

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD N.J., VOL. 75 NO. 33

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2004

TWO SECTION

Poor rating results in high policy costs

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

In a recent letter to Springfield residents from The High Point Group of Insurance Companies, policyholders were informed that because of an Insurance Services Office decision to raise the protection class code of Springfield's Fire Department, premiums will incur a significant increase for homeowners' fire insurance.

According to the letter, ISO develops certain information to establish rates based on insured risks. As a result of discussions between the Springfield Fire Department and ISO, the protection class code has increased from a 4 to a 10. This rating is the worst that can be given to a municipality.

"The Township Committee completely disagrees with the 10 rating and is vehemently fighting with ISO to correct it," said Mayor Clara Harelk.

According to Harelk, the reason ISO gave to her for the increase in the rating is that the Fire Department was closed or non-existent for some extent of time. This being untrue, Harelk said she explained the relocation process and opening of the new Fire Headquarters to ISO, in case this was a excuse for the confusion, and that the rating is simply "unjustified."

"We've been in touch with ISO and we have ongoing discussions on how to correct this," said Harelk.

Committeeman Sy Mullman said that a meeting is being set up with ISO for sometime in the immediate future.

Mullman said that he understands it is just a misunderstanding involving paperwork, although one key issue may be manpower.

"I'm sure the whole thing will be straightened out shortly," said Mullman.

Harelk said that given the state-of-the-art facility and equipment that the department is operating with, along with a three-minute response time and substantial water supply, she is "livid" over the fact that ISO has increased the rating in such a way.

According to Committeeman Harold Poltrock, there has been a lot of misinformation, evidently, on the part of ISO.

"In the process of inquiries, they had Springfield down for not even having a firehouse," said Poltrock. "We're working to give them correct information."

Poltrock said that a 10 rating is akin to not having a Fire Department at all.

Although Poltrock said that issues such as manpower still need to be addressed regardless of the insurance policy changes, he still assumes the rating will change upon talks with ISO and Springfield officials.

On ISO's Web site, the company boasts that since 1971, it has been the premier source of information involving property and liability risk. It continues to say that ISO's "statistical, actuarial, and underwriting information is a vital resource to insurers, government regulators, and other companies and organizations."

Michael Estevez, a spokesman for High Point, said the letter sent by

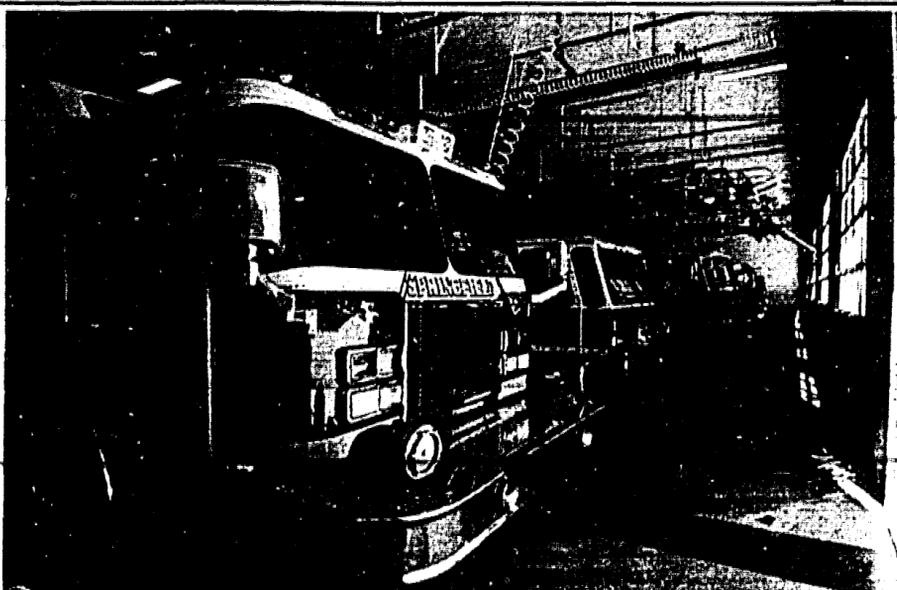


Photo By Joseph A. Sorrentino

A recent letter from The High Point Group of Insurance Companies informing policyholders of a substantial increase in premiums for homeowners' fire insurance has been drawing concerns from affected residents. The mayor and Township Committee both said they are investigating the situation.

High Point to its insureds was a result of a change in ISO's protection class code for Springfield Township, but that High Point was not at fault.

"Like many other insurance companies, High Point utilizes the ISO protection class codes in its rating system," said Estevez in a written statement. "High Point took the extra step to notify its customers in advance of their renewals through a letter because the company thought this information was important to share with its customers."

According to Estevez, 374 policies from Springfield residents are

currently in effect. Anyone whose home fire insurance company uses ISO ratings will see an increase in their policy bills, but may not get a letter explaining the reasons for the increase, said Estevez.

While the protection class codes are industry standards, Estevez said the ratings that ISO uses are not the final word.

One resident, Bob Faszczewski, wrote a letter to this newspaper that urged residents of Springfield to voice their concerns and show support for the township's stand against this ISO rating.

When he called town officials, Faszczewski said they were "reluctant" to give him answers, although he was told that the rating is being protested.

Other residents have made inquiries to this newspaper about the issue, describing "substantial increases" in their policy costs.

Township Administrator Richard Sheola has sent a memo directing the Fire Department not to answer questions regarding ISO's rating. Sheola declined comment.

Managing Editor Brian Pedersen contributed to this report.

Walt world delay

By Brian Pedersen
Managing Editor

A construction company has put a further delay on the work to be performed at Edward V. Walton School in Springfield after they chose not to extend their accepted bid.

A bid opening was held on Jan. 16 and on March 15 the Board of Education approved a resolution to hold for consideration the bid submitted by Kullman Industries Inc. for an additional "60 days." According to the school board, Kullman Industries failed to accept the extension of consideration of its bid. As a result, the board has decided to cancel the resolution extending the bid.

At the March 15 meeting, school Business Administrator Matthew Clarke said the bid has to be put back together and put back out to bid. Clarke said the best case scenario for the board would be to get a bid by the end of April or the beginning of May and to hopefully get their permit from the state Department of Environmental Protection so the project will be ready to start by the beginning of June.

A stream encroachment permit for construction in the area of the land and stream located between Edward V. Walton and Thelma L. Sandmeier schools was denied by the DEP in January, leaving the school board to file an appeal. The board applied for the permit at the end of March.

Clarke said bids have to be approved within 60 days of their opening date. "Hopefully, we'll be able to come to the board with a responsible bid that the board could take action on," he said.

Board Vice President Patricia Venezia, who is also an incumbent candidate in the school board race, said it is normal for companies not to extend their bid because it prevents them from working on other projects. She said it was also possible that the company may re-bid on the project.

Brian Sheehy, a candidate in this year's Board of Education election race, raised concerns over having construction going on during school hours. Clarke said if there is any construction during school hours it will be separated from students.

The construction at Walton School should take six to nine months and has been delayed roughly three months. Still, the work is expected to be completed by September 2005.

Mountainside receives updated EMS response reports

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

After questions surrounding emergency care provider Atlantic Health Systems led to the discovery that response times had not been reported to the Borough of Mountainside for more than a year, the municipality has received updated reports and appears to be communicating better with the care system.

According to Borough Administrator James Debbie, the reports from June to December of 2002 yielded an average response time of seven minutes and 33 seconds. Reports that came in documenting all of last year's response times showed an average of 8:57.

This year, the January report showed a time of 8:26 on average, and February improved to 6:59.

Debbie said that AHS did not offer an explanation as to why they were not sending timely reports to the borough.

"They just didn't do it until we asked," said Debbie.

While Debbie did note that he has yet to see reports from March, Rich Donovan, the director of Emergency Medical Services Transportation, said that he has sent that report in and that it showed every single call in March being answered under 10 minutes.

Contracted in December 2001 for an initial year and two 12-month periods after that upon renewal, the care system decided in December 2002 that they were not getting enough business in Mountainside.

They then expanded to outside municipalities, allowing a stipulation in their contract that would assure the borough that the expansion would not

be negative on the residents of Mountainside. In the amended contract, the care system guaranteed that 90 percent of the calls from Mountainside would be answered within 40 minutes.

According to Donovan, the latest report in March showed this guarantee fulfilled to 100 percent, averaging around seven minutes per response.

Donovan noted that past reports would be even better if snow storms and availability of ambulances were not factors. Still, he confirmed that the quarterly report for this year is well above 90 percent of the calls being answered in less than 10 minutes.

"Over the past two-and-a-half years," said Donovan, "we've tried to consistently answer calls and serve the community the best we can. I

can't stress that enough."

"They've done a very good job," agreed Debbie. "Times are almost always under 10 minutes. Rarely do they go over 10 minutes."

"So far," said Debbie, "they're there."

Donovan chose not to comment on the fatal car accident involving former Police Capt. Todd Turner, in which AHS reportedly showed up past the 10 minute mark because of another incident in Watchung.

Donovan did say that an ambulance has been added to the squad on Thursdays and Fridays, when more calls come in than other days of the week.

The contract with the borough and health care system ends in December and can be renewed upon a mutual signing.

"I imagine that's what we'll do," said Debbie.

Fingerprinting can be fun



Photo By Barbara Kerkala

Nicole Ryan, 6, gets her fingerprints done by Trevor Clarke, a sergeant with the Union County Sheriff's Office, during the Springfield YMCA's Healthy Kids Day on Saturday.

Town mourns loss of family man, friend

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

Joseph S. Pepe III, a 12-year Springfield firefighter, died March 26 at the age of 47.

"We're taking it very hard," said Fire Chief William Gras. "It was quite a loss. He was very caring and worked closely with everyone here. It's a major loss for us and it's going to take some time to get over it."

Mr. Pepe, who grew up on Caldwell Place in Springfield and graduated from Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in 1974, was taking part in an annual volleyball match at James Caldwell School that pits teachers against the Fire Department, Police Department, and Emergency Medical Services of Springfield, when he had to be taken to Overlook Hospital in Summit after suffering a heart attack.

"Joe was a true gentleman," said Deputy Fire Chief Don Schwerdt, who has been with the department for 27 years. "One thing about Joe," he said, "is that he'd come to my office every morning to say 'Good morning,' and again to say 'Good night' before he left."

Schwerdt, who grew up with Mr. Pepe as a neighbor and friend in Springfield, said that he was always a nice kid and great athlete.

"He was always polite and he loved kids," said Schwerdt. "He was an all-around nice guy."

During services, Schwerdt said, there was an honor guard for Mr. Pepe, which consists of a firefighter standing at attention at the head and feet of the casket for the entire viewing.

"It's hard to put into words what

kind of guy Joe was," said Marc Cofea, a six-year member of the Fire Department. "He was a family man that considered all of us part of the family. He treated us like brothers, no matter who you were."

"He was big with the whole community, and big with the kids," said nine-year member of the Fire Department Carlo Palumbo. "Kids were his life," he added, saying that if a child walked into the fire headquarters smiling, it would make Pepe smile, and vice versa.

"Joe is probably one of the most considerate people I ever met," said Capt. Paul Anderson, a 25-year member of the Fire Department. "He always thought about others."

With the flag at the new headquarters at half-mast, a funeral procession honored Mr. Pepe after his death. A firefighter prayer service was also conducted last week.

"It's a great loss to all of us," said Pepe's father, Joseph Pepe Jr. "He's just a wonderful person."

Brother Steven Pepe, who co-owned Sneaker Mania and Sports with Joseph in Watchung for 15 years, held back tears while speaking about his brother.

"Joe was like the rock in our family," said Steven Pepe. "He was the one who always worried about everybody else."

Steven Pepe said his brother would always call to find out how everyone was doing, and although it sounds cliché, Joe could never be replaced.

"Nobody will ever fill his shoes," said Pepe.

"As far as the community goes," he continued, "seeing the response at his wakes and the procession with the



Joseph S. Pepe III, a 12-year Springfield firefighter, died March 26 at the age of 47. Mr. Pepe, with his nephews, from left, Daniel, Jake and Steven Pepe.

bagpipes and drums and all that, it might seem strange, but it made our family proud to see the outpouring.

"Joe was quiet. He never bragged," continued Steven Pepe, "and if he did a good thing, he didn't have to tell people about it. He touched a lot of people."

Fran Corcione, a Springfield resident and long-time friend of Mr. Pepe, has also begun to organize a basketball tournament in Mr. Pepe's memory.

The May 7 event will be the beginning of a scholarship fund, the Joseph S. Pepe III Sportsmanship Fund, that will help raise money for college for one young man and woman each year

at Dayton High School.

The event will begin at the Dayton High School main gym at 7 p.m. Admission will be \$5 and T-shirts will be sold at \$10 apiece. The event will also feature a half-time competition for children. Corcione said she hopes to attract his friends and even alumni from when he was a standout basketball player during his high school years.

"I've lost a dear friend in town," said Corcione.

Also surviving are his wife, Susan, a son, Joseph R. Albiez; a daughter, Kaitlin C. Albiez; his mother, Ann Pepe, and two brothers, Steven and Daniel.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

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To subscribe: The Echo Leader is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$26.00.

Missing newspaper: If your Echo Leader did not get delivered please call 908-666-7700 and ask for circulation.

Back issues: To purchase back issues of the Echo Leader please call 908-666-7700 and ask for circulation.

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

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

To place a display ad: Display advertising for placement in the general news section of the Echo Leader must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m.

To place a classified ad: The Echo Leader has a large, well read classified advertising section.

To place a public notice: Public Notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers.

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An award for excellent service



Springfield Mayor Clara Harelik, right, and Emergency Management Coordinator John Cottage, left, present Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator Scott Seidel with a plaque in recognition of 30 years of service to the township.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings.

Monday
• Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountaintop, will offer "Landscape Lifestyle" from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday
• The Mountaintop Planning Board will meet in Council Chambers Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East, at 8 p.m.

Wednesday
• The Springfield Garden Club will meet at 7:15 p.m. in the Presbyterian Parish House at 37 Church Mall in Springfield.

Thursday
• The Mountaintop Borough Council will meet for a work session in Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East, at 8 p.m.

Friday
• The Springfield Garden Club will meet at 7:15 p.m. in the Presbyterian Parish House at 37 Church Mall in Springfield.

Saturday
• The Springfield Garden Club will meet at 7:15 p.m. in the Presbyterian Parish House at 37 Church Mall in Springfield.

Sunday
• The Springfield Garden Club will meet at 7:15 p.m. in the Presbyterian Parish House at 37 Church Mall in Springfield.

The sky's the limit for GL team

By Rick Kitchin Staff Writer
A group of 18 Governor Livingston High School students recently proposed an alternate, clean, renewable source of electricity for planet Earth.

The project, titled "Faraday's Dream," works off of an idea developed by English scientist Michael Faraday in the 1850s and is being entered in two competitions that will announce winners in late April.

The group, coached by Jennifer Martino, a physics teacher at the high school for seven years, met early in the year to decide what problem that exists in today's world could be fixed.

While the project does not call for any physical model, evaluations concerning the science, math, problems and proposals are included in the Web site proposal made by the students themselves.

During the season of Lent, sixth-grade students at St. James the Apostle Church in Springfield are fulfilling their Lenten promise by working with the pre-K-4 students every Friday morning.

Lessons from me to you



During the season of Lent, sixth-grade students at St. James the Apostle Church in Springfield are fulfilling their Lenten promise by working with the pre-K-4 students every Friday morning.

Red Cross offers training courses

The Westfield Mountaintop Chapter of the American Red Cross has released its health and safety course schedule for the spring.

• Adult CPR will be offered April 15 from 6:30 to 10 p.m. and May 18 from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

• Infant CPR will be offered April 15 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and May 18 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

• Child CPR will be offered May 4 from 6 to 10 p.m.

'Easter Eggstravaganza'

Springfield resident Cassie Gutzwiller enjoys drawing her bunny as part of the activities at the Springfield YMCAs' Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday.

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Police charge suspect with burglary, theft

On March 29 at 11:40 a.m., 23-year-old Jameel Alton was arrested on Route 22 East for driving with a suspended license, being unlicensed, owing fraudulent insurance and having outstanding warrants.

On March 31 at 5:13 p.m., police responded to a Summit Road residence on a report of criminal mischief.

On March 29 at 1:01 p.m., all units responded to a Lawrence Road business for water flow alarm.

Homeowner activates fire alarm by mistake

At 10:10 p.m. March 11, firefighters responded to an activated fire alarm at a residence on Route 22 West.

At 4:46 p.m. March 28, firefighters responded to a Springfield Avenue apartment for a lock-out.

At 9:06 a.m. March 29, firefighters responded to Route 24 East for a residential fire alarm.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Release it already

The public has been waiting for some time for Springfield officials to release the TriData report, an independent survey of the Fire Department that still is being withheld at this time. TriData, which was given \$25,000 by the township to conduct the study, is a management consulting firm that provides analysis in areas of fire protection and prevention, along with emergency management.

The most recent reason given by township officials for the delay was that an arbitrator's decision regarding the Police and Fire Department contracts was still unresolved. That was in November 2003. Those contracts have been resolved since the start of the new year.

The TriData report, which was started in December 2000, was completed by May 2001. According to the scheduling of events that Springfield Fire Chief William Gras relayed to his staff on Aug. 27, 2001, there would be a meeting with the Public Safety Committee, township administrator, deputy fire chief, and Gras, along with a final meeting between these same individuals and captains, and then the report would be made public.

He said this several months ago.

An Open Public Records Act request for a copy of the report has been issued by this newspaper. The results of that report deserve to be released to the public so residents exactly what they are getting from their Fire Department.

It's time to release it already.

Smart decision

The Springfield Board of Education was wise to approve a bid of \$916,000 to Mike Roofing Inc. for the entire roof replacement at Jonathan Dayton High School.

With a leaky roof that's long overdue for an upgrade, the school board was wise to choose a slate composite material to replace the roof. With a 50-year life span, it makes sense to choose the option that would be the longest lasting, even if it does mean paying more for a better product.

As was pointed out at a recent school board meeting, asphalt shingle roofing, which would cost slightly less, would not only look less attractive, it would only have a 20-year life span. Before you know it, this same process would have to start again.

Planning for the long range life of the high school's roof — the largest school building in the township — the board made a smart decision in opting for slate.

Faith, hope and love

Passover began Monday at sundown and this Sunday is Easter. While the Jewish and Christian family get-togethers and large meals that often accompany these two interwoven holidays are important, one should take the time to put aside the crass commercialism we have been inundated with and remember the true meaning of these days.

The Holy Week of Easter begins with Palm Sunday. The Last Supper on Thursday was in fact a meal by Jesus and his apostles in celebration of the Jewish holiday of Passover, so named because death "passed over" the first born of any house painted with lamb's blood by Moses when he sought freedom for the Jewish slaves in Egypt. After the Last Supper, Christ is betrayed and abandoned by his followers in Gethsemane, followed by his arrest, torture and crucifixion on Good Friday.

Since Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, the Bible tells us we carried the stain of original sin. Passover reminds us that, only by having faith in God can we find redemption from our suffering. When Jesus died, he took that sin upon himself, thus cleansing humanity and offering redemption. His resurrection on Sunday was the next step in a glorious cycle, for he displayed literally that those who have faith in the Lord can live forever.

So enjoy those Easter egg hunts with your children. Just remember that the true meaning of Easter is one of sacrifice for the sake of others, a message of peace and forgiveness for all humanity. Easter and Passover are times of faith, hope and love.

We wish everyone a happy Easter and solemn Passover.

"Why should freedom of speech and freedom of the press be allowed? Why should a government which is doing what it believes to be right allow itself to be criticized? It would not allow opposition by lethal weapons. Ideas are much more fatal things than guns."

— V.I. Lenin
Russian revolutionist
1920

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Springfield Irwin Sablosky

Over the past three years, I have learned so much about our schools and the tremendous amount of effort that is expended by many to see to their efficient running. I have also realized that the system is so dynamic that you can never say you have completed your work.

"The key to the process in my opinion is that you use all of your experience and bring it to bear on each new situation you encounter. I have spent many hours over the past three years absorbing as much as I can from the professionals and my fellow board members in an attempt to become a valued contributor for our district. I feel I have done that to this point but I know there is so much more to be accomplished and that the road ahead is one that is going to be exciting to say the least."

One of the most difficult tasks that face us going forward is our ability to balance the needs of our students and

Brian Sheehy

I am running for the Board of Education for several reasons. The most important reason being that I am the father of three children. All three will be attending Springfield schools for their education.

I have a vested interest in seeing that the most precious assets of our community, our children, have a responsible, dedicated, and innovative member of the board involved in the decision-making process of our school system.

Once elected to the board, I will involve myself in establishing both short- and long-term goals for the district.

One of the short-term goals I would like to accomplish is decreasing or eliminating our need to rely on the county for the use of athletic fields for our teams to use for sporting events. This includes football, cross-country, track, soccer, and

Linda Duke

The Springfield Board of Education and community face a number of challenges in the coming year.

Our new Superintendent, Michael Davano, began on April 1. Judy Zimmerman, our assistant superintendent, will retire on July 1. The major projects of our building referendum will be addressed beginning this summer. The funding for Messel Field's renovation should become available by the fall of 2004.

NJASK, GEPA and HSPA scores will be available by early summer and once again the school district's administration will evaluate our progress and make plans for our future. These are challenging, busy and trying times and they call for strong leadership and experience.

As a career educator, I am not your typical Board of Education member. I have been a teacher for more than 30 years, 24 of which were spent at Jonathan Dayton. I have dedicated my time and energies to educating Springfield's youth, and yet I have no children in the school system. I am not a part of the corporate world, rather, I spend my days teaching students and staff alike.

When I joined the board in 1998, my major goal was to assist the Springfield school district in incorporating Jonathan Dayton into their existing Pre-K to eighth grade school system. I believe we have accomplished this goal. The outstanding records of our high school students and their remarkable achievements speak for themselves.

I also sought to make the administration more accountable for the progress of students and the smooth running of the district. Now, I hope to help our new central administration build upon our past successes and ensure excellence for our future students.

During the last three years, the Board of Education has begun a series of new projects from the Connecticut Math project at the Florence M. Gaudin Middle School

CANDIDATES

to become familiar with as many aspects of the project as possible.

With any project of this size there are unexpected situations that arise that we are proceeding well and we intend to make Springfield proud.

In my three years on the board, I have attempted to learn from our talented professional staff while offering my own insight and guidance where it is appropriate and needed. I have also tried to make myself available to the community in an attempt to learn from them as well. With the unfortunate passing of Larry Evey, I have now assumed the presidency of the board and I have worked hard to honor the trust the people of Springfield have put in me.

One of the most important lessons my wife Alyssa and I try to teach our children, Jayme, Andie and Jeffrey is that you need to give something back when you are blessed with so much. We emphasize that you can give back in many ways and in my mind there is no better way to give back to your community than through your children.

baseball. We need to develop fields owned and operated by either the school board or the township.

It is time we stop being invited guests at our own sporting events in Springfield. Even when Messel Field is completed, we will still only be guests at a county facility. The county has said that they will maintain the fields, but I am afraid that the county won't have the same high standards that residents of Springfield have.

We are at the beginning of our referendum construction and members of the Board of Education will be more important than ever to deliver advice and guidance.

As a board member, I will devote my time and energy to completing this project in the most efficient and fiscally responsible manner, keeping in mind my duty to the taxpayers and their representative on this project.

With the recent hiring of a new superintendent of schools and the

just-announced retirement of the assistant superintendent, the Springfield school system faces extremely challenging times ahead. These new administrators will be faced with numerous and complex issues in the coming years. The new assistant superintendent will be responsible for guiding our students' curriculum in an ever-changing society.

We must find the right person to both academically and socially enhance our children's futures. As a board member, I will work to ensure the right person is hired, using input from other board members, parents, and members of the community to make my decision.

I look forward to becoming a productive and energetic member of the Springfield Board of Education.

I also look forward to respectfully discussing issues with the public regarding our school system and how we can improve it to make it better tomorrow than it is today.

Patricia Venezia

My name is Patricia Venezia and I aspire to be re-elected to our Board of Education. I have lived in Springfield for seven years with my husband and children and have been involved with board activities in every possible way since then. I have also been a teacher for 14 years and am proud of my educational accomplishments.

My experience as a board member has been very enlightening. It is so much more than public and closed sessions each month. It is celebrating the success and being there for individual programs, plays, award ceremonies, play-offs and concerts — just to name a few. One can make decisions in a board room but I need to see the faces of those it affects. I need to know what we do is working — what needs to be tweaked, needs a look-see, or just an "atta boy" to acknowledge a great job.

That is one facet of board membership. Another is cost control. With dwindling resources and the state of New Jersey offering little help, we have to constantly wrestle with what to do without. Yet, how can quality be maintained?

We have spent the last four years guiding our referendum plans, making sure we address building improvements and growing enrollment. I have labored along with many others to make sure our programs are the best they can be and that our staff is trained to be the ultimate educators. I'm proud of what we've done but I know there is room for continued growth. We've spent many hours devising methods to improve our middle school math scores. We are very proud of our SAT scores which send 95 percent of our graduates on to higher learning.

Our most difficult task, however, is to make and pass a budget each year.

to the proposed reconfiguration of the district once the building projects are complete. I hope to help finish the projects which we have started.

I would be remiss if I did not encourage passage of the present Board of Education budget. Our administrators and the board's Finance Committee have worked diligently to develop a tight budget. We have not had to cut programs or services to our students. Increases in salaries, health benefits, and energy costs have driven the budget upward but to compensate we have economized in other areas.

The monies due to Mountainside and Garwood as a result of demerolization — \$437,000 — must be paid by order of the New Jersey courts and education commissioner. Although we have budgeted for this expense, we continue to appeal this decision. A defeat of the budget will be a defeat for education, everyone will lose but most especially our students.

I ask for your support at the polls. Thank you.

Our policy on letters and columns

The *Echo Leader* welcomes submissions from its readers. Letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages. This opportunity also is open to all residents, officials and employees of the both Springfield and Mountainside and County of Union.

The *Echo Leader* reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content and style. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification. Letters must be no more than 500 words long; longer pieces must be arranged in advance with the editor.

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CANDIDATES

Mountainside Gene Nagel

There are several reasons for my run for the Mountainside Board of Education.

I include the prudent management of the dissolution funds, combining tax relief and investment in education, the selection of the new chief school administrator and the strengthening of communications with the residents of Mountainside.

I believe that I can make a difference and that this next Board of Education can do great things for the children and taxpayers of Mountainside.

As a board, we need to be accessible to the residents and listen carefully to the professionals that are running our schools on a daily basis. Our function is to provide goals and leadership and to responsibly manage the budget and funds with the taxpayers' interest in mind.

As stated on Candidates' Evening, the decision to run was not taken lightly and I fully understand the responsibility to all here in Mountainside. I will accept that responsibility and will always be accessible to the residents. I would be proud to represent the community on the board and will appreciate your vote.



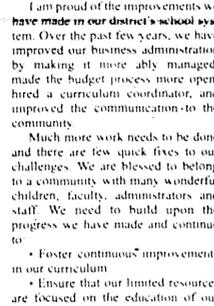
I thoroughly enjoy the time that I spend serving on the board of education and with your help I would like to continue being given that opportunity for the next three years.

Raymond Haggard

My wife and I have been Mountainside residents for 12 years. We have a 10-year-old daughter in Deerfield and an 8-year-old son in Beechwood. I have a bachelors degree in engineering, a masters of business administration in management and I am a proud product of the public school system.

I was elected to the Board of Education three years ago, but my deeper involvement with our school system began as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for Long-Range Planning where I saw first-hand the challenges and opportunities that the board and our school face. The initial commitment of a few weeks stretched to six months and allowed me to realize that by volunteering my time, I could make a positive contribution to our school system and by extension, our community. In addition, I have also volunteered my time, as have many other parents, as a coach in Recreation Soccer, Basketball and T-Ball.

During my term on the board, I have been a member of the Policy Committee, Chairman of the Budget and Technology committees and a member of the current Negotiations Team. I have also been involved with the district's strategic planning process, and the committee made up of parents, faculty and staff, that recently met to set the criteria for the search for our new chief school administrator.



I am proud of the improvements we have made in our district's school system. Over the past few years, we have improved our business administration by making it more ably managed, made the budget process more open, hired a curriculum coordinator, and improved the communication to the community.

Much more work needs to be done and there are few quick fixes to our challenges. We are blessed to belong to a community with many wonderful children, faculty, administrators and staff. We need to build upon the progress we have made and continue to:

- Foster continuous improvements in our curriculum.
- Ensure that our limited resources are focused on the education of our children.
- Help our educators and administrators to do their jobs, and keep them accountable.
- Continue to work to ensure that we hire and retain only the very best personnel and demand the highest standards from each employee.
- Keep parents actively involved.
- Little is possible without concerned and involved parents.
- Actively solicit and accept help from volunteers from throughout our community.
- Maintain our school facilities as active community focal points for use by everyone: parents, children, and senior citizens.

Carmine Venes

I have been a resident of Mountainside since 1972. My four daughters were educated at Beechwood School, Deerfield School, and Jonathan Dayton Regional High School. My grandchildren will be entering the school system next year.

Why am I running?

I have not been pleased about the construction in Deerfield and Beechwood schools. I am not pleased with the process, or from what I can see, the results, or the runaway costs. Therefore, I feel that it's time to give others a chance to serve on the board, in the hope of making an improvement. I am willing to put my knowledge and experience to good use, and am willing to put in the necessary time and effort to do the job.

My background is in education. I have been an elementary school teacher, and a guidance counselor for the past 37 years, until I retired in June. I hold a Master of Arts degree in supervision and administration. I think the addition of an educator with this

experience would be an asset to the Board of Education and would prove helpful in the selection of a new chief school administrator and new school principal. We need to select someone who will not only oversee the core curriculum standards set by the state, but also someone who will implement the goals and objectives of our district.

We need to review our articulation with the Berkeley Heights school district in relation to curriculum.

Regarding the per pupil cost we incur for sending our students to Governor Livingston High School, I feel we need to negotiate a lower per pupil cost, and are in a good position to do so.

How will we handle the monies we will receive from the dissolution of the Regional High School District? The taxpayers were originally promised a tax cut as a result of deregionalization, however the results were huge tax increases. If it is fiscally responsible to do so, I feel that returning some of the monies to the taxpayers would be the right thing to do.

Michael Melango

My wife and I are Mountainside residents since 1995, along with my daughter and son. My daughter graduated from Deerfield School in 1997 and Governor Livingston High School in 2001 and is currently a junior at St. John's University. My son is in the third grade at Deerfield school.

I am president of Mel's Contractors, Inc. with an office located in Roselle Park. I have been owner and President of this company for 28 years. My experience includes construction management, estimating, budgeting, hiring and problem solving. I am a state licensed home inspector, a licensed Department of Community Affairs construction code official and a sub-code building and RCS inspector.

I am running for the Mountainside Board of Education for the following reasons:

First, all Mountainside residents experience challenges and disappointments with the construction of the Beechwood and Deerfield schools. I was particularly concerned about the lack of information the residents received about the progress of these projects.

Second, with the Board of Education receiving approximately 2 million dollars, I want to be involved in the decisions regarding how these funds will be spent. I want to ensure that these funds are used for tax relief and an investment in our future education.

Third, I would like to have a proactive role in the hiring of the new chief school administrator, with the main goal being the hiring of an individual who will improve our educational system for all grades.

Fourth, also as a board member, I will work towards a better relationship between the Board of Education and the mayor and Borough Council. The council has an excellent track record for receiving grants and I believe they could assist the Board of Education with the school process.

Fifth, the most important goal is to improve communication between the Board of Education and the residents by having the Board of Education meetings broadcasted on Channel 35 so that all residents, if unable to attend the meetings in person, will be well informed.

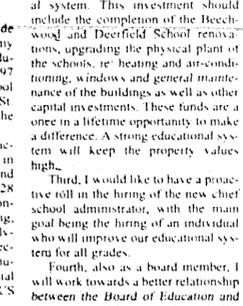
If elected to the board, I would like to apply my skills for the continued improvement of our curriculum, educational facilities and the ongoing management of these areas.

Continuing the process of completing school construction must be carefully monitored to avoid the fiasco that occurred during the last three years.

The Board of Education needs to take a more proactive approach to legislation regarding state aid to local districts. Mountainside receives a mere 3-percent, not including categorical aid. We need to pressure the legislature to conduct a tax convention to address how we finance education in New Jersey. For example, all students should be backed by an equal amount of money. One town should not "play" against one another. We could include our own legislators to address our community.

A review of the state mandated test scores revealed that the *ESPA* and *GEPA* scores in language were excellent, the math score on the *ESPA* was quite poor. Comparing the scores of the schools in Union County in the "C" category, Mountainside scored second to last in this area. We should make it one of our goals to improve this score.

We can further serve our children and utilize our buildings by creating an extracurricular program to provide enrichment and remedial help. This program would be a self-supporting program financially for those who are interested.



In conclusion, my experience in running a business, hiring various personnel to complete a project and problem solving, will allow me to contribute greatly with the Board of Education's budget decisions, the hiring of a new chief administrator and improvement of communication to all residents. Thank You.



Hazel Hardgrove
Springfield



David H. Steen
Springfield

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news, Church, club and society, Entertainment, Travel, Sports. Monday, noon. Letters to the Editor, Monday, 5:00 p.m. General, Monday, 8 p.m.

BOE opposition was nowhere in sight

On March 29, I attended the Springfield Board of Education public hearing for the 2004-05 budget. I have read numerous letters in the *Echo Leader* stating that there was no public notification about these types of meetings. Your paper notified the public about this meeting at least two times in the last month.

I would like to share with the public exactly how many people showed up for this meeting. There were four parents, one Township Committee member, one Board of Education candidate, three PTA presidents and a reporter from your paper. I would like to ask: where all those people, where that night, who always write letters denouncing the Board of Education and who are always opposed to the school budget referendum? How can these people oppose information when they don't come to be informed? How can you speak against things like this without knowing the facts behind the issues? This was the night to ask all the important questions. Many of the questions asked at Candidates' Night should have been asked during this type of meeting.

Laura Delta
Springfield

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Polks are open from 2 to 9 p.m.

Our children deserve the best education. You can make it happen by voting to support this budget!

Donna Tamburo-Srober
VP, Community Conference Group of Springfield

Cash windfall originally came from us

With regard to the "cash windfall," Mountainside "may" receive via the Board of Education, may I remind ourselves the money originated with us taxpayers. Absent any very necessary needs, perhaps this "windfall" may be used to reduce debt or lower taxes.

Joseph Chiappa
Mountainside

Let's hope BOE answers request

In the March 25 issue of the *Echo Leader* on Page 4, a news item was published giving a summary of comments and questions which were offered by the audience at the March 15 Board of Education Candidates' Night. It also included some comments alluding to the lack of communication between the Springfield Board of Education and local residents. The latter matter was posed at the meeting by a present board member, who was not running for office this year.

The clock struck 9 p.m. ending the session, and hence, I wrote the "Point of View" article mentioned above. I would think that some, if not all of the Board of Education members, would be subscribing and reading the *Echo Leader* at least in reference to school issues. Also, I sent copies of my original letter to each of the nine school board members. As of April 5, no replies have been received by me or by the *Echo Leader* via telephone or letter.

The last printed paragraph, which I thought was a fair request to inform the public, stated: "This letter will be sent to each board member with a request to send a detailed statement of 200 words or less with a listing of the major increased amounts in the budget to me or to the editor of the *Echo Leader*."

Note: There is an approximate increase of \$2,000,000 in this year's school budget to be voted on by taxpayers at the school board election on Tuesday, April 20. Last year's school budget was \$23,603,714, and this year's budget is \$25,481,636. In past years, the increase has been much less. There is a payback

Budget reflects sound, fiscal planning

The five local PTA/PTSO's urge the Township of Springfield to exercise their right to vote. Our local Parent/Teacher Student Organizations have voted to support the Springfield district's 2004-05 school budget, which reflects sound planning and fiscal accountability.

We are asking each registered voter to consider the following reasons for their support of this budget:

First, our children's education is our primary concern; continued enhancement of programs — i.e., technology, summer school, evening recreation, residential trips, instructional materials — these are necessary for classroom management as well as provide a well-rounded education. In addition, we need to maintain the high standards that have elevated our school district to the role model that it has become.

We urge your support of this budget because it does maintain quality education in our school system, while at the same time, taking into consideration, the taxpayers' concerns. This election is important. We are asking each voter to go out and vote for the school board budget on Tuesday, April 20.

Support the budget in Springfield

On April 20, registered voters across the state will have the opportunity to vote on their local school budget. In Springfield, we are being asked to support a budget of \$29,158,368, the majority of which will have to be supported by local taxpayers. This represents an overall increase of 8.85 percent from the previous year's budget.

The Board of Education and administrators of the school district have labored over this budget proposal. They have provided for a continuation of academic programs, our curriculum and athletic activities, and music and art programming. Three and a half new teaching positions represented in this budget are based solely upon growing enrollments. With an expected increase of more than 10 percent in staff benefits, costs, the budget reflects little other change. Because of a successful contract settlement with the teachers and staff, these increases are substantially lower than they would have been without cooperation on both sides of the bargaining table. Other increases in energy costs and technical support have been compensated by reductions in other areas. I encourage all residents to support the budget for the Springfield school district.

A defeat of the budget is a further defeat for our children's education and therefore, our community as a whole. If the budget is defeated, the township will have the opportunity to review and further cut the budget and student programs will inevitably be lost. This will buy the politicians more votes at the expense of our children's future. Rather than enhancing our already mediocre education system, we risk further demise. It is evident that based upon the voting history of this town, that those who will vote to defeat the budget do not care if property values fall. It is these people who only want to save personal tax dollars and do not care about Springfield's future.

Dr. Jay D. Suddler
David H. Steen
Springfield

Professional Directory

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Hecht Family Chiropractic Care
Now Featuring The Complete line of AIR PACKS Backpacks and briefcases. Present this ad for \$5 off your purchase.
235 MOUNTAIN AVE., UNION, SPRINGFIELD
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www.hechtchiropractic.com

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PLACE AN AD IN THIS DIRECTORY
800-564-8911

AT THE LIBRARY

Stories come to life with spring programs

The Mountain Public Library will be presenting spring reading programs for children...

Stories and nursery rhymes are shared during Toddler Time with two-year-olds and their adult caregiver...

StorTime Theatre invites five-year-olds to participate in storytelling activities involving costumes and role playing...

Registration is required for all programs and proof of age is required for each child...

'Reflections' summarizes artist's body of work

'Reflections' is an exhibit of paintings and drawings by artist Judith Stein...

Although an art educator for 35 years, Stein consistently concentrated on the development of her personal artistic agenda...

Geldman's published work includes 'Tales of Our Lives', an anthology of memoirs with tip for writing...

The friends of the Springfield Public Library would like donations of used paperback novels...

Methods of memoir writing revealed

Writer and teacher Zella R. P. Geldman will be presenting her memoir writing methods...

Geldman's published work includes 'Tales of Our Lives', an anthology of memoirs with tip for writing...

The friends of the Springfield Public Library would like donations of used paperback novels...

The friends of the Springfield Public Library would like donations of used paperback novels...

STUDENT UPDATE

Camargo achieves honors at St. Peter's Prep

Daniel Camargo of Mountaineer was among the 396 students at St. Peter's Preparatory School...



Michele Rose Nicastro and health Nicastro is currently employed by the Mountain State Board of Education...

Nicastro earns bachelors degree from WPU

Michele Rose Nicastro, of Mountaineer, is a January 2004 graduate of William Paterson University...

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news, church, club and social events...

SAT testing changes explained

The Princeton Review, the nation's expert in standardized tests, invites the public to join them for breakfast and to learn up-to-the-minute information...

Women of Calvary plan for spring house tour

Springtime in Summit has many highlights. The first is the 15th anniversary of Calvary Church...

'We wanted this year's tour to be special because it's the 15th anniversary of Calvary Church' said tour Co-Chairwoman Catherine Lyons...

The committee is also selling tickets to a cocktail party evening of May 5 in one of the four homes...

Summit Chorale honors music director

Summit Chorale, New Jersey's oldest active choral group, will honor its music director of the past 34 years with a performance of Brahms' 'A German Requiem'...

'We are excited that one of this year's best homes was built by the Reverend Thomas Cook, Calvary's founding pastor, in 1857'...

In anticipation of the gala performance, Nair will present 'Brahms: His Life, His Times, His Requiem'...

Concord Singers prepare for 'Joyful Spring'

The Concord Singers announce their upcoming spring concert titled 'A Joyful Spring'...

'We are excited that one of this year's best homes was built by the Reverend Thomas Cook, Calvary's founding pastor, in 1857'...

The Concord Singers, a women's non-auditioning community chorus celebrating their 27th year, are based in Summit...

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice regarding zoning board adjustment...

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WORSHIP CALENDAR

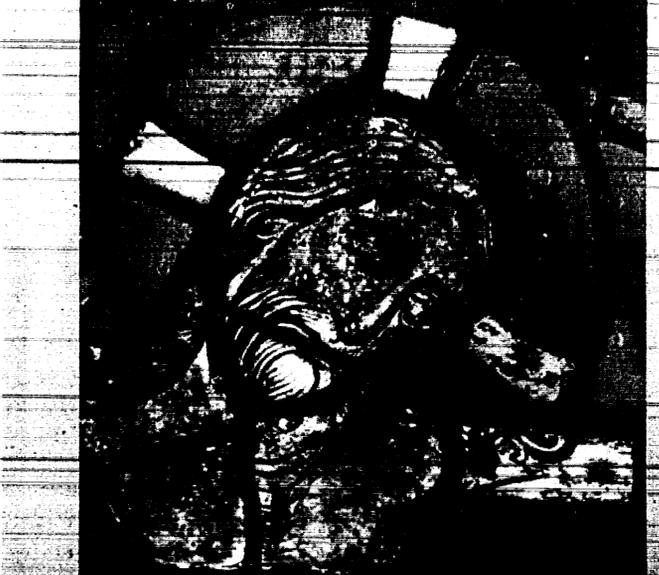
Worship calendar listing services for various denominations including Baptist, Jewish, Lutheran, and Pentecostal.

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MAUNDY THURSDAY Scriptures & Communion at 7:30 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY Prayerful Vigil from Noon till 3 p.m.

EASTER Family Service at 10:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Connecting Timeless Truths to Everyday Living. 200 Hartshorn Drive, Short Hills. Tel: (973) 379-5600

BAPTIST CHURCH - SERVING CHRIST IN THE 21st CENTURY. 282 Spruce St. Springfield, NJ 07081

JEWISH - REFORM TEMPLE SHAR'AREY SHALOM. 78 South Springfield Ave. Springfield, NJ 07081

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. 100 Central Avenue. Mountaineer, NJ 07093

JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE TEMPLE BETH AHIM. 60 Temple Drive. Springfield, NJ 07081

ROMAN CATHOLIC THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES. 100 Central Avenue. Mountaineer, NJ 07093

THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JAMES. 41 South Springfield Avenue. Springfield, NJ 07081

LUTHERAN HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH. 4525 LAKEVIEW BLVD. Springfield, NJ 07081

PENTECOSTAL-NON-DENOMINATIONAL VISIONS OF GOD FAMILY WORSHIP. 1111 Spruce Drive. Springfield, NJ 07081

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH IN SUMMIT. 4 Walden Avenue. Summit, NJ 07901

JEWISH-ORTHODOX CONGREGATION ISRAEL OF SPRINGFIELD. 330 Mountain Avenue. Springfield, NJ 07081

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOLS. 224 Cooperthwaite Pl. Westfield, NJ 07090

PRESBYTERIAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. 210 Adams St. Clark, NJ 07066

METHODIST SPRINGFIELD EMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. 100 Central Avenue. Mountaineer, NJ 07093

Wesley Allen Beds on Display. 518 North Avenue. Factory Showroom. 908-789-0140

FUTONS Wesley Allen Beds on Display. 518 North Avenue. Factory Showroom. 908-789-0140

Florida Seat Sale From Newark. USA3000. \$59 One way + taxes

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RELIGION

Explore ways of the spirit through science

Explore ways that science can teach us about the ways of the spirit with 'Modern Physics and the Spiritual Journey'...

Interweave courses are offered in several venues in Essex, Union and Morris counties...

The first lecture on April 26 will feature Dennis Klein speaking on 'Looking for the Devil'...

The next program on May 19 will be delivered by Emily Flatau on the subject 'JAP Bating'...

The final program on June 1 will deal with 'A Perfect World? Messianism in Religious Beliefs and Practices'...

Lectures examine aspects of Jewish life

The Hazak Chapter of Temple Beth Ahim, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, is the recipient of a grant from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities...

All programs begin at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth Ahim, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield. Each lecture will be followed by a question-and-answer period...

For information, call the temple office at 973-379-5387, ext. 111.

Temple Sha'arey Shalom schedules activities

Temple Sha'arey Shalom, 78 South Springfield Ave., Springfield, invites the community and prospective members to attend several scheduled activities...

For information about Temple Sha'arey Shalom or to register for any of the programs call the temple office at 973-379-5387...

The church is located at 80 Church Mall, near the intersection of Morris and Mountain Avenues...

NOW THRU MAY 9 ONLY! BABY. Starring Carolee Carmello, Chad Kimball, LaChanze, Norm Lewis, Mo'Nique McGill, Michael Rupert

PAPER MILL OF NEW JERSEY. Order your tickets today! Call 973.376.4343

WRC support groups help women cope with wide variety of issues

The Women's Resource Center will offer the following short-term support groups beginning in late April:

Groups run for five to seven or eight weeks, are limited to a maximum of 10 participants, are facilitated by professional therapists and meet at the Center located at 57 New England Ave. next to First Church in Summit. The fee for the seven and eight week programs is \$105 for members and \$135 for non-members.

The fee for the five week program is \$85 for members and \$115 for non-members. Partial scholarships are available by request and, as always, there is no charge for the Rainbow programs. For registration information, call the center at 908-273-7253.

"Gaining Wisdom Through Emotional and Spiritual Healing"
Whether suffering recent losses or feeling out of sorts with the changing world, this group will look at the psychological and emotional healing from a spiritual, non-religious focus.

The ways one looks at pain, loss or the world can change when viewed from a deeper place within oneself, which can provide hope, new meaning and a greater connection to fellow human beings. This group will use Wayne Dyer's "Spiritual Solutions to Everyday Problems" that is available at the center for \$24. The group will

be led by Kathleen Williams-Hindal, PhD and will meet for eight Wednesdays beginning April 21. The Day Group will meet from noon to 1:30 p.m. and the Evening Group will meet from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

"Relationships in Transition"
Working through the crisis of separation and divorce takes time and saps too much of one's emotional energy. With others going through the same process, participants can work toward finding up the business of the past and look toward the future with more confidence. Held for seven Tuesdays beginning April 27th from 6:30 to 8 p.m., the group will be led by Ellen Sande-Kelback, MA, LAC, a family therapist and experienced group leader with a private practice in Chatham. Babysitting will be available for younger children.

"Relationships in Transition Part II - Starting Over After Divorce"
Many participants of "Relationships in Transition" found "finishing up the business of the past" required more time.

They voiced the desire to continue on this path of change and growth in the company of other women in the same situation.

This group is for any woman who has attended "Relationships in Transition" and is looking for additional guidance in dealing with an ex-spouse, forming new relationships, handling

family events as a single woman and more. The group will be led by Helen Lindsay, for seven consecutive Tuesdays beginning April 27 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Babysitting will be available for younger children.

"Rainbows for Kids of Divorce"
Separation and divorce have a profound effect on all family members, especially children. Grief is an expression of love and a normal reaction to a significant loss.

Frequently, children are not able to express their grief verbally, but it surfaces in their behavior, academics, physical and/or emotional well-being. Even children who seem to have adjusted well to their parent's separation do often struggle inside with the confusing and conflicting emotions and grief.

This facilitator-led program, free of charge and open to both boys and girls, will meet for seven Tuesdays beginning April 27 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The program offers age appropriate groups for children in grades K-eight and registration is required. Babysitting is available for younger children.

"Being Positive in Lesbian Relationships"
According to the WRC, this subject is timely now as the country debates the validity of gay and lesbian marriage.

Lesbian couples share many of the same daily joys and difficulties that heterosexual couples experience.

However, they also have different experiences and must cope with completely different issues in couple relationships. This group will explore the everyday problems that all couples have, the unique stresses that lesbians face and help them to learn how to maximize their special advantages and celebrate who they are.

The group should be valuable for those who are single or coupled. The dates and times are to be decided, call the center for more information at 908-273-7253. Babysitting is available for younger children.

"Should I Stay or Should I Go?"
Maintaining committed, intimate relationships is never easy. This group will help women differentiate between relationship struggles that are natural and growth enhancing and those that are unhealthy or unsafe.

Explore the options in a safe environment. Led by Flame Dill, LSW, it is intended for women in marital and non-marital relationships. The program will meet for eight Wednesdays beginning May 5 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

"New Twenty-Something Group"
This group will address the unique developmental issues faced by young women from their early twenties through age 30. The challenges of adjusting to early adulthood include the balancing of pleasure and responsibility, defining career and love, handling intimacy, redefining family and managing the normal stresses of life.

The primary focus of the group will be to explore the positives, and to build on the strengths one needs to achieve individual goals. The group will be led by Cathy Stephens, LCSW, and will meet on May 15, May 22, June 5, June 12 and June 19 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

NJCVA plans bus trip to Philadelphia Museum of Art

On Tuesday, May 4, The Friends of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts will host a bus trip to the Philadelphia Museum of Art for a docent tour of the blockbuster exhibit "Manet and the Sea."

The reviews have been described as "outstanding" for this once in a lifetime show.

There will be time to browse through some of the permanent collections and the gift shop of the museum before departing for a special luncheon in the Founders' Dining Room of the Bellevue-Hyatt Hotel with its views of the city.

The bus will leave at 7:30 a.m. from behind the A&P in New Providence and will return about 6 p.m.

On Saturday, June 26, a Friends' bus trip will go to New York City for a luncheon at the world famous Palm Court at the Plaza Hotel to be followed by a performance of the New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center. The program includes five dances ranging from "Circus Polka" to "Romeo and Juliet." The bus for this trip will leave from behind the A&P in New Providence at 10:30 a.m.

Both trips are open to the public. There will be a discount for people who sign up for both trips.

For reservations, call NJCVA 908-273-9121.

Come Worship with Us
HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOLY THURSDAY, April 8
Worship Service - 7:30 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 9
Worship services - 9 a.m. Slovak Communion, 11:30 a.m. English Tenebrae service

EASTER SUNDAY, April 11
Communion Services - 9 a.m. Slovak, 11 a.m. English

THE REV. LIAH L. LAVILLE
HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
301 TUCKER AVE., UNION
908 688 0714

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 8
7:30 PM - Worship Service
With Holy Communion
• Special Choral Selections

EASTER DAY - APRIL 11
10:00 A.M. Sunrise Service
• Weather Permittable
7:30 A.M. Prayers for Easter Celebration
10:00 A.M. Worship Service

829 Salem Rd at Huguenot Ave. Union
The Rev. Chris Taylor, Pastor

Easter Egg Hunt for the youngsters following the service.

For further information about worship and other events, please call the church office 908-686-1028 or go to www.townleychurch.org. Visitors Expected!

Christ Church Summit
Easter Services - 2004

Maundy Thursday, Thursday, April 8th
7:30 PM - Organ recital by Wayne Bradford
8 PM - Candlelight Service with Communion

Easter Sunday, April 11th
9:30 AM - Worship Service with Gathered Communion, Sunday School with Special Easter Assembly
11 AM - Worship Service with Gathered Communion

Communion will be administered by Pastor & Musician Chorus at both 9:30 AM and 11 AM. There will be an Easter egg hunt for children at 10:30 AM. Members come, non-members invited at both services.

An Open & Affirming Congregation
561 Springfield Avenue, Summit • 908-273-5549
www.christchurchsummit.org

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
301 Chestnut Street/Roselle Park Tel. 908-245-2237

Maundy Thursday
April 8, 2004
7:30 pm
(All are welcome)

Easter Sunrise
April 11, 2004
7:30 am
(All are welcome)

GOOD FRIDAY - TENEBRAE SERVICE
April 9, 2004 8:00 pm
Roselle Methodist Church

Easter Egg Hunt
9:30 am
(At the Parsonage)

HOLY SATURDAY HEALING SERVICE
(LCA/MSA Chapel)
April 10, 2004
1:00 pm

Easter SERVICES
10:30 am
COME SEE THE "LILY CROSS"

MOUNTAINSIDE CHAPEL

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
"Christ in the Passover"
Friday - April 9, 2004 - 7:00 PM

EASTER RESURRECTION CELEBRATION
Sunday - April 11, 2004 - 11:00 AM

Christian Education for Children/Adult/Youth 9:45 AM

1180 Spruce Drive, Mountainside
908-232-3456
http://mountainsidechapel.org

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
1212 KELLY STREET UNION

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper
April 8th, Church - 7:00 pm
(Morning Prayer - 8:30 am)

Good Friday - The Passion and Death of the Lord
April 9th, Church - 3:30 pm
Living Stations of the Cross - Church - 7:30 pm
(Morning Prayer - 8:30 am)

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil
April 10th, Church - 8:00 pm
(Morning Prayer - 8:30 am)

EASTER SUNDAY
Church (Lower Church)
7:30 am, 9:00 am, (9:05 am) 10:30 am (10:35 am), 12:00 pm (12:05 pm)

Celebrate the Victory of Easter

St. John's Lutheran Church
Services at 8:45 & 11:00
The Rev. Dr. Wayne Dreyman, Pastor
The Rev. Andrea Walker, Pastor
587 Springfield Ave., Summit 908-918-2500
www.stjohnssummit.org

EASTER SUNDAY COMMUNION SERVICE
April 11 at 10:00 AM
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
(Founded in 1706) • The Reverend Joe Parrish, Rector
61 BROAD STREET, ELIZABETH • Tel: (908) 352-1218
(In the heart of Historic Midtown Elizabeth on Broad Street, half a block south of East Jersey Street)
Free Sunday parking behind church in Municipal Lot on Jefferson Avenue
Come experience the Joy of Easter!!!

The Resurrection of Christ
Special Easter music
Sermon for Adults & Children
Balloons, and the Great Egg Hunt following Communion

NEWS CLIPS

Expert offers career consultation at WRC
Phyllis Lieberman, MA, and career coordinator, at the Women's Resource Center, is conducting a career workshop based on the work of psychologist Carl Jung on Monday, May 10 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the WRC, 57 New England Ave.

The fee is \$30 for center members and \$35 for non-members. Call for an appointment as soon as possible as space is limited.

For more information, call the center at 908-273-7253 or visit the website at www.womensource.org

The Myers-Brigg Type Indicator (MBTI) provides information on personality types that can suggest career directions or strategies for finding the right job.

Participants in this workshop will gain an understanding of MBTI theory, take the MBTI and use the results as a stimulus for group discussion and self-understanding.

Comedienne, TV co-host speaks in Summit
On May 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Overlook Hospital in Summit will be hosting "Celebrating Women" with

ABC's "The View" co-host, Joy Behar.

Behar is among today's leading comic talents. Whether performing stand-up comedy or interviewing politicians and artists, she has been called "a comedic original and a leading woman both on stage and screen."

Behar's talk, "What is the Emotional Vacuum and Does it Come with Attachments?" will be part of a larger program, "Celebrating Women" with key physicians discussing women and heart disease, new options in facial plastic surgery, pregnancy, stress management and a variety of other health topics of interest to women.

To reserve space now for this free program, call 1-800-247-9580.

Red Cross continues to prepare for fund-raiser
The Summit Area Red Cross is continuing to prepare for the April 30 "Rhapsody in Red" Ball at the Hilton Hotel at Short Hills.

As previously announced, U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine and U.S. Congressman Michael Ferguson are the honorary co-chairmen of the ball.

It is the first black-tie event held by the Summit Area Red Cross. In addition to dancing to the Bert Kent Orchestra, there will be a gourmet dinner as well as live and silent auctions. Individual tickets cost \$300 per person and are still available. Corporate sponsorships are also available.

For information about the ball, visit the chapter's Web site at www.summitredcross.org or call 908-273-2076.

The Summit Area Red Cross serves residents of Berkeley Heights, Long Hill Township, New Providence, Springfield and Summit.

Department sponsors arts and crafts program
The Springfield Recreation Department will sponsor a new arts and crafts program designed for children ages 5-12.

This program specializes in projects for children with special needs. This is a six-week program that involves one week and multiple weeks art and craft projects.

The program will take place at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 50 Center Mall, Springfield, from 2 to 3 p.m. on April 18 and April 25.

To place a classified ad call 908-664-8911 by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Rejoice In The Miracle!

EASTER

Easter Services
Sunrise Service 6:30 am
Celebration Worship Service 8:30 and 10:00 am

Crossroads Christian Fellowship
2815 Morris Avenue, Union
For more info call: 908-687-9440
On the web: www.ccfou.org

ST. LUKE AND ALL SAINTS
398 Chestnut Street • Union • 908-688-7253
Rev. James Kolin / Rev. Peter Nelson

Maundy Thursday Service - April 8 • 7pm
Good Friday Service - April 9 • 7pm Easter Sunday Service - April 11 • 9am
Easter Vigil Sat. - April 10 • 6pm

SUNDAY SERVICE 9AM
The Holy Eucharist Rite II
Healing Service on first Sunday of each month
A Christian Community Supporting our neighbors in Union
Visitors Welcomed

Christ is Risen!

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Clark at Cowperthwaite Westfield

Maundy Thursday Noon & 7:30 pm
Good Friday 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm
Easter Saturday Vigil 7:29 pm
Easter Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 am

Celebrate Easter
In our beautifully restored sanctuary
11am
Historic
First Presbyterian Church
Broad St., next to the Court House
Elizabeth, NJ
908-353-1518
Worshipping here for 340 years

Park on Broad St. or behind Sanctuary, access from E.W. Jersey to E-town Plaza, left on Caldwell Place, immediate right to our drive.
Easter offers us a new life. Start it here.

Looking for more than a make-believe rabbit & chocolate candy this Easter? Find meaning in the season at

Calvary Lutheran Church
108 Eastman St. - Hartford, N.J. • (908) 226-2418
www.calvalrylutheranchurch.org

Maundy Thursday
April 8, 7:30 p.m.
Holy Communion

Easter Sunday
April 11,
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Festival Services of Holy Communion

The Rev. Carol A. Lindsay, Pastor

Christ Lutheran Church

1359 Morris Ave. at Sterling Road • Union
908-686-0188

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP, April 8
Communion Service at 7:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 11
10:00 am Communion Service
Come and join us as we worship the risen Lord

The Antioch Baptist Church
640 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield (973) 379-1465

Easter Sunday Services
The pastor and congregation of Antioch Baptist Church extend a warm welcome to the community and others to worship and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sunrise service will start at 8:30 a.m. Then our regular service will start at 11:00 a.m. in which we will continue to celebrate Easter Sunday. Our music ministry will render selections at both services that will be an inspiration to you as they are to us every Sunday morning.

Again we welcome you to worship with us regardless of who you are. God bless you!

St. Mary's Church of Rahway
232 Central Ave. • Rev. Michael J. Fekete, Pastor
HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK
Masses - 8:30 & 9:30 am, 12:10 noon, 7 pm

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK
Masses - 8:30 & 9:30 am, 12:10 noon, 7 pm

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK
Masses - 8:30 & 9:30 am, 12:10 noon, 7 pm

HOLY THURSDAY
Lenten Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30 pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - 8:30 to 10:30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY
Celebration of the Lord's Passion - 3 pm (English), 5 pm (Spanish)
Stations of the Cross - Spanish 6 pm

SATURDAY OF HOLY WEEK
Stations of the Cross - 7:45 pm

Easter Vigil Liturgy - 7 pm

EASTER SUNDAY
Masses - 7:30, 9:30, 10:30 am, 12 noon, 1:30 pm (Spanish)

Orchard Park Church
1264 Victor Ave. Union
908-687-0364

"Glorify Christ, to Know Christ and to Make Him Known to Others"

EASTER WEEKEND
Good Friday 7:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday
Breakfast - 10:00 a.m.
Celebration Service - 11:00 a.m.
Milton Cruz, Pastor

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
First Congregational Church (U.C.C.)
1340 Burnet Avenue, Union
(Burnet & Davis Avenues)
The Rev. Bernice Stagg, PASTOR

7:30 pm
12 Noon
10:30 am

Maundy Thursday - Service of Tenebrae
Good Friday - Service of Reflection
Festival Easter Service and Holy Communion

A Great Church for all ages and people.
Check us out on the Web at
www.fairhucunion.org

Worship with us every Sunday at 10:30 am.
Church School, Nursery and Bible Study available. Your call is welcomed at
(908) 688-4333

ST. AGNES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Where Christ & Community Celebrate!

332 Madison Hill Road, Clark • 732-388-7852

TRIDUUM:

April 8 **Holy Thursday:**
Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30pm followed by Adoration

April 9 **Good Friday:**
Seven Last Words Service - Noon to 3pm
MAIN PASSION LITURGY - 7:30pm

April 10 **Easter Saturday:**
Blessing of Food - 11am
EASTER VIGIL MASS - 8pm

April 11 **Easter Sunday**
MASSES OF RESURRECTION
7:30am, 9am, 10:30am & Noon

Kenilworth Gospel Chapel
Corner Newark Ave. & South 23rd St., Kenilworth
272-4131-Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
April 9, 7:30 pm Service
"The Significance of Christ's Death"
Guest Speaker - Don Duckertson

EASTER SUNDAY
April 11, 11:00 am Service
"The Significance of Christ's Resurrection"
Guest Speaker - Dr. David Reid

Sunday School for all ages same time, 11 a.m.

Special Music • All Invited
Come. Make new friends. Grow in your knowledge of the Bible in a friendly church whose program is designed to serve the entire family.

Saint James the Apostle Church
Rev. Robert B. Stagg, Pastor
45 South Springfield Avenue • Springfield, NJ
973-376-3044

Liturgies of Holy Week 2004

Holy Thursday - April 8
Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday - April 10
The Great Easter Vigil - 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday - April 9
Stations of the Cross Bike Tour - 9:30
Outdoor Stations - 2:00 p.m.
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - 3:00 p.m.
Living Stations - 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday - April 11, 2004
7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.,
11:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

EVENTS

Easter egg hunt offered

On Saturday, Springfield children ages 2-12 can participate in the annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Christian Community Center Park at 100 N. Springfield Ave.

B'Nai B'rith offers theater performance

The B'Nai B'rith Lodge of Springfield offers an upcoming performance of "Come Fly With Me" at the Forum Theatre Company, 344 Main St., Methuen.

The show features the songs and stories of Sgt. James C. Cantor, a member of Hadassah, initially named the Millie Sam Hadassah after she and her husband, Dan, moved to Springfield in the 1940s from New York City.

The program is "A Soldier's Story" and is a play about the life of a soldier who was a member of Hadassah.

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Listen to the children sing



The Children's Chorus of Springfield rehearses for their first annual spring concert on May 2. From left are, Johnny Ferreira, Gilona Bangola, Alexander Golden, Vesna Stokic, Musical Director Leslie Adler, Sara DeMelo, Erika Skorstad, Stephanie Pastena, Priscilla Faustini, Maia Stokicovici and Aaron Sauerhoff. The concert will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on Morris Avenue in Springfield at 3 p.m.

Group offers educational workshop

The Special Education Parent Professional Organization of the Springfield public schools is offering a free workshop "Developing an IEP for Achievement."

JWI supports Mother's Day Project

The Springfield Chapter of Jewish Women International will join other chapters and partner organizations across the county by supporting JWI's Mother's Day Project.

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

SPORTS

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

St. James basketball teams honor players after season 5th graders capture county championship

The St. James of Springfield 6th grade CYO basketball team had its season come to an end in the semifinals round of the Union County playoffs.

GL boys' lacrosse team opens season with a dramatic victory

The Governor Livingston High School boys' lacrosse team opened its 2004 campaign last Thursday with a dramatic 6-5 win at Essex County rival West Orange.

Football clinic set for May 17 has a number of elite college coaches

The 2004 LaBarca Rotella Memorial Football Clinic on May 17 at Mayfair Farms in West Orange, sponsored by the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame, will feature Penn State head coach Joe Paterno.

Named All-County



Dayton High School girls' basketball standout Cristin Zavocki was named Second Team All-County and Second Team All-Group 1, the first girl on both second teams. Zavocki, a varsity starter all three years, will enter her senior season with 992 points. Her play this year helped the Bulldogs capture a conference (MVC-Valley) title for the first time since 1977 and reach a sectional (Central Jersey, Group 1) championship game for the first time in school history.

Top track athletes impress at local relay competitions GL's Carmody named Boys' Division 1 MVP

Local athletes excelled at two meets last Saturday, including the 30th annual Kearny Relays and the Greater Middlesex County Coaches Relay Invitational at South Plainfield's Jost Field.

Baseball season here



The Dayton High School baseball team, coming off a 13-8 campaign, was defeated at home by Roselle Park 7-1 Monday afternoon in its season-opener. The Bulldogs were scheduled to host St. Mary's of Elizabeth Tuesday afternoon.

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

A grid of advertisements for various services including air conditioning, carpentry, cleaning, electrical, flooring, furniture, landscaping, painting, plumbing, roofing, and tree services.

OBITUARIES

Obituary notices for Doris M. Kallop, Maria Apicella, Emilie Pollock, Anne Santoro, Harry Finnegan, Lawrence Walsh, Ralph Altieri, Helen Arnheiter, Agnes Roberts, Ursula Uiz, and Missa Menza.

Advisor offers finance tips, info for women

Advisor offers finance tips, info for women. Risa Greenstein, a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch in Florham Park, has been volunteering her time to the Women's Resource Center in Summit for two years providing information to women about personal finances...

What we get

The word among some education advocates is they really fear a budget backlash this year. The usually low interest, low turnout, and watch the school budget pass routine may not be the case this April 20.

Left Out

The basics haven't changed. School funding can reach 60 percent of the entire property tax load. It's still the only budget vote...

Police HQ facility gets more dollars

Additional work on the new Union County Police Headquarters will increase the construction cost by more than \$465,000, bringing the total cost for the facility to just over \$11.6 million...



Freeholders are expected to approve an additional half-million dollars for the new county police headquarters in Westfield. Though the cost of the project now reaches \$11.6 million, officials said it is still less than the original \$12-million budget.

New exhibit explores artistic connections

"It is in the Image: Multicultural Women Artists" explores the connections between the art of nine contemporary artists...

Leonard Hodapp Sr.

Leonard J. Hodapp Sr., 89, of Springfield died April 2 in Morristown Memorial Hospital.

Our policy on wedding, engagement notices

Couples are encouraged to send their engagement and wedding announcements to the editor. Announcements should be typed, double spaced or legibly handwritten...

Grant to help study traffic, land use along Route 28

To help study the land use and transportation issues linked to Route 28 and the Rantan Valley rail line, Union County has received a \$150,000 Smart Future Grant from the state Department of Community Affairs.



A pedestrian waits as traffic passes along Westfield Avenue in Roselle Park. State grants will fund a county study of traffic along the corridor as well as examine needs of local towns along the roadway.

Upcoming walk benefits BPW Scholarship Fund

Cost for the walkathon event only are \$25 per person, \$50 per family up to four people. \$10 per each additional family member. Event registration includes admission to the walkathon, gift bag, and event T-shirt.

Take the Investors Savings CHALLENGE! 13-month CD 2.00% APY, 24-month CD 2.50% APY, 60-month CD 4.00% APY. \$500 minimum deposit. Also available for IRAs. INVESTORS SAVINGS BANK

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

Experience the Difference! Buying or selling a home is a serious endeavor and requires an experienced professional. Anita is energetic, enthusiastic and committed to excellence!

Legislators vary on proposed ethics reform package

State legislators are discussing a 25-point ethics reform that among its goals would make New Jersey the first state to ban no-bid contracts. State Sen. Thomas Kean, R-Union, said the problem with the initiatives is that they're "25 bullet points."

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

COUNTY NEWS

Free trees for schools
The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has a gift for schools this spring: tree-planting trees. While supplies last, each Union County school that desires one will receive a 5- to 6-foot tall Redbud tree. Schools can use the purple-flowering tree to beautify their grounds, add shade to their properties, and to celebrate Arbor Day.

Along with the tree tree, representatives will receive training in tree care and planting. Training sessions will be held at the following locations: "Tree Jeopardy" and the 4-H Tree Leaders board guide, the training session will teach where to plant the tree so it is an asset and not a hazard, how to prepare the ground for planting, mulching, watering, and how to protect the tree from vandalism.

Tree planting April 24
Area residents, businesses, scout troops, school and community groups are invited to plant native trees, 1 to 2 feet tall, in Lenape Park on April 24. The saplings have been donated by the New Jersey Tree Foundation.
The tree planting will begin at the Broad Street and Springfield Avenue entrance to Lenape Park on April 24. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Participants should dress to get dirty and wet and bring gloves and shovels if they have them. Trash bags, some tools and gloves will be provided. Children, ages 14 and younger, must be accompanied by an adult.
The day of planting trees is sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, the state Department of Environmental Protection, the AmeriCorps Watershed Program, the New Jersey Tree Foundation, the Friends of Lenape Park, and the Watching Nature Club.
Volunteers should call 908-527-4032 to register.

'Freeholders Forum'
Key improvements to roads and bridges throughout Union County are discussed in the latest "Freeholders Forum" television show sponsored by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The program features Angel Estrada, chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and Freeholder Daniel Sullivan, who also serves as first vice-chairperson of the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority.
Among the projects Estrada and Sullivan discussed were:
• A \$20.5 million state-funded project to build a new, wider bridge and make other significant improvements on Routes 1&9 in Rahway.
• A new bridge on Eastman Street in Cranford over the Rahway River.
• A study on how to alleviate congestion and provide safer routes to the Garden State Parkway's Exit 135 in Clark.
• A \$33,000 federal grant from the NJHPA to examine the fate of the Garden State Bridge between Roselle and Roselle Park.
"We've been aggressive in pushing for the government to get the grants and the dollars we need for these important projects," said Sullivan, who represents 13th County on the NJHPA board and is seeking re-election this fall.
The NJHPA is the federally authorized Metropolitan Planning Organization for the 13-county northern New Jersey region. Proper planning and building strong relationships with officials at all levels of government have allowed Union County to strongly benefit from state and federal funding for important projects, the Freeholders said.
In each 30-minute program, Freeholders and guests discuss events and issues affecting the people of Union County.
Freeholders Forum is provided by the Board of Chosen Freeholders and is made possible through the facilities and technical direction of Union County College.
Lentil "Moving Union County Forward," the show will be aired through Monday according to the following schedule:
• Union County, except Elizabeth and Plainfield, Channel 26, Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
• Elizabeth, Channel 70, Thursdays, 6 p.m.
• Hillsdale, Channel 35, Tuesdays, 9:26-10:54 p.m. for more information.
• Linden, Roselle, Roselle Park, Winfield, Channel 36, daily, 10 p.m.
• Plainfield, Channel 74, Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.
• Rahway, Channel 33, daily, 8:30 p.m.
• Scotch Plains, Channel 34, call 908-232-2400, ext. 243 for more information.
• Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fairview, Montclair, 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.

Chairman to appear on Comcast 'Newsmakers'

Angel Estrada, chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, will appear on segments of Comcast's "Newsmakers" throughout April. Estrada recorded two segments for the program: "Investing in the Arts" and "Greening Union County."
"Investing in the Arts" focuses on the County's proposal to purchase the Union County Arts Center and make long-needed renovations to turn it into a year-round facility.
"Greening Union County" is a new freeholder board initiative that could see 4,000 new trees planted throughout the county. It includes matching grants to the county's 21 municipalities for purchasing and maintaining new trees.

Comcast "Newsmakers" is a five-minute interview program that airs twice a hour on CNN Headline News and features community leaders and municipal, state and regional politicians who want to present their ideas in a forum that has a local focus but the reach and significance of a national news program. Statewide interviews are aired at 24 minutes past the hour and local interviews at 54 minutes past the hour.
The current production, which has been revised by the original authors, is storytelling at its simplest, allowing the power of the show's poignancy to shine off the stage like a beacon.
The show focuses on three couples in the same college community. Danny and Lizzie are students in their early 20s who just moved in together. So something Nick and Pam are married athletic coaches, and administrator Alan and his wife, Arlene, in their 40s, have just seen the last of their children off to college. All three couples find their lives turned upside down, in different ways, by the concept of pregnancy.
As the opening number says, "What a journey, what a ride!" and to synopsize more of the plot would be spoiling that journey. Librettist Sybil Pearson, composer David Shore, and lyricist Richard Malby Jr. originally crafted a piece of theater with a range of emotion comparable to a real pregnancy. However, the three have revisited their original work and have given the show an added resonance that is at once joyous and heartbreaking.
The six principals in the Paper Mill production form a tight ensemble with a chemistry that is to be envied. Each is unique and defined, together, they meld beautifully.
While each has his or her own wonderful moments, Carolee Carmello is a radiant Arlene, layering both humor and pathos into the subtlety of the role. And her handling of the new material gives the character an all too shatteringly honest without being in being inaudible or self-indulgent. Carmello's performance of "Patterns," restored to the second act, is simply brilliant and beautifully shows this woman's blazing inner fire.
As Alan, Michael Buren exudes warmth and good naturedness while laying a subtle but effective foundation for the passionate outbursts that

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Baby' is a bundle of joy at Paper Mill

When it premiered on Broadway during the 1983-84 season, "Baby" was eclipsed by the spectacle of "La Cage aux Folles," the extravaganza of "Sunday in the Park With George" and the roller-skating razzle-dazzle of "The Rink." What changed a little musical with a huge heart has against such heavy hitters?
Well, while that still competition is rarely seen on stages these days, "Baby" has been delivered by Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn with a second act and even more heart to spare.
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As expectant college students Danny and Lizzie, Chad Kimball and Moesha McGill anticipate the arrival of their first collaboration in 'Baby,' on stage at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn through May 9.

On the Boards

By Bill VanSant, Asst. Editor

occasionally escape him, most notably "Ladies Singing Their Song" where Lizzie is accused by presumptuous strangers, to Nick and Pam's tender "With You," each number resonates not only with the singers' voices, but with the rich subtlety they weave into Malby's intelligent lyrics. And the new Act II number, "The End of Summer," is simply brilliant, both in composition and execution by the three women.
Director-choreographer Mark S. Hoebee's attention to detail is impeccable, such as the scene in which Alan and Arlene unconsciously fold down the bedspread as a team while having a minor disagreement. His pacing is precise, and the evolution each character experiences over the nine-month span of the action is fully realized and serves the script beautifully. He wisely pares the production down to its simplest in technical terms, allowing the heart of this show to shine.
Michael Anania's neo-tonal set, with its sliding panels and raked, circular platform stage, further accentuates this concept of simplicity. Lighting by F. Mitchell Dana effectively establishes place and time in the absence of a traditional set and serves to underscore the intention of the action.
This "Baby" will be born eight times a week until May 9. Don't miss your chance to be there for a truly miraculous event! You don't have to have had a baby to want to hold this "Baby" in your arms.
"Baby" runs through May 9 at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn. For information, see the "Theater" listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B6.

Playwright strives to keep art thriving
By Lisa Smith, Staff Writer
For the fifth time in the history of the Elizabeth Playhouse, novelist and playwright-residence Karon Sue Semones will produce her own full-length play, "Grave Concerns," which her actor-director husband, Marlowe Ferguson, will direct.
The play will be staged at the Elizabeth Playhouse, 1100 East Jersey St., Elizabeth, for five weeks. It will have its world premiere April 16 and then run through May 16, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.
According to Semones, "Grave Concerns" which took a year to write, has a little bit of everything: mystery, music and dancing. It's set in the town of Shelby, Va., the background of some of her other plays.
"I wrote it," said Semones during a recent chat. "When I heard the arts funding will be cut and what it would mean to communities to have a theater shut down, what effect it would have for everyone. It is important that there should be community theaters. Where else will actors perfect their craft and go on to be professionals?"
Semones, with her husband of 13 years, Ferguson, owns the historic landmark, the 1851 First Presbyterian Church, now the Elizabeth Playhouse. She oversees all aspects of production, costumes, advertising, graphic arts, office manager of the playhouse and apartment manager of the building in addition to teaching and writing. Semones grew up in Roanoke, Va., and has written novels and plays. She received undergraduate and graduate degrees from universities around the country and even received a Hollins Fiction Prize in 1991.
Her latest play, featuring a funeral which becomes a celebration in place

and song, poems and dramatic readings, tries to solve the problem of the "sobering little theater" and asks the question, "Will the dream of art die?"
There is even a coffin in the play. "Hamsworth Funeral Home" is a real casket for the show," said Semones. "They've been our good friends and neighbors for 14 years now. Our old company, too, has been wonderful. I'm trying to see how we can make them come to life. It's so sad to see characters take form when they've been living in your head for a year. I've always said that playwrighting is collective insanity as everyone can see your imaginary friends. It's the most fun in the world."
Semones explained that "I try to keep my novels separate from my plays. But I love them both. With plays, you see your characters. To me, a character face to face is amazing. It's like your imaginary friends have come to life."
Semones will be performing "Grave Concerns" to our playwrighting audiences. I'd like to preserve the interest of the people in attending theater."
And she indicated to help keep community theater alive and well: "Forever."



Karon Sue Semones

Musical Club sets Wednesday concert
The Musical Club of Westfield will present its April program on Wednesday at 4 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St. in Westfield.
Featured will be mezzo-soprano Barbara Kruse performing "The Days is Mine" by Ernest Ware, "Mass, Missions, Saints, Virgins, Dances" by Ernest Gould, "Well To the Woods and Gath'ring May" by Charles I. Griggs, and "Face, Place, Mo' Dio" from Giuseppe Verdi's opera "La Forza del Destino." Accompanying her will be Marie-Danielle Mercier.
Pianist Samia Katarzewska will perform three nocturnes by Frederic Chopin: Opus 22 No. 1 in C-sharp Minor, Opus 2, No. 2 in D-flat Minor, and Opus 35, No. 1 in E-flat Major.
Nancy Deutsch and Nancy Nelson D'Nisto will perform vocal duets "In His Hands" by Felix Mendelssohn, "Sull' Air" from Giuseppe Verdi's "La Traviata," and "The Marriage of Figaro" and "Sous le Dome d'Paris" from Leo Delibes' opera "Lakme." Accompanying them will be Beverly Thomson Shea.
The public is invited and refreshments will be served.
The Musical Club provides scholarships to assist college students who are pursuing a musical and/or academic financial need. Anyone interested in becoming an active or associate member of the club may contact the membership chairperson at 908-232-2173.

Bill VanSant, Editor
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Theatre Alliance honored by state council

The New Jersey Theatre Alliance, the consortium of professional, not-for-profit theaters in New Jersey, was privileged to be among the select group that was honored by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts on March 18 with its highest award.
The "Citation of Excellence" was bestowed upon the New Jersey Theatre Alliance for receiving from its peers the highest quality assessment. In addition to this high honor, the Alliance was designated as a "Major Arts Service Organization" in recognition of its outstanding contributions to the cultural life of New Jersey.
Joining NJSCA Chairman Sharon Harrington and Executive Director David Miller in presenting the Citation of Excellence and Major Arts Organization designation were leading arts advocates: Assemblymember Richard H. Stringer, R-24th District, and Assemblyman Jon M. Brambick, R-21st District. Accepting the award on behalf of the New Jersey Theatre Alliance was John McEwen, executive director.
NJTA, a nationally recognized leading arts service organization, has received the Citation of Excellence for an unprecedented 15 consecutive years. Under the leadership of Executive Director John McEwen, NJTA has developed innovative programs that serve the arts community and the theater-going public. Flagship

programs include nArtsLive.org, the nation's first statewide discount ticketing Web site for the performing arts and A1&1 Family Week at the Theatre, a statewide week-long festival of free and discounted tickets for young people and their families that takes place during the first week of March.
For seven years, A1&1 Family Week at the Theatre has been an eagerly anticipated event that has brought theater to every county and corner of the state, and given families the opportunity to enjoy a live performance together. The more recent program, nArtsLive.org, launched in 2003, encourages people to attend a wide variety of performing arts events all year round, at a price that fits within their budgets.
The New Jersey Theatre Alliance offers a variety of publications and resources for the public that are available through its Web site, as well as theatrical alliance.org, by calling the NJTA Office at 973-540-0515. A free theater season calendar, "Class Act," "Learning Through the Arts," an educational resource handbook, and information on arts accessibility services are just a few of the guides that theater-goers can obtain through the Morristown-based organization.
Funding for the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, a not-for-profit organization, is provided in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Westfield Workshop expands its summer offerings

Entering its 33rd season, the Westfield Summer Workshop is currently registering students for its 2004 summer program.
The five-week program gives children ranging from pre-school through ninth grade the opportunity to experiment in various artistic fields, including fine arts, music, and theater.
Students will have the opportunity to dabble in art classes such as Teen Town, where they will learn techniques to create cartoon characters. Carving is a favorite class for older kids, where young artists use plaster, clay and wood to create their own sculpture. A new program in fine arts is Scrapbooking, where children will learn to use their photographs to capture memories in creative ways.
Students will also have an opportunity to delve into communication courses such as Radio Broadcast and Video Animation. For the energetic young-

sters, Dance Pom, Fencing, and Gymnastics are a perfect way to express their creativity. The workshop is also offering an array of other courses, including four levels of chess, Exploring Science and Cooking Magic.
For those interested in music, the Westfield Summer Workshop offers various courses in band, vocals and woodwinds. Beginning Guitar, a newcomer to the workshop program, gives children the opportunity to learn the basics of playing guitar with a learning to read music along the way. The Workshop Band, an annual course in the program, is designed for those with some experience in music. The band will prepare to play music for the Summer Theater production of "Guys and Dolls."
The drama department offers courses for young and old, including Whole Line Is In, a new class where students will learn to respond to improvisational situations. Students in grades six through 10 can participate in Theater Workshop, a five-period, five-day-per-week workshop in which students will learn about all aspects of musical production. At the conclusion of the workshop, students will direct the summer production of "Guys and Dolls," performed by Juan and Valerie Pineda of the Little Opera Company of New Jersey.
The YMCA is once again sponsoring Afternoon Activities in conjunction with the Westfield Summer Workshop. Students will spend weekday afternoons participating in various traditional camp activities, including group games, sports and weekly field trips.
The workshop also offers programs for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students, as well as the option for an early morning drop off at 7:30 a.m. The WSW program runs 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily from June 28 to July 30 at Edison Intermediate School. For information, call 908-789-9696.

Musical 'Dream'



The Dreamsicles — the duo of Cary Cooper, left, and Tom Prasad-Rao — will appear in concert Saturday at the Second Saturdays Coffee House in Summit. For information, see the Stepping Out calendar, Page B6.

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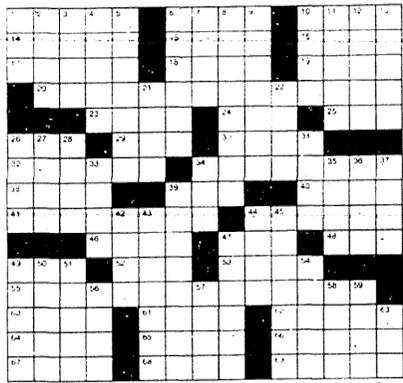
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- 6 Fenced the garden
- 10 Barber
- 14 The end
- 15 Feared the Kitty
- 16 Vocalist Irene
- 17 French legislature
- 18 Kind of estate
- 19 Pindar products
- 20 Start of Tommy Lasorda quote
- 23 Goddess of a score
- 24 's companion
- 25 Rusk of Red
- 26 Play part
- 29 Madison Avenue offerings
- 30 Big budget item
- 32 More of quote
- 34 Imports
- 38 Downcast
- 39 Ex-stud
- 40 Pig
- 41 Short on shelves
- 44 More of quote
- 46 Drying oven
- 47 Key letter
- 48 Palindromic string
- 49 Meadowland
- 52 A Cole
- 53 Hercules' captive
- 55 First of quote
- 60 Express on of doubt at times
- 61 Thanksgiving guests?
- 62 Seal's aid
- 64 Disney sci-fi flick
- 65 Release
- 66 Preach
- 67 Transmitt
- 68 Dependent on
- 69 Et oated

A WAY TO STOP THE PRESSES



By Christine Peterson

- 4 Century plant
- 5 Offensive maneuver
- 6 Badger
- 7 Lark
- 8 Knockknack holders
- 9 Cascades
- 10 Freight carrier
- 11 North African streambeds
- 12 Narrow mountain ridges
- 13 Turkish military title
- 21 Commute
- 22 A long, long, long time
- 26 Police alerts, briefly
- 27 Prehistoric ax
- 28 Place for a guide
- 31 Poi source
- 33 Achieve a personal best
- 34 Dam reversal
- 35 Prates
- 36 Needle case
- 37 Simon
- 39 Returned from the trip
- 42 Like the great outdoors, perhaps
- 43 Member of a singing group
- 44 Order for an equine
- 45 Low crest
- 47 Pen
- 49 Indexes
- 50 Harden
- 51 Ohio rubber center
- 54 Moon of Jupiter
- 55 Oregon city
- 57 Painter Nolde
- 58 Dental exam
- 59 Pay heed
- 63 Koppel or Kennedy

DOWN

- 1 Romane
- 2 Portent
- 3 President Coty

What's Going On?

OTHER
FRIDAY
April 23, 2004
EVENT: OPEN HOUSE Not Your Grandfather's Psychoanalysis
PLACE: ACAP 769 Northfield Avenue, Suite 112, West Orange
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HOROSCOPES

April 12-18
ARIES (March 21-April 19): Overcome a tendency to blurt out how you're feeling. Try to speak before you think. Take time to consider how others might be affected.
Taurus (April 20-May 20): Take steps to create an inspired and wonderful reality for you and your loved ones. Find a way to make all your dreams come true.
Gemini (May 21-June 21): You have a lot to offer in a social setting. Immerse yourself in a club or group, give from the heart and come out smiling like a rose.
Cancer (June 22-July 22): Contact with an elder, teacher or mentor will benefit you greatly. Do not hesitate to ask questions or to document your lessons.
Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Entertain or cultivate the kind of optimism that will take you a long way. Approach a problem with an open mind and the sky is the limit.
Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Money is accumulated and lost very quickly this week. Look for a financial backer or sponsor willing to step into the picture and save the day.
Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): A close relationship is highlighted. Add excitement to your shared activities and be sure to play up the romance.
Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): It may be difficult to stay focused or to concentrate on routine tasks. Go with the flow and apply yourself to the best of your ability.
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make the most of a foreign or unique social opportunity. Join forces with someone from a different background to have a really good time.
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Share good news and great times with family. Get together and celebrate a family tradition or milestone.
Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): In moments of doubt or confusion, be willing to heed the advice of someone you respect and trust. Keep an open mind.
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Your financial future is taking shape. Work hard to perfect the outcome of a moneymaking project and never worry about money again.
Also born this week: David Letterman, Thomas Jefferson, Loreta Lynn, Pete Rose, Leonardo da Vinci, Elizabeth Montgomery, Charlie Chaplin, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Nikita Khrushchev, Jeanette Garner, Hayley Mills, and Melissa Joan Hart

Bill VanSant, Editor
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LIFESTYLE

Holiday leftovers can get a new life as mid-week tasty dishes

Spiced Ham and Cheese Chowder
Yield: 4 servings
1 half fennel (about 1 pound)
2 tablespoons butter
1 large leek, sliced
1 1/2 cups egg chicken broth
1 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup milk
1 teaspoon grated lemon peel
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese (8 ounces)
1 1/2 cups fully cooked ham, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
1 1/2 ounce can of beer

But ham and cheese is such a great combination, there's no need to limit it to just sandwiches. Try it in these recipes, courtesy of the National Pork Board. For more information about Pork: The Other White Meat, visit www.otherwhitemeat.com

Mini Ham and Mushroom Souffles
Yield: 6 servings
6 tablespoons butter
1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
6 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 1/4 teaspoon salt
1 1/2 cups milk
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese (4 ounces)
1 cup diced fully cooked ham
6 eggs, separated
3/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
In a medium saucepan, melt butter. Add mushrooms and saute until tender. Remove mushrooms, reserving drippings in pan. Stir flour, salt, and pepper into drippings until smooth. Gradually stir in milk, cook over medium-high heat until thickened and bubbly, stirring constantly. Remove from heat, add cheese, stirring until melted. Stir in mushrooms and ham. Beat egg whites and cream of tartar at high speed of electric mixer until stiff peaks form. Using clean beaters, beat egg yolks until thickened and lemon-colored, about five minutes. Fold ham mixture into yolks. Fold the yolk mixture over beaten egg whites, fold gently. Spoon mixture into six ungreased 1/2-cup souffle dishes. Bake in a 300 F oven for 45 to 50 minutes, or until a knife inserted near center comes out clean. Serve immediately.

Cheesy Ham and Macaroni
Yield: 6 servings
1 cup frozen green peas
1 1/2 ounce package white sauce mix
2 cups milk
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 cup cubed American cheese
1 1/2 teaspoon ground pepper
7 ounces macaroni, cooked according to directions, drained
1 1/2 cup fully-cooked ham
Thaw the frozen peas in a large saucepan, stir together white sauce mix and milk. Following package directions, cook until thickened. Stir in cheese and pepper. Add macaroni, ham, and peas and cook, stirring until heated through. Serve hot.



Mini Ham and Mushroom souffles are a great way to use leftover Easter ham.

California Club Ham Sandwich
Yield: 2 servings
1 1/4 cup flour and cook until mixture bubbles. Stir in 2 cups milk and cook stirring until thickened.
This recipe appears courtesy of www.otherwhitemeat.com

Ham and Cheese Bread Pot Fondue
Yield: 10 servings
1 pound, firm loaf of bread (about 8 to 10 inches in diameter, cut into 1 1/2" pounds)
2 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
2 1/2 ounce packages of cream cheese, softened
1 1/2 cups sour cream
2 cups diced ham
1 cup chopped green onion
1 1/2 ounce can chopped green chilies, drained and chopped
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 tablespoon butter, melted
Heat oven to 350 F. Slice off top of bread, reserve top. Hollow out inside with small paring knife, leaving 1/2-inch shell. Cut removed bread into 1-inch cubes (there will be 3 to 4 cups), reserve for toasting. Combine Cheddar, cream cheese, and sour cream in large bowl, stir in ham, green onion, chilies and Worcestershire. Spoon cheese filling into bread shell; replace top of bread. Lightly wrap loaf with several layers of heavy-duty aluminum foil, set on cookie sheet. Bake

Chesy Ham and Macaroni
Yield: 6 servings
1 cup frozen green peas
1 1/2 ounce package white sauce mix
2 cups milk
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 cup cubed American cheese
1 1/2 teaspoon ground pepper
7 ounces macaroni, cooked according to directions, drained
1 1/2 cup fully-cooked ham
Thaw the frozen peas in a large saucepan, stir together white sauce mix and milk. Following package directions, cook until thickened. Stir in cheese and pepper. Add macaroni, ham, and peas and cook, stirring until heated through. Serve hot.

California Club Ham Sandwich
Yield: 2 servings
1 1/4 cup flour and cook until mixture bubbles. Stir in 2 cups milk and cook stirring until thickened.
This recipe appears courtesy of www.otherwhitemeat.com

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*****By Anne Santos

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Eye Care Center of NJ <http://www.eyecarenj.com>
First Night of Maplewood So. Orange <http://community.nj.com/ccfrstnight-soma>
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Shipping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups, organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Art and Entertainment Editor Bill VanSant, Worrall Community Newspapers, 163 Valley St., P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040. Fax or mail to 973-763-2557.

ART SHOWS

TAKE 5: Text and Textures will be on exhibit at the Arts Guild of Rahway through April 16. Gallery hours are: Wednesdays to Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m. The Arts Guild of Rahway is located at 1670 Irving St. Rahway. For information call 732-387-7574, send e-mail to artsguild1670@earthlink.net or visit www.RahwayArtsGuild.org

REFLECTIONS: The works of Judith Stein will be on exhibit at the Donald B. Palmer Museum at the Springfield Free Public Library through April 22. Gallery hours are: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Springfield Free Public Library is located 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information call 973-376-4930.

MAINE TO MEXICO: Landscape oils by Frank Ferrante will be on exhibit at Swan Gardens in Plainfield through April 30. Gallery hours are: Tuesdays to Fridays 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Swan Gardens is located at 703 Watchung Ave. Plainfield. For information call 908-760-1707.

PORTRAITS IN CLASSIC ROCK: The portrait photography of Kevin R. Papa will be on exhibit through April 30 at the Cranford Public Library. Gallery hours are: Mondays to Thursdays 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cranford Public Library is located at 224 Walnut Ave., Cranford. For information call 908-279-7272, send e-mail to library@cranfordnj.org or visit www.cranfordnj.org

PRINTMAKERS OF NUOVA — an exhibit of etchings, monoprints, collagraphs, photo transfers and relief prints — will be on exhibit through April 30 at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit. Gallery hours are: Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. NUOVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information call 908-273-9121 or visit www.njcvaa.org

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL: Mountaintop will exhibit the works of the New Jersey Watercolor Society and oil painter Julie Ortiz throughout the month of April. CHS is located on New Providence Road in Mountaintop.

MOVING BY ART: The works of Fran Wheeler, Joan Gudimovich and Nancy J. DeLoe will be on exhibit at the Women's Resource Center in Summit, 57 New England Ave., Summit. For information call 908-273-7253, send e-mail to wrc@wrcnj.org or visit the Web site at www.womensource.org

GRADUATE THESIS EXHIBITION: featuring the fine arts graduates, will be on exhibit through May 7 at the James Howe Gallery in Vaughn Jones Hall of the Union campus. Keen University is located at 1000 Merits Ave., Union. For information including gallery hours, call 908-737-4450.

UNVEILING THE IMAGE: "Multicultural Women Artists" will be on exhibit at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through May 26. A Gallery Lecture will take place May 2 at 2 p.m. Gallery hours are: Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. NUOVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information call 908-273-9121 or visit www.njcvaa.org

BOOKS WE LIKE: a reading group featuring staff recommendations will meet the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantoul Road. Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD: Reading Group meets the third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark to read a Shakespeare play. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantoul Road. Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

WOMEN'S READING GROUP: meets the last Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantoul Road. Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

COMEDY "AN EVENING WITH JOY BEAR" will be presented April 24 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center, 160 Irving St. in Rahway. Tickets are \$38 to \$54. For information call 908-499-8226 or visit www.ucac.org

AUDITIONS MYSTIC VISION PLAYERS in Linden will conduct auditions for "A Chorus Line" on April 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m. at

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Stepping Out

The John T. Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen St., Linden. Auditions must be 16 years old or older and be prepared to sing and dance. Show dates are July 23 to 31. For information call 908-925-6098.

BOOKS

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN: meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information call 973-376-8544.

"THE LORD OF THE RINGS" READING GROUP: meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantoul Road. Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRITERS' GROUP: meets the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantoul Road. Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

CLASSICS BOOK CLUB: meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information call 973-376-8544.

CLOAK AND DAGGER READING GROUP: will meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantoul Road. Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS: meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information call 973-376-8544.

MYSTERY READING GROUP: meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantoul Road. Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION BOOK GROUP: a monthly reading group featuring staff members' favorite books, meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information call 973-376-8544.

JEWISH BOOK LOVERS: meets the third Monday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information call 973-376-8544.

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ROCKAPPELLA TO PLAY KEAN The hippest and hottest Rockapella group to hit the arkways, Rockapella will grace the Wilkins Theatre stage on April 16 at 7:30 p.m. Kean University, 1000 Morris Avenue, Union. This five-man group based in New York City is credited with revolutionizing a cappella music and bringing it into the 21st century as an infectious pop-music form blending soul, rock, R&B and jazz. Rockapella first gained national attention in the early '90s for their live seasons of work on the award-winning PBS program, "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?" They created and sang the original music for the show's theme song and elements, as well as provided some witty on-camera comic relief. Since that time, Rockapella has released two albums, appeared in numerous television shows and commercials and performed to sold-out audiences worldwide. Tickets are \$20 for the public, \$15 for senior citizens and Kean alumni, and \$12 for students and children. For further information, to order tickets or request a brochure, call the Wilkins Theatre box office at 908-737-7669.

MVP's 'Line' to form Mystic Vision Players of Linden will conduct auditions for the long-running spectacular musical, "A Chorus Line" on April 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m. with callbacks on April 24 at 2 p.m. Those auditioning should be 16

OPEN MIC POETRY NIGHT takes place the second Sunday of every month at 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Rantoul Road, Clark. For information call 732-574-1818.

SINGLES **DINNERMATES** and **Entrepreneurs** Group invites business and professional singles to dinner at a local restaurant, wine and mingling is at 8 p.m. dinner is at 9 p.m. Two age groups are available. For information on dates and locations, call 732-622-0750 or visit www.dinnermates.com

INTERFAITH SINGLES for single adults (older than 45 years old) will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donations: \$5. For information, call 908-889-5255 or 908-889-4751.

SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING for 45-year-olds and older, meets every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center, 160 Irving St., Rahway. Admission is \$2. For information, call 908-499-8226.

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank K. Hinely School, Rantoul Road, Clark. Fee for each lesson is \$4. For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-381-2535 or 908-241-9492.

DISCUSSION **MILLER-CORY HOUSE MUSEUM** in Westfield will present Fran Gold, former editor and publisher of the *Journal Herizon*, in a talk on the arrival of Jews in the colonies on 4/24 at 10 a.m. in the Miller-Cory House Museum admission is \$2 for adults and 50 cents for students, children younger than 16 are admitted free. Miller-Cory House Museum is located at 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield. For information call 908-232-1776.

Film **FILMMAKERS SYMPOSIUM** will be sponsored Mondays through May 10, at the Lewis Mountaineer. The second session of the 12-week symposium runs through May 10. Fee is \$31 for six weeks, plus a \$20 registration fee. For information call 800-531-3410.

THE ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE will present the world premiere of "Grave Concerns" by playwright-in-residence Karen Sue Semmes from April 16 to May 16. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$8 for students and senior citizens. The Elizabeth Playhouse is located at 1100 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information call 908-365-0077 or visit the Web site at www.ElizabethPlayhouse.com

KIDS **KEAN UNIVERSITY** will present the Cleveland Signstage Theatre in "Mahalia" on April 23 at 7 p.m. in Wilkins Theatre, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$11 for senior citizens and Kean alumni, \$8 for students and children. For information, call 908-737-7469.

CRAFT TIME for children ages 5 to 10 years old will take place every Monday at 11 a.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information call 973-376-8544.

VARIETY **THWAK!** with the Umbelical Brothers will appear Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$43.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 988-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org

BARNES AND NOBLE, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield, will sponsor Tales for Tots, *Preschool Storylines*, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m., and the Kids' Writing Workshop, Saturdays at 10 a.m. For information, call 973-376-8544.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 988-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org

WORKSHOPS **REEVES-REED ARBORETUM** in Summit will sponsor series of workshops on gardening in the coming weeks. Today and April 15 "Gardening One-On-One" 7 to 9 p.m., is located at 165 Hobart Ave., Summit. For information, call 908-273-8787 or visit www.Reeves-ReedArboretum.org

GRANT WRITING for nonprofit and arts groups will be the topic of a workshop to be sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders on Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Union County Administration Building Annex, 300 North Ave., East, Westfield. For information, including fee, 908-558-2550. Relay users dial 711, or send e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org

POETRY **POETRY OUT LOUD!** will take place April 23 at 8 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

ARTS CLIPS "The services provided by these artists, scholars, and organizations directly benefit the residents of our county," said Freeholder Mary P. Rubin, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. "These cultural assets are a vital part of community life, economic development and cultural tourism in Union County."

To request HIART Grant information, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth 07202, call 908-558-2550. Relay users dial 711, or send inquiries via email to culturalinfo@ucnj.org

HEART Grants Available The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders invites local nonprofit organizations, individual artists, and scholars to apply for funding from the 2004 Union County HIART - History, Education, Arts, Reaching - Thousands Grant program.

Recognizing the importance of culture and the arts to the economy and quality of life, the freeholders established the HIART Grants in 1998. This innovative program supports projects related to history, the arts, and humanities, and demonstrates a commitment to the artistic and nonprofit organizations of Union County.

"The response to the HIART Grant program in past years has been exciting," said Freeholder Chairman Angel G. Estrada. "The recipients are a wonderful mix of creative people - poets and writers, historians, painters, photographers, musicians and dancers - plus arts, history, and other cultural organizations and civic groups."

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

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

Playwrights interested in developing their work through readings and critiques by actors, directors and other writers should submit scripts, self-addressed stamped envelopes with a cover letter, including a brief summary of writing background to: Mark

Bill VanSant, Editor Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. 2004 All Rights Reserved

Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to: 463 Valley Street, P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040

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CHORALE plans its season The Summit Chorale has announced its 2003/04 season.

"Brahm's Requiem" - Nat's gala farewell concert at 8 p.m. on May 1st. A location to be determined. The chorale will be accompanied by a full symphony orchestra.

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

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

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

Bill VanSant, Editor Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. 2004 All Rights Reserved

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Toyota's Highlander gets a sitting ovation

By Jerry Garrett
Copley News Service

The Highlander is only three years old, but Toyota already is giving it a face-lift.

The big news? Highlander gets a third-row seat.

That might seem odd, because the new Lexus RX 330 does not offer a third row of seats.

When asked why, Lexus GM Denny Clements said, "If you want a third row of seats, buy a bigger vehicle."

The kicker is, the Highlander and the RX 330 essentially are the same vehicle.

Lexus says its customers don't want third-row seating, but Toyota says it found that 80 percent of Highlander customers do.

So, sandwiched into the former cargo area is an extra row of seating in the Highlander. It's a tight fit, with the seat backs relatively close to the rear hatch.

Toyota is apologetic about the use for the seat, small passengers only. There's just 30 inches of legroom back there, shoulder room is similarly size-challenged.

A clear winner in the new Highlander is the availability of the optional 230-horsepower, 3.3-liter V-6 that debuted in the RX 330. The engine is also available in Camry and Sienna.

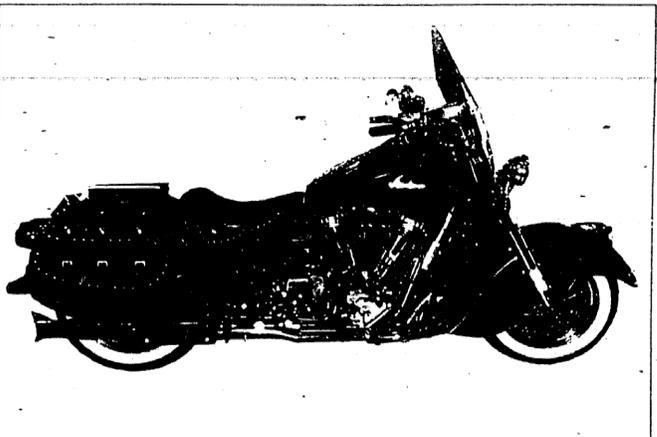
It's a lot more powerful and fuel-efficient than the three-liter engine it replaces. Even the standard inline-4 gets more punch, addressing one of the few complaints about this Camry-based SUV.

Price starts at \$25,140 for the Highlander V-6 4x2 with two rows of seats, a decrease of \$120 from last year. Add \$850 for the third row.

The Highlander four-cylinder 4x2 with two rows of seats is \$24,620, add \$1,400 for four-wheel drive.

The Highlander Limited 4x2 is \$30,520 and the 4x4, \$31,920. Extras on the Limited include a power front passenger seat, electrochromic rearview mirror with compass, 17-inch alloy wheels, steering wheel audio switches and third-row seating.

Compared with the more luxurious RX 330, Highlander is fairly basic.



While sales of Indian motorcycles have gone up steadily as models such as this 2003 Indian Vintage Chief have attracted buyers, it apparently wasn't enough to keep the Gilroy, Calif., manufacturer afloat.

Investors pull the plug on Indian

By Jerry Garrett
Copley News Service

The good news for Indian Motorcycle Corp. is that it set another sales record in August and, through September, it was on pace for a record sales year. The bad news is, it apparently wasn't enough.

The company recently announced that it has stopped production and fired 150 workers. About 12 employees remain to provide oversight of liquidation of about 1,200 motorcycles still in the factory inventories.

The decision came after its main investor, Audax Group of Boston, said it would not put more money into the company. Audax had funded Indian to the tune of more than \$45 million the past five years.

All told, investors have pumped more than \$145 million into the resurrection of the famed motorcycle marque since it resumed manufacturing in 1993.

At one point this year, the company claimed to have sold some 60,000 bikes since its revival. But that figure was widely inflated.

Sales, although rapidly improving, totaled just 3,800 in 2002. Among its main rivals, Harley-Davidson sold 123,000 bikes, Honda sold 27,500 and Yamaha moved 25,000 units.

Indian was on track to sell about 6,000 bikes this year.

Critics lambasted the company's first bikes in 1999 as little more than Harley clones, especially since they used aftermarket engines based on Honda V-Twin technology.

Only 1,100 bikes were sold that first year as purists stayed away, awaiting fulfillment of promises to build a "true" Indian as soon as funds became available.

Finally, in 2002, the company started producing its own engines. Installed in new bikes, such as the Chief and Vintage Chief, the resulting cruiser was widely admired.

But sales never took off as the company hoped.

Part of the problem was a perceived lack of the "cachet" needed to battle Harley-Davidson on equal footing, and part was due to the \$24,000-and-up base prices.

In analyzing the 2003 sales growth, Senior Vice President Fran O'Hagan said in August, "Momentum is on our side." The company had added three vice presidents during the summer months. Introductions of 2004 models were planned this fall.

Chairman Frank O'Connell said board members were hopeful of raising more money right up until Audax's failure was announced.

The fate of the state-of-the-art, 150,000-square-foot factory, its workers, new models, Indian investors, its 200 dealers and thousands of owners

with active warranties were left uncertain.

"All we are being told is that they are working with different investment groups," says Rick Urban, general manager of Indian Motorcycle, San Diego. "We, and the majority of the rest of the dealers nationwide, anticipate someone else to come in and invest."

The 2004 product that was due to be released in September was a huge step up for the company, Urban says. "They were expecting much-improved sales, and so were we."

Indian Motorcycle Corp. was formed in 1999 after a long and protracted court battle over who owned the Indian trademarks.

The first Indian motorcycle was produced in 1901. At one time, Indian had a 40 percent share of the motorcycle market, completely overshadowing Harley-Davidson sales.

But Indian built its last bike in 1983, after a decade-long hiatus. Rogers said he couldn't compete against a flood of Honda bikes made especially cheap by a devaluation of the English pound.

Fanatical Indian owners, who loved the bikes' bodacious styling, were outraged. But numerous attempts to revive the brand failed. Loyalists, however, kept their prized bikes in pristine condition and on the road. Recent figures estimated that 50,000 pre-1953 Indian bikes are still registered.

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