

# Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD N.J., VOL. 75 NO. 26

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2004

TWO SECTION

## Commissioner orders payment

By Rick Klittich

Staff Writer

State Education Commissioner William Libera recently chose to adopt the initial decision of a state judge regarding the dissolution of the Union County Regional High School District, calling for Springfield, Berkeley Heights, Clark and Kenilworth to reimburse Mountainside and Garwood more than \$8 million within the next five years, beginning in April.

The ruling, handed down Feb. 5 by Libera, is intended to redistribute money that had belonged to the former Union County Regional High School District, which dissolved in 1997.

"It would be nice if the payments started in April or sometime this year," said Gerard Schaller, chief school administrator for the Mountainside district. He said that it depends on what transpires between now and the beginning of the payment period.

The money, which is set to be paid in 10 installments over a five-year span, is not in any of the affected school districts' budgets for the current year.

It has been more than three years since the Supreme Court ruled that Mountainside and Garwood should be compensated after the breakup, leaving Mayor Robert Viglanti to wonder how quick and definitive this process will now be.

"There are numerous methods of appeals," said Viglanti, who said that if the Supreme Court ruling years ago did not finalize anything, how can anyone think that this decision would be the end of the case.

An executive meeting that was held in closed session after the borough's regular meeting Tuesday night included the Board of Education, the Borough Council and each group's attorney.

The current payment plan calls for Springfield to begin 10 equal payments of \$166,119 to Mountainside on April 15, continuing every six months until the final payment in October 2006. Springfield would also pay Garwood in 10 installments of \$52,458, spanning the same time period.

Mountainside would be receiving \$1149,800 each year, receiving payments twice annually on April 15 and Oct. 15, for five years, according to Viglanti.

Prior to the meeting, Viglanti said that they would be discussing where this is headed, saying that there is no

way to tell right now how much the borough will receive, when it will receive it, and how it will be paid.

Viglanti also said that they would consider the impact on the Mountainside Board of Education receiving the money, along with the effects on the other districts paying it.

According to Schaller, the Board of Education has said from day one that the money would go toward the debt service for the alterations, renovations, and additions made to Beechwood and Deerfield schools.

Viglanti said that because the suit was implemented by himself and the Borough Council, the Board of Education agreed that the mayor and council would have an opinion in where the money would go.

"That's hypothetical right now, though," said Viglanti.

Cherie Adams, the attorney representing the Springfield Board of Education in the case, said that the township is in the process of filing papers for a "stay" and an appeal. A stay would mean that no payments could be made until there was a resolution at that level of court.

Adams said that since the filings that indicated the difficulty of making payments were rejected by the commissioner, a stay does not look promising.

Still, an appeal would be made to the state, and at each level after that, a stay can be filed for, as well.

According to Adams, because the case had already gone to the Supreme Court, it could, theoretically, reach that level once again.

Adams said that Springfield will file papers next week, and, although the "stay" is usually dealt with quickly, the appeal will undergo a briefing process as the state takes it into consideration.

Springfield is appealing the entire decision, including the amount of money owed and the payment plan.

The money in question was distributed among members of the former regional district after voters approved its dissolution.

Mountainside sued, eventually taking the case to the state Supreme Court. The court agreed, and ultimately Mountainside was awarded 76 percent of the regional district's money, and Garwood was awarded 24 percent. The legal fees were split the same.

Staff Writer David Learn contributed to this report.

## Beauty takes flight



Photo By Reena Rose Shabani

It's nothing but smooth sailing for this bird taking flight over the pond at Briant Park. The ups and downs of an unpredictable, bitter cold winter are sometimes made a bit brighter when observing the beauty of nature.

## Board remains reluctant to use audiotape to record meetings

By Rick Klittich

Staff Writer

While required by law to supply the public with a copy of detailed minutes outlining what took place at each Mountainside Board of Education meeting, the question was raised during the last meeting as to why they do not audiotape the sessions, as many districts do.

According to Board President Peter Goggi, the policy of the board has always been that audiotape would be an unnecessary burden.

"The whole issue is communication to the town," said Goggi, adding that a periodic letter is sent to every address in the borough updating situations within the district.

The minutes, which are written and kept at Mountainside Public Library, are detailed and include every action taken.

"We're in the process of using consultants to look at that," said Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller, referring to how they would go about recording school board meetings.

Schaller said that among the issues involved would be the school board's capability, equipment, and their need to get the "best bang for our buck," adding that they could make sure, at the very least, to tape the most important meetings, such as those that include presentations or special subjects being addressed.

While executive sessions are not summarized with copious notes, due to the fact that it is closed to the public, almost every open public meeting actually begins with an approval of previous minutes.

Goggi felt that the only real difference between the written minutes and audiotaped minutes would be the length.

"What's the purpose?" asked Goggi. "Condense it into actual steps."

Taping the voices of everyone present at the meeting would mean supplying microphones to at least all of the board members.

Goggi felt that with everything going on in the district, the issue of whether or not the meetings should be recorded in this fashion is not as prominent as several other aspects regarding the schools.

"In the view of the board, this falls pretty low on the priority list," he explained, noting that with the opening of Beechwood School, the search for a principal, and the recent decision regarding the funds owed to the borough for the dissolution of the Union County Regional High School district, the board has many things to focus on before audio taping meetings.

Goggi did say that the concern is on the board's agenda, and that they would most likely look into videotaping the meetings in the future, sharing borough equipment instead of purchasing new equipment to record just the voices of each session. Schaller agreed that videotaping is preferred over audiotape recording.

## Alterations under way as club plans for PGA

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

As Springfield's famed Baltusrol Golf Club continues to market and prepare to host the 2005 PGA Championship, several alterations are being made to the course to ensure the competitive play that is looked forward to with any event of this magnitude.

"There are a lot of things being done in the Master Plan," said Bob Jeffrey, tournament director.

According to Jeffrey, the club will have more narrow fairways, bringing the rough in closer and making for tighter drives.

Also, tees located on holes three and five will be moved back, and two sets of bunkers, one on the left side of hole 13 and one on the right side of hole 18, will be added on.

"Obviously, since 1993, there's been changes involving the equipment and the flight of the ball," said Jeffrey. "The changes are in line with the higher caliber of play nowadays."

The changes, which have begun already, should be finished by the end of the year, and can therefore be played on by club members until the start of the championship in August 2005.

While the PGA Championship marketers declined giving out information regarding the costs of the alterations, Jeffrey said that most of the work being done will be taken care of by Baltusrol Golf Club itself.

The event begins on a Monday, Aug. 8, and lasts until Sunday, Aug. 14. Actual championship rounds will not begin until Aug. 11, a Thursday.

"Obviously, it's good to bring the focus back to great, traditional, classic golf course," said Jeffrey. "It's good exposure," he continued.

## Cere to m opening

By Rick Klittich

Staff Writer

After the recent issuance of a temporary certificate of occupancy, the firehouse is set to be dedicated on Feb. 29 at 2 p.m.

Mayor Clara Harelk said she is looking forward to the dedication, which will include county freeholders, mayors and fire chiefs from surrounding municipalities, legislative representatives, Township Committee members, township employees and the township at large.

According to Harelk, there have been several furniture deliveries and items are being transported from the current firehouse to the new one on a daily basis.

The new headquarters still has a short checklist of minor items that need completion, including finalizing the phone and radio system.

Harelk noted that the current firehouse is simply unable to meet the needs of the Fire Department.

"They'll get to move into a state-of-the-art facility that's much better than the current one," said Harelk, adding that it is also a benefit for the Office of Emergency Management, whose headquarters are currently in the basement of Sarah Bailey Civic Center. "The two departments are very important to the well-being and safety of the township."

"What it means is that the Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management will move into a much better, more spacious and modern facility," said Township Administrator Richard Sheola. "It's long overdue and well-worth-the-wait."

Harelk also said that it is with the same "urgency and concern" that the township is moving forward to allow the Police Department its own facility that is state-of-the-art.

"The Police Department, in my opinion, has not had adequate facilities for some years," said Harelk, noting that space will be opened up so the department is no longer scattered around the township, thus becoming more centralized at the headquarters.

Previously, the most recent completion date given by the township was Aug. 29, 2003. The building was originally contracted for construction in January 2002.

The new \$3.5-million facility will measure 26,000 square feet in comparison to the current building, which is 6,500 to 7,000 square feet.

## Pond draws concerns

By Rick Klittich

Staff Writer

Although it would be easy to assume that the construction and improvements being planned for Meisel Avenue Park may bring smiles to the faces of residents who can see the park from their windows, the upcoming project has raised issues regarding Meisel Pond and what residents are calling its negative environmental impact on the field itself and the safety concerns it represents.

"I've never had so many geese in my backyard," said Rita Brecher, a resident of Cottage Lane, which borders the park since 1957. "The pond itself is stagnant, very dirty and ill-kept," she said.

At last week's special Township Committee meeting that was held at Jonathan Dayton High School and revealed plans for the park, Cottage Lane resident David Stein also expressed the concerns of many who live along the park in the area.

A petition that was started by Stein and his wife, Dr. Joy Sudler, was passed along to county officials, noting the concern of most residents located on Cottage Lane.

According to Sudler, the pond's condition attracts snakes, deer, raccoons and mosquitoes, all of which she has seen in her yard.

"This water is an attraction for animals," she said, adding that nearby Van Winkle's Creek doesn't help.

Sudler, who has lived on Cottage Lane for about 10 years, feels that the pond was once designed correctly, but over time and without maintenance, it has lost any usefulness.



Pollution, mosquitoes and snakes are just a few of the concerns that some residents say have come from the stagnant water of Meisel Pond. With the upcoming renovation project at the park, residents wonder what impact it will have on the pond.

At one point, Sudler said, there was a dead deer in a Cottage Lane back yard.

According to Sudler, a reluctant Associated Humane Society needed a "push" from residents to come and carry the deer away.

Sudler and Stein had been informed by a member of the county parks department that the pond is the third most polluted body of water in the county. During the meeting at the high school, Freeholder Mary Ruotolo responded to this by saying there is a Master Plan for the pond, and that the county is currently working on Echo Lake, which is number two on the list of bodies of water getting work done.

Meisel Pond therefore, would be next. While one Cottage Lane resident said that he didn't have much concern over the pond because he felt he lived a sufficient distance from it and never went close to it for any reason, resident Mark Weisholtz felt that something could be done.

"I've never seen anyone use that pond, frankly," said Weisholtz, who has lived on Cottage Lane since 1978. "It has no recreation purpose, winter or summer," he said.

Weisholtz also said that the park and pond as a whole could only bring property values down, saying that it doesn't help the value of surrounding

land when a park is closed down for carcinogens and contaminants in the soil.

"The water never even moves," he said. "It would be a pretty thing to have if it was properly maintained."

"I think it's been an issue for a long time," Brecher added.

Stern, who also noted that a dead crow was found near the pond, plans on attending tonight's county freeholder meeting, where the county and Township Committee will further discuss or finalize plans to go ahead with construction for the park.

Explaining that the surrounding area will be impacted greatly as far as economics are concerned.

According to Jeffrey, past events have yielded \$30,000 to \$40,000 for the local area's economy, including hotel rooms and restaurants.

"It's also just good news coverage of Springfield and what it's all about," said Jeffrey.

This will mark the 16th major event that the course is hosting. Baltusrol has hosted seven U.S. Opens, four amateur events, two women's U.S. Opens, and two women's amateur events.

The last event Baltusrol hosted was the 2000 men's amateur.

Jeffrey stressed that the course will be maintained and looked after very diligently during the upcoming year-and-a-half in order to make sure that it is at its best for the championship.

"They've known that they were having the event for over a year," said Jeffrey. "They'll be monitoring the consistency of the greens, and if there's any issues, we'll have a good year to look at them."

Jeffrey noted that the uncooperative weather in the past couple of years doesn't help the course, but because of allotted time, there won't be any problems preparing for the championship.

"They realize what they need to do to keep it in shape," he said.

Baltusrol's famous is a piece of golf course history, with one of its most well-known features being that it finishes with two par fives on holes 17 and 18.

Until the final two holes, no distance is greater than 500 yards. Hole 17 is 630 yards, while golfers finish on 18 by going 542 yards.



**OBITUARIES****Dorothea Dunn**

Dorothea Lencke Dunn, 74, of Summit died Feb. 8 at home.

Born in Cincinnati, Mrs. Dunn lived in Chatham before moving to Summit in 1963. She joined the staff at Overlook Hospital, Summit, in 1978 as the first cardiovascular clinical care specialist and retired in 1992. Mrs. Dunn developed many programs in this area that the hospital continues to implement.

After retiring from Overlook, she continued to work as a cardiac life support instructor and consultant to local New Jersey hospitals. Mrs. Dunn was a founding board member of Overlook's Bioethics Committee in 1984 and served on it until 2003. She also served as treasurer of the North Central Ethics Alliance, an organization promoting medical ethics in nursing homes.

Mrs. Dunn was a pioneer in supporting patients' rights, promoting the use of Living Wills in the tri-state area and advancing the nursing profession. She was selected as Overlook Hospital's Nurse of the Year and received the award in 1984. Mrs. Dunn also received the American Heart Association's Mission of Honor Award in 1997. She traveled and lectured around the world as an academic leader for International Journeys. In 2002, Mrs. Dunn received a heart transplant at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital, New York City.

Surviving are a sister, Carolyn Lemke Metzger; three daughters, Marion Corp. Major Kathleen Dunn, Lynn Dunn Cameron and Nancy Dunn Grane; two sons, Michael and Dr. James Dunn Jr.; and nine grandchildren.

**Esther Diefendorf**

Esther I. Diefendorf, 86, of Summit died Feb. 8 in the King James Center, Chatham Township.

Born in Cleveland, Mrs. Diefendorf lived in Summit for 52 years. She was a registered nurse, instructed at the County College of Morris in Randolph for eight years and retired in 1980. Mrs. Diefendorf was a 1943 graduate of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University, where she received a master's degree in nursing. Mrs. Diefendorf also received a master's degree in nursing education from Columbia University, New York City. She was a member of the Summit Garden Club.

Surviving are her husband, Dr. H. W. Diefendorf, and two sons, David and Donald.

**Dorothy Langley**

Dorothy Langley, 80, of Summit died Feb. 8 in the Glendale Nursing Home, New Providence.

Born in Fort Fairfield, Maine, Mrs. Langley lived in Pleasantville, N.Y., and Maplewood before moving to Summit. She was a salesperson at Hahn's department store, Livingston, before retiring. Earlier, Mrs. Langley was a physical education teacher at Columbia High School, South Orange.

**SUMMIT OBSERVER - ECHO LEADER****OBITUARIES**

She also was a substitute teacher at the school.

Mrs. Langley received a physical education degree from the University of North Carolina in 1945. She was active in the Morristown Methodist Church, Maplewood, and she sang with the Bell Choir, taught Sunday School and was a member of the Glendale Outreach Committee and the United Methodist Women. Mrs. Langley also managed the church's annual turnover sale. She was a member of the Woman's Club of Maplewood; the club's Holiday Bazaar and served as recording secretary of the executive board. Mrs. Langley also was a member of the Maplewood Tennis Club.

Surviving are her husband, Donald, two daughters, Carolyn and Margaret, a son, David, and two brothers, John and James French.

**David Ferguson**

David Ferguson, 84, of Summit died Feb. 9 at home.

Born in Union City, Mr. Ferguson lived in Tinton River and Lakewood before moving to Summit 12 years ago. He owned and operated Ferguson Embroidery, Union City, for 30 years. Mr. Ferguson was also an assembler with William E. Wright Mill, Union City, for 15 years and retired in 1986. He was an Army veteran of World War II and the recipient of the European and African Middle Eastern Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

Mr. Ferguson was a member of the Summit Elks Lodge and the St. Joseph Club of Union City.

Surviving are his wife, Emilia; a daughter, Kathleen Donnelly; a brother, Thomas; and two granddaughters.

**Mildred Wood**

Mildred Wood, 100, of Vero Beach, Fla., formerly of Springfield, died Jan. 6 in VNA Hospice, Vero Beach.

Born on March 18, 1903, in Newark, Mrs. Wood lived in Springfield before moving to Vero Beach 30 years ago. She was an operator at New Jersey Telephone Co. for 35 years and retired in 1967. Mrs. Wood was a life member of the American Telephone Pioneers HG McCally Chapter.

Surviving are a daughter, Carolyn Smith; a son, Norman C.; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Fred Bayrott**

Fred Bayrott, '22, of Springfield, formerly of Elizabeth, died Jan. 19 at home.

Born in Bayonne, Mr. Bayrott lived in Elizabeth before moving to Springfield 34 years ago. He was the founder and president of Max Bayrott Corp., Bayonne, for more than 50 years. Mr. Bayrott was a sheet metal specialist and one of the 10 specialists authorized to work on the restoration of Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, Newark Liberty International Airport and St. Elizabeth Hospital, now Trinity Hospital, Elizabeth.

He attended New York Technical School. Mr. Bayrott was an Army veteran of the Korean War. He was past vice president and founding member of Congregation Israel, Springfield, and a member of the Peninsula Lodge, a Masonic club.

Surviving are three sons, David, Pete and Mark; two daughters, Barbara Liebman and Christine Reading; and seven grandchildren.

**John L. Soares**

John L. Soares, 81, of Summit died Feb. 12 in the Glendale Nursing Home, New Providence.

Born in Portugal, Mr. Soares came to Newark in 1939 and lived in Forked River, Seaside Park and Florida before moving to Summit last year. He was a tailor at Madsen's for men, Tom's River, for 30 years and retired in 1987. Mr. Soares was a Navy veteran and served during World War II. He was a member of the Portuguese-American Club, Point Pleasant.

Surviving are three sons, Scott

**WORSHIP CALENDAR**

For more information contact church office.

**BAPTIST**

**EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH**

10:30 AM — Sunday School — All ages

— 11:30 AM — Service — All ages

— 12:30 PM — Fellowship — All ages

— 1:30 PM — Bible Study — All ages

— 2:30 PM — Prayer — All ages

— 3:30 PM — Shabbat — 9 AM & 1 PM

— 3:30 PM — Festival & Holiday meetings

— 4:30 PM — Outreach — Singles and Seniors

— 4:30 PM — Pentecostal — All ages

— 4:30 PM — Modern Orthodox — All ages

— 4:30 PM — Shabbat — 9 AM & 1 PM

— 4:30 PM — Festival & Holiday meetings

— 4:30 PM — Outreach — Singles and Seniors

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## Painting exhibit to open

Oil painter Gerry Heydt lives and paints in Plainfield. "Sitting Pretty," a collection of her still life paintings, will hang in Wisner House at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit from March 12 until May 10.

The paintings of fruit and flowers are painted from life.

From 2 to 4 p.m. March 12, she will meet the public at an artist's reception.

There is no charge to attend either the exhibit or the reception.

Wisner House is open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays. Reeves-Reed Arboretum at 165 Hobart Ave. is open to the public daily.

"Three colors placed on tables and shelves, flowers and fruit revealing memories of farm markets and gardens, old pals from my father's attic. These are the paintings of things I enjoy," said Heydt. "The still lifes are an indulgence in visual enjoyment of things that I like to see, touch, smell, or taste. In arrangements of my subjects, the saturated colors, subtle shadows, and transient passages sit prettily in front of me."



Oil painter Gerry Heydt lives and paints in Plainfield. "Sitting Pretty," a collection of her still life paintings, will hang in Wisner House at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit from March 12 until May 10. "These are the paintings of things I enjoy," she said.

## Deadline approaches for WRC spelling bee

The Women's Resource Center will sponsor the second annual Adult Team Spelling Bee at 4 p.m. Feb. 29 at the Summit High School, 125 Kent Place Blvd.

The communitywide adult spelling bee is a fund-raising event for the center's children programs such as The Girl Project, which runs programs designed to ensure that today's girls become tomorrow's strong women, and Rainbows, which provides free support groups for boys and girls grieving the loss of a parent through death or divorce.

The center is also donating a sizable amount of the proceeds to the Summit Educational Foundation, which provides funding in the form of teacher grants to support enrichment programs and projects in the Summit public schools.

"We hope to have teams representing local businesses, book clubs, service organizations, neighborhood groups as well as members of the Women's

Resource Center and the Summit Educational Foundation," said bee co-chairwoman Beth Brier and Shan Nyman.

The early rounds start with the easier words and later rounds become progressively more difficult. Prizes will be awarded to the champion spellers, as well as to the team that raises the most in entry fees, the team with the most original team name, and the team with the most original team costume, which is optional. All contributions and fees are tax-deductible.

Any threesome can form a team — ages 16 and up — and must contribute raise \$400 to enter. To prepare for the contest, each team member will receive a copy of the official Scrabble How-to Book of Words upon confirmation of entry.

To register, call the Center at 908-273-2533, or the Adult Team Spelling Bee Entry form and send completed forms and contributions to the Women's

most programs is limited, so early registration is essential.

More information is available on the Web site [www.womensresource.org](http://www.womensresource.org) and click on The Girl Project. Partial scholarships are available on request.

**Mother-Daughter Book Club: For 4th and 5th Grade Girls and Moms**

Mother-daughter book clubs can enrich relationships simply because they are about reading and talking with each other. If anyone is interested in starting a club, spend three evenings and get a taste of the experience as well as tips and inspiration to start one.

The group will meet every other Tuesday, continuing Tuesday and March 9 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. led by Joan Hipp, MLS, the club will read "Pink and Say," The Midwife's Apprentice" and another book to be chosen. The fee is \$60 for members and \$75 for nonmembers, in pairs.

Nancy Orleay Weber, "Animal Psychic"

At this special workshop, learn how to communicate with animals, become a better pet owner and friend and be able to help sick animals.

Orleay Weber, an expert who commutes with and heals animals, has worked as a "psychic detective" with the Morris County SPCA to find lost pets and has helped many animals to live healthier lives with their human friends. She is the author of "The Gift of Interspecies Communication, True Stories and Exercises for the Soul."

The program, co-sponsored with Interweave, will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. and will be held at the West Bank Cafe and Group size is limited.

Partial funding is provided by the Summit Area Public Foundation, the Anne Marie Tranguch and Iva Louis Shonkwiler Foundation, First Energy Foundation, Fleet Bank and the Fred C. Rummel Foundation. Group size is limited.

For information about these programs, call The Girl Project at 973-653-4218 or The Women's Resource Center at 908-273-2533.

Listed below are some of the most popular workshops for girls and adults, developed by professionals experienced in working with girls and their families. The programs are generally one and one-half to three hours in length. They will be conducted at 57 New England Ave., next to Christ Church, in Summit, unless otherwise noted.

Partial funding is provided by the Summit Area Public Foundation, the Anne Marie Tranguch and Iva Louis Shonkwiler Foundation, First Energy Foundation, Fleet Bank and the Fred C. Rummel Foundation. Group size is limited.

**Sisters to perform standards, show tunes March 12**

The Boa Sisters, Kathie Kneese, vocalist, and Amy Sells, pianist-will-perform-standards-and-show-tunes from the Great American Songbook from 7:30 to 9 p.m. March 12 at the Women's Resource Center at 57 New England Ave.

The Center is celebrating its 20th anniversary during this 2003-04 year with a variety of special programs. The fee is \$15 for an advance purchase ticket and \$20 at the door. For information about this or other programs, call the Center at 908-273-7253 or visit the Web site at [www.womenresource.org](http://www.womenresource.org).

Kneese has been performing in the New York cabaret circuit at such venues as Palissone's, the West Bank Cafe and

**Pianist, soprano perform opera faves at local church**

Virtuoso pianist Paul DiDario and soprano Karen Notare will perform opera favorites at "An Evening at the Opera," presented by Calvary Chorale, at 4 p.m. Sunday.

Notare, who has performed with the Istanbul State Symphony, the New York City Opera and the New Jersey State Opera, will sing "Un Bel Di," a free-will offering will be taken.

The concert will be at Calvary

Chorale, at 4 p.m. Sunday.

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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Brier co-chairs adult team spelling bee

Beth Brier is the co-chairwoman of the second annual Adult Team Spelling Bee coming Feb. 29 at Women's Resource Center.

Brier is serving her first year on the Board of Trustees of the WRC, where she had previously volunteered. She graduated from Lafayette College and then received her Juris Doctorate from The Washington College of Law at American University in Washington, D.C.

Brier began her legal career as an attorney with Hoechst-Roussel Pharmaceuticals Inc., now known as Aventis, and later served as senior attorney and assistant secretary on the Board of Management at Hoechst-Roussel Agri-Vet Company.

She first became affiliated with the firm as summer associate in 2002.

"While at Lindabury as a summer associate, we were impressed with Monica's skills and abilities in working on various issues of law," said Stephen A. Santola, Lindabury's hiring manager. "Monica embodies those characteristics we strive to cultivate in every generation of new attorneys at Lindabury."

Vir first became affiliated with the firm as summer associate in 2002.

"While at Lindabury as a summer associate, we were impressed with Monica's skills and abilities in working on various issues of law," said Stephen A. Santola, Lindabury's hiring manager. "Monica embodies those characteristics we strive to cultivate in every generation of new attorneys at Lindabury."

She has served the next several years as associate general counsel of Celanean Corporation in an all-women law department. She also participated in the mentoring program offered by the company.

Aside from serving on the Board of Trustees at the WRC, Brier is co-chairing the spelling bee with Shan Nyman at Summit High School. Her volunteer repertoire includes the YMCA TWINS Program, recipient of the TWIN award in 1999, and the Mentoring and Scholarship Committees, Speakers Program and Ethics Program with that organization.

She has also served as a Member of the Board of Trustees for the Summit Child Care Center. In addition Brier is a member of the Temple Sinai Sisterhood and was the 2000 Purim Fundraiser co-chairwoman. In the past, she was a member of The Mental Health Players of Somerset County Acting troupe.

"Lindabury has already offered me professional experience, while allowing me to determine which practice area is of interest to me."

Vir received her Juris Doctorate from Rutgers School of Law in Newark. She served as the managing

attorney to a law firm that provides me with experience in a number of different practice areas," said Vir. "I'm currently working with attorneys on employment law, tax and estate law, and general business law issues."

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## COUNTY NEWS

**Psychiatric treatment**  
the topic of discussion

The public is invited to attend a free presentation by Dr. Karan Pathwaria, member of the Newark Hospital psychiatric staff in Teaneck at 7:30 p.m. at the Newark Presbyterian Church, 1000 Broad St., Park Clark.

She will discuss her psychiatric medications and treatment methods. Her talk, followed by a question-and-answer session, is sponsored by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Union County Chapter.

Pathwaria, affiliated with Alpha Behavioral Care, located in Summit, New Providence and other local communities, is highly qualified to share her knowledge and experience in the field of mental health. President of the New Jersey Women's Medical Association, Pathwaria has experience in stress management and women's issues. She also specializes in pharmacotherapy and has experience as consulting psychiatrist at various nursing homes.

She has been in private psychiatric practice for over 20 years and, on Overlook's staff for 17 years. She has been trained in hypnosis by Dr. Martin Orne at the Institute of Pennsylvania Hospital and uses hypnosis in her practice. She is knowledgeable in and uses a nutritional approach in her practice when appropriate. Pathwaria has successfully treated many patients with bipolar disorder and has a particular interest in this illness.

Refreshments will be served. For more information or in the event of inclement weather call 908-233-1628.

For questions regarding membership in the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, call 908-233-1628.

**Free tax assistance**

RNAP and AARP both offer free tax assistance to senior citizens and other lower-income taxpayers at locations throughout Union County.

To request an appointment, taxpayers must call the site in their local community and bring with them their 2003 records of income, deductions, property tax bills, and their 2002 income tax file if and year volunteers aided more than 2,600 citizens with their tax return.

Free tax assistance will be offered from early February until April 15 at the following locations:

• Berkley Heights Free Public Library, 2901 Plainfield Ave., 908-645-0433;

• Clark Municipal Building, 160 Broad St., 908-352-8888, ext. 6060;

• Cranford Community Center, 229 Walnut Ave., 908-766-7283;

• Elizabeth Free Public Library, 11 Broad St., no appointment necessary; Tax help on Thursdays from 1 to 5 p.m.; 732-9411, room 200;

• Elizabeth Free Public Library, 555 Broad St., 908-276-1451;

• Mountainside Free Public Library, Constitution Plaza, 908-233-1628;

• New Providence Senior Center, 505 E. Front St., 908-665-6046;

• Plainfield Senior Center, 505 E. Front St., 908-753-8506;

• Plainfield Free Public Library, 5th and Park avenues, Plainfield, 908-274-4310;

• Senior Citizen Annex, 1036 Elizabeth Ave., Rahway, 732-8277, 2016;

• Casco Community Center, 314 Chestnut St., Roselle Parks, 908-245-1666;

• Scotch Plains Free Public Library, Bartle Avenue, 908-322-5007;

• Springfield Free Public Library, 65 Mountain Ave., 908-376-4930;

• Union Senior Center, 908-Homel Court, 908-651-2501;

• Community Center, 555 W. Broad St., Westfield, 908-232-4769;

• St. Helen's Parish Center, 1000 Rahway Ave., Westfield, 908-232-1567;

For more information, call 908-351-9000; fax, 908-351-9101; or e-mail, [rnaps@rnaps.org](mailto:rnaps@rnaps.org).

**Freeholders Forum'**

A series of "Building Better Communities" initiatives for Union County government is the subject of the latest "Freeholders Forum" television show, sponsored by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

This program features Angel Estrada, chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and Freeholder Deborah Scanlon, who served as chairwoman in 2003.

For more information, call 732-566-7671.

**Nugent association social planned Sunday**

The Joseph Nugent Sr. Association of Union County will hold its 28th

annual membership social Sunday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, Council 253, Union Avenue, just off Morris Avenue, Elizabeth.

Admission is \$20 per person, which includes food, beer, soda, wine and the 2004 membership dues. There will be continuous live Irish-American entertainment featuring "The Marion Ryan Band."

For information, call Maureen Dowling at 908-266-9107, Knights of St. Peter Claver, 908-354-2553 or Kevin Dowling at 732-594-1763.

The Nugent Association was founded in 1943. It is the oldest independent Irish-American organization in New Jersey.

**'Overcoming hatred' events set at UCC**

The proposed "Building Better Communities" initiatives are:

- Into Line, a 24-hour hotline for social services and other resources;
- Making the Union County Discount Prescription Drug Plan available to all residents who are seeking discounts on their medications;
- Investing in the Arts by purchasing the Union County Arts Center in Rahway and renovating it into a year-round facility;
- Developing the Kids Recreational Trust, through the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, to provide more athletic and recreational opportunities for our youth; and
- Greening Union County, in which the county will strive to plant 4,000 new trees in communities.

**Community blood drives**

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

• Friday, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union;

• Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., John L. Ruddell J.W. Post, 2761, 6 Broadway, Clark; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., First Baptist Church of Union, Colonial Avenue, Union;

• Union County, except Elizabeth and Plainfield, Channel 26, Mondays, 6-30 p.m.;

• Elizabeth, Channel 70, Thursdays, 6 p.m.;

• Hillsdale Channel 35, call 973-926-1054;

• Linden, Roselle Park and Winfield, Channel 36, daily, 10 p.m.;

• Plainfield, Channel 74, Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.;

• Rahway, Channel 34, daily, 6:30 p.m.;

• Scotch Plains Channel 34, call 908-232-2400, ext. 243;

• Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside Channel 36, Fridays, 2 and 7 p.m.

Anyone wanting more information or to comment about Freeholders Forum can call the Office of Public Information at 908-436-2072 or e-mail, [opinfo@ucnj.org](mailto:opinfo@ucnj.org).

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## WORRALL NEWSPAPERS

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT****Author aims to enlighten with series of teen books**

By Bea Smith  
Staff Writer

Jackie Hardwick's goal in life is to enlighten teenagers to pursue the right roads to their destinies.

Hardwick, who resides in Vaughan, where she also has her own book publishing firm, Enlighten Publications, has written two contemporary young adult novels, *Keepin' It Real*, 2003, and *Keepin' It Real 2*, 2004, and is hoping to get them published in time for back-to-school.

"My whole purpose for writing those books," said Hardwick during a recent chat, "was to show teenagers the other side of what they see on TV and movies and glamourize. I want teenagers to stop and think before they act, especially regarding drugs. There's a myth that marijuana is not harmful, but it can lead to other drugs and can become extremely disastrous."

"Just as in both my books," she explained, "it can happen fast that quickly."

Hardwick went on to say that one of my readers is young and told me that my first book scared her. Good! I'm glad it scared her, especially because she is 14 and hungry consumed by an anxious public.

The second book, *Keepin' In Never Say Goodbye*, was written and published recently. Both books were conceived and written by a caring and concerned human being who wants only to put teenagers on the right path in life.

"My whole purpose for writing those books," said Hardwick during a recent chat, "was to show teenagers the other side of what they see on TV and movies and glamourize. I want teenagers to stop and think before they act, especially regarding drugs. There's a myth that marijuana is not harmful, but it can lead to other drugs and can become extremely disastrous."

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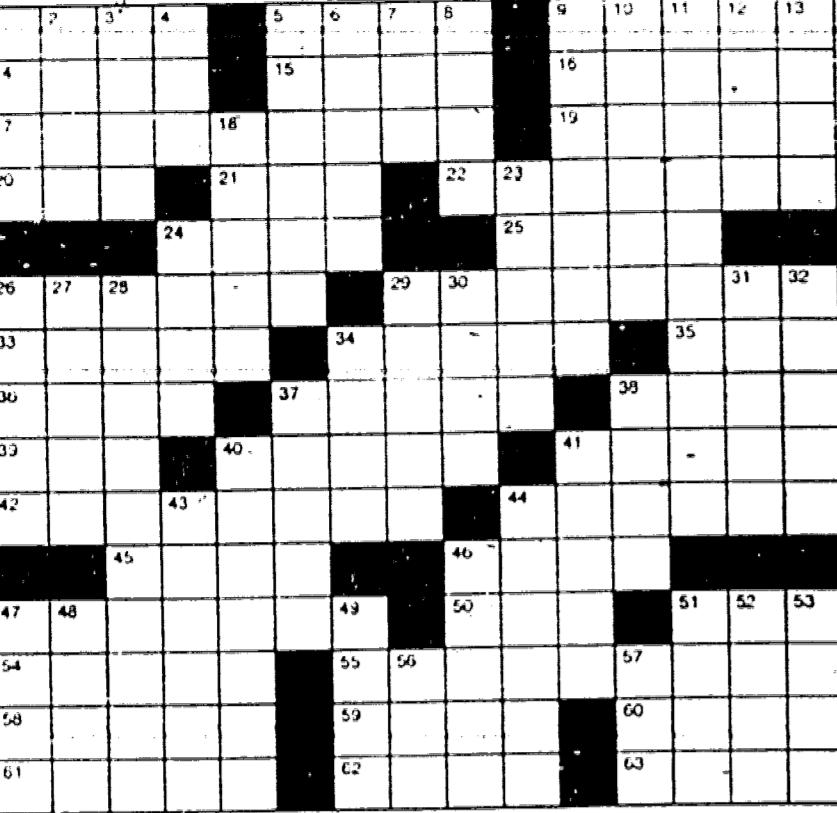
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ACROSS

1 Level  
5 Soul Sister Franklin, from 1969  
9 Brother love  
14 Draft animals  
15 Chinese dynasty  
16 King's secret  
17 M. Ford's secretary  
19 Augustus and Tiberius lived here  
20 WA and OR time  
21 The weather?  
22 Propelled by oars  
24 Smear  
25 It is now  
26 Actress who said, You know how to write, don't you?  
27 Lettered  
33 They go with pains  
34 Britton's favorite tenor, with 40  
Across  
36 Eighty-six  
37 Black Watch or Glen Check  
38 Can't do it with a penny now  
39 Mythical ogre  
40 3rd Across  
41 Located in "Romeo and Juliet"  
42 Like beginning actors  
44 Shining  
45 First, second, or third  
46 Aficionados  
47 Brothers of sleeping sickness  
50 A great bird  
51 A little one will do you  
54 Not on a crest  
55 The third man  
58 Griffin, et al.  
59 Export  
60 Softly, a Morning Sunrise  
61 Scottish terriers  
62 Literary Rain, Bible, Wilderness  
63 With moi, it's my place

## MIXED PUNCH



By Charles Preston

## What's Going On?

## FLEA MARKET

## SUNDAY

## February 29, 2004

## EVENT: Flea Market and Collective Show

PLACE: Clark Municipal Building, 430 Washington Street, Clark

TIME: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

DETAILS: Indoors &amp; Outdoors. Great items including new merchandise, crafts, collectibles, and a garage sale.

PRICE: Free

INFORMATION: Dr. Zaretsky will discuss how we can help our pets live longer and healthier lives. Also, learn about a myriad of life Also, help others, teachers and clinicians minister themselves against the cruel things that happen to them.

All are welcome. For seating reservations call 973-246-7600.

EMAIL: [www.acapinc.org](http://www.acapinc.org)

ORGANIZATION: Academy of Clinical and Applied Psychotherapy

SUNDAY

## February 22, 2004

## EVENT: FLEA MARKET CRAFT &amp; COLLECTIBLE SHOW

PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Prospect Avenue, Belleville, NJ (Off Route 33)

TIME: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

DETAILS: Indoors &amp; Outdoors. Crafts, collectibles, and a garage sale.

INFORMATION: For information call 201-997-9535.

ORGANIZATION: Sponsored by BHS BETAC Committee

## SATURDAY

## February 28, 2004

## EVENT: Indoor Flea Market

PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, 11 Rardin Road, Roselle

TIME: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

PRICE: \$2.00 per person. For tickets call 973-245-2350

ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School Mothers Club

## SUNDAY

## March 6, 2004

## EVENT: St. Patrick's Day Dance. Feature: Irish Step Dancers

PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, 11 Rardin Road, Roselle

TIME: 8:00-12 noon

PRICE: \$2.00 per person. For tickets call 973-245-2350

ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School

## DOWNS

## February 28, 2004

## EVENT: Indoor Flea Market

PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, 11 Rardin Road, Roselle

TIME: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

PRICE: Call for ticket information 908-245-2350

ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School

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PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, 11 Rardin Road, Roselle

TIME: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

PRICE: Call for ticket information 908-245-2350

ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School

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**Stepping Out**

*Stepping Out* is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Arts & Entertainment Editor Bill VanSant, Worrall Community Newspapers, 46 Valley St., P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040. Faxes may be sent to 973-763-2557.

## ART SHOWS

**PHOTOGRAPHER GINA BELLODO**

will have her work exhibited at the Forest Hills Gallery on the third floor of the Union County Administration Building, 200 Broad St., Elizabeth.

The show runs through Saturday, Feb. 28.

**THE CLOAK AND DAGGER READING GROUP**

meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield.

For information, call 973-374-8544.

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS**

meets the second Tuesday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Springfield.

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**FROM THE ROCKIES TO THE PACIFIC**

writes by photographer Mike Burns will be exhibited at the Winter House at Reeves Read Arts Center through March 10.

Exhibits are available from 10 a.m.

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**MYSTERY READING GROUP**

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**GOES PINGER WINSTON PHIPPS**

will appear in a concert benefiting the Interfaith Council for the Homeless on Saturday, Feb. 28, at 8 p.m. at Fountain Baptist Church, 116 Glendale Ave., Summit.

Admission is \$10. For information, call 908-753-4001.

**EXHIBIT WITH AN OPEN EYE**

a solo photography show by Shana Lengyel will be exhibited at the Lee Memorial Art Center in Union Public Library through March 10.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays,

Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m.; Sundays, 1 p.m.

For information, call 973-374-8544.

**THE FACE IN THE MIRROR**

arts and crafts will be exhibited at the Arts Council of Rahway through March 10.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays,

Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m.; Sundays, 1 p.m.

For information, call 973-374-8544.

**PAINTINGS BY DARIO SCHOLIS**

will be exhibited through March 15 at the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Prudential Center, Rahway.

For information, call 973-374-8544.

**PAINTINGS BY MATT JOHNSON**

will be exhibited at the Commons at Union County College in Cranford through March 22.

The Cranford campus of UCCJ is located at 200 Raritan Road, Cranford. For information, including exhibit hours, call 908-760-7155.

## BOOKS

**AUTHOR RUSSELL LIKE**

will appear Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Book Store of Westfield to sign copies of new book, "A Bowl of Frost: A Whore in the Woods." The Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call 973-335-3535 or visit the Web site at www.townbookstore.com.

**AUTHOR ROBERT E. TEVIS**

will appear Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

at the Town Book Store of Westfield to sign copies of new book, "Keep Your Hands Out of My Pocket: Strategies to Get More for Your Money." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call 908-233-3535 or visit www.townbookstore.com.

**AUTHOR ANDRIA HALL**

will appear Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield to sign copies of her new book, "The Walk: A Work.

Seven Steps to Spiritual Success."

The Hall's Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-374-8544.

**AUTHOR WENDY MASS**

will appear Feb. 27 at 4 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield to sign copies of her new book, "Leap Day." Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-374-8544.

**BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN**

meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-374-8544.

**THE LORD OF THE RINGS' READING GROUP**

meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

**EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRITERS' CIRCLE**

led by Cheryl Racine,

meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 973-374-8544.

**FORMING ARTS CENTER**

in Newark. Tickets are \$9 to \$19 for adults; \$9 for children younger than 14.

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

**CLASSICS BOOK CLUB**

meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 973-374-8544.

**DOO WOP REUNION TOUR**

featuring Lou Christie, Emitt Rhodes and The Classics, and The Chieftains, will be presented by the Union County Arts Center in Rahway on Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 to \$40. UCAC is located at 1001 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-459-8226 or visit www.ucac.org.

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**Are You Having An Event? And Would  
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WHAT'S GOING ON**

**WHAT'S GOING ON** is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is PR-PAID and costs just \$20.00 for 2 weeks in Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for 2 weeks in Morris County. It is also available in Bergen, Hudson and Monmouth for publication the following Thursday. Offices are located in All Valley, All My People, Allendale Rd., Orange, Cedar Lakes, and Basking Ridge, NJ, 07043, Stuyvesant Ave., Union.

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## REAL ESTATE

### Let's Ask Jill

by Jill Guzman



Thank you  
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Congratulations!  
Meet Roland Duprat,  
Rhonda Bartocci & Sheila  
Straubger  
Former Homeowners of  
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Thanking Jill Guzman Realty, Inc.  
Dear Jill

We would like to thank you for all your help in the recent sale of our home in Roselle. You and your staff were always very friendly and professional. We'd like to say a special thank you to our agent, Isabell. Do Rosa! Isabell was a pleasure to work with and always just a phone call away. We had a wonderful experience with the Jill Guzman Agency and will be recommending your agency to our family and many, many years.

We must trust our Broker.

In choosing a Realtor, we must seek the qualities of honesty, integrity and ethics. Talking to friends and neighbors and getting recommendations from people you trust is a key factor. A proven track record of a company is vital. A Broker's knowledge of the community, school system and of course, market values is essential.

CAROL EMPLOY - let the buyer beware. Watch out for letters and correspondence that state there is a buyer waiting for your home. Let's be realistic. Has the buyer been inside your home? Has the buyer seen your home? Be on the

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2.000-2.499 5.125-5.329 4.25-4.497 4.05-4.313 4.425-4.500 Accrual based construction loan

3. 5.25-5.490 4.5-4.631 4.5-4.875(1) 2-3-5-7-9-11-13-15-17-19-21-23-25-27-29

4. 5.075-5.519 4.75-4.740 4.875-4.918(1) 8-10-12-15-18-20-22-24-26-28-30

5. 5.75-5.883 5.15-5.25-5.45 4.75-4.833-5y fix Ca 1.00-9.11-11

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8. 5.0-5.431 5.0-5.431 5.0-5.431 5.0-5.431

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The SSR — or Super Sport Roadster — is a factory hot rod with power retracting hardtop, carpeted bed with hard, electrically released, tonneau and a 300 hp 5.3 liter V-8 and four-speed automatic transmission.

## Chevy's SSR recalls glory days

By Mark Maynard

Copley News Service

Sometimes I forget about the power of looks when I'm testing the car of the week.

Stepping out in the ultra sleek 2004 Chevrolet SSR is like going to the park with a Labrador retriever puppy. It's nearly irresistible.

Pull up at a four-way stop and the SSR will waved through. Merging with treeless traffic, the fates part to allow a better glimpse of it.

And you meet the nice people in the neighborhood when the SSR is parked at the curb.

The SSR recalls Chevy's fast-fendered and round-bodied pickups of the early '50s. Not too many years ago decent drivers of that vintage were selling for \$2,000. Today, restored trucks can cost up to \$20,000.

The SSR is a Super Sport Roadster and it's priced at \$37,995 with power retracting hardtop, carpeted bed with hard, electrically released, tonneau and a 300 hp, 5.3 liter V-8 and four-speed automatic transmission.

Color choices for '04 models will be Smokin' Asphalt, Redline Red and Slingshot Yellow. Dealers should be receiving vehicles now, but in very limited supplies.

The price starts at \$42,000 and can cost up to \$45,000 with all the extras. And I've heard stories from interested buyers that some dealers are adding up to \$20,000 to the sticker.

My test starts for the week was No. 23 at the 25 Signature Series SSRs that were used in special promotions and will be auctioned.

These trucks — all painted purple — come with extras such as special SSR badges and embroidery and some desirable options. Several of the SSRs were shown in various regions of the country. And a few were handed over to artists to capture the SSR as a backdrop of America.

The "signature" are GM excess on the "waterfall" badge in the grille. The early numbers have the highest ranking shields, such as GM chairman Rick Wagoner, vice chairman Bob Lutz and president Gary Cowger. But by the time it got to No. 23, a car designated for media use, the autographs were down to a business planner and body shop manager.

No. 1 will stay in the General Motors collection and No. 2 was auctioned on eBay for \$37,850 as a fund-raiser for the Heinz Prechter Award for Automotive Excellence, a scholarship for college students. Sale dates are pending for the rest.

Don't know how much cachet the signature of a new newspaper automotive writer would add to No. 23's valueability, so I put away my indelible black Sharpie. After me, the SSR went to Jay Leno, Tim Allen, then "Monster Garage." I did include a San Diego Union-Tribune-signed shirt and a few photos of the SSR from my visit to the "Back to the '50s" cruise night in La Mesa, Calif.

Cruising La Mesa revealed that a lot of people — car people — are well aware of SSR.

Parking along the village's trendy main drag is reserved for pre-'97 vehicles, which left me and my driving partner feeling left out. But the SSR mojo kicked in and we were flagged down and offered a parking space.

We hung out for more than an hour and talked with a parade of enthusiasts. There wasn't a negative comment for Chevrolet's effort to do a retro vehicle and at least three who stopped by had placed orders for an SSR — probably before ever touch-

ing, smelling or feeling the vehicle.

There has to be some trepidation in jumping in without a test drive, but I had words of encouragement for those owners in waiting.

It's not often a car design appeals to just about everybody. The PT Cruiser, Mini and Mini Cooper are good examples.

The rest of us can just for SSR swirls most unique about makes old men, young men, guys in old pickup, pass on motorcycles, boys on bicycles, boys on skateboards, boys on foot.

The design is friendly and inviting, and it was easily approached by women — with eyes looking at the SSR. Most women who were attracted to the vehicle actually were drawn to the color.

A couple of observations might indicate some fine tuning is still needed:

The automobile top is a GM show case, but the rubber window seals on the test track frequently got wedged out of shape by the glass and at highway speeds allowed a howling wind noise.

Rumor has it that the final version has been delayed slightly while this problem and some others are fixed.

Built from the basic elements of the TrailBlazer SUV chassis, the SSR looks like a pickup but has the function of a hot rod. And as the first truly cool production car from GM in a long time, this one is a remarkably capable effort.

Despite the TrailBlazer platform, there's a cool shake and shudder, but nothing that detracts from the driving. However, I might be a lot more critical of this if it were in an ugly, impractical car.

The glove box latch in the test truck wouldn't hold the door closed and the cup holders are flimsy.

And the prop rod for the hood just seems cheap on a \$42,000 vehicle.

Apparently, the budget went into the purple engine cover with butter minimum strips. A cool touch, but the SSR deserves the respect of hood struts or at least a spring loaded hinge to bear the weight of the hood.

Despite the TrailBlazer critique, the SSR is a drivable lap dog.

Even after the retro novelty cools, the owner still has a comfortable cruiser, plenty of performance to play with and a great convertible with plenty of trunk space. So how about a panel truck or a humpback sedan?

If it weren't so heavy, a V-8 version for about \$25,000 would be on my wish list.

So what's not to like here?

Maybe paying \$62,000, but as I tell those who complain of having to pay a premium, just wait a while, they'll make more. Chevy says it can build up to 15,000 units at the Lansing Craft Centre in Michigan.

Parked at the "Back to the '50s" cruise night, I asked a group of onlookers what they might say to the auction winner for No. 23.

"You're lucky, really lucky," came the call from the crowd.

2004 Chevrolet SSR  
Super Sport Roadster

Body style: Midsize, two-seat convertible roadster with retractable hardtop, steel body panels

Drive system: Front engine, rear drive

Engine size and type: Aluminum 16-valve, OHV, 5.3 liter V-8

Horsepower: 300 at 5,200 rpm

Torque: 331 foot-pounds at 4,000 rpm

Transmission: Four-speed automatic

Acceleration: 0 to 60 mph, 7.6 seconds

Fuel economy estimates: 15 mpg city, 19 highway

Fuel capacity: 25 gallons, regular unleaded recommended

Cargo space: 27.7 cubic feet

Head leg shoulder room: 40.4 inches

Front headroom: 35.5 inches

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The bank owns these cars, trucks, vans and SUVs - Saturn of Union and Saturn of Green Brook are the sites they have selected to sell them. And remember, THESE ARE NOT BANK REPOS - these are brand new and used vehicles shipped here from around the country made possible by the bank to dispose of immediately. Bring ONE DOLLAR for the bank and bring Saturn of Union and Saturn of Green Brook your trade.

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S-10's ..... '1 DOWN	Tahoes ..... '1 DOWN	Mustangs ..... '1 DOWN	Intrepids ..... '1 DOWN
Blazers ..... '1 DOWN	Canarys ..... '1 DOWN	Explorers ..... '1 DOWN	Breezes ..... '1 DOWN
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Suburbans ..... '1 DOWN	Accords ..... '1 DOWN	Tacomas ..... '1 DOWN	Impalas ..... '1 DOWN
Teravues ..... '1 DOWN	Civics ..... '1 DOWN	Alturas ..... '1 DOWN	Veranos ..... '1 DOWN
Prizeds ..... '1 DOWN	Sestras ..... '1 DOWN	Sunfires ..... '1 DOWN	Montezes ..... '1 DOWN
Lumina ..... '1 DOWN	Nevos ..... '1 DOWN	Cirrus ..... '1 DOWN	Monte Carles ..... '1 DOWN

Fuel mileage is fine at 15 mpg city and 19 highway — on regular unleaded.

But I'd gladly trade a couple miles per gallon for quicker shift times.

Transmission: four-speed automatic.

Acceleration: 0 to 60 mph, 7.6 seconds

Fuel economy estimates: 15 mpg city, 19 highway

Fuel capacity: 25 gallons, regular unleaded recommended

Cargo space: 27.7 cubic feet

Head leg shoulder room: 40.4 inches

Front headroom: 35.5 inches

Front leg room: 42.1 inches

Front shoulder room: 53.5 inches

Front torso room: 40.4 inches

Front wheelbase: 107.4 inches

Front wheelbase: 107.4

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TOUCH!



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**2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT 4X4 4 DR**

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**2002 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LT 4X4 4 DR**

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**2000 LEXUS RX300 AWD 4 DR**

5 SPEED  
SLEEK

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**2002 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE 4X4 Z71 4 DR**

LUXE NEW  
2500 BLUE

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**2001 TOYOTA SEQUOIA LTD 4X4 4 DR**

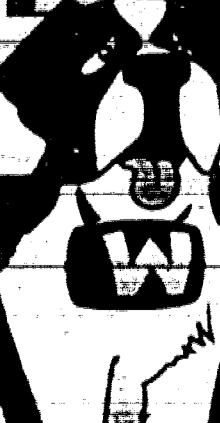
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