murray said the alliance has been instrumental in "making Union County a better place to do business, to raise a family, to bring your family."

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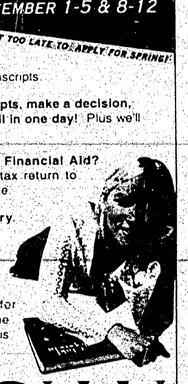

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To register or for more information call
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Schoolhouse' to rock CDC

The Cranford Dramatic Club will present its Children's Theater production this year, "Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr." on Dec. 6, 7 and 8.

This fun and energetic musical is based on the Emmy Award-winning educational cartoon series, and continues CDC's annual holiday tradition of shows for the young and young at heart.

Carl Barbier Steele, a CDC veteran popular in both local and professional theatrical venues, directs this year's production. Art Kunst, producer, says, "It's a lively show filled with catchy tunes, dancing, and interaction with the audience. It's a great favorite of children of all ages, as well as adults, and will stimulate the imagination of all."

"Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr." includes a cast of both CDC veterans and newcomers. Rick Brown returns to the CDC stage as Tom, the school teacher who anxiously awaits his first day on the job. Arriving just in time to provide Tom with the inspiration he needs is the Schoolhouse Rock bunch, portrayed by CDC veterans Ed Wittel, Melissa Lodersteit and Paul Sadowski Jr., and newcomers Freddi Mack and Brittanae Smith McGee.

The Cranford Dramatic Club is located at 78 Winans Ave., off Centennial Avenue near Exit 136 of the Garden State Parkway, in Cranford. Performances are Dec. 5th at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 6 at 1:30, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 7 at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Tickets are $8 and can be reserved at the box office by calling 908-276-7611.

Council plans to aid process

New Jersey State Council on the Arts Grant Guidelines and Applications are now available for FY 2004-05 in the following categories: Special Project Grants to support a single arts event, Projects Serving Artists Grants to support artists in advancing their careers including the commissioning of new artwork, and Community Arts Collaboration Grants to support consortiums of three or more different community organizations in meeting a community challenge through the arts.

Guidelines and applications are available online at www.njarts.state.nj.us and may be completed and submitted electronically.

According to Executive Director David Miller, "Project support of these types is vitally important to the council's overall goal for the arts to be woven into the fabric of our community. By helping our artists succeed, our communities to find creative solutions to challenges and promoting events that encourage diverse community participation, we reveal and strengthen the ways that the arts make a difference in our lives, our families and our towns and cities."

In order to be eligible for council grants, applicants must be either a nonprofit organization incorporated in New Jersey, a unit of government, or a college university, have tax-exempt status by the IRS, be in existence at least two years, and demonstrate that its activities serve a multi-county region of the state.

Intent to Apply Forms, contained in the Guidelines booklet, are due by Dec. 12, 2003, while applicants must complete and submit applications by Feb. 20, 2004.

The NJSCA will send a postcard announcing the availability of the Guidelines and Application forms to all current NJSCA grantees and to organizations that applied for funding in the FY 2003-04 grants cycle.

All other interested applicants should contact the NJSCA at 609-292-6130 or 609-633-1386 for TTY, via e-mail at info@njartscouncil.org, or by mail at NJSCA, P.O. Box 306, Trenton, 08625-0306 to request forms. Forms also will be available on the NJSCA's Web site at www.njartscouncil.org. A large-print version of the Guidelines and Applications are available upon request.

Workshops, conducted by NJSCA staff, will be offered in various regions of the state for groups seeking assistance with the application process. The workshops, intended to furnish applicants with technical assistance and guidance, are:

FY 2004-2005 Grant Workshops' Schedule

All workshops begin at 11 a.m. with office hours from 1:30 to 3 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Workshops run approximately 1 to 1½ hours.

- Monday — Growing Stage Theater for Young Audiences, 7 Ledgewood Ave., Route 183, Netcong, Morris County, RSVP to Tom Romano at 973-347-4946.
- Tuesday — Ritz Theater, workshop at 10 a.m., with office hours 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 915 White Horse Pike, Oaklyn, Camden County, RSVP to Tina Yerkes at 856-858-5230.
- Tuesday — New Jersey State Council on the Arts, workshop at 2:30 p.m., with office hours 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., 225 West State St., fourth floor, Trenton, Mercer County, RSVP to Katrina Comolli at 609-292-6130.
- Dec. 8 — George Street Playhouse, workshop at 2:30 p.m., with office hours 4 to 5:30 p.m., 9 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, Middlesex County, RSVP to David Risley at 732-846-2895, ext. 142.
- Dec. 9 — Alongquin Arts, 17 Main St., Manasquan, Monmouth County, RSVP to Dana Roberts at 732-528-9221.

Model RRers offer 'Sound, Lights'

The Model Railroad Club Inc., an activity of the Union County Park System, announced the dates for its annual "Sound and Light Show."

The show will run Nov. 28 to 30, Dec. 5 to 7, and Dec. 12 to 14 at the club building, located on Jefferson Avenue off Route 22 east in Union, behind The Home Depot. The show times are Fridays from 5 to 7 p.m., Saturdays from noon to 9 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m.

Advance-sale, discounted tickets are being offered. Tickets are on sale at the club on Saturdays between 1 and 4 p.m. or available by mail by sending a check or money order payable to The Model Railroad Club Inc., P.O. Box 1146, Union, 07083-1146. Tickets, if purchased in advance, are priced at $5 for adults, $2 for children ages 12 and younger, and $3 for senior citizens age 60 and older; if purchased in advanced tickets purchased at the door on show dates are $6 for adults, $3 for children ages 12 and younger, and $4 for senior citizens 60 and older.

The show features the club's 1,600-square-foot HO Scale layout. A 30-by-27-foot, double-decked N Scale layout is featured, as well as outdoor and indoor garden railroad display loops. Visitors will also be able to view the progress that has been made on the 60-by-50-foot addition to the HO Scale layout and enjoy displays in the gallery area.

The "Sound and Light Show" is a perennial favorite with children and adults alike. It is the organization's major fund-raising event for the year, and proceeds from admission donations and purchases made at the club's gift shop will help fund the club's activities.

For more information, contact the club at 908-964-9724 on Saturdays between 1 and 5 p.m., or 908-964-8808 for a recorded message, or by visiting the club's Web site at www.tmrcl.com.

'Sam' definitely generates laughs

On The Boards

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

You don't have to be a Woody Allen advocate to enjoy his "Play It Again, Sam," but it would help, especially when his actors spew out some very funny lines most often from the principal character, who is actually Allen in disguise.

Since most of Allen's works are, in part, autobiographical, one can recognize all of his idiosyncrasies in his main characters in all of his plays.

"Play It Again, Sam," as offered at the Elizabeth Playhouse in Elizabeth, is well directed by Marlow Ferguson. Its actors seem to recognize all of Allen's shticks, and plays them all to the hilt.

The comedy, in three acts, takes place in the summer of 1969 in the apartment of writer Allan Felix on West 109th Street in New York City. This Allan, who is obsessed with Humphrey Bogart, particularly Bogart's film, Casablanca," tries in vain to live life as Bogart's shadow. He even converses with his made-up Bogart, attempts to take his advice and utilizes him as his alter-ego.

The current problem in Allan's convoluted life is that his wife has just left him, and what-wife wouldn't?, and his best friends, Linda and Dick Christie, attempt to fix him up with other women, with sheer, disastrous results. The man is afraid of life itself, afraid of people, afraid of himself and lives his life in a dream world. He even finds himself falling for his best friend's wife and he utilizes the figments of his imaginations, scoff at his efforts to find other women in his life.

Tom Beginski, as Bogey, is dressed as Bogart always is in his lifetime raincoat and shadowy hat. His voice is too soft-spoken. One can barely hear him as he offers advice every time the lights dim. Trisha Remlinger, who plays four roles, the Dream Sharon, Gina, Go-Go Girl and Barbara, is effective, as is Lisa Merder as Sharon Lake Vanessa and Intellectual Girl.

The play, which evoked numerous chuckles from the audience Sunday afternoon, will run through Dec. 21.

When it was first staged on Broadway decades ago, Woody Allen, who wrote and directed and starred in it, had as his Linda, Diane Keaton. And this record was the affair craziness in the movie. Recently, as Diane Keaton, but she can give that Oscar winner a run for her money.

In the Elizabeth Playhouse, one is reminded of the last scene in "Casablanca" by Bogarte singing, whistling the famous tune, "As Time Goes By."

Because, certainly, as time goes by, "Play It Again, Sam," a play that was and "as the Casablanca" movie, can become funnier and funnier. Especially when it is being so carefully directed by Ferguson.

It one needs a chuckle or two, or even a laugh or two, "Play It Again, Sam" is the show to see, right here at the Elizabeth Playhouse on East Jersey Street.

love affair between Bogart and Ingrid Bergman as his own love affair with Linda Christie.

He certainly doesn't need another wife or lover, what he does need is a good shrink. And he finds him in his imagination Bogart, who speaks only to Allan.

By the end of the third act, the audience is thoroughly sated with Allan's frustrations and impossible dreams and is ready to consult its own shrink!

Robert Pape is properly cast as the mixed up Allan Felix. Just as Woody Allen can, he can make an audience crazy with his admirable antics. He is smooth, usually horribly dressed, and comedic, too, particularly when he tosses around some of Allen's funniest lines.

Jeanne Rice, as Linda Christie, is lovely and talented as she runs the gamut of emotions in her relationships with her husband and her best friend, who becomes an interim lover. She is a fine actress and convincing in every thing she does on stage.

Clint Scott, as Dick Christie, is a handsome young man, whose comedic talents are brought out by Allen's characterizations.

Judy England is equally good as Nancy, Allan Felix's ex-wife, who in

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ART CLIPS

Arboretum hosts author

Arthur Vanderbilt II wears many hats, from attorney to gardener to author.

He has combined the latter two avocations by writing "Gardening in Eden: The Joys of Planning and Tending a Garden," published this year by Simon and Schuster.

Vanderbilt is a resident of northern New Jersey who enjoys visiting Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit. On Dec. 6, he will autograph copies of his new book at The Garden Shop at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, 165 Hobart Ave., from 2 to 4 p.m.

He has written many works of non-fiction, including "Fortune's Children," "Golden Days," and "The Making of a Bestseller."

The Garden Shop at Reeves-Reed Arboretum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The book signing will be Dec. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call 908-277-1900.

"Swam to go" mm"

Historic Swain Galleries, a family-owned art enterprise in Plainfield since 1868, will celebrate "A 135th Christmas Weekend" on Dec. 6 and 7.

The celebration will begin with the opening reception on Dec. 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. for the "Christmas Miniatures" exhibit of small-scale art by 19 noted gallery artists. Following on Dec. 7, a Holiday Open House is scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. with refreshments served and a display of old photographs, memorabilia and the original "Philip Swain, Practical Grider" sign. Philip Swain, founder, was the great-grandfather of current proprietor Ann Swain, the fourth generation of Swains to run the business and the first woman.

The multi-media showcase of "Miniatures" features the works of Douglas Allen, Judy Banyas, Kat Block, Nancy Brangaccio, Patricia Brentano, Leslie Delgyer, Mark deMos, Andrew Engel, Helen Jacobs, Timothy Jahn, Carroll Jones, Louis Lanzafama, Nat Lewis, Karen McCormack, Paul McCormack, Richard Nagrodsky, Dean Ostrum, John Reilly, and S. Allyn Schaeffer.

"Christmas Miniatures" Artists

Basking Ridge: Nancy Brangaccio
Caldwell: Nat Lewis
Clifton: John Reilly
Fanwood: S. Allyn Schaeffer
Jersey City: Carroll Jones
Morristown: Mark deMos
Neshanic: Douglas Allen
Paramus: Helen Jacobs
Piscataway: Timothy Jahn
Roselle: Judy Banyas
North Plainfield: Leslie Delgyer
Springfield: Kat Block
Toms River: Louis Lanzafama
Westfield: Patricia Brentano
New York City: Richard Nagrodsky and Dean Ostrum
New York State: Karen McCormack and Paul McCormack

The exhibit continues through Dec. 30, Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. at Swain Galleries, 703 Watchung Ave. in the historic Crescent District of Plainfield. For more details, call 908-561-707. On view will be florals, portraits, still lifes, landscapes, animals and wildlife and more in oils, watercolors, acrylics, gouaches, pastels, cut paper collage, pen-and-ink, colored pencil, calligraphy, and others.

www.localsource.com
Internet Directory

Agape Family Worship Center	http://www.agapecenter.org
American Savings Bank	http://www.americansavingsnj.com
Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce	http://www.compunite.com/bcc
Burgdorff ERA	http://www.burgdorff.com
Crossroads Christian Fellowship	http://www.ccfou.org
Eye Care Center of NJ	http://www.eyecarenj.com
First Night of Maplewood/So. Orange	http://community.nj.com/cc/firstnight-soma
Forest Hill Properties Apartments	http://www.springstreet.com/propid/389126
Grand Sanitation	http://www.grandsanitation.com
Holy Cross Church	http://www.holycrossnj.org
Hospital Center at Orange	http://www.cathedralhealthcare.org
JRS Realty	http://www.century21jrs.com
LaSalle Travel Service	http://www.lasalletravel.com
Mountainside Hospital	http://www.AtlanticHealth.org
Nutley Pet Center	http://www.nutleypet.com
Pet Watchers	http://www.petwatchersnj.com
Rets Institute	http://www.rets-institute.com
Skincare Products	www.marykay.com/chandrac
South Orange Chiropractic	http://www.sochiro.com
Summit Area Jaycees	http://www.angelfire.com/nj/summitjc
Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad	http://www.summitems.org
Synergy Federal Savings Bank	http://www.synergyonthenet.com
Trinitas Hospital	http://www.trinitashospital.com
Turning Point	http://www.turningpointnj.org
Union Center National Bank	http://www.ucnb.com
Unitarian Universalist Church	http://www.firstuu.essex.nj.uua.org
United Way of Bloomfield	http://www.unitedwaybloomfield.org

To be listed call 908-686-7700

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Every Sunday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Starting October 26th, 2003, Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance is opening their doors to the public for Sunday Brunch.
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Bacon, Sausage, Ham
Danish, Muffins, Bagels
Fresh Fruit and Fruit Juices
Assorted Cheesecakes/Greek Desserts and much more!!

Carving Station: Prime Rib, Roast Beef, Virginia Ham, Roasted Turkey, Smoked Salmon
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SUN., NOV 30TH 4PM	MICKY PERRY
SAT., DEC 6TH 10PM	SEQUIOA
SUN., DEC 7TH 2PM	TRADITIONAL IRISH SESSI'UN
SAT., DEC 13TH 10PM	STRONGER THAN DIRT
SUN., DEC 14TH 4PM	BANTRY BOYS

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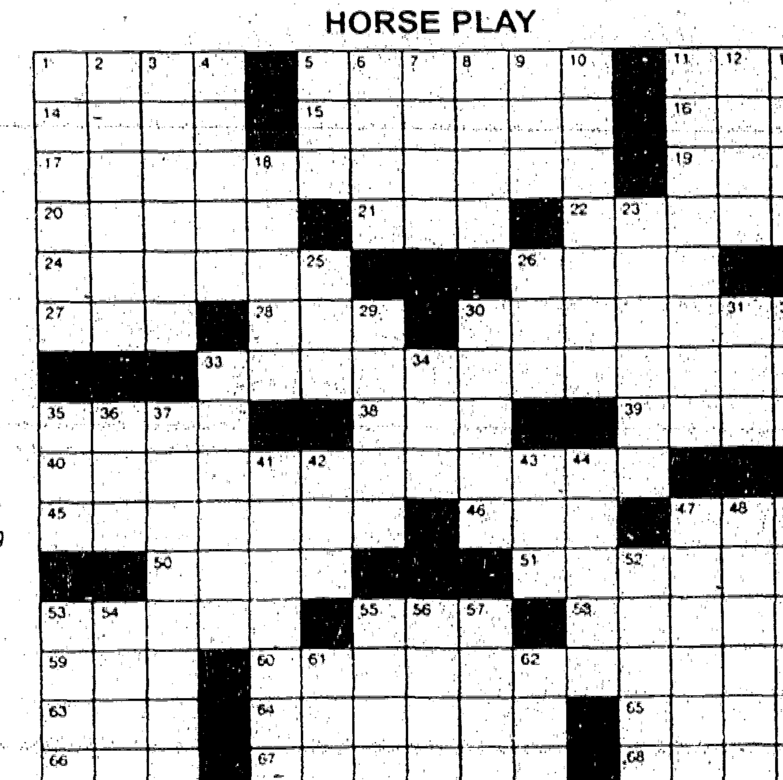
HORSE PLAY



ACROSS

1 D'Urbervilles lass
5 Impassive
11 Coffee house?
14 European export
15 Seek ambitiously
16 Born
17 Early mail system
19 ___ Plaines
20 Less hospitable
21 Part of DOS: abbr.
22 Unlawful removal
24 Kind of music
26 Story teller, perhaps
27 Georgia, once
28 "___ folly to be wise" Gray
30 Deer meat
33 View from Darjeeling
35 Jazz combo
38 Ball follower
39 Recipe amount
40 John Elway, notably
45 Church gatherings
46 Wire measure
47 Actor Kilmer
50 Not as much
51 Grand ___ Island
53 Bad treatment
55 Motorists' org.
58 Track competitor
59 Alfred E. Neuman's magazine
60 Chevy Camaro competitor
63 Manage, with out
64 Not mellow
65 French 101 verb
66 Composer Rorem
67 Timmy's dog
68 Letter opener

DOWN

1 Areas for discussion
2 Distinctive periods
3 Highest-ranking
4 More crafty
5 Clinton's instrument
6 Cookbook abbreviation
7 Grand Ole ___
8 Is situated
9 April 15th gp
10 Preordain
11 Like much plant life
12 Coral formation
13 Bird house
18 Poetry muse
23 Coif
25 Bklyn. campus
26 My Name Is Asher ___
29 Nose-in-the-air types
30 Spitefulness
31 WWII agency
32 Final degree?
33 Films
34 High peak
35 NFL scores
36 Popular '20s auto
37 Like batteries, on occasion
41 Quiet
42 Treasure Island author's monogram
43 Penpoint
44 Shows appreciation, in a way
47 Get out of
48 Ancient Theban supreme god
49 Of greater size
52 Detested
53 Encouraging word
54 Use the oven
55 Pendulum paths
56 Commotions
57 Mine, in Metz
61 Man-mission connector
62 Suffix with glob

See ANSWERS on Page B8

HOROSCOPE

Dec. 1-7

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your beliefs or philosophies may be questioned. Come up with unique and interesting answers to defend your school of thought.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Plans are reborn with added insights. Breathe new life into an old project, make necessary adjustments and let them work for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Relationships are very exciting and unpredictable this week. Fasten your seat belt and be prepared for a heart-stopping up-and-down ride.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Pace yourself during periods of exercise and avoid burnout. It is important to stay consistent and regulate your time of participation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Play it safe and avoid betting your life savings on a speculative venture. Follow your partner's lead to a safe port of financial calm and security.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It is time to clear up a misunderstanding with a family member. Bury any negative feelings you have been carrying around and move on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Words are very powerful and extraordinary tools. Use them to communicate creatively and to get your point across to peers or children.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Review your emotional assets and make a list of what you have to offer to a special relationship. Keep feelings and expectations as equal as possible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The sun in your sign this week contributes to a feeling of self-confidence. Hold your head up and radiate a glow from within.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Contribute to a humanitarian cause and really make a difference. Consider using compassion in a touchy or forced negotiation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You should be unconcerned about what others think of you. Put forth a positive image to the world and demonstrate your courage and self-esteem.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't fight the system. Take a responsible approach in a business endeavor and make discipline and focus a big part of the plan.

If your birthday is this week, you have serious money issues or lessons on tap during the coming year. Take a close look at your values and set your priorities. Do not hesitate to think outside the box when it comes to problem-solving. The more creative or inventive you are, the more successful you can expect to be. Consider settling down in a relationship and making a long-term commitment.

Also born this week: Larry Bird, Ira Gershwin, George Armstrong Custer, Daryl Hannah and Lucy Liu.

REUNIONS

• Governor Livingston Regional High School Class of 1978 will conduct a two-day 25-year reunion Thursday and Friday, with various events planned. For information, call Craig Bruening at 315-446-9120, write to him at 2736 E. Lake Road, Skaneateles, NY 13152, or visit www.techmarcom.com/GL1978.

• Roselle Park High School Class of 1978 will conduct its 25-year reunion Friday at the Galloping Hill Caterers in Union. For information, call Jim Nicoll at 908-620-1337 or send inquiries to Nicoll via e-mail at thenicolls@comcast.net.

• David Brearley Regional High School, Kenilworth, Class of 1983 will conduct its 20-year reunion Saturday at Cafe Repetti in Kenilworth. For information, send e-mail to Susy.Condo@verizon.net or call 908-347-3542.

• Union High School Class of 1954 will conduct its 50-year reunion June 4 to 6, 2004. For information, write to Class of '54 Reunion Committee, 250 Globe Ave., Union, 07083.

• Linden High School Class of 1959 will conduct its 45-year reunion June 19, 2004 at the Sheraton Woodbridge. For information, call Jan Murawski at 732-381-1763.

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What's Going On?

FAIR

SATURDAY December 6th, 2003
EVENT: Annual Holiday Craft Fair
PLACE: St. John Vianney Church, 420 Inman Avenue, Colonia, NJ 07607
TIME: 9am to 4 pm
PRICE: Free. Parking Free. Admission Handicapped Accessible. Over 125 Crafters - Breakfast - Lunch available
ORGANIZATION: St. John Vianney Craft Fair Committee

SATURDAY December 6th, 2003
EVENT: CRAFT FAIR
PLACE: Mother Seton Regional High School, Valley Road, Clark, NJ
TIME: 9:00am-5:00pm
PRICE: Admission is FREE "Peppermint Boutique" - 150 crafters. Food available. For info 732-381-9739
ORGANIZATION: Mother Seton Regional High School Parent's Guild

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY November 30th, 2003
EVENT: Holiday Flea Market & Collectible Show
PLACE: Clark Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Avenue, Clark
TIME: 9AM-5PM-Indoor & Outdoor
DETAILS: Great gift items including new merchandise, crafts, collectibles and a garage/tag sale section! For information call 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Clark UNICO

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FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY & SUNDAY December 6th, 7th, 2003
EVENT: HOLIDAY FLEA MARKET & COLLECTIBLE SHOW
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Ave., Belleville (OFF JORALEMON ST)
TIME: Saturday 9am-5pm Outdoors, 6pm-10pm Indoors; Sunday 9am-5pm Indoors & Outdoors
DETAILS: SANTA will be arriving Saturday December 6th - 6-9PM & Sunday December 7th, 1-3PM. Take pictures with Santa (Bring your camera). New merchandise, crafts, collectibles and a garage/tag sale section! For information call 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Sponsored by Graduation Celebration & SEPPO

SATURDAY December 6th, 2003
EVENT: Big Indoor Flea Market
PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, 1 Raritan Road, Roselle
TIME: 9am-4pm
PRICE: Free Admission. Call for information 908-245-2350
ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School

AUCTION

SATURDAY December 6th, 2003
EVENT: ANNUAL HOLIDAY AUCTION
PLACE: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Rahway Avenue, Union (N. off of Morris Avenue)
TIME: 1pm-5pm
DETAILS: Lots of Prizes. Crystal, small appliances, food baskets, gift certificates, toys, Holiday items and many, many more. Call 908-964-7957 for more information and directions.
ORGANIZATION: Philoptochos Adelphotis "St. Irene" of St. Demetrios

OTHER

SATURDAY & SUNDAY November 6th, 7th, 2003
EVENT: The 11th Annual Holiday Art and Craft Show to Benefit HOMECorp of Montclair
PLACE: 156 South Fullerton Ave., Montclair (3 blocks off Bloomfield Avenue)
TIME: Saturday, 10am-6pm; Sunday, 11am-5pm
PRICE: Admission is Free
DETAILS: Featured will be Handmade gifts, ornaments, jewelry, furniture, pillows, scarves, floral, pottery, painting, prints, sculpture, quilts, woodwork, clothing and more. For more information call 973-783-5902
ORGANIZATION: [illegible] Designs and local crafters

SATURDAY December 6th, 2003
EVENT: [illegible] and Giftware Sale
PLACE: New Eyes for the Needy, 549 Millburn Avenue, Short Hills
TIME: 10am-3pm
PRICE: Free Admission. Antique and costume jewelry, watches, silver, crystal and porcelain at reasonable prices. For information call 973-376-4903
ORGANIZATION: New Eyes for the Needy

[illegible]

Deutsch photos inaugurate new gallery

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced the opening of an exhibit by photographer Martin Deutsch in the new gallery space at the offices of the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, located at 633 Pearl St. in downtown Elizabeth.

"The exhibit in the Pearl Street gallery is by award-winning photographer Martin Deutsch of Springfield," said Freeholder Chairwoman Deborah P. Scanlon. "We are pleased to display a retrospective of Mr. Deutsch's impressive body of work."

Deutsch was awarded first prize in the Merck 2003 Union County Juried Art Show. His photo of the old train station in Springfield won the Star-Ledger's "Photos of New Jersey" contest and the photograph hangs in the newspaper's permanent collection. Deutsch also won a Parade magazine photo contest and various other prizes.

"We are proud to see the beautiful and historic St. John's Parsonage great hall put to use as a gallery to showcase county visual artists," said Freeholder Chester Holmes, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. "The talent and diversity of our county artists assures an inspiring and interesting variety of exhibits."

Deutsch's photographs have been published in many magazines and newspapers, including Woman's Day, Modern Photography, the *New York Daily News*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and the *Bergen Record*. His photographs are on display at the Pearl Street Gallery until Dec. 15. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Union County artists, whose works can be hung on a wall, interested in exhibiting in the gallery are welcome to apply. For more information about the Pearl Street Gallery, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202, call 908-558-2550. NJ Relay users dial 711, or send e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

Bill VanSant, Editor

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Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 463 Valley Street, P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040

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CDC THEATRE

Stepping Out

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 VanSant, Worrall Community Newspapers, 463 Valley St., P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040. Faxes may be sent to 973-763-2557.

ART SHOWS

REILLY PAINTS UP THE TOWN, oil paintings by John Reilly, will be on exhibit through Sunday at Swain Galleries in Plainfield.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. Swain Galleries is located at 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For information, call 908-756-1707.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL in Mountainside will exhibit the works of Lois Heeney Bajor, Barbara Zietchick, and the Raritan Valley Arts Association throughout the month of November. CHS is located on New Providence Road in Mountainside.

A QUESTION OF IDENTITY, works by painter/photographer Neal Korn, will be on exhibit at the Les Malamut Art Gallery in Union Public Library through Tuesday.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave. in Friberger Park, Union. For information, call 908-851-5450.

ITALIAN SCULPTURAL IMAGES: "Rome, Florence, Venice," photographs by Ron Brown, will be on exhibit at the Donald B. Palmer Museum in Springfield Free Public Library through Dec. 4.

Gallery hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 4 p.m. Springfield Free Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information, call 973-376-4930.

FACE TO FACE: "Environmental Portrait Photography" will be on exhibit at the Arts Guild of Rahway through Dec. 12.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m., and Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. The Arts Guild of Rahway is located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-381-7511, send e-mail to artsguild1670@earthlink.net or visit www.rahwayartsguild.org.

ANNUAL MINIATURE ART SHOW AND SALE will be presented by the duCret School of Art in Plainfield from Dec. 7 to 12. An opening reception will take place Dec. 7 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The duCret School of Art is located at 1030 Central Ave., Plainfield. For information, call 908-757-7171 or visit www.duCretArtSchool.com.

THE LES MALAMUT ART GALLERY in Union Public Library will present an exhibit of 5-by-7-inch original paintings Dec. 9 to 14. All paintings can be purchased for $10 Dec. 14 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave. in Friberger Park, Union. For information, call 908-851-5450.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARTIN DEUTSCH will be on exhibit through Dec. 15 in the new gallery space in the offices of the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. For information, call 908-558-2550. NJ Relay users dial 711 or send e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

111 FIRST STREET, works by Edward Fausty, will be on exhibit in the Tomasulo Gallery in Kenneth MacKay Library at Union County College, Cranford, through Dec. 18.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays, and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays to Thursdays, 6 to 9 p.m. UCC is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, call 908-709-7155.

TEAROOMS, TEMPLES AND CEREMONIAL SPACES, works by printmaker Francesca DeMasi Mucciolo, will be on exhibit at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through Dec. 29.

NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, including gallery hours, call 908-273-9121 or visit www.njcva.org.

CHRISTMAS MINIATURES will be on exhibit at Swain Galleries in Plainfield from Dec. 6 to 30. "A 135th Christmas Weekend" will take place Dec. 6 from 5 to 7 p.m. and Dec. 7 from noon to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. Swain Galleries is located at 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For information, call 908-756-1707.

BOURAS GALLERIES in Summit will exhibit the works of the Mountain Gallery Artists through the end of December.

Gallery hours are by appointment. Bouras Properties is located at 25 Deforest Ave., Summit. For information and to schedule an appointment, call 908-277-6054.

CONTEMPORARY TAPESTRY, works by Archie Brennan and Susan Martin Maffei, will be on exhibit at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through Jan. 4.

NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, including gallery hours, call 908-273-9121 or visit www.njcva.org.

COLOR AND TEXTURE, works by Eli Serfaty, will be on exhibit at the Les Malamut Art Gallery in Union Public Library from Dec. 6 to Jan. 21. An opening reception will take place Dec. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave. in Friberger Park, Union. For information, call 908-851-5450.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL in Mountainside will exhibit the works of Jerry Winick and members of the New Jersey Photography Forum throughout the months of December and January. CHS is located on New Providence Road in Mountainside.

BOOKS

AUTHOR PETER GENOVESE will appear at the Town Book Store of Westfield on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sign copies of his book, "Jersey Shore Uncovered." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call 908-233-3535 or visit the Web site at www.townbookstore.com.

AUTHOR ROBERT FORD will appear at the Town Book Store of Westfield on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. to sign copies of his book, "Student Conductor." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call 908-233-3535 or visit the Web site at www.townbookstore.com.

AUTHOR ARTHUR VANDERBILT II will appear at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit on Dec. 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. to sign copies of his new book, "Gardening in Eden: The Joys of Planning and Tending a Garden." Reeves-Reed Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave., Summit. For information, call 908-277-1190 or visit www.reeves-reedarboretum.org.

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN meets the first Wednesday 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.

THE LORD OF THE RINGS' READING GROUP meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRITERS' CIRCLE, led by Cheryl Racanelli, meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

CLASSICS 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 of Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS meets the second Thursday of the month at 8 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 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION BOOK GROUP, a monthly reading group featuring staff members' favorite books, meets the second Thursday 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.

JEWISH BOOK LOVERS meets the third 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.

BOOKS WE LIKE, a reading group featuring staff recommendations, will meet the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble of Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD Reading Group meets the third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark to read a Shakespeare play out loud. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

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

CONCERTS

COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES in Westfield and Springfield will present a series of artists through June at two locations through June 2004.

Dec. 13: Greg Greenway, Westfield

Westfield concerts are presented at the First United Methodist Church, 1 E. Broad St., Westfield. Springfield concerts are presented at Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall, Springfield. Tickets are $12 and include refreshments. For information, call 908-232-8723 or visit the Web site at www.coffeewithconscience.com.

SANCTUARY CONCERTS in Berkeley Heights will present musical acts in the coming weeks.

Dec. 13: Artisan, $15

Concerts are presented at Union Village Methodist Church, 1130 Mountain Ave., Berkeley Heights. For information, call 973-376-4946 or visit www.sanctuaryconcerts.org.

GARDEN STATE CONCERT BAND will appear in concert Sunday at 2 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Church, 1805 Penbrook Terrace, Linden. Tickets are $15 for adults, $10 for students younger than 18. For information, call 908-486-6363.

A "ROCKAPELLA" CHRISTMAS will be presented Dec. 6 at 2 and 7 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are $23 for adults, $10 for children younger than 14.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

HERMAN'S HERMITS, starring Peter Noone, will appear in concert Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. Tickets are $40 to $75. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-499-8226 or visit www.ucac.org.

URBAN BUSH WOMEN will appear in concert Dec. 6 at 8 p.m. in the Chase Room at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are $15.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS, featuring Peabo Bryson, Sheena Easton, Christopher Cross, and Irene Cara, will be presented Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are $13 to $59.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

PIANIST GEORGE WINSTON will appear in concert Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are $11 to $49.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

KEAN UNIVERSITY Department of Music Concert Band will appear in concert Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. in Wilkins Theater, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is free. For information, call 908-737-7469.

CELEBRATION SINGERS and Children's Chorus of Cranford will appear in the annual Holiday Concert on Dec. 12 and 13 at the Cranford United Methodist Church, Walnut and Lincoln avenues, Cranford.

THE CHORAL ART SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY will present its annual "Messiah" Sing on Dec. 12 at 8 p.m. at St. Helen's R.C. Church, 1600 Rahway Ave., Westfield. Admission is $10, scores may be borrowed for the evening. For information, call 908-654-3260.

NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHORUS will appear in "The Pipes of Christmas" with the Clan Currie Society on Dec. 20 at 2 and 8 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church in Summit.

DANCE

DANCE THEATER OF HARLEM will perform Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are $16 to $69.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

SUMMIT FOLK DANCERS will sponsor evenings of international dance throughout the year at The Connection for Women and Families, 79 Maple St., Summit. Sessions are alternate Fridays from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is $2, or $12 for half the season; workshops are $5. For information, call 973-467-8278.

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank K. Hehnly School, Raritan Road, Clark. Fee for each lesson is $4. For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-381-2535 or 908-241-9492.

DISCUSSION

SCHOLAR MICHAEL BERENBAUM will be presented by the Holocaust Resource Center in a lecture and forum Monday at 7:50 p.m. in Wilkins Theater at Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is free. For information, call 908-737-7469.

JOURNAL WRITING GROUP, led by professional life coach Jami Novak, meets the fourth Thursday of each month at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan 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. For information, call 973-376-8544.

FILM

UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY will sponsor its Fall 2003 International Film Festival through December.

Dec. 9: "8 Women," French

All films are free and are shown at 2 and 7 p.m. on each date. Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave. in Friberger Park, Union. For information, call 908-851-5450.

ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY will sponsor a series of free film classics at the Main Branch. All films begin at 10 a.m. The Main Branch is of the Elizabeth Public Library located at 11 S. Broad St., Elizabeth. For information, call 908-354-6060.

HOBBIES

THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB INC. of Union will present its annual "Sound and Light Show" from Nov. 28 to Dec. 14 at the club building, 295 Jefferson Ave., Union, behind Home Depot on Route 22 East. Shows are Fridays, 5 to 7 p.m.; Saturdays, noon to 9 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 6 p.m. Tickets are $5 for adults, $3 for senior citizens, $2 for children 12 and younger. For information, call 908-964-9724 or 908-964-8808, send inquiries via e-mail to TMRCInc@aol.com or visit the Web site at www.tmrci.com.

HOLIDAYS

"FROM ST. NICHOLAS TO SANTA CLAUS," highlighting the history of Christmas traditions, will be sponsored by Liberty Hall Museum in Union on Friday and Saturday evenings, Dec. 12, 13, 19 and 20. Tours begin every 15 minutes from 5 to 8 p.m. Admission is $12 for adults, $10 for senior citizens, $6 for children 6 to 17, children younger than 6 are admitted free. Liberty Hall is located at 1003 Morris Ave., Union. For information, call 908-527-0400 or visit the Web site at www.libertyhallnj.org.

REEVES-REED ARBORETUM in Summit will sponsor its "Holiday House Tour" on Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets are $25; proceeds benefit the arboretum. Reeves-Reed Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave., Summit. For information, call 908-277-1190 or visit the Web site at www.reeves-reedarboretum.org.

JAZZ

CYRUS CHESTNUT will appear in concert Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are $36.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

KEAN UNIVERSITY Department of Music Jazz Ensemble will appear in concert on Dec. 3 at 8 p.m. in Wilkins Theater, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is free. For information, call 908-737-7469.

KEAN UNIVERSITY Affiliate Artists will present various artists in "Jazz Pictures" on Dec. 11 at 8 p.m. in Wilkins Theater on the main campus, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Tickets are $10. For information, call 908-737-7469.

KIDS

CRANFORD DRAMATIC CLUB will present "Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr." from Dec. 5 to 7. Shows are 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5; 1:30, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6 and 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Dec. 7. Tickets are $8. CDC is located at 78 Winans Ave., Cranford. For information, call 908-276-7611.

'A GARFIELD CHRISTMAS' will be presented Dec. 6 at 3 and 7 p.m. in Wilkins Theater, Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Tickets are $15 for general admission, $11 for senior citizens, alumni, faculty and staff, and $9 for children and students. For information, call 908-737-7469.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE WORKSHOPS will be sponsored by Liberty Hall Museum in Union on Saturdays, Dec. 6 to 20, from 10 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Recommended for children 6 to 10. Fee is $15 per child and includes materials. Reservations are required. Liberty Hall is located at 1003 Morris Ave., Union. For information, call 908-527-0400 or visit the Web site at www.libertyhallnj.org.

THEATER

PAPER MILL: The State Theater of New Jersey will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music" through Dec. 14. Shows are at 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, 2 p.m. Thursdays and Sundays, and 2:30 p.m. Saturdays. Tickets are $30 to $67.

Special performances are the Conversation Series, Thursdays in the mezzanine at 7 p.m.; audio-described performances Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m.; sign-interpreted/open-captioned performances Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m.; and Lambda Night, Dec. 10 at 8 p.m.

Paper Mill is located on Brookside Drive, Millburn. For information, call 973-376-4343 or visit the Web site at www.papermill.org.

THE ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE will present "Play It Again, Sam" by Woody Allen through Dec. 21. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are $10 for general admission, $6 for students and senior citizens. The Elizabeth Playhouse is located at 1100 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information, call 908-533-0077 or visit the Web site at www.elizabethplayhouse.com.

SHAKESPEARE THEATER OF NEW JERSEY will present "A Child's Christmas in Wales" from Tuesday to Dec. 28. Shows are Tuesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 7 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are $33 to $53. The Shakespeare Theater of New Jersey performs at the F.M. Kirby Shakespeare Theater on the campus of Drew University, 36 Madison Ave., Madison. For information, call 973-408-5600 or visit the Web site at www.ShakespeareNJ.org.

VARIETY

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mike Night every Thursday night, a disc jockey every Friday night, and solo artists and bands on Saturdays. Happy Hour is 4 to 7 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, with $1 drafts and $3 Long Island iced teas. Mondays are Mexican Mondays with $2 shot specials, $2 Coronas, $2 margritas and $1 tacos. Wednesdays are Ladies Nights and karaoke.

Today: Judy Joseph and the Average Joes
Friday: Not in the Order
Saturday: Night Train

The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St., Rahway. For information, call 732-381-6544.

CROSSROADS 78 North Ave., Garwood, presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts as well as football-themed nights.

Every Sunday: Live comedy, funk and poetry
Every Monday: Open Mic Night, Happy Hour all night
Every Tuesday: Jazz Jam, all pints are $2
Every Wednesday: Hi-Fi Wednesdays with G.L.O., with DJs and musicians. Corona, Cuervo, Margaritas $2 all night
Every Thursday: Rolling Rock beer, $2 all night
Today: Tom Vella and G.L.O.
Thursday: Smaller Than Life
Friday: Troublemakers
Saturday: Skydog in a tribute to the Allman Brothers

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

THE INTERNET LOUNGE in Fanwood will present an Open Mic/Karaoke Night on Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. The Internet Lounge is located at 256 South Ave., Fanwood. For information, call 908-490-1234 or visit the Web site at www.theinternetlounge.com.

MOLLY MAGUIRE'S IRISH PUB in Clark will present entertainment in the coming weeks. Thursdays are Ladies Nights, and Sundays feature NFL games and $2 drafts.

Today: DJ Billy, 9 p.m.
Saturday: The Pat Roddy Band, 10 p.m.
Sunday: Mickey Perry, 4 p.m.
Dec. 6: Sequoia, 10 p.m.
Dec. 7: Traditional Irish Session, 2 p.m.
Dec. 13: Stronger Than Dirt, 10 p.m.
Dec. 14: Bantry Boys, 4 p.m.

Molly Maguire's is located at 1085 Central Ave., Clark. For information, call 732-388-6511.

SECOND SATURDAYS COFFEEHOUSE will take place the second Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Summit Unitarian Church, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit. Featured will be an "open mic" forum of music, poetry, comedy and performance art. Refreshments are served. Admission is $4. Talent is sought for future dates.

For information, call 908-928-0127 or send e-mail to info@secondsaturdays.org.

VAN GOGH'S EAR, 1017 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, will present a series of musical events. Tuesdays are "Acoustic Tuesday," some of which feature open mic from 8 to 9 p.m. for folk singers, poets and comedians, followed by a featured folk performer. Open mic 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: X Marks the Spot
Tuesday: Open mic, 8 to 9 p.m.; Matt Mead, 9 to 10 p.m.
Dec. 7: The Son Lewis Trio
Dec. 9: Breaking Laces, 8 to 9 p.m.; Patrick Suler, 9 to 10 p.m.
Dec. 14: The Joe Knipes Quartet
Dec. 16: Open mic, 8 to 9 p.m.; Change of Structure, 9 to 10 p.m.
Dec. 21: Shusmo
Dec. 23: Blue Muse, 8 to 9 p.m.
Dec. 28: The Ginny Johnston Band
Dec. 30: The Establishments, 8 to 9 p.m.; Get Roy, 9 to 10 p.m.
Jan. 4: The Peter Kikadakis Band

For information, call 908-810-1844.

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Healthy Living

Meditation is key to unlocking & relieving stress

By Susan Sacks
CMT, NCTMB

How would you like a no-cost way to boost your energy, relax your mind and release your tight muscles?

Scientific studies have shown that meditation can lower blood pressure, improve immune function and insomnia, reduce chronic pain and is helpful in curtailing anxiety and depression.

Meditation is the practice of gently freeing oneself from the worries and demands of work and family. Learning how to switch off daily stress can greatly enhance quality of life.

One can learn to respond to their needs of the moment.

The benefits of meditation come from daily practice. It doesn't have to be time-consuming.

Ideally, 20 minutes each day can help calm one's nervous system and soothe one's mind. However, even 10 minutes can have a powerful effect.

A basic beginning Meditation

Find a quiet, private place. Sit comfortably with your head erect, as if suspended from above, back straight and eyes closed.

Simply focus on your breath, feeling each inhalation and exhalation. Each inhalation is bringing in energy and each exhalation releasing any tension.

Keep focusing your attention on your breath.

As thoughts come — and they always do — simply observe them without judgment and return back to focusing on your breath.

Continue for five minutes or longer. Gently and slowly open your eyes. Then open your eyes slowly, move your fingers and hands, wiggle your toes and stretch.

The Stegler Center for Integrative Medicine combines the technology and expertise of conventional medicine with the healing powers and wisdom of complementary therapies. Integrative Medicine is based on a partnership in which both conventional and alternative modalities are used to promote the body's natural healing process. An integrative approach looks beyond symptoms of disease states and considers the whole individual in order to achieve health.

Therapeutic services employed at the Stegler Center feature complementary and alternative medicine therapies with medical evidence supporting their effectiveness. Services include physical rehabilitation acupuncture, mind-body modalities such as guided imagery, herbal consultation, massage and bodywork therapies, nutritional counseling including food and supplement recommendations, yoga and preparation for surgery. The center is the only medically based integrative medicine program in the region and is licensed by the New Jersey State Department of Health and Senior Services.

The Stegler Center for Integrative Medicine is located at the St. Barnabas Ambulatory Care Center, 200 South Orange Ave., Livingston. For information, call 973-322-5555.

Susan Sacks is a nationally certified massage therapist at the Stegler Center for Integrative Medicine at the St. Barnabas Ambulatory Care Center, Livingston.

Kessler Institute offers support groups

Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, one of the nation's leading providers of physical medicine and rehabilitation services, hosts monthly support groups that encourage current and former patients, family members and caregivers to share their insight with others.

The support groups held at Kessler include ALS, amputee, brain injury, caregiver and spinal cord and stroke. These support groups are hosted by members of the clinical staff, whose experience and expertise have earned Kessler a reputation of success among patients.

Kessler's innovative treatment programs, combined with its focus on individualized patient care, have led Kessler to be consistently ranked among the country's best rehabilitation centers. In fact, Kessler Institute was again named the top rehabilitation hospital in the East by U.S. News & World Report. And Kessler holds accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and is a Federally-designated model system for the treatment and research of spinal cord injuries.

Kessler continues to provide continuum of care to its patients by offering support group services to its program. For more information on the Support Group Services offered by Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation or any of Kessler's other rehabilitation services, call 888-KESNER (537-6637).

Support groups

Kessler promotes patient education by sponsoring a wide range of support groups that encourage current and former patients, family members and caregivers to share their insight with others. These groups provide a support network for all participants and offer a variety of educational resources.

• Alcoholics Anonymous

West Orange - Every Friday and Sunday (Times vary), contact Bob at (973) 669-8000.

• Amputee Support Group

Saddle Brook - Every Tuesday (7:30 p.m.), contact Dr. Gerald Domitrz, Physiatry Department, at 978-395-6071.

• Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Support Group

Saddle Brook - First Wednesday (time vary), contact Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation at 888-KESNER (537-6637).

West Orange - Every Thursday (7:30 p.m.), contact Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation at 888-KESNER (537-6637).

• Caregiver Support Program (R.N. As Coordinator) (973-243-6650)

• Epilepsy Support Group

East Orange - Last Tuesday of the month (6:30 p.m.), contact Betty Lewis, R.N., Neurosciences Department, at 973-243-7449.

Chester - First Wednesday of the month (7:30 p.m.), contact Dr. Jean Hemeier, Brain Injury Coordinator, at 973-252-6402.

• Life After Stroke Support Group

Chester - First and third Tuesday of the month, 1 to 4:45 p.m., contact Dr. Jeffrey Kronstadt, Psychology Department, 973-252-6419.

• Moving Forward

East Orange - First Wednesday of the month, 1 to 4:45 p.m., contact Dr. Jeffrey Kronstadt, Psychology Department, Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., every Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., contact Bonnie Cameron at 201-488-6281.

• Spinal Cord Injury Family Support Group

West Orange - First Saturday of the month, 10 a.m., contact Ann Neff, Coordinator, at 973-243-6822.

• Spinal Cord Injury Family Support Group

West Orange - Every other Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., contact Diane Gerardi, SCI Resource Group, at 973-243-6272 or Janet Lee at 973-243-2774.

• Stroke Club

Saddle Brook - First Saturday of the month (time vary), contact Ann Marie Chodzenski, Therapeutic Recreation Department, 201-468-1000.

• Traumatic Brain Injury Support Group

Saddle Brook - Every Wednesday (7:30 p.m.), contact Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation at 888-KESNER (537-6637).

West Orange - Every other Thursday (7:30 p.m.), contact Ann Marie Chodzenski, Therapeutic Recreation Department, 201-468-1000.

• Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury Support Group

Saddle Brook - Every other Wednesday (7:30 p.m.), contact Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation at 888-KESNER (537-6637).

West Orange - Every other Tuesday (7:30 p.m.), contact Ann Marie Chodzenski, Therapeutic Recreation Department, 201-468-1000.

• Women's Stroke Support Group

East Orange - Second Tuesday of the month (1 to 3 p.m.), contact Betty Lewis, R.N., Neurosciences Department, at 973-243-7449.

Chester - First Wednesday of the month (1 to 4:45 p.m.), contact Dr. Jean Hemeier, Brain Injury Coordinator, at 973-252-6402.

• Wound Care Support Group

Saddle Brook - Second Wednesday of the month (7:30 p.m.), contact Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation at 888-KESNER (537-6637).

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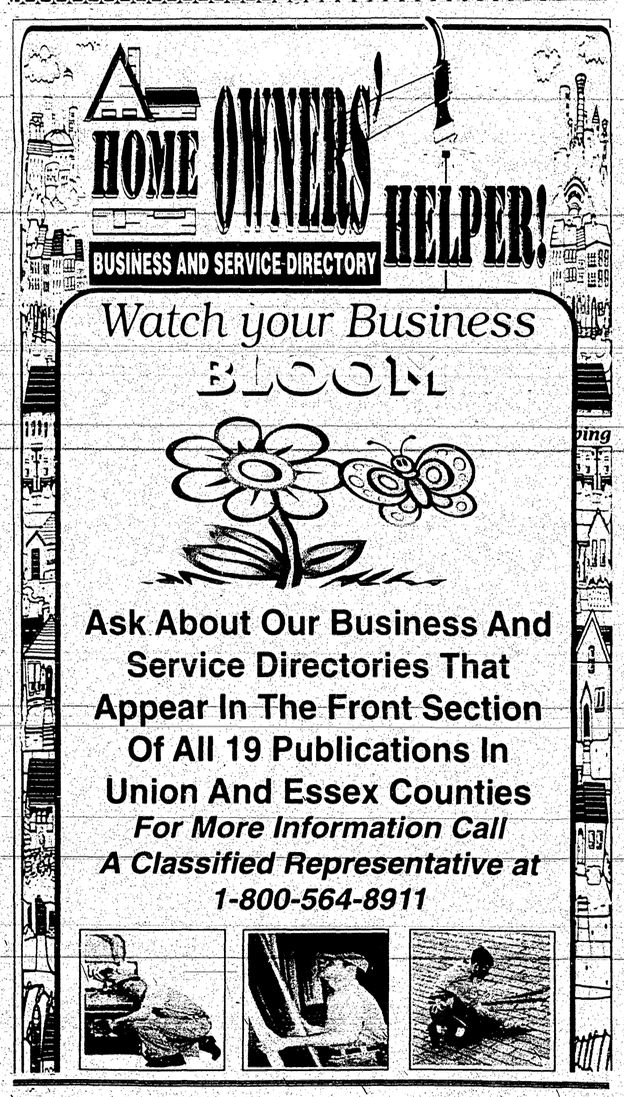

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15 YEAR FIXED	5.00	0.00	5.03	FEE	15 YEAR FIXED	5.13	0.00	5.20	FEE
5/1-30 YR	4.50	0.00	4.12	$ 350	5/1-30 YR	4.50	0.00	4.56	$ 350
Loans to $1.5 million dollars Percentage down varies on jumbos					Low/Mod Program Available				

Rates compiled on November 20, 2003
N/P – Not provided by institution

Contact lenders concerning additional fees which may apply. C.M.I. and The Worrall Newspapers assume no liability for typographical errors or omissions. To display information, lenders only should contact C.M.I. @ 800-426-4565. Rates are supplied by the lenders, are presented without guarantee, and are subject to change.

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Lenders are requiring mortgage insurance

The primary goal of private mortgage insurance is to protect the lender in the event the borrower defaults on a loan.

Experience shows that the less a homeowner has invested in a home, the greater the probability of default. For this reason, lenders require private mortgage insurance, PMI, on conventional mortgage loans with less than 20-percent down. The primary goal of PMI is to protect the lender in the event the borrower defaults on a loan.

Even though it appears that private mortgage insurance favors the lender, PMI can benefit the borrower as well. In fact, thanks to PMI, lenders are willing to offer loans and make homeowners available to those who can't afford the customary 20-percent down payment.

PMI also benefits those who may want to purchase a larger or more expensive home. For example, a $200,000 down payment could represent a 20-percent payment on a $100,000 house or, with PMI, a 10-percent down payment on a $200,000 house.

PMI premium payments vary based on the size of the down payment, the type of mortgage, and the amount of insurance coverage. The charges typically amount to 0.5 percent to 1 percent of the loan annually. Generally speaking, the PMI premium for a median-priced home is likely to fall between $50 and $100 a month. Shopping around for a lower rate isn't an option since the lender chooses the policy. The premium is usually incorporated into the monthly mortgage payment.

Under the federal Homeowners' Protection Act of 1998, on loans made on or after July 29, 1999, lenders must provide borrowers with certain disclosures concerning PMI. The Act includes provisions for the automatic termination of PMI and the borrower's right to request PMI cancellation. Prior to the Act, some homeowners paid premiums for years after they had reached 20-percent equity in their homes.

Under the Homeowners' Protection Act, for loans closed on or after July 29, 1999, mortgage insurance that is paid directly by the borrower will be cancelled automatically when the mortgage balance reaches 78 percent of the home's original value, provided that the borrower is current on payments. Homeowners whose mortgages originated prior to the enactment of the law, are protected by the Act's requirement that lenders notify them of their right to cancel PMI.

Borrowers also have the right to request cancellation of PMI when the mortgagee is paid down to the point that it reaches 80 percent of the home's value at the time the loan was closed.

Since home appreciations added directly to your equity, even though the amount you owe hasn't changed, you may be eligible to have your private mortgage insurance cancelled if you can demonstrate that the value of your home has increased. To qualify, most lenders require that you have the house appraised at your expense by a lender-approved appraiser. Be aware that, regardless of the increase in value, some lenders require you to have owned your home for a year or two before they will consider dropping PMI.

Refinancing is another way to eliminate PMI payments. With interest rates at a 40-year low, it is possible that you can refinance to a lower rate mortgage. If your home has appreciated sufficiently in value, you may drop below the required threshold for private mortgage insurance.

Mortgage life insurance is a type of life insurance policy that pays off your mortgage balance should you die or become permanently disabled. If you're interested in this type of protection, CPA suggest that you consider a standard term-life insurance policy instead of mortgage life insurance.

For one thing, a standard life insurance policy gives your survivors more flexibility in determining how to use the policy proceeds, whereas mortgage life insurance can only be used to pay off the policyholder's mortgage. There's another good reason to choose regular term insurance over mortgage life insurance: standard policies often feature a tiered rate structure, with healthy policy holders paying lower premiums. Most mortgage life insurance policies do not provide that option.

If you have additional questions about PMI, a CPA can help you navigate through the details.

If you don't have a CPA, you can easily locate one online using the NJSCPA Find-A-CPA service. Just go to www.findacpa.org and in a few clicks you can locate a highly qualified professional who is right for you. If you would like to receive more information on various financial matters, subscribe to I-CPA, the NJSCPAs free, monthly e-mail newsletter. To subscribe, visit http://www.njsCPA.org/finances or e-mail a subscription request to e-cpa@njscpa.org.

RE/MAX Westfield relocates

RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Westfield has moved its office, and is now located at 200 North Avenue East in Westfield. All phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

"Our office is expanding, and we needed a larger space to accommodate our staff," said broker/manager Ellen Roeller. "We want to let our clients know about the move, and we will continue to provide them with top-notch service."

RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Westfield is comprised of 14 full-time sales associates, specializing in all areas of real estate.

To contact a sales associate at RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Westfield, call 908-233-9292.

RE/MAX Properties Unlimited is a 23-office company owned by Rob Lysiak.

It is the largest RE/MAX franchise organization in the state, and the largest in the country by number of offices.

Prudential Summit wins award

The Summit office of Prudential New Jersey Properties has received the Round Table Award, ranking the office second among the 200 offices with 20 or fewer associates in the Prudential Real Estate Network's Northern Region.

The office was presented the award during special ceremonies at the company's annual sales convention in New Orleans in March.

Under the leadership of manager Karen Hedges since 1995, the Summit office has consecutively received the Round Table Award since 1996 and ranked first place for four of the past six years.

"We are delighted to receive this prestigious award," says Hedges. "I attribute the success to the hard work and dedication of our wonderful team of sales associates."

The Round Table Award honors the top three offices from each U.S. region that had the top residential gross commission income, top commercial gross commission income or top residential units for the year.

For information on the local real estate market, the Prudential New Jersey Properties Summit office, located at 428 Springfield Ave., can be reached at 908-273-0400.

Based in Somerset, Prudential New Jersey Properties offers relocation, mortgage, fine homes and resort properties services.

With more than 600 sales associates serving 10 counties including Essex, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Union and Warren counties, it is the second largest independently-owned residential Real Estate Company in New Jersey.

For more information, visit www.PruNewJersey.com.

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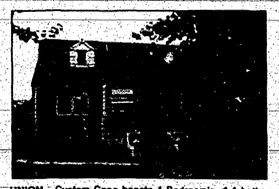

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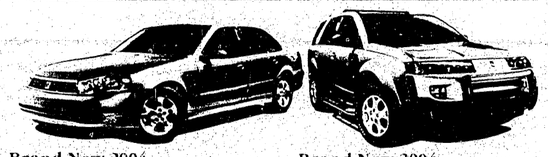

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