

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

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TWO SECTIC

2003: A year of trains, school growing pains and gov. change

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

After an eventful year marked with progress, debate, and hopeful plans for 2004, it would be fitting for Springfield to make some New Year's resolutions, as several 2003 issues remain unresolved as the ball drops.

While the new firehouse has hit several bumps in the road and is still without a projected completion date, the Police Department and Fire Department remain without new contracts, as the arbitrator's decision is forthcoming.

Meisel Field has remained empty and unused, and although plans are being made to move along rehabilitation, many residents find this a long time coming and wonder what has taken so long.

Finally, while a school expansion and construction referendum was passed in January, recent problems regarding the public bidding process for construction work at the Edward V. Walton School has forced a one-year delay of the reorganization of students within the district. The problem, according to the Board of Education, was one that could not be predicted; members say they are as disappointed as anyone.

Although Springfield has seen plenty of accomplishments and achievements throughout the township during 2003, the most notable one may be the changing of a one-party Township Committee to a two-party one.

Here's a look at some more issues and events that made headlines in 2003.

January

Committeeman Gregory Clarke is sworn in as the new mayor of Springfield at the township's reorganization meeting. Among other topics, Clarke speaks about the adversarial relationship between the Fire Department and the Township Committee, noting that the two sides' goal should be public safety.

The year's first worries concerning the Rahway Valley Railway emerge, as officials ask what delays may occur in the fire department's rescue efforts if trains are blocking traffic

along Mountain Avenue. The new firehouse is being erected on the corner of Mountain and Tooker avenues, and the railroad tracks would cross Mountain Avenue on the west side of the firehouse.

In order to make changes to the new firehouse, which is still under construction, the Township Committee approves change orders of slightly more than \$73,000. At this point, 12 items had been submitted to the township that would result in changes. Construction was to be completed by April 17.

Springfield residents vote in favor of the bond referendum for school expansion, a \$19 million spending plan with a share of nearly \$15 million funded through local taxpayers.

February

The new Springfield firehouse falls behind schedule for a number of reasons, but township officials remain silent as far as progress and reasons for delays are concerned. The project was originally bid with a 400-day completion.

Five candidates decide to run for three seats in the Board of Education election. Incumbents Larry Lavee and Jacqueline Shanes, and challengers Jo Ann Holmes, Hugh Keffler and Brian Sheehy.

The preliminary 2003-04 Board of Education budget of \$26,134,047 is approved by the board, an increase of 5.5 percent from the previous year.

March

Another setback stalls plans for the new firehouse as Silcon Inc. Project Manager Manuel DaSilva explains that the scaffolding was removed because the subcontractor was thrown off the job for nonperformance.

The Board of Education budget, already approved for submission to the voters, will have \$23.6 million raised through local property taxes. If approved, there would be an annual tax increase of \$230 for the average home assessed at \$157,800.

A \$20.2 million municipal budget is introduced, calling for an increase of \$189 for the average home in Springfield. The increase in taxes is

12.2 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

April

As teacher contract negotiations continue, the starting annual salary for a teacher in Springfield is reported to be \$42,175, which is relatively high compared to surrounding districts.

Jacqueline Shanes, Larry Lavee and Hugh Keffler, who run collectively on a three-candidate platform, win the Board of Education election. However, the public rejected the school budget by a margin of 5 percent. A total of 1,814 people came out to vote out of a total of around 8,900 registered voters.

The introduced municipal budget of \$20.2 million is adopted by the Township Committee. This year's budget represents an increase of nearly \$1.4 million.

May

Yet another change order is issued for the new firehouse, this time for June 17. According to Township Administrator Richard Sheola, the primary reason for the delay given by Silcon Inc. is weather-related problems.

The Township Committee unanimously decides to cut the defeated school budget by \$100,000.

June

Nominations for the two seats available on the Township Committee are earned by Democratic Committeeman Roy Hirschfeld, Democrat Ken Fagenbaum, and Republican challenger Harold Poltrok and Victor Rajoppi.

By a 7-1 vote, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders agrees to implement phases one through four of the operating agreement with Morristown and Erie Railway. Referring to public hearings, which occurred in the past to discuss the rail line's possible reactivation, Mayor Gregory Clarke said that this time, "We have not been involved in the process at all."

A \$1 million cleanup and reconstruction of Meisel Avenue Park in Springfield is expected to start and be completed by fall. The athletic fields are expected to be ready for use by next spring.

A coalition of local government



Photo By Barbara Kakkalis

It's the end of 2003, and this year also marks the end of the Lido Diner on Route 22 in Springfield. A longtime landmark in the township, the familiar eating establishment was torn down during the fall and is being replaced by a 7-Eleven.

officials and residents announce that they will take legal action against Union County and Morristown and Erie Railway Inc., hoping to thwart plans for the reactivation of two rail lines.

July

Gov. James McGreevey unveils the logo for the 2005 PGA Championship, which will be hosted by the Baltusrol Golf Club. The marketing campaign was officially under way, as McGreevey held the Wanamaker Trophy, which is awarded to the tournament's winner.

A new contract for the police and fire departments is still unresolved, as both sides await an arbitrator's decision. The departments have been without new contracts since Dec. 31, 2000.

James Caldwell School nurse Eileen Rogers files a sexual harassment and discrimination complaint against Ken Bernabe, the school's principal, along with the Board of Education.

August

While working on wires at the

new firehouse, two men are electrocuted, delaying construction for the day and supplying more questions regarding the new building. Fire Chief Deputy Donald Schwerdt said it may have been electricity grounding out or some wire shorting out.

Social Clubhouse Inc., located on Brown Avenue, files a class action lawsuit against the Ford Motor Company, claiming that the vans it purchased to transport its clients cannot be used to carry 15 passengers, as was described by Ford.

Springfield avoids the largest blackout in U.S. history, having no accidents or specific incidents reported during the time span. The only small problem resulting from the outage was a traffic light that went out just after 4 p.m. that afternoon, but it was brought back to life within a half hour.

The Township Committee recognizes the support from the townspeople regarding the fight to stop the reactivation of the Rahway Valley Railway, after two public meetings yielded

hundreds of people in attendance.

September

The most recent completion date for the new firehouse is two weeks passed. Township Administrator Richard Sheola declines to speculate how long it would take before the building opens, and Committeeman Roy Hirschfeld says that there are questions regarding contract extensions and possible penalties for the contractor, Silcon Inc.

The Township Committee shows support for the statewide 7 percent hotel and motel occupancy tax, agreeing to add 1 percent for the town, on top of the 6 percent state tax that already exists.

After close to three years of negotiations, the contracts for the Springfield Police Department and Fire Department remain in arbitration.

The Springfield Education Association agrees to ratify its contract with the Board of Education, calling for a three-year contract with a salary increase of four percent.

See FIREHOUSE, Page 2

School opening, new rec center show promise of coming year

Brian Pedersen
Managing Editor

For Mountainside, 2003 may best be remembered as the year a dream was finally realized with the community center entering the preliminary planning stages at the tail end of 2003.

In sheer size and scope, the new center is shaping up to be one of the most massive building projects undertaken in the borough's history. For many, it truly is the culmination of a dream.

More good news came in the form of Beechwood School's ever-closer completion of construction and renovations.

Nationally, it was the year that plunged much of the northeast into sweltering darkness, gave Hurricane Isabel a bad name and sent many of America's soldiers overseas into a war with Iraq.

Here's a look at some of the major events of 2003 that helped shape the community of Mountainside into what it is today and what it will be in the future.

January

Double bundles of joy arrive for Christine and Bill Stoffel and daughter Morgan Anne, 2, of Mountainside. Twins Devon Marie and Ryan William are born Jan. 6, making them the first babies born in Mountainside in 2003.

Responding to complaints from residents about giving full disclosure during its public meetings, the Board of Education conducts an open public forum Jan. 28 as a way to continue having the public work with the board during the budget process.

February

A strong blizzard dumps roughly two feet of snow on the tri-state area Feb. 17, with Mountainside getting its fair share of the white stuff. Cars get stuck on both sides of Route 22, with piles of snow blocking the bus shelters.

The borough's Department of Public Works does its best to plow through the mess. Four employees and the

chief of the DPW work 28-hour shifts to combat the snowstorm.

The next day, the Borough Council agrees to pass a resolution that would aid them in the attempted goal of garnering additional funds to pay for snow removal.

Five candidates decide to run for the upcoming Board of Education election. They are incumbents Mary Beth Schaumburg and Frank Geiger and challengers Pauline Genakos, Linda Esemplare and Patricia Knodel.

March

The Board of Education reveals its \$10,580,287 school budget during a special meeting at Borough Hall March 3.

An approval would mean an estimated annual tax increase of \$411 on the average home assessed in Mountainside at \$158,000.

The \$6.8 million bond referendum to expand Deerfield School and reopen Beechwood School was approved in April 2001 and despite previous delays in 2002, is expected to be completed in September 2003.

Two school board members, along with the administration, meet with the district's bonding company, The Hartford Company, and The Musial Group, the project's architect, to review the progress. Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller reports that the general contractor should be back on schedule with the project by next month.

Charles L. "Rex" Riley, president and CEO of Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside, dies suddenly in his Westfield home March 17. He was 57. He is survived by his wife, Jan and two sons, Paul and Ross.

Thanks to additional student enrollments, the Board of Education reveals that the county, after certifying Mountainside's budget, has given the district \$731,000. These funds can be put back into the budget.

The Board of Education presents each part of the proposed school budget for 2003-04 at a public hearing

March 25, approving it by a unanimous vote. Their next step is for voters to cast their ballots April 15, when both the election of two board members and the budget vote take place.

The total amount of the base budget is now \$11,042,160 after a spending growth limitation adjustment of \$422,132 was added in 2002, the estimated school tax was \$2,955, compared with \$3,365 in 2003.

Since the start of the U.S.-led war with Iraq, officers in Mountainside wear special uniforms and local police are in a state of heightened alert. The uniforms are reserved for crisis situations to distinguish the police from the public. Two officers have been assigned to the Counter-Terrorism Task Force, a group of officers that go to Washington, D.C., for briefings.

April

The Mountainside Republican Committee announces its candidates for the seats that will be up on the Borough Council election this year.

With the exception of Councilman Thomas Perrotta, Republican candidates Mayor Robert Vigilanti and Councilman William Lane both seek re-election as their terms expire this year. Seeking Perrotta's seat is fellow Republican Robert Messler. The Republicans run unopposed in the upcoming election.

The Borough Council agrees to provide financial assistance to the Rahway Valley Sewage Authority. The RSV's estimated \$11.5 million plan calls for all 11 municipalities that are members of the authority to help share in the cost of upgrading the sewage treatment that discharges effluent into the Rahway River.

The borough pays approximately 3.43 percent of the estimated \$11.5 million.

Based on unofficial results tallied by presstime April 15, the \$11,042,160 school budget passes by 189 votes. A total of 798 said "yes," while 609 cast "no" votes. Also, Mary Beth Schaumburg wins

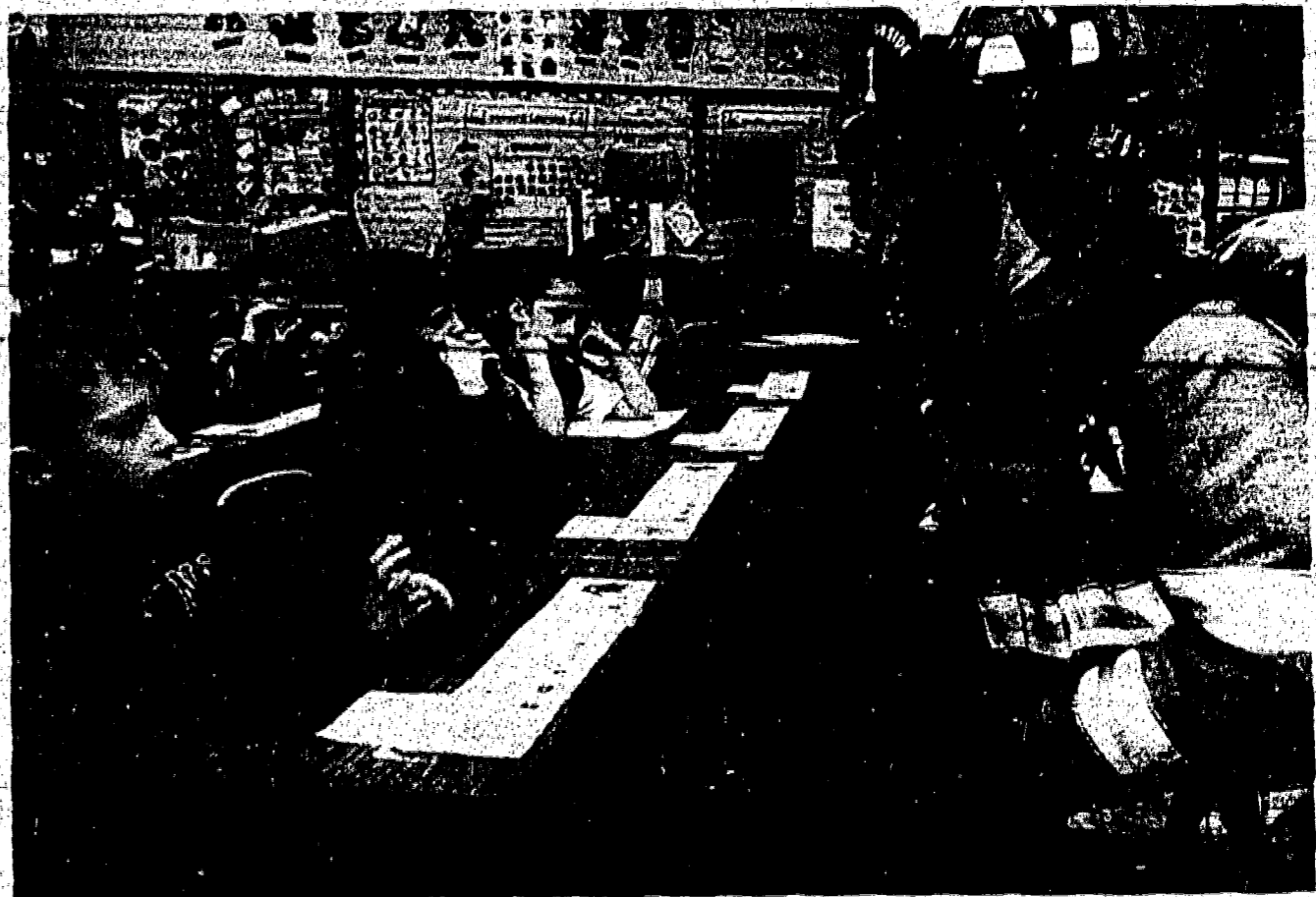


Photo By Joseph Sorrentino

Student Thomas Keane gives a tentative wave to firefighter Rob Forigus at Deerfield School in Mountainside during the fire department's annual visit to the school to talk about fire safety in October. This was just one of the many events happening in the borough that made headlines in 2003.

back her seat on the school board while Patricia Knodel, a former board member, makes a return to the district after voters cast their ballots.

The Borough Council approves the 2003 municipal budget of \$8,224,026.33, resulting in an estimated annual tax increase of 2.92 points, or \$49.50 on the average home assessed in the borough at about \$159,000. The total budget figure represents an increase of \$10,307.20 from the 2002 budget of \$8,213,719.19.

May

Questions surface about the opening of Beechwood School at a Board of Education meeting.

Paul Otto Construction now has the contract between the school board and the bonding company, which is Hartford Insurance Company. Paul Otto takes over for Randazzo Builders, the

construction company that was fired by the board in December 2002 for failure to keep the project going.

The Borough Council approves the \$8,224,026.33 budget at their public hearing May 19. The total increase is \$10,307.14 from 2002.

June

The final signing of the construction contract with the Board of Education and the Paul Otto Construction company takes place during a ceremony at Deerfield School.

Gerard Schaller announces his plans to leave the district and resign from his position as chief school administrator, effective July 2004.

July

A possible detour in the road to Beechwood School's opening date is revealed at a school board meeting when Board President Peter Goggi informs parents that the acquisition of

lighting fixtures and roof damage could delay the September opening.

The roof damage caused by the previous contractor, resulted in internal water damage and mold. The lighting fixtures are being held in storage in another location since the previous contractor didn't pay the bill for the fixtures that were ordered.

As a result, the board votes to accept six change orders totaling \$241,287 to help with the roof repair and payment of the light fixtures. Possible litigation may be needed to recover the funds.

Police officers from Mountainside, Union and Hillside take part in a high-speed chase that begins in Mountainside and races through Union before ending in a crash at the Hillside-Union border July 18.

See BEECHWOOD, Page 2

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The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Warrall Community Newspapers, an independent, family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Shuyesant 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:
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Firehouse opening unknown

(Continued from Page 1)

1986 Jonathan Dayton graduate Jimmy Yee becomes the first U.S. soldier detained as a suspect in the war on terror. Yee is arrested for suspicion of espionage while serving in a Guantanamo Naval Base camp, as Pentagon officials say that he was found carrying hand-drawn maps of the Guantanamo camp and sensitive information concerning the detainees.

A public input session is held to discuss the issues involving the replacement of Superintendent Walter Mahler, who served three years of his five-year contract and announced his resignation mid-July.

October
• Interim Superintendent Tom Butler is expected to fill in during the time between Walter Mahler's leaving and a permanent superintendent is found.

• Close to 80 parents and children pack the courtroom during the Township Committee meeting, demanding to know when their children will have a football field to use. The crowd was angered and upset that they have no fields to play on. With Meisel Field still lacking the renovations that have been talked about in the past.

• The Board of Education addresses the district's issues regarding the federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation that requires schools to meet set standards in 40 categories. While Springfield had not been put on the list of schools that "need improvement," Assistant Superintendent of Schools Judy Zimmerman says the biggest problems with the program being

lack of resources and accountability involved with it.
• The police and fire departments hold a rally outside of Town Hall prior to a Township Committee meeting, marching with signs that ask why they have been without contracts for more than 1,000 days. The dispute continues indoors during the meeting, as Township Committee members take questions from the workers and supporters within the township, but by meeting's end, nothing has been resolved.

November
• The Springfield Township Committee is changed from a one-party government to two-party governing body, as Republican Harold Pollock earns a seat with an overall victory in the elections. Joining him is Democrat Kenneth Feigenbaum, a former school board member. The new members join the committee Jan. 1.

• Still in word on the completion of the firehouse, as there haven't been any new opening dates announced. While everyone seems to be looking forward to using it, nobody seems to feel comfortable commenting on its progress, or lack thereof.

• The issue of an unresolved report concerning the needs of the town's fire department remains unresolved. The report, which was conducted between December 2000 and May 2001, has not been made public because the contracts are still in arbitration.

December
• A debate begins regarding the

Township Committee's decision to decorate the tree in front of the municipal building in red, white and blue lights. While some residents have a problem with the patriotic colors, others are upset with a lack of holiday-related decorations altogether.

• The five Union County towns looking to stop the reactivation of the Rahway Valley rail lines have their arguments dismissed, leaving them to appeal to federal court, as their case is determined to be an issue that belongs before the Surface Transportation Board, which is the federal agency that oversees railroads.

• The search for a Springfield superintendent is down to two, as a long day in the district is put in by each prospect. Interviews are conducted and tours are taken of the entire school district. Meetings with the Board of Education, teachers and staff help to make the final decision.

• A recommended decision is made that beginning in April, Springfield, along with three other municipalities, will pay more than \$8 million dollars, over a span of five years, to Mountaintide and Garwood. The decision, which is not final, is made after seven years of litigation involving the towns' breakup from the Union County Regional High School District.

• The trial of terror suspect Jimmy Yee is postponed as evidence is examined more closely. Yee is on leave and is able to spend the holiday with his family, while government officials determine if the documents Yee was carrying were classified. Yee's charges now include adultery.

January
• "Works of Art, Old and New," an exhibit of sculpture by George Tarr and paintings by Margaret C. Hanscom, will be displayed at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. through Feb. 12. For information, call 973-376-4930.

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

Jan. 13
• The Mountaintide Board of Education will convene in the media center at Deerfield School, 302 Central Ave. at 8 p.m.

Jan. 14
• The Springfield Board of Health will meet in the Annex Building, 20 N. Travis Ave. at 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 15
• The Springfield Free Public Library Board of Trustees will meet in the library at 66 Mountain Ave. at 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 30
• The Springfield Recreation Department presents "Disney On Ice" at the Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford, lower level seats in Section 124. The performance starts at 7:30 p.m. The bus departs at 6 p.m. from the Chisholm Community Center, 100 S. Springfield Ave. Admission is \$30 per person. Register by Jan. 16. For information, call 973-912-2277.

December
• 2001 saw the construction of three major subdivisions in the borough, bringing in new, million-dollar residential homes to Mountaintide.
• Springfield may be paying a high price to Mountaintide and Garwood, two of the six towns that were part of the Union County Regional High School district, which broke up in 1997.

October
• At a special Board of Education meeting Oct. 6, Walter Rusak is named interim principal at Deerfield School, taking over for Priscilla Church.
• Oct. 28, the Board of Education reveals that the Certificate of Occupancy for Beechwood School is to be issued sometime around the middle of November, with plans under way for students and teachers moving into the renovated school.

November
• Mountaintide's mayoral and Borough Council election is uncontested Nov. 4.
• The estimate now is that Beechwood School will be open sometime after Thanksgiving, although no firm date is set.
• Just in time for Veterans Day, Nov. 11, the Borough Council announces plans to name new streets.

• With an opening almost a year and a half after it was originally planned, Beechwood School is ready to open its doors to students in pre-kindergarten through second grade, welcoming about 242 children who have been part of the overcrowded population at Deerfield School.

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.

New Year's Day
• The Springfield Township Committee conducts its annual reorganization meeting in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave. at noon.

Friday
• 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.

Tuesday
• The Mountaintide Borough Council reorganization meeting takes place in Council Chambers at Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East at 8 p.m.

Wednesday
• Union County for Howard Dean hosts its next regularly scheduled Union County Meetup from 7 to 8:45 p.m. at Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave.

• Agenda items will include voter registration, outreach activities, and the latest information regarding the campaign. There will also be a discussion of community activities for "Generation Dean." Whether to volunteer or just to learn more, all are invited to attend.

• For more information, call Fran Middleberg at 973-912-4309. Further information can be found on the Web at <http://dean2004.meetup.com>.

• The Springfield Planning Board meets in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave. at 8 p.m.

January
• Cecilia Hall, a licensed clinical social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, and board certified diplomate in clinical social work will present the first of a three-part parenting workshop series from 5 to 6 p.m. at Children's Specialized Hospital, 150 New Providence Road in Mountaintide.

• The Mountaintide Planning Board conducts their annual reorganization meeting in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East in Mountaintide at 8 p.m.
• The Good Books Discussion Group of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., meets to discuss "Spartans," by John Casey at 7 p.m. To reserve a copy of the book, call 973-376-4930, ext. 228.

Jan. 9
• "Works of Art, Old and New," an exhibit of sculpture by George Tarr and paintings by Margaret C. Hanscom, will be displayed at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. through Feb. 12. For information, call 973-376-4930.

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Offices closed for New Year's Day

The offices of this newspaper will be closed Thursday in observance of New Year's Day. We will reopen Friday.
Our normal deadlines and schedule will return for the Jan. 8 edition as follows:
• Legal advertising — Tuesday, 10 a.m.
• 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.

Residents reminded to renew pet licenses
The borough of Mountaintide reminds residents that cat and dog licenses must be renewed during January at Borough Hall.

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Committee honors departing members

Committeewoman Clara Harelik said that the presence of both men will be missed, and that their leadership and knowledge will always be appreciated.
"It's been a great honor and pleasure," she said.
While Hirschfeld offered no comment, Clarke was sure to speak about the hard work that goes into being a member of the Township Committee.

In front of the audience, Clarke expressed his feelings toward the rest of the committee, saying that a lot of people don't understand the time and commitment required by the position.

Clarke said that many times, members of the committee have to sacrifice work, personal lives, family lives, and anything else that is otherwise taken for granted.

After thanking everyone on the committee, Clarke made note of certain changes that could be made to possibly improve how things run within the township.

Two examples Clarke gave included expanding the committee to seven members, which he had also seen as a good idea in the past, and also holding public meetings concerning specific topics, which Clarke said could help get things done more efficiently than at a Township Committee meeting, where many things are addressed.

In suggesting more public meetings that addressed a simple topic, Hirschfeld served the Township Committee as a member for the past nine years, as well, and was mayor in 1997.

In comments made by members of the committee, appreciation was expressed for the hard work and dedication that the duo brought to the township.

Township Administrator Richard Shea brought up an anecdote from when he first started his job in Springfield, saying that Clarke gave him a tour of the town in his car, driving around to parts that Shea otherwise was unaware of until then and giving him an explanation of the sewage systems.

Shea noted that he appreciated the professionalism and courtesy that Clarke brought to the committee, even when there was a difference of opinion that addressed a simple topic.

So, while the reorganization of Springfield's schools was originally scheduled to be completed by September of next year, the new expected date to implement the plans will be September of 2005.

Irem Sablonsky, vice president of the school board, addressed the change, saying that because three bids were out of line and two weren't in compliance with bid specifications, the project is delayed for at least two months for a rebuilding project.

The board was quick to note that they did not want to rush things and end up with the problems seen in Mountaintide, where the opening of Beechwood School was delayed for many reasons.

"We're disappointed and we know the district is, too," said school Business Administrator Matthew Clarke.

"Unfortunately, in the public building process, these things come up," said Sablonsky. "The project will be done and it has to be done right."

Construction on other schools in the district will go according to plan, but the reason for such a long delay is the actual reorganization of students and grades will not occur until Walton is finished as well.

The approved referendum back in January 2003 called for the Walton School to hold pre-K through second graders, Thelma L. Sandmeier School and James Caldwell School to have third through fifth graders, and Florence M. Gaudmeier Middle School would continue to be the home of sixth through eighth-grade students.

Walton is also in need of renovations, including the conversion of two classrooms to create a library and the conversion of the present library to a faculty room.

Parking spaces will also be doubled at Walton, the existing road will be replaced, and a playground will be installed for first- and second-graders.

While overcrowding at Sandmeier forced teachers to use trailers for classrooms outside the building, the board addressed the fact that the state only allows for them to be used on a two-year basis.

Because of the plan of action, the board did not foresee any problems with keeping the trailers running.

Letters have been sent home with students to notify parents of the changes, and Butler and board members will be attending Parent Teacher Association meetings in January to discuss the effects of the modifications.

A Route 22 East business reported stolen items at 5:10 p.m. Dec. 17. The items include a Sony Personal Computer, valued at \$1,510, another Sony Personal Computer, valued at \$1,933, and a Compaq Personal Computer, valued at \$2,600.

The passenger rear window of a car parked on Mountain Avenue was broken into at 9 p.m. Dec. 18.

A car parked in a Pitt Road driveway was burglarized at 7:11 a.m. Dec. 19.

The driver's side window was smashed and a scarf, blanket, coffee mug, and assorted papers were reported taken.

Clinics keep an eye on senior blood pressure.
A senior citizen blood pressure clinic will be Jan. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon at Mountaintide Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East.

At 3:36 p.m. Dec. 17, firefighters responded to a South Springfield Avenue residence for an activated fire alarm.

At 4:32 p.m. Dec. 17, firefighters responded to Route 24, East for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

At 8:53 p.m. Dec. 13, the Fire Department responded to a Hillside Avenue apartment complex for an odor of something burning.

At 10:19 a.m. Dec. 14, firefighters responded to Route 78 West mile post 47.4 for a motor vehicle accident.

At 8:28 p.m. Dec. 14, firefighters responded to a Route 22 East business for smoke in the area.



The Springfield Township Committee recently adopted two resolutions of appreciation for the services of Committeeman Roy Hirschfeld and Mayor Gregory Clarke, who are both leaving the committee effective New Year's Day. From left are: Committeewoman Clara Harelik, Clarke, Hirschfeld and Committeeman Steven Goldstein.

Clarke used the example of one meeting that packed a heated auditorium to discuss the issue of the train reactivation, which the Township Committee unanimously opposed.

Clarke has made a strong effort to thwart the reactivation of the Rahway Valley Railway, joining other municipalities in the legal battle.

Hirschfeld, who ran for re-election but lost in a relatively close race, has most notably contributed to the township by writing the grant for the Jersey, Springfield's bus-to-train station service, along with starting the Farmer's Market.

Hirschfeld also helped move along efforts to improve the township's pool, specifying problem areas and modifications that could be made.

Republican Harold Pollock and Democrat Ken Feigenbaum will replace Clarke and Hirschfeld when the committee is reorganized at their public meeting New Year's Day at noon.

At 10:40 a.m. Dec. 24, a 1995 Jeep Cherokee Sport was reported stolen while parked on Morris Avenue.

Unknown parties reportedly attempted to gain entry to a Mountain Avenue office at 8:15 a.m. Dec. 20.

The only damage was to the office door itself.

Four tires and rims were reported stolen off a Honda parked on Morris Avenue at 1:30 p.m. Dec. 23.

Unknown parties smashed the window of a 1995 Honda while it was parked at an Alvin Terrace residence Dec. 23 at 8:34 a.m.

A brief case and laptop computer were reported stolen.

A Cadillac was reported stolen from the rear parking lot of a Morris Avenue Business Dec. 25.

At 7:30 a.m. Dec. 19, damage to a Route 22 East hotel room was reported, including damage to the walls and tiles of the bathroom, water damage to the walls and carpet, a smashed picture on the wall, a phone that was ripped from the wall and smashed, lamps torn down, damaged air conditioner, broken toilet, bed and furniture damage and mattress and boxspring damage.

A white reindeer christmas decoration was reported stolen from the front lawn of a Twin Oaks residence sometime overnight between Dec. 11 and 12.

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At 10:19 a.m. Dec. 14, firefighters responded to Route 78 West mile post 47.4 for a motor vehicle accident.

At 8:28 p.m. Dec. 14, firefighters responded to a Route 22 East business for smoke in the area.

Driver arrested for DWI

Mountaineer
At 3:35 a.m. Dec. 19, 26-year-old Lyle Quinn of Plainfield was stopped on Route 22 for failure to maintain a lane, and was subsequently placed under arrest for driving while intoxicated.

50-year-old Eileen Brady was stopped for speeding on Route 22 and was released on the scene.

44-year-old Oscar Rodriguez was arrested at 1:50 a.m. Dec. 20 for failure to maintain a lane and failure to signal. After being pulled over, Rodriguez was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

At 10:40 a.m. Dec. 24, a 1995 Jeep Cherokee Sport was reported stolen while parked on Morris Avenue.

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The only damage was to the office door itself.

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At 10:19 a.m. Dec. 14, firefighters responded to Route 78 West mile post 47.4 for a motor vehicle accident.

At 8:28 p.m. Dec. 14, firefighters responded to a Route 22 East business for smoke in the area.

Firefighters respond to motor vehicle accident scene

At 3:06 p.m. Dec. 15, firefighters responded to Morris Avenue and Morris Turnpike for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

At 4:32 p.m. Dec. 13, firefighters responded to Route 24, East for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

At 8:53 p.m. Dec. 13, the Fire Department responded to a Hillside Avenue apartment complex for an odor of something burning.

At 10:19 a.m. Dec. 14, firefighters responded to Route 78 West mile post 47.4 for a motor vehicle accident.

At 8:28 p.m. Dec. 14, firefighters responded to a Route 22 East business for smoke in the area.

At 10:19 a.m. Dec. 14, firefighters responded to a Hillside Avenue residence for a medical service call.

At 2:16 p.m. Dec. 19, firefighters responded to Christy Lane for a power line down.

At 7:02 p.m. Dec. 23, firefighters responded to Route 78 East for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

At 10:19 a.m. Dec. 24, firefighters responded to a Wabeno Avenue apartment complex for an activated fire alarm.

City plans for First Night '04

The crew of the SS First Night Summit 2004 invites everyone to come aboard as the city sails into the new year.

Cocaptains Jim and Beto Basley with mates Phil and Caroline Handbury, Bill Libratory, Lucinda Mercer and Diane Gallo have planned the 11th annual New Year's Eve family-themed event.

Cruise around the world as the ship stops at exotic ports of call, where guests can dance with a swing band, listen to musical performances from jazz to symphony, watch comedy and acrobatic acts and enjoy a hip-hop dance for middle schoolers, among many other events.

Children's activities begin at 3:30 p.m. at the Summit Middle School, followed by evening activities starting at 7:30 p.m. with fireworks at 7 p.m. and midnight.

Badges are sold at Kings Super Markets, the Summit YMCA, and the Suburban Chambers of Commerce, at office at 77 Summit Avenue, or call 908-522-1722.



Jazz at First Night Summit will feature the Dan Crisci Quartet with vocalist Bill Robinson. Jazz singer Robinson, a Summit resident, will team up with the Crisci quartet to perform some favorite and popular jazz compositions that have been performed by many groups in the tri-state area.



A Celtic favorite returns to First Night Summit 2004 when Aiden O'Donnell sings and plays her traditional Irish harp in two performances at The Connection for Women & Families. Admission badges to First Night are on sale at area Kings Super Markets and in downtown Summit stores.

Speaker examines ethics

At the Tuesday meeting of the Summit Old Guard, guest speaker Donald G. Jones will speak on the topic "Making Ethical Decisions and Judgments in Contemporary Life."

As a professor at Drew University, since 1986, Jones teaches social ethics in the graduate school and the liberal arts college. After receiving degrees from Drew University, Jones served in the U.S. Navy, in business, and as a Methodist minister before entering academia.

He holds professional memberships in organizations relating to practical and business ethics, religion, and higher education, and is active in the American Ethics Committee of the New Jersey Supreme Court and the Medical Ethics Committee of Morristown Hospital.

The winner of several teaching awards, Jones is author of numerous books and articles and a participant in seminars and conferences with emphasis on corporate and business ethics. He lives with his wife, Karen, in Madison; they have two sons.

Student starts knit club

Oak Knoll School sophomore Jessica Gardner was spending a little free time at school crocheting a scarf one day, when other students started asking her to teach them. At the same time, she began thinking that perhaps someone else could use that scarf more than she.

"I thought maybe if there was so much interest in it, I could start a knitting and crocheting group after school, and start making things for people who really need them," said Jessica. Her great-uncle taught her to knit and crochet years ago, and she recently resurrected those skills. She put flyers up all over school, just to see how many might show enough interest to start an after-school club. Jessica also sent letters to every yarn manufacturer she could find, asking for donations. The response was positive.

The group's first meeting Dec. 12 attracted more than 20 students. One of the yarn manufacturers, Brown Sheep of Nebraska, sent a huge box of yarn, and a couple of students brought in donations, as well. Jessica is the daughter of Kevin and Lisa Gardner of Summit.



Oak Knoll School sophomore Jessica Gardner, center, of Summit is surrounded by some of the yarn donated by a yarn manufacturer for her project to knit scarves for those in need. She is flanked by senior Erica Hoerl, left, and junior Nicole Brown.

Agency helps seniors

The Summit Housing Authority recently entered into an agreement with Helping Hands Homecare of Clark to provide personal care and housekeeping services for frail, elderly residents of its Senior Citizen Housing located at 12 Chestnut Ave. Summit.

Personal care services can assist residents with daily tasks such as bathing, dressing, shopping and housework, enabling residents to live independently.

The 12 Chestnut Ave. Housing, built in 1986, houses approximately 125 senior citizens. Income-eligible residents can participate in the personal care and housekeeping programs at a state-subsidized rate through the state's Congregate Housing Services program. In addition, the Summit Housing Authority has recently expanded its programs to its residents to include a Health/Wellness Center and a daily hot meal for its frail, elderly residents.

If you or a loved one may need assistance with daily tasks, call Helping Hands Homecare at 908-451-0715.

RELIGION

Israeli folksongs, dances highlight Shabbat

Extend the beauty of Shabbat at the Summit Jewish Community Center, 67 Kent Place Blvd. Jan. 10 with a special program of Israeli folksongs and dances led by Cantor Janet Roth Krupnick with guitar accompaniment.

At 4:29 p.m. there will be a Mincha led by their USYers, please welcome their newest and prospective members.

At 5 p.m., Sarah Shilshit featuring Israeli folk. At 5:30 p.m., a Ma'ariv and Havdalah, with all the children invited up on the bima and at 6 p.m., a Melave Malka featuring a little dancing, a lot of singing and, of course, dessert.

For information, call 908-273-8130.

Family Shabbat Service offered Friday

The Summit Jewish Community Center, 67 Kent Place Blvd., invites members to a Family Shabbat Service at 7 p.m. Friday.

All children in grades Gimmel through Zayin seventh are invited on the Bima to lead services with the cantor Rabbi William Horn, who will give a special blessing to all children who are celebrating a birthday in the month of January.

There will be special performances of songs by the Gan, Aleph and Bet Kindergarten, first and second-grade students, the nursery school children and the Meshorim children's choir.

The SJCC conducts an informal family service the first Shabbat of each month. For information, call the office at 908-273-8130.

Christian-minded social group forms

Wings, a social group for ages 35-60, has formed in Springfield.

The group's mission statement is to form a group of Christian-minded members who have found themselves recently separated, divorced or widowed and need nurturing, companionship and want to have some fun, too. These individuals will have a need for companionship with other singles, but are not ready to begin dating. They

Artist-in-Residence Shabbat planned

At 7 p.m. Jan. 30 and 31, Artist-in-Residence Shabbat with Pizmon, the cappella choral group of Columbia University, Barnard College and the Jewish Theological Seminary, will take place at Summit Jewish Community Center, 67 Kent Place Blvd.

For information, call 908-273-8130.

Special ed. parents group to meet

The January Special Education Parent Advisory Meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 9 in the Summit Middle School board conference room. Please note that this is a change of venue and day to allow the teachers to attend.

Preschool handicap teachers Carol Sweeney from Lincoln-Hubbard and Susan Moffet from Washington School, will talk about the transition from preschool to kindergarten.

All interested parents are welcome to attend. For information, call Carolyn Mulligan at 908-277-0874.

CASH IN YOUR CLOSET

Just drop your items with us... We'll sell them on eBay. We do all the work and you get a check in the mail! YES, IT'S THAT EASY!

Antiques, Art & Collectibles, Books & Printed Material, Cameras, Computers & Electronics, Clothing, Shoes & Accessories, Coins & Stamps, Home Decor and Housewares, Jewelry & Watches, Musical Instruments, Toys, Games, Dolls & Bears, Sports Memorabilia & Equipment.

Call for more information: Ken and Mindy - 973-379-7758. Cashinyourcloset@hotmail.com

FIRST BABY OF 2004

WHO WILL THE FIRST BABY BE? Are you expecting a Special delivery? If you're expecting a bundle of joy around the first of the year, you can win a bundle of great prizes for you and baby from the participating sponsor's listed below. Just refer to the official guidelines listed here and best of luck to all of you!

Entry Ballot for Mountainside, Springfield or Summit for the very first baby born in 2004. Includes fields for Family Name, Baby's Name, Mother & Father's Name, Address, Date of Birth, Time, AM, PM, Phone No., Attend. Physician, Address of Physician, Certification Submitted, and Signature of Parent of Baby. ENVELOPE MUST BE MARKED "FIRST BABY"

BABY 2004 Zappia's Congratulate to the New Parents Celebrate with A Small Antipasto Tray \$40 Value. Full Service • Catering for all Occasions • Corporate • Private. 33 Union Place • Summit • 908-273-9600

BABY 2004 To The Parents Of The First Baby From SUMMIT CAR WASH & DETAIL CENTER. Two (2) FREE Deluxe Interior/Exterior Car Washes. 100 SPRINGFIELD AVE. SUMMIT (908) 273-0830. MADISON CAR WASH 267 MAIN ST. MADISON 973-377-7188

BABY 2004 Sterling Hallmark Shops 362 Springfield Ave. • Summit • 908-277-1337. Congratulations to The First Baby. Complimentary Baby Picture Frame.

BABY 2004 DORIA PIZZERIA & RESTAURANT 432 SPRINGFIELD AVE. SUMMIT (908) 277-0909. Congratulations To The New Parents 1 FREE PIZZA

BABY 2004 Congratulations To The Parents ONE FREE BIRTHDAY CAKE (Must be official Newspaper Winner). Baskin-Robbins. 14 Beechwood Road • Summit 908-522-9731 / 908-598-7227

BABY 2004 TROST BAKE SHOP Congratulations To The Parents of The 1st Baby Please accept our gift of your BABY'S 1st BIRTH-DAY CAKE. 427 Springfield Avenue, Summit 908-277-6052

BABY 2004 Foodtown OF SPRINGFIELD Congratulations to the proud new parents Please accept our gift of a \$20.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE. 2015 Morris Ave., Springfield • 973-376-8899

BABY 2004 For The First Baby - A Pair of Gold-Plated Earrings and Ear Piercing by a Board Certified Pediatrician. SUMMIT SPRINGFIELD FAMILY PRACTICE & PEDIATRICS. Overlook Medical Arts Center 33 Overlook Road, Suite 403 Summit, (908) 277-0050

BABY 2004 FLOREZ TOBACCONIST Congratulations To The New Proud Parents! Have A Cigar On Us! Dad's First Cigar. 37 Beechwood Rd. • Summit • 908-3-1600

WORSHIP CALENDAR

Worship Calendar listing services for Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Jewish Conservative, Lutheran, Jewish Orthodox, Pentecostal, and Unitarian churches. Includes times and locations for various services.

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY listing various local businesses including Zappia's, Sterling Hallmark Shops, Doria Pizzeria, Baskin-Robbins, Trost Bake Shop, Foodtown, Florez Tobacconist, and others.

COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Way to go

Getting an opportunity to learn about the land at the Houdaille Quarry in Springfield usually only comes once a year. But plans to create a new public trail system at the site are moving forward under the direction of Union County, with the project expected to be complete by 2007.

This can be good for the quarry, as it will raise awareness about the importance of an environmental asset in the township and get more people to visit the site. As it is now, the quarry doesn't appear to be a place most people would go on a regular basis. The entrance gate to the area doesn't look too inviting, even if the view is fairly expansive.

Creating a trail for people to use, complete with foot bridges, fencing, educational kiosks and maps, would provide for a more user-friendly place to visit, giving people more information on the natural history of the area, which includes a leaf composting operation. Instead of having tours just once a year, the public would be able to enjoy the quarry all year, from dusk to dawn.

The county is applying for a \$25,000 Federal Recreation Trails Program grant, administered by the state's Division of Parks and Forestry, to help fund the trail. The county is going to match the grant with \$5,000 for labor, equipment and technical assistance. Even if the grant is not obtained, the county plans to go ahead with the trail, with work starting in the spring.

We can't wait to see how the quarry will improve with a public walking trail, a plan that's sure to generate more appreciation and interest in what goes on there.



PREPARED TO PROTECT — On hand for the unveiling of the new mobile command post vehicle are, from left, Post Commander Marc Marshall; Clarence Thompson, assistant director of Marketing Commercial Division of Dodgen Mobile Tech Lab; Springfield EMS Coordinator John Cottage; Mayor Gregory Clarke and Springfield Deputy Coordinator Scott Seidel. The new vehicle, unveiled Dec. 17, is designed to support multi-agency emergency operations in the township.

Photo by Reena Rose Sibayan

To diet well, know when the calories don't count

There are a number of diet plans on the market these days. Some of them are pretty good. But most would-be dieters fail to stick to them long enough to shed those unwanted pounds.

The reason for this is that these diet plans tend to include the "it doesn't count" rule. As a result, most dieters find themselves frustrated, unhappy and most of all... hungry.

But the majority of these diet dropouts could be eliminated if only the "it doesn't count" rule were made a part of their program.

For example, it doesn't count if you eat when you are standing up. This applies at cocktail parties, weddings, and similar functions. All around you people are nibbling away at the cocktail franks and the assorted

canapes. You are left eyeing them enviously while you clutch your bottle of mineral water.

This proves to be so upsetting that you order a second helping of prime rib during the second portion of the festivities, thus undoing two weeks' worth of dietary discipline and sacrifice.

It doesn't count if you are at someone else's home. To turn away your host's hospitality because it happens to contain a few unnecessary carbs would be very ungracious. You easily could make up for your excess the next day and rest assured that you would not be excluded from the guest list for the next function.

It doesn't count if it is a Sunday. After all, what are Sundays for if not to reward yourself after a week of toil? And it certainly doesn't count on a holiday. Only a grinch could deny you the pleasure of a helping of cherries or a la mode on a feast day.

And, if it happens to be a holiday that falls on a Sunday, and you are at someone else's home, you have hit the "it doesn't count" trifecta.

Most people are aware that it doesn't count if you are eating outdoors. This rule is necessary to cover you for pre-buff and backyard barbecues for next season. If it is an important rule because everyone knows that food tastes so much better eaten outdoors.

Of course, we probably do not even have to mention the one "it doesn't count" rule that everyone knows and follows. It doesn't count if you see you eat it.

These rules of "it doesn't count" are crucial to dieting success. True, if you follow them you probably will not lose much weight. But at least this way you will be much less surly and a lot more pleasant to be with. And most importantly, you won't be hungry.

Party sensibly

Tonight is New Year's Eve. As many other unofficial holidays in America, there are established traditions associated with this, the final evening of the year. Some people draft long lists of New Year's resolutions in hopes of improving themselves. Families have been known to prepare a specific meal for either tonight or tomorrow morning to assure good luck in the coming days.

On the public side, hundreds of thousands of people will crowd into Times Square to see the dropping of the ball, which marks the beginning of the new year. And those members of the Polar Bear Club will awaken New Year's Day and jump laughing into the Atlantic Ocean, no matter what the water temperature.

But for most of us, the traditional New Year's Eve is spent at a social gathering, from small dinners to huge, noisy parties that explode into gaiety at the stroke of midnight. And for nearly all those gatherings, the refreshment of choice is alcohol. If you have any doubt about this, late this afternoon peek inside nearly any liquor store and observe the long line of customers at the cashier station.

The alcohol is what presents a problem tonight, because many people will be tempted to drive home when they shouldn't be anywhere near a steering wheel. They may be infrequent drinkers, unaware of the effects of their impairment. Or they might feel their inebriation is hidden by the cover of darkness. Or they simply may not care, although that would probably not be the excuse they would give the police officer if they were stopped at one of the many nocturnal checkpoints established during the holidays.

We urge all party-goers not to restrict their revelry, but to party sensibly. Go light on the alcohol. Sip a glass of water after each drink. Enjoy a mocktail. Take along a designated driver. Better yet, take a cab. But no matter what, celebrate the arrival of the new year without putting yourself or your neighbors in danger of an alcohol-related auto accident.

We wish all our readers and advertisers a full, happy and safe 2004.

County Seat

Other highlights of Leh's 1994 reorganization speech, construct a new train station in Union, dredge Port Newark-Eliabeth, construct a twin span for the Goethals Bridge in Elizabeth, secure vital links from Newark International Airport to downtown Elizabeth and extend these to the western part of Union County to Cranford and Plainfield.

In 1992, Democrats had gained a majority on the nine-member freeholder board and moved plans to build a new juvenile detention facility in downtown Elizabeth, where the Prosecutor's Office is now housed. The project included a parking garage and cogeneration plant, driving the price tag past \$40 million.

Since then, at least two committees have looked at potential sites for a new facility. Summit officials threatened secession at the suggestion of sitting in their city, and the county purchased, and later sold, property that one time was planned to house a new detention center. But not until a suite at the facility last spring did it gain as much momentum, at least publicly, as it has now.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Homeland security is our heritage

The Civil Air Patrol is celebrating 62 years of volunteer service to America. Since Dec. 1, 1941, when the organization was formed, CAP has protected the home skies. In the early days of World War II, CAP performed anti-submarine patrols and was responsible for saving countless lives and merchant ships from disaster. Today Civil Air Patrol, as the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary, is involved in homeland security with over 64,000 trained volunteers, 1,700 operational units, 530 aircraft and 1,000 vehicles.

Sept. 11, 2001, was a tragic day for America. CAP responded with the first aerial survey of the World Trade Center disaster site and provided air transportation for federal officials days after Sept. 11. CAP patrolled the waters off Cape Kennedy prior to the last shuttle and provided homeland security support during the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City flying 534 hours of

Annual speeches can sound awfully familiar

Leh's speech was delivered 10 years ago but some of the topics are virtually the same today, almost generic. There's the "keeping taxes in line while battling increased costs," and state-mandate, state-pay arguments that ring singularly from year about anyone, anywhere, Democratic or Republican.

In 1994, the county budget was \$264 million, with \$148 million coming from property taxes. Last year, the budget was \$344 million, \$191 million from property taxes. County Manager George Devanney will present his executive budget for 2004 to freeholders no later than Jan. 15.

Initial discussions indicate it will be a better year for the county than 2003. Last year was the toughest year, Devanney said, adding that the county has "burned the corner" in terms of creating some tax stabilization, and rather than a diminishing output, plus, the board will have a healthier reserve. Part of that he attributed to cost-cutting.

In the late 1990s, with the help of the state taking over the cost of the court system, the freeholder board — by then dominated solely by Democrats — was able to keep the tax levy steady, and in some years even reduce it slightly.

Record surpluses also allowed the board to come up with initiatives like the Freeholder Scholars Program and municipal grant programs like Down-

Public Notice

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION, N.J.

RESOLUTION FOR AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT TO KIRKPATRICK INC FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW SHIP BUILDING AT THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Township of Springfield is in need of contract for architectural and related services for the design and construction of a new ship building in the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 17A:11, et seq., requires a resolution authorizing the award of the contract for professional services without competitive bids, and that the contract shall be available for inspection;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Town-

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Public Notice

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF HANNAH WEINSTEIN, AKA ANNA P. WEINSTEIN, Deceased

Pursuant to the order of James S. Lacorte, Surrogate of the County of Union, made on the 26th day of December, A.D. 2003, upon the application of the undersigned, as EXECUTOR of the estate of said deceased, notice is hereby given to the creditors of said estate to file their claims and demands against the estate of said deceased within six months from the date of said order.

DAVID KINNEAR, EXECUTOR

ATTORNEYS: MCCOYNE, SAUMAN, TEEBAN, FLAHDAN & KUMAR, P.C. 933 RIDGEWOOD RD. BAYL EWOOD, NJ 07004 973-933-6300 (ECL Dec 31, 2003) (\$9.38)

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WHAT? 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.

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OBITUARIES

Louis Puopolo Jr.
Louis A. Puopolo Jr., 90, of Springfield died Dec. 15 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.
Born in Newark, Mr. Puopolo lived in Springfield for 50 years. He was a hairdresser and owned and operated Louis Hairdresser, Springfield, for 45 years. Mr. Puopolo retired 15 years ago. He also was a musician and played in the house band at the Frar Tick Inn, Cedar Grove. Mr. Puopolo was a member of the Musicians Local 16.

Irving Maloratsky
Irving Maloratsky of Springfield died Dec. 18 in the Daughters of Israel Genetics Center, West Orange.
Born in Newark, Mr. Maloratsky moved to Springfield 43 years ago. He was a comptroller with the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in West Orange for 28 years before retiring in 1981. Previously, Mr. Maloratsky owned an accounting firm in Springfield.

Martha Amabile
Martha M. Amabile, 94, of Pittsford, formerly of Springfield, died Dec. 14 in the Hunterdon Medical Center, Flemington.
Born in Newark, Mrs. Amabile lived in Irvington and Springfield before moving to Pittsford nine years ago. She was a member of the New Bowlers Association.

Joseph Keiderling
Joseph C. Keiderling, 75, of Berkeley Heights, formerly of Mountaintop, died Dec. 18 in the Berkeley Heights Convalescent Center.
Born in Taylor, Pa., Mr. Keiderling lived in Pittsford, Pa., Newark, Mountaintop and New Providence before moving to Berkeley Heights three years ago. He was a technician for Western Electric Co., Union, for 33 years and retired in 1983. Mr. Keiderling served in the Army from 1946 to 1948.

Mary E. Holmes
Mary Elizabeth Holmes, 85, of Mountaintop, formerly of Elizabeth, died Dec. 4 in the Brighton Gardens Extended Care Facility, Mountaintop.
Born in Farmville, Va., Mrs. Holmes lived in Elizabeth and Edison before moving to Mountaintop. She was a founding member of Edison's Oaktree Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Holmes was active on the board of JFK Medical Center, Edison, and with the Metuchen Race Relations Council, the North Edison Civic Improvement Club and the North Edison Day Care Center. She had been a civil rights activist in Elizabeth and Edison.

John Schlepner
John Schlepner, 83, of Springfield died Dec. 16 at home.
Born in Germany, Mr. Schlepner lived in Newark before moving to Springfield many years ago. He was a baker at Berkeley Bakery and Deli, Berkeley Heights, for more than 20 years and retired about 20 years ago. Mr. Schlepner was an Army veteran of World War II. He was stationed near Hawaii and was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. Mr. Schlepner was a member of the American Legion Post 228, Springfield.

Eric Dalrymple Sr.
Eric G. Dalrymple Sr., 95, of Lakewood, formerly of Springfield, died Oct. 25 in the Harrogate Health Care Center, Lakewood.
Born in New York City, Mr. Dalrymple lived in Springfield for 45 years before moving to Lakewood "eight years" ago.

Golda Drucker
Golda Drucker, 70, of Boca Raton, Fla., formerly of Springfield, died Dec. 18 in Rockville, Md.
Born in Newark, Mrs. Drucker lived in Springfield before moving to Boca Raton more than 10 years ago. She was vice president and controller of Drucker Printing, Linden, for 30 years as well as president of Dash Offset, Millington, for 10 years before retiring in 1990.

Kathleen D. Wisniewski-RMC MC
Kathleen D. Wisniewski-RMC MC, 67, of Springfield, died Dec. 30, 2003. (ECL Dec 31, 2003) (\$18.38)

Consuelo Francis
Consuelo V. Francis, 84, of Springfield died Dec. 13 at home.
Born in Irvington, Mrs. Francis moved to Springfield many years ago. She worked at J.J. Newberry's, Springfield, before retiring. Mrs. Francis was a member of the Church and Cannon Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution, the Economic Council and Emanuel United Methodist Church Choir, all of Springfield.

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Mom's Night Out



Edward V. Walton School PTA in Springfield sponsored a "Mom's Night Out" last month, featuring more than 30 vendors for some early holiday shopping. April Hayes, a teacher at James Caldwell School, considers some earrings from Linda Nese of The Jewelry Bag.

AT THE LIBRARY

Fisherman's tale of romance on tap
The Good Books Discussion Group of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. will meet at 7 p.m. Jan. 8 to discuss "Spartina" by John Casey.

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

Donations sought
The Friends of the Springfield Public Library would like donations of used paperback novels. Also welcome would be magazines within a year's date and costume jewelry.

Artist's sketch exhibit
An exhibit of sketches pulled from more than 60 artists' sketchbooks spanning 24 years will be displayed at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., through Jan. 8.

Public Notice
TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION, N.J.

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TAKE NOTICE THAT THE BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, has resolved to accept the following holidays in 2004. These holidays are in accordance with the Municipal Employee's Contract.

New Year's Day	Thursday	January 1st	15th
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Monday	January 19th	19th
Shrove Tuesday	Tuesday	February 3rd	3rd
Good Friday	Friday	April 10th	10th
Memorial Day	Monday	May 18th	18th
Independence Day	Monday	July 4th	4th
Labour Day	Monday	September 1st	1st
Columbus Day	Monday	October 13th	13th
Election Day	Tuesday	November 3rd	3rd
Veteran's Day	Thursday	November 11th	11th
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November 27th	27th
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday	December 1st	1st
New Year's (2005)	Friday	December 31st	31st

KATHLEEN D. WISNIEWSKI, RMC, CMC
Township Clerk (15) 50

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Time To Check Your Bed

- Is the cover soiled, stained or torn?
- Does the surface look uneven?
- Do you hear creaking or crunches when you turn over?
- Are you fighting your partner for space?
- When you roll over, does the bed wobble or sway?
- Does the box spring look uneven?
- Is your mattress or box spring more than eight to ten years old?
- Is it hard to get comfortable falling asleep?
- Do the same beds you try feel much better?

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Published Weekly Since 1929
Incorporating Springfield Leader and Mountaintop Echo

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

SPORTS

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Among the best



Summit High School senior quarterback Rob Schroeder (No. 15) was named co-Offensive Player of the Year in Union County by The Star-Ledger along with teammate Dwayne Reid. Schroeder, who will attend Duke University on a lacrosse scholarship, was also a Third Team All-State selection, while Reid was a Second Team choice.

Summit boys' basketball fouled up against Rahway

Hilltoppers sported 2-1 mark as of Monday

By Jeff Wolfman
Staff Writer
RAHWAY, Febr. 1 — That's what the coaching staff and fans of the Summit High School boys' basketball team were saying after the Hilltoppers' 61-46 loss to Rahway in the first round of the John "Butch" Koral Memorial Tournament at the Earl H. Walter Gymnasium last Saturday night.

Summit was scheduled to participate in a consolation game against Westfield Monday night. Rahway was then scheduled to follow right after in a consolation game against South Plainfield.

Rahway improved to 4-0 with the win, while Summit dropped to 2-4. Summit was scheduled to participate in a consolation game against Westfield Monday night. Rahway was then scheduled to follow right after in a consolation game against South Plainfield.

Dayton girls' hoops team off to fine start

The Dayton Girls' Basketball team continued the month of December with an impressive 3-1 record and were one point away from a perfect 4-0 start.

Mountainside's Collins in lacrosse league

Former Georgetown men's lacrosse players Pat Collins of Mountainside and Kyle Sweeney were selected in the 2003 National Lacrosse League Entry Draft, which took place in Toronto, Ontario, Canada Oct. 25.

Grapplers getting in gear for the bigger tournaments

29th Union County T. competition Feb. 6, 7

This is the time of season where wrestlers are just getting into shape. Many area grapplers are competing in holiday tournaments this week, seeking to excel in tournament competition that will prepare them for later in the season.

The first big tournament for local wrestlers will be the 29th Annual Union County Wrestling Tournament Feb. 6 and 7 at Union High School.

The Union County Interscholastic Athletic Conference, serving Union County student-athletes for more than 50 years, is sponsoring the 29th Annual Union County Wrestling Tournament.

Union High School will be the site once again for this highly-competitive tournament.

The seeding meeting is scheduled to take place at UHS five weeks from tomorrow, Feb. 5 at 5:30 p.m.

The schedule of rounds is as follows:
Fridays, Feb. 6:
5 p.m. Pre-preliminary and preliminary.
7:30 p.m. Quarterfinals.
9 p.m. Consolation Preliminary.

Saturday, Feb. 7:
10 a.m. Semifinals and Consolation Quarterfinals.
11:30 a.m. Consolation Semifinals.
2 p.m. Consolation Semifinals, 3rd, 5th places.
3:45 p.m. Awards Presentations
4 p.m. Finals.

Participating teams include: Cranford, Brearley, Elizabeth, Governor Livingston, Johnson, Linden, New Providence, Oratory Prep, Plainfield, Rahway, Roselle Catholic, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains, Union and Westfield.

If weather is questionable, the number to call will be 908-241-3099 or log on to Roselleparkschools.org. Click on the high school symbol and then click on athletic announcements.

This prestigious Union County Tournament is sponsored by the Union County Interscholastic Athletic Conference under the supervision and direction of Frank J. Ciccarelli, Executive Director.

The UCIAC wishes to thank the Union Board of Education, administration and staff for hosting this great wrestling tournament. Special thanks also to the entire tournament staff, especially Bill Parsons, Union High School Athletic Director and Ron Bubnowski, Union High School Wrestling Coach.

This tournament has always featured outstanding sportsmanship on the part of fans, coaches and wrestlers. Let's keep the 2004 tournament at a high level.

Special thanks to Martin Studios from Kenilworth for serving as UCIAC Official Wrestling Tournament Photographer. Order forms will be available for the purchase of photos.

Medal presentations include:
Bob Behre: The Star-Ledger sports writer for wrestling.
Herb Farrell: Former wrestling coach at Cranford, two-time state champion and a judge for the Outstanding Wrestler award.

Mike Sorrentino: Former wrestling coach at Scotch Plains and Gov. Livingston and a judge for the Outstanding Wrestler award.
Dick Zancovitz: Former President of the New Jersey Wrestling Official Association and a judge for the Outstanding Wrestler award.

Jerry Sachsels: Former Millburn wrestling coach, seeding chairperson for this tournament and judge for the Outstanding Wrestler award.
Sam Appello: Former Roselle Park wrestling coach and former President of the Union County Wrestling Coaches Association.

Frank Ciccarelli: Executive Director - Treasurer of the UCIAC and Director of Physical Education for the Elizabeth Public Schools.
Fred Stueber: Former Rahway wrestling coach and former President of the Union County Wrestling Coaches Association.

Dick Parsons: Director of Athletics for Union High School and co-director and host for this prestigious tournament.
Gary Keblers: Former Athletic Director and coach at Westfield and a judge for the Outstanding Wrestler award.
Steve Povaliac: Former J.P. Stevens wrestling coach, New Jersey state champion, great supporter of USA Wrestling and a judge for the Outstanding Wrestler award.
Rick Harzer: Former Elizabeth wrestling coach, member of the Advisory Planning Committee and author of souvenir program.

Champions:
103 - Daron Caldwell, Rahway
112 - Ed McCray, Rahway
119 - Steven Mineo, Scotch Plains
125 - Ann Queen, Elizabeth
130 - Nick Zangan, Roselle Park
135 - Ethan Powell, Westfield
140 - Mike Followan, Gov. Livingston
145 - Lee Tomasso, Westfield
152 - James Garrison, Roselle Park
160 - Charlie Bacho, Scotch Plains
171 - Andrew Silber, Scotch Plains
189 - Shane Mallory, New Providence
215 - Shawn Coughlin, Gov. Livingston
HWT - Matt Loomis, Scotch Plains

Union County Wrestling Tournament History:
Year: Team Champion and Outstanding Wrestler
2003: Roselle Park, Daron Caldwell, Rahway and Lee Tomasso, Westfield
2002: Roselle Park, Dan Appello, Roselle Park and Greg D'Amico, Cranford
2001: Roselle Park, Altay Vigilante, Brearley and Barry Stein, Union
2000: Roselle Park, Dan Appello, Roselle Park and Tim Marcantonio, Gov. Livingston
1999: Roselle Park, Craig Frost, Roselle Park and Ishmael Medley, Elizabeth
1998: Roselle Park, Craig Frost, Roselle Park and Nik Fekete, Cranford
1997: Roselle Park, Hill Crecia, Roselle Park
1996: Rahway, Tom Wysocki, Rahway
1995: Rahway, Eric Swick, Roselle Park
1994: Union, John Sached, New Providence
1993: Roselle Park, Pat McCafferty, Roselle Park
1992: Westfield, Paul Jordan, Westfield
1991: Roselle Park, Willie Carpenter, Cranford
1990: Westfield, Maurice Rios, Elizabeth

Four-time individual champions:
1985-1988: Larry Guanno, Union
1993-1996: David Bubnowski, Union
1996-1999: Craig Frost, Roselle Park
1999-2002: Dan Appello, Roselle Park

U.C. Coaches Award / Union County Coach of Year:
2003: T. Ralph "Pug" Williams award: Stueber, Rahway
2002: Mike Torno, R. Park and Dave Bello, S. Plains
2001: Joe Lospino, Brearley and Glen Kurz, Westfield and Dom DiGiocchino, Cranford
2000: Carlos and Tony Garay, Rahway and Brian Luciano, Brearley
1999: John Ramien, Sr., R. Park and Mike Armitiere, S. Plains
1998: Roger Cassett, Plainfield and Dave Bello, SP
1997: Steve Povaliac, J.P. Stevens and John Silveira, Elizabeth

1996: Jerry Sachsels, Dayton Regional and Fred Stueber, Rahway and Sam Appello, Roselle Park
1995: Al Litley, Union and Fred Stueber, Rahway
1994: Gerry Nisivoceca, Elizabeth and John Mineo, Gov. Livingston
1993: Len Zanowicz, Scotch Plains and Fred Stueber, Rahway
1992: Hossa Payne, Elizabeth and Gary Bremer, New Providence
1991: Rick Brodman, Summit and Sam Appello, Roselle Park
1990: Mike Sorrentino, Scotch Plains and Don MacDonald, Westfield and Rick Tacono, Dayton Regional

1989: Phil Esposito, New Providence and Fred Stueber, Rahway
1988: Ernie Finkler, Roselle Park and Gerry Nisivoceca, Elizabeth
1987: Gary Keblers, Westfield and Fred Stueber, Rahway
1986: Herb Farrell and Gerry Nisivoceca, Elizabeth
1985: Walter Shallross, Union and Sam Appello, Roselle Park
1984: T. Ralph Williams, Roselle Park and Charles Ferrara, Cranford

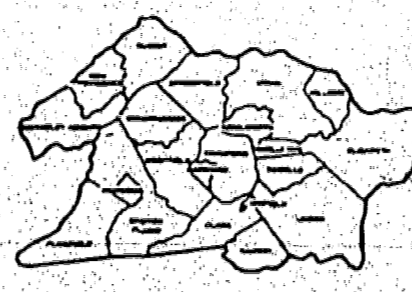
With the seeding meeting set for Feb. 5, the 14 reported weight classes include: 105, 114, 121, 127, 132, 137, 142, 147, 154, 162, 173, 191, 217 and 277.

Format of Tournament:
• **Form of Wrestling:** 1st- and 2nd-place winners will have five matches, while all other place winners could have 5 to 6 matches, with an additional match (7) if they draw a pre-preliminary match.
• A loss in the pre-preliminary round (the out bracket) will eliminate a contestant from further competition.
• A wrestler who loses in the preliminary round will only be eligible for the consolations if his opponent makes it to the semifinal round.
• All matches in the consolations (wrestlebacks) will be 2 minutes; 2 minutes; 2 minutes. (New rule to be applied.)
• Team scoring will continue throughout the wrestle-back.
• Team scoring will be to the 6th place.

Awards:
Teams: 1st place, 2nd place.
Individual: Medals for 1st place, 2nd place and 3rd place.
Ribbons for 4th place, 5th place and 6th place.
Outstanding Wrestlers: 105-142 and 147-277.
T. Ralph "Pug" Williams: Contribution to Union County Wrestling.
Others include:
Union County Coach of the Year and Most Plans.

Here's a look at the 2003 Union County Tournament:
Team Standings:
1. Roselle Park 257
2. Scotch Plains 220.5
3. Rahway 192
4. Westfield 142
5. New Providence 139.5
6. Brearley 92
7. Gov. Livingston 89
8. Cranford 84
9. Elizabeth 83.5
10. Johnson 75.

Applications available to umpire baseball and softball. Applications are now being accepted for candidates wishing to become baseball/softball umpires in the New Jersey State Baseball Umpires Association. Interested candidates may obtain an application by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: David R. Klein, 37 Bryant Ave., Bloomfield, N.J. 07003. Classes begin Feb. 4.



WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2003 - SECTION B

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Catching the wave

As reported, a major chunk of the Union County Democratic power structure joined the state leadership in the early endorsement of Howard Dean as their standard bearer.

Picking winners in the presidential sweepstakes is always dicey. The John Glenn, Mike Dukakis and Joe Biden efforts saw a lot of local Dems come up empty.

Left Out
By Frank Cappee
Catching the right presidential wave can be heady stuff. Clay Constantinou, an Essex lawyer, caught the wave by becoming a tenacious fund-raiser for Clinton.

He was later named ambassador to Luxembourg. There are no guarantees. This time Constantinou is a major fund-raiser for the faltering campaign of Sen. John Kerry.

Union County Democrats had a friend in Washington during the Clinton years. It included visits to the White House and spiffy Christmas cards. The personal pictures with former President Clinton and Vice President Gore still adorn a lot of offices of the party faithful.

On the other side of the political fence, Cranford lawyer and Republican fund-raiser William Palatucci is a member of an elite fundraising group known as Pro-ness. Going back some four years ago, Palatucci organized countless trips for major fund-raiser for then Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

He has made Palatucci a force in Republican national affairs. Still, the Dean candidacy is unique in the role of presidential politics. The next "Union County Meet Up" of the campaign is Jan. 7 at Springfield Public Library. The Web site claims 161,286 supporters who joined the campaign via computer. Assemblywoman Linda Stender, an early supporter, talks about a Dean presidency which will reactivate the county for the struggling economy.

In her endorsement, Union County Democratic Chairman Charlotte DeFillipo said, "Dr. Dean is a visionary who will bring executive experience to the White House and a proven record in expanding health care to the previously uninsured improving children's education inside and outside of the classroom."

Rahway Mayor James Kennedy remains a key supporter of Kerry. Mayor Chris Bollwage of Elizabeth and Albert McWilliams of Plainfield are still uncommitted. The state's senior senator, Jon Corzine, while acknowledging the front-runner status said last week about Dean, "Some will be concerned about his attitude, which is not fleshed out completely, about laying down initiatives on re-regulating the economy."

More realistically, if Dean does prevail, Union County Democrats will be sitting pretty at the Democratic convention the last week of July in Boston. That still leaves open, of course, the General Election when recent polls put the popularity of President Bush at 63 percent, the highest in the third year since Jimmy Carter. But the analogy about shifting sands is for another day.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Cappee is an attorney.

Expansion of center started

Construction on the nearly \$5 million addition to Union County's Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside has begun.

The three-story addition will increase the museum's total floor area by more than 17,800 square feet, bringing the facility's total square footage to 25,717.

Plans for the renovation of Trailside have been in the works since 2001, after it was determined by county officials that the facility needed additional classrooms for school groups, scouts and adults; a variety of exhibit areas; and adequate office space for staff and naturalists.

"We have a unique, educational opportunity in the Watching Reservation for school-aged children," said Department of Parks and Recreation Director Charles Sigmund, explaining that Trailside currently does not have enough classroom space to accommodate all the interested children. "We need to expand and we're doing that."

Trailside is located in the Watching Reservation, a 2,000-acre preserve containing forests, three ponds, swamps, streams, springs, fields and more than 13 miles of color-coded hiking trails.

In July, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders allocated \$1 million from the county's Open Space, Recreation and Historical Trust Fund to help offset the cost of the Trailside construction.

Voters approved the trust fund in a November 2000 referendum that established a tax of \$0.15 per \$100 of assessed value dedicated to open space, recreation and historic preservation purposes.

The \$1 million from the Open Space Trust Fund was added to \$3.6 million in capital funds already approved for the project.

Farmdale-based Hall Building Corporation, which received a \$4,985,400 construction contract to complete the expansion, broke ground on the project about a month ago.

Construction is scheduled to take between 12 and 18 months. Construction on the three-story facility will include on the lower level collection and storage units, restrooms, an audio/visual preparation area and studio, discovery room and attraction area; on the main level a multi-purpose room, classrooms, a kitchenette, additional exhibit space, a gift shop, a reception area, restrooms, and on the upper level: three additional classrooms, exhibit space, staff offices, an exterior terrace and restrooms.

Currently, Trailside offers programs such as forest ecology, the geology of the Watching Reservation, as well as classes dealing with aquatic life, reptiles and birds.

Most of Trailside's programs take place outdoors — field trips and nature walks. However, Sigmund said once the museum has additional classroom space Trailside's programs will be enhanced indoors as well.

Limited programming is being offered at the museum while construction takes place, he added. "The staff is trying to do the best they can under difficult circumstances," said Sigmund.

The Trailside visitor center is open daily from 1 to 5 p.m. and contains exhibits on reptiles, featuring live snakes and turtles.

The Natural History Museum is open daily from 1 to 5 p.m., April through November and during winter school vacations. The museum is open weekends only from December through March.

The museum features exhibits including the mammals of the Watching Reservation, birds of the Watching Reservation, the art of taxidermy and fluorescent minerals. The museum also has a discovery room for children, featuring hands-on exhibits and live animals during the summer months.

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Union County's plans for Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside will bring the facility to more than 25,000 square feet. Construction on the \$5-million expansion is under way and expected to last 12 to 18 months.

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Protests louder, more frequent in 2003

Rail, geese, center brought citizens out

The more things changed in 2003, the more Union County stayed the same.

Despite anti-train protests and residents voicing their displeasure over retroactive pay raises and the killing of geese on county property, incumbents in Union County swept the 2003 General Election, winning legislative and freeloader races.

Incumbents Democrats Deborah Scanlon, who served as the 2003 Freeloader chairwoman; Chester Holmes and Alexander Mirabella, defeated Republican, Green Party and independent candidates to retain their three-year seats on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The only new face to gain a seat on the Legislature was actually a familiar face to Union County residents. Freeholder Nicholas Scurato won the Senate seat in District 22, after incumbent Sen. Joseph Suliga dropped out of the race on Sept. 26, citing alcohol-related problems after an incident in an Atlantic City casino where a woman filed a harassment complaint against him.

Railroad
Residents in five Union County towns sued the county to stop the reactivation of the Staten Island and Rahway Valley, earlier this month. However, Union County Superior Court Assignment Judge Edward Beghtel ruled that the state's courts do not have jurisdiction over the matter and the case belongs before the Surface Transportation Board, a federal agency that oversees railroads.

The reactivation of the rail lines would bring trains through seven municipalities in Union County. The agreement between Morris-

town and Erie Railway Inc. and Union County to reactivate the rail lines was ratified in May 2002.

Union County Democrats had a friend in Washington during the Clinton years. It included visits to the White House and spiffy Christmas cards. The personal pictures with former President Clinton and Vice President Gore still adorn a lot of offices of the party faithful.

On the other side of the political fence, Cranford lawyer and Republican fund-raiser William Palatucci is a member of an elite fundraising group known as Pro-ness. Going back some four years ago, Palatucci organized countless trips for major fund-raiser for then Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

He has made Palatucci a force in Republican national affairs. Still, the Dean candidacy is unique in the role of presidential politics. The next "Union County Meet Up" of the campaign is Jan. 7 at Springfield Public Library. The Web site claims 161,286 supporters who joined the campaign via computer. Assemblywoman Linda Stender, an early supporter, talks about a Dean presidency which will reactivate the county for the struggling economy.

In her endorsement, Union County Democratic Chairman Charlotte DeFillipo said, "Dr. Dean is a visionary who will bring executive experience to the White House and a proven record in expanding health care to the previously uninsured improving children's education inside and outside of the classroom."

Rahway Mayor James Kennedy remains a key supporter of Kerry. Mayor Chris Bollwage of Elizabeth and Albert McWilliams of Plainfield are still uncommitted. The state's senior senator, Jon Corzine, while acknowledging the front-runner status said last week about Dean, "Some will be concerned about his attitude, which is not fleshed out completely, about laying down initiatives on re-regulating the economy."

More realistically, if Dean does prevail, Union County Democrats will be sitting pretty at the Democratic convention the last week of July in Boston. That still leaves open, of course, the General Election when recent polls put the popularity of President Bush at 63 percent, the highest in the third year since Jimmy Carter. But the analogy about shifting sands is for another day.



Demonstrators took to the sidewalks outside the county courthouse in Elizabeth in the fall, protesting conditions at the county's juvenile detention center following an inmate's suicide in the spring.

The county has not disclosed a site or purchased land to build a new juvenile detention center.

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For the last two months, county officials have said they are examining three undeveloped sites.

Following the suicide of an inmate last spring, the state's Juvenile Justice Commission mandated that the county build a new juvenile detention center facility to replace the current George W. Herlich Juvenile Detention Center, located on the seventh floor of the parking garage adjacent to the county complex in Elizabeth.

Union County has been planning or studying the construction of a new facility for the past decade. A site adjacent to the Goethals Bridge in Elizabeth was purchased in 1990 for a new center but eventually sold several years later.

The commission also capped the number of detainees housed at the center to 34, which cost the county at least an additional \$1.1 million this year as it sends detainees to other centers in neighboring counties.

Elizabeth-based United Youth Council, a youth activist group, is looking into taking possible legal action against the county.

In September, the group threatened to begin civil disobedience — including sit downs and blocking streets. However, those actions were stopped after meeting with county officials.

The council and county representatives were able to compromise five demands concerning the detention center. The demands included the shutting down of the facility and sending juveniles elsewhere, the termination of the director of the detention center, developing a strict health and safety policy, developing a plan that will include education, motivation, recreation and self-esteem activities for youths; and the establishing of a juvenile center citizens advisory board that includes youth representatives.

Children's museum
The county began several construction projects in 2003, including renovation of the Union County Administrative Building in Elizabeth. A new police headquarters in Westfield, an expansion of the county's Vocational-Technical School in Scotch Plains and an addition to the Trailside Nature and Science Museum in Mountainside.

The \$1.5-million renovation project at the Administrative Building will add two handicapped public bathrooms on the first floor, where there currently are no public bathrooms; a delivery entrance in the rear of the building; an enlarged front entrance, which will be pulled out approximately 10 feet where a heated area will be created with automatic doors.

The county's new police headquarters is scheduled to be completed by next fall.

The three-story building on North Avenue East will be the new home of the Union County Police Department, the Union County Division of Emergency Management and the prosecutor's forensics laboratory. The 51,209-square-foot facility will include on-site parking for 169 cars and 22 emergency vehicles.

The \$13.5-million project calls for the demolition of the existing building, as well as overall site improvements such as new lighting, landscaping, decorative fencing and paving.

See 2003, Page B2

2003: The year in review

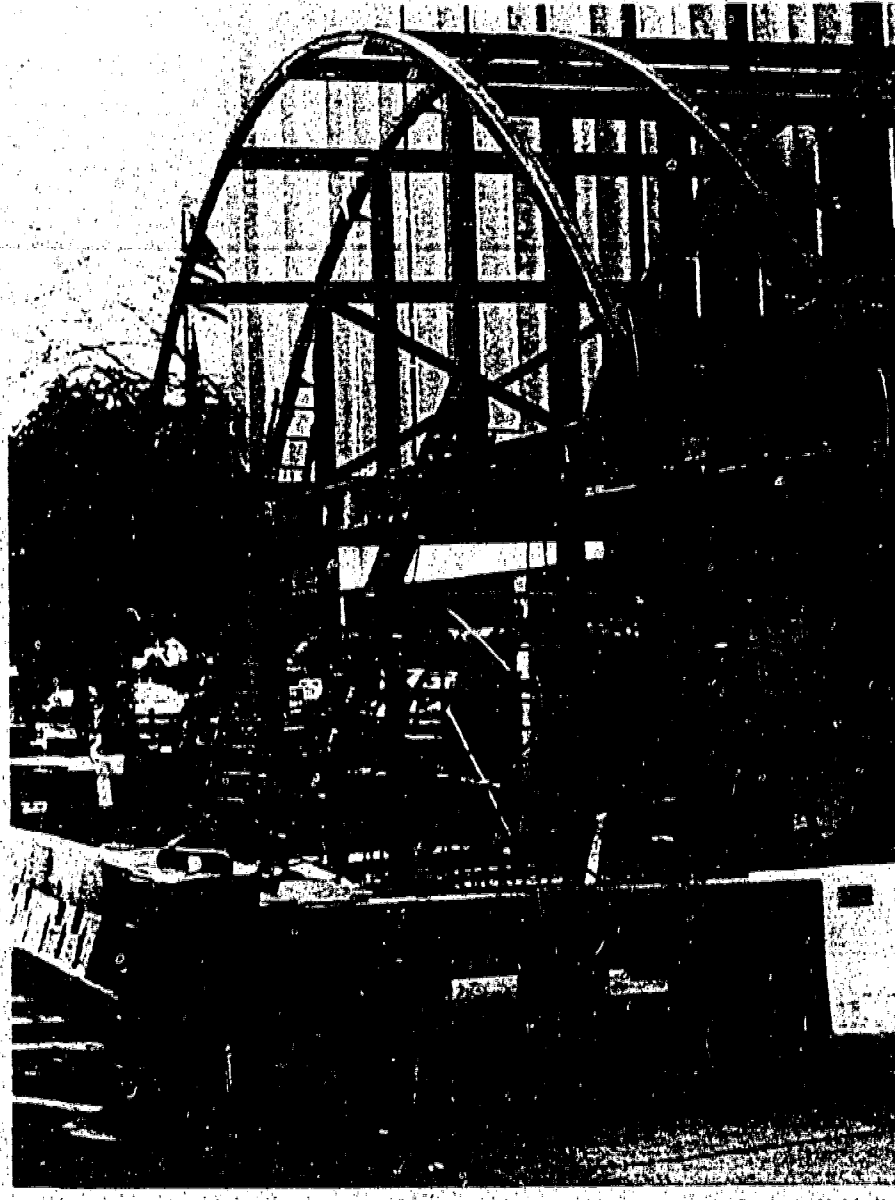
(Continued from Page B1)

The new building will include a 5,000-square-foot communications center for public safety, emergency, and county use and child inspection. It will be linked via computer to the main county building operations center at the Union County Courthouse.

In July, the freeholder allocated \$1 million from the county Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund for the expansion of the Trails Nature and Science Center in Mountainside.

Earlier this month freeholders approved a nearly \$5-million contract to Farmingdale-based Hall Building Corporation to complete the three-story addition, which will increase the museum's total floor area by more than 17,800 square feet, bringing the facility's total square footage to 257,717, adding classrooms, exhibit space and storage areas.

Unforeseen electrical problems delayed the completion date for the expansion of the Union County Vocational-Technical School until mid-February.



Renovations to the atrium at the Administration Building in Elizabeth were among a number of construction projects that got under way during 2003. In addition to expansion of the county Vocational-Technical School and county police headquarters.

State construction funds provided 40 percent of the funding, approximately \$5.6 million, with the remainder, approximately \$8.4 million, coming from the county.

Grease

Last July, residents were outraged by the way the geese were "removed" from four county parks. The county contracted with a company that used a gassing method to suffocate the animals.

Although Union County had a permit allowing the killing of 7,200 geese who habitat county parks, only 700 geese were removed.

The 69,000-square-foot, \$14-million expansion will allow the vocational-technical high school to make the transition from a shared-time program to a full-time basis. The project will add 12 academic classrooms, three computer labs, four science labs, a multimedia center library, nurse's office, administration office, and fitness center and gym, which will serve as multipurpose room for theatrical productions.

The added initiatives at the water reduce the water quality and quality of life for the animals living there.

Before opting for the elimination of the 700 geese, county officials claimed they had tried several options to control the animals, including border collies and motorized boats to scare the geese away, fishing wire strung around the lakes, the planting of shrubs and small trees around the lakes and the treating of the grass with non-toxic chemicals.

The county lost 60 men and women on Sept. 11, both at the World Trade Center and on Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers stormed the cockpit of the hijacked airplane.

The memorial, which resides at Poho Lake Park, is in the shape of the infinity symbol, a figure-eight on its side, and measures 100 feet from end-to-end and 50 feet at its widest points. The designs for the monument incorporate two beams from the original World Trade Center, which the county acquired from New York City in September 2002. The beams, measuring seven feet and weighing more than 1,000 pounds, are featured prominently in the memorial, within a pentagon-shaped brick area, which pays tribute to the attack on the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Sept. 11 memorial

Two years after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Union County dedicated its memorial honoring the victims.

The county lost 60 men and women on Sept. 11, both at the World Trade Center and on Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers stormed the cockpit of the hijacked airplane.

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County awarded housing grant

The County of Union has won a \$4.7 million competitive federal grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The money will be used to fund the county's existing Continuum of Care strategy to assist families with children find affordable housing and services.

"The demand for subsidized housing increases each year," said Freeholder Chairwoman Deborah Scanlon. "With this grant we will be able to provide transitional housing for persons moving from homelessness."

The Union County Department of Human Services applied for the competitive grant, with applications received from throughout the county. This year's grant is the second largest won by the county.

"With the national economy struggling, it is so important to take advantage of any program that brings federal funds to the county," added Scanlon.

"Finding the money to fund important projects such as these is always difficult," said Freeholder Vice Chairman Angel Estrada. "But due to the hard-working individuals in

our Department of Human Services, this competitive grant will go a long way in helping provide relief for the homeless.

Along with subsidized housing, permanent housing through family homes and condo units for individuals and families will also be made available thanks to the grant.

The grant money will be distributed to the following agencies and organizations: Housing Authority of the City of Elizabeth, \$1,219,680; Community Access Unlimited, \$59,464; American Red Cross Tri-County Chapter, \$57,901; New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, \$121,968; Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union County, Inc., \$738,838; YMCA of Eastern Union County, \$837,632; and YWCA of Eastern Union County, \$638,792.

"This financial assistance will help those in need in several ways," said Estrada.

"Not only will housing be provided, but also job training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and child care will be available as well."

COUNTY NEWS

Counselors association selling '04 books

The Union County School Counselors Association is selling Entertainment '04 Books to fund "We Care" awards granted to chosen high school students in Union County.

Students who have made significant contributions in their communities and in helping others in need are chosen by guidance counselors throughout the county to receive these monetary awards in recognition of their good deeds.

Entertainment Books offer discounts for fine dining, casual dining, special attractions, hotels, airlines, movies, dry cleaning, and car washes to name a few. Books are available covering the northern, central, and southern sections of New Jersey at costs of \$20 and \$30.

To obtain books, call Carmine Venes, president of UCSCA, at 908-233-1086.

Dean Meetup Jan. 7

Union County for Howard Dean has announced that its next regularly scheduled Union County Meetup will be Jan. 7 at Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield, from 7 to 8:45 p.m.

Agenda items will include voter registration, outreach activities, and the latest information regarding the campaign. There will also be a discussion of community activities for "Generation Dean." Whether to volunteer or just to learn more, all are invited to attend.

For more information, call Fran Middleberg at 973-912-4309. Further information can be found on the Web at <http://dean2004.meetup.com>.

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, Medicine/Health Care, and/or Women's Advocacy.

The women selected from the nominees will be honored at The West-

Volunteers sought

RSVP and AARP both are recruiting seniors, 55 and older to volunteer to help prepare tax returns for the elderly. Free, 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.

During December and January, men and women volunteers receive tax training, directed by U.S. Internal Revenue Service and New Jersey Tax Department, in order to give free income tax help to seniors and lower-income taxpayers in the February to April tax season.

For more information, call Sal Conforti, AARP Union County tax aid coordinator, at 908-351-9050 or Jim Walsh at 908-276-3152.

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

Discout prescription drug program available

Union County residents who are 55 years of age or older, as well as qualified disabled residents of any age will be eligible for discounted prescription drugs under a program announced by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Discounts can range from 20 percent to 50 percent depending on the prescription's classification as either a brand name drug or its generic equivalent.

AddHealth Inc., a Clinton-based company specializing in healthcare saving programs will administer the plan. To sign up, all it will take is one call to AddHealth's toll-free number, 1-800-733-8546.

Residents will have the ability to fill their prescriptions at neighborhood

pharmacies, or a national chain store. There are no income or asset limitations to qualify for the county's program. However, residents who are currently enrolled in state-funded prescription coverage programs may already have maximum discounts on their prescriptions.

The enrollment form must be returned with documentation that includes a clear, legible copy of the applicants driver's license or a utility bill reflecting a Union County residence, and, if handicapped and under age 55, documentation reflecting disabled status. Coverage should begin seven to 10 business days after the application is received and approved.

Only a single card is needed if both husband and wife meet the eligibility requirements. Both names will be listed for just one enrollment fee.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census of Union County's 522,541 residents, 117.97% or 22.6 percent, are age 55 and older.

Volunteers sought

The YWCA of Eastern Union County, 1131 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth, is seeking volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, call Lynn at 908-355-1500, ext. 18.

Grants are available to help fight litter

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders invites non-profit groups to fight litter in parks and play grounds, along stream banks, and on the streets by participating in the Union County Clean Communities Program.

Funds are available to non-profit groups of 10 or more volunteers who are willing to clean up targeted Union County parks, streams and roadways.

Each non-profit group must agree to provide a minimum of 10 workers. The Union County mini-grants will be based on the number of volunteers, with the grants ranging from \$100 for the smallest group to \$300 for a group of 40 or more volunteers.

Union County received nearly \$25,000 in state funds generated by the Clean Communities Act and is making these funds available to community groups that volunteer their time and energy.

To request a mini-grant application for more information about the Clean Communities Program, contact the Union County Bureau of Environmental Services, 300 North Ave. East, second floor, Westfield, 07090, or call 908-654-9890.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Images show the best of arts in 2003

From old classics to new works, music to theater to dance — the arts continued to thrive against the odds.



Scenic artist Stephanie Lalor of Linden works her magic on the set for 'The Dinner Party' last February at Cranford Dramatic Club. The set design by Mary McGhee of Cranford earned the 2003 Perry Award for Best Set Design in September.



Turning in twin bravura performances in Emily Mann's 'Having Our Say' at the Theater Project at Union County College were Daimah Talley and Tamela Aldridge in April/May and again in November.



The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series in Westfield and Springfield expanded into Summit in 2003, making it a trio-town series benefiting local charities. Among the 2003 entertainers were, at left, Valerie Vioda of the folk-funk trio Groovely in June and, at right from left, Mindy Simmons and Jay Mankita, joining series producer Ahre Maros of Westfield in October.

Turning in a breathtaking performance as Eliza Doolittle in George Bernard Shaw's 'Pygmalion' at the New Jersey Shakespeare Theater was Victoria Mack, joined by Paul Nienback as Henry Higgins in the September production.



Among the celebrity faces to grace the stage of the Union County Arts Center in Rahway in 2003 were, from left, actor Jack Klugman in 'On Golden Pond' last February, singer Dionne Warwick in October, and Lily Tomlin in her one-woman show, 'An Evening of Classic Lily Tomlin' in November.

UCAC announces winter lineup

The Union County Arts Center in Rahway has announced its Winter/Spring 2003-04 75th Anniversary season. For information, call 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site at www.ucac.org.

Jan. 17, 4 to 8 p.m.: Diamond Jubilee Cocktail Party with special guest Uncle Floyd. All tickets are \$25.

Jan. 23, 8 p.m.: Movie, RKO tribute, "King Kong" with Fay Wray. All tickets are \$5.

Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.: Matinee Movie, RKO tribute, "Swing Time" with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. All tickets are \$5.

Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.: Movie double feature, "My Favorite Wife" and "Citizen Kane." All tickets are \$5.

Jan. 25, 2:30 p.m.: Silent film, "My Best Girl" with Mary Pickford with live theater organ accompaniment. All tickets are \$5.

Feb. 20, 8 p.m.: "My Way": A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra. All tickets are \$5.

Feb. 21, 8 p.m.: Richard Nader's Doc Whop Reunion Tour with Lou Christie, Emil Stucchio and The Classics, and The Chickets. Tickets are \$40, \$35 and \$30.

Other events include "Martin Luther King Jr.," Feb. 22; a Gospel Fest, Feb. 28; The Black Brothers and the Aofie Clancy Band, March 21; Duck Soup Magic Show, March 21; "Sophisticated Ladies: The Music of Duke Ellington," March 26; The Amazing Kreskin, March 27; The Westfield Symphony Orchestra, April 17; "An Evening With Joy Behar," April 24; a Cinco de Mayo celebration, May 8; and several silent and "talky" movie presentations.

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Tuesday, January 27 (9:30 am - 11:00 am)

REGISTRATION (New Students)

Thurs., January 29 (9:00 am - 11:00 am) & (1:00 pm - 2:00 pm)

Fri., January 30 (9:00 am - 11:00 am)

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Parents! Learn more about our school at an informal reception Jan. 8th at 7:00 pm. Visit us at www.stagnesschool.com

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ACROSS

- Italian basso
- Region
- Small amount
- Acrylic fiber
- Ointment
- Architect Saarinen
- Line one of them
- Hamilisch hit
- Wraithful
- Leifric poem
- Turkish official
- Yoko
- Line two
- Volcanic residue
- Calendar
- Abbreviation
- Self
- Adherents: suffix
- Posh accommodations
- Implored
- Celtic sea god
- Granted
- Came up
- Line three
- Emmet
- Purpose
- Prize
- Minimum
- Watering place
- Line four
- Plutinary hormone
- Abbey
- Malville title
- Contaminant
- Copacabana
- Barbie, for one
- Vacuous

DOWN

- Manhattan district
- Mesabi Range product
- U.S. magazine
- Hawaiian dish
- Shades of blue
- Writer Selon
- Enthralled
- Mystery writer's name
- Nabokov novel
- Tyrant
- Make over
- Moisturizer
- Fashion
- Khachaturian
- Wild geese
- High cards
- Monster
- Brads
- Bone prefix
- Unit of heat
- Chopin work
- Felon
- Suprass
- Spartan serf
- Emit
- Western entertain-ment
- Dispatched
- Graduation function
- Apt
- Shake up
- Down to basics
- Lovelit Brit
- At a distance
- Texas city
- New Testament book
- Roomy conveyance, for short
- Organic compound
- Military acronym
- Vessel
- Confined
- Pretentious
- Carew or Laver
- Brimless headgear

See ANSWERS on Page B10

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY
January 4th, 2004
EVENT: FLEA MARKET, CRAFT & COLLECTIBLES
PLACE: Bellevue High School, 100 Passaic Ave., Bellevue, NJ (Off Joralemon St.)
TIME: 9am-5pm, Indoors & Outdoors
DETAILS: New merchandise, crafts, collectibles, and a garage-bag sale section. For information call 201-997-0533.
ORGANIZATION: Sponsored by BHS Cheerleaders

OTHER

THURSDAY
January 15th, 2004
EVENT: ACAP Open House: Celebrating our Masters Degree in Psychoanalysis
PLACE: The Academy of Clinical and Applied Psychoanalysis, 769 Northfield Avenue, Suite LL2, West Orange
INFORMATION: The ACAP in affiliation with Centenary College established the first graduate degree granting program in Psychoanalysis to be offered in New Jersey. Fall semester classes are now in session. Applications for the Spring 2004 semester are now being accepted. For information and seating arrangements, please contact 973-736-7600 or e-mail: acap@acapnj.com via the internet (www.pcap.org). All are welcome.
ORGANIZATION: Academy of Clinical and Applied Psychoanalysis

Your abilities can earn extra income. Advertise them with a classified ad by calling 1-800-564-8911.

Teens Arts Touring Exhibit

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders sponsors the 2003 Teen Arts Touring Exhibit at Elizabeth Public Library, 11 S Broad St., through Sunday.

The exhibit consists of 50 pieces of art selected from more than 600 visual art works shown at the county Teen Arts Festival in March at Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs in the Department of Economic Development.

The exhibits open to the public. For assistive services or more information, call the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202. Telephone 908-588-2550. Relay Service Users call 711.

Hospital shows artists

Children's Specialized Hospital, the largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital in the United States, will exhibit the work of the New Jersey Photography Forum and pencil artist Jerry Wink of Little Falls throughout the months of December and January.

Nancy J. Ori of Berkeley Heights and Michael Creem of Summit started the New Jersey Photography Forum in 1995 as an opportunity for professional photographers, photo educators and serious amateurs to meet and discuss their work, share expertise, advance skills and explore exhibition possibilities.

If your birthday is this week, you have a very expensive and personally enriching cycle kicking in during the coming year. Information that was once hidden comes to light and points you in the right direction for easily attaining your goals. Take time to clear up a misunderstanding or to set the record straight on a bogus charge or accusation. Political or philosophical interests are heightened. Also born this week: Robert Duval, Louis Braille, Mel Gibson, Cuba Gooding Jr. and Paul Revere.

UCC seeks new plays

There are still a few openings for the monthly playwright's workshop at The Theater Project, Union County College's professional theater company.

The workshop meets once a month, in addition to a monthly script-in-hand public performance discussion of one of the plays in development. Organizers are particularly interested in writers who can contribute to the process of the other participating playwrights.

Playwrights interested in developing their work through readings and critiques by actors, directors and other writers should submit scripts, self-addressed stamped envelopes with a cover letter, including a brief summary of writing background to: Mark Spina, The Theater Project, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 07016.

Theater explores history

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

In preparation for its 25th anniversary season, the Union County Arts Center is currently the Rahway Theater will seek submissions of archival material from local residents. Selected material will be on display for the 2003-04 season at the theater's other jobs starting this fall.

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

For more information, call 973-994-6474, ext. 602. To mail items to the Arts Center, use the theater's address: 1001 Irving St., Rahway, 07065.

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Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social - Friday noon. Entertainment - Friday noon. Sports - Monday noon. Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m.

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.

HOROSCOPE

Jan. 5-11
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your peers recognize you for your professional contributions. Stand up and take a bow. Handle a financial problem with the utmost discretion.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Venture out and derive the most pleasure from travel and exploring the unknown. Plan to visit someplace you have never been before.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): It's OK if you choose to ignore the bottom line and put your money to work in a company you believe in. Support a worthwhile cause.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): You are very much in tune with the moods and needs of a partner. Reach out in a time of doubt with answers, suggestions and guidance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Collect on a promise, favor or debt owed to you by a co-worker. Be willing to compro-

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Diversity adds spice to your social life. Try your hand at a variety of different opportunities to meet new people and forge new friendships.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Your energy is centered around home and family this week. Take on a redecorating or domestic improvement project, but stay within your budget.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Discuss a financial agreement with an accountant or counselor, and make sure that you agree to what is put in writing. Read the fine print.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let your expensive taste outweigh your means. Balance your bills and fiscal responsibilities with your income and resources.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The stage is set for personal self-expression. Put your best foot forward and show off your many creative talents and abilities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This is a great time for artistic or musical activities. Whenever you are feeling down, lift your spirits with happy tunes and fine art.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Friends who will push you to be more open, positive and loving.

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Taking a chance on newer works, Paper Mill Playhouse kicked off 2003 with productions of 'Romeo and Bernadette', above, starring, from left, Rosie DeCandia, Andy Karl, Adam Monley and Natalie Hill, and 'Blue', below, starring Michael McElroy and Leslie Uggams. Both shows earned high critical praise for the Millburn theater.



Chorale plans its season

The Summit Chorale has announced its 2003-04 season.

- Madragsal, art songs and the Danube Requiem will be presented in concert at 8 p.m. on March 6 at Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple St., Summit.
- A Brahms Requiem, Nat'l. solo fare will concert at 8 p.m. on May 1 at a location to be determined. The chorale will be accompanied by a full symphony orchestra.

Additional information and tickets can be obtained from the Web site at www.summitchorale.org or from 973-762-8486.

Under the leadership of music director and conductor Gary Nari, Summit Chorale is one of the state's most respected choral organizations, now in its 95th year. It is composed of non-professional singers, chosen by audition.

The chorale maintains a reputation for adventurous programming of lesser-known masterpieces in addition to popular works. It is Chorus in Residence at Drew University.

Deadline nears at NJPAC

The deadline for free registration to earn an audition in the fourth annual New Jersey Performing Arts Center "Young Artist Talent Search" is just around the corner.

Applications postmarked on or prior to Jan. 1, 2004 are free. A \$15 application fee must accompany application forms postmarked between Jan. 2 and Feb. 1, and a \$20 fee must be included with applications postmarked between Feb. 2 and March 1.

Audition applications may be obtained online at www.njpac.org or by calling the Talent Search Hot Line at 973-353-9009.

Initiated three years ago, the weekend event conducted by NJPAC's Arts Education Department provides artistically talented young people with opportunities to audition for more than 225 openings in any of its five arts training programs. Auditions will take place March 27 and 28 at the Luceart Technologies Center for Arts Education on the NJPAC site. Last year, more than 500 young artists from every corner of the state auditioned over the two-day weekend.

The Talent Search, made possible through the generosity of the Independence Community Foundation and the NJPAC Women's Board Association, gives students the opportunity to audition for The Star-Ledger Scholarship, and Summer Youth Performance Workshop. Also, a preliminary audition will be held for the NJPAC Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theater Summer Musical Program.

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The Theater Project at Union County College delivered a production of Nicky Silver's 'Perodactyls' in September that was equally hysterical and harrowing. From left are actors Matt McCarthy, Liz Zazzi and Gary Gior.

Weather extends miniature show at Swain

Historic Swain Galleries, a family-owned art enterprise in Plainfield since 1868, will celebrate "A 135th Christmas Weekend" with a "Christmas Miniatures" exhibit of small-scale art by 19 noted gallery artists this month. The exhibit continues through Jan. 30.

Due to inclement weather in early December, the opening reception has been rescheduled for Jan 10 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The exhibit continues through Jan. 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 Watching Ave. in the historic Crescent District of Plainfield.

On view will be florals, portraits, still lifes, landscapes, animals and wildlife and more in oils, watercolors, acrylics, gouaches, pastels, colored paper collage, pen-and-ink, colored pencil, calligraphy, and others.

For more information, call 908-756-1707.

Community Dining Guide

Fast & Friendly To Sit Down Elegant

Blimpie is fresh and friendly

By Bill VanSant, Associate Editor

"Fresh" and "friendly" are two words that best describe Blimpie in Union City.

The famous name-caterer is equally famous for the freshness of its food, and the Union location is no exception. In fact, the freshness of the ingredients is paramount to the management, which describes the fare as "only Blimpie-quality meat."

My dinner recently consisted of a hot roast beef sandwich with Swiss cheese, Finlandia Swiss, to be precise. Topping my sandwich were lettuce, tomato and onion, with mayonnaise, vinegar, and seasonings.

The sandwich was heated to perfection, warm enough to be a "hot meal," but not so hot as to burn the mouth. The balance of ingredients was perfect, allowing each element its own "voice" while still retaining the harmony of flavors. The roast beef in particular, was wonderful, very lean, cooked to a pinkish-brown medium, and deliciously seasoned.

While there, I also sampled some of the other Blimpie fare. The ham was wonderfully flavorful, as was the tuna salad. The Provolone was light on the palate while still retaining the cheese's natural tang.

The establishment - on Stuyvesant Avenue just off Morris Avenue - is bright and welcoming; making it perfect for a midday lunch or an early evening supper. Also, its proximity to the Union Theaters makes it a great choice for an after-movie snack.

In addition to the traditional hot and cold subs for which Blimpie is famous, diners can also select from an array of salads, breakfast choices, and the new Wrap sandwiches. The Union location also offers catering services for off-premises events. Eat-in and take-out are available.

Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week, with the establishment staying open until 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Blimpie is located at 1008 Stuyvesant Ave., Union. For information, call 908-624-9979 or send faxes to 908-624-9978.

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Award-winning satire receives New Jersey premiere at Paper Mill

Paper Mill Playhouse kicks off 2004 with the New Jersey premiere of Charles Busch's comedy "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife." Directed by Carl Andress, "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" opens Jan. 7 runs through Feb. 8.

The cast for Paper Mill's includes Daytime Emmy award-winner Robin Strasser as Marjorie Taub. Lenny Wolfe is Dr. Ita Taub. Meg Foster as Lee Green. Ariel Shafir is Mohammed, and from the original Broadway cast, Shir Bernheim as Freda. The production team of "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" includes set designer Michael Anania, costume designer Miguel Hudor, lighting designer F. Mitchell Dana, and sound designer Duncan Robert Edwards.

Tickets at \$30 to \$67 are on sale now. Student rush tickets are \$16 available day of performance with current I.D. Call the Paper Mill box office at 973-763-4100.

"The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" is the story of Marjorie Taub, an upper West Side culture vulture who is in the throes of a mid-life crisis, when a glamorous childhood friend reappears for a mysterious visit. She shames and transforms her world. This shakespearean social and sexual satire is filled with wicked fun and delightful surprises. Marjorie is a woman known to all, although to hilarious life in a way that has never been seen.

"The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" began as a six-minute sketch about a disaffected housewife that Busch wrote and performed in his one-person show, "Flipping My Wig." Busch took the piece in a different direction after seeing the Broadway revival of Edward Albee's play "A Delicate Balance." According to a New York Times interview, Busch started thinking, "Wouldn't it be funny to take these Jewish characters and put them in a father-son relationship with a Jewish girl?" Specifically, the murky relationship between two women and a man in Harold Pinter's "Old Times" provided a blueprint for "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife." "I didn't intend it to be a genre parody, just a mysterious storyline with very an-mysterious characters," says Busch. In March 2000,

Manhattan Theater Club produced "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" starring Linda Lavin, Tony Roberts, Anil Kumar, Shir Bernheim, and Michele Lee. It was nominated for a Drama Desk for Best Play and won the Outer Circle Critics John Gassner Award and received a Tony nomination for Best Play. It reopened on Broadway in November 2001, and ran for 77 performances.

Playing Marjorie Taub, Robin Strasser received a 1992 Emmy Award for Outstanding Actress in a Daytime Drama for her work on "One Life to Live." Strasser has been one of the best-loved and most-hated performers in that genre for nearly 30 years. In addition to "One Life to Live" and "The Love of the Last Summer," she created the role of Rachel Davis on "Another World" and played Christina Karras on "All My Children." A native New Yorker, Strasser graduated from the High School of Performing Arts and attended the Yale School of Drama. Her Broadway theater credits include the Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Shadow Box" and "Capriccio." Strasser was a founding member of the American Conservatory Theater and has worked at the Williamson Theater Festival and the Mark Taper Forum.

Lenny Wolfe returns to Paper Mill to star as Dr. Ita Taub. Paper Mill audiences will remember Wolfe for his performance as Herbie opposite Betty Buckley in the revival of "Gypsy." Wolfe's recent theater credits include the Broadway revival of "The Sound of Music" and "Goodspeed's" "The Baker's Wife." He is a favorite performer at Pittsburgh C.O., Sacramento Music Theater and the F.A. Reprise series. Wolfe created the role of Ed Koch in the off-Broadway musical "Mayor" television audiences have seen him on "Six Feet Under," "O.S. M.B.," "King of Queens," "ER," and "Strong Medicine."

As Lee Green, Meg Foster returns

to Paper Mill where she starred in Neil Simon's "The Dinner Party" as Gabrielle Buonescili. Foster has appeared in more than 50 movies for the silver screen and television. She was the original Cagney in the television series "Cagney and Lacey." She has made more than 30 guest appearances on TV series and sitcoms ranging from "Bonanza" to "The Cosby Show" and from "The Twilight Zone" to "ER."

Reprising her Broadway role of Freda is Shir Bernheim, who last appeared at Paper Mill in the 1976 production of "Grease" as Miss Lynch. Her other theatrical credits include "Old Lady's Guide to Survival," "Over the River and Through the Woods," "Steel Magnolias," "Social Security," and "The Man Who Came to Dinner." Bernheim has been seen on screen in "In Not Rappaport," "Broadway Damage," "Guiding Light," "Law & Order," and "The Sopranos."

Making his Paper Mill directorial debut is Carl Andress, who most recently directed Charles Busch's award-winning "Shanghai Moon" at New York's famed Drama Dept., co-starring Busch and B.D. Wong, as well as its workshop incarnation at Theater for the New City. He made his off-Broadway debut directing and co-starred in Charles Busch's "Queen Amarantha" at the WPA Theater. Other directing credits include a revival of Neil Hell's "Two Small Bodies" at the John Houseman Theater; John Kuntz's solo show, "Starrin' Stars," at the Ohio Theater; "The Hermitage of an Evil Smoker" for the New York Fringe Festival 2003; as well as the annual "Times Square Angel" among many others, for the "Matinee Classics" performance series.

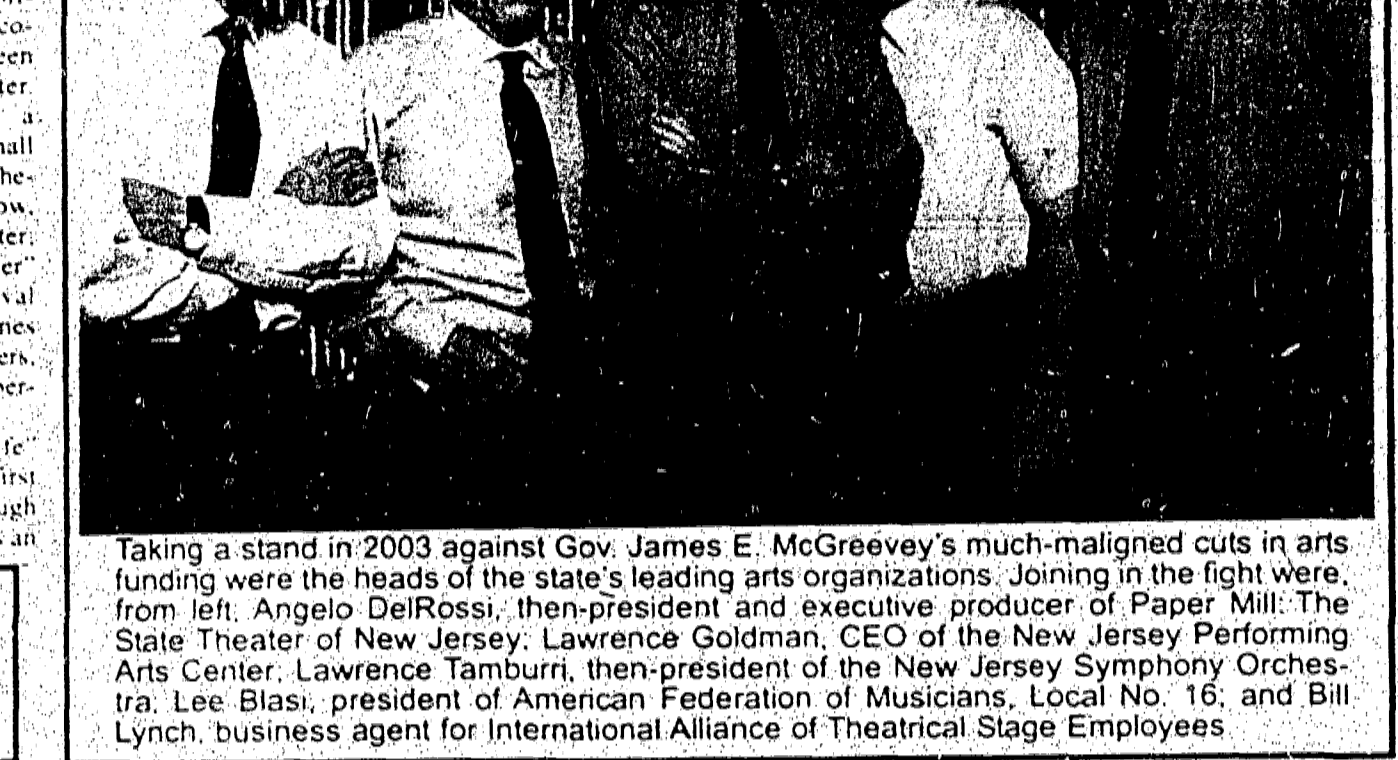
"The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" is playwright Charles Busch's first script to play on Broadway, although he has long held a card following as an

actor and female impersonator in New York's off-Broadway and off-off-Broadway theater scene. Busch is currently represented on Broadway as the author of the Boy George musical "Taboo." Busch is the author and star of such plays as "The Lady in Question," "Red Scarf on Sunset" and "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom," which ran five years and is one of the longest-running plays in off-Broadway history. He wrote the screenplay and starred in the film version of his play, "Psycho Beach Party," for which he won a 2003 Sundance Film Festival award for Best Performance. Last winter, Busch starred in a new production of his play "Shanghai Moon" for which he was nominated for a Lucille Lortel Award and a Dramatist League Award. He was also given a special award for career achievement at the 2003 Drama Desk Awards. He has appeared for two seasons as Nat Ginzburg in the HBO series "Oz." Busch graduated from Northwestern University and is a member of the Dramatist Guild.

The performance schedule for "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" is as follows: Wednesday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$30 to \$67 and may be purchased by calling 973-763-4100. At the Paper Mill box office on Brookside Drive in Millburn, or online at www.papermillnj.org. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express accepted.

About the theater

Children's younger than the age of 4 are not permitted into main stage shows. "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" contains adult language and situations.



Taking a stand in 2003 against Gov. James E. McGreevey's much-maligned cuts in arts funding were the heads of the state's leading arts organizations. Joining in the fight were, from left, Angelo DeRossi, then-president and executive producer of Paper Mill; The State Theater of New Jersey; Lawrence Goldman, CEO of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center; Lawrence Tamburri, then-president of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra; Lee Blasi, president of American Federation of Musicians; Local No. 16; and Bill Lynch, business agent for International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

Bill VanSant, Editor
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CAREER & EDUCATION

Nicole's Yoga Center greets the new year with lineup of classes

Open-houses begin next Monday

The newly renovated 2,500-square-foot studio at Nicole's Yoga Center, located at 94 North Ave. in Garwood, will start the Early Spring Session the week of Jan. 12.

An open house is scheduled for Monday from 4 to 5 p.m., Jan. 6 from 1 to 4 p.m., and Jan. 12 from 4 to 6 p.m. Free yoga introductory classes are offered on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. New students that would like to start the program before Jan. 12 can visit the free evaluation and introductory classes on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. or 8:30 p.m. or Thursdays at 5:20 p.m. Visitors to these classes should call or send an e-mail to schedule an appointment.

Nicole Mode founded Nicole's Yoga Center in 1988, and is dedicated to maintaining the purity of the art of yoga. The studio teaches yoga exclusively. The center is open year-round and offers 24 yoga classes per week, with daily morning, afternoon and evening programs designed for every level of physical condition, age, etc. Mode's yoga is more than just a form of exercise. It is an holistic experience that benefits the body, mind and spirit. The center offers five different levels of classes where four types of yoga are practiced: Hatha yoga, the objective of which is to transform the human body into a worthy vehicle for self-realization; Ashtanga yoga consists of different practices — breath control, posture, concentration, meditation, moral observance, and self-discipline. Krava yoga is the union between the male and female cre-

Stress symptoms are reduced and the nervous system is refreshed and enlivened. Meditation is the process of removing attention from conditions and circumstances.

The Yoga Back class is experienced in a sitting or lying down position. This class is well suited to people with respiratory problems, asthma, back problems, cardio-vascular difficulties, etc. The student will learn to use core techniques while breathing awareness is recognized with each posture. Benefits include restoring balance, hip joint opening, expansion of the thoracic cage, strengthening stomach and back muscles, reducing cardio-vascular stress and normalizing muscle tone.

The Yoga for Children class, for 6- to 10-year-olds, is designed to be adapted to any level of ability of the children. They will practice basic posture, breathing technique, and philosophy that explores subjects such as taking care of their bodies, developing their attention spans, and recognizing their uniqueness. Yoga is a gentle, non-competitive form of exercise that promotes flexibility, strength and coordination.

All of Mode's yoga classes end with meditation and visualization. The secret of a successful meditative experience is to relax and to allow constructive adjustments of mental states. Stress symptoms are reduced and the nervous system is refreshed and enlivened. Meditation is the process of removing attention from conditions and circumstances. Mode is the choreographer of all classes.

For information, call 908-789-6426 or visit the Web site at www.nicolesyogacenter.com.

ative principles. Kundalini yoga is the final realization of the self.

Mode's method of studying yoga is orderly and progressive, step by step instructions, proper posture, performance, breathing, meditation, and visualization techniques are used during each class. The center offers classes for back activities, breathing, weight reduction, Yoga for Children, Yoga for Seniors, and teacher-training programs.

The Restorative Yoga class consists of exercises done on the floor or chair for people with disabilities. A series of movements are performed with great attention and without pain. This class will utilize Asana — posture — to develop balance, timeliness, and strength. Benefits are proper alignment, increasing circulation and flexibility, and a reduction of stiffness in the hand, wrist, knee and ankle joints. Special props are utilized to stabilize the spine and open the body to meet the outlines of Asanas. That class is recommended for people with limited possibilities and stiffness in joints, post-surgery, and cancer patients, and pregnant women.

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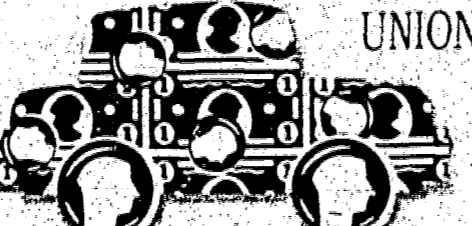
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Demyen of Westfield is tops for October

Elaine Demyen, a consistent top achiever in the Burgdorf ERA, has been named Sales Agent of the Month for October. As a sales agent, Demyen has sold seven units with a dollar volume of more than \$2.4 million.

Demyen has received many distinguished awards. She has earned the New Jersey Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence Sales Award silver level for 1998-2002, and the bronze level in 1989, and 1992-97 and has also been honored with the NJAR Distinguished Sales Award for 2000.

She has been a real estate professional for 16 years, specializing in Cranford, Westfield, Scotch Plains and the surrounding areas. Elaine was also named for the Burgdorf President's Elite for 2003.

George Kraus, vice president/manager of the Westfield office, said, "Elaine is a wonderful professional in our office. Her outstanding efforts in service to her clients' needs are what distinguish her as a top agent in our industry. Elaine has a vast knowledge of Union County and has a comprehensive understanding of the area."

Demyen contributes to the community through her work and commitment. You may contact Demyen at her direct line, 908-233-6326, or send an e-mail to her at Elaine.Demyen@burgdorf.com.

The Burgdorf ERA Branch office is a full-service real estate center located at 600 North Ave. West, Westfield. For real estate assistance, or to inquire about a career in real estate, call the office at 908-233-0065. You

can find the company on the Web at www.burgdorf.com where you can find more about the Westfield office and the market area served, individual Web pages for each sales associate, electronic listings and directions to the Burgdorf ERA office.

Founded in 1958, Burgdorf ERA is the nation's top-producing ERA real-estate firm in sales dollar volume. The company consists of 700 sales associates and 17 offices. The international ERA real estate network includes more than 2,500 independently owned and operated brokerage offices with more than 28,000 brokers and sales associates in all 50 of the United States and 28 other countries.

NRI Incorporated, the nation's leading residential real estate brokerage company, is a subsidiary of Centand Corporation.

Sample wins honors as Top Producer of the Year

Prudential New Jersey Properties sales associate Dianne I. Sample has been honored as the Summit office's Top Producer of the Year.

"Dianne has set a high standard of excellence and we are all very proud of her achievements," said Karen Hedges, manager of Prudential New Jersey Properties' Summit office.

A New Jersey Association of Realtors (NJAR) Circle of Excellence Gold and Silver member since 1987, Sample achieved the Gold Level award again in 2002. She is also a lifetime member of the NJAR Distinguished Sales Club. This top award winner is also a member of the Gold level of the elite Chairman's Circle for 2002, listing her among the top 2 percent of Prudential agents nationwide.

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Worrall Newspapers

Dodge Tomahawk is a bike from the future

By Laura Byrd
Copley News Service

Here it sat like a computer-generated sculpture out of a James Bond movie. A gleaming brushed-aluminum motorcycle crouched in an angular, menacing package that only a designer with audacity would dare create.

It was stunning and bizarre at the same time.

The Dodge Tomahawk concept motorcycle is a Viper V-10 engine with just enough bike wrapped around it to qualify as a motor vehicle.

"I've been everywhere around the world with this bike," says Bud Bennett, owner of Restoration Motorsports in Wixom, Mich., the fabricator of the Dodge Tomahawk concept motorcycle. "And its appeal spans all generations and every country."

It's an appeal that includes automotive enthusiasts so bent on midlife crisis they become Harley-Davidson owners and avid riders, as I have.

Apparently, gear heads and people in crisis recognize each other, so Bud offered me the chance to fire up the Tomahawk and climb aboard.

A Harley never sounded like this. Squeezing the clutch was a grit-your-teeth effort, and praying that I was in neutral took my breath away.

That is until the V-10 thundered to life, and I couldn't stop the grin that spread from ear to ear.

Wow! A rex of the throttle, and the Tomahawk is like a missile ready to launch. It squirmed with torque, and I decided to pass for now on the chance to set the rocket in motion.

It's wonderful, but it's over the top. Completely and totally, over the top.

"It's the weirdest thing we've ever built, and we've done all sorts of outrageous things," Bennett says.

Outrageous is a fitting word, considering the Tomahawk has only two gears, an excessive four wheels and brake calipers the size of dinner plates. And despite its considerable size and weight, there's no kick stand.

The rear wheel has two independent drives on swing arms that are

locked together by a hydraulic cylinder at the push of a button. This creates a stability between the two rear wheels that holds the bike in place.

The exhaust, head and taillights are arranged vertically between the two front and rear wheels.

It is air-cooled with the help of two 18-inch radiators on either side of the body. They force air from the front end to the back, preventing the aluminum frame from heating up. The fuel cap is in the front fender, and the turn signals at the tips of the grips.

Technically, the Tomahawk is a car. Motorcycles have two wheels, but four, and that's something the designer will change should the bike actually go into production.

"We would reduce the front wheel from two down to one," says Chrysler's Mark Walters, the designer who envisioned the Tomahawk. "To build it as a motorcycle, it would have to have no more than three wheels."

But considering the presence of the Tomahawk, that isn't likely to affect demand.

"We'd only make 55 of them, with a price tag of about \$250,000 each," he says.

Really? Like there are 55 buyers who would take this real-life incarnation of a Mad Max machine out on the street, and pay a quarter of a million dollars to do it?

"We have 15 people lined up now," Bennett says, including a Harley-Davidson dealer who just wants one to sit in his showroom. You'd be surprised. I've had people offer to send me cash now."

2003 Dodge Tomahawk Concept Motorcycle

- Frame: Milled aluminum, four wheels
- Drive system: Twin-forklift chains
- Engine size and type: Dodge Viper V-10
- Horsepower: 500 at 5,600 rpm
- Torque: 525 foot-pounds at 4,200 rpm
- Transmission: Two-speed
- Acceleration: 0 to 60 mph, 2.5 seconds

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