

# Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

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THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2004

TWO SECTIO

## Sharing wonder of words

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

As part of Read Across America Week, The Telephone Pioneers of America, a non-profit organization connected with telecommunications giant AT&T, donated books to 164 kindergartners at Edward V. Walton School in Springfield March 3.

The personalized books are about 30 pages long and help promote the character education program initiated throughout the school district.

Principal Lisa Ferrare said kids were excited to not only get their books, but to have them read along with the volunteers who donated them, as well.

"They were great," Ferrare said of the members of the organization who came in and sat on the floor with the children. "They did a nice job and the kids were excited to bring the books home to their parents."

Each book includes the name of the child, principal, school and teacher printed inside of it, allowing the children to think of the book as their own.

Titled "A Book About Me," the book is supposed to help the children build both self-esteem and positive values.

Five-year-old Ammiel Gunn said his favorite part about the day was seeing his name in the book.

When asked how many times he read it when he got home, Gunn thought for a second and answered, "100."

Six-year-old Sophia Coughlin felt that the best part about the book was seeing her friends' names in it. Coughlin said that she was happy to show her friends their names in the book, and when she went home, she



Photo By Joseph A. Sorrentino

Joseph Yee of Springfield, a retired member of the Telephone Pioneers of America originally initiated the idea of a book donation project with Edward V. Walton School in Springfield. Fairly soon, the idea became reality as Yee reads from the donated books to students Billy Kastner, Zachery Hicks and Kevin Schweiker.

was just as excited to read the book to her 4-year-old brother, who is in the pre-kindergarten program at Walton.

Sharna Abraham, also 6, felt that having her name in the book was fun to see.

Abraham, who read the book with her dad when she got home, agreed with Gunn and Coughlin that they'd read the book at home even more in the future.

"They were very surprised," said Joseph Yee, a retired member of the Telephone Pioneers of America who originally brought the idea of the project to Ferrare while he was helping to work the pools during Election Day in November. "We knew that reaction was coming," said Yee,

"because we've done this before."

Yee said it's nice to see the kids' reaction when they notice their names in the book, and that the purpose is to get them to go out and read and be good citizens.

Yee, who worked for the company for 37 years before retiring in 1989, is part of the retirees portion of the club, called the "life member club."

Each teacher also received a curriculum planner to help coordinate the book with improving the children's values and character development.

Ferrare noted that the benefits the book brings to the kids are two-fold.

"One of the things, of course, is that it depicts all kinds of character

education," she said. "It's a great self-esteem builder, and it encourages them to read over and over."

The names of the children and other necessary information were submitted to the company, and after printing them to be personalized, the books were ready to be distributed.

According to Yee, the books cost about \$6.25 each. The Pioneers, who pay the entire bill, have also donated books in Maplewood, Union, and Plainfield.

As another part of the week-long focus on the importance of literacy, Liz Ballour of Springfield, the reigning Ms. New Jersey who has a son at Walton, read classic Dr. Seuss material to the children the day before the book donation.

## Candidates s district concerns

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

As four Mountainside Board of Education candidates look to help elevate the borough's educational status, the upcoming weeks give them a chance to voice their concerns and opinions regarding the district.

Incumbent Ray Haggar, who is finishing his first term on the school board, feels that his experience in the field of business is beneficial to the board's financial and budgetary goals. He said he wants to give kids in the system the opportunity for the best education possible.

"We started to make a lot of improvements," said Haggar, "and I don't want to leave now."

Haggar, who has two kids in the school system, said that he has a hard time finding any specific weakness with the board itself, although like any district in the New Jersey, state and federal regulations bring challenges that need to be dealt with, such as increased enrollment.

As for the current board, on which Haggar sits as a board liaison representative for technology, he felt that everyone is very involved in the community and that the faculty of the district is willing and able to continue to improve.

Gene Nagel, who has lived in Mountainside for 16 years and has one child in both Beechwood and Deerfield schools, has been active in coaching recreational sports teams within the borough and feels as though the board needs to be more public.

"We have a town here full of volunteerism," said Nagel, stressing that there should be no reason why the public "shouldn't be involved more." Nagel said that the whole process of the board needs to be brought back into daylight, citing Channel 35 as a possible source for the flow of information.

One example Nagel pointed out was the handling of Beechwood School's opening, calling the board more exclusive than inclusive in handling certain issues within the borough.

"If there's a baseball dinner, for example, half the town's there," Nagel said, noting the difference in participation and attendance at a board meeting.

Carmine Venes said the most major issue may be the construction and renovations of the two Mountainside schools, saying that the incomplete work that still needs to be done at Deerfield School needs to be looked into for the people of the community.

"From an outsider's point of view," said Venes, "the board's financial situation seems to have been in jeopardy."

Venes said there have been tax increases that are said to be caused by construction, and that someone needs to be held accountable for delays and incompleteness. He added that parents are concerned and want the best education for their kids.

"Parents were kept in the dark a long time," said Venes, who hopes that his addition to the board could increase communication.

Michael Melango, who has been a general contractor for more than 30 years, feels that his experience and concerns for the way the Beechwood and Deerfield school renovations were handled may have benefited the board and community as a whole.

Melango has a daughter who has been through the Mountainside school system and is currently in college, and he also has a son who currently attends Deerfield School.

"I'd really like to see more information delivered to residents," said Melango, a resident of Mountainside since 1995, adding, "They should be more aware of what's going on."

## Springfield BOE candidates reflect on starting term with new leader

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

With the appointment of new Superintendent of Schools Michael Davino April 1, the candidates looking to gain or hold their seats on the Springfield Board of Education will find themselves working with a new leader.

"It's hard to compare them," said current Board President Irwin Sablosky, regarding former superintendent Walter Mahler and Davino. "I think Davino has tremendous knowledge educationally, and quite a few great ideas."

Sablosky, one of three incumbents in the school board race, added that Davino has shown great enthusiasm and is truly excited about taking the job.

"I expect him to move the district forward," said Sablosky, giving examples of the bond

referendum and its resulting reorganization, lower math scores, and current curriculum improvements that Davino will be faced with. "He has a tremendous desire to do that," he said.

Brian Sheehy, who ran last year and is the only candidate not currently on the school board, felt that Davino will hopefully bring a little more consistency to the district, saying that while Mahler had a vision, he left before its completion.

"We need someone to see it through and put his signature on the whole project," said Sheehy.

Sheehy expects open communication, saying that Davino needs to show that he can fulfill the project already set in place.

"We are in desperate need of a leader," said

Sheehy.

As for what Sheehy sees in Davino that can help him blend with the board in a way that the entire district will benefit, the prospective board member said that unfortunately, he doesn't know him too well.

Sheehy said that he volunteered to be on any committee that was part of the process of searching for the right superintendent, but a letter he sent to the board received no response.

"It's frustrating when the public is willing to volunteer and is ignored," he said.

Sheehy did say that one of the best qualities Davino could possess is accessibility, opening the lines of communication and showing respect and courtesy to accept the opinions of everyone in town, including senior citizens,

whether he agrees or disagrees with them.

"He's excited to come to the board," said current board Vice President Patricia Venezia, an incumbent.

Venezia also added that Davino has done tremendous things in his past experience with very little money available, making him a good fit at any New Jersey school that's in the midst of receiving "dwindling resources."

"He brings eagerness, a fresh outlook and strong leadership," said Venezia. "He's someone to maintain the positive relationship with the public like Walt Mahler started."

Venezia added that the best qualities he can possess include the skill of being a strong leader, which he has already impressed the board with, along with having a good rapport with the people of Springfield.

Comparing Mahler and Davino, current board member Linda Duke, another incumbent in the school board race, said they are both men of energy and enthusiasm.

"They put in long days and are aware of individual students," said Duke, adding that Davino has an "edge" in technological background, or at least in bringing it to the schools on a routine basis.

Duke said that when he initially enters the district, Davino's ability to listen will help him learn about the district so he can fully prepare to move forward come summer.

"He's a man of vision for education in the 21st century," said Duke, who felt that his most beneficial characteristic is a high energy level that combines with his dedication to the education of all students.

## Players prepare for upcoming spring musical at Dayton High

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

With the Jonathan Dayton High School spring musical quickly approaching opening night, students and staff alike are preparing with constant rehearsals.

This year's play, "Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde," will feature three senior performers who help make up a cast of about 35 total actors and singers.

"It's great seeing the students start from scratch and to see their enthusiasm as they all grow piece by piece," said Ron Slate, coordinator of Visual Performing Arts at the Springfield high school.

Slate, who has been with the high school for seven years and has been part of the school's musicals for the past five years, said the most difficult part of the entire process is just trying to get everyone prepared.

Slate explained that preparation starts as early as October and November, when dressing and scenery combine with auditions and line memorization that needs to be ready after winter break.

Senior Keith Dworkin, who is playing the unique role of one person and two characters as Jekyll and Hyde, is excited and ready for the challenge.

"It's definitely the hardest role I've ever played," said Dworkin, who

added that it was the role he hoped to get when he auditioned.

According to Dworkin, the hardest part of getting everything ready is trying to figure out the way it should all look.

"It's been done before," said Dworkin, who has been a part of the school musical all three years, playing in the musician's pit as a sophomore.

"We don't have all the capabilities that are possible," he said, explaining that the group needed to come up with a specific vision that would make the play work well.

Along with Dworkin, two other seniors have established themselves within the high school as lead performers during their four-year stint, as well.

Jill Kurzner and Rachel Millman, who have lead roles in this year's musical, also help make up the cast, which consists of several middle school students, as well.

"For me, it's difficult because I've never had any sort of large role in the past," said Millman. "Also, it's a totally different genre," she said, explaining that it contrasts with past "dancy" performances because this play is more "dark, dramatic and intense."

According to Millman, who is playing Jekyll's wife, Emma Carew, the hardest part about preparing for

the performance is getting into the right mindset to become the character.

With daily rehearsals consisting of constant do-overs and scene changes that force the performers to run on and off stage accordingly, musical director Tanya Boehme controls much of the action throughout the play through piano keys.

Director Bruce Clough also puts in the hours of practice to assure that each detail of the play is perfect, from expression to placement on stage.

"It's a great feeling when they open strong," said Slate. "We work for three months, every day, and once it's done, it's like nobody knows what to do anymore."

Slate compared this idea with a sports season, when athletes finish and realize they need to wait until next year to do it all again.

"We watched the seniors grow, and now we're losing them," said Slate, who added that there are underclassmen stepping up to fill their shoes.

"I think it'll be sad," Millman said of the end of her high school career. "It's something that I put my heart and soul into and we're a close-knit family. I don't know when I'm going to have this experience again," said Millman, who added that although she would love to sing for the rest of her life, she won't pursue that path in col-



Photo By Barbara Aukhain

The ladies steal the spotlight as they get into character during rehearsals for the upcoming Jonathan Dayton High School spring musical on March 19. Rehearsing are, from left, students Jacqueline Weiss, Ashley Steiner, Jill Kurzner and Marie Samson.

lege.

With a dress rehearsal on Wednesday, the cast will look to capitalize on the non-stop practice and dedication that they have put in during the past

few months, going through the motions without stopping.

The play debuts a week from today on March 18 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$5 for students and

senior citizens.

On the morning of March 19, the cast will perform for senior citizens at the school as well, showing highlighted scenes. The musical is rated PG-13.

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## Improvements pending for pool

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

Among the many resolutions passed at the Township Committee meeting Monday night were two that called for improvements made to the Municipal Pool.

Bids were awarded to J.O. Med Construction for more than \$200,000, helping to make certain renovations that the Township Committee hopes will add to the attraction of the pool for members that will attend the facility during the summertime.

"We're working towards making various improvements," said Mayor Taha Harelik.

Harelik also added that new programs were being implemented in conjunction with the pool, such as a pre-teen camp.

"We're keeping the kids in town busy," said Harelik, adding that other recreation programs are being introduced, such as a craft program on Sunday and trips that include traveling to the circus coming in the future.

The bids awarded for the pool are in the amount of \$59,481 for pump improvements, along with one for \$11,025 for painting and other related improvements.

The committee commented on the recent focus on improving the Municipal Pool for the upcoming summer.

"It seems that we spend a lot of time on the pool," said Committeeman Steven Goldstein. "It's an asset to the town, and we do everything we can to encourage people to join."

Goldstein added that he really would like to see the public come out to the pool, and that the improvements being made will make it even more of an attraction.

Goldstein said there will also be dates that admission will be free, thereby giving the public a chance to check out the pool before deciding to join.

Harelik noted at the end of the meeting that the pool improvements are just one way that the town is progressing, and that the active Chamber of Commerce is looking for suggestions and ideas from anyone willing to provide input regarding the enhancement and identity of businesses within the township.

Harelik said that while she has a couple ideas of her own, she welcomes others to come forward.

## Contract finalized for Springfield district's new superintendent

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

Newly appointed Springfield Superintendent of Schools Michael Davino is set to begin April 1. Davino would forfeit any accumulated unused sick leave, the new superintendent himself sees no reason why he won't be in Springfield for a long time.

"I have no intention of going anywhere else," said Davino. "I love the people I've met and enjoyed all the visits to the schools. I really can't be any happier."

Davino explained that at this stage in his life, he isn't looking for "stepping stones" in his career.

"It's an opportunity for me to blend with people in the community," said Davino. "I want to make it difficult for them to not offer me another contract at the end of the three years."

Shanes said that she looks forward to Davino coming in and learning as much as he can about the district so that he can move ahead in improvement.

"He's been visible to the community and staff, and accessible," said Shanes, noting that while he isn't required for getting paid for any work he might do, Davino has been active in Springfield already, getting to know people and looking to attend budgetary meetings, as well.

As for whether or not she thinks he will fulfill his contract, Shanes felt that this is an obvious assumption and that there is no reason to believe he won't be here until at least 2007.

"Anything you do a superintendent search," said Shanes, "that's what you look for." Shanes said that the board hopes Davino will be a satisfactory addition to the community, and productive to the district.

"My hope and expectation is that as I get more deeply involved, we'll get a sense of where we can take positive steps to improve on the existing conditions," said Davino, adding that it's hard to presume a weakness in the district without being a part of it first.

"All I've heard is how exceptional and wonderful the district is."

When all is said and done and Davino's time comes to an end in Springfield, he hopes he can say, "I was a part of a process that really helped improve the district and move it to the next level of excellence, and people will look back and say during his tenure, 'The focus was on the children.'"

The contract, which, by law, has to be at least three years, calls for Davino to announce early leave 90 days in advance, contrasting with a more usual 30- to 60-day notice required in other districts.

While Shanes noted that if he departs prior to the end of his contract, Davino would forfeit any accumulated unused sick leave, the new superintendent himself sees no reason why he won't be in Springfield for a long time.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To mail a schedule, send it to *Echo Leader*, Attention: Managing Editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

**Today**

- The Mountside Planning Board will meet in Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22, East at 8 p.m.
- Adults can enjoy an evening out that will help those impacted by natural disasters in the United States and abroad at the Coffee with a Conscience performance series at Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall, featuring three award-winning singers and musicians.
- Dinner tickets are \$5 each. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by the concert at 8 p.m. "Concert only" guests can arrive at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 973-376-1698.

**Sunday**

- Congregation Israel, Temple Shalom and Temple Beth Ahim, all located in Springfield, have announced a holistic health care seminar, "The Energies of Medicine," will be presented by their jointly sponsored Congregational Nurse Health Care Initiative program at Temple Beth Ahim, 60 Temple Drive, from 2 to 4 p.m.
- For information, call 973-376-5388 or go to [www.shalom.org](http://www.shalom.org).

**Monday**

- The PTAs and PTOs of Springfield will conduct a candidates' night at 7 p.m. The event will be a public forum for the Board of Education candidates and will take place at the Florence M. Grandmeier Middle School in Springfield.
- The Springfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet in the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave., at 8 p.m.

**Tuesday**

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**Friday**

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**Saturday**

- The Springfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet in the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave., at 8 p.m.

## Stay tuned for local cameo

By Brian Pedersen  
Managing Editor

For watchers of "The Sopranos" in Springfield who are eagerly awaiting the third episode of the new season, the question may not be "Where is Johnny?" but "Where are Linda and Shraga?"

Linda and Shraga Zabludovsky, lifelong Springfield residents, are the owners of Paramount Bakeries in Northern Newark, a site that was chosen after the director counted many different locations in Springfield for the filming of the third episode of "The Sopranos" the popular HBO mob drama now in its fifth season. The episode, titled "Where Is Johnny?" is set to air at 9 p.m. March 21 and will include a brief scene of Linda and Shraga at work in the background near their brick oven.

Linda, a large fan of the show, the excitement of that day is still fresh in her mind.

"We just couldn't believe it. It was so exciting," said Linda. "I was really excited to see the bakery transformed into 'La Manna Bakery,' including family photographs and leather couches from 'The Sopranos'."

"What was amazing to her was how much work went into the one-day shoot, which lasted from roughly 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. She was also amazed at how much the actors had to recreate their emotions for the scenes that were being shot over and over. They must have had to do it 50 times," she recalled.

Although she and her husband had to bake lots of extra bread the day before the shoot, Linda said she had found it hard to concentrate on what she was doing while they were shooting as the excitement of the day rose to the surface.

"It's a good thing that no one from 'The Sopranos' was on the Akropolis Diet," Linda joked, referring to the carbohydrate-restrictive diet, "because they must have eaten 100 loaves of Paramount bread that day."

Contributing to the excitement of the shoot that day was the presence of several established actors. Both Linda and her husband were employed meeting Robert Loggia, who plays a new character on the show, Fresh La Manna, and Tony Sirico, who plays the character Paulie "Walnuts" Gualtieri.

Loggia is best known for his roles in the movies "Big" and "Scarface," and according to Linda, the star also has a big fan in her sister Pam and Linda's best friend, Lisa.

Linda and Shraga's four children, Stuart, Eli, David and Shira were also there that day, watching the many trades of makeup and wardrobe crews take over their parents' bakery.

Even though there are times when Linda feels she has to shield her younger children's eyes or ears from the show's strong language and violence, she said they like to watch the show as a family.

"It's all about New Jersey and it's all about family and things that we take for granted, especially Northern New Jersey," said Linda. "Sundays, everything goes."

Linda was more than happy to meet established actor Robert Loggia, a new character in the series. Linda and her husband will also take part in a brief scene in the March 21 episode, which transforms their Paramount Bakeries into La Manna Bakery, complete with furnishings from "The Sopranos" set.



Linda Zabludovsky of Springfield says hello to a familiar face, actor Tony Sirico, better known to "The Sopranos" viewers as Paulie "Walnuts" Gualtieri. Linda and her husband, Shraga, are the owners of Paramount Bakeries in northern Newark, a site that was chosen for an upcoming episode of the show.



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## Gibson's 'Passion' draws strong reactions from religious leaders

By Joan M. Devlin  
Staff Writer

Many religious leaders in Springfield and Mountside have recently shared their thoughts and comments on Mel Gibson's controversial film, "The Passion of the Christ."

The film has become a sensation in theaters around the country, with people lining up to see the story of the last 12 hours in the life of Christ.

Reactions have been mixed, controversial and surprising. There is no denying the movie is so violent that it takes an "R" rating. The cruelty and beating of Jesus has been described as bloody and graphic, but this is what Gibson intended.

"I like a pebble in a pond, the movie has created many ripples, felt far and wide. The Rev. Robert Stagg, pastor of St. James Roman Catholic Church in Springfield, said he had a lot of thoughts about the film.

"As Christians approach Lent and Easter, and as Jews approach the celebration of Passover, we recognize that the subject of relationships between Christians and Jews has been much in the news," said the Rev. Stagg, adding that he believes in the dignity and value of all people as created and loved by God, that our differences enrich our lives and our religious perspectives.

He continued, "On the basis of these affirmations, we reject any interpretation of portrayal of the suffer of the crucifixion of Jesus in which all Jews then living, without distinction, are blamed for His death. We reject any action or speech that portrays Jews as culpable for the crucifixion."

"We reject any attempt to scapegoat all Jews of that time or of today as bloodthirsty and hateful. We see any denigration, humiliation, or attack upon fellow humans as being contrary to the will of God," said the Rev. Stagg.

"I think the movie will touch the soul of all Christians and that is a good thing... But I feel it had shortcomings. It was insensitive, especially to the Jewish people, many of whom felt it was anti-Semitic," he added. "I felt it was also excessively violent, it tends to be factual, but..."

The Rev. Retho Madsen, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Springfield also had positive things to say about the film. "I think it was a movie that really brought home the message of what Jesus did for mankind... the suffering was enough to cover over sins, we rest on that fact," he said.

He did not feel it was anti-Semitic at all, he said the movie scene was a mob scene like any other. "Like the one we see about Hiroshima news this week."

"I would not put any kind of nationality on this," said Madsen. "I was never identified to think the other thing, they tried to kill me in Holywood and it didn't work."

Madsen said he hopes everyone to see it, Christian and non-Christian.

Robby Goldstein felt the movie contained his worst fears. "The problem we have is to show respect for the Christian world while still being able to speak out to avoid its ethical theologically suggesting anti-Semitism in America. We build coalitions with Christian groups around us, so we hope some good can come out of the film by bringing better understanding."

He will be sharing an interfaith dialogue with the Rev. Elaine Winn, pastor of the Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, at 7 p.m. March 21 at her church.

Some clergy members were asked for their opinions but not all saw the film as yet, so this story is not representative of all opinions of religious leaders in the local community.

## Home burglarized; theft reported

**Springfield**  
A Washington Avenue house was reportedly burglarized between 1:45 a.m. and 6:20 p.m. March 2.

An unknown amount of jewelry and approximately \$140 in cash and coins was reported stolen.

**Mountside**  
At 12:14 p.m. March 4, 25-year-old Barry Taylor was arrested at Somerset County Jail for having an outstanding warrant out of Mountside for \$1,000.

Motorist 27-year-old Luis Galarraga-Espino was stopped on Route 22 at 11:49 a.m. Saturday for having a brake light out on his vehicle and failing to wear a seat belt.

He also had an outstanding warrant out of Denfield for \$233.

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# COMMUNITY FORUM

## EDITORIALS

### It's about time

In typical fashion, Springfield officials were quick to point out the positive news about the opening of the new \$3.5-million firehouse on Mountain Avenue. We're happy for them and we're happy that the township's residents and emergency workers will finally be able to reap the benefits of having a massive, state-of-the-art facility.

But for a project that was originally contracted for construction in January 2002, it seems like another example of how progress continually is delayed in Springfield.

We're still waiting for the township's parks and fields to be properly maintained, Mense Avenue Park to be re-opened, and the downtown Morris Avenue area to resemble something from the 21st century.

In fact, while the new firehouse was officially dedicated on Feb. 29, it's technically not completely finished. There's still a short list of minor things that need to be done, including telephone system work. Also, the contractor, Silcon Inc., still needs to give a tour and explanation of every detail and function within the building before staff can actually move in and begin operations.

Of course, with a project of this size, it takes time to tie up the loose ends. But inclement weather and a brief electrical accident that stalled construction for a few days last year alone cannot be blamed for the long and tedious construction process that this project underwent.

The new structure will provide better resources and equipment for firefighters and Office of Emergency Management to respond to emergencies, thereby benefitting residents of Springfield for many decades. But while firefighters and other emergency workers will benefit from moving into this new location, the Police Department still has to have its offices expanded and renovated so it can move into the space vacated by the firefighters. One can only wonder when this will happen and how long it will take to be completed.

While accentuating the positive is important, so is facing reality. We can only say that as far as the new Springfield firehouse is concerned, it's about time.

### Keep reading

Read Across America Day has come and gone. But what has really come of it?

Every March 1, the event is celebrated in schools throughout America, including Mountanside and Springfield, as a way to increase literacy among children. While it may do just that, it's important to keep in mind that this event takes place just one day a year, with a few reading events scattered throughout the month of March.

After that, what happens? It's important not to forget the importance of increasing literacy among students, and while teachers can do their part, parents also need to make an effort. Reading to your child and sharing books is a great way to develop a stronger bond between parent and child.

Reading is not simply an escape from the real world, but an act that exercises the mind, builds language, grammar and vocabulary skills, and teaches empathy.

If children don't read at home, then there's little point to a program that stresses the importance of reading for just one day. Reading should be a lifelong practice.

### Evolving history

March is Women's History Month, and as such, we all have the opportunity to reflect upon the tremendous strides that women have made to battle and alter prejudices throughout the 20th century. However, it also offers the chance to ruminate on what we can do to facilitate the evolution of attitudes that will allow young girls to dream of a future without any restrictions fueled by sexist attitudes.

Although popular culture seems to suggest that there has been a rapid evolution during the past few decades in respect to the rights of women, the truth is a bit more complex. One can trace the roots of intellectual awakening at least back through modern history; the path was blazed as much by activists as it was by the "common" woman, who dared to dream of a different reality. But, women's studies is a relatively new academic pursuit, whose ascent was aided by a California commission that initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration in 1978. The week-long observance went national in 1981 via Congress, and was expanded to a month in 1987.

Young girls can reasonably dream to be a basketball player, as much as they can aspire to be an architect or a home-maker. But, it prompts the question of where do we go from here? There is no question that sexist attitudes still exist within many of us.

However, attitudes take generations to change. This month, explore some of the educational resources available, and appreciate women's progress. But, also, ponder what we all can do individually to further equal rights, tolerance and appreciation.



**AN ARTISTIC TOUCH** — Michael Disko, a student of Colleen Nelson's fourth-grade art class at James Caldwell School in Springfield, touches up his painting in the hallway for the school's Talented Art Program. Each year, the school does a different theme and this year's featured art from Keith Haring, an artist whose popularity rose in the 1980s. Nelson said the project reiterates curriculum, helps increase students' artistic abilities and provides a lasting display of talent for years to come.

Photo By Joe Surrentino

## Reality TV can help us find our next president

In this emotional political season where divining the true character of our political candidates is more difficult than telling the cleaners where to deliver Jean-Bertrand Aristide's pants, I find my thoughts turning first to spring, simply because I've about had it with winter and then to Richard Nixon, the first political sacrifice made to the pagan gods of television.

Nixon lost the 1960 presidential race to John F. Kennedy, in large part due to his "performance" at the first televised political debate. While most viewers polled after the debate agreed that Nixon had a solid handle on the issues and clearly outlined his political objectives, the same viewers felt his physical unease before the cameras, five o'clock shadow and pale complexion left them uneasy when compared to JFK's confident, media-savvy demeanor, and beautiful tan.

Well, you know how it turned out: the pale, nervous, awkward guy was narrowly defeated by the robust, charming, media-savvy guy.

Lesson learned and 40 years later everybody that runs for office is the robust, charming, and media-savvy guy, except the women — they're the robust, charming, media-savvy gals. Can you still say that "gals" better apologize in advance. Anything publicly stated beyond "hello, these days often results in a class-action suit. Before you get any ideas, everything I own is in my dog's name and every-

### Now What?

By John Hartnett

thing he owns is in the Caymans.

Moving on, how are we supposed to sort out this new breed of politician who knows just as much about fighting their good side as they do about supplying side economics? How can we really know what a political candidate truly thinks when their off-the-cuff remarks are written six weeks earlier by a team consisting of six Harvard graduates, Dr. Steven Hawking, Camille Paglia, two fellows from the Rand Institute and a couple of kids from "The Simpsons"?

Until this year, I couldn't have cared less either way. I've been a registered member of the Baby With the Bath Water Party for over a decade. We believe in being the country's best interest to reject all individuals seeking higher office on the basis that no one in their right mind would want to run in the first place.

But that's not a political ideology to pass on to children, and more importantly, people stopped inviting me to election night parties, and I really miss that five-ounce Mexican bean dip which never tastes the same when I make it at home.

So I came up with an idea that might help us skeptics get back into the political swing of things: a mandatory, three-month reality television series on C-SPAN that follows each candidate everywhere they go.

It's perfect. No one, not even the most seasoned political animal, can wear no character 24/7. All us voters would have to do is tune in and wait for the facade to crumble.

Want to know whether George Bush is telling the truth when he says his wife is his most trusted adviser? Let's see how he handles the checker when they're both sitting on the couch in front of the TV.

Want to substantiate John Edwards' assertion that he knows how difficult it is to juggle job and parenting responsibilities? Let's watch how he reacts to the realization that the water dripping on his eggs from the ceiling is the direct result of his son flushing a Heanie Baby down the toilet.

Would you rather hear Dennis Kucinich's rationale for decreasing the budget deficit, or listen to the explanation he gives his wife after learning that the last check he wrote for a plasma screen TV was \$1,800 more than what they had in their checking account?

Want to know whether Al Sharpton has the organizational skills to implement a voter registration program? Let's see how he puts his clothes away

at the end of the day. Does he hang everything back up neatly? Does he toss everything on the chair, oblivious or unconcerned about the risks associated with bad Feng Shui? Or is he possibly a hamper man like my son, who creates the illusion of neatness and responsibility by simply tossing everything in the laundry, clean or dirty, just to avoid hanging anything up at all?

For the record, neither my wife nor I will never vote for someone who knowingly stuffs perfectly clean clothes in their dirty clothes hamper.

I believe a C-SPAN series that follows presidential hopefuls around the clock for 90 days is the cure to our collective political malaise. I say forget the speeches, the policies, the platforms and the platitudes, there's no need for us to know whether they really feel our pain or not. Let us see how they handle their own pain in the form of the trials and tribulations we all learn to live with each and every day.

Show me a man who can stay to the end of a birthday party with 27 screaming 8-year-old boys, and I'll show you the real leader of the free world.

Can I count on your support?

John Hartnett is a frequent contributor to this newspaper. He can be reached at [JohnHartnett@earlybirdpublishing.com](mailto:JohnHartnett@earlybirdpublishing.com).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Let's focus on our priorities

To the Editor:

Before Mountanside proceeds on incurring new debt for a community facility, all our local roads should be repaired and maybe curbs installed where needed. Deteriorating roads are unsightly, damage cars and are not becoming to Mountanside. Let us focus on priorities.

Joseph Chiappa  
Mountanside

### Our young futurists made us proud

To the Editor:

I had the privilege of chaperoning 10 eighth-grade students from the Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School in Springfield to the Future Cities Competition at Rutgers University recently. Judges and other adults complimented these 10 young futurists for their presentations, politeness, and dress.

The community of Springfield can be very proud of the efforts of the three teams from our middle school. Their Unascape model won third place among 55 New Jersey teams in this rigorous competition. These students showed perseverance, ingenuity, problem-solving skills, and teamwork.

Springfield should know that the teams from F.M. Gaudineer represented their town admirably in this challenging contest. The students involved were Seth Benzell, Justin Churchill, Amy Gardner, Ken Glennon, Brian Heller, Joel Loeshelle, Milan Patel, Jared Wasserman, Jay Williams, and Justin Wolf.

Theresa A. Craddock-Ponce, teacher  
F.M. Gaudineer School  
Springfield

### Mayor should show respect, civility

To the Editor:

At the Mountanside February Borough Council meeting, a resident took the podium to discuss the upcoming tax rate for 2004 with the hope that there would be a minimum increase.

Mayor Robert Vigilanti replied that there would be a total increase over the 2003 rate, but that most of the increase would be due to county and school increases and that the municipal tax rate has been very steady. In fact, the mayor claimed the Mountanside Borough tax has had only one increase in the last 10 years.

A review of my tax bills shows that the mayor's statement is totally inaccurate. It is difficult to understand how the mayor can be so wrong when the reality is an increase from \$69 in 1994 to \$923 in 2003 in the 10-year period with an increase in eight of the 10 years and not just one year.

The mayor's reaction to a questioning resident who disagrees with the mayor

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## Reading with 'Mrs. New Jersey'



Springfield resident Liz Balfour, the reigning Mrs. New Jersey, visited her son's class at the E.V. Walton School in Springfield on March 2 to help celebrate 'Read Across America' and Dr. Seuss' Birthday. She entertained the class by reading his book 'Green Eggs and Ham.' Joining her are kindergarten students Zachary Hicks, Amy McLaughlin and Balfour's son, Lewis. Balfour also pitched in to help scramble up some 'green eggs' for the class.

## Visit from Archbishop spells fun for 'Read Across America' day

As part of the "Read Across America" program, Archbishop John J. Myers of Newark visited the children of Holy Trinity Interparochial School, Mountanside Campus, on March 2. His first words to the children were "Reading is so important in our lives and it opens up our imaginations."

In his words, "the joy in this book reminds us of God, who gives us everything." He invited the children to tell him who in their lives gives to them, and among those mentioned were their own families, their teachers, and the priests and parishioners of the three co-sponsoring parishes of Holy Trinity Interparochial.

The Archbishop told the children how much he loved them and how happy he is to have them in this school. In particular, he complimented the administration and the teachers on the success of this campus, which is in its second year of operation.

Archbishop Myers chose to read "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein. As he read for some 300 pre-K and kindergarten children, he published on the spot and made sure that the children understood the message.

His secretary, Eader Jim Sheehan, also graciously wore his hat. Littering, the reading took place in the school's Library Computer Center, and Archbishop Myers presented some Dr. Seuss books to Lewis as a gift.

Mrs. Marie Christie, mother of Adam Haggerty, recounted how her son, a kindergarten student, excitedly repeated the entire story as told by the Archbishop for his family that night.

Holy Trinity Interparochial School is "an excellent example of a school model which works very well for students," said Jim Goodness, spokesman for the Archdiocese.

## Special visit from a senator



Fourth-graders at the Thelma L. Sandmeier School in Springfield enjoy a special visit from Sen. Tom Kean Jr., during the Read Across America program. From bottom left are: Sean Arpino, Peter Silomer, Bobby Endress and Andrew Sussman. From second row are: Molly Krumholz, Leah Cunningham, Christina Montessano, Tara Strober, Matthew Samansky and Anna Lies. From back, left are: Brandon Moss, Sen. Kean, Jennifer Kuczynski, Jonathan Stern-Charles, Eylon Boclin, Uochi Oguchi and Angela Berardinelli.

## Y adds Pre-K Wrap to Child Care

The Springfield YMCA now offers the addition of "Pre-K Wrap" to its popular After-school Child Care program. Pre-K Wrap is taking place at the Y for students enrolled in Pre-K at the Walton School in September.

The new Pre-K Wrap is an extended childcare program designed to complement the school's half-day, Pre-Kindergarten program. It provides a safe and stimulating environment ensuring working parents a place where children are cared for outside the classroom.

Under the direction of Terry Clinton, child care director, the children will enjoy group games, gym and playground activities, computer learning and arts and crafts, while satisfying social, physical, emotional and intellectual needs.

For information, call 973-467-0838. The YMCA is located in the Chesholm Community Center.

"There is a need in Springfield to provide a place for working parents to take advantage of the excellent preschool 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 of 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.

For information, call 973-467-0838. The YMCA is located in the Chesholm Community Center.

## Child chorus conducts auditions

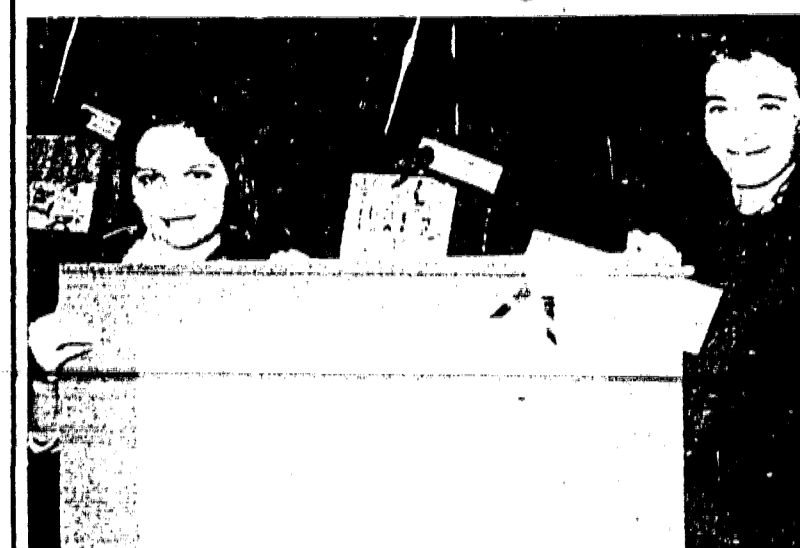
The Springfield Community Children's Chorus is holding auditions and rehearsals from 4:30 to 6 p.m. every Wednesday at the First Presbyterian Church Parish House, 37 Church Mall, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-0012. The chorus will present a program May 2.

This is a tuition program, open to all children in grades 3-6, regardless of sex, race or religion.

The chorus is under the direction of Leslie Adler, who has an extensive musical background.

She is a graduate of West Chester University with a Bachelor of Arts in music education and voice, is a music educator at the Campbell School in Menasha, and has conducted various workshops.

## She's the county winner



The Saint Barnabas Burn Foundation recently honored Anna Czuma, a fifth-grader at Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School in Springfield, as the Union County winner in its 16th annual Burn Awareness Poster Contest.

## National YMCA recognizes local branch for fulfilling mission goals

The Summit Area YMCA recently announced that YMCAs of the USA, the national governing body of all YMCAs, has recognized the Springfield Y for its achievement in providing high-quality, mission-driven programs and experiences to members and the Springfield community at large.

The Springfield Y is being recognized for practices that are consistent with both the standards set by the Y-

USA and with the organization's mission of building strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

In addition, the YSA recognizes that the Springfield branch continues to demonstrate characteristics of high quality programming and excellent facility operations. The Springfield Y offers health and fitness facilities for people of all ages, provides community outreach programs to underserved populations and has child care pro-

grams, including a day camp. "We are proud of the great work that Maggie Bauman, executive director, and her staff are doing in Springfield," said Tom Weidman, president and CEO of the Summit Area YMCA.

"When our national organization gives local Y's an excellent report card, we know that our members are extremely happy and that we are truly fulfilling the Y's mission through our efforts."

## Learning a new beat



Students in Tanya Boehme's eighth grade music class at the Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School in Springfield learn African tribal jungle beats as part of the Black History Month events at the school.

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# Class finds plants are at the root of man's life

The Botany class at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield recently finished a unit on the history of agriculture. The class was led by George Washington Carver, who was elected to the Hall of Great Americans and inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. As a final gesture, he was awarded the degree Doctor of Humane Letters.

Some of his greatest formulas for peanuts and sweet potatoes are popular snacks today. The history class recreated some of Carver's recipes, such as peanut brownies, peanut butter cookies, and candied sweet potatoes, and there are still 322 recipes left to try.

For now, the students can't get back to the time when George Washington Carver created these appetizing ways to consume a legume.



The Botany class at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield learn about the achievements of George Washington Carver, who created many edible snacks out of plants native to the South. Recreating some recipes are, from front left: Erica Slater and Alyssa Alper. From back left are: Bryan Stitt, Anthony DeNicolo, Lisa Clark, Romina Oksehiuk, Michael Gleicher, Marla Rosenfeld and Kirill Burshteyn.

# Course teaches babysitters

The SmartSitter babysitting class for participants ages 11 to 16 is again being offered by the Mountaineer Recreation Department.

Participants will receive a hands-on review of the basic skills of babysitting, including diapering and dressing, bottle making and feeding and safe age appropriate games and toys. Other topics include basic first aid and fire safety, the 15 basics of babysitting, and safety for the baby sitter.

The class will meet from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 20 in the Borough Hall Community Room.

# Arts and crafts activities offered

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. This is a six week program that involves one week and multiple week art and craft projects. The program will take place at the Sarah Bailey Center, 304 Birch Mall, Springfield, from 2 to 3 p.m. on the following dates: Sunday, March 21, March 28, April 4, April 18, and April 25.

# Jewish Book Group gathers to discuss Roth's 'The Human Stain'

The Book Discussion Group of Temple Sha'arey Shalom, 78 N. Springfield Ave., Springfield, will meet Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

This group meets on the third Tuesday of alternate months. The March selection is Philip Roth's "The Human Stain," a complex story of a Jewish professor who attempts to defend his reputation after being falsely accused of racism. The public is invited to attend; there is no admission charge.

The Jewish Book Discussion Group, "As Positive As The United Word," adds another dimension to Temple Sha'arey Shalom's adult education program. Now in its third year, the group flourishes because participants are actively engaged in spirited conversations of issues dealing with Jewish issues and themes.

Guided questions, biographical information, critical reviews, and analyses, and insightful articles by the authors are included in the discourse.

Attendees also suggest literary selections for future meetings. Susan Hinder, temple member and professor of English at Kean University, is the facilitator of the group. Participants are encouraged to offer their points of view on the topics under discussion.

For information about Temple Sha'arey Shalom's Book Discussion Group or the Wednesday meeting, call Susan Hinder through the temple office at 973-375-5187.

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- Field Hockey: August 9-13
- Boys and Girls Lacrosse: Session I: July 19-23, Session II: July 26-30
- Boys and Girls Soccer: August 2-6

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# EVENTS

## Hadassah meets

Springfield Hadassah will host its first meeting of 2004 on March 15 at 12:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Ahim, 60 Temple Way, Springfield. A mini lunch will be provided.

The highlight of the meeting will be the showing of a video cassette of last July's national convention in New York City.

Hadassah in America informs and urges its 300,000 members to advocate legislation and action on behalf of family health issues, including breast cancer, substance abuse, home narrow transplant registry, AIDS education and prevention, violence against women and children and reproductive choice.

Registration for non-city residents will begin March 22 from 1 to 5 p.m. Lottery tickets will not be required.

Trailside offers a variety of summer programs for families and children of all ages. For information, call 908-789-3670.

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## New lottery system in place for camp programs

For the first time, a new lottery system implemented for summer camp programs at Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside will be held on March 20 from 1 to 5 p.m. for Union County residents.

The fee is \$25 and includes a \$15 contribution and \$3 food coupon from the casino upon arrival.

## Atlantic City trip benefits Project Graduation

To raise funds for Project Graduation 2004 at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield, an Atlantic City Trip to Trump Plaza Casino is scheduled for April 24, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The fee is \$25 and includes a \$15 contribution and \$3 food coupon from the casino upon arrival.

## Stormwater pollution demo scheduled

As part of New Jersey's new Municipal Stormwater Regulation Program mandated by the Federal EPA, the Springfield Environmental Commission will conduct a hands-on demonstration of Non-point Source Stormwater Pollution at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., on March 20, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

With the use of a three-dimensional watershed model showing homes, streets, factories and a golf course similar to that of Springfield, the audience, especially children, will be invited to spread various pollutants,

such as fertilizer, pesticides, engine oil, animal waste, and other items on the model, and the volunteer team-makers will flush these pollutants with the runoff into the model's several waterways.

Factories, sewage plants, and dumps were once the major sources of waterway pollution. These are considered point sources, because their locations can easily be identified. But with tightened regulation of these sources, the major pollution now comes from spread out non-point sources from many human activities, such as will be demonstrated with the watershed model.

These pollutants cause chemical and physical harm to the water's plant and animal life, and to humans who drink the water.

Everyone, including children, will be invited to take part.

## 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-1969.

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

## Guests visit duck species

A Wintering Waterfowl can trip is scheduled for March 27, from 9 a.m. to noon at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside.

The fee is \$5 per person for Union County residents, \$6 per person for non-city residents. The event is for ages 8 and older with adult.

Many duck species spend the winter in the area. Join a park naturalist on an exploration to different Union County Parks in search of waterfowl and other bird species. Space is limited so pre-registration is required.

Call Trailside at 908-789-3670 for space availability.

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# NEWS CLIPS

The deadline is March 30. If you have any material, call 973-376-6784.

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# Cubs cross over



Springfield's St. James Pack 73 celebrated their Blue and Gold Banquet on Feb. 29, when three boys crossed from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts. From left are Pete Rossumando, Pack 73 Cubmaster, Rick Locke, Troop 73 Scoutmaster, Nicholas Rossumando, Boy Scout Justin Locke, Mayor Clara Harelik, Stephen Jurczak, Eagle Scout Jim Collage, Chris Sturm, Troop 73 Assistant Scoutmaster, Tommy Gorgia and Boy Scout Chris Sturm.

# BUSINESS REVIEW

Reader Ask In This Section Prepared By Contact Advertising Inc. © 2004 All Rights Reserved

## Campus Sub Shop II Susan Kimbaris, Owner

Man cannot live by bread alone. At Campus Sub Shop II, they know that the foundation of a great submarine sandwich is quality fresh rolls, but even more important are the fillings. One of the areas favorite sub shops, Campus Sub Shop II is located in Springfield at 214 Morris Avenue, phone (973) 467-3333. Their tasteless submarine sandwiches are piled high with deli-style meats and cheeses, served with a wide variety of vegetables and all your favorite condiments. There is truly an art to making a great sub, and Campus Sub Shop II has perfected this time and time again by offering the quality of this area's very finest. You may choose from a variety of cold fillings such as ham and cheese, turkey, tuna, Philly style steak, sandwiches, meatball and combination subs, or let your imagination run wild and create your own. For a delicious, nutritious change of pace from the usual fast food scene, stop by at Campus Sub Shop II today. Their fast, friendly service, reasonable prices and great subs will make you return again and again.

## Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que Celebrating Their 2nd Anniversary

Who makes the most mouthwatering finger lickin' barbecue around? Who has that famous luscious smoked flavor that every yearns for? The answer is simple but their secret recipe is not. Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que is located in Mountainside at 1444 Route 22, phone (908) 422-5489.

Their taste tempting meats are slow cooked and then marinated in their own rub barbecue sauce. Charcoal grilled to sizzling perfection, only fresh meat and poultry are used in their secret recipe. You'll also find spicy marinated, grilled chicken wings with beef, pork and chicken specialties which include tender beef and baby back pork ribs. Of course, lots of barbecue with ole slow is featured. When you stop in to Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que, take your appetite along. They're not only famous for their outstanding food, but also for large helpings of care planning, a family outing, business meeting or lunch function. Let them handle your catering needs. You know the food is scrumptious, their service is friendly, and their prices simply can't be beat. So gathering is a large or too small. When it comes to barbecue, don't settle for second best. For the most meaty, juicy and finger-lickin' food, stop in at Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que today.

## Ronald B. Rozan, DMD Serving The Area For 30 Years

An attractive smile is one of the best assets an individual can possess. Regular professional dental health care can allow you to gain smile to be brighter, in addition, good dental hygiene is one of the most important ingredients in one's overall health care routine. Dental checkups can help prevent gum disease, cavities and other dental problems which can lead to more serious systemic health problems.

Dr. Rozan, located in Springfield at 121 South Springfield Avenue, phone (973) 376-1117, offers a full range of professional dental services for you and your family. Their office is comfortable and relaxing, and the caring staff does its utmost to put even the most anxious or frightened patient at ease. Dr. Rozan provides preventive care and counseling, cosmetic dentistry, general dentistry and advanced restorative treatment. All preventive dental insurance plans and will be glad to discuss your required treatments and procedures. Flexible financing and payment options are available by appointment.

When it comes to dental care, you want the best you can be. Dr. Rozan and his staff provide professional, caring dentistry and take pride in providing quality dental care, improving the appearance of your teeth and protecting your smile. Contact the office today for an appointment.

## Springfield Florist Ed Zenker & Susan Ingalls, Co-Owners • Under New Ownership

"When your heart has a message, say it with flowers," and the flowers that say it best are from Springfield Florist, located in Springfield at 202 Mountain Avenue, phone (973) 467-3333.

Springfield Florist features all types of floral arrangements for every occasion. They will deliver locally, or they offer nationwide wire service. Major credit cards are gladly accepted. The friendly sales staff will be happy to advise you when it comes to selecting the proper gift or flower arrangement for your special someone. They serve the people of this area with a distinctly superior service and can fill the needs of commercial accounts as well. Many business owners realize the value of an excellent floral and have made Springfield Florist their complete floral headquarters. They feature a fine selection of green and flowering plants, hanging plants, gift baskets, decorative pots, bulbs, bouquets and other distinctive gift items. You can always depend on them for beautiful holiday arrangements and special occasion gifts.

When it comes to flowers, send only the finest. See the friendly and helpful professionals at Springfield Florist. You are sure to become a regular customer at this fine shop. Visit their Web site at [www.springfieldfloristonline.com](http://www.springfieldfloristonline.com).

## Sheffield's Restaurant Jim Giannakis, General Manager • Open For Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

If you are planning a party, be sure to call Sheffield's Restaurant, located in Mountainside at 1650 U.S. Highway 22, phone (908) 233-2822. This firm offers a complete catering service from start to finish and will handle all details according to your desires.

Whether you are planning a large or small affair, you can depend on them for delicious food, reasonable prices and professional planning services. They will gladly discuss with you your individual needs as well as offer you helpful advice based on their years of experience in catering successful functions. In fact, when your special event is catered by Sheffield's Restaurant, you can enjoy all the fun and excitement of the planning without the long hours of tedious work.

Many people have discovered that for just a few dollars more, they can sit back and not worry about the many details that guests to be taken care of. For most of us, planning a party or corporate function is a very special event. You owe it to yourself and your guests to let the capable staff at Sheffield's Restaurant handle your affair. For weddings, banquets, parties, business meetings or any other occasion, whether it be for 500 people, make your affair a memorable one. Call the catering specialists at Sheffield's Restaurant for guaranteed satisfaction.

## Schobel Associates, PA Ingeborg Schobel, Owner • Eric Schobel, CPA

Successful business owners in our financially motivated society continue to look for ways to conserve their hard-earned dollars wherever they can. Often, the accounting firm they employ is their largest asset. A professional accounting firm must be made to its best use. Management and financial advice, a business consultant and a tax and retirement planner — in addition to providing the traditional accounting and tax services.

With more than 40 years of combined experience in the accounting field, the professionals at Schobel Associates, located in Mountainside at 615 Sherwood Parkway, phone (908) 233-5716, have proven their ability to do a thorough job and are highly respected throughout the area. Through their continuing education in this rapidly changing field and modern computer technology, Schobel Associates is able to provide the most up-to-date and accurate financial consulting services and accounting skills to small businesses and individuals. Their expert services are very reasonable and, most importantly, personalized for each client's needs.

As professionals serving professionals, Schobel Associates invites you to contact their office for a consultation. Let them put their years of experience and training to work for you.

## ISB Mortgage Co., LLC W. Thomas Kelly, President

With today's interest rates, many people are considering refinancing their home or buying a new home with low, fixed or adjustable interest rate home loans. Mortgage payments are affordable and, in some cases, refinancing can be the answer to an overloaded budget. With so many companies offering home mortgage assistance, it's hard to make a wise decision regarding loan arrangements.

ISB Mortgage, located in Springfield at 899 Mountain Avenue, phone (973) 376-8100, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Investors Savings Bank, and specializes in home mortgage loans. Their professionals are highly trained and are leaders in their field. They can expertly answer any questions you may have concerning refinancing first and second mortgage loans, FHA or any of the many other programs available. Long term or short-term mortgage loans are offered with various interest options. They will carefully explain the benefits of each loan option and will design the loan best suited to your family's needs.

ISB Mortgage stays on top of current market trends to offer their customers the lowest interest rates possible. Sooner or later, we all need to purchase a home. When you are faced with the decision of choosing a mortgage, come to the one so many others have come to know and trust — ISB Mortgage. You will appreciate their old-fashioned courtesy and their high standards of excellence. Because this company is a subsidiary of Investors Savings Bank, they are able to offer their customers some of the lowest interest rates in the area. ISB Mortgage is a Licensed Mortgage Banker, New Jersey Department of Banking, and is an Equal Housing Lender.

**1.99%** apr\*

Home Equity Line of Credit

**4.99%** apr\*\*

10-Year Fixed Rate Home Equity Loan

- ▶ No Automatic Payment Required
- ▶ No Closing Costs
- ▶ Fast Turnaround
- ▶ apply online @ [www.ucnb.com](http://www.ucnb.com)

**Union Center**  
UNION CENTER NATIONAL BANK

1-800-U-N-CENTER [www.ucnb.com](http://www.ucnb.com)



AT THE LIBRARY

Exhibit portrays images of spirituality, culture

Combining Spirit, Culture and Resilience... an exhibit of bean sculptures, drawings and paintings...

Free tax help available

Free tax help is available by appointment on Wednesdays from noon to 5 p.m. at the Mountaintop Free Public Library...

Irish folktale retelling highlights child events

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a theater workshop hosted by Act Out! On Monday at 7 p.m. at the Springfield Free Public Library...

Family activities await

The Mountaintop 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 through April 1, from 2 to 2:30 p.m. Toddler storytime will be held on Wednesdays, 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.

On Saturday, the Mountaintop

Public Library will present "Origami with Mary Kay" for children in kindergarten through grade six. This program is scheduled for 2 p.m. Call 908-233-0115 for information.

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"Habes" Lapatine is back by popular demand. On Friday from 11 to 11:20 a.m., infants from birth to 18 months are invited to experience the beauty and mystery of language, music and books. Space is limited, so call 973-376-4930 ext. 232 to register.

The Mother Goose Group promotes the enjoyment of language through nursery rhymes, simple songs, songs, and activities for toddlers ages 1; 2 to 3 years old and their parent or caregiver. Plan to stay and play afterward. The program will be held on Mondays, including this Monday, and March 29 from 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. No advance registration.

"P.J. Storytime, which invites kids to come in their pajamas, is scheduled for March 22, 7:30 to 8 p.m. Intended for children ages 3 and older, the programs include stories and a simple project. Parents are welcome. Pre-registration is not required. For information, call 973-376-4930 ext. 232.

The Good Books Discussion Group of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. #2 AM, will meet on March 18 at 7 p.m. to discuss "Life of Pi" by Yann Martel.

Yann Martel's novel has been described by critics as "a magical reading experience, an endless blue expanse of storytelling about adventure, survival, and ultimately, faith."

The precocious son of a zookeeper, 16-year-old Pi Patel is raised in Pondicherry, India, where he tries on various faiths for size, attracting "religions" like a dog, attracting "religions" like a dog, attracting "religions" like a dog.

Planning a move to Canada, his father packs up the family and their menagerie and they hitch a ride on an enormous freighter. After a harrowing shipwreck, Pi finds himself adrift in the Pacific Ocean, trapped on a 26-foot lifeboat with a wounded zebra, a spotted hyena, a sick orange marmoset, and a 450-pound Bengal tiger named Richard. An award winner in Canada, this is Martel's second novel.

Call the reference department at 973-376-4930, ext. 228 to reserve a copy of the book.

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Book group gets into 'Life of Pi'

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Donations accepted for child book sale

The Friends of the Mountaintop Free Public Library are sponsoring a children's book sale at the library on March 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bag Day, at \$4 per bag will be March 29 and March 30 during regular library hours.

Starting Monday, donations may be dropped off at the library during regular hours. Donations of children and teen books, video, audiotapes, CDs, DVDs, games and puzzles are welcome. No magazines or textbooks. Call the library at 908-233-0115 for information.

STUDENT UPDATE

Trimmer earns bachelor's

Anne Squire Trimmer of Mountaintop was among nearly 1,500 students who completed their degree requirements last month at the University of Delaware.

Honors announced at FCU

Several local residents achieved academic honors for the fall semester at Fairleigh Dickinson University's College of Business Administration.

District provides special needs services for students

The Mountaintop School District recognizes the importance of providing services to the children with special needs, through its involvement in the statewide Project Child Find efforts.

Program aids 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.

Public Notice

NOTICE TO AWARD CONTRACT PURSUANT TO PUBLIC BIDDING TO MED CONTRACTING CORP FOR PIPING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SPRINGFIELD MUNICIPAL POOL BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

WHEREAS, the Township of Springfield did advertise for and accept bids for piping improvements to the Springfield Municipal Pool (Contract No. 06262 ECL March 11, 2004, \$10,880).

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Local Public Contracts Law, N.J.A.C. 17:27, and upon recommendation of the Municipal Committee, the Township Committee has determined to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

WHEREAS, a certificate of availability has been issued by the State of New Jersey, and it is the intent of the Township Committee to award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids will be received open and read in public, after 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, 25 March 2004, for the award of the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

RECEIPT OF BID PROCEDURE AND LOCATION. Sealed bids will be received at the Township Clerk's office in the Municipal Building any time prior to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, 25 March 2004.

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8th Annual UNION COUNTY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

DEDICATED TO LABOR - TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO BUILT THIS COUNTRY.

Saturday, March 13, 2004

A Family Oriented Celebration of Irish Heritage

Schedule of Events

9:00 am

MASS Saint Patrick's Church 215 Court Street, Elizabeth, N.J.

12:00 noon

GRANDSTAND FESTIVITIES Intersection of Morris and Stuyvesant Avenues, Union Township, N.J.

1:00 pm

PARADE Line of March - Morris Avenue, Union Township, N.J. (Beginning at Commerce Avenue to Stuyvesant Avenue)

Two Best Viewing Locations 1) Burnet Junior High School (Located at Morris and Caldwell Avenues, opposite the Walgreens) 2) Intersection of Morris and Stuyvesant Avenues

Free Parking within walking distance to the parade is available in the Township parking lot adjacent to the Masonic Hall located on Morris Avenue East Bound. Use Garden State Parkway Exit 140.

Matthew P. Glackin Grand Marshal

James P. Feehan General Chairman

Gene Sully Parade Adjutant

Bring the Entire Family

Parking Available for All Events

For Information Call:

James Feehan 908-413-6616

Gene Sully 908-413-7620

www.unioncountystpatricksdaysparade.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Estate of LAWRENCE LEEV, Deceased. Pursuant to the order of James S. Lawrence, Superior Court of the County of Union, State of New Jersey, dated March 11, 2004, the undersigned, as ADMINISTRATOR, of the estate of the above-named decedent, hereby gives notice that the estate of the decedent is open for creditors to file claims against the estate of the decedent.

ATTORNEYS: HARVEY FRUCHTER, JEFFERSON BLANK, 175 BOULEVARD, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 07102. KATHLEEN D. WISNIEWSKI, 2004 159 001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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WHEREAS, the Township of Springfield did advertise for and accept bids for piping improvements to the Springfield Municipal Pool (Contract No. 06262 ECL March 11, 2004, \$10,880).

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# ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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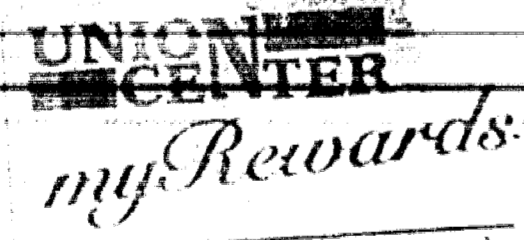
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And may all the Irish angels,  
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SUGAR MAPLE FUN — Pancakes and plenty of syrup were on the menu for the Maple Sugaring Day at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit on Feb. 28. Above, Arboretum Executive Director David Daehnke flips flapjacks in the kitchen of Wisner House, the 1889 headquarters of the arboretum. Below, Cacky Enman of Summit enjoys the sunshine under the century-old sugar maple tree with her sons Matthew, 5, and George, 4.

### Volunteer guides wanted for field trips

"How would you not enjoy doing this?" leading a small group of children around the beautiful arboretum a few hours a week in May and June, or September and October, and watching their eyes light up when they recognize plants and animals interact," said Michelle Elia Wiesner.

### Through workshop, expert teaches proper pruning

There's an art to knowing where and when to cut a rosebush to encourage the most abundant growth. Jeff Van Pelt, supervisor of Horticulture, is in charge of the Rudolf V. Vander Goot Rose Garden, Somerset County Park Commission, will teach a workshop at Reeves-Reed Arboretum.

### Grant targets educational opportunities at arboretum

Reeves-Reed Arboretum has announced it is a recipient of a \$600 grant from Target Corporation. The money will be used in conjunction with a \$700 HARI grant — History, Education and Art, Reaching Thousands — from the Union County Board of Chosen Treasures, making it possible in part to present an intensive botanical drawing class at the Arboretum.

"At Reeves-Reed Arboretum, we run on a very tight budget," said Director of Adult Education Nancy Wright. "Our members and visitors are realistic, and they love the five-acre farm of the 20th-century farm. They have long wanted to offer a

### Registration for YMCA summer camps gets under way

Registration for camp at the Summit YMCA is in full swing, but it's not too late for parents to find a place for their child to have fun and make friends this summer.

### Hats off to Mardi Gras



Summit resident Martha White dons an impressive head-dress to celebrate the Mardi Gras festival at Calvary Episcopal Church's annual pancake supper Feb. 24.

responsibility to give back to the community, we feel it is our privilege," said Laysa Ward, vice president of Community Relations. "Reeves-Reed Arboretum is doing incredible things to help strengthen our communities."

Reeves-Reed Arboretum is a suburban conservancy dedicated to environmental and horticultural education for children and adults, and to the enjoyment of nature through the professional care and preservation of a historic country estate.

For information about the botanical drawing intensive at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, call Nancy Wright at 908-273-8787.

For the second year, Quest for Campers enters fifth through seventh grades, as a traditional camp that focuses on leadership development through group/team building exercises, outdoor living skills and much more.

Specific camps at the Y include Performance Arts Camp, an eight-day camp for fifth graders through Camp UCTVY, offers leadership through academia and service to the other camps and the community as a whole.

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

# SPORTS

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

### Region 3 Wrestling: Union High School

As many as six area wrestlers qualified for this weekend's state tournament. Those grapplers include Darron Caldwell, Ryan Wilson and Ed McGray of Rahway, Pat Hogan and Steve Carbone of Cranford and Anthony Priore of Johnson.

The NJSSAA Tournament commences tomorrow night, continues Saturday and concludes Sunday at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. Prelims and pre-quarters finals commence tomorrow night at 6 p.m. and the semifinals at 8 p.m.

The consolation and final rounds are set to begin Sunday at 10 a.m. Here's a look at who qualified out of Region 3.

- FINALS**
- 103: Jimmy Conroy, South Plain, pinned Anthony Priore, Johnson, 1:33.
  - 112: Mike Grey, Delbarton, dec. Ryan Wilson, Rahway, 17:2 (1F-4:25).
  - 119: Darron Caldwell, Rahway, pinned Ryan Baldwin, New Brunswick, 2:55.
  - 125: Derek Francavilla, Scotch Plains, dec. Ed McGray, Rahway, 9:1.
  - 130: Steve Mizeo, Scotch Plains, dec. Joe Trosie, Hanover Park, 5:0.
  - 135: Zach Tanelli, Mill, dec. Ryan Pincus, Madison, 24:7 (1F-4:34).
  - 140: Jack Decker, SHP, dec. Eric Connolly, Scotch Plains, 3:0.
  - 145: Alex Caruso, Watch Hill, dec. Mike Torsello, Hanover Park, 5:0.
  - 152: Pat Hogan, Cranford, dec. McPaul Ogbonna, Hanover Park, 6:0.
  - 160: Mike Gatt, Watch Hill, pinned Angelo Di Leo, SHP, 3:16.
  - 171: Mike Whelan, Parsippany, dec. Jon Latona, Boonton, 8:3.
  - 189: Shane Malloy, New Brunswick, dec. Dave Nichols, Hanover Park, 9:0.
  - 215: Bill Beiermeister, Boonton, dec. Steve Carbone, Cranford, 8:3.
  - HWT: Ryan Elliott, South Plainfield, dec. Mike D'Amico, SHP, 3:0.

Third  
103: Jack McSpid, Parsippany Hills  
112: Greg Schvey, Millburn  
119: Dario Marcelli, Hanover Park  
125: Paul Galpeau, Parsippany Hills  
130: Shane Riocho, Watch Hill  
135: Steven Hompesch, Middlesex  
140: Seth Podhoretz, Millburn  
145: Paul Richey, South Plainfield  
152: Lee Iomasso, Westfield  
160: Zaki Johnson, Irvington  
171: Andrew Silber, Scotch Plains  
189: Bill Colgan, Delbarton  
215: Nico Somers, Madison  
HWT: Chris Johnson, Parsippany

COACH OF THE YEAR: John Scholz, Scotch Plains. Also Coach of the Year in Union County, District 11 AREA QUALIFIERS FOR NJSSAA TOURNAMENT (6): Rahway (3): First: Darron Caldwell-119. Second: Ryan Wilson-112. Ed McGray-125. Cranford (2): First: Pat Hogan-152. Second: Steve Carbone-215. Johnson (1): Second: Anthony Priore-103.

AREA WRESTLERS WHO REACHED SEMIFINALS, BUT DID NOT ADVANCE TO NJSSAA TOURNAMENT: 119: Tom Duffy, Union Hills. 145: Charlie Mueller, Union (4th). 152: Jim Garrison, Roselle Park. HWT: Chris Bouboutos, R. Park

AREA WRESTLERS WHO FINISHED FOURTH AFTER FALLING IN QUARTERFINALS AND THEN WINNING TWICE IN WRESTLEBACKS: 130: Pete Jacangela, Union. 215: Andre Neblett, Rahway. HWT: Ronell-Orr, Linden

Season wrapping  
Hard to believe, but another winter season is about to come to a close. While boys' and girls' basketball teams played in sectional finals earlier in the week and are now engaged in group semifinal competition, all of the wrestlers that made it all the way to the NJSSAA Tournament are taking a breather before competition commences tomorrow night at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City.

State championship basketball games will take place Saturday and Sunday, with the winners advancing to next week's Tournament of Champions.

St. Patrick's of Elizabeth and Shabazz won the boys' and girls' tournaments last season.

The state wrestling tournament continues Saturday and concludes Sunday.

Delbarton sophomore Mike Grey is out to gain a second state championship and that would put him halfway toward becoming the first wrestler in state history to win four state championships.

Rahway sophomore Darron Caldwell, fourth in the state at 103 last year, earned last weekend's Region 3 competition undefeated and ranked No. 1 in the state at 119.

### To continue in college



Gov. Livingston boys' lacrosse coach Steve Ciarrocca congratulates three of his seniors for gaining early acceptance at their chosen colleges. From left are captain Eric Cszasz of Mountaineer (Bucknell), Ciarrocca, Eric Wong (Central Florida) and Paul Vicendes (Virginia Tech). GI returns 26 of 29 players from last year's team and is situated in the NJSSAA's Kimball Division.

### Many wrestled well even though their seasons are now complete

Livingston in his Region 4 final in 1:22. The top three ranked wrestlers in the state at 139 all won region championships. Caldwell is ranked No. 1 and Greenwood No. 3. Ranked No. 2 is Jeff Zaretsky of J.P. Stevens, who pinned Justin Izbrowski of Mt. Airy in 1:32 in his Region 5 final at Haverdort Central.

White Caldwell, Wilson, McGray, Hogan, Carbone and Priore qualified out of Region 3 in Union and Greenwood and O'Grady out of Region 4 in Clinton. There were many area grapplers who did well to reach the Region 3 and saw their seasons come to an end.

That's finding a way to win a state championship. The NJSSAA Star-Ledger Tournament at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City is set for three exciting days of wrestling, featuring the state's best.

Competition commences tomorrow night, continues Saturday with the quarterfinals and semifinals and concludes Sunday with the final wrestlebacks and the championship matches.

Caldwell, sophomore who was third in Region 3 at 103 last year, captured his first region crown by winning at 119. He enters his weight class with an undefeated record after going 36-3 and finishing fourth in the state last year at 103.

Wilson, a freshman, and McGray, a sophomore, placed second for the Indians at 112 and 125.

Cranford sophomore Pat Hogan was the surprise of Region 3. He defeated the first, third and fourth seeds to win 152. Hogan pinned top-seeded Gus Severin of South Plainfield, the District 12 champion, in 4:44 in the semifinals before blanking Hanover Park's McPaul Ogbonna 6:0 in the final.

Teammate Steve Carbone finished second at 215 to reach Atlantic City for a second consecutive season. Priore is having an outstanding freshman season for the Crusaders and was the only Johnson grappler to advance out of District 11. He won by disqualification over Rob Mench of Westfield in an even four minutes to get to the Region 3 final at 103. There, he was bested by Jimmy Conroy of South Plainfield by pin in 1:33.

Getting past Mench was an accomplishment, since Mench pinned Priore in 1:50 in the Union County Tournament final and then defeated Priore 7-3 in the District 11 title bout.

Greenwald, who finished fourth in the state last year at 112 with a 34-4 mark after winning a state championship at that same weight class in 8th grade the year before, captured Region 4 at 119 after winning District 16 at North Bergen. Greenwald (119) won District 16 and Region 4 at 112 last year and was named Outstanding Wrestler at Region 4.

O'Grady also won at District 16 last year and this year, doing so at 103. The junior captured his first Region 4 championship by downing Mike Bastante of Passaic Valley 4-2 in last Saturday's final.

O'Grady defeated Rob Barry of Bayonne 18-7 in his District 16 final.

Greenwald pinned Martin Moya of St. Peter's Prep in 1:08 in his District 16 final and then pinned Rich Russell of

Three wrestlers from Rahway qualified, while two from Cranford made it, along with one from Boardwalk.

The Johnson grappler was freshman Anthony Priore, who lost in the 103-pound final to South Plainfield's Jimmy Conroy.

Priore, who also finished second in the Union County Tournament and second in District 11, was pinned in 1:33.

### Dayton girls' have much to be proud

PLAINSBORO — When looking back on the 2003-2004 season, the Dayton High School girls' basketball team can be very proud of the way it performed. The Bulldogs have proven to be one of the top Group 1 schools in the state the past few years and this season was one victory shy of capturing their first ever sectional championship.

On Monday, it just wasn't meant to be. Second-seeded Dayton was bested by top-seeded Middlesex 60-41 in the Central Jersey Group 1 championship game at West Windsor-Plainsboro North-Delton, appearing in its first sectional final, finished with one of its best records ever at 21-6.

While Dayton proved to be the better team in the first half as evidenced by a 26-18 halftime advantage, Middlesex was just too much in the second half with an inside game sparked by the play of standout senior center Diana Ferraro, who led all players with 22 points and 20 rebounds.

Although Dayton struggled in the third quarter, the Bulldogs still led 31-27 heading into the final eight minutes. Middlesex increased its defensive pressure and came away with a number of steals that ignited many layups.

The Blue Jays, who captured their first sectional championship and improved to 23-2 with the victory, outscored Dayton 33-10 in the fourth quarter and at one point put together a 14-0 run after Dayton was ahead 34-30.

"We became too passive," Dayton head coach Dave Rennie said after his team was ahead 26-14 with approximately three minutes remaining in the first half. "We needed to get the ball to the baseline and drive the gaps. When we were up, we looked to keep playing defense and keep on attacking."

Middlesex came back from an 18-15 halftime deficit in its 49-34 home win over fifth-seeded Dunellen in last Saturday night's semifinals. As a result, the Blue Jays did not game when they fell behind to the Bulldogs.

"I told the girls before the game that a 10-point lead, either way, was not safe," Middlesex coach Tom Hentelman said.

Dayton had two 6-0 runs in the first quarter and ended the period with a lead of 15-0. Junior forward Kristina Zasko, who topped the Bulldogs with a 10-point performance, had five points, Sara Steinman four and Margaret Mysliwiec and Lindsey Ibrahim three each.

Aminda DiCocco's only basket gave Dayton its biggest lead at 26-14. At that point, Dayton fans were chanting, "you can't stop us."

Michelle Iomasso did well to come off the bench and hit two 3-point baskets. However, Dayton's field goal attempts were not falling in the second half as it was not getting to the basket as easily as it had in the first half.

"They switched to a zone and then we relied too much on the outside shot," Rennie said. "They had a Division 1 player (Ibrahim) and they were not letting us get inside in the second half."

The 6-10 Ferraro, who will continue at St. Louis, netted 12 points in the first half to keep Middlesex close and then had 10 in the second half as the Blue Jays received balanced scoring. Junior forward Megan Reilly finished with 12 points, junior guard Nicole Bozzomo netted 10 and junior guard Ashley Best poured in four.

Steinman finished with nine points, Mysliwiec seven, Iomasso six, Ibrahim five and DiCocco two each.

"They were the best shooting team we've seen this year," Hentelman said. "They had us going until we were able to swing a little momentum at the end of the second quarter. I'm so lucky to have a group of kids that always stay focused."

Middlesex was scheduled to play South Jersey champion Riverside last night in the Group 1 semifinals at the Ritacco Center in Totms River. The championship game will be played there Sunday at 2 p.m.

NOTES: Dayton advanced to its second sectional championship game after losing the year-end sectional game to state playoff game after losing 141-126 and 61-4 two years ago. Dayton was eliminated at home in the North 2, Group 1 finals the past two years. In Dayton's three-playoff losses the past three seasons, the Bulldogs led going into the fourth quarter.

Zasko poured in a career-high 32 points in Dayton's 71-59 home win over seventh-seeded Keyport last Thursday in the quarterfinals. Steinman had 14 points and six assists, Mysliwiec 10 points and seven rebounds, Izbrowski nine points and Iomasso four.

Mysliwiec paced the Bulldogs with a 19-point performance in last Saturday night's 59-48 home win over third-seeded Highland Park in the semifinals. Zasko, and Steinman netted 12 points each, Izbrowski seven, Ibrahim four and Iomasso three.

"It's a tribute to the pride our girls take," Rennie said. "They worked so hard to earn a spot in the finals. I'll miss the seniors. They were warriors, all five of them."

Rennie, in his seventh year at the helm, has done quite a job with the program. Dayton finished 47-5 two years ago and 18-5 last year, both seasons finishing second in the Valley Division of the Mountain Valley Conference.

This year, they guided the Bulldogs to the Valley Division championship, which was Dayton's first conference crown since 1977.

Dayton defeated Roselle 45-33 in overtime at home to take the conference lead. Its only conference setback was at Roselle by a 55-53 score in double overtime back on Jan. 6. The Bulldogs also finished third in the Elizabeth Tournament.

"I felt we could get this far and I felt we could win this game," Rennie said.

A GOOD CAST IS WORTH REPEATING  
Head coach: Dave Rennie  
Assistant: Dave Campbell  
10 senior guard Sarah Steinman  
3 senior guard Lindsey Ibrahim  
14 junior guard Kristina Zasko  
11 senior forward Margaret Mysliwiec  
31 senior forward Lisa Izbrowski  
23 senior forward Michelle Tomasi  
32 junior forward Aminda DiCocco  
5 sophomore forward Katelyn Vivento  
24 junior guard Dana Poltrok  
30 junior guard DeAnne DeCosta  
22 Nicole Corigliano  
21 Valerie Upton

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# MCAA exhibits at Bouras

The Morris County Art Association will be exhibiting at the Bouras Galleries in Summit on DeForest Avenue.

The exhibit will be of various works done in pastels. The show will be at Bouras Galleries now through April. The galleries are open to the public by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Linda Cole 908-279-0452.

In 1948, local artists and professional painters working on donations at Merritt's in Washington, D.C. Headquarters formed the Morris County Art Association. It later became the Morris County Art Association.

In 1976, they bought "The Studio," an historic stable on Catherine Lane. In 1976, they founded the now independent Bouras Galleries, which maintains close ties to the MCAA. The MCAA provides visual arts classes for adults and children, regular art exhibits and demonstrations. The MCAA offers art instruction for all levels and interests: drawing, watercolor, pastel, oil and sculpture.

Bouras Galleries is located in Bouras Properties at 25 DeForest Avenue, Summit. Mr. Bouras, owner of the building, has supported many charitable and civic organizations in town and throughout the county. Bouras Properties has also been the location for various city-sponsored events.



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# Large turnout helped create a successful second spelling bee

The second annual Adult Spelling Bee held Feb. 29, was described by a member of the Women's Resource Center as a truly enjoyable event that was fun for everyone who came, from toddlers to senior citizens.

Thirty-nine teams competed, with some doing a song and dance recital as they came on stage.

"BEE HIVE," made up of Jill Harris, Daniel Bar and Chris Pelzer, all of Summit, won the prize in a tightly contested final round. Karen Parrish of Chatham and Larry Chase of Summit, members of last year's winning team, awarded the plaques. The second place team was "The Logos" with Meredith McCluney of New Providence and Richard Haugh and Andrew Haugh, both of Summit.

"The NSF Bee Gs" made up of Debbie Ciferelli, Helene Hulise and Laune Gerard, all of Summit, won a

plaque for their creative costumes and the "Vowel Movement" with Linda George, Marla Burrough and Bryan Burrough, all of Summit, won the plaque for the most interesting team name. Even the selection process involved the individual team rosters trying to make the most noise during the vote by acclamation so their friends would win.

With the festivities held in the Summit High School, the children could wander from the auditorium to the cafeteria, where there was an ample selection of food and a clown making balloon animals.

The local participation included Summit Common Council members, Jordan Galt, the mayor of Summit, all school principals and representatives from the Junior League of Summit and the Summit Educational Foundation all being word callers.

And, of course, special thanks to Ted Stark, principal of Summit Middle School, for being the master of ceremonies and Suzanne Glatz who served as the honorary chairwoman.

The Women's Resource Center located at 57 New England Avenue in Summit is a nonprofit organization that is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year and dedicated to meeting the varied needs and interests of women throughout their lifetimes.

Among its programs are two that benefited from the Spelling Bee proceeds: the Girl Project, which provides programs designed to ensure that today's girls become tomorrow's strong women and Rainbows, which provides support groups for boys and girls grieving the loss of a parent through death or divorce. The Summit Educational Foundation was also a beneficiary.

# Career coaches help women find work

During these difficult economic times, many women will be involved in trying to get a job.

According to Phyllis Lieberman, who heads the career program at the Women's Resource Center in Summit, life changes or work changes are forcing women with few job search skills to enter the job market. For mothers returning to work or women with rusty skills and a lack of confidence, the idea of "selling yourself" to a potential employer can seem daunting.

The career coaching program at the Women's Resource Center offers individual counseling sessions during the day and/or evening for women whose employers have been downsized, for those who want to change jobs or careers and for women who have to or want to enter the work force after a while still raising a family.

Lieberman has had special training to administer the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and the Strong Interest Inventory, important self-assessment

tools available at the center. In addition, other career services are available such as resume review, interview coaching, networking skills training, and salary negotiation strategies.

Career coaching does not necessarily involve a long process. Sometimes, a couple of sessions are sufficient to give women the support and structure you need to jump-start a job search. Call the Women's Resource Center at 908-273-2253 for more information or to make an appointment.

# Painting exhibit opens Friday

Oil painter Gerry Heydt lives and paints in Plainfield. "Stimulating" a collection of her still life paintings, will hang in Wisner House at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit from Friday until May 10. The paintings of fruit and flowers are painted from life.

From 2 to 4 p.m. Fridays, she will meet the public at an artist's reception. There is no charge to attend either the exhibit or the reception. Wisner House is open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays at 165 Hobart Ave.

# Health

## Holistic health care seminar offered

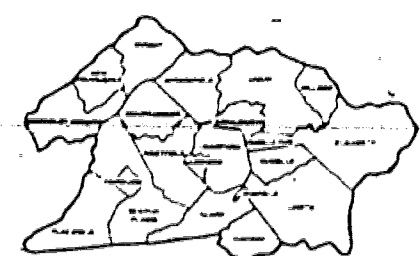
Congregation Israel, Temple Beth Ahm, and Temple Sha'arey Shalom, Springfield, announce a holistic health-care seminar. "The Energetics of Medicine" will be presented by their jointly sponsored Congregational Nurse Health Care Initiative program from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive.

Speaking will be Herb Marvin, D.C., from Family Chiropractic Life Center in Springfield and Ross Rosen, C.A., from the Center for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine in Westfield. This free informative seminar on the health benefits of acupuncture, Chinese herbal medicine, Eastern nutrition, chiropractic adjustments and knowledge for all ages is open to the public. There will be time for questions and refreshments will be served. "Congregation Israel, Temple Beth Ahm, and Temple Sha'arey Shalom, all in Springfield, under the leadership of Jaclyn M. Herzlinger, RN, co-sponsor of the Congregational Nurse program. The idea, new in the Jewish community, allows a congregational

nurse to respond to the unique needs and priorities of members of all ages. The nurse functions as an educator, a counselor, a referral agent and an advocate. Strong support of the program comes from the three congregations. For information about the holistic health-care seminar, "The Energetics of Medicine," call Herzlinger through the Temple Sha'arey Shalom office at 973-379-5387 or Temple Sha'arey Shalom's Web site, www.shaarey.org.

Calvary hosts blood drive. Calvary Episcopal Church's 10th annual blood drive will be held in the Parish Hall, 31 Woodland Ave. from 3:30 to 8 p.m. St. Patrick's Day, March 17. Red Cross volunteers will be on hand to register the donor and provide refreshments, assisting the New Jersey Blood Services technicians who handle the process. There is a great need for blood and the public is asked to "give blood to save a neighbor." Donating a pint of blood should take less than an hour. For the donor's protection and benefit, the process includes a mini physical exam. Most healthy persons, weighing at least 110

pounds, between the ages of 17 and 75 may give blood. Seventeen-year-olds must show parent's permission and proof of age and those older than age 75 must have a doctor's letter. In preparation, donors should eat a regular meal, plenty of fluids and come to the Parish House knowing their Social Security number and carrying a photo ID or identification. Baby-sitting will be available as well as homemade cookies. For information or a time slot, call 908-277-6773.



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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2004 - SECTION B

# Wiz and a scholar

The New York Times on Sunday followed two 16-year-old kids to highlight the drop in teen pregnancies. The story speaks to the remarkable decline in the number of cases in the past decade.

Maybe we have come a distance from 1968 when Laura Nyro sang of a troubled teen, "Mama you're a wiz and a scholar too."

The numbers still are a mixed bag. There has been a drop in teen pregnancy of almost 33 percent and abortions are also down.

According to sociologist Frank Furstenberg of the University of Pennsylvania, who has studied the problem for 35 years, the reasons include fear of AIDS, access to contraceptives, abstinence and the social disapproval attached to teen pregnancy. Economists even speculate that a better economy means more job access for the teens which also equates to less pregnancy. Still as Marie Cuomo used to say, we see kids having kids.

Tiffany Massey speaks in a soft voice, but she has a good deal to say about the topic. She works at the Even Start Family Literacy Program in Linden. Flat out, Lark here, in the sophisticated age of computers and information, and the availability of birth control methods, how can a kid still get in trouble?

She tells me a heartbreaking story of a 10th-grade girl who still thought it was "the man's responsibility." In terms of the problem Massey sadly sees a steady rate since 2000.

You have to respect the Linden program. They assist the mothers in "minimizing the damage" they will face. They help in the education and socialization of the infant. The program runs from birth to age 7.

The program formally sets a goal: "increase parents' competence and confidence to allow them to provide their children with the best possible start in life."

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that only 20 percent of teenage mothers are married. Statistically a majority of the teenage matters will end up on welfare within five years.

In the Even Start program, the mother is assisted in finding alternate ways of continuing her education.

The access to educational opportunity and helping in the socialization of the infant is a prime focus. Massey says there are even positive examples of the father participating in the child rearing.

Sitting with a Plainfield official last weekend, he described a program in his community which allows the mother to bring the infant to a day care program right at the high school while she attends classes.

In between our poached eggs, he looks me in the eye and says, "Look, the reality is some kids do have sex. We need to lessen the reality, but it is still a reality."

Even the old standby absence in showing positive results. A national program to prevent teen pregnancy entitled "not me, not now" is widely praised as getting through to teens and pre-teens.

# Women fill one of every five council seats

Although women account for more than half of New Jersey's population, they hold nowhere near half of the elected seats in municipal, county and state government.

Last week, former Gov. Christine Todd Whitman spoke on this topic at a private residence in New Providence, where the Union County chapter of Greater Roles and Opportunities for Republican Women held a fund-raiser.

"We have a responsibility as women and men to have a responsibility to help women move forward," said Whitman. "It's not just good enough to say we want more women and then sit back."

Of the 40 state Senate seats, only six are held by women, about 15 percent, and of the 80 Assembly seats, only 13, or 16 percent, are occupied by women.

New Jersey ranks 43rd among the 50 states in the proportion of women serving in its legislature.

"This is one of the best educated states with the highest median income," said Whitman. "The fact that we are so abysmal in the number

of women we have representing us in the Assembly and Senate should make us ashamed. And it should make us take a good, hard look at what we are doing to support our women."

Representation in Union County is even lower. Of the 150 available seats on municipal governing bodies throughout the county, only 30, or 20 percent, are filled by women. Additionally, of the 21 mayors in Union County, only four are women: Cranford, Fairwood, Hillside and Springfield. Clark, Mountainside and Roselle Park do not have any women on their municipal governing bodies.

On the county level, women only hold three elected positions: two freholder seats and the county clerk. The chair of the Union County Democratic Committee also is a woman.

"Women are involved," said Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, a Union resident who has held her current office since 1995 and has served as a freholder in the past. "They're involved in things like the school board, PTA - important things. But when it comes to running for office, they hesitate."

"They think they need more skills than they have and that's absolutely untrue. Most women

who have been active in any type of community endeavor have the skills that are needed to run for political office.

Rajoppi even wrote a book on the subject, "Women in Office: Getting Here and Staying There," published in 1993 by Bergen & Garvey.

"It comes down to each of the political parties nominating women, when they have qualified women, to run for office," she said.

"Now that women have their own businesses and are as successful as men financially, Whitman said, women can give bigger and more generous contributions to female candidates."

"We need to support women candidates with our dollars as well as our time and efforts," she said.

Whitman, New Jersey's first and only female governor, said female candidates bring a different set of expectations and a different way of prioritizing things.

"If you gave a woman a choice between bonding for a halfway house for juveniles or a bridge, we'd go for the halfway house first," Whitman said. "It's not because we don't understand the importance of the bridge but it's because we're so concerned about the human

capital. We'd get to the bridge but it was more important to protect those young lives."

Springfield Mayor Carl Harelik said that one of the reasons there are so few women in local politics might stem from women being involved in so many other activities.

"With kids and families, sometimes they don't get involved in government," said Harelik. However, she said that's not an excuse to not get involved.

"More women are more active in local government. Boards of education, PTA's, trying to better the quality of life in their communities," Summit Councilwoman P. Kelly Hatfield said. "They're less interested... and this has to change in participating in politics."

Washington, D.C.-based Emily's List: a nationwide grassroots political network, raises campaign contributions for pro-choice Democratic women candidates running for the House, the Senate and for governor. The organization helps female candidates build strong, winning campaigns, and helps to mobilize women voters.

The organization's Political Opportunity Program helps encourage more women to run for office because we're so concerned about the human

See FOLR, Page 12

# Hunt culls deer herd

Union County's deer management program resulted in the removal of 99 deer from Watchung Reservation last week.

"The program was an absolute success," Department of Parks and Recreation Director Charles Signmund said. "We removed a lot of deer in a three-day period and there were no injuries."

The program took place on March 1-3 from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., throughout the county's portion of the Watchung Reservation.

The county had set a goal of removing 100 deer from the property and had funded the removal at a total cost of \$6,512.

The cost per removal of each deer, including the processing of the deer meat, is approximately \$50.

"The only other cost to the county is bait and miscellaneous supplies," said Signmund.

According to the county, the deer population in the Watchung Reservation was approaching 300 prior to the management program last week. Signmund said the county believes the deer population should only be about 100.

To help maintain the deer population, the county chose 12 volunteer marksmen, all of whom are licensed hunters and had previously participated in the deer management program. The marksmen supplied their own weapons and ammunition.

The deer management program is part of the county's continual efforts to maintain the Park system. Last month, the freholder board approved a goose-control program to take place at county parks later this year.

Several county residents have scolded the freholder board and county administration, saying they disapprove over the removal of the geese.

However, some residents do not seem as distraught over the removal of the geese. "I don't feel there's any legitimate reason to get rid of the geese," said Kerr Blanchard of Rahway. "Where with the deer it's kind of hard to argue that you could survive hitting a deer at 60 miles an hour."

The freholder board awarded a contract not to exceed \$115,500 to Metuchen-based Goose Control Technologies of New Jersey Inc. for services that include "trapping and removing geese in a safe, humane manner and egg and nest treatment."

# Thanks for nine years



Union County Freholder Chairman Angel Estrada and Vice Chairman Rick Proctor present state Sen. Nicholas Scutari with a resolution and plaque for his nine years of service on the county's governing body. Scutari resigned effective March 1 and Democrats were scheduled to meet last night to appoint John Wohlrab of Linden as his successor.

# Candidates lining up for countywide elections in fall

During Saturday's convention at Orange Avenue School in Cranford, committee members will formally nominate four candidates to run for freholder, as well as candidates for surrogate and sheriff.

It is expected that the four people who appeared before the chairman last week, will get the GOP nomination. The filing deadline to run in the election is April 12.

Republican leadership has not decided which candidate will pursue the remaining year of Scutari's term against Wohlrab. That will be decided by Saturday along with candidates for county surrogate and county sheriff.

Aside from the Scutari seat, Democrats will have Freholder Daniel Sullivan of Elizabeth on their ticket along with two new freholder candidates who will fill the seats vacated by Lewis Mingo of Plainfield and Mary Ruotolo of Westfield. Both freholders will not seek re-election to a third three-year term.

Democrats were scheduled last night to appoint Hillside resident John Wohlrab, who will be moving to Linden shortly, to Scutari's seat.

Although a formal announcement has not been made, Plainfield Councilman Adrian Mingo appears to be the front-runner to claim Mingo's place on the Democratic ticket. Democrats have not set a date yet when they will nominate candidates for their freholder ticket.

B. J. Kowalski of Cranford has expressed interest in filling Ruotolo's slot on the Democratic ticket, according to executive director of the Union County Democratic Committee, Evan Parrness. Springfield Mayor Clara Harelik also said she would be interested in the spot if the county's Democratic leadership approached her.

Erigeno said having fewer incumbents on the Democratic ticket could be favorable for Republicans trying to acquire one of the freholder seats.

"They've lost a slight edge that they'd have normally with the incumbency," said Erigeno. At the beginning of a political race, he said, incumbents typically have a 10 percent edge.

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"They've lost a slight edge that they'd have normally with the incumbency," said Erigeno. At the beginning of a political race, he said, incumbents typically have a 10 percent edge.

For instance, Renna said the county compares this year's budget to last year's budget. The salary line items for certain departments may be exactly the same as the previous year.

"It looks like there's no additional funds for salaries but what you don't see is how many employees are on that salary," said Renna. "There may be less employees this year but you don't know that."

Mirabella said that he is optimistic about cuts being made to the budget, though he's not sure how much and to which departments.

"I think we're going to have an opportunity to do some cutting before we introduce our final budget," he said.

The budget DeVanney introduced will call for every municipality within Union County, with the exception of Berkeley Heights and Winfield, to have an increase in the county portion of their tax bills.

Mountainside and Westfield are expected to see the biggest tax increases this year at \$131 and \$121, respectively, under the executive budget.

Even with the increased tax levy, Summit residents will still pay the most taxes per household in the county: \$2,811. Westfield and Mountainside rank just behind, paying \$2,007 and \$1,749 respectively.

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COUNTY NEWS

UCLSA meets March 23

UCLSA, the association for legal professionals, will hold a fourth meeting with Scotch Plains County LSA on March 23 at Costa's Restaurant, 120 Chestnut St., Roselle Park.

Following a social gathering at 6 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m., the guest speaker will be Thomas Mahan, Chief Clerk of the Superior Court.

All legal professionals, secretaries and other support staff employed anywhere in the legal field — private practice, corporate practice, federal, county, state or municipal government, justice department, etc. — are welcome to attend. Prospective members and guests are also welcome, but do not have to be a member.

The association offers educational opportunities to legal professionals and members are eligible to receive nationwide discount on products and services from NAL's, the national affiliate.

For more information regarding reservations, call Reservations Chairwoman Judy Reed at 908-355-4882.

For more information on membership "networking opportunities" and available scholarships, call Helena Goworek at 908-527-4587 or 908-291-7356.

Freeholders Forum

Union County's new 24-1 hotline and expanded discount prescription drug plan are the subjects of the latest Freeholders Forum television show.

The 24-1 service allows Union County residents access to information about human services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The 24-1 number can reach all aspects of human services — issues of housing, issues of medical prescriptions, issues of mental health, etc.

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Plainfield Channel 74, Wednesday 5:30 p.m.

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

Scotch Plains Channel 34, call 908-232-2400, ext. 243, for more information.

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

Anyone wanting more information or to comment about "Freeholders Forum" can call the Office of Public Information at 908-436-2072 or e-mail forum@ucnj.org.

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

To request an appointment, taxpayers must call the site in their local community and bring with them their 2003 records of income, deductions, property tax bills, and their 2002 income tax file.

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

Berkeley Heights Free Public Library, 200 Plainfield Ave., 908-464-9333.

Clark Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave., 732-388-3600.

Cranford County Center, 220 Walnut Ave., 908-709-7283.

Elizabeth Free Public Library, 11 S. Broad St., no appointments necessary. Tax help on Thursdays from Feb. 26 to April 15, 9 a.m. to noon.

Kenilworth Free Public Library, 548 Boulevard, 908-276-1511.

Mountaintop Free Public Library, Constitution Plaza, 908-233-0115.

New Providence Senior Center, 4th Street, 908-665-0046.

Plainfield Senior Center, 305 E. Front St., 908-753-3506.

Plainfield Free Public Library, 8th and Park avenues, Plainfield, 908-753-3506.

Senior Citizen Annex, 1036 Iserlohn Ave., Rahway, 732-827-2016.

Casano Community Center, 314 Chestnut St., Roselle Park, 908-245-0660.

Scotch Plains Free Public Library, Bartle Avenue, 908-322-5061.

Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., 908-376-4930.

Union Senior Center, 968 Honnel Court, 908-851-5290.

Community Center, 558 W. Broad St., Westfield, 908-232-4759.

St. Helen's Parish Center, 1600 Rahway Ave., Westfield, 908-232-1867.

For more information, call Sal Contino, AARP Union County tax aid coordinator, at 908-451-9050 or Jim Walsh at 908-276-3152.

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

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

Today, 2 to 7:30 p.m., The Arc, 203 W. Jersey St., Elizabeth, 230 to 8 p.m., David Breatley High School, 401 Monroe Ave., Kenilworth.

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Moore Lodge #13, 43-115 Lattin Place, Linden, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., United Church of Christ, 220 W. 7th St., Plainfield.

Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Thomas — the Apostolic — Byzantine Church, 1600 St. Georges Ave., Rahway, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Mary's of the Assumption Church, 155 Washington Ave., Elizabeth.

Tuesday, 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Union Catholic High School, 1000 Maritime Ave., Scotch Plains.

March 18, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., PSE&G, 20 Commerce Drive, Cranford; 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., General Motors, 520 Edgar Road, Linden.

March 19, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union.

March 20, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Junior Women's League, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., El Centro Hispano, 525 E. Front St., Plainfield, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Cranford Jaycees, 22 Walnut St., Cranford.

March 21, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., St. Agnes Church, 332 Madison Hill Road, Clark, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., PSE&G, 20 Commerce Drive, Cranford.

March 25, 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Clark Volunteer Emergency Squad, 875 Raritan Road, Clark.

March 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Massimo Lafayette Lodge, 1550 Irving St., Rahway.

March 28, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., YMCA, 1340 Marine Ave., Scotch Plains, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 118 Park Ave., Linden.

March 29, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., PSE&G, 20 Commerce Drive, Cranford.

Four towns are led by female mayors

(Continued from Page 1B) state and local office.

"POP was created in recognition that there were fewer and fewer women serving in state and local offices. The women we elect to Congress and governor begin their career there," said POP Regional Director Kate Coyne-McCoy.

Another reason there are so few women in elected office is because they're not asked to run, explained Coyne-McCoy.

"We're asking," she said. "We're providing an institutional support system for women who are beginning their political careers."

Whitman said women must put pressure on county chairman and tell them, "I look here are the good women."

"We represent half of the population and if we get behind other women, we'll get there," she said. "It's time to stop whining and do something about it," said Keller.

Herd reduced by 99

(Continued from Page 1B) The county expects the contract to actually be significantly less based on the number of goats the county actually eliminates. The county has a permit to remove 2,700 goats.

"I just hope that by forcing them into more humane management techniques with the goats, it will have an effect on what is done with the deer as well," said Blanchard.

County officials say the Canadian Goose problem in the parks has escalated to serious proportions, threatening water quality, polluting, destroying the turf areas, and posing a hazard to health, safety and property.

The possible problems have not been enough to quiet the services opposing the removal of the goats.

However, Blanchard can tolerate people hunting deer as long as they eat the animal's meat.

Once removed from the Watchung Reservation, the deer are brought to a

batcher outside of Union County, where the deer meat is processed and then donated to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, based in Hillsdale.

Instead of hunting, Blanchard suggested the county could use an integrated system with the deer, where some of the animals are sterilized and others are removed.

Signum said the county did consider alternatives to the hunt, however, wildlife officials within the state and out of the state said the county's management program is the most effective method to reduce the deer population.

"At present, contractions, reflections, trap-and-release, not successful," he said.

From 1996 to 1999, the county's state-approved deer management program worked to reduce the number of deer in the Watchung Reservation from an estimated 180 deer per square mile to a density of between 60 and 20 deer per square mile.

"Someone told me I should do a one-woman show, and I thought I'd never have the strength for it," she said of that time during her run in "Evita."

However, for as demanding as the role was, it also was what gave her the chance to show theater fans that there was more to Patti LuPone than the tough-as-nails blonde bombshell from South America.

"That was a hard role, the 'Evita' part," she said. "It's why I started doing cabaret, because I wanted people to see I had a sense of humor."

The road from the Casa Rosada to Prudential Hall is littered with acclaim and a resume that encompasses stage, film and television, not to mention a few surprising choices of art, as she calls it, "stepping away from expectations."

For example, when Cameron Mackintosh presented the original production of "Les Miserables" in London, it was LuPone playing the poignant "I Dreamed a Dream." However, when the mega-musical made

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

For LuPone, storytelling 'Matters'

By Bill VanSant, Associate Editor

They say variety is the spice of life and, if that's truly the case, they don't come much spicier than Patti LuPone.

Fans of LuPone usually fall into one of two groups: those that know her award-winning work on stage in such Broadway hits as "Evita."

When the house lights dim, it will be Patti LuPone, concert singer, in the spotlight when she brings "Matters of the Heart" to NJPAC.

LuPone's concert and cabaret work dates back to her now-legendary run as Eva Peron in the Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice musical "Evita."

However, for as much as the stint helped her career, it also hindered her insofar as public perception was concerned.

"I started doing it because I wanted to let people know who I was, and not the character," she said of her early concert-cabaret work.

It took a little persuasion to coax LuPone into the cabaret spotlight. Despite rising to the occasion of playing the notorious Peron six times, a singer like LuPone alternated with her surl on the two-show days.

She laughs when she recalls the negotiations prior to playing her second first lady. She was reminded that the specter of the Raven Eva Peron still loomed large when the brunette LuPone was told she'd need a live job to play the raven-haired Lady Bird.

"Since that time, LuPone's concert work has taken her across the country, appearing with such notable ensembles as the New York Philharmonic, with which she performed the role of Mrs. Lovett in "Sweeney Todd" opposite George Hearn, an experience she describes as "great fun."

LuPone has appeared in several one-woman shows, from "Coulter," a biographical drama at Carnegie Hall and on tour nationally, to "Patti LuPone on Broadway," for which she won an Outer Critics Circle Award, to "Matters of the Heart," to the upcoming "Lady With a Torch," a collection of songs lamenting lost love.

In preparing for "Matters of the Heart," which examines the myriad aspects of love, LuPone and musical director Dick Gallagher focused their attention on the storytelling potential of each song as well as how it suited her instrument as a singer.

"I don't think it was any decision," she said of the song-selection process. "Dick brought music to the table."

LuPone's name did not appear on the marquee of the Broadway Theater by her own choice.

She describes her time with the London "Les Miz" as "the perfect theatrical experience," which is part of her reason for playing on the Broadway run in favor of paying Lady Bird Johnson in the TV movie "I'll Be" — "It was a very difficult decision to make," she said, adding that she's still glad "to this day" with the choice she made.

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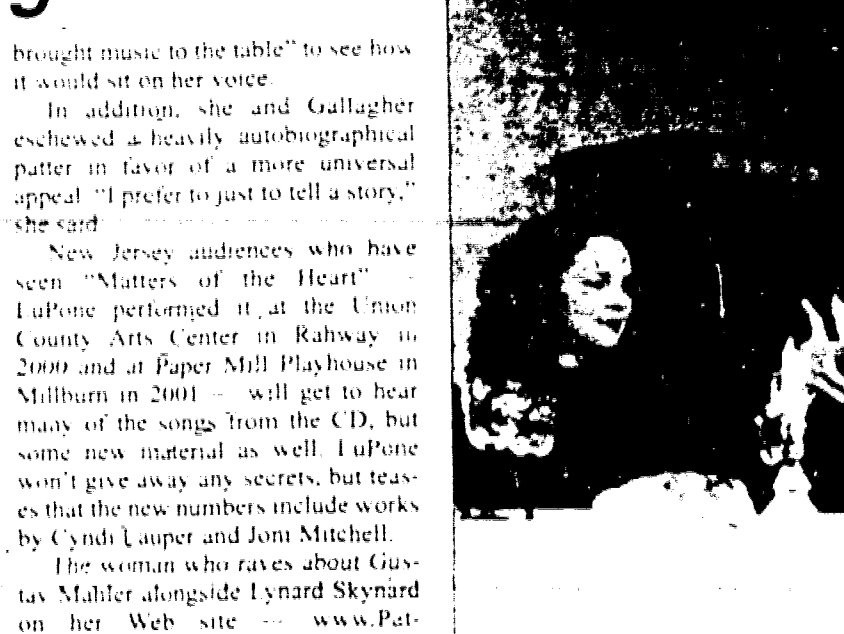
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On the Boards

By Bill VanSant, Staff Writer

One can call it appropriate and unique — to attend a play with a Jewish theme, featuring the holiday of Passover, last Sunday, on the first day of the holiday of Purim — at the Christian Community Congregational Church in Short Hills.

The wonderfully staged "Beau Jest," presented by the Stony Hill Players, soon to be relocated to its original home, the refurbished Oakes Memorial Center in Summit, and produced by Randy Parker, is a very funny, well-written comedy by James Sherman, with a touch of 480 of the sadnesses of life.

Not to be confused with the powerful note on picture of the 1940s, "Beau Jest," this stage production tells a story about a young Jewish girl who tries to hide the fact from her very traditional Jewish parents and suspicious psychanalyst brother that she is seeing a Gentile young man who is an advertising executive.

Hearing that, one would assume that LuPone prefers the concert hall over stage, film and television. But one would be wrong.

"I'd like to be all those places," she said with a good-natured laugh, adding sincerely, "I'm grateful that I'm allowed to."

Patti LuPone will appear in "Matters of the Heart" on Fridays at the "Scotch Plains Performing Arts Center in Newark. For information, see the "Concerts" listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B8.

Following are deadlines for news, Church, club and social — Friday noon. Entertainment — Friday noon. Sports — Monday noon.

For those who are unfamiliar with the Yiddish words and phrases, the playbill devotes two pages of "Jewish sayings of terms." For those who are familiar, they need only to read "Jest" of wine to the fineness of "Beau Jest" and sing out the words, "I Chaim" — to life!

The Stony Hill Players production of "Beau Jest" runs through Sunday at the Christian Community Congregational Church in Short Hills. For information, see the "Theater" listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B8.

Brooklyn Bridge not only establishes the bridge but underlines the many gaps being bridged in the script.

Lighting design by Michael J. Eddy and costume design by Ellis Hillman are both effective, but the technical "stars" are sound designers David R. Paterson and Steve Shapiro. From the abundant music to the many sound effects, this element completes the picture for the senses, filling in the gaps inherent in a unit-set production.

Early in the first act, the elder Malter quotes: "True friends are like two bodies with one soul." Much the same can be said about "The Chosen" in that several stories are told in this one play.

And each of them is beautifully conceived, delicately crafted, and movingly executed.

As an addendum, I took my 9-year-old son with me to see "The Chosen." Parents do not miss the chance to see this remarkable production with your children. I promise you: you'll hold their hands a little differently as you exit the theater. And AI&L's Family Week at the Theatre, sponsored by the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, continues through Sunday, offering discounts for kids; call the box office for details.

While it's truly about many things, ultimately "The Chosen" is about choices. Make your choice to see this remarkable play before it's nothing more than a memory as distant as it is rich.

"The Chosen" runs through March 21 at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn. For information, see the "Theater" listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B8.



Subterfuge leads to silliness in 'Beau Jest,' on stage through Sunday at Stony Hill Players. Starring in James Sherman's comedy are, from left, Meghan Luckey, Gus Ibrany, Stephanie Turner, Tom Blewitt, and Bernie Weinstein.

'Beau Jest' is 'wonderfully staged'

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Following are deadlines for news, Church, club and social — Friday noon. Entertainment — Friday noon. Sports — Monday noon.

For those who are unfamiliar with the Yiddish words and phrases, the playbill devotes two pages of "Jewish sayings of terms." For those who are familiar, they need only to read "Jest" of wine to the fineness of "Beau Jest" and sing out the words, "I Chaim" — to life!

The Stony Hill Players production of "Beau Jest" runs through Sunday at the Christian Community Congregational Church in Short Hills. For information, see the "Theater" listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B8.

Brooklyn Bridge not only establishes the bridge but underlines the many gaps being bridged in the script.

Lighting design by Michael J. Eddy and costume design by Ellis Hillman are both effective, but the technical "stars" are sound designers David R. Paterson and Steve Shapiro. From the abundant music to the many sound effects, this element completes the picture for the senses, filling in the gaps inherent in a unit-set production.

Early in the first act, the elder Malter quotes: "True friends are like two bodies with one soul." Much the same can be said about "The Chosen" in that several stories are told in this one play.

And each of them is beautifully conceived, delicately crafted, and movingly executed.

As an addendum, I took my 9-year-old son with me to see "The Chosen." Parents do not miss the chance to see this remarkable production with your children. I promise you: you'll hold their hands a little differently as you exit the theater. And AI&L's Family Week at the Theatre, sponsored by the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, continues through Sunday, offering discounts for kids; call the box office for details.

While it's truly about many things, ultimately "The Chosen" is about choices. Make your choice to see this remarkable play before it's nothing more than a memory as distant as it is rich.

"The Chosen" runs through March 21 at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn. For information, see the "Theater

# What's Going On?

**ACROSS**

- Cultivate, as land
- Carpe
- Word with cake or music
- Stew
- Crossfit acronym
- Expenses
- Objective
- Some Kuwaitis
- also
- Talk show topic
- Any time now
- Hickory or larch
- With The Tennessee Williams play
- Like some coins
- Manhattan ending
- Tourist guide
- Senate votes
- Crèche animals
- Utah lily
- Hair style
- Corroded
- Got old
- Toy gliders
- ... you know!
- The Plague setting
- Telenovela's pitch
- Most popularity
- bag
- Building site
- Immature seed
- Summers, in Burgundy
- Kind of god
- Monastery dwellers
- Alphabetize
- Tristan Tzara's term

**DOWN**

- Confused state
- Droopy
- Brazilian currency
- Kind of cookies
- Microscopic algae
- skates
- Musician Clapton

**RECYCLABLES**

- Fudge
- Party
- Craving
- Feminine suffix
- Elbe tributary
- Distress signal
- Says go for it
- Get all you can get
- Two-pointer
- Gladiator's stage
- Some first-generation Americans
- To put it another way
- Golf score
- Party-goers?
- Brother of Moses
- Laws
- Quixote, for one
- Richardson novel
- Drops g's
- Mass celebrant
- Groom
- Military acronym
- lamp
- pluribus
- Marquand detective
- Pac-10 overseer
- Layout, as a football field
- Alfonso's queen

SEE ANSWERS - PAGE 12

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## HOROSCOPES

**March 15-21**  
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Follow up on a promising opportunity to expand your sphere of influence. Communicate with the masses using a new gadget or program.  
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Working behind the scenes this week allows you to get a lot accomplished. Block out distractions and stay focused on the finish line.  
GEMINI (May 21-June 21): You cannot depend on others to fulfill your inner needs or longings. Take responsibility for creating your own peace of mind.  
CANCER (June 22-July 22): This is the beginning of a yearly professional high cycle. Review your past goals and accomplishments and start making plans for the future.  
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Foreign places or people will play an important role in your life. Satisfy your curiosity of other cultures with a trip abroad or to the library.  
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Raise your creative talents or skills to a new level. Practice and patience is the key to making great strides in your chosen field of work.  
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Use charm to break down barriers between you and a new acquaintance. Don't forget to smile when extending a warm hand in friendship.  
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Avoid getting into situations that could drain your physical, mental or emotional energy. Walk away from an argument that is difficult to win.  
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make time for social or entertaining activities this week. All work and no play robs your spirit. Go out and have some fun.  
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Family issues are highlighted. A disheartening episode should have a happy ending. Remain positive until after the outcome is certain.  
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do not hesitate to share some of your thoughts and ideas in a community or public setting. You will be delighted to learn many people agree.  
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't allow financial limitations to keep you from living life to the fullest. Think about ways to best support yourself while putting your dreams into action.  
Also born this week: Fabio, Jeff Lewis, Phil Lesh, Rob Lowe, Queen Latifah, and Bruce Willis.

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**Free Eating Healthy Series.**

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As part of our commitment to the community, Trinitas Hospital will hold an "Eating Healthy Nutrition Series" starting Wednesday, March 10th. This informative series will be held at our Administrative Services Building by Registered Dietitians from the Hospital staff and includes free parking and light refreshments.

**Location:** Administrative Services Building, Williamson Street Campus, 210 Williamson Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey

**March 10th** "Eating on the Go: Healthful Tips for Good Eating" Presented by Lisa Carluccio, RD

**March 17th** "Diabetes & Your Diet" Presented by Shobha Nandivada, RD

**March 24th** "Weight Management and Fad Diets" Presented by Janell Hescher, RD

**March 31st** "General Nutrition — Introduction of the New Food Guide Pyramid" Presented by Amy Wang, RD

Registration for all programs begins at 5:00 p.m. All lectures run from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Space is limited, so call (908) 994-5333 for reservations. Good health starts with a better diet. Find it at Trinitas!

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## When worlds collide



John Lloyd Young, left, and Paul Kropp confront their religious differences and try to salvage their friendship in 'The Chosen,' on stage through March 21 at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn. For information on the play, adapted from Chaim Potok's novel, see the 'Theater' listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B8.

## Chorus will offer music scholarships

Application deadline is April 26

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

Qualified high school senior girls with good academic records and exceptional talent in vocal music are encouraged to apply. Students should also have applied for acceptance into a music program at a college or university.

Rehearsing in New Providence, Hickory Tree is a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, an organization of 30,000 women worldwide, dedicated to teaching, singing, and performing a cappella, four-part harmony. The chorus has been awarding annual scholarships for more than 20 years to students from areas in which its members reside.

## 'Inflatable' fun comes to NJPAC

Come experience the fun and joy of inflatable fun with the Fred Garbo Inflatables Theater Co. makes its New Jersey Performing Arts Center debut with "Inflatable World" for two performances only, March 20 and March 21, both at 2 p.m. in the Victoria Theater.

Tickets are \$19 for adults and \$10 for children younger than 14, and may be purchased by telephone at 888-556-5722 at the NJPAC box office at 1 Center St. in downtown Newark, or by visiting the NJPAC Web site at www.njpac.org. These performances are part of the Verizon Pass-Port to Culture series.

"Inflatable World" is a two-person performance that bursts with original, fantastic, pneumatic suits of all shapes and sizes, featuring dexterous jugglers, dance, visual comedy, and old-fashioned stagecraft. The Fred Garbo Inflatables Theater Co. consists of American theatrical wizard Fred Garbo and Brazilian ballerina and physical-comedy artist Baizima Santos. For the last 13 years they have brought their highly acclaimed work to sold-out houses around the country and around the world, including Morocco, Scotland, Spain, Ireland, Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, and Chile. Their Broadway premiere at the New Victory Theater in March 1998 quickly sold-out, and they returned there with "Inflatable World" for a four-week engagement in 2002. The Fred Garbo Inflatables Theater Co. has also been seen on television's "Late Night With David Letterman."

"Inflatable World" begins when a 10-foot cylinder slides onto the stage and implodes, and before long the entire audience is playing catch with gigantic inflatable poop! The big blow-up shapes shimmer, balloon, deflate and bounce in a rainbow of colors. From there the fun never stops, as the inflation on stage only gets more and more outrageous — fast-paced, energetic, universally engaging and theatrically clever. Garbo and Santos mesmerize their audiences of all ages with imaginative imagery and artistic toolboxes.

Rehearsing in New Providence, Hickory Tree is a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, an organization of 30,000 women worldwide, dedicated to teaching, singing, and performing a cappella, four-part harmony. The chorus has been awarding annual scholarships for more than 20 years to students from areas in which its members reside.

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**Chestnut Chateau**  
\*\*\*\* By Anne Santos  
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# Malone to host Coffee's next 'in the round' night

Coffee With Conscience concert series of Springfield will present the second installment of Songwriters in the Round, hosted by Bob Malone on March 13.

The concert will take place at the Emmanuel United Methodist Church of Springfield 400 Birch Mall in downtown Springfield.

Rockin' blues pianist Bob Malone will host and present his special guests, Kristy Jackson and Carla Ulrich.

Dinner will be served buffet style, from 6:30 p.m. and the concert will begin at 8 p.m. The dinner concert combo is \$12. The dinner-only option is \$10. The dinner menu features a selection of hearty soups, chili, salad, bread, dessert, and beverages. Reservations are requested of those planning to attend the dinner concert, by calling the church office at 973-376-1005. Conscientious patrons need not RSVP and are invited to arrive after 7:30 p.m.

**About the artists**  
Bob Malone walks on stage, sits down at the keyboard, grins ear to ear and bows the audience away. Everyone is instantly attracted to Malone's powerful voice and blend of musical styles. But he also manages to fill the room with fun energy. He is considered heir to the legacy of Professor Longhair and Dr. John.

Bob Malone grew up in New Jersey, but tours extensively. He has developed a unique combination of a finely tuned sense of songcraft and a gutsy, bluesy, soulful delivery. It has been said that Malone is "an almost encyclopedic compendium of blues and roots piano styles... and as a scribe, he's in John Hall's league." Whether he's writing a subtly crafted ballad destined to become a radio classic, or a New Orleans-style barroom stomp that shows off his world-class hand, virtuoso piano chops and one-of-a-kind lyrical wit and humor, the music is always immediately fun. Malone has more information, visit the Web site at [www.bobmalone.com](http://www.bobmalone.com).

Kristy Jackson is an accomplished keyboard player and vocalist. She has performed from Main to Giants Stadium to the famous Bluebird Cafe in Nashville, and has shared the stage with pop performers Jessica Simpson, Mandy Moore, as well as the gifted and incomparable songwriter, David Wilcox. Her musical appeal crosses all age groups.

Jackson is also an award-winning songwriter, and has enjoyed success worldwide. Her song, "Little Did She Know (She'd Kissed a Hero)" burst her in the national spotlight when her work found its way to radio and, poignantly and hilariously playing to the stage. Her live shows and CDs have carried her amazing reviews and spots, some string awards. Best of Best Overall, Best of South Florida Folk Fest, Song Competition, first place, 2000 and 1998 Mid-Atlantic Song Contest, second place, 1998 Chris Austin Songwriting Contest, 2002 performing the song gratis for numerous events and memorials.

For more information, visit the Web site at [www.kristyjackson.com](http://www.kristyjackson.com).



Bob Malone

Carla Ulrich is a favorite on the local radio, nationally syndicated Dr. Demetrius show. She is an award-winning songwriter and considers herself a professional smart aleck!

Ulrich has been compared to the likes of Rita Stevens, Christine Lavin, Terry Semeloff, Chet Atkins, and Jewel. Ulrich brings a mix of humor, poignancy and witty guitar playing to the stage. Her live shows and CDs have carried her amazing reviews and spots, some string awards. Best of Best Overall, Best of South Florida Folk Fest, Song Competition, first place, 2000 and 1998 Mid-Atlantic Song Contest, second place, 1998 Chris Austin Songwriting Contest, 2002 performing the song gratis for numerous events and memorials.

For more information, visit the Web site at [www.carlaulrich.com](http://www.carlaulrich.com).

# Kushner will speak at Kean University

Kean University will present "An Evening With Tony Kushner" on April 1 at 8 p.m. in Wilkens Theater, 1000 Morris Ave. Union.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright is best known for his play "Angels in America," which New York called "the greatest, deepest, most searching American play of our time." It recently received millions of viewers as an HBO miniseries that won six Golden Globe Awards, including Best Miniseries or Motion Picture Made for Television, and received another six nominations for the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

In addition to discussing "Angels," Kushner will read from his work in progress and talk about his more recent works, including his English libretto for "Hairspray," a musical originally performed in the 1940s by children of Theatricals, a Nazi concentration camp. He will also express his views on moral responsibility in politically oppressive times, Jews in America, and the contentious debates over the Middle East. Leonard Lopate, host of

# REUNIONS

- The following schools will conduct reunions in the coming months:
  - Scotch Plains High School Class of 1994, 50-year reunion, May 15
  - Union High School Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, July 24
  - Hutton-Jefferson High School, Elizabeth, Class of 1974, 30-year reunion, July 31
  - Hillside High School Class of 1964, 40-year reunion, July 31
  - Governor Livingston Regional High School, Berkeley Heights, Class of 1974, 30-year reunion, Aug. 7
  - Lincoln High School, Scotch Plains, Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, Aug. 28
  - Hamilton Regional High School, Springfield, Class of 1969, 35-year reunion, Oct. 8
  - Plainfield High School Class of 1954, 50-year reunion, Oct. 9
  - Westfield High School Class of 1954, 50-year reunion, Oct. 23
  - Hillside High School Class of 1954, 50-year reunion, Nov. 20
  - Governor Livingston Regional High School, Berkeley Heights, Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, Nov. 20
  - Union High School Class of 1969, 35-year reunion, Nov. 26
  - Union High School Class of 1964, 40-year reunion, Nov. 26
  - Union High School Class of 1984, 20-year reunion, Nov. 27
  - Westfield High School Class of 1984, 20-year reunion, Nov. 27
  - Scotch Plains High School Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, Dec. 31
  - Westfield High School Class of 1994, 10-year reunion, Nov. 26
  - Union High School Class of 1984, 20-year reunion, Nov. 27
  - Scotch Plains High School Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, Dec. 31
  - Westfield High School Class of 1994, 10-year reunion, Dec. 31
  - Scotch Plains High School Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, Dec. 31
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# ARTS CLIPS

## Student playwrights to be honored on Sunday

Eight gifted Union County-area students will be honored at The Theater Project's second Young Playwrights' Competition Performance and Awards Ceremony on Sunday.

Being honored are Jake Brandman of Westfield, first place; Maggie Edinger of Berkeley Heights, second place; and Tim Mathews of Fairwood, third place. Honorable mention will go to Jacelyn Aponte, Karen Montes and Lorraine Posada, all of Elizabeth, and Jonathan Schwartz and Andrew Konecki, both of Cranford.

The three prize-winners have been selected to receive saving bonds and to have their work performed by the professional actors of The Theater Project at the awards ceremony. Five additional writers will be presented with honorable mention citations and gift certificates.

"We think you will be amazed at the amount of talent these young writers have displayed in their winning entries," said Mark Spina, artistic director of The Theater Project, in residence at Union County College in Cranford.

The performance presentation is being advertised statewide as part of NIA's Family Week at the Theater, through Sunday, when all New Jersey's professional theaters offer free programming for young people. Visit the Web site at [www.familyweek.com](http://www.familyweek.com).

The goal of the competition is to encourage the next generation of theater practitioners and audience by honoring their work and bringing it to life. The competition was inspired by a generous donation from Bill Meese Jr. A Linden resident, Meese is an award-winning HBO corporate writer-playwright.

Screenwriter whose novels have been published, ranging from "Summertime" to "Wanted" by Spina, founding artistic director of The Theater Project, who has directed in summer stock, New York, and at many of this area's small professional companies.

The event will take place Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Student Commons Atrium on the Cranford campus of UCC, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Admission is free. For information, call 908-659-5130.

The nationally recognized, named Morristown CraftMarket is sponsored by the nonprofit Kiwanis Club of Randolph. A benefit for worthy arts and crafts-oriented projects and community service organizations.

## WCP gets 'Odd' with new version of old favorite

Under the direction of John Correll of Westfield, Westfield Community Players is currently presenting the female version of Neil Simon's comedy "The Odd Couple" at the WCP theater at 1000 North Ave. Westfield.

The show runs through March 27. For information, call 908-232-1221.

Assisting with the production is producer Sally Lee, with Stephanie Simons Neal doing double duty as the assistant director and production stage manager.

In Simon's rewrite for a female cast, a steb and fuss-budget still share an apartment, but with a twist in this version, audiences are introduced to the ranchy, shabby Olive Madison, played at WCP by Betty Restagno, and the prissy, domestic perfectionist Florence Unger, played by Linda Correll.

# www.localsource.com Internet Directory

- Agape Family Worship Center <http://www.agapecenter.org>
- American Savings Bank <http://www.americansavings.com>
- Burgdorf ERA <http://www.burgdorff.com>
- Crossroads Christian Fellowship <http://www.cdou.org>
- Eye Care Center of NJ <http://www.eyecare.com>
- First Night of Maplewood/So. Orange <http://community.nj.com/firstnight-soma>
- Forest Hill Properties Apartments <http://www.springstreet.com/prod/389126>
- Grand Sanitation <http://www.grandsanitation.com>
- Holy Cross Church <http://www.holycross.org>
- Hospital Center at Orange <http://www.cathedralhealthcare.org>
- JRS Realty <http://www.century21jrs.com>
- LaSalle Travel Service <http://www.lasalletravel.com>
- Mountainside Hospital <http://www.alphahospital.com>
- Nutley Pet Center <http://www.nutleypet.com>
- Pet Watchers <http://www.petwatchers.com>
- Rets Institute <http://www.rets-institute.com>
- Skincare Products <http://www.marykay.com/ohandrac>
- South Orange Chiropractic <http://www.sochiro.com>
- Summit Area Jaycees <http://www.angelire.com/ny/jaycees>
- Suburban Essex Chamber of Commerce <http://www.essexchamber.com>
- Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad <http://www.summitvol.com>
- Synergy Federal Savings Bank <http://www.synergyfbs.com>
- Trinity Hospital <http://www.trinityhospital.com>
- Turning Point <http://www.turningpoint.org>
- Union Center National Bank <http://www.uccb.com>
- Unitarian Universalist Church <http://www.firstus.essex.nj.usa.org>
- United Way of Bloomfield <http://www.unitedwaybloomfield.org>

To be listed call 908-686-7700

# Leisure Lifestyles The Cook's Nook

## Irish eyes smile on traditional St. Patrick's Day dishes and recipes

It is the saying, "everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day," why not celebrate the holiday with some of the traditional foods of the Emerald Isle?

A hot cup of tea, laced heavily with milk and sugar, and a warm scones or a bowl of creamy potato soup can warm spirits inside and out. After all, with the winter weather the north-east has been suffering through, we could use a little "green" right now.

**Irish Soda Bread Scones**  
Yield: 8 scones  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1/2 tablespoons finely packed light brown sugar  
1 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon caraway seeds  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup walnuts  
1/2 cup raisins  
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, chilled  
1/2 cup milk  
1 teaspoon white vinegar  
1 egg

**Crusty Potato Soup**  
Yield: 6 to 8 servings  
1 medium onion, chopped  
2 stalks of celery, chopped  
2 carrots, peeled and chopped  
1 potato, chopped  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup chicken broth  
1/2 tablespoons mustard powder  
1/2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce (see Note)  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon pepper  
1 cup whole or 2 percent milk  
1/2 cup parmesan cheese, for garnish

**Crackers being sought**  
The Morristown 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.

**Film-makers are sought**  
The New Jersey Movie Makers' Network is looking for state-based independent producers with shorts or features that they would like to be seen.

**Shepherd's Pie**  
Yield: 4 servings  
2 lbs. chopped ground beef  
1/2 cup carrots, diced  
1/2 cup onion, diced  
4 tablespoons tomato puree  
1/2 cup brown gravy  
2 tablespoons sweet red



**Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Creamy Potato Soup and Irish Soda Bread**

**Irish Potato Cakes With Sour Cream Sauce**  
Yield: 8 servings  
Sour cream sauce:  
1/2 cup low fat sour cream  
2 tablespoons chopped green onions (about 2 onions)  
1/2 teaspoon minced garlic  
1/2 teaspoon lemon juice  
1/2 cup hot pepper sauce  
1/2 cup salt  
1/2 cup black pepper  
1/2 cup coarse black pepper  
1/2 cup coarse black pepper

**Buffy Irish potato cakes:**  
1/2 pounds yellow-flesh potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch pieces (about 2 medium potatoes)  
1/2 cup milk  
1/2 cup onion, diced  
1/2 cup grated cheddar cheese  
1/2 cup sliced green onions (about 1 onion)

**Irish Soda Bread**  
Yield: 1 loaf  
1 cup (2 sticks) of butter, at room temperature  
1/2 cup (1 stick) of butter, at room temperature  
1/2 cup (1 stick) of butter, at room temperature  
1/2 cup (1 stick) of butter, at room temperature

**Crusty Potato Soup**  
Yield: 6 to 8 servings  
1 medium onion, chopped  
2 stalks of celery, chopped  
2 carrots, peeled and chopped  
1 potato, chopped  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup chicken broth  
1/2 tablespoons mustard powder  
1/2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce (see Note)  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon pepper  
1 cup whole or 2 percent milk  
1/2 cup parmesan cheese, for garnish

**Crusty Potato Soup**  
Yield: 6 to 8 servings  
1 medium onion, chopped  
2 stalks of celery, chopped  
2 carrots, peeled and chopped  
1 potato, chopped  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1/4 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup chicken broth  
1/2 tablespoons mustard powder  
1/2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce (see Note)  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon pepper  
1 cup whole or 2 percent milk  
1/2 cup parmesan cheese, for garnish

## Kids can get 'crafty' at children's event in Garwood

Crafting continues to be one of life's little pleasures. Nothing is quite as satisfying as making something with your own hands, no matter your age or skill level.

In response, Cratty Kitchen, Ben Franklin Crafts will hold a special event March 27th from 10:45 to 4:30 p.m. titled, "I Made It Myself: A Kids' Craft Day."

Craft stores around the country will hold the one-day children's event, sponsored by the Hobby Industry Association, as part of the month-long National Craft Month celebration. The promotion is designed to encourage everyone to discover the joy of crafting.

Cratty Kitchen, Ben Franklin Crafts will celebrate its kids' craft event by sponsoring this craft day where the children can participate in making six different crafts and also have their faces painted. All of the materials and the teachers who will be teaching the crafts will be provided by Cratty Kitchen. This event is free of charge. Adults and children can also enter a drawing for a basket of craft supplies.

"Crafting has many emotional and educational benefits, especially for children," say Alice and Rich Letebvre, owners of Cratty Kitchen. "It builds self-esteem and learning skills, encourages creativity, and most importantly, it's fun!"

To learn more about the "I Made It Myself: A Kids' Craft Day" event and the National Craft Month promotion, contact Alice Letebvre at 908-289-0217. Cratty Kitchen, Ben Franklin Crafts is located at 477 North Ave. in Garwood. Free parking is available. For more information, send e-mail to [crattyk@benfranklin.com](mailto:crattyk@benfranklin.com).

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For camp descriptions and schedules, please go to [www.summitaymcad.com](http://www.summitaymcad.com) or call 908-273-3330. Many new exciting programs are offered for 2004 session at the Summit, Springfield and Berkeley Heights YMCA Day Camps.

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BATH/TUB/TOILET REGLAZING

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SEE PUZZLE PAGE 4
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**\$22,417**

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4 cyl. auto. p./str./brks. air. cd. tilt. r/del. airbags. cloth bks. B/W A/S radios. S22,517. Price Includes \$500 Value Coupon Rebates.

**\$22,517**

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**\$23,517**

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**\$21,517**

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**\$26,917**

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4 cyl. auto. p./str./brks. air. cd. tilt. r/del. airbags. cloth bks. B/W A/S radios. S32,517. Price Includes \$500 Value Coupon Rebates.

**\$32,517**

**2000 LEXUS RX300 AWD 4 DR**

4 cyl. auto. p./str./brks. air. cd. tilt. r/del. airbags. cloth bks. B/W A/S radios. S24,717. Price Includes \$500 Value Coupon Rebates.

**\$24,717**

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