

# Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD N.J., VOL. 75 NO. 27

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2004

TWO SECT

## Borough seeks EMS response documents

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

With the Borough of Mountainside relying heavily on Atlantic Health Systems throughout the week to care for residents who need emergency assistance, there may be concerns regarding the competence and dedication to the municipality that it was contracted to three years ago.

Contracted in December of 2001 for an initial year and two twelve-month periods after that upon renewal, the care system decided in mid-December 2002 that they were not getting enough business in Mountainside.

So, they expanded to outside municipalities, allowing a stipulation in their contract that would assure the borough that the effects would not be negative on the residents of Mountainside.

In the amended contract, the care system guaranteed that 90 percent of the calls from Mountainside would be answered within 10 minutes.

However, when Police Captain Todd Turner was involved in a fatal car crash months ago, it took the squad, reportedly located in Watchung at the time, 23 minutes to arrive to the scene.

Turner, who was hit by another driver who allegedly ran a stop sign, died in a coma shortly after being transported to the hospital.

According to Borough Attorney John Post, when an emergency 911 call comes in, it goes right to the Center section of Overlook Hospital. This is Atlantic Health System's telecommunication center, from where they dispatch an ambulance.

Police Chief James Debbie said he is awaiting the latest report that documents response times of Atlantic Health Systems ambulances.

While the last report showed an

average response time of 4.6 minutes for 90 percent of the calls, it was received in 2002, making it over a year since the latest documented numbers.

Plus, the reports are quarterly, allowing the health care system to make up for calls that exceed that 10-minute period by averaging it out with quick response times for most emergencies.

According to Debbie, the reports include details of every call, including dates, time of arrival to a scene, time spent at the scene and arrival time at the hospital.

Atlantic Health Systems is contracted to work from 6 a.m. until 6 p.m. on weekdays. Prior to extending their services outside of Mountainside, they started at 4 a.m.

The borough's First Aid Squad is the first response at all other times, including the weekends, but this doesn't mean that Atlantic Health Systems would not be called if necessary during other times.

Debbie said that he had sent a letter to the care system about two weeks ago, asking for the reports that they have neglected to hand in to the borough for more than a year.

Debbie also said that until the incident involving Turner, there had only been one other instance in which the response time of the health care system was questioned. This was shortly before Turner's accident, and prior to that, Debbie said, there did not seem to be any problems with Atlantic Health Systems.

While Debbie is looking into the matter via the delinquent reports, he and Post both don't see a reason for any major concerns, saying that they have no plans of breaking the contract between the borough and health squad.



Photos By Rebecca Rose Sibayan

**A LITTLE FRIENDLY COMPETITION** — Springfield's Jonathan Dayton High School seniors, led by Senior Class President Anthony Denicolo, third from left, celebrate after their second round win against the school's faculty during the volleyball tournament inside the gym on Friday. Below, fifth-grade science teacher Anthony Scarpelli returns the ball. All proceeds from the event go toward funding the 2004 Project Graduation.



## School board offers first budget glimpse

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

Preliminary figures for the 2004-05 proposed budget in Springfield have been released during Board of Education meetings in the past month, allowing a look at what the overall financial picture may have in store for the district during the next school year.

At the high school level, Jonathan Dayton Principal Charles Serson spoke about the biggest decreases in the budget coming from the fact that the school will no longer pay for advanced placement testing leaving the approximate \$80 fee to come from students' pockets.

Increases will come due to software and technological supplies for business education classes, along with an increase in students taking home economics.

Serson added that computer software upgrades in the Guidance Department, plus a projected increase in enrollment from 539 to 565 students contribute to any rise in costs of the school budget.

Overall, the budget is projected to not be far off from last year's, though finalized numbers are yet to come.

While the elementary schools are relatively near the budgets of last year, Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School's shows a 6 percent reduction.

With changes including an addition of a journalism class and a full-time physical education teacher, Principal Barry Bachenhimer said the school is

looking to provide for its students the best education possible and added that it will become the biggest school in the district next year.

"The budget is essentially unchanged," he said.

On the whole, the district's budget, which includes the Board of Education, Business Office, Superintendent's Office, Maintenance and Grounds, transportation and benefits, would be projected to stay nearly the same, if it were not for the funds that must be set aside in case Springfield needs to pay both Garywood and Mountainside for the breakup of the Union County Regional High School District, an action that took place in 1997.

Increases include workers' compensation, general liability, employee benefits, and energy, but the most drastic increase comes in the form of a \$400,000-plus debt that Springfield owes the outside districts.

State aid numbers will be released to the district today and a public hearing concerning the budget will be held at the end of March.

Total figures, which are based on state aid, will also be released in the upcoming week.

Last year, the school board had to cut \$100,000 out of their \$26.1-million budget after it was turned down by voters in the April election.

The public will be able to cast their votes for this year's school budget at the April 20 election.

## School board presents its estimated \$11.7-million budget

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

With a preliminary budget hearing set for March 26 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall, the Mountainside Board of Education discussed the final updates and issues affecting the district's costs.

With a total projected budget estimated at \$11.7-million, the board hopes to finalize figures by next week and looks forward to presenting them to the public at the taped meeting set for the end of March.

Last year, the 2003-04 budget had an estimated annual school tax increase of \$411 on the average home assessed in Mountainside at \$158,000.

The board will look to approve the 2004-05 budget on Tuesday, so that it can be sent to the Union County Superintendent for final approval.

"The finance committee had done a great job making it a tight, balanced budget," said Board President Peter Goggi.

Based on assumptions concerning state aid, which the board received numbers for yesterday and can now factor into their expenses for final

costs, Goggi figures that putting the budget together will be a task.

"We're going to be challenged," he said.

With an increase in tuition of about \$543,000 and \$65,000 going toward a child study team, these expenses alone double the budget's cap.

The only way to address these factors is to go through the spending, growth, limitation and adjustment money that is set aside for times such as this.

"We've decided to bring the surplus down to its bare minimum," Goggi said.

What the board plans to do is use the money that is saved over time to increase the budget a total of three percent, which is the maximum amount that a district can increase on a yearly basis.

According to the board, about \$350,000 will be taken from the surplus fund in order to offset the taxpayers' burden.

As for the dissolution money that Mountainside is looking forward to seeing from the four districts once

involved in the Union County Regional High School District, which broke up in 1997, the board noted that they have been instructed not to plan on having that money in conjunction with this year's budget.

Goggi said that with the increase in construction of homes in Mountainside, it's great to see more people moving in and more children adding to the community and the schools. At the same time, he said it puts stress on the board in terms of managing the district's money.

The board is also anticipating at least three severely handicapped students entering the district, increasing the budget by around \$250,000.

While the state may contribute funding toward these students, board member Richard Kress said that it takes three years before the state will reimburse transportation costs, leaving the first couple of years to be costly.

Goggi did say that some money can be expected in grants that will be applied for through the state.

## New appc

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

After a long search and interview process, a new superintendent of schools for the township of Springfield has been found.

Michael Davino, a native of Brooklyn who now lives in Westfield and has taught and been involved in administration throughout his professional life, was publicly appointed as superintendent at the school board's meeting earlier this week.

While other stipulations are yet to be laid out, Davino will be making \$140,000 as an annual salary.

Davino currently serves as chief school administrator for the Michael J. Petrides Educational Complex in Staten Island, where he has been for six years and will finish his stint on March 31.

Davino is set to take over in Springfield on April 1, when current interim superintendent Tom Butler will leave the district after several months of service to the schools.

A father of two girls, Davino attended St. Francis College, went on to Michigan State University for his Masters in Special Education and Guidance Services, and then began a professional program at New York University for Administration Leadership. Davino transferred to St. John's University, where he is currently in the process of earning his doctorate for education leadership. Davino hopes to complete the process within a year-and-a-half.

"The district, in many ways, reflected the Michael J. Petrides environment when I came in six years ago," said Davino, who said he was there to return it to its original vision of learning and improvement. "It's reminiscent of that," he said of Springfield, "except for the different scenario. The issue of negativity is not there."

Davino has taught every grade, spanning from kindergarten to high school. He taught mathematics in secondary schools, along with undergraduate and graduate courses at St. John's University.

"I really thought that my talents and the community's desires and needs would be a good match," said Davino of why he wanted to come to Springfield.

"I think that they have an extremely talented and committed Board of Education," he said. "I was constantly impressed with their sense of purpose and understanding for what it is they wanted to accomplish."

The process by which Springfield chose Davino consisted of several rounds of interviews, diligent background checks and questioning, tours throughout Springfield and even a look at past districts that Davino was involved with.



Michael Davino

## Street's residents find flooding issue can be traced to Meisel Park

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

As plans for redeveloping Meisel Avenue Park in Springfield continue to progress, issues that began with Meisel Pond have now moved on to other environmental concerns.

According to Gene Schramm, a resident of Keeler Street and a member of the township's entire life, the park is not only affected by its own flood plains, but his son's house is one of many that become flooded from just light rain or snow.

Chris Schramm, who lives on Waverly Avenue and is nearby the brook and sewage system that lies within the park, has adapted to the problem by using a check-valve, but if

this is accidentally left open, as has happened before, flooding will be eminent.

"They know about the problem," said Chris, referring to Union County. "They just don't have the money to take care of it."

Chris, a resident on Waverly for roughly seven years, is several houses away from one resident who, according to Gene Schramm, had close to \$10,000 in damage from the last heavy rainfall.

Gene has been bringing this problem to the township's attention for years, he said, explaining that the sewage system that was built in the 1920s has never been updated or modernized to adapt to the heavy demand

of all the homes and condominiums that now surround it.

"Sometimes just an inch of rain or less will totally fill the trunk line to the point where it flows out of the manholes, down through the woods and brooks, and backs up into homes creating havoc," said Gene.

Gene noted that the landfill that was once the makeup of the park has simply been compressed beneath the ground, adding to a rise of water from the flood plains.

Gene, who wrote a letter to the Department of Environmental Protection last week, has not yet received a response.

Mayor Clara Hareluk, who spoke with Gene and referred him to Town-

ship Engineer Sam Mardini, said that anything more that can be done based on his advisory would be looked into, and that the situation is being maintained nonetheless.

Gene expressed concern regarding possible toxins that have been buried with other garbage that the land once consisted of, although the park itself has undergone environmental studies done by both the DEP and the company that has helped make plans for the park's development.

Even so, Gene added that he is astounded by the fact that the people of Rahway get their water from the "sewage-filled" Rahway River.

"There should be no more sewer hook-ups on new construction until

this problem can be remedied," said Gene.

According to him, Mardini looked over the field and could not suggest a solution outside of the township's own sewage plant, which would obviously be a costly project within itself.

Gene suggested that the concerns could be addressed in conjunction with Meisel Pond, which, according to Hareluk, was addressed at last week's Board of Chosen Freeholders meeting.

Hareluk said that the county is taking into consideration the concerns and requests of the township and will prioritize the pond accordingly so that it can be taken care of prior to the park's development.

While a media contact from the

DEP said that this is more of an issue to be taken up with the county or township that the land is located in, he did say that officials will look at the letter and see if there is anything that can be done from their end to help the problem.

Mardini, who said that another option for Chris Schramm would be to eliminate the bathroom located in his basement, said that it is true that with heavy rain, the system backs up.

"The township is doing everything possible to identify the source of infiltration," said Mardini, adding that this would be the root of the problem. "The investigation is ongoing and if I knew where it was coming from, I would have fixed it already."

**Welcome to the ECHO LEADER**

**How to reach us:**  
The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by World Community News, an independent family-owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1301 Springfield Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the two phone numbers listed below.

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

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### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To read a schedule, send it to [EchoLeader@att.net](mailto:EchoLeader@att.net), managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083.

**Today**  
• Preschool Storytime meets at Mountanside Free Public Library, Constitution Plaza, Thursdays through April 1 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Registration is required. Call 908-234-0015 for information.

**Friday**  
• The Governor Livingston High School Hand Parents' Organization conducts its annual golf basket auction at the school, 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights. Doors open at 7 p.m. Admission is \$6. All proceeds benefit hand activities, travel expenses, costumes, instruments and chaperones. For information, call 908-578-0684.

**Saturday**  
• The "Outdoor Adventure Size 4m Up" is offered at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, from 10 to 11 a.m. The activity allows children of all ages to learn how sizes describe natural objects. For information, call 908-289-3670.

• A free seminar on "Creating Financial Solutions for Seniors in Transition" will be offered at Brighton Gardens of Mountanside, 1350 Route 22 West in Mountanside at 11 a.m. RSVP is required, call 908-654-4400.

**Monday**  
• The Springfield Board of Education meets in the media center at Jonathan Dayton High School on Mountain Avenue at 7:30 p.m. The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the Mountanside or Springfield Board of Education is 4 p.m. The election is scheduled for April 20. A school board candidate kit is available at the local school district office.

**Wednesday**  
• The Springfield Planning Board meets in the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave., at 8 p.m.

**Upcoming March**  
• The Foodfall Club luncheon will take place at BG Fields Restaurant in Westfield at noon. The program will feature Janet Pelley with "Flaxen Tips." The club serves the community of Mountanside and will celebrate its 41st birthday at this meeting. Guests are welcome. For reservations, call 908-232-3626.

**March 5**  
• A free blood pressure clinic will be offered at Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East, Mountanside, from 10 a.m. to noon.

**March 6**  
• "Survivor" is a program that allows children and families to build outdoor survival skills at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountanside from 10 to 11 a.m. For information, call 908-289-3670.

**March 8**  
• The Springfield Township Committee will meet in the Annex Building, 20 N. Trent Ave. for a work session at 7:30 p.m.

**March 9**  
• The Mountanside Borough Council will meet in Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East for a work session at 8 p.m.

• The Springfield Township Committee will meet in the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave. at 8 p.m.

• The Mountanside Board of Education will meet in the Media Center of Deerfield School, 592 Central Ave. at 8 p.m.

**March 10**  
• The Springfield Garden Club will meet in the Presbyterian Parish House at 37 Church Hill in Springfield for a discussion of "Flowering Vines" at 7:15 p.m. The guest speaker is Eva Shaw. All are welcome. For information, call 973-376-3436.

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## Police make vehicle stop, find driver has outstanding warrants

**Mountanside**  
On Friday at 1:25 p.m., 46-year-old Willie Hunter, Jr. was stopped on Route 22 East for failing to signal. A background check revealed that he was driving while suspended and had an outstanding warrant out of Berkeley Heights for \$2,060, along with one out of East Orange for \$250.

**Springfield**  
At 3:52 a.m. Feb. 17, a Troy Drive apartment was broken into through the front window, resulting in a stolen Olympus Digital Camera, valued at \$400, among other property.

• A car parked in the lot of a Route 22 East business on Feb. 13 at 7:30 a.m. was broken into and baseball caps, gloves, bats, and training equipment were stolen, along with 12 compact discs.

• On Feb. 17 at 10:04 a.m., unknown suspects stole a Sony Laptop computer, ps/2 bag containing \$200 worth of poker chips and a card shoe, and damaged the side rear window of a car parked on Springfield Avenue.

• The headlights of a 2002 Nissan were stolen on Shunpike Avenue at 5:16 p.m. Feb. 22.

• A Troy Drive resident's shed was forced open at 11:43 a.m. Feb. 23, resulting in the theft of two Mongoose Mountain Bikes valued at \$600.

## Vehicle crashes through fence, destroys porch, brings FD unit

**Mountanside**  
At 11:41 p.m. Feb. 18, firefighters responded to a motor vehicle accident on Route 22 East where the driver of a Mercedes lost control of his vehicle and crashed through a wooden fence, demolishing half of a residential porch.

The driver had minor injuries and was taken to Overlook Hospital.

• At 5:39 p.m. Feb. 16, firefighters responded to a Mutual Aid call to Scotch Plains fire headquarters.

• At 7:50 a.m. Feb. 19, firefighters responded to a report of heavy smoke coming from a chimney at a residence on the corner of Central and Cedar Avenues.

At the scene, it was determined that the homeowner overloaded the fireplace with wood.

• On Feb. 21 at 1:47 p.m., firefighters responded to a reported kitchen oven fire on Knollcrest Road.

The oven's self-cleaning cycle had overheated and created a minor smoke condition in the house.

**Springfield**  
• At 2:22 p.m. Feb. 14, firefighters responded to Route 22 East for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

• At 9:33 p.m. Feb. 16, firefighters responded to a Christy Lane residence for a water condition.

• On Feb. 17, at 4:22 p.m., firefighters responded to a South Maple Avenue residence for a medical service call.

• On Feb. 18 at 7:14 p.m., the Fire Department responded a pump to Roselle Fire Headquarters on a request from County Mutual Aid.

• At 11:33 a.m. Feb. 19, firefighters responded to a Route 22 West business for a medical service call.

• At 7:52 p.m. Feb. 19, firefighters responded to South Springfield Avenue and Shunpike Avenue for a utility pole down.

• At 10:10 p.m. Feb. 19, all units responded to a Brent Park Drive apartment complex for a reported fire.

• On Friday at 11:29 a.m., firefighters responded to a Hultorsol Way residence for a medical service call.

• On Saturday at 11:12 a.m., firefighters responded to Route 22 West for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

• At 1:28 p.m. Saturday, all units responded to a South Maple Avenue residence for smoke in the house.

• At 3:44 p.m. Saturday, the Fire Department responded to an Independence Way residence to assist the First Aid Squad.

## VFW presents Young American Awards

Veterans of Foreign Wars Battle Hill Post 7683 of Springfield, presented Young American Award certificates to the kindergarten class at St. James the Apostolic School.

The following students received certificates: Sarah Adela, Colegio Alamo, Rodolfo Avila, Allison Bratsch, Anyah Dent, Liam Dogherity, Demarco Jones, Joseph Kasner, Sabrina Landman, Joanna Lucas, Travis McCoy, Anuj Modi, Lizabeth Mosley, Christina Sarraceno, Laura Steele, Christopher Stephen and Talia Suggs.

The students have recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the kindergarten class at St. James the Apostolic School.

Post 7683 meets on the fourth Wednesday at 2 p.m. at American Legion Post in Millburn and welcomes new members to their post.

Those interested should call Skeets Kuzmik, commander at 908-654-5764 for applications.

## Child poster contest helps 'Keep Springfield Clean'

The Springfield Environmental Commission announced the start of a poster contest encouraging children to "Keep Springfield Clean."

The theme of the contest is "Keep Springfield Clean. Don't Litter."

Springfield, in grades pre-K through eight. Posters will be judged in four categories: pre-K and K, grades one and two, grades three and four, grades five through eight.

The winning artists will see their posters all over town publicizing Clean Community Day on April 18. Winning artists will also receive \$50 U.S. savings bonds.

The contest is open to residents of Springfield.

Official rules are available in the school offices and in Town Hall. Contest rules were also distributed in the classrooms.

The contest is open to residents of Springfield, in grades pre-K through eight.

The deadline is March 11. Students should give posters to their teachers. For information on Clean Community Day, call 973-912-2225.

## Soldier describes life during wartime in Iraq

**By Joan M. Devlin Staff Writer**

Eighth-graders in John Tyce's social studies class at Deerfield School in Mountanside were treated last Wednesday to a special film and talk by 1st Lt. Sean Roughneen, just returned on rotation from Iraq.

A former student of Tyce, Roughneen is a 1988 graduate of Deerfield School.

"Two of my present students, twin brothers Lee and Jessie Hinman, live on the same street as Sean and told me he was home," explained Tyce. "So I called him and asked if he would come in and tell the class about his experiences in Iraq."

Tyce said further, "We need to have this information from him, he served his country and he has some great slides."

Before he began the slide presentation taken by himself and buddies, Roughneen said, "Being in the military, it is the single best and most rewarding experience I have had so far in my life." He is now 30, and has finished six months of active duty.

Dressed in full Army uniform, Roughneen said he was in the Army National Guard Reserves, stationed in Aberdeen, Md., and then the 20th Military Intelligence Battalion, was called to active duty last February and deployed in March.

The unit was sent to Kuwait first, and then to Iraq. His slide presentation begins in Kuwait, and he did commentary as he ran the pictures.

After greeting the children, the soldier was positive about his experience. He said, "You don't see any good news on television, but I don't feel the Iraq people are truly against the Americans, we have done a lot of



Using Deerfield School student Chris Perna as an example, 1st Lt. Sean Roughneen demonstrates how a head dress, known as a "shemagh," is worn by men in Iraq. Having recently returned from the war-torn country, the soldier and former student of teacher John Tyce came back to describe military life during wartime.

very good things to help the people, and most people greeted us with cheers, especially the small children."

He showed slides of Kuwait, very much a desert area, where they arrived, and the large tents they stayed in awaiting movement to nearby Iraq. He was in Baghdad and Nasiriyah, and had pictures of both places. The children were allowed to ask questions as he went along. One student asked Roughneen what his job was.

"Our unit was technical, we took portions of captured enemy equipment, brought it back to our base to learn about it."

Roughneen said their unit was never in the front lines. The fighting was felt by the U.S. Marines and other Army divisions. They then went in to pick up the equipment after the battles.

As he showed desert scenes the heat was obvious.

"The temperature averaged 125 degrees plus at all times, and you just have to deal with it," he said.

One student asked him how he was able to breathe in that air.

Roughneen said, "It helped to drink lots and lots of water. This was supplied by the Army and it was very important to drink it all the time."

He showed a slide of a large Chinook helicopter, which he said held 47 soldiers, and which was used to travel in and around Iraq. Men were getting in and out of it, and one student asked if it was even hotter inside the airplane.

"Yes, it was, and you just get used to it and make the best of it," said the soldier.

There were slides of large amounts of supplies marked "War Stock" and he explained they were

MRIs, or ready-to-eat meals and water supplies. All the slides were desert background and hot sun. One showed a soldier holding a picture of Saddam Hussein, with an American flag put over his face. "There were pictures of him everywhere, and they all came down. Sometimes we just put flags over his face," said Roughneen.

Many of the slides were aerial views over Baghdad. There was one of Paul Bremer's headquarters, the civilian head of operations there, where they are working on forming a government.

When he showed pictures of one of Saddam's palaces, mostly in ruins, one student asked if he saw any solid gold toilets.

Roughneen laughed, and said, "So, they had all been looted by the civilians when our unit arrived, but we know they had solid gold fixtures in the bathrooms. This was while the Iraqi people did not even have drinking water, that was true."

He showed where the soldiers

## Rabbi shares insights from recent Israeli trip

**By Joan M. Devlin Staff Writer**

About 100 members of the congregation of Reform synagogue, Sha'arei Shalom in Springfield, were treated to a stimulating talk by Rabbi Josh Goldstein about his recent Israeli trip.

It was at a brunch sponsored by the Sisterhood, the Brotherhood and the Renaissance, a senior group, that the rabbi enthusiastically recommended all who could to "go and visit" Israel. "I'm here basically today to tell you good news. Israel is not the desperate, depressed country you read about in the newspapers. The great story is the resilience of our brothers and sisters in Israel," he said.

"Instead, there is energy and vitality, and people are optimistic about the future," continued the rabbi. He felt the reason for this optimism was the plan that is emerging regarding the fence, which is being built along the line of the West Bank.

"I saw it first-hand. The arguments for the fence are compelling. It will save lives, and not to offer a total separation from Palestinians, and it won't offer complete security. Breaches, dug, and terrorists will probably turn more against Jewish settlers living on the other side of the barrier. All this is true," he said.

"An interesting slide was of a huge dome-like structure. Roughneen said this was where they put the captured goods from the enemy. 'This is right near an air base, ready to be sent back,' he said."

Among the souvenirs he had with him were an Iraq flag, and a Muslim prayer rug, which was beautiful. Also a head dress, worn by men, called a "shemagh," and he asked for a volunteer to try to don it. A boy came forward, amidst applause, and let the soldier wrap it around his head. "It keeps out the elements, especially the brutal heat," said Roughneen.

In the audience with the class was interim principal, Walter Busak, who took pictures. As the class ended, the children were reluctant to leave, and gave him genuine applause.

"Friends, it's not the massive land grab you hear about in the media. Besides, it can be moved or dismantled, at future conditions, warrant."

Rabbi Goldstein said the other message the fence sends is that unless terrorism is stopped, Israel will impose its own map.

He told his congregation that he stopped to say prayers at the fence, and thought about the mitzvah parallel between those and the Western Wall in Jerusalem, where he had placed a handful of pebbles from one of the religious school classes.

Rabbi Goldstein said the trip was a "solidarity mission," sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism, with 30 participants, including 10 rabbis, and included a tour of the Golan Heights, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. They found and encouraged many new and established synagogues in Israel.

He went on to name members of his congregation who had also visited Israel with their children, and were comfortable with that.

His own trip, however, was not without excitement.

"As he left his hotel early one morning, 'Strenuous' rain and ambulances roared by a suicide bomb attack not more than 20 blocks away. 'There were 10 murdered and 50 injured this time,' he said."

He still felt that in spite of the possibility for these attacks at any time, Israel is safer and more secure now. "When people feel more secure, they turn immediately from war toward a celebration of life. I think the security fence may actually help bring Israel and the Palestinians closer."

He said to his people, "Friends, you should go. It's safe. It's not a vacation because it's more than that. It's a pilgrimage that speaks to your Jewish soul. Israel needs us to be there, and we need to be there."

However, he could not forecast peace.

"I do not think there will be peace in my lifetime... but I hope I am wrong."

## Ready for its big debut



A recent temporary certificate of occupancy was issued for the new Springfield firehouse on Mountain Avenue and now a dedication ceremony has been set for Sunday at 2 p.m., more than two years after the building was originally contracted for construction. Here, a fire truck sits outside the doors of the new site, waiting for opening day.

## Filing deadline approaches for local school board candidates

The deadline for filing nominating petitions for school board positions in all five Mountanside or Springfield Board of Education is 4 p.m. Monday.

The election is scheduled for April 20.

There will be three 3-year term positions open on the Board of Education in Mountanside and Springfield.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a school board candidate kit at the local school district office located in Mountanside at 1397 Woodlawn Drive, Mountanside and in Springfield in the Board of Education Office at Jonathan Dayton High School on Mountain Avenue during the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the school board candidate kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures, and the role of the school board member.

Information about the New Jersey Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process, and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.

## Department presents circus trip

The Springfield Recreation Department offers a family bus trip to the circus March 6, from 11:30 a.m. performance.

Tickets are in the lower level seats, section 127 at the Continental Airlines Arena. Admission is \$31 per person.

The fee includes a circus ticket and transportation to and from the Continental Airlines Arena. For information, call 973-912-2227.

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# COMMUNITY FORUM

## EDITORIALS

### Stretched too thin

Our health and safety has the potential to be compromised, putting many people at risk. Ever since Mountainside had been forced into a contract with Atlantic Health Care Systems to provide emergency response to the town, the potential exists for coverage to be stretched too thin, since the service covers other towns outside Mountainside, even those as far away as Watchung.

At the Borough Council meeting Tuesday, issues arose regarding Atlantic Health Care's response times within the borough. According to Borough Attorney John Post, the contract that the borough has with Atlantic Health Care permits them to dispatch ambulances to other communities, as long as they agree that 90 percent of Mountainside calls will see a response time of 10 minutes or less.

Police Chief James Debbie said that in the last report filed, 90 percent of the calls were answered at an average of 4.6 minutes. Debbie noted that the Mountainside squad is on second call during day time hours or major emergencies.

Whether this 90-percent-10-minute requirement is adequate or not, this was negotiated and was the best they could do. That was the conclusion reached at the Tuesday meeting.

But Mountainside can and should be able to do better. Mountainside is not alone in having to rely on an outside company to help provide emergency services to their town. The problem with this service is that Atlantic Health Care ambulances are often in other towns during a time of emergency. Since emergencies cannot be planned, this places a risk to the members of whatever town is relying on the coverage.

Unfortunately, Mountainside does not have enough members to cover the critical weekend shift of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, which is a large chunk of the day. Prior to Atlantic extending their services outside of Mountainside, the critical hours were from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m. Many towns are in the same boat, but it was this factor which forced Mountainside to enter into a contract with Atlantic Health Care in December 2001.

This system doesn't offer the same level of safety that residents would get from their town's squad. If there's an emergency happening in Mountainside and the ambulance is handling an emergency in Watchung, how is that looking out for the safety of the people living in Mountainside? If Atlantic Health Care is supposed to serve as the first response unit when the First Aid Squad is unavailable, how is that providing the best service to Mountainside residents?

What happens is that Atlantic Health Care is providing a vital service but they cannot provide the same level of service that a town's own squad can provide. Volunteers know the community best since the majority of them live in the community.

If the First Aid Squad cannot find the members to fill the ranks needed to keep themselves operational, then it makes sense to continue their contract with Atlantic Health Care, as they have little choice.



**AN ENCHANTING OCCASION** — Deerfield School sixth-graders in Mountainside recently enjoyed an enchanting event when they made team presentations dressed as various Cinderella stories. Here are the characters from "Bubba," the female version of the Cinderella story from Texas. From left, Gólin Carroscillo, Tim Black, Jasmine Chan and Erika Uzzolino.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Route cuts have left us overburdened

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to the two previous letters about the Springfield Post Office. I am a letter carrier here in Springfield. Last Sept. 27, the Post Office cut the number of routes in Springfield by two. These two routes were absorbed by the carriers of the remaining 19 routes. This has caused us to be overburdened. Because of this cutback, the Springfield Post Office is not working with a "full work force."

Many of us are now working six days a week for as long as 10 hours a day. Eventually, something has to give. That "something" is customer service. Many Springfield residents are getting their mail late in the evening and by a letter carrier not familiar with the route or the people on it.

Management is at the root of this problem. Management's methods are not only counterproductive, but often confrontational. Those residents, who have had dealings with management, will understand what I mean. Every day, we letter carriers go to work threatened with being fired if we misdeliver even just once piece of mail. We are human beings, not machines. We handle thousands of pieces of mail daily, and occasionally a piece is misdelivered. We letter carriers ask the residents of Springfield to have patience with us and our Union-Branch 38, located at 374 Morris Ave. here in Springfield. We're trying to restore the two routes cut last September and get more help to fill the positions.

In the meantime, we will continue to do our best for the residents of Springfield.

Kristen Fogler  
Springfield letter carrier

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### Pond is a breeding area for disease

To the Editor:

As a 25-year resident of Springfield who has never previously sent a letter to the editor, I felt compelled to comment on the issue of the safety of the children who will be using Meisel Park once the restoration work has been completed.

I am sure that all Springfield residents are pleased that the long overdue work on Meisel Park has begun, and hopefully will be completed in a timely manner. It has been too long since our children, and other residents, have had the opportunity to utilize this fine recreational location. My concern is that Meisel Pond, which is part of Meisel Park, is without doubt a stagnant breeding ground of disease, especially the West Nile virus.

If residents of this town have not visited the pond recently, I urge them to do so and see what a "cesspool" it is. Dead birds are not an unusual occurrence around the pond, and that is a possible indication of the presence of the West Nile virus. It is not simply a question of whether the pond should be either cleaned up and aerated or filled in. The compelling question is how quickly we can act. I understand the budget constraints that have been articulated by Union County officials, however, we are dealing with a potentially serious health issue that must be addressed now, and not at some vague future time. If we sit idly by it is a possibility that either a child who uses Meisel Park for recreation or a student from nearby schools such as (Gardner Middle School, St. James or Dayton High) could contract a potentially deadly mosquito-borne disease such as the West Nile virus.

We all desire a safe, well-maintained recreational facility at Meisel Park. Let's be sure that one day we don't have to look back and ask ourselves why we did not fulfill our obligation to our children by caring for the safety of the entire park, including Meisel Pond.

Mel Schlosier  
Springfield

### Let's be realistic

The decision is in, but how realistic is it?

State Education Commissioner William Librera 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, delivered Feb. 5 by Librera, is intended to redistribute money that belonged to the former Union County Regional High School District, which dissolved in 1997.

The decision is sound, as Mountainside and Garwood both deserve the money that was once theirs and the payment has been long overdue. Plus, it's been more than three years since the Supreme Court ruled that Mountainside and Garwood should be compensated. Also, the affected districts knew the compensation for the breakup would be coming and, it could be argued, did not properly plan for it.

But here it is, nearly March and the current payment plan calls for Springfield to begin paying 10 equal payments of \$166,119 to Mountainside on April 15, continuing every six months until the final payment in October 2008.

Springfield would also pay Garwood in 10 installments of \$52,458, spanning the same time period.

Faced with an estimated \$18-million school referendum and expansion project, which taxpayers will be paying for during the next 20 years, it is virtually impossible for Springfield to begin paying for the reimbursement at this time. As a result, Springfield has rightfully filed for a stay and an appeal.

As we mentioned in an earlier editorial, the state should be helping Springfield pay for this mess. It is not fair to expect Springfield to pay money that they do not have. Just when exactly is the district going to be getting this money if it is not in its budget?

### Fresh Kills plan smells like trash

To the Editor:

In a recent petition to the Surface Transportation Board for expedited approval of their planning, the City of New York revealed the following information:

- 1.) New York City is constructing a Department of Sanitation facility at the Fresh Kills landfill on Staten Island for "long-term export of managed waste" — garbage?
- 2.) New York City and the Port Authority are rehabilitating the railroad on Staten Island to serve both this "facility" and the Marine Terminal at Howland Hook.
- 3.) The rail line will cross the Arthur Kill Lift Bridge and connect to the Staten Island Railroad and the Chemical Coast Line on the New Jersey side.
- 4.) Shippers to and from the sanitation "facility" will be in 70-car freight trains 4,700 feet long, twice per week in each direction.
- 5.) Traffic from Howland Hook is not quantified, but the terminal there is being renewed as a major deep-water container-shipping port and will attract international cargo.
- 6.) Operations are scheduled to begin in the fall of 2005.

The N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation and the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection have expressed legal and environmental concerns about these activities and have requested time to comment. NJ DEP said "the issues raised are too important and complex to be dealt with in the summary fashion which it — NYC — insists."

It seems more than coincidental that Morristown 3: Erie Railway has scheduled completion of the Rahway Valley Railroad to Summit, and its connection to the N.J. Morris and Essex passenger line, at the same time as the start of operations at the Fresh Kills "facility."

Thus, by year 2005, we can expect heavy freight train movement in both east-west and north-south directions, disrupting our communities and interfering with commuter transportation on both road and rail — unless increased public

### pressure on your officials forces a change of plans

Gov. James McGreevey has halted talks with New York City about a proposal to change the city's garbage to Linden's Tremley Point for transfer to trains that would move through central New Jersey on their way out of state. It is time for the governor to take similarly decisive action on the even more disruptive Fresh Kills plan.

Herb Stote  
Springfield

### Feds mulling trash train proposals

To the Editor:

Concerned residents of Union County, who were relieved thinking we escaped a New York City garbage transfer station, will want to direct their immediate attention to rapidly moving plans to export garbage from Staten Island.

In separate requests, the New York City Economic Development Corp. and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey have asked the Federal Surface Transportation Board to rule that they have the immediate authority to construct new rail connections from a waste transfer station at Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island to the Staten Island Railway, and to construct new connections between the Staten Island Railway and the Chemical Coast Line in New Jersey.

After reaching the Staten Island Railway and the Chemical Coast Line, the 4,700-foot, 70-car trash trains would be able to move out to Oak Island Yard and through most of Union County using the E. Hugh Valley Railroad through Hillsdale, Union, Roselle Park, Roselle, Cranford, Clark, Westfield and Scotch Plains and using the Rahway Valley Line through Roselle Park, Kenilworth, Union, Springfield and Summit. So much for the work of the Union County Freeholders at trying to effect a controlled reactivation of the Staten Island Railway and the Rahway Valley Railway in Union County.

To see the actual filings, before the Surface Transportation Board, go to www.stb.dot.gov and go to Filings search and use the Full Text search option to locate finance docket FD 34429 0 and FD 34428 0.

So far, there have been very few objections to the plans.

William T. Fidurski  
Clark

### Your support brings better options

To the Editor:

It was early fall 1988 when a group of concerned community members came together to consider what they might offer to seniors on graduation night to replace the many hazardous and often harmful activities that were available. Through their efforts, the first Governor Livingston High School Project Graduation was held in June of 1989.

Thanks to the generous support of the business, professional, and parent communities of Berkeley Heights, Mountainside and neighboring towns, Project Graduation — a safe, all-night, drug- and alcohol-free, chaperoned celebration of graduation — is now in its 16th year! 192 members of the graduation class enjoyed Project Graduation 2003, held on June 25 at Rutgers University.

As is often the case with worthwhile events, expenses run high — Project Graduation 2004 will cost approximately \$20,000 or \$100 per student. Monies to support this event are raised as a community wide effort through fund-raisers, grants, business, professional and parent contributions. As a supporter of Project Graduation, your business or organization will be named as a sponsor in our promotional brochure, as well as listed among our current contributors in our school and local newspapers.

Through your contribution of money, goods or services to Project Graduation 2004 you become a member of a team dedicated to providing the best possible opportunities for our youth.

Contributions can be sent to: Project Graduation 2004, GL High School, 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922. Many thanks for your generous support.

Karen-Tuder  
Treasurer, Project Graduation 2004  
Governor Livingston High School

### Foundation keeps her spirit alive

To the Editor:

On Jan. 20, 2004, the Borough of Mountainside was dealt a monumental loss with the death of Dawn A. Ciasulli. Dawn was the pillar of her family and a pillar of the community. Besides those great assets, she was a good friend, and her death has left us numb.

Her artistic talent touched so many people in so many ways. From the stage decorations at Deerfield, Governor Livingston and Community Presbyterian Schools, to the ad journal books and countless hours backstage with costumes and wardrobe. In our eyes, Dawn will always be Numero Uno!

Though her loss has affected us all, we aim to keep Dawn's spirit and talent alive with the creation of The Dawn Foundation. For Kids! This foundation, only in its infant stage at the present date and time, will not only keep Dawn's memory vivid and alive but it will create and immortalize her enormous talent and her enormous love for children, the arts, music and education. I, along with a multitude of other people will miss Dawn tremendously but through The Dawn Foundation, for Kids, she will remain center stage for eternity.

God Bless You, Dawn, for the countless good deeds you did in your lifetime, and God Bless You, Dawn, for the joy, laughter and love that we experienced in just knowing you!

Gáry W. Whyte  
Mountainside

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Members of Foreign Wars 6259 presented awards to three students at Governor Livingston High School for their entries into the Voice of Democracy essay/speech competition. From rear left, are Scott McKinney GLHS teacher, Dick Hodson, Larry Shaffer, Vince Groppi, Russ Smalley and John Farinella Principal of GLHS. From front, left are Maggie Edinger, Alyssa Indar, Matt Taeschler and Molly Schmidt.

## GL students earn VFW awards

Members of Foreign Wars 6259 presented awards to three students at Governor Livingston High School for their entries into the Voice of Democracy essay/speech competition. From rear left, are Scott McKinney GLHS teacher, Dick Hodson, Larry Shaffer, Vince Groppi, Russ Smalley and John Farinella Principal of GLHS. From front, left are Maggie Edinger, Alyssa Indar, Matt Taeschler and Molly Schmidt.

Members of Foreign Wars 6259 presented awards to three students at Governor Livingston High School for their entries into the Voice of Democracy essay/speech competition. Winners were Alyssa Indar, Molly Schmidt, Maggie Edinger and Matt Taeschler. The students won the speech contest by writing speeches on the topic, "My Commitment to America's Future."

On Feb. 4, the VFW presented each student with a savings bond and a plaque. The winning speeches were selected from more than 250 entries submitted by students in American history classes. The faculty advisor for the contest was Scott McKinney.

## AT THE LIBRARY

**Exhibit portrays images of spirituality, culture**  
"Combining Spirit, Culture and Resilience," an exhibit of bean sculptures, drawings and paintings, will be at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library, 60 Mountain Ave. through March 18.

With his artwork, Shawn Dray Robinson strives to portray images of spirituality, strength and pride. He uses a wide variety of materials, both traditional and non-traditional, to create multicultural and universal expressions.

As an artist and writer, Robinson infuses his artwork, plays, folk tales and poems with the universal themes of faith, love and resilience. He earned a degree in African-American studies from Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

**Family activities await**  
The Mountainside Free Public Library has a variety of activities planned for the upcoming winter months for families and children in the community.

Preschool storytime will be held on Thursdays, today through April 1, from 2 to 2:30 p.m. Toddler storytime will be held on Wednesday mornings, this Wednesday through March 24, from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Registration is required for both programs, along with proof of age at the time of registration. Proof of age is a first-time only registration requirement.

March 13, the Mountainside Public Library will present "Ornangi with Mary Koo" for children in kindergarten through grade six. This program is scheduled for 2 p.m. Call 908-233-0115 for information.

**Free tax help available**  
Free tax help is available by appointment on Wednesdays from noon to 5 p.m. at the Mountainside Free Public Library, Constitution Plaza.

To make an appointment, call 908-233-0015.

## EVENTS

**'Outdoor Adventure Size 'Em Up' scheduled**  
Learn what size can tell us about a natural object during an "Outdoor Adventure Size 'Em Up" Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside.

The activity can help determine something's age or distinguish between species. Children can open treasure chests to examine their contents of shells, seeds, leaves or cones, put them in size order and decide why they differ in size. The activity is for all ages accompanied by an adult. For information, call 908-789-3670.

**Participants can learn to survive in the wild**  
On March 6, from 10 to 11 a.m., young explorers can discover what it takes to survive in the wild. Each family will learn the fundamentals for outdoor survival as well as basic fire building skills in a program at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside.

Together, the group will build a shelter warm enough to sleep in. This program is for families with children of all ages.

A donation is suggested for this program. Call 908-789-3670 for information.

**Foothill Club celebrates 41st birthday March 4**  
The Foothill Club luncheon will be held on March 4, noon, at H.G. Field Restaurant in Westfield.

The program will feature Janet Kelly with "Travel Tips."

The Foothill Club, a social and service organization, has been committed to serving the community of Mountainside and will celebrate their 41st birthday at this meeting. Guests are always welcome; for reservations call 908-232-3620.

**Fish and chips dinner offered at Our Lady**  
A fish and chips dinner, sponsored by the Rosary Altar Society, will be offered March 10 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 300 Central Ave. in Mountainside. Take out is from 5 to 5:30 p.m., sit down is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$5 for children younger than age 12. Children can choose fish or chicken nuggets, catered by the "Thistle Restaurant" of Kearny.

Tickets will be sold after all weekend Masses Sunday and March 6 or call Tanya Smith at 908-789-4285 for tickets or information.

Tickets will not be sold at the door on the evening of the dinner. Coffee, juice and dessert included. Guests should bring their own alcohol.

**Auction benefits GL Band**  
The Governor Livingston High School Band Parents' Organization will conduct its annual gift-basket auction on Friday at the high school, 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights.

**PW Department has clean wood chips**  
The Mountainside Public Works Department has clean wood chips available for pick up by residents at the Community Pool parking lot.

Residents desiring wood chip delivery may fill out a request form at the DPW office. These can be delivered on an availability basis. For information, call 908-232-2409.

**Nursery School accepts registrations**  
The Community Presbyterian Church Nursery School is now accepting September registrations for their 2-1/2, 3 and 4 year old classes. Call Joan Souder at 908-232-9490 for information.

**Historic photos sought**  
The Springfield Historical Society is seeking photographs of locations, buildings and people from Springfield's past for possible inclusion in the Arcadia Publishing Images of America series, now being written by noted local author Jean-Rae Turner. The Historical Society is looking particularly for photos of veterans from Springfield who served in all wars, especially Vietnam, for places like Prince's Farm, Columbia Lumber, Sip and Sip, Mae Moon, Dairy Queen, etc., mayors, postmasters, chiefs of the police and fire departments, etc. Dates must be pre-1909.

Members of the Historical Society are most interested in finding photographs of the Selanders, one a longtime mayor and the other, a chief of police in the 1930s-40s.

The deadline is March 30.

If you have any material, call 973-376-4784.

## NEWS CLIPS

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**Echo Leader**

Published Weekly Since 1929  
Incorporating Springfield Reader  
and Mountainside Echo

Published By:  
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**Fleet**

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Marie Librizzi

Marie C. Librizzi, 92, of Lakewood, formerly of Union and Mountaintide died Feb 1 in the Manchester Manor Rehabilitation Center, Lakewood.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Librizzi lived in Union, Mountaintide and Irvington before moving to Lakewood six years ago. Surviving are two daughters, Mary J. Martin and Ann Gramlich, a brother, Louis Librizzi, a sister, Emma Ferraro, eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Allan Feuer

Allan Feuer, of Springfield died Feb 3 in Overlook Hospital, Summit. Born in New York City, Mr. Feuer lived in Springfield for the past 37 years. He owned PeJay Creations in New York City.

Surviving are his wife, Roslyn, a son, Mitchell, two daughters, Patricia Dobbs and Stacey Laken, and nine grandchildren.

Dorothy Mura

Dorothy Mura, 84, of Mountaintide, formerly of Elizabeth, died Feb 1 in the Manor Care Nursing Home, Mountaintide.

Born in Erie, Pa., Mrs. Mura lived in Elizabeth for 50 years before moving to Mountaintide five years ago. She was a laborer at Morye LaRue Laundry, Linden, for 25 years and retired in 1988.

Surviving are a son, Robert M. Cole, three daughters, Rosemarie Gwalds, Donna Marie Zimnicki and Dorothy Pisano, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Frances Sasso

Frances A. Sasso, 58, of Springfield died Feb 4 at home. Born in Jersey City, Miss Sasso lived in Westfield for 28 years before moving to Springfield 14 years ago.

moving to Springfield four years ago. She was a special education teacher at the Franklin School Union Highway for 18 years. Miss Sasso previously taught in the Westfield school system. She received a degree in special education from Jersey City State College in 1967 and a master's degree in special education from Seton Hall University, South Orange, in 1972. Miss Sasso was a member of the New Jersey Education Association and the New Jersey Teacher's Association. She also was a volunteer at the Union County Rape Crisis Center.

Surviving are a daughter, Stephanie, a son, Lawrence A., her mother, Frances Rybak, and a brother, Robert Rybak.

August Rillo Jr.

August F. Rillo Jr., 77, of Toms River, formerly of Springfield, died Feb 3 in Jersey Shore University Hospital, Neptune.

Born in Los Angeles, Calif., Mr. Rillo lived in Springfield at Gillette before moving to Toms River 20 years ago. He was the owner of August Rillo Enterprises, a building contracting company, in Springfield for more than 20 years. Mr. Rillo was a Navy veteran of World War II and participated in the Battle of Okinawa, while aboard the USS Matthews. He was a member of the Berkeley Heights Elks Lodge for many years.

Surviving are his wife, Elizabeth, a son, Christopher, four brothers, Alphonse, William, Peter and Edwin, and two sisters, Viola Shalleross and Mary Ham.

Estelle F. Reister

Estelle F. Reister of Springfield died Feb 5 in the West Orange home of her son, Ronald.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Reister lived in East Orange and Irvington before moving to Springfield 14 years ago.

She was a bookkeeper for the Township of Springfield for 14 years. Mrs. Reister was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star. She was a founder of the "Red Scott" Hoop and a mother of two boys, Scott and John, both in East Orange.

Also surviving are a daughter, Diane Lambini, seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Robbie Gaglioti

Robbie J. Gaglioti, 47, of Warren, Mountaintide developer and realty executive, died Feb 4 in Union Hospital.

Mr. Gaglioti was born in Plainfield. He was president and owner of RIG Development-Fehl Lake Estates in Mountaintide. Mr. Gaglioti also was president of Pop Realty Corp., part owner and manager of PG's Family LLC and general property manager of P's Kids Inc., P's Corp. and Grand-Pop Realty, all of Springfield.

Surviving are his parents, Paul and Barbara Gaglioti, two brothers, Paul F. and Gary, and his fiancée, Louisa Giannone.

Frank Schacher

Frank Schacher, 89, of Springfield died Jan 20 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Harrison, Mr. Schacher moved to Springfield 12 years ago. He was a cost accountant with Schlumberger, formerly Weston Technologies, for 49 years before retiring in 1980. Mr. Schacher was a corporal in the Army during World War II and received the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal and a Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze stars.

Surviving is his wife, Josephine.

Anthony DeCiccio

Anthony DeCiccio, 78, of Berkeley Township, formerly of Vauxhall and Springfield, died Jan 21 at home.

Born in Vauxhall, Mr. DeCiccio lived in Springfield before moving to Berkeley Township 10 years ago. He was an electrician for 30 years with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union Local 456 in Perth Amboy before retiring in 1987. Mr. DeCiccio served with the Merchant Marine during World War II. He was a singer and bass player. Mr. DeCiccio was a member of the Musicians Union Local 151 and 16, Union.

Surviving are a daughter, Donna Coniglione, his mother, Louise DeCiccio, two brothers, David and Philip Jr., a sister, Ann Lippolis, and two grandchildren.

Claire Brand

Claire Brand, 95, of Mountaintide, formerly of Springfield, died Jan 24 in the Manor Care, Mountaintide.

Born in Hungary, Mrs. Brand lived in Newark, Irvington and Springfield before moving to Mountaintide eight years ago. She was a member of the Hadassah of Newark and Irvington and Deborah of Newark.

Surviving are a daughter, Dorothy Stappell, a son, Joseph, a brother, Sol Labset, two sisters, Regina Levine and Miriam Weiss, six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Frederick Mohr

Frederick A. Mohr, 67, of Springfield died Jan 26 in Morristown Memorial Hospital.

Born in East Orange, Mr. Mohr lived in Irvington before moving to Springfield 39 years ago. He was a carpenter and cabinet making teacher for the Essex County Vocational Technical Schools for 35 years and most recently, at the vocational school in Irvington before retiring 12 years ago.

Mr. Mohr received his teaching certificate from Rutgers University, New Brunswick. He was a past exalted ruler of the Elks Lodge of Springfield.

Surviving are his wife, Jamina, two sons, Wayne A. and Fred C., and a sister, Kathleen Downs.

Gertrude Meister, 91, of Arlington, N.J., formerly of Union and Mountaintide, died Jan 27 in the Brighton Gardens Nursing Home, Arlington.

Born in Newark, Miss Meister lived in the Vauxhall section of Newark, Union and Mountaintide before moving to Arlington a few years ago. She had a career of nearly 30 years at Hamberger's department store in Newark, where she worked as a clerk, comparison shopper and executive secretary before retiring. Miss Meister was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America, Union, and the Benedictine Mothers League, of St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown.

Rosalind Miniman

Rosalind Miniman, 83, of Springfield died Jan 28 at home.

Born in Brooklyn, Mrs. Miniman lived in Springfield for more than 50 years. She was a founding member of Jewish Beth Ahm in Springfield. Mrs. Miniman also was a member of the Hadassah in Springfield.

Surviving are three sons, Arnold, Dr. Kenneth Miniman and David, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mary Preziosa

Mary C. Preziosa, 58, of Avenel, formerly of Springfield, died Jan 30 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Summit, Mrs. Preziosa lived in Springfield before moving to Avenel 33 years ago.

Surviving are her husband of 33 years, Pat, a son, Patrick M., a brother, Theresa Carpenter, and a sister, Anthony Graziano.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD RESOLUTION FOR AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO ANCO INC. BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that public notice is hereby given for the Planning Board of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, to receive and consider applications for a building permit.

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ECHO LEADER

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Mary Preziosa

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

SPORTS

Sports Numbers
Phone: 973-763-0700
Fax: 973-763-2557

Series sheds light on forgiveness

Understanding Forgiveness: Remaking Roadblocks to Inner Peace is a new program offered at the Springfield Community Center...

Jewish book discussion group meets

The Jewish Book Discussion Group is an added unique dimension to Temple Sha'arey Shalom's adult education program...

68th UCT Boys' Basketball

Defending champion St. Patrick's sought to reach a 12th consecutive final with a win over Hillside Tuesday night at the Dunn Center...

Dayton ice hockey reaches semifinals

WEST ORANGE - After a hot first minute of play, everything went south for the Dayton High School ice hockey team as it dropped a 6-2 decision to West Orange Monday night...

WORSHIP CALENDAR

BAPTIST TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH
EVANGELICAL BAPTIST CHURCH
JEWISH-REFORM TEMPLE SHEVA'AREY SHALOM
JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE TEMPLE BETH NAIM

RELIGION

Participants can attend the 10th annual conference to discuss work of personal schedule in a given week. Forgiveness is generally misunderstood...

Calderone School of Music

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Piano - Keyboard - Organ - Accordion
Strings - Woodwinds - Brass - Voice - Guitar - Drums

The Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Springfield

Invites you to attend the Dedication Ceremony of the New Fire Headquarters at the Office of Emergency Management...

28th UCT Girls' Basketball

The UCT semifinals were scheduled to take place at the Elizabeth Dunn Sport Center Tuesday night and last night...

Dayton girls' basketball is out to keep the buzz going

The Dayton High School girls' basketball team, sparked by the play of senior guard Michelle Tomasino (No. 23), will host Keyport Thursday night...

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

Table with multiple columns listing various services: ADDITIONS, AIR CONDITIONING, CAREGIVER NEEDED, CARPENTRY, CLEANING SERVICE, DRIVEWAYS, ELECTRICIAN, FLOORS, GARAGE DOORS, HANDYMAN, HOME IMPROVEMENT, LANDSCAPING, MOVING, PAINTING, ROOFING, TILE GROUTING, TREE SERVICES, TUTOR, WATERPROOFING, etc.

camp horizons

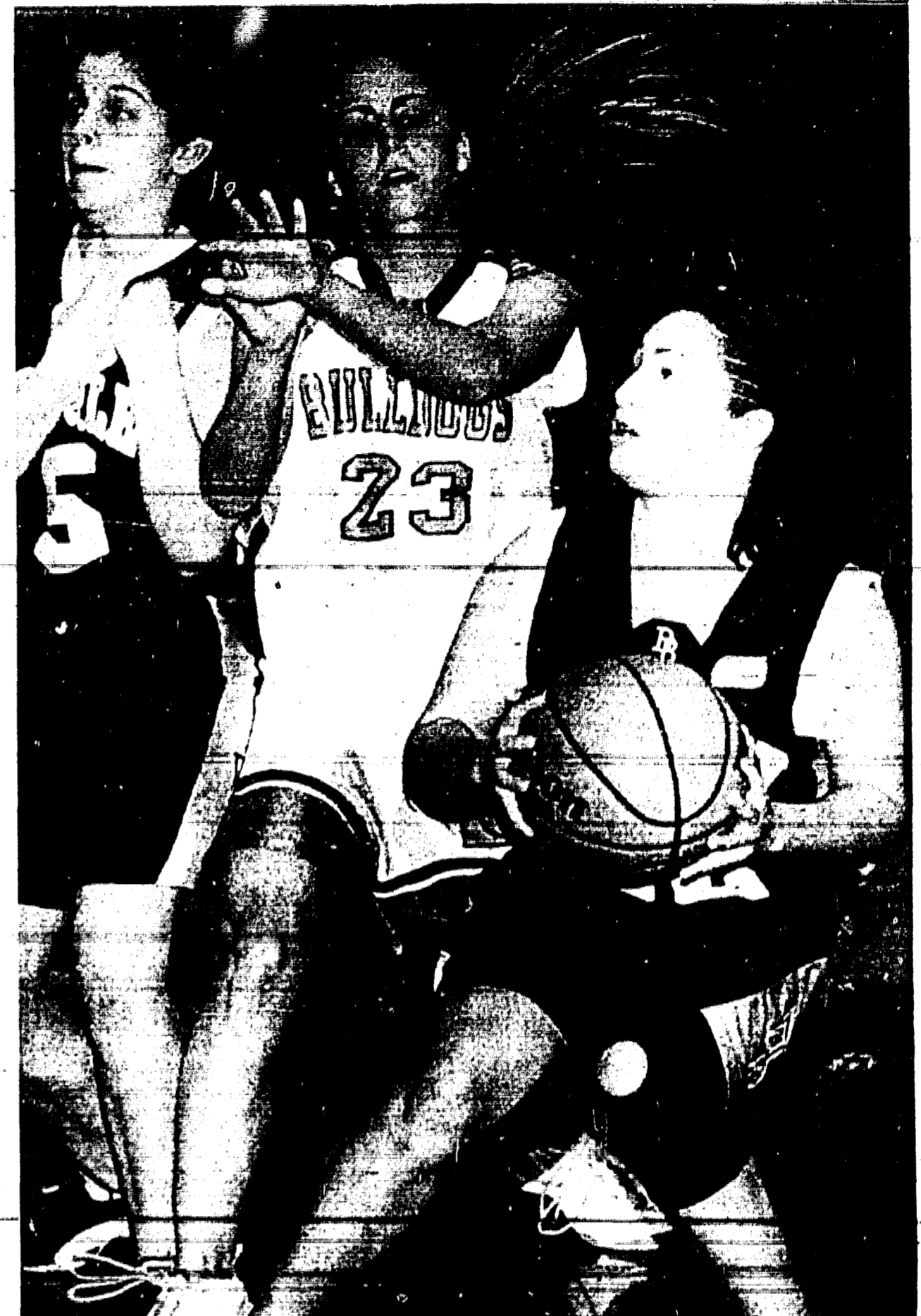
at Newark Academy in Livingston / Kindergarten thru 9th Grade
Where campers select their own activities
Open House Saturday
March 6, 1:00 - 2:30 pm

GL's Carmody, McCurdy to compete in MOC track

Governor Livingston High School winter track and field standouts Mike Carmody and Christine McCurdy are preparing for Sunday's annual NJSIAA Meet of Champions competition...

Springfield Minutemen to begin tourney play

The Springfield Minutemen 7th grade basketball team had its moments in a setback to New Providence next week...



The Dayton High School girls' basketball team, sparked by the play of senior guard Michelle Tomasino (No. 23), will host Keyport Thursday night at 7 in a Central Jersey, Group 1 quarterfinal...

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That's what the Dayton High School girls' basketball team hopes to do as it prepares for the Central Jersey, Group 1 playoffs...

Dayton girls' basketball is out to keep the buzz going

The Dayton High School girls' basketball team, sparked by the play of senior guard Michelle Tomasino (No. 23), will host Keyport Thursday night...

GL's Carmody, McCurdy to compete in MOC track

Governor Livingston High School winter track and field standouts Mike Carmody and Christine McCurdy are preparing for Sunday's annual NJSIAA Meet of Champions competition...

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LIFESTYLE

Brandyberry, Estrada wed

Kelly Brandyberry, daughter of Lee and Barbara Brandyberry of Union, was married to Chris Estrada...



Kelly Brandyberry and Chris Estrada

District offers program for disabled preschoolers

Disabled preschoolers ages 3-5 who are in need of special education and related services are being sought by the Springfield school district.

Preschool children with disabilities demonstrate delays in cognition, speech, language, vision, hearing, motor or social emotional development.

Anyone who knows a preschooler who may be eligible for this program, should call the Springfield school district's Department of Special Services...

Mountainside provides special needs services

The Mountainside School District recognizes the importance of providing services to children with special needs...

EDUCATION

The district can provide screening and evaluation for children ages 3 to 21 years old who appear to have problems in communication, motor, social-emotional, or learning areas.

YMCA adds 'Pre-K Wrap' to child care program

The Child Care Program offers the addition of "Pre-K Wrap" to its popular After-school Child Care program.

Some signs that may indicate a possible area of concern are: significant delays in acquiring language or significant speech problems.

The YMCA is located in the Chisholm Community Center, 100 S. Springfield Ave. The registration deadline is May 15.

STUDENT UPDATE

Springfield residents earn Newark Academy honors

Newark Academy, located in Livingston, recently announced the students who have earned honors and high honors for their academic achievements during the fall 2003-04 term.

The high honors list includes those students who earned grades of A-minus or higher for each course taken.

Those who made the honors list include Springfield residents: Jake Feldman, 12th grade; Michael Cal-

caro, 11th grade; Jackie Dotsky, 11th grade; Aviad Harms-Cohen, 11th grade; Anel Schwartz, 11th grade.

Springfield residents make Syracuse dean's list

Dara Mirjahanbegy and Rachel Iiss of Springfield were among the students enrolled in the Martin J. Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University who were named to the dean's list for the fall 2003 semester.

Mirjahanbegy is a junior majoring in finance. Iiss is a senior majoring in finance and marketing management.

Moore named PR officer of university council

Kern Moore of Mountainside, a sophomore in Syracuse University's Martin J. Whitman School of Management, was recently named public relations officer of the University's Panhellenic Council Executive Board.

playground activities, computer learning and arts and crafts, while satisfying social, physical, emotional and intellectual needs.

"There is a need in Springfield to provide a place for working parents to take advantage of the excellent Pre-K program that our town has to offer," said Clinton "Parents want to be able to send their children to a program and not worry about transportation or child care issues after the school ends."

Program options include half-day from 8:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. or 11:20 a.m. to 3:15 p.m., full day from 8:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. or 11:30 to 6 p.m., and early morning care from 7 to 8:45 a.m. Transportation is provided by the Y.

The YMCA is located in the Chisholm Community Center, 100 S. Springfield Ave. The registration deadline is May 15. Financial Assistance is available through the Y Cares program before registration.

Moore is a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Left Out

Just think about it, the two Senators coming down to the wire. In an election where Howard Dean was the sure winner at one point, the road to the Boston Democratic Convention has to stop first in New Jersey.



Union County

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

WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2004 - SECTION B

http://www.localsource.com

15 minutes of fame

For some locals, their 15 minutes of fame may soon be at hand. Despite all the whining by the press and politicians...

Come Tuesday, with 10 states having their Democratic primaries, it's John Edwards who can hold on, things could get interesting.

Left Out

By Frank Capace

Just think about it, the two Senators coming down to the wire. In an election where Howard Dean was the sure winner at one point...

New youth jail slated in Linden

By Joshua Zaitz Staff Writer

Union County's new juvenile detention center will be constructed on Edwards Street in Linden.

The county will pay \$4.3 million to acquire four acres of property at 1075 Edwards St., located off of Routes 1&9. The county expects to acquire the land within the first two weeks of March.

Linden Mayor John Gregorio said he had discussions with the county in regard to constructing the new juvenile detention center in his city.

"There's not much I can do if they've decided to do this," he said. "It's not in a residential zone and I told the county that I'd be very disappointed and I'd do everything I could to stop them from putting up a place that looked like a prison with barbed wire."

The county has yet to determine what it will do with the George W. Herlich Juvenile Detention Center once the new facility is completed but is exploring a number of options...

After the site is purchased, designs for the new facility will be laid out and then bids for the actual construction of the project will be reviewed.

Devanney said the county hopes to break ground on the facility sometime this year.

"The Improvement Authority is looking at a number of options to potentially fast-track the project," he said.

To speed up the project, the county might accept bids simultaneously for the designs and construction. The

process could save six months toward completing the project.

While no estimates are available on how much the entire facility will cost to build, the average cost to build a single cell in New Jersey is approximately \$200,000. The new juvenile detention center will have a minimum of 86 beds, which, based on the average cost, would total \$17.2 million.

Following the suicide of an inmate last spring, the state's Juvenile Justice Commission mandated that the county build a new juvenile detention facility to replace the George W. Herlich Juvenile Detention Center in Elizabeth.

The commission also capped the number of detainees housed at the facility at 34.

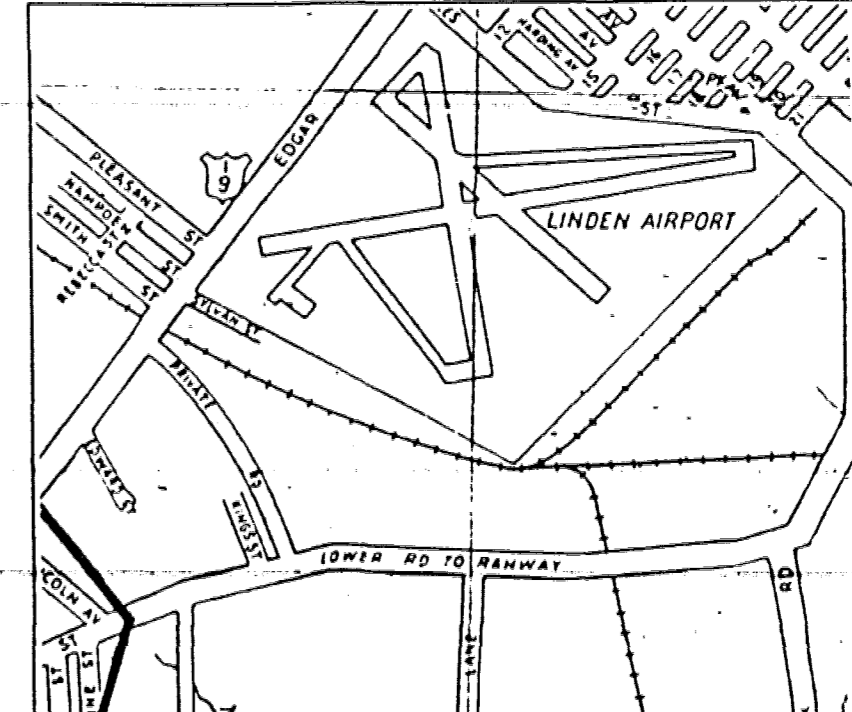
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located on the seventh floor of the parking garage next to the county courthouse, had been approximately 50, prior to the state's mandated cap.

Last year, freeholders allocated \$1.1 million for the purpose of housing additional juvenile detainees at facilities outside Union County.

This year, freeholders allocated \$1.5 million for the same purpose. The county doesn't anticipate using the entire amount of money.

The number of detainees housed outside Union County last year averaged about 30 a day. This year the county is only averaging 16 a day.



Union County will acquire a four-acre parcel of land on Edwards Street in Linden, in the lower left corner of this map, for \$4.3 million to construct a new juvenile detention center.

Rayway Mayor James Kennedy said he didn't have any concerns or objections about the new facility being located so close to Rayway.

"The area is predominantly commercial space back there - warehouses and things like that," Kennedy said. "I think it's a good fit in a densely populated county."

The county will continue to send some of its juvenile detainees to facilities outside the county as it awaits the purchase of the site and construction of a new youth jail.

The average daily population at Union County's detention center,

New faces will be on board

By Joshua Zaitz Staff Writer

Freeholder Lewis Mingo will not seek re-election to his third term on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders while John Wohlrab has become the last candidate interested in filling a vacancy next month.

Mingo, a retired executive with SYNEX and a Plainfield resident, will finish the remainder of his term, which expires on Dec. 31. It is expected that Plainfield Council President Adrian Mapp will replace Mingo on the Democratic ticket.

"The freeholder board offered me the opportunity to be able to help people, to focus on children and seniors," he said.

"I'm going to miss that opportunity from that level."

Since last June, when Plainfield Mayor Albert McWilliams defeated Assemblyman Gerald Green, D-Union, to become the city's Democratic chairman, it's been expected that Mingo, a Green ally, would not receive the party line this year.

Mingo said that he "can't deny" that his decision to not seek re-election has to do with the change in Democratic leadership in Plainfield.

"The local people, if they think that there's another way to go, if they think that they need to express things in a different form or fashion, then I guess that's what politics are all about," said Mingo.

While freeholders are elected at-large, Democrats have historically selected at least one seat to be filled by a Plainfield resident and the city's municipal chairman generally has had input on who that is.

"The top candidate in my mind would be Adrian Mapp who is currently on the City Council in Plainfield," said McWilliams. "He is the senior member of the council."

Regarding not seeking re-election, Mingo cited his desire to pursue personal and family goals. He said his wish is to allow the Plainfield leadership the opportunity to put forward a member of its own team on the freeholder board.

"They're looking for something different, whatever that might be," he said. "I had a good run. I have nothing to regret."

After having conversations with Mingo, McWilliams said he wasn't sure whether or not the freeholder would pursue re-election. However, McWilliams said he was not surprised by Mingo's decision.

"I think he was a good freeholder and he served his time on the freeholder board with integrity," said McWilliams.

In 1998, Mingo was appointed to fill the seat of Walter McNeil of Plainfield, who resigned to become the city's administrator.

McNeil said he was surprised that Mingo had decided not to seek re-election. However, McNeil, who is currently the executive director of the Plainfield Housing Authority, said he has no interest in reacquiring his former seat on the board.

"My financial background would certainly be an asset to the freeholder board," said Mapp, who is a certified public accountant at Bristol-Myers Squibb in Plainsboro.

Mingo not seeking re-election will mark the second change to the current freeholder board this year.

State Sen. Nicholas Scutari, D-Union, will resign his seat on the freeholder board on Monday. Wohlrab is the from-runner to replace him.

Linden Councilman Eugene Davis had expressed interest in the seat, but he announced last week that he will support Wohlrab.

Linden Mayor John Gregorio had been adamant that Scutari's replacement hail from Linden. Scutari is a long-time Linden resident. Wohlrab is a native of Linden and purchased a home in the city last month.

Once Scutari resigns, the Union County Democratic Committee has 30 days to conduct a special election among delegates and elect a replacement.

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HANGING AROUND - Cooper Heisey and Liam Holbert discover the wonder of magnets during a children's workshop last week at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside.

COUNTY NEWS

Horseback riding lessons
Spring is just around the corner, and the Watching Stable, a facility of the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, is busy preparing for the beginning of its track riding lessons.

Did Not Let Me Go... A story of the Holocaust... The film 'The Defiance' will be presented... The film 'The Defiance' will be presented...

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

Week of events at UCC set to conclude today
Union County College, 1013 Springfield Ave., Cranford, will conclude a week of events entitled 'Overcoming Hatred: Creating Community'.

Registration for the Guinness Fun Run is \$26 which includes admission... The Outreach Services Program will visit the following locations in March...

Senior outreach services
The Union County Division on Aging in the Department of Human Services will bring its Outreach Services Program for senior citizens to five locations in March.

Children's museum fund-raiser April 18
The Children's Museum of Central New Jersey will sponsor a Wee Run Wild 5K Run, Kids Sprinkles, and Kids Amusement Fair.

6th Annual Food Drive
Curves International Inc. is pleased to announce that during March these facilities will participate in the Curves Annual Food Drive.

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Summit Antiques Center
Antique shopping offers the opportunity to spend an afternoon in many ways. The shopper can take a nostalgic journey where childhood memories are stored.

Antique Center of Red Bank
150 Dealers in This Area
All Specialties
Open Daily 11:30am - 5:30pm

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

N.J. Ballet set to return to Kean

New Jersey Ballet Company, the state's leading ballet troupe, will open its Saturday Night Series at Wilkes University... The Outreach Services Program will visit the following locations in March...



New Jersey Ballet principals Saule Rachmedova, right, and Tavshin Bold will dance the leads in the ballroom scene from 'Paquita' on Saturday at Kean University.

NJB gets ready for 'Cinderella'

New Jersey Ballet Company will present its production of 'Cinderella' on Sunday at 2 p.m. matinee for children and families at Kean University's Wilkin's Theatre.

What's going on this week... Curves International Inc. is pleased to announce that during March these facilities will participate in the Curves Annual Food Drive.

6TH ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

Curves International Inc. is pleased to announce that during March these facilities will participate in the Curves Annual Food Drive. MARCH 8-12, 2004. ALL NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO YOUR LOCAL FOOD BANK.

Ori to lead photo workshops in Cape May

Nancy J. Ori, well-known photographer of architecture and landscape, will lead several groups of photographers into a prominent area of New Jersey as they examine, conserve, and discover. The workshop will be held this year by Harvey Stein, noted professional teacher and author.

ANTIQUUE CORNER

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Latin Loco Sunday. Dance Salsa with w/d not hot, hot night at POLUSA 8:30 p.m. salsa lessons. Come with your buddies or make new friends at the POLUSA Night Club.

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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area.

# Stepping Out

PHOTOGRAPHER GINA BELLANDO will exhibit her work in the sixth floor gallery of the County Administration Building.

FROM THE ROCKIES TO THE PACIFIC... by photographer Mike Burns will be on exhibit in the second floor gallery of the County Administration Building.

THE LORD OF THE RINGS READING GROUP meets the first Wednesday of each month at Barnes and Noble.

PAINTINGS BY DARIO SCHIOLLI will be on exhibit at the Community Center of Rahway through March 15.

PAINTINGS BY MATT JOHNSON will be on exhibit at the Community Center of Rahway through March 15.

PRINTMAKERS OF NJCVA — an exhibit of etchings, monoprints, collages, posters, cards and relief prints.

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

BOOKS AUTHOR ANDRIA HALL will appear in Springfield to sign copies of her new book "The Walk a Walk."

CELEBRATING OUR 75TH YEAR Come Celebrate With Us! Newly Renovated Showroom For Your Convenience & To Save You Better

today at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield to sign copies of her new book "The Walk a Walk."

AUTHOR JOHN HARVEY will appear Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Town Book Store of Westfield.

DR. SEUSS' 100TH BIRTHDAY will be celebrated Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark.

EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRITERS' CIRCLE led by Cheryl Racanelli meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month.

CLOAK AND DAGGER READING GROUP will meet the second Wednesday of each month at Barnes and Noble.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS meets the second Thursday of the month at Barnes and Noble.

MYSTERY READING GROUP meets the second Thursday of the month at Barnes and Noble.

CONCERTS COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES in Westfield and Springfield will present a series of artists through June.

BOOKS AUTHOR ANDRIA HALL will appear in Springfield to sign copies of her new book "The Walk a Walk."

May 15: Sumi Disappears Fear, with opener Chris Gann, Westfield. June 12: Songwriters in the Round, hosted by Jessica Owen, Springfield.

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA will appear in concert Friday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. in Prudential Hall.

RAHWAY VALLEY JERSEYAIRS Barbershop Chorus will appear in the 43rd annual Nove Quartet Competition on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

THE PACO DE LUCA SEXTET will appear in concert Saturday at 8 p.m. in Prudential Hall.

KEAN UNIVERSITY AFFILIATE ARTISTS will appear in concert "A Perfect 10" on Monday at 8 p.m. in Wilkes Theater.

REEVES-REED ARBORETUM in Summit will sponsor workshops for children 3 to 7 years old.

SPRANO ELYNN LONACK CRAWFORD will perform a concert honoring Marian Anderson and Leontyne Price on March 7 at 4 p.m.

PATILLUPONE will appear in concert "Halls of the Heart" on March 12 at 8 p.m. in Prudential Hall.

NEW JERSEY BALLET COMPANY will present an evening of premieres and revivals Saturday at 8 p.m. in Wilkes Theater.

DANCE THE BATSHEVA DANCE COMPANY will be presented Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the Victoria Theater.

BALLET HISPANICO will appear on March 5 and 6 at 7:30 p.m. and March 7 at 2:30 p.m.

TRINITY IRISH DANCE COMPANY will appear March 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Wilkes Theater.

ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE in Elizabeth will present "The Great God Brown" by Eugene O'Neill.

THE INTERNET LOUNGE in Newark will present Open Mic Karaoke Night on March 7 at 7 p.m.

SECOND SATURDAYS COFFEEHOUSE will take place the second Saturday of each month at 8 p.m.

CRANFORD REPERTORY THEATER will present "The King and I" by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

YOUNG COUGH'S EAR 1017 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, will present a series of musical events.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE in Millburn will present "The Chosen" by Aaron Posner.

OPERA KEAN UNIVERSITY will present the Carl Rosa Opera Company in Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance" on Friday.

THEATER CHAMPAGNE ENTERPRISES will present "The Shop" by Monique Singleton on Sunday at 7 p.m.

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FILM FILMMAKERS SYMPOSIUM will be presented Mondays through May 10 at the Newark Public Library.

JAZZ THE ARTS GUILD OF RAHWAY will present "A Poet in Harlem," a spoken word jazz performance.

KIDS REEVES-REED ARBORETUM in Summit will sponsor workshops for children 3 to 7 years old.

WORKSHOPS REEVES-REED ARBORETUM in Summit will sponsor a series of workshops and trips on fragrances.

VARIETY PEKING ACROBATS will appear March 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Prudential Hall.

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Agape Family Worship Center, American Savings Bank, Burgdorf ERA, Crossroads Christian Fellowship, Eye Care Center of NJ, etc.

Agape Family Worship Center, American Savings Bank, Burgdorf ERA, Crossroads Christian Fellowship, Eye Care Center of NJ, etc.

To be listed call 908-686-7700

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mic Night every Thursday night at 8:30 p.m.

CROSSROADS 78 North Ave., Garwood, presents a series of jazz, blues and country concerts.

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Steve Cutler, Photographer 1489 Main St., Rahway 732-381-6359

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WORKSHOPS REEVES-REED ARBORETUM in Summit will sponsor a series of workshops and trips on fragrances.

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Travel insurance can ensure honeymoon memories Most happily couples planning a honeymoon seem willing to invest significantly in the trip.

Travel insurance is the start of married life. The goal is to make the trip as magical as possible, and for many young people that means making their first foray into the world of luxury travel.

Travel insurance is a relatively small investment, couples buy peace of mind in a very economical way.

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Travel insurance is the start of married life. The goal is to make the trip as magical as possible, and for many young people that means making their first foray into the world of luxury travel.

Travel insurance is a relatively small investment, couples buy peace of mind in a very economical way.

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Travel insurance can ensure honeymoon memories Most happily couples planning a honeymoon seem willing to invest significantly in the trip.

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**Crafters are being sought**  
The Morris County CraftMarket, one of the most prestigious shows of fine American crafts in the country, is accepting applications from artists interested in participating in the 2004 show.

The 2004 Morris County CraftMarket, the 24th annual show, is planned for Oct. 22 to 24 at the National Guard Armory in Morrisville. The deadline for applications is April 1. Exhibitors at the Morris County CraftMarket also will sell exquisite hand-crafted pieces, ranging from stunning jewelry and woven clothing to magnificent stained glass panels, hand-blown glass vases and ornaments, stylish leather and canvas bags, elegant handmade paper, striking ceramic vessels, vibrant and hand-painted silk scarves, sleek hand-carved wood furniture, and whimsical wooden toys.

The nationally recognized, juried Morris County CraftMarket is sponsored by the nonprofit Kiwanis Club of Randolph as a benefit for worthy arts- and crafts-themed projects and community service organizations.

To send for an application to be one of the 2004 Morris County CraftMarket artists, contact Barbara and Michael Egan, technical directors, Morris County CraftMarket, P.O. Box 2305, Morrisville, N.J. 07962-2305, fax an application request to 973-263-2806, or call 973-263-3356.

**Lenga returns to gallery**  
Making a return appearance, Sheila Lenga of Union will hold her second solo exhibit of photographs in the new Madamist Art Gallery at the Union Public Library on Morris Avenue.

Since her first show in the gallery seven years ago, Lenga has traveled extensively and developed an unusual and keen perspective of her subjects. Thus the title of the exhibit, "Odyssey With an Open Eye" is very appropriate. The exhibit will continue through March 10.

Although Lenga has been a photographer since she was a child, her father, a famous artist, wanted her to become a pianist. She studied at the Juillard School of Music and performed concerts with her violinist brother, Mark. After marriage and raising three children, she was ready to pursue her true love — photography. She has since studied at the New School of Social Research and photographic workshops across the country. She is continuing her love of music and is a board member of the New Jersey Jazz Society. She is on the board of many photographic organizations, the Westfield Art Association, the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs, the Cranford Millburn Camera Club, the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit, the Photographic Society of America, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Some of her other solo exhibits include Children's Specialized Hospital, Mountainside, the Westfield Art Gallery, the Jewish Community Center of Edison, the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts in Westfield, the North Edison Library, and Traders of the East Mt. New Hope. Pa. Many of her group exhibits include the Westfield Art Association, the Watchung Arts Center, the New Jersey Photo Forum, the Diversity Arts Gallery in

ARTS CLIPS

Clarks, and the Arts Guild of Rahway. The gallery is open during regular hours, Mondays to Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Public Library is located at 1501 Morris Ave., Union, in Erberger Park. For information, call 908-581-5450.

**UCC seeks new plays**  
There are still a few openings for the monthly playwright 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, NJ 07016.

**Chorale plans its season**  
The Summit Chorale has announced its 2004-05 season. Madrigals, art songs and the Dantale Requiem will be presented in concert at 8 p.m. on March 6, at Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple

St. Summit • Dantale's Requiem • Nani's gala farewell 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.

Silver screen premiere



'Wilbur Wants to Kill Himself,' starring Jamie Sives, left, and Shirley Henderson, is among the films — along with 20 others — to premiere in the Filmmakers Symposium this spring. For information, see the 'Films' listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B6 or call 400-531-9416.

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Cape May workshops to cover variety of photographic techniques

The fact workshop being offered is the Digital Photography Workshop taught by Don Kuehn and is designed for beginner to intermediate photographers. Here, the participant will have the opportunity through the hands-on instruction to begin to understand this often-overwhelming field.

The choices in cameras, printers, and software are endless and confusing. The purpose is to help the photographer make the most of the digital camera, learn the new language and tools of digital photography, and expand creativity while creating new images with Cape May Photography. It is still about expressing a vision, all that has changed with digital photography is the way photographers capture and manage photographs. Deciding what is needed and how to effectively use and master what you have is the key to growing in this field and producing the images you love.

A tutorial on \$250 includes location shooting and lots of feedback, discussions on seeing photographically, downloading and software packages, printing, and e-mailing photographs.

On finds workshop with photographers at all experience levels to be quite rewarding and gives special emphasis to beginners. She has designed each workshop around providing an opportunity for participants to exchange experiences while learning. She has a casual style and enjoys simplifying sophisticated photographic techniques, and loves to see her students grow in creativity through the process.

"Their enthusiasm constantly reminds me of how magical the photographic process really is and helps me look at my own work with a fresh view," Ori said. In existence since 1990, the New Jersey Heritage Photography workshops also offer a scholarship annually funded by Jersey Pharmaceutical Consulting in Scotch Plains.

Ori, with more than 25 years experience as a professional photographer, is also a widely exhibited time artist. Founder and director of the New Jersey Forum and Heritage Workshop Series, Ori has also become an experienced teacher through the years of affiliation with the Ansel Adams Workshop in California, the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit, the Summit-area community schools, Peter's Valley Craft Education Center, Somerset Art Association, the Morris Museum, and the Watchung Adult School.

All workshop activities will be centered around the comfortable atmosphere of a private cottage within the historic district of Cape May.

All workshops take place during and around the Tiptop Festival, which is a very special time of year in Cape May and offers numerous photographic possibilities.

Participants are responsible for their own meals, accommodations and transportation during each workshop. Some inexpensive rooms are available at the cottage where the workshops are held. For information and registration, contact Ori directly at 908-790-8820.

Healthy Living

**Merck marks 100 years of innovation and progress**

A century ago, George Merck opened the doors to a manufacturing facility in Rahway that reflected his commitment to the advancement of science and medicine.

Centuries later, his enduring values and sense of purpose live on in this central New Jersey community.

Today, George Merck would hardly recognize the sprawling corporate campus his original facility has become. From two buildings and 20 employees in 1903, the location in Rahway Linden has grown into one of Merck and Co. Inc.'s most important research and manufacturing sites. With 150 buildings and 4,300 employees, Merck's Rahway Linden site is one of the largest employers in Union County.

Merck executives and employees joined Sen. Jon Corzine, D-N.J., community and business leaders, other elected officials and members of the Merck family for a Centennial Celebration recognizing a century of innovation in Rahway Linden. The event focused on the site's history of meeting major challenges in developing pharmaceutical innovations and the ingenuity of Merck employees who have contributed to the site's growth and vitality over the years.

"Rahway is the birthplace of some of Merck's finest achievements — none of which would have been possible without the important contributions of countless Merck people," said Merck Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Raymond V. Gilmarini. "Because of Merck employees, we have enjoyed a century of discovery and millions of people throughout the world have enjoyed longer, healthier lives."

The Centennial also served as the centerpiece for a year-long community celebration, in recognition of Rahway Linden's role as an active neighbor within the community. Special community events have included a Variety Showcase for employees and other local talent, as well as sponsorship of the city of Rahway's fireworks spectacular in July, a Fire and Life Safety Expo Community Day in September, and a Merck Employee Family Day at the historic Merchants and Druggists Tavern Museum in Rahway.

**About Merck**

Merck and Co. Inc. is a global research-driven pharmaceutical products, develops, manufactures, and markets a broad range of innovative products to improve human and animal health, directly and through its joint ventures.

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That's why periodic examinations by a doctor of chiropractic are recommended for children as well as adults. Through gentle manipulation and other therapies, the misalignments can be corrected and the structural integrity of the spinal column maintained. This is especially important in helping children to develop normally.

In the interest of better health for the office of Dr. Donald Antonelli, Chiropractor, Antonelli Family Chiropractic Center, 2373 Morris Ave., Union 908-688-7373

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Stars of Tomorrow announces new program for this summer

Stars of Tomorrow Performing Arts Camp in Cranford has announced a new program for the summer of 2004: the Half Day Afternoon Program.

This program is for students entering kindergarten through second grade in September of 2004. It starts June 28 and ends July 23. Camp hours are from 12:45 to 3:30 p.m., extended hours are available. Campers may register for the full four weeks of the program or choose one of the three-week options. Classes in music, dance, and theater along with Specialty Days such as "Costume Day," "Crazy Hat Day," "Mismatch Day" and more are being planned. Tuition for the full four weeks is \$350, weekly tuition is \$100, except for the week of July 5, which is \$80 due to the holiday closure.

Kristen Haldom Sztancsik is director of the morning and afternoon Half Day Programs. During the school year, she is a second-grade teacher at Brookside Elementary School in Cranford. Sztancsik is also a dance instructor at the Cindy Smith Dance Studio, where she has been a dance student for more than 20 years, studying tap, jazz, ballet, pointe, lyrical, hip-hop and modern. She has performed with the Cranford Repertory Theater, as well as assisted with choreography on CRT's productions of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Once Upon a Mattress," "Oliver," "Anything Goes," "The Wizard of Oz," "Fiddler on the Roof," "West Side Story," and "Grease." She was the former director of Stagesfrack Kids' Half-Day Program and CRT Program for those years prior to working with Stars of Tomorrow. She has a B.S. in elementary education and B.S. in psychology. In May 2004, Sztancsik will receive her master's in professional developments in education.

Sztancsik will be assisted by Amy Heibig, a senior at Watchung Hills Regional High School, who developed her love for performing at a very young age. She has been a member of her school's band and chorus since the fourth grade. She is a volunteer member of the stage crew and has worked on shows such as "Jekyll and Hyde," "Grease," and "Footloose." Heibig was one of the first members of her school's Improv Club. Outside of school, she is a treasurer and fundraiser coordinator for her church's youth group. She has been a dance student for the past 10 years and also a member of the Junior Statesman of America.

The half-day campers may also have the opportunity of working with other Stars of Tomorrow camp veterans. Tony Smith Sr., Tony Smith Jr., Megan Muckelmann, and Jennie Smith.

An open house will take place March 28 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Cranford United Methodist Church. Join camp organizers in a free dance and drama workshop, all are welcome. Registration is ongoing for all 2004 programs, several programs are nearing capacity, so register early. For more information about programs, visit www.StarsOfTomorrow.com or call 908-276-5053.

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Register early, enrollment is limited. For information or registration, call: (908) 709-7600 or email munnn@ucc.edu

**Union County College**

**Stars of Tomorrow**  
Performing Arts Camp, Cranford

\*\*\* Celebrating 10 Years in 2004 \*\*\*

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Programs for children ages 3 thru high school!

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**OPEN HOUSE**  
Sunday, March 28, 7:00 — 8:30 p.m.  
Cranford United Methodist Church

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## BMW X3 is pure driving pleasure

By Mark Mavard

Copy News Service

It's not just the sporty styling and the power windows, but the way the X3 drives that makes it a pleasure to drive. The X3 is a true driver's car, and it's not just the way it looks that makes it a pleasure to drive. The X3 is a true driver's car, and it's not just the way it looks that makes it a pleasure to drive.



The X3 comes in two all-wheel-drive models: X3 2.5i with a 184 hp, 2.5 liter inline six-cylinder and six-speed manual for a starting price of \$30,995, and the X3 3.0i with a 225 hp, 3.0 liter six-cylinder for \$36,995.

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