

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD N.J., VOL. 75 NO. 28

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2004

TWO SECT

5

Firehouse dedication marks end of delays

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

Attracting an array of Springfield officials and residents, along with some out-of-towners who wanted to observe and admire the future of the Fire Department headquarters, the new firehouse on Mountain Avenue was dedicated Sunday.

"It is with immense pride and a feeling of great accomplishment that I stand before you in this building today," said Mayor Clara Harelik at the beginning of the dedication. "Due to the vision of many people, the landscape of Springfield has permanently changed for the betterment of the entire community."

Showcasing Fire Department memorabilia in one of the windows, Fire Chief William Gras hopes to make the public aware of the building and welcome anyone to check it out.

Changes include a sprinkler system and a unit that forces the flow of diesel exhaust outside the building, along with the fact that the building is noncombustible.

Present at the dedication were the mayors of Cranford, Berkeley Heights, and Roselle Park, along with at least two other fire chiefs from Summit and Westfield.

Township Administrator Richard Sheola said that the dedication went very well and that it probably be just a couple more weeks before everyone will be moved in and operating fully from there.

The Fire Prevention Bureau and Office of Emergency Management have moved in and are functioning with more spacious and technologically sound offices.

The building, which consists of two main stories and a mezzanine, also makes use of its basement. Along with storage space, decontamination and medical supply rooms, and electrical and mechanical main rooms, there is a \$40,000 fitness room that was paid for by federal grants and the firefighters themselves.

Gras also noted that the department is saving money by doing its own vehicle services, including oil changes and routine maintenance.

In her speech, Harelik spoke about why the building is so big.

"Beside the fact that the building is a multi-agency facility," she said, "the answer is obvious. We planned

for the future. It is hoped that this building will serve the township for no less than a century," she said, adding that future generations can reap the benefits of this type of long-term planning.

The building also features a training room that is large enough for the public to visit, Gras said that he hopes that instead of traveling to schools, the department can host students and members of the public for fire prevention and education sessions.

Also included in the building, though not currently necessary, is a small locker room and shower for women firefighters. Gras noted the convenience of thinking ahead instead of renovating rooms in the future to accommodate female firefighters.

Still on the short punch list of things that need to be done are work on the telephone systems, which is about half done, along with installation of a traffic light outside the building, which is being taken care of by the county. Without the light, the department can still function fully and go out on calls.

Gras said that the contractor, Silicon Inc., still has to come in and give a complete tour and explanation of every detail and function within the building before everyone moves in and begins operating.

Harelik said the next project is to renovate the space vacated by the Fire Department at Town Hall for use by the Police Department, which will also be state-of-the-art.

With the dedication on the 29th of February, the leap day of a leap year, Harelik noted the symbolism.

"Those responsible for making this building a reality did it by taking a leap of faith, and those who now occupy this building are the people assigned the task of leaping to our rescue."

The project was originally contracted for construction in January 2002.

Several dates were given for the opening of the firehouse including April and August of 2003. Inclement weather has often been blamed for a large part of the delay in completing the construction.

The firehouse also experienced a delay in construction when two workers were shocked by electrical wires last year.



Photos By Joe Sorrentino

The wait is finally over for the residents of Mountain Springfield as they gathered to take a look inside the newly opened firehouse on Mountain Avenue during the special dedication ceremony Sunday. Here, Caitly McTernan, 3, rings the bell on the antique fire truck.



A fire truck waits outside the new firehouse, which will also house the staff of the Office Of Emergency Management, in addition to the township's firefighters. Town officials are calling the new location a more centralized location for their emergency workers.

Budget approved by BOE

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

A special Mountainside Board of Education meeting was called Tuesday night to adopt the preliminary \$11,339,435 budget for 2004-05, for submission to the county superintendent, as required.

No parents were in attendance and no other business was addressed.

Board President Peter Goggi did, however, make a few preliminary remarks. "Two things have happened, one is, we got notification that the first payment of funds out of the escrow account did happen," he said.

"We have decided to pay the full amount of the surplus back to the taxpayers of Mountainside." This amount was \$708,000.

He explained an assessment has been performed by the business administrator of the Governor Livingston High School and the Mountainside school board business administrator Paul Vizzuso, and they have re-evaluated the total cost of tuition for students there.

"It is indeed much lower than the contractual amount," said Goggi. "That is the good news."

The other announcement from Goggi was that an agreement had been reached, he said. "We will be able to reduce our amount of taxes this year by \$256,000, and that will be passed on to the taxpayer."

He said they would bring the surplus down to the minimum required 3 percent.

Then it was time for the Board of Education to adopt the preliminary school operating budget and board member Ray Haggart read it.

Upon the recommendation of the chief school administrator, the board adopted the 2004-05 preliminary school operating budget in the amount of \$11,339,435, with a spending growth limitation adjustment in the amount of \$190,716, for a total budget of \$11,530,151, and local tax levy in the amount of \$10,220,248 for submission to the Union County Superintendent of Schools for approval.

The school board also agreed to adopt the debt service for 2004-05, in the amount of \$387,219, and local tax levy in the amount of \$387,219.

Goggi pointed out that the latter amount was for the principal interest payment for the bond.

Vizzuso said the figure for the estimated annual school tax on the average home assessed in Mountainside was not available as yet. This amount will be available March 26.

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. In 2002, the estimated school tax was \$2,955 compared with \$3,365 in 2003.

The total amount of the base budget last year was \$11,042,160 after a spending growth limitation adjustment of \$422,132 was added. The base budget prior to this adjustment was \$10,620,028.

For the 2003-04 school budget, the Union County superintendent of schools had noted a projected increase of 24 additional enrollments for Governor Livingston High School.

Voters will get to cast their ballots for the school budget in the April 20 election.

Springfield BOE presents \$29K budget details

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

The Springfield Board of Education finalized their numbers for the school budget for 2004-05, coming up with a total of \$29,253,368.

If approved, this budget would represent an annual school tax increase of \$284 per home assessed at \$157,800.

The main budget goals include providing support for the anticipated enrollment increase of approximately 60 students. A rise from 2,027 students to 2,089 is expected, with much of the growth coming at the middle school and high school levels.

There is also an anticipated increase in special education expenses to provide for additional students who

have moved into the district.

Interim Superintendent Tom Butler said that because of the high number of special education students, the district could see costs rise close to \$500,000.

Also included in the budget is an anticipated 10-15 percent increase in insurance costs, which the board budgeted at 12 percent, ongoing maintenance and repair of facilities, and additional staff to accommodate the rise in enrollment and program expansion at all grade levels.

The general funds, which includes \$437,158 for money that will be paid to Mountainside and Garwood for the recent decision regarding the dissolution of the Union County Regional

High School District, is \$27,516,294. The special revenue money, which includes federal and state grants, is \$453,364, while the debt service, made up of referendum money and early retirement funding, is \$1,283,710.

"Given the lack of aid from the state, it's interesting to note that the percentage increase this year is less than last year," said Board of Education President Irwin Sablosky, adding that it is a tribute to the district considering what the conditions are in New Jersey. "I think that we've kept it to a minimum and the administration should be commended for that," he said.

The board found it necessary to use

money from the spending, growth, limitations, adjustments fund that is set aside for when it becomes necessary to increase the budget by more than 3 percent. According to guidelines, a budget cannot be increased more than three percent in one year, unless money is taken from the SGLA fund.

The percentage increase from last year to this year is 6.2, but if not for the dissolution money that Springfield has been ordered to budget for, the increase would be 4.6 percent.

The dissolution money also affects the percentage increase of administration services, raising it 24.14 percent. If not for the money that needs to be paid, the percentage would actually show a decrease in this area.

Without the dissolution money included in the budget, the average home assessed at \$157,800 would see an annual school tax increase of \$200.

"The state has said you have no other choice but to put the dissolution costs in your budget," said Butler, adding that the district is applying for additional aid and will hopefully get the word on that soon.

There is also an approximated \$600,000 for increases in normal negotiated salaries for staff. The board explained that this number is still below county averages.

After the county superintendent reviews the budget, there will be a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. March 29, when the board will field questions.

Four hopefuls compete for three school board seats

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

Coinciding with that time of year when the Springfield Board of Education must concentrate on putting together next year's budget, the board's election filing deadline for candidacy was Monday afternoon.

Four hopefuls, including three incumbents and one former candidate, are looking to remain active within the school district.

Brian Sheehy, who ran last year but did not gain a seat on the board, will join current board member Linda Duke, current board Vice President Patricia Venezia, and current President Irwin Sablosky in the race for three open seats.

Venezia, who is finishing up her first three-year term in April, feels that she's been involved in the district's major issues and wants to remain a factor in the district's improvements.

"Basically, I want to see the referendum through," said Venezia, adding that the dis-

trict's dealing with the dissolution funds going to Mountainside and Garwood, along with the new superintendent, are two other reasons why she wants to stay involved.

Venezia has teaching elementary education certification and teaches with Educate Inc., a subsidiary of Syvan Education Solutions. She also has an eighth-grader and fifth-grader in Springfield.

Duke, who is finishing her second term, has 24 years of experience teaching at Jonathan Dayton High School and now at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark.

Duke said that while her greatest contribution to the board is her background in high school education, she also believes in the edu-

cation of all kids because she has none of her own, saying that she isn't concerned with any one problem, but with all students in the district as a whole.

Sablosky, who has 25 years of experience in the financial field as an accountant and retail firm owner, said that knowledge of business organization is a good quality to have on the board.

"I think that I need to continue the work that I started," he said, saying that relying on the state's help concerning finance is difficult.

"We need to be able to use money wisely," he added, saying that it's difficult to please the town's senior citizens, who may be on fixed incomes and could become unhappy with any tax burden, but that the students also need state-of-the-art education.

Sheehy, who graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a degree in criminal justice and public administration, has lived in Springfield for more than 10 years and has three children, two of whom are in the Spring-

field school district.

Asked what he could bring to the board, Sheehy replied, "A much more direct approach than they currently take. Accessibility," he continued, "it's a problem with communicating with the community."

In Sheehy's mind, the biggest Springfield is, for now, forced to pay Garwood and Mountainside.

"As of today," he said, "it's definitely the hot button."

Sheehy said that with the referendum and streak of tax increases, it would be nice to get some, if not full, relief from the state, not just for Springfield, but for all towns involved.

For now, Springfield and the other municipalities that are looking to delay and decrease payments to Garwood and Mountainside are waiting after filing an appeal and a stay.

Mainly, the school board hopes that the amount of money owed will be decreased. Originally, the Supreme Court decision called

for payments of liquid assets, which would reduce the amount that has been decided upon in the recent weeks.

Three of the four candidates will join new board member Judy Millman, who was voted in Monday to fill the seat left by the passing of former Board President Larry Levee.

Millman received seven of eight possible votes. Sheehy received one vote, while two other candidates did not receive a vote from the board.

Millman, an attorney who graduated from Jonathan Dayton High School, has two children that are in the school system.

"I hope to be able to help the board to continue its work in improving and enriching the education of children of Springfield in all areas," said Millman.

While Sablosky and Venezia were appointed president and vice president, respectively, upon Larry Levee's death, the board will be restructured after the April elections.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

How to reach us: The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Wornall Community News...

Back issues: If you would like to purchase back issues of the Echo Leader please call 908-686-7700...

News items: News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication...

Letters to the Editor: The Echo Leader provides an open forum for opinions and welcome letters to the editor...

Classified advertising: Display advertising for placement in the general news section of the Echo Leader must be in our office by Monday...

Public notices: Public notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers...

Postmaster: Please Note: The ECHO LEADER (USPS 512-720) is published weekly by Wornall Community News...

Three newcomers join Haggar in Mountainside school board race

By Rick Klitich Staff Writer Filing for their candidacy prior to Monday's deadline of 4 p.m., four candidates, including one incumbent, will be running to earn one of the three open seats on the Mountainside Board of Education...

Honda reported stolen from Rt. 22 East business; no suspects

Mountainside Between 11:00 and 11:30 p.m. Saturday night, a 1999 Honda was reported stolen from the parking lot of a Route 22 East business...

Accident draws FD to the scene

Springfield At 12:33 p.m. Feb. 24, Springfield firefighters responded to Mensel and Wabeno avenues for a motor vehicle accident with injuries...

Area school scores provider designation

The Calderone School of Music in East Hanover and Springfield has recently been accepted as a Professional Development Provider by the New Jersey Department of Education...

Course teaches essential skills for young baby sitters

The SmartSitter baby-sitting class for participants ages 11 to 16 is again being offered by the Mountainside Recreation Department...

Fund-raiser aims to improve fields, programs

The Opening Day Auction sponsored by Mountainside Youth Baseball is scheduled for April 17 at Deerfield School...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings... Friday: The Eoothill Club luncheon takes place at B.G. Fields Restaurant... Saturday: A free Blood pressure clinic is offered at Borough Hall... Sunday: The Springfield Garden Club meets in the Presbyterian Parish House...

A day for Dr. Seuss

By Joan M. Devlin Staff Writer Dr. Seuss would have enjoyed his 100th birthday party, as celebrated by children at Beechwood School in Mountainside...



Nicole Szfora and Kelsey Cogan, kindergartners at Beechwood School in Mountainside, clap and stomp to make rain sounds as part of the Dr. Seuss Day activities...



Children's entertainer and storyteller Judy Freeman captivates the young audience members at Beechwood School as her magical tales and stories come to life...

Program focuses on power of forgiveness

"Understanding Forgiveness: Removing Roadblocks to Inner Peace" is a 16-week program offered at the Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church... The public is invited to participate in a forum on the topic offered at noon and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday...

Disabled students sought for program

Disabled, preschoolers ages 3-5 who are in need of special education and related services are being sought by the Springfield school district... The program will take place at the North Bailey Civic Center...

Arts and crafts activities offered for special needs

The Springfield Recreation Department will sponsor a new arts and crafts program designed for children ages 5-15... This program specializes in projects for children with special needs...

Children's Chorus offers auditions

The Springfield Community Children's Chorus is holding auditions and rehearsals from 4:30 to 6 p.m. every Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church Parish House...

Residential complaints arise about Springfield's postal service

Springfield from 21 to 19 last September, leaving extra work to be absorbed by the current workers... "In general, they're cutting down," said Fogler, adding that it's a nationwide setback...

Local business advertisements including 'Please Help Support WTC Area Firms', 'NEW YORK CORPORATION', 'NEW JERSEY CORPORATION', and 'SAT I'.

Investors Savings Bank advertisement featuring 'Take the Investors Savings Challenge!' with rates of 2.00%, 2.50%, and 4.00% APY on CDs.

Bloomfield College advertisement for the Spring Open House on Saturday, March 6, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

SIBK & Trust advertisement for 'Cover Yourself From Embarrassment' with free checking and overdraft privilege.

AT THE LIBRARY

'Box Office Hits' video series continues
The Springfield Public Library video series, "Box Office Hits," continues with the 27th installment, "The Music of Springsteen." The series features 27 music videos by Bruce Springsteen and features the artist's most popular songs and live performances. The series is available on DVD and VHS.

Family activities await

The Mountaintop Free Public Library has a variety of activities planned for the upcoming winter season. The library is offering a variety of classes and programs for children and adults.

Registration is required for all programs. For more information, call the library at 232-7801. The library is located at 232 Main Street, Springfield, NJ.

Free tax help available

Free tax help is available at the Mountaintop Free Public Library. The library is offering free tax preparation services for low-income taxpayers.

Workshop offers tax tips for small businesses

A tax workshop is offered by the Small Business Administration. The workshop provides tax tips and information for small business owners.

Exhibit portrays images of spirituality, culture

A new exhibit is on display at the Mountaintop Free Public Library. The exhibit features a variety of spiritual and cultural artifacts.

NEWS CLIPS

Nursery School accepts registrations
The Springfield Public Library's Nursery School is now accepting registrations for the upcoming school year. The school is open to children ages 3 to 5.

Historic photos sought

The Springfield Historical Society is seeking photographs of local landmarks and people. The society is particularly interested in photos from the early 20th century.

Poster contest open to Springfield children

A poster contest is open to children in Springfield. The contest is for children ages 5 to 12 and focuses on environmental themes.

Summit YMCA kicks off campaign for 'strong kids'

The Summit Area YMCA has kicked off a campaign for "strong kids." The campaign focuses on providing summer camps and youth programs for children in the area.

ECHO LEADER

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD NOTICE OF BID
NOTICE OF BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF... The township is seeking bids for the purchase of...

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
TAKE NOTICE that on the 15th day of March 2004... The zoning board is holding a meeting to discuss...

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice of the death of Francis Kinneer Aik... The estate is seeking creditors to claim against the estate.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice of the death of Edwin Cohen... The estate is seeking creditors to claim against the estate.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice of the death of Arlette A. Cohen... The estate is seeking creditors to claim against the estate.

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SUMMIT OBSERVER - ECHO LEADER

Ellen Van Nuis
Ellen Van Nuis, 82 of Summit died Feb 13 in the Glenside Nursing Center, New Providence.

Mary A. Picorale
Mary Ann Picorale, 83 of Flemington, formerly of Summit, died Feb 15 in the home of her son, Richard.

Walter Fedor
Walter F. Fedor, 92 of Boynton Beach, Fla., formerly of Summit, died Feb 23 in his home.

Roy Danielson
Roy E. Danielson, 85, of West Caldwell, formerly of Summit, died Feb 11 in Mountaineer Hospital, Glen Ridge.

Manfred V. Loehr
Manfred V. Loehr, 60, of Summit died Feb 13 in Union Hospital.

Manfred V. Loehr II
Manfred V. Loehr II, 61, of Summit died Feb 11 in his home.

I. Davis Jessup II
I. Davis Jessup II, 61, of Summit died Feb 11 in his home.

Marie Lawrence
Marie Catherine Lawrence, 85, of Summit died Feb 17 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Helen Carlin
Helen Carlin, 89, of West Orange, formerly of Summit, died Feb 24 in St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston.

Helen Carlin
Helen Carlin, 89, of West Orange, formerly of Summit, died Feb 24 in St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston.

Victoria Laspina
Victoria Joan Laspina, 84, of New York died Feb 24 in her home.

OBITUARIES

Edwin Cohen
Edwin Cohen, 60 of Springfield died Feb 21 in his home.

Herbert Keaster
Herbert Leroy Keaster, 75, of Springfield died Feb 24 in his home.

Ervin G. Bond
Ervin G. Bond, 81, of Howell Township, formerly of Mountaintop, died Feb 24 in his home.

Louise Augenstein
Louise R. Augenstein, 93, of Basking Ridge, formerly of Springfield, died Feb 10 in Fellowship Village, Basking Ridge.

Mae G. Weiss
Mae Gail Weiss, 85, of Union, formerly of Springfield, died Jan 31 in St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston.

Mary Mitterhoff
Mary Mitterhoff, 84, of Springfield died Feb 11 in the Manor Care in Mountaintop.

Marie Lawrence
Marie Catherine Lawrence, 85, of Summit died Feb 17 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Helen Carlin
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Summit YMCA kicks off campaign for 'strong kids'
The Summit Area YMCA has kicked off a campaign for "strong kids." The campaign focuses on providing summer camps and youth programs for children in the area. Funds between now and mid-May on behalf of the Y. In addition to the volunteers, each branch has its own campaign chairman. David Metzler in Berkeley Heights, Gary Leach in Springfield, and Richard Palumbo in Summit. Steven Ford of the Board of Trustees is overseeing this year's campaign.

ADVERTISE
Summit YMCA is seeking volunteers for the "Strong Kids" campaign. Contact David Metzler at 973-376-4938 ext. 232.

WORSHIP CALENDAR
Senior Set and very active. PC-NY and SE-NY chapters for prelates. Our Notebook: Adult Education and Youth groups provide a wide range of educational opportunities. For further information, call the worship office at 973-376-4938.

Professional Directory
Chiropactor, Optometrist, Piano Tuning & Repair, Space Available. Hecht Family Chiropractic Care, Vince McGlone, O.D., P.C., Master Tuner & Technician, SEND US YOUR PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS CARD.

Worship Calendar
BAPTIST: 10:30 AM. JEWISH REFORM: 10:30 AM. JEWISH CONSERVATIVE: 10:30 AM. LUTHERAN: 10:30 AM. U.S. METHODIST CHURCH: 10:30 AM.

Calderone School of Music
Established 1975. Certified Teachers. Piano, Keyboard, Organ, Accordion, Strings, Woodwinds, Brass, Voice, Guitar, Drums. Kiddermusik Classes for ages 0 to 7.



The annual Kent Place Parents' Association Spring Fling fund-raiser will be held May 1 for Kent Place parents, faculty, staff members and alumnae.

School fund-raiser features 'Safari Into Africa' theme

Spring is almost here and preparations are under way for Spring Fling 2004 "Safari Into Africa." The annual Kent Place Parents' Association fund-raiser, slated for May 1 in the Kent Place Field House, will have an African adventure theme this year.

Program benefits Sisters of Monastery

The Dominican Sisters of the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary in Summit are asking the public to join them for "Decorate the Broomsticks," an informal luncheon party and presentation by the Sisters of the Monastery.

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

Table with multiple columns listing various services such as ADDITIONS, AIR CONDITIONING, CARPENTRY, CLEANING SERVICE, DRIVEWAYS, etc. Includes contact information for various businesses.

Coaching sessions offer parenting skills

"I hear myself yelling at my kids all the time and I would like to change this." "I'm having trouble setting limits with my children." "My child has become disruptive at home, with relatives and at school. What can I do to improve this?"



Leigh Rosoff. Many times after making some slight adjustments, a family can be in balance again.



Sunrise seniors have one thing in common. They're all different.

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

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

SPORTS

GL boys' sparked by play of Moss

SUMMIT - Despite dropping a 76-47 decision at Summit Monday night in the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 playoffs, the Governor Livingston High School boys' basketball received strong play from many Mountaineers residents.

District 10 Wrestling at Millburn

Roselle Park won its ninth straight title, while Seton Hall Prep had five champs and 11 non-four.



Brearley High School 130-pounder Dominic Olsen, bottom, reached the District 10 semifinals at Millburn last weekend as the top seed in his weight class.

Rodriguez, Lewis place 2nd for Brearley in District 10 Bears finish seventh in team standings

MILLBURN - Honor and glory. It's what Roselle Park and Union high schools achieved on last Saturday's District 10 finals in front of a crowd of more than 500.

District 11 Wrestling at Westfield

Scotch Plains won its third consecutive championship, while Rahway had three champs and Linden and Randolph one.

Summit scheduled to play at third-seeded Hoboken yesterday in the quarterfinals

Ivan though the outcome was in hand midway through the third quarter, Moss made his inside presence felt when he scored all 10 points during a 10-7 GL run.

GL athletes excel at MOC track meet

PRINCETON - Taking their place. That's what local athletes did in Sunday's Meet of Champions at Jadwin Gymnasium.

St. James hoop teams are all victorious

The St. James of Springfield basketball teams continue to impress with outstanding play of late.

Springfield Minutemen 7th grade squad comes close to winning

The Springfield Minutemen 7th grade basketball team gave Millburn all it could handle in a 53-50 home setback last week.

THIS FRI SAT SUN!



CHILDREN'S EXPO presented by BABIES'R'US The Baby Superstore

Discover exciting new products & services designed just for you and your baby, toddler or pre-schooler!

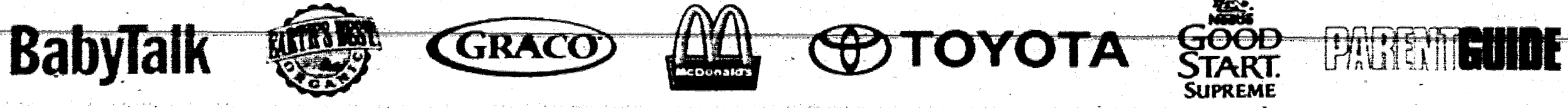
MARCH 5, 6, 7 Meadowlands Expo Center

@ Harmon Meadow 355 Plaza Drive, Secaucus, NJ

OVER 100 EXHIBITS • FREE SAMPLES • PRODUCT DEMOS • SEMINARS UNIQUE SHOPPING • INFLATABLE RIDES • ENTERTAINMENT • SWEEPSTAKES

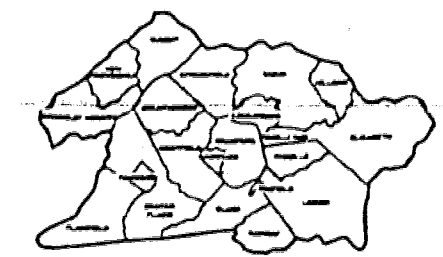
\$2 OFF ONE ADULT ADMISSION. Hours: Fri 11am-10pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 10am-6pm. Admission: \$9 Adults, \$4 Children 3-12, Under 3 FREE, Free parking.

www.childrensexpo.com • 888.433.EXPO (3976)



DIRECTIONS: From North (Rts. 80/95 & GW Bridge): Take NJ Tpk. So. When it divides use eastern spur toward LINCOLN TUNNEL... From West (Rt. 3 East): Take Secaucus exit on right (service road) and exit at HARMON MEADOW BLVD. & PLAZA at the Meadowlands.

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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2004 - SECTION B

Saying goodbye

They said goodbye to Judge Edward Heglin Jr. again last week. This time some 475 lawyers and others involved in the profession gathered for a retirement dinner at the Short Hills Caterers.

Left Out

At a time when views about lawyers are often drawn by the brass television shows like "Law and Order" and "The Practice", or the Martha Stewart trial, this dinner offered a counterpoint on the subject of professionalism.

There were the predictable accolades. Chief Justice Deborah Bontz spoke to Heglin's "simple dignity" and being "quietly authoritative." Judge Karen Cassidy, a former clerk to Heglin, spoke to his "civility and courtesy" and preparation.

Law enforcement types spoke of their appreciation of his efforts. They even brought out a host of bagpipes including the playing of the Marine Corps battle hymn.

The clattering of servers and attorneys not totally absorbed by the day ended as Heglin got into his remarks. After the tributes, his own words were most insightful.

He left advice to Barsonek to know all aspects of the court system to be administered, "both the good and the bad."

Beglin focused his remarks on the problems of the youth. Most of those who pass in front of the judiciary are not the stellar kids.

The retiring judge suggested that if 25% of the guests that evening gave an hour a week to advising a kid, there would be significant impact. Beglin sees his plan as a counterbalance to the "bombardment" of declining cultural stimulus affecting the youth.

Bagpipes are on their way

The parade route is set. The bands are all booked. Now if only the weather will hold out.

"Hopefully, we'll have a nice day," said Matthew Glackin, the grand marshal of the eighth annual Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade. "Unfortunately, we don't have any control over that."

However, what the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee does control is all set and done.

This year's parade will be March 13 at the intersection of Morris and Stuyvesant avenues in Union. The grandstand events will kick-off at noon followed by the parade at 1 p.m.

"It's one of the best parades out there," said Glackin, a Clark resident. "It's a great day. There are a lot of good bands playing and it's a way of celebrating and applauding Celtic culture."

James Feehan, the parade's general chairman, who is responsible for the parade's finances, said the key to any parade is good weather.

"We've worked hard to bring it about," he said. "So much depends on the weather and that's the only thing we can't control."

If there is inclement weather, the parade does not get postponed.

"It's March 13 or it's March 12, 2005," said Feehan, a Union resident.



Matthew Glackin of Clark, a sergeant with the Elizabeth Police Department, will serve as grand marshal of this year's St. Patrick's Day parade, set for March 13 in Union.

Glackin is an accomplished bagpiper with the St. Columille United Gaelic Pipe Band from Kearny. Since Glackin's father, Joseph, began playing bagpipes more than 50 years ago, a Glackin in each generation has followed the tradition.

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Glackin volunteered his time to play the bagpipes in several police and fire funerals, throughout the tri-state area, a deed which added to re-assuming Ireland Glackin being named this year's grand marshal.

Preparation for the parade is a yearlong process.

"We go over things for the parade, who might be the grand marshal. We go over the finances for the parade and what direction we'd like to go to," said Glackin. "It leads up to the following year. There's a lot of preparation that goes into it."

The grand marshal's primary responsibility is to be a spokesperson for the parade and to promote Irish culture and heritage. Glackin was informed in December that he would serve as this year's grand marshal.

Glackin is a sergeant with the Elizabeth Police Department, where he has been employed for 26 years. Glackin has three children with his wife, Lisa: Michael, Matthew and Markate.

Debt on open space hits \$30M

In addition to \$26.1 million used to acquire 104 acres of open space, Union County will spend more than \$9 million on additional interest payments over the next 19 years to satisfy the debt issued on the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

The 104 acres of property include the 23-acre Ponderosa farm in Scotch Plains, at a cost of \$10 million, almost five acres on Green Lane in Union at a cost of \$3.4 million, 63 acres once owned by New Jersey-American Water Co. in Summit for \$7.3 million, and the 13-acre Esposito Farm in Clark for \$5.45 million.

The only property the county acquired that was paid for directly from the open space trust fund was the Esposito property.

"We had sufficient money in the open space trust fund," Union County Director of Finance Lawrence Caroselli said.

Including interest, the county's total debt on open space purchases is \$29,771,300. This year, the county will pay \$1.25 million toward open space debt service.

Last year, the county paid \$410,000 for the first installment of the debt service issued on the American Water property. The money came out of the open space trust fund.

The principle on the American Water property is \$7.285 million. The interest on the bonding is \$3.772 million, making the total that the county owes for the property \$11,057 million.

Caroselli said that at the time the property was acquired in 2001, the county did not have \$7.285 million available to buy the property outright.

"To lose the opportunity to buy that property would have been non-prudent for business," he said.

2nd freeholder won't seek re-election

Union County Democratic Committee, Evan Parness said that Ruotolo and Mingo not seeking re-election has nothing to do with the committee.

"They both have served fairly long and successful tenures on the freeholder board and decided that it was time to move on," said Parness. "In both of their cases family and professional considerations were their primary considerations. We certainly respect their decisions."

For Mingo, a Plainfield resident, his decision was not so cut-and-dry. Since June, when Plainfield Mayor Albert McWilliams defeated Assemblyman Gerald Green, D-Union, to become the city's Democratic chairman, it's been expected that a new candidate would replace Mingo, who is aligned politically with Green.

McWilliams has lent his support to Plainfield City Council President Adrian Mapp filing Mingo's seat.

Ruotolo, a Westfield resident, was appointed to the board in 1998 to replace Carol Cohen.

"When I was elected to my second term, I was not employed full-time," said Ruotolo. "I have come back to school and the thought of a campaign and the amount of time I have to put into it seemed like a little bit more than I could bite off."

Ruotolo is employed as a manager of constituent services for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, a position she has held since October. Ruotolo has been employed by the Turnpike Authority since July, where longtime friend and former County Manager Michael Lapolla is executive director.

When Ruotolo steps down from the board on Dec. 31, she will have completed her seventh year as a freeholder.

"What I'm most proud of is my involvement with the arts and really giving it a prominent position in Union County," she said.

Parness said that the names of possible replacements for Ruotolo have not come forward yet.

and had from western Union County. "I think it's important for there to be a cross section of representation on the board," said Ruotolo. "I'd love to see another woman appointed on the board and I think that if we can have someone from the western end of the county it helps to balance the board."

Springfield Mayor Clara Hareluk had been mentioned as a possible replacement for Scutari. However, Hareluk said she was not interested in that seat because she would have to serve on the freeholder board this year, which, she said, would interfere with her responsibilities as Springfield's mayor.

However, the end of Ruotolo's freeholder term expires the same time that Hareluk's three-year term on the Township Committee ends.

"If the opportunity was offered to me I would certainly give it consideration," said Hareluk of Ruotolo's seat.

Hareluk said if given the Democratic party line for freeholder, she would not seek re-election as a member of the Springfield Township Committee.



Mary Ruotolo

would focus my time, effort and interest on the freeholder side and put my time into that campaign," she said.

However, Hareluk said that if she were on the freeholder board it would not mean that her concerns and dedication to Springfield would disappear.

"Whether I run for freeholder or Township Committee, either way my focus would be on doing what's best for Springfield," said Hareluk.

Former Independent candidate seeks GOP nod

Union County Republicans are scheduled to meet tonight where leadership will screen possible candidates for the four freeholder seats that will be filled during this year's election.

Although Republicans have not announced who the candidates could be, former independent freeholder candidate Joe Renna of Cranford and Bruce Paterson of Garwood have said they're interested in filling two of the four slots on the GOP ticket.

However, in a move to join a party line and try to crack the all-Democratic Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Renna became a Republican last month.

The Union County Republican Committee will have its annual convention on March 13 at Orange Avenue School, 901 Orange Ave., Cranford. During the convention they will nominate four candidates to run for freeholder, as well as candidates for surrogate and sheriff.

"It's unfortunate to see so many incumbents all of the sudden stepping down," said Union County Republican Chairman Ron Fergeno.

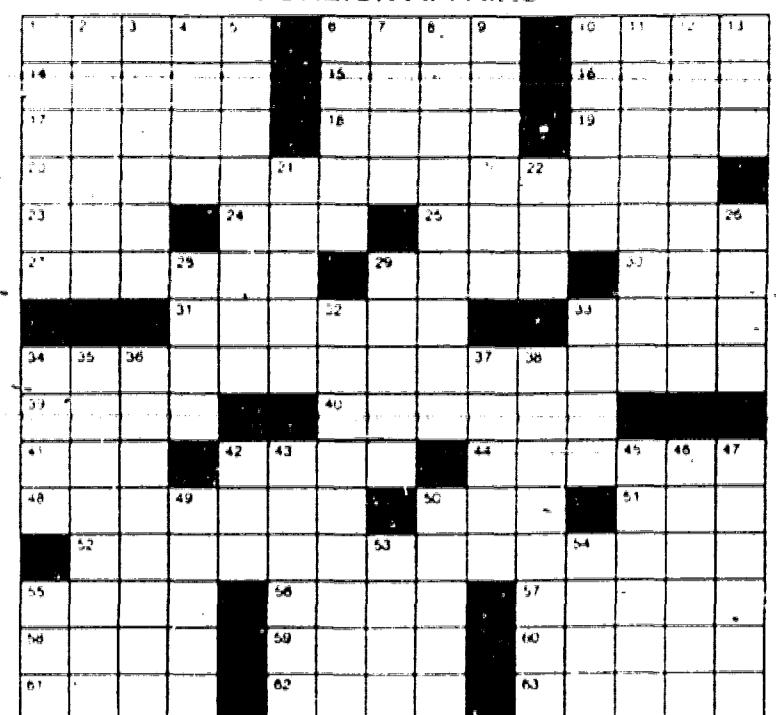
However, Fergeno said having fewer incumbents on the Democratic ticket could be favorable for Republicans trying to acquire one of the freeholder seats.

See RENNA, Page B2

ACROSS

- 1 Flow
6 Marshes
10 European river
14 Like 40 Across
15 Actor Baldwin
16 Where Comets shine
17 Bury
18 Grammy winner Turner
19 Where RNs work
20 Candy in cubes
23 Greek letter
24 Had 46 Down
25 Pays for freedom
27 Greek goddess
29 Make money
30 Dream time
31 Noseless
33 Nota
34 Game of chance
39 Formerly
40 Attic opening
41 Sauna site
42 Hit plane
43 Panda fuzzer
48 Trer of fact in 1999
50 California fort
51 U.N. representative
52 Equestrian equipment
55 Musical mixture
56 Welsh emblem
57 Papal veil
58 Actor Sean
59 Humonist Bombeck
60 Openings
61 Unquiet
62 Former ruler
63 Hits
DOWN
1 Annoys maliciously
2 Eleventh Century ruler

FOREIGN AFFAIRS



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By Charles Preston

- 3 Pertaining to a civility
4 Quick glance
5 Ninth Century pope
6 Swm
7 Foul smelling
8 Survivor's machine
9 Mathematical quantity
10 Nautical tackle
11 Reduces
12 Arch support
13 Ethiopian prince
21 Engraved pillar
22 Restored place
26 Hook's nemesis
28 Being L
29 Join
32 Supporters or signers
33 Edge
34 Diana or Marion

- 35 Like fruit on the tree
36 Using a beam of light
37 Planetary shadow
38 Isotard pacesetters
42 NL cap monogram
43 Loo
44 Gupta percha alternative
46 Brunch item
47 Haunt
49 Cause for contortions
50 Late actor Werner
53 Prefate for
54 Deflect a cricket ball
55 Poetic verb

See The Classified section for answers. ANSWERS ON PAGE-B9

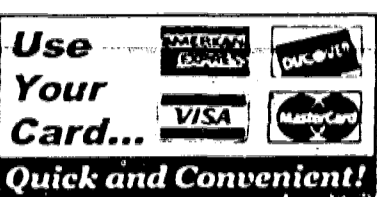
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REUNIONS

- Hillside High School Class of 1984, 30-year reunion, Nov. 20
Governor Livingston Regional High School, Class of 1995, 10-year reunion, Dec. 31, 2005
Westfield High School Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, Nov. 26
Westfield High School Class of 1994, 10-year reunion, Dec. 31, 2005
Union High School Class of 1994, 10-year reunion, Nov. 26

HOROSCOPE

March 8-14
Aries (March 21-April 19) Play it smart and go with your instincts this week. Do not attempt to rationalize your gut reaction to a chance encounter.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Be aware of risks surrounding your personal finances. The chance for a sizable gain or loss is present.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Lighten up and enjoy a highly sexual and creative period in your life.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Think before you speak. If you're not careful, an unpopular secret could be revealed and severely damage an important relationship.

NEW EXPANDED STUDIO YOGA
Monday, March 8 from 4 to 6:30 PM
Thursday March 11 from 2:00 to 5 PM
Saturday March 13 from 1 to 4 PM
Monday March 15 from 4 to 6:30 PM

Make April 15 'Happy Day!'
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A CPA is a trusted advisor with the tax and financial expertise to help you keep more of what you earn

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basketball • golf
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Medicare and Medicaid always accepted.

You are invited
new superb international place
POLUSA Night Club
Classy European Ladies. Handsome Gentlemen. Terrific music, sound, and lights! 2 dance floors, 3 bars! Classical dancing always.

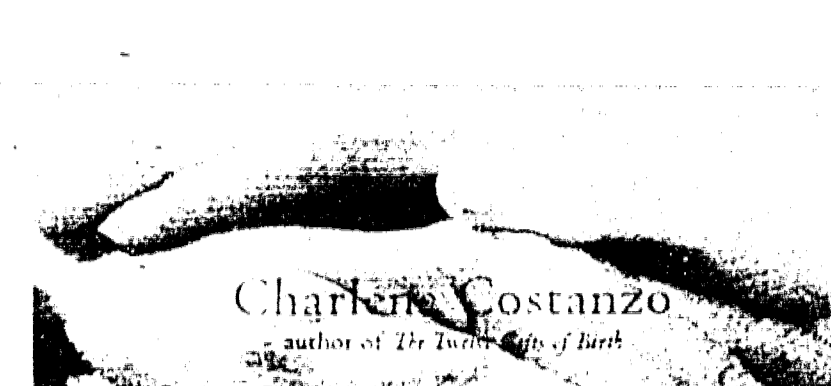
Book on self-healing is 'illuminating, inspirational'

There has always been an overwhelming need to seek and find ways to comfort oneself during a time of awakening of a serious illness.

Twelve Gifts for Healing

Costanzo, a former friend and Clark resident, whose first book, but inspiring book, 'The Twelve Gifts of Birth,' published by Harper Collins Publishers, was written several years ago and became a bestseller.

The book was written "for all who seek healing" and will magically inspire all those who peruse it. Much of the physicality of the book is inspiring and enlightening with a quotation on one side of the page and a complementary illustration on the facing page.



Music scholarship being offered by Hickory Tree

Hickory Tree Chorus is once again offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a musically talented young woman interested in pursuing a career in music.

ADVERTISE

To place a classified ad call 1-800-564-8911 by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

molly Maguire's IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT
JOIN US FOR SUNDAY BRUNCH FROM 11-2
FULL BUFFET INCLUDING OMELET STATION \$12.95
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You are invited
new superb international place
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Latin Loco Sunday
Dance Salva with us! Hot, hot, hot... night at POLUSA.

Community Dining Guide
Fast & Friendly..... To Sit Down Elegant
Pizzeria & Restaurant
Buona Gente
BURNET BARBECUE
Blimpie

Exhibit to close this Friday

Through Friday, the Kent Place Gallery in Summit will present 'Open Secret,' an exhibit of works by Moore.

For the past five years, Nielsen-Fried has worked exclusively with charcoal, incorporating oil sticks and collage. Through her work, Nielsen-Fried wants to connect the richness of visual life and the poetry of human experience to explore themes of identity, loss, passage of time, memory, and transcendent experience.

ADVERTISE

To place a classified ad call 1-800-564-8911 by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Valentina's
JUNIOR'S CAFE
Buona Gente
Rio Cafe
Springfield
Santilla's

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

AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS meets the second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield...

MYSTERY READING GROUP meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield...

STAFF RECOMMENDATION BOOK GROUP meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield...

JEWISH BOOK LOVERS meets the third Monday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Springfield...

BOOKS WE LIKE, a reading group featuring staff recommendations, will meet the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble...

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD Reading Group meets the third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble...

WOMEN'S READING GROUP meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble...

PAINTINGS BY MATT JOHNSON will be on exhibit in the Commons at Union County College in Cranford through March 20...

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

KIDS REEVES-REED ARBORETUM will sponsor workshops for children 3 to 7 years old... SUMMIT SYMPHONY will appear in concert March 14 at 3 p.m. at Summit High School...

NEW JERSEY BALLET COMPANY will present "Sleeping Beauty" on March 13 at 2 p.m. in Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark...

THE ORATORIO SINGERS OF WESTFIELD will present "Requiem" and a new composition "Requiem" at 2 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Westfield...

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

DANCE BALLET HISPANICO will appear Friday at 8:30 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center in Newark... TRINITY IRISH DANCE COMPANY will present "The Emerald Isle" on Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center...

COMEDY BILL COSBY will appear Saturday at 8 and 8 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark...

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

BOOKS THE LORD OF THE RINGS-READING GROUP meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield...

FILM FILMMAKERS SYMPOSIUM will be sponsored Mondays through May 17 at the Loews Mountbancide through May 17 at the Loews Mountbancide...

Click and present entertainment in the coming weeks. Thursdays are Ladies Nights, and Sundays feature NFL games and NFL drafts...

SECOND SATURDAYS COFFEEHOUSE will take place the second Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Summit United Church...

CRANFORD REPERTORY THEATER COMPANY will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The King and I" from March 13 to 21...

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE will present "The Chosen" by Aaron Posner and Chaim Potkin through March 21...

VARIETY PEKING ACROBATS will appear Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark...

SINGLES DINNERMATES and Entrepreneurs Group invites business and professional singles to dinner at a local restaurant...

THEATER ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE in Etiza Bell will present "The Great God Brown" by Eugene O'Neill through Sunday Shows on Fridays and Saturdays...

Guild continues to 'Face' artists' self-portraits "The Face in the Mirror, an exhibit of artists' self-portraits, will be on view at the Arts Guild of Rahway through March 12...

FILM FILMMAKERS SYMPOSIUM will be sponsored Mondays through May 17 at the Loews Mountbancide through May 17 at the Loews Mountbancide...

HOBBIES THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB INC. meets at 205 Jefferson Ave. Union behind Home Depot on Route 22 East...

Theater Alliance prepares for its annual Family Week The New Jersey Theater Alliance and its professional member theaters and partner organizations announce the seventh annual AT&T Family Week at the Theater scheduled for March 6 through 14...

Programming begins this Saturday The New Jersey Theater Alliance and its professional member theaters and partner organizations announce the seventh annual AT&T Family Week at the Theater scheduled for March 6 through 14...

AT&T Family Week at the Theater, supported by both AT&T and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, was developed to give families the opportunity to experience the thrill of professional theater by offering affordable, exciting and educational programming...

David Grant, executive director of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, will present his one-man show "Mark Twain: American Storyteller" at the Hermitage Museum in Ho-Ho-Kus...

UCrafters are being sought The Morrisstown CraftMarket, one of the most prestigious shows of fine American crafts in the country, is inviting applications from artisans interested in participating in the 2004 show...

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

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

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

BRASS COMPANY 461 Lehigh Ave., Union (off Collingswood Hill Rd) Phone: 908-964-9977 Fax: 908-964-5046

FELICIAN COLLEGE NURSING & HEALTH MANAGEMENT WWW.FELICIAN.EDU 201-559-6055

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FELICIAN COLLEGE NURSING & HEALTH MANAGEMENT WWW.FELICIAN.EDU 201-559-6055

March 15 and April 19, 4:30-7 pm Lodi Campus, 262 South Main Street Main College Building, Lecture Hall

To sign up for the Information Session or learn more about Felician's nursing programs, call: (201) 559-6055

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AT&T Family Week at the Theater. Pay to New Jersey Theater Alliance Fifty-Thousand Dollars. Date: February 18, 2004. Memo: AT&T Family Week at the Theater.

Michael Schweder, president, AT&T New Jersey, presents John McEwen, executive director of the New Jersey Theater Alliance, with \$50,000.00 to fund AT&T Family Week at the Theater...

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

Chorale plans its season The Summit Chorale has announced its 2003-04 season. Madrigals, art songs and the Concert Requiem will be presented in concert at 8 p.m. on Saturdays at Central Presbyterian Church...

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FELICIAN COLLEGE NURSING & HEALTH MANAGEMENT WWW.FELICIAN.EDU 201-559-6055. School Nurse/Health Educator Post-Baccalaureate Certification Program for RNs AND BSN Completion Program for RNs. March 15 and April 19, 4:30-7 pm. Lodi Campus, 262 South Main Street Main College Building, Lecture Hall.

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storms and hurricanes, and tornadoes
threatening much of the Midwest...

Test drive your career with the Simulator

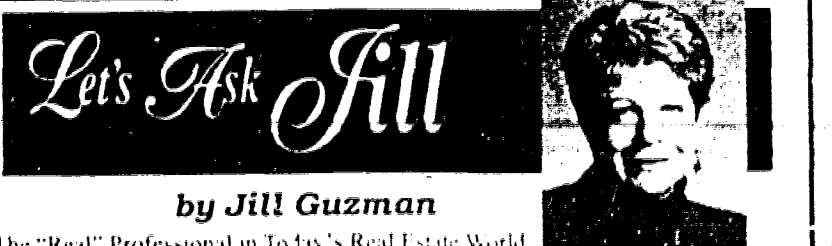
With the economy still uncertain,
many people are fulfilling their New
Year's resolution of researching a new
career path...

UNION COUNTY CLASSIFIED

Weichert Relocation Company now has international services

James M. Weichert, founder and
president of Weichert, Realtors and
the Weichert family of companies...

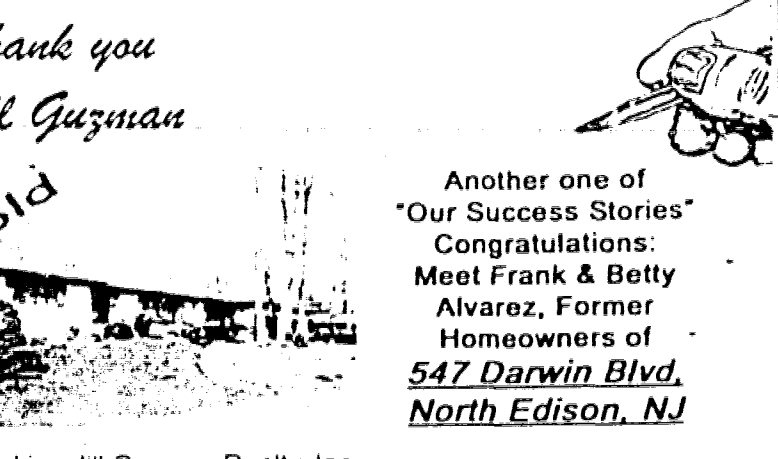
To facilitate the merging of these
companies, a dedicated integration
leadership team, composed of senior
Weichert relocation and RRI profes-
sionals, has been appointed...



Let's Ask Jill

The 'Real' Professional in Today's Real Estate World
by Jill Guzman
In today's real estate world so
convinced with computers and technology...

Thank you Jill Guzman



Another one of
'Our Success Stories'
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Meet Frank & Betty
Alvarez, Former
Homeowners of
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North Edison, NJ

The experts advise to be selective when picking a new broker

In order to find a real estate broker
or agent who meets your needs
and makes your buying or selling
experience a positive one...

CLM Realty, Inc. Come Grow With Us. Licensed and Motivated Real Estate Wanted

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National Averages

30-year mortgage
National Average 5.25%

15-year mortgage
National Average 3.45%

5/1 ARM
National Average 3.95%

Homebuyers trust their Realtors

The majority of home buyers and sellers in New Jersey complete their real estate transactions with the assistance of a real estate agent, according to a survey completed on behalf of the New Jersey Association of Realtors (NJAR).

The survey indicated that 69 percent of home buyers purchased their home using a real estate agent while 83 percent of home sellers used an agent to market their homes.

The knowledge and expertise of a real estate agent can be invaluable to home buyers and sellers, said NJAR President Christina Lehman. Buyers and sellers who work with a Realtor have the added bene-

fit of knowing that Realtors, as a member of NJAR, adhere to a strict code of ethics.

Only four percent of those who worked with a real estate agent when purchasing a home were referred by a friend, neighbor or family member. Survey respondents cited reputation as the No. 1 factor in selecting an agent. Those who most often select an agent include knowledge of the neighborhood, industry knowledge, communication skills and negotiating skills. Sixty-five percent of home buyers and 64 percent of home sellers would definitely use their agent again or recommend them to someone else.

Curb appeal can lead to buyer approval

Does your home make a good first impression? Does it make a strong statement to neighbors and to potential buyers? If you want to change the message your home is sending, improving its curb appeal is a great place to start, according to the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

In observance of "Prepare Your Home to Be Sold Month" in March, the association offers homeowners who are planning to sell their homes these tips for readying a home for sale.

- Freshen up the exterior by keeping the lawn trimmed and outdoor areas neat. Paint or wash the exterior of the home, including windows, shutters, siding and doors. Lamine the gutters, chimney and driveway and make necessary repairs.
- Clean and brighten rooms with a fresh coat of paint, which will make your home look fresh and new on the inside. Choose colors based on what would appeal to the widest possible number of buyers. An off-white color will make your rooms appear more bright and spacious. Wash wallpaper, tiles, paneling, floors, carpets, tubs and showers.
- Eliminate squeaky door hinges by oiling them, and be sure that all

locks work easily and the keys fit properly. Prospective homebuyers when looking at a house, often want to test things out, so they flip light switches, open doors, turn faucets and flush the toilets. Make sure water-faucet knobs are easy to turn and that they don't leak, and replace sink fixtures if they don't look shiny and new. And don't forget to clean and make repairs underneath sinks.

- Eliminate clutter and remove any unnecessary picture from your closets, garage attic and basement. Store garbage, debris, lawn mowers and hoses out of sight.

- A homebuyer's first impression is based on his or her first view of the house. They call that first impression curb appeal. Take a walk across the street and take an objective look at your house. Look at neighboring houses, too, and see how your house compares. When you look at your home from across the street, does it look faded or worn? If so, a paint job may be what's needed. The front door should be pleasing to the eye, since it is the entryway into the house. If you can't replace the front door, repaint or refinish it and polish the doorknob if it sparkles.

- If your roof leaks, have it repaired prior to putting it on the market. Repairing the roof is more cost efficient than a buyer demanding an entire new roof. For visual appeal, simply reshingling a roof can add visual appeal to your home's exterior, as can adding a window, wall, front porch, or replacing siding or shutters.

- The remodeling market, a \$214 billion industry in the United States in 2003, is projected to grow to \$224 billion or more in 2004. It is estimated that more than a million homes per year undergo major renovation or remodeling.

- The National Association of the Remodeling Industry is a professional association whose members voluntarily subscribe to a strict code of ethics. Consumers may wish to search www.RemodelToday.com to find a qualified professional who is a member of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

- Consumers can also call the association's national hot line at 800-611-6274 and request a free copy of the association's brochure, "How to Select a Remodeling Professional," or visit www.RemodelToday.com and click on the homeowner's guide for more information.

Summit ERA in the top 10 percent

Pat Hofekamp, president and chief operating officer of Bardsdell ERA, has announced the names of the sales associates from the Summit office who ranked in the top 10 percent in the entire company for sales volume and/or for the number of properties sold during the first eight months of 2003.

Sales associates who placed in the top 10 percent of the company in the number of properties sold are Kim Cannon, Madeleine Diab, Mike Del Duca, Eileen Sergeant, Christine Niedzielski, Lori Dahl and Max Ferguson.

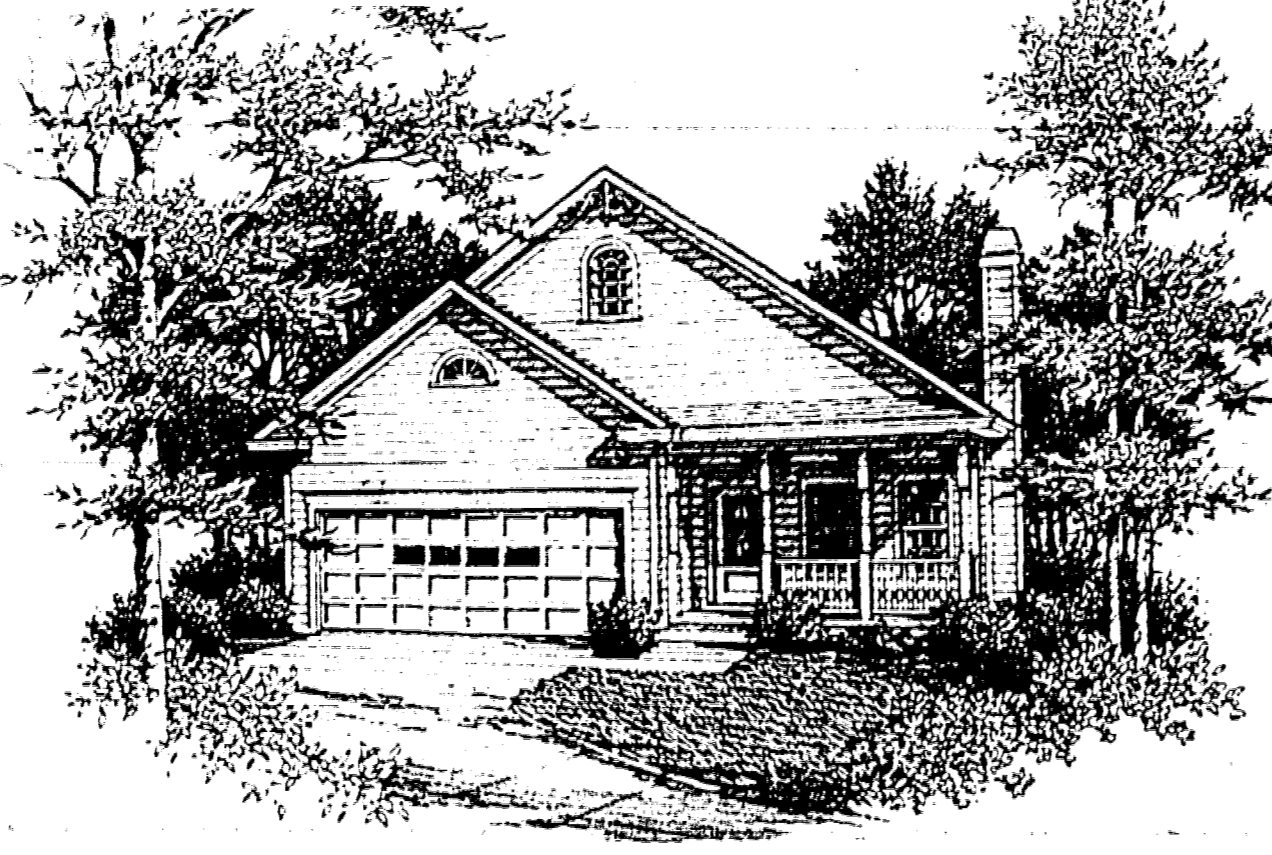
Sales associates ranking in the top 10 percent for sales volume include Kim Cannon, Lori Dahl, Max Ferguson, Madeleine Diab, Eileen Sergeant, Karen Howells, Eileen Niedzielski, Virginia Jordan and Tom Zazzara.

Summit ERA office located at 401 Springfield Avenue. Founded in 1958, Bardsdell ERA is the top producing ERA real estate firm in dollar volume nationally, with 36 offices and more than 700 sales associates in New Jersey. The ERA real estate network includes 2,500 independently owned and operated offices in the United States and in 30 countries.

Bardsdell ERA is a member of NRI family of companies. NRI is a national real estate brokerage company, a subsidiary of Centanti Corporation. The Bardsdell ERA Web is located at www.bardsdell.com.

Interested in real estate? Contact about a career in real estate, call 908-522-1000 or visit the Bardsdell ERA Summit office located at 401 Springfield Avenue.

Interested in real estate? Contact about a career in real estate, call 908-522-1000 or visit the Bardsdell ERA Summit office located at 401 Springfield Avenue.



Although this home has a modest width, it has an interior filled with ample space and many rooms, all made possible by a floor plan with a depth that is configured for a narrow building lot. The plan includes a double garage and a possible upstairs bonus room.

Home is designed for a narrow lot

A simple yet refined exterior is a feature of this distinctive narrow lot plan. Entrance is from a covered porch directly into the enormous combination great room and dining area.

The bedrooms are to the rear of the home, providing a quiet zone. A hall bath is central and disappearing stairs are shown to the attic storage.

Two family bedrooms line one side of the home, while the master suite comprises almost the entire other side.

This suite include a tray ceiling in the bedroom, a large walk-in closet and beautiful spa bath. The bath includes a sunlit garden tub, separate shower and long vanity.

The front entry, double garage is conveniently placed, and includes a storage area for lawn and garden equipment.

The exterior of the home exudes picturesque character, while maintaining a size suitable for a narrow development. All W.D. Farmer plans include construction details for substituting brick, frame or stucco exterior finish.

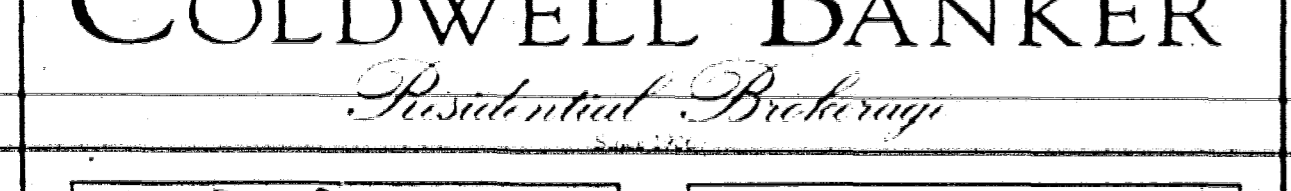
Plan number 395 includes only 1,364 square feet of heated living space and is available with a crawl space or slab foundation.

To receive an information packet on the plans, call W.D. Farmer Residence Designer Inc. at 800-225-7526 or 800-221-7526 in Georgia. You can write to request the information at P.O. Box 450025, Atlanta, Ga., 31145. Visit their Web site at www.wdplans.com.

Interested in real estate? Contact about a career in real estate, call 908-522-1000 or visit the Bardsdell ERA Summit office located at 401 Springfield Avenue.

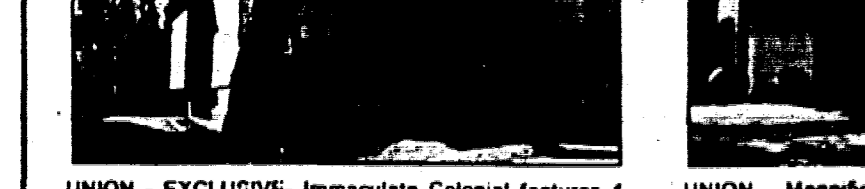
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UNION - Surround yourself with old charm in this 3 BR Colonial! Nice size LR, DR, EIK & 1.1 bath. All original h/w flrs & trim moldings. UNIT053 Offered at \$299,900

HILLSIDE - Spectacular Ranch located in the prestigious Westminster section features 4BR's, 3 FB's, fin. basmt., Cathedral ceilings, whitewashes, EIK, FDR & 2 car garage. UNIT073 Offered at \$489,900



UNION - Surround yourself with old charm in this 3 BR Colonial! Nice size LR, DR, EIK & 1.1 bath. All original h/w flrs & trim moldings. UNIT053 Offered at \$299,900

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Our NJAR Circle of Excellence Winners

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<p>Elizabeth Nyzio, A.A.S., SRES Silver Level • Broker-Salesperson 2003 NJAR Circle of Excellence Senior's Real Estate Specialist Bilingual - English & Polish Celebrating 15 Years with White Realty</p>	<p>Evalyn L. Couzen, GRI Bronze Level • Broker-Salesperson 2003 NJAR Circle of Excellence Distinguished Sales Club Member GRI Designation Celebrating 25 Years with White Realty</p>	<p>Jeannette "Gerri" McManus Broker, Sales Associate Silver 2003 NJAR Circle of Excellence RE/MAX of New Jersey 100% Club NJAR Distinguished Sales Club</p>	<p>Joanna Stewart Broker, Office Manager Bronze Level 2003 NJAR Circle of Excellence RE/MAX of New Jersey 100% Club NJAR Distinguished Sales Club</p>

Congratulations to Our Circle of Excellence Winners

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<p>Marilyn Perhacs Realtor Associate NJAR Million Dollar Sales Club 1997-2001 NJAR Circle of Excellence 2002, 2003</p>	<p>Elena Cedrone Realtor Associate NJAR Million Dollar Sales Club 1999-2001 NJAR Circle of Excellence 2002, 2003</p>	<p>Allan Voss Sales Representative 2003 NJAR Circle of Excellence 2003 Realtor-Associate of the Year 2003 Century 21-Stanford Agency Salesperson of the Year 2003 Century 21-Stanford Agency No. 1 Listing Agent</p>	<p>Bruno F. Marino Broker Associate 2003 Circle of Excellence Recipient</p>
<p>Carmen Jimenez Realtor Associate 2003 Circle of Excellence Recipient</p>	<p>Patricia K. O'Connell Realtor Associate 2003 Circle of Excellence Recipient</p>	<p>Diana "Dee" Deleese 2003 Gold Level Specializing in Livingston & West Orange NJAR Circle of Excellence Sales Award 1998-2003 1999-2002 Silver Level President's Club - top 1% of Weichert's 18,000 Realtors Top Dollar Volume for Livingston Office 2002 & 2003</p>	<p>Maria Ottilia Silva Real Estate Counselor NJAR 2003 Circle of Excellence - Bronze Level</p>

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Amanti competes in size with the Toyota Avalon, Chrysler Concorde and Buick LeSabre, but it is taller, with 40 inches of headroom, and can cost up to \$4,000 less.

Kia moves uptown with new sedan

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service
As with most import groups who have set up shop in the United States, growth and prospects lead to a move uptown. And after 10 years in America, Kia is moving up in image and size with the Amanti sedan.
It's a full-size offering, but don't call it a sedan, says Kia. It's a "big car." A full-size sedan is something your father or grandfather drives, even though the potential buyers for Amanti might already have received their AARP memberships.
The typical customers for a big car are 67-year-old men, more than half of whom are retired, and the rest are set in their ways and loyal to their existing brand of car.
It's not that there is a great margin opportunity in selling cars to drivers in their 60s, but for Kia there is another message in going big: "We don't just sell small cars for college kids," says marketing chief Wally Anderson.
"These people want a big car with prestige," Anderson says. "Their attitude is, 'I'm not getting old.' They are changing the definition of what it means to be old. It's stylish to be 50."

Amanti seek to revive Kia brand

By Mark Maynard
It's not that the world is waiting for a big car from Kia, says president and chief executive officer Peter Butterfield, but the Amanti sedan is more of a steppingstone in evolving the Kia brand.
The car will attract a different group of buyers to the showroom, he says. It is going to be a full model line from \$9,000 entry-level cars to compact and midsize sedans and up to a minivan and SUV.
Amanti is an umbrella that covers the company, Butterfield says. "To show what it can do. It won't do huge volume, around 16,000 sales in the next year are expected, but the car will begin to change the image of Kia even faster than it has occurred, he says.
The Korean-based carmaker opened shop in the United States in 1992. At the end of the year, the Sorento SUV earned an added the Sportage compact sport utility vehicle a year later. Until 1999, there were only those two models to sell, but in just 2 1/2 years the model line expanded to eight.
Sales hit 245,000 this year, and for retail sales it is number eight among all imports, still behind the mainstream Japanese brands but ahead of the import luxury-class brands.
The road hasn't been smooth, and the company was depicted as a lamb going to slaughter in a 1994 political cartoon by Automotive News magazine.
"Most people gave us too

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1998 HONDA CIVIC LX 4 DR

4 cyl. auto. p./st./brk./wind. 16. air. cd. 17 stereo. airbags. 16. rr. door. fixed gh. B/W A/S radials. MSRP \$8,100. VIN#4H4YJ234.

\$8,103

2001 CHEVROLET MALIBU 4 DR

4 cyl. auto. p./st./brk./wind. 16. air. cd. 17 stereo. airbags. 16. rr. door. fixed gh. B/W A/S radials. MSRP \$9,700. VIN#48156561.

\$9,703

2000 HONDA CIVIC EX 2 DR

4 cyl. auto. p./st./brk./wind. 16. air. cd. 17 stereo. airbags. 16. rr. door. fixed gh. B/W A/S radials. MSRP \$10,700. VIN#4H4YJ234.

\$10,703

2001 CHEVROLET IMPALA 4 DR

6 cyl. auto. p./st./brk./wind. 16. air. cd. 17 stereo. airbags. 16. rr. door. fixed gh. B/W A/S radials. MSRP \$10,700. VIN#48156561.

\$10,703

2001 CHEVROLET TRACKER LT 4X4 4 DR

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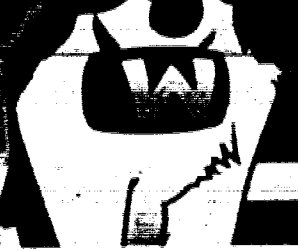
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