

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

How to reach us: The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Worrall Community Newspapers, an independent, family-owned newspaper company.

Voice Mail: Our main phone number, 908-686-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system to better serve our customers.

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.

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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.

Display advertising: 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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Postmaster Please Note: The ECHO LEADER (USPS 512-720) is published weekly by Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc.

3.25% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective as of February 8, 2005. The APY may increase one time at the option of the customer during the term of the 24-Month CD.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Saturday

The Mountaineer Newcomers Club will conduct the annual Mommy and Me Newcomers Valentine's Day Party.

The Mountaineer Newcomers Club Inc. is a social organization dedicated to providing a friendly greeting to new members.

A special Valentine's Day dinner will be offered at Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church.

Proceeds from this event will help stem the tide of disease in tsunami refugee camps and help recipients of diverse New Jersey ministries.

Peg Cullen will be installed as the grand marshal of the 2005 Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Sunday

Our Lady of Lourdes Rosary Altar Society hosts their annual fish n' chips dinner.

Members and non-members of the True Health Chiropractic Clinic are invited to attend but must pre-register.

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Upcoming Feb. 29

The Springfield Historical Society will host an open house from 2 to 4 p.m.

Springfield Knights of Columbus will present "Pat Cooper in Concert" at a cost of \$72.50 per person.

The Mountaineer Board of Education will meet at Beechwood School.

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The Springfield Board of Education will meet in the instructional media center of Jonathan Dayton High School.

Theft reported at Bally's locker

Springfield On Friday at 8:30 p.m., it was reported that as estimated \$1,033 worth of items were stolen from a Sayreville resident's locker at the Route 22 east Bally's fitness club.

POLICE BLOTTER

A Jade Meadow resident's car was reported burglarized on Sunday at 6:34 p.m.

Firefighters respond to accident

Springfield On Feb. 1 at 7:52 a.m., firefighters responded to Morris Avenue and Maple Avenue for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

FIRE BLOTTER

On Feb. 2 at 11:18 p.m., firefighters responded to a Park Lane residence for an activated carbon monoxide detector.

Romantic massage workshop set for Feb. 23

Although February is the shortest month of the year, it is full of traditions and customs involving romantic exchanges.

Valentine's dinner aids tsunami refugees

The traditional trappings of Valentine's Day celebrations will be there: soft lighting, live music, food, atmosphere and friends.

Proceeds from this event will help stem the tide of disease in tsunami refugee camps and help recipients of diverse New Jersey ministries.

Officials seek advice on downtown project

While specifics regarding the Morris Avenue area downtown redevelopment plan remain non-existent, the Springfield Township Committee is taking the steps necessary to figure out what's plausible and what isn't.

On Feb. 16, the Township Committee plans to meet with at least two planners who are experienced in the art of municipal redevelopment projects.

Mullman said he knows one planner, who is very experienced, that will be coming to speak to the committee.

While Gomes did not return a phone call by press time, Kaiman did say an architect is "on board" and they are currently putting together studies and suggestions that can be presented to Springfield's committee.

Golf enthusiasts around the world recognize Springfield as the home of famed Baltusrol Golf Course.

Springfield publisher specializes in video game books

computer programmer by trade, gained a reputation as a video-game historian and was given the title of "Game Scholar" by Electronic Gaming Monthly.

Herman succeeded in signing up a few authors and Rolenta Press' first non-Herman book will be released in April.

Next stop, Klondike Derby



Members of Springfield's Troop 75 make their way to the next station during Saturday's Klondike Derby at the Watchung Reservation where scouts put their outdoor skills to the test. See story on Page B1.

Exhibit offers seashore escape in February

Host up for winter and dream of warmer times with an exhibit of oil paintings titled "The Beach Show," by Jim Pines.

Volunteers prepare for 'battle'

Though still months away, this year's Independence Day celebration, which marks the 225th anniversary of the Revolutionary War's Battle of Springfield, is well under way in its planning.

The Springfield event, which will combine the traditional Fourth of July celebration with a battle re-enactment, will take place during the weekend of June 25-26.

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There will also be a re-dedication ceremony of the "Battle Monument" located in front of the First Presbyterian Church on Morris Avenue.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Time is running out

Deciding to run for a position on the Board of Education is one way for people to fully get involved with their community and the education of its children. The opportunity to do so, however, is rapidly coming to a close.

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the school board is 4 p.m. Feb. 28.

For those who live in Springfield, nominating petitions are available in the school board office at 138 Mountain Ave. Those living in Mountaineer can get their nominating petitions in the board office at Beechwood School, 1487 Woodacres Drive. The election is scheduled for April 19.

Two seats are open this year in the Mountaineer Board of Education election, while in Springfield, there are three three-year seats and one one-year seat available.

Prospective candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" along with their nominating petition.

Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures, and the role of a school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process, and briefing sessions for school board candidates are included in the kit.

A school board member attends many meetings throughout his or her term, and the unpaid position can often create a thankless feeling at times. But it is through their volunteer role as harbingers of quality education that make many school board members feel the true value of their service. It is often the simple notion of knowing they helped make a difference in a child's education that makes the whole process feel worthwhile.

For many, it is a true calling that has many far-reaching, positive results. For those who have the desire to serve, the time to decide is now.

Noteworthy service

After putting in 25 years of service to the Springfield Free Public Library as a member of the library's Board of Trustees, Gilbert Cohen has retired, just as the library has seen the completion of its renovations last month.

Cohen, a Springfield resident, has demonstrated a vast range of experience to the library and has served as an asset in many ways. His service was important because he was able to develop his skills alongside the progression of the library's technological advances.

He helped with the initial conversion of the library's card catalog information to machine readable records in the 1980s. This was the first essential step in the eventual computerization of the library catalog.

The library's physical changes have also advanced with Cohen's service. The library's atrium, which was an open space by the lobby of the building, had been underutilized since its construction and was recently made into a video room with a transparent skylight. Another room that was renovated during Cohen's last term is the teen room, which wasn't previously occupied by library patrons.

These are just some of the many changes the library has seen throughout the years.

Through it all, Cohen's many years of service to the library will be remembered long after he is gone.

Important lessons

This year, the Boy Scouts of America celebrates 95 years of service during Scouting Anniversary Week, which ends Saturday. This also marks the 75th anniversary of Cub Scouting.

During the month of February, Boy Scout and Cub Scout memorabilia and other items of interest will be on display at the Springfield Free Public Library.

Scouts perform a number of volunteer and service projects throughout the year and offer young people a critical resource for learning about themselves, building relationships with others and acquiring the skills to solve problems independently.

Now is the perfect time to find out what the scouting groups in Springfield and Mountaineer have to offer. Contact them today to find out how to join.

"The more a government chooses to provide information to its citizens on a 'need to know' basis, the more citizens probably need to know what their government is up to."

— Editorial
Detroit Free Press
2002

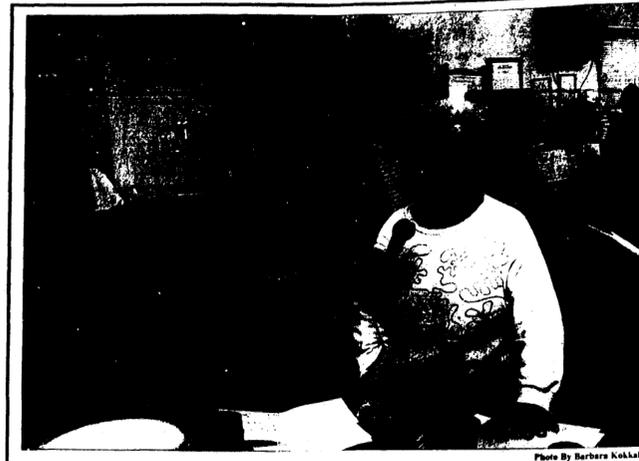


Photo by Barbara Kokalis

SENIORS CELEBRATE — Senior Group 3 of Springfield celebrates their 34th anniversary and commemoration of Black History Month at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center on Feb. 1. Helen Skuya, 92, serves as hostess of the event and says a few words after receiving recognition for her years of service, while Laura Franklin holds the microphone. Observing from the podium is President Estelle Pickering.

If you want to be president, being governor is better

I'm disappointed acting Gov. Richard Codey chose not to contest our senior senator's candidacy for the right to represent the Democratic Party in November's gubernatorial election. Since he assumed the office nearly three months ago, the reports on his performance have been generally favorable. I wonder if he's as good as his press clippings or if he's just benefiting from the honeymoon period that is accorded new officeholders.

Maybe Codey looks so good merely because the horror show that preceded him looked so bad. Part of Codey's charm is that he didn't start out wanting to be governor. He was a capable legislator who had earned the respect and affection of his colleagues. After the job fell into his lap, you got the idea that he liked it and really didn't want to relinquish it.

Enter U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine. Even before Codey assumed the governorship, Corzine had expressed interest in the position. Not only that, Corzine had said he would spend freely on a campaign to become governor. This was not an idle statement.

Several years ago, he spent \$63 million of his own money to convince us to elect him to the U.S. Senate. Corzine announced his intentions early to thwart any possible groundswell of enthusiasm that might develop for Codey. He surely didn't want to run in a primary against a popular sitting Democratic governor.

Corzine doesn't want to be our governor anymore than he wants to be our senator.

Town Crier

By Marc Kelley



He's got his eyes on a bigger prize. During the last 40 years, the Senate has proven to be a poor launching pad for anyone with presidential aspirations. You have to go back to Kennedy in 1960 to find a senator who ran a successful presidential campaign.

During the last 25 years, four governors have become presidents. If you run for the highest office in the land, it's better to be a governor than a senator. Corzine is nothing if not lustful.

Look ahead six years and accept as given that our state will have shown demonstrable improvement. Property taxes will have been reduced, corruption will be a memory and unemployment and other related issues won't dominate front pages. At this point, Corzine will be a feasible presidential candidate and anything can happen in the primaries and general election. The odds are long, but six years out, the odds are always long.

Once Corzine announced his candidacy, several different storylines were in play. The most important is that, if Corzine is elected he will, as New Jersey's governor, appoint his replacement. In due course, he may appoint our junior senator's replacement as well.

Robert Menendez and Robert

Andrews are names banded about as short-list candidates for these appointments. Not surprisingly, both endorsed Corzine's bid for governor.

Corzine has been a generous contributor to each and every Democratic county committee during the last several years. He is also willing and able to finance his own campaign. As a Corzine supporter noted, "We can either choose Corzine, and he finances the campaign or we can go with Codey and raise money. It's a no-brainer."

As one Democratic county chairman of another endorsed Corzine and his bankroll, it became apparent that Codey could not raise sufficient money or garner the support of enough prominent Democratic county leaders to wage a viable campaign.

Codey had begun to gain traction with the voters and had a better chance of beating Corzine in a primary than any of the Republicans have of winning in a general election. Corzine was able to deflect attacks from the Republican candidate as partisan politics and the heavy edge in voter registration will carry him to the statehouse.

Had those same attacks come from Codey or his supporters, they would have been more problematic. Corzine certainly isn't an empty suit, but there's plenty there to talk about. The guy is not a world-class finisher. He belted from a successful position in the investment industry in mid-career, albeit with a boatload of money. Well, he didn't really bail, his

partners sent him packing. He bailed on his first wife. Now he wants to bail from us in the U.S. Senate. Benefits accrue to states that have senators with tenure. They gain chairmanships on important committees. They are instrumental in directing federal projects to their home states. If Corzine leaves the Senate, New Jersey will have virtually no seniority in the senate. His record in the Senate has been blue-state acceptable, but no one speaks of him in tones of hushed reverence. He was on point to raise money for Democratic senatorial and congressional candidates in last year's election. That effort certainly wasn't an unqualified success.

Part of the reason that a Codey candidacy appealed to me is he seemed so normal. Codey recently got into a dust-up with a radio talk show host. The low-rent gumbanger made unkind and impertinent references to Codey's wife. I expected our governor to issue a Voltaire-like statement. Rather than take the high road, Codey apologized for the self-absorbed misanthrope and yelled at him. "I wish I weren't governor. I'd take you out of the house. No matter how you interpret that response, there really isn't much political calculation to it. Decisions made by our former governor were always made against a backdrop of 'what's best for me, politically.' This approach isn't going to change when Corzine is elected.

Marc Kelley can be reached at mkkelley@excite.net.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your support helps make it happen

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

Thanks to the generous support of business, professional and parent communities of Berkeley Heights, Mountaineer and Springfield, Project Graduation is now a safe, all-night, drug and alcohol free, dignified celebration of graduation — is now in its 17th year. One hundred and fifty-eight members of the graduating class enjoyed Project Graduation 2004 celebrated on June 17 at Rutgers University. We are proud to announce that our average attendance over the past five years has been more than 92 percent.

As is often the case with worthwhile events, expenses run high — Project Graduation 2005 will cost approximately \$20,000 or \$100 each student. Money to support this event are raised as a community-wide effort through fund-raisers, grants and businesses, professional and parent contributions. As a supporter of Project Graduation, your business or organization will be named as a sponsor in our promotional brochure as well as listed among our current contributors in our school and local newspapers.

Through your contribution of money, goods or services to Project Graduation 2005, you become a member of a team dedicated to providing the best possible opportunities for our youth.

Many thanks for your generous support.

Contributions can be sent to: Project Graduation 2005, Governor Livingston High School, 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922.

Treasurer Karen Tuder
Project Graduation 2005

All voters are entitled to same info

To the Editor: The ability to vote is a very important right in America. However, a new type of segregated society is developing in Springfield.

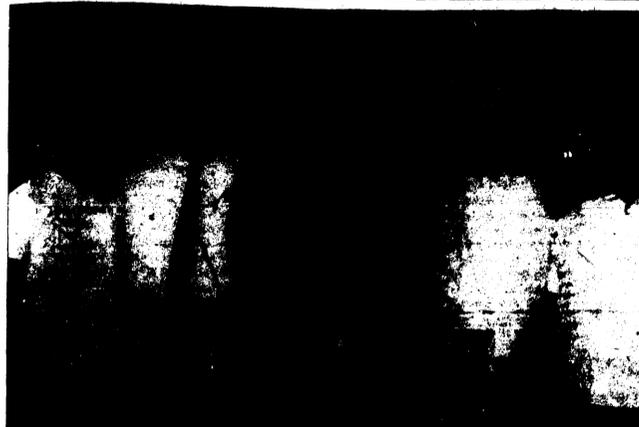
There is no generation gap, but this feature evolves when having an election wherein information regarding the voting data about the candidates and issues is only given to one segment of the population. The balance of the residents remain basically uninformed.

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Get rid of Mount Laurel housing

To the Editor: It's time to tell our representatives in Trenton to get rid of Mount Laurel. It's a money maker for builders and developers.

Send e-mail to editorial@thelocalsource.com



Third-grade students at Deerfield School in Mountaineer celebrate Community Day on Jan. 20 after working at a communities unit in their social studies classes. The day included guest speakers from the community. From left are third-grade teacher Julie Barra, Police Chief James Debbie, Mayor Robert Vigilanti, third-grade teacher Nancy Kinney and third-grade teacher Erin Radley.

Students welcome guest speakers

Third-grade students at Deerfield School in Mountaineer celebrated Community Day on Jan. 20 after working at a communities unit in their social studies classes.

Students were treated to guest speakers from the Mountaineer community, including Mayor Robert

Vigilanti, Chief of Police James Debbie, parent and Elizabeth Fire Chief Tom Young and parent/coach Margie Pires.

After the guest speakers finished, students were given the opportunity to apply the knowledge they learned during the course of the day.

With the help of parent volunteers, the children worked in cooperative groups to create mobiles based on their new information. They also designed T-shirts by composing artistic poems about Mountaineer. The day was a success for everyone involved.

Our classroom cares



The 4-year-old students at the Presbyterian Church Nursery School in Mountaineer participate in the Scholastic Book Club program "Classrooms Care/Reading is Giving." By reading 100 books during December, Scholastic donated an equal number of books to children in need.

Marc Kelley can be reached at mkkelley@excite.net.

EDUCATION

Deerfield School registration begins

Deerfield School announces its registration for 2005-2006 kindergarten classes.

Registration and screening will be conducted by appointment Feb. 22, Feb. 23 and Feb. 24. Appointments for registration and screening will begin at 8:45 a.m.

The screening will be conducted by kindergarten teachers, a speech therapist and an occupational therapist. Barbara Kymowski, the Mountaineer school district's screening counselor, will assist with screening.

Parents should call Lynn Cianelli at 908-201-9104 ext. 100 to make an appointment to be screened. From this date, screening appointments are limited to 100 children per session.

Children being registered should bring the following items:

- Immunization records
- Birth certificate and proof of residency
- Recent photograph

Juniper Village at Chatham

Formerly Kessler Village at Chatham
New Name - Same Owner

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Education

Children found to be eligible are entitled to free and appropriate education programming and related services.

Information is provided to parents of children from birth through age 3 regarding early intervention services.

If your child appears to have one or more of the problem signs or if you have information about Mountaineer school district's evaluation procedures and special education programs, call the Office of Special Services at 908-232-8828 ext. 219 or 221.

All information about such requests will be kept confidential.

Juniper Village at Chatham

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- Licensed trained staff 24 hours every day
- Short term stays available

EVENTS

community. Membership is open to new residents of Mountaineer and established residents who have recently experienced a change in lifestyle.

Speaker explores NJ's role in Civil War
Trailside Nature & Science Center will kick off their adult winter workshop series on Feb. 18 from 7:30 to 10 p.m., when William Gillette, an award-winning author and professor of history at Rutgers University presents a lecture on the role of New Jersey during the Civil War.

Following his presentation, singer and guitarist, Heather Mulvey, will entertain the audience with songs from that era. Trailside is located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountaineer. Call 908-789-3670 for information.

Learn how sap transforms into syrup
At Trailside Nature & Science Center, people of all ages can learn how pure maple syrup is made from the sap of a maple tree during "The Journey from Sap to Syrup" a program being conducted during February Festivities on Feb. 19, from 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m.

Find out what equipment is used to collect sap and take part in a taste test to try to identify the "real" thing. The fee for this program is \$4 per person for residents of Union County and \$5 per person for non-county residents. Trailside is located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountaineer. Call 908-789-3670 for information.

Take a "Walk in Winter"
For the "Walk in Winter" program at Trailside Nature & Science Center, children of all ages accompanied by an adult can discover the many strategies of survival used by plants and animals during the winter months while participating in this hike on Feb. 19 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Participants will visit the nursery to look for signs of deer and other animals, stop by the Backyard Wildlife Habitat to see who's visiting the feeding stations and conclude with hot waffles and marshmallows around a campfire. The fee for this program is \$4 per person for residents of Union County and \$5 per person for non-county residents.

Trailside is located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountaineer. Call 908-789-3670 for information.

Great Swamp Raptor Trust van trip planned
Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountaineer will present a Great Swamp Raptor Trust van trip on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Children ages 8 and older, accompanied by an adult are invited to join a park naturalist on a van trip to visit the Raptor Trust, a unique raptor rehabilitation center that cares for injured birds of prey. Then, participants take a trip to the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge to look for wintering hawks and owls. Bring binoculars and a snack. Call for space availability. The fee is \$5 per person for Union County residents and \$6 per person for non-county residents. Call 908-789-3670 for information.

Comedy show raises funds for rare disease
The fourth annual comedy show to benefit the Weldon R.O.P. Research Fund will take place on March 5 at the Mountaineer Elk Lodge on Route 22 east at 7 p.m.

The fund raises money for research on Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva, a rare and incurable disease afflicting 12-year-old Whitney Weldon from Westfield.

Tickets are \$35 per person. For information, call Gary Whyte at 718-442-7525. Seating is limited.

Cannon Ball house opens for public tours
The Springfield Historical Society will host an open house Feb. 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. at The Historic Cannon Ball House, 126 Morris Ave., Springfield, in honor of President's Day.

On display will be a letter written by George Washington from Springfield in 1780.

Admission is free. Refreshments will be served. For information, call 973-376-4784.

Film festival explores perceptions of Jews
Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive in Springfield will host a film festival on March 20 and May 15. These complimentary events begin at 7 p.m.

The first permanent Jewish settlement in North America was established in 1654. Beginning this past September, Jews across America began a yearlong celebration of the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in North America.

Newcomers meet
The Mountaineer Newcomers Club announces the following activities:

- The annual Meeting and Luncheon
- The annual "Newcomers' Day Party" will be conducted on Saturday.

Join the Ladies League club in 1745 fabric class. They are studying Mountaineer FTA classmate/fashion show on March 3.

For membership information, call Tricia Bonaventura at 908-384-4408.

The Mountaineer Newcomers Club Inc. is a social organization dedicated to providing a friendly, inviting to new members, to help them meet others and to extend a welcome to the club.

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Echo Leader
Published Weekly Since 1929
Incorporating Springfield Leader and Mountaineer Echo
Published By
Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc.
1291 Stuyvesant Avenue
Union, N.J. 07083
908-686-7700
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HOW SWEET IT IS — Mountainside celebrated Children's Appreciation Week Jan. 28 through Jan. 29 in the Mountainside school district. The children were treated to a 'Cookie Day,' an 'Ice Cream Day' and a raffle. The weeklong event honoring Mountainside's children was sponsored by the Mountainside PTA, with Ana Conde and Cheryl Nigroand as the chairpersons, and hosted by volunteer parents from the community. At top, PTA parents of Mountainside's Beechwood School show their appreciation for the children by handing out free cookies during lunch. Below, the ice cream was cold but the feelings were warm as volunteer PTA parents from the Mountainside community handed out free ice cream during lunch.



Interfaith families invited to Outreach brunch

Temple Sha'arey Shalom, 78 South Springfield Ave., Springfield, will host an Outreach brunch on Feb. 27 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Lynn Wolf, director of United Jewish Communities MetroWest's program and Temple Sha'arey Shalom Rabbi Joshua Goldstein will be part of a program focusing on discussing concerns and issues relating to interfaith families. This program is chaired by Doreen Salemo and Mindy Schreff. Sha'arey Shalom family educator. The program and brunch is free of charge and open to all. Babysitting will be available, but an RSVP is required. Outreach has been an important issue in Reform Judaism since Alexander Schindler, late past president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, now URJ, Union for Reform Judaism — more than 20 years ago summoned the movement to embrace the intermarried and offer them a warm welcome, drawing them closer to Jewish life and Jewish commitment. Since then, Reform synagogues, which include Temple Sha'arey Shalom, have been transformed by a massive influx of intermarried couples. "I think at Temple Sha'arey Shalom, we have created a comfortable environment for non-Jews without compromising the congregation's Jewish character," said Rabbi Goldstein. The Pathways program of MetroWest offers intermarried families opportunities and resources for those interested in exploring Judaism, the Jewish community and intermarriage issues. Discussion groups are also held for couples making decisions about the religious identity of their families as well as for parents/grandparents of the intermarried who are dealing with the issues around the intermarriage of their children. Programs for intermarried families who want to learn about their Jewish heritage are also given. Sha'arey Shalom is a Reform Jewish congregation affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations — UAHC. Membership is from the communities of Cranford, Millburn, Spring-

Lent begins spiritual growth groups

The 40 days and six Sundays of Lent began on Ash Wednesday and Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church is offering dynamic worship and spiritual growth groups to the public. "Our emphasis during Lent will be helping folks of all ages grow in their relationship with God through Jesus Christ," said the Rev. Elaine Wing, pastor of Springfield Emanuel. "We've created worship services, study groups and outreach ministries that encourage people to put their faith into action." "Traveling the Prayer Paths of Jesus," a book by John Indermark, is the subject of a spiritual growth group that met on Ash Wednesday and will meet again on March 23 at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. This group will practice prayer following the model of Jesus. Each section of the book has seven readings and a prayer-related exercise. The book costs \$12 and can be purchased through the church. Participants are asked to call the church right away and reserve their copy. A second study group will meet to explore the "Letter to the Ephesians," a concise epistle found in the Greek writings of the Bible. "Ephesians is a great way to explore God's purpose for our lives as realized through Jesus Christ without entering into an advanced Bible study," said Wing. This group will meet on Wednesday, as well as Feb. 23 and March 2, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The third spiritual growth group offered by the church will use "The Purpose-Driven Life," a popular book by Pastor Rick Warren of Southern California. This post-Easter study group will meet weekly, beginning April 6 and ending May 11. Participants need to purchase their own book before the first session. Sunday worship at Springfield Emanuel begins at 10:30 a.m. Children of all ages worship with their parents for the first 20 minutes before going to Sunday activities. Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church is located at the far back end of Church Mall near the intersection of Morris and Mountain Avenues in Springfield. For information, call the church office at 973-376-1695.

Self-affirming workshop scheduled

Lisa Athan and Scott Strickland will be presenting a workshop titled "Loving Yourself While Loving Others" on Friday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall in Springfield. The workshop is designed to help people affirm themselves so that they have the capacity to love themselves and others in a rich, meaningful way. If you pay attention to the safety briefing that is given before each air-line flight, the flight attendants tell you "If there is a loss of cabin pressure, oxygen masks will drop from compartments above your head. If you are traveling with loved ones, put on your own oxygen mask first, then help your loved ones." The presenters of the workshop find this is good advice in the field of relationships, too. In this workshop, Lisa and Scott will discuss how to love oneself and therefore best prepare yourself to love other people. They are pleased to offer this workshop over the weekend before Valentine's Day. Topics to be covered in the workshop include: "Loving yourself." Far from being self-centered and narcissistic, loving yourself is the only path to having the capacity to love another person, Athan maintains. In this workshop, the pre-

senters will explore this concept and present some tools and techniques to develop this positive self-love, including: knowing who you really are, knowing how to access the world's universal love energy and knowing your needs are met and knowing how to have what you want. Regarding "loving others," the golden rule says "Do unto others as you would like to be done unto yourself." The presenters of the workshop think that this is a positive statement, but also know there is an even more lofty rule. The platinum rule says "do unto others as they would like to be done unto." Following this rule takes an extra measure of love and understanding to set aside your own preferences in meeting the desires of another to whom you would like to demonstrate love, Strickland and Athan said. Coffee will be provided. The cost of the workshop is \$12. Strickland is an industrial engineer by training and has been working professionally as a management consultant for more than 25 years. He has also been leading workshops in spiritual studies and encouragement for several years, most recently with The Center for Rising Heat, an organization dedicated to healing, encouragement, affirmation and teaching for men and women who are seeking to live more balanced and fulfilling lives. He is also a poet and his work has been featured at the Dancing Goat in South Orange, Van Gogh's Ear in Union and the Spiral Bridge in Montclair. His book on business management, titled "A Woman's Guide to Business," is scheduled to be released later this year. Athan has a master's degree in counseling and is a gifted motivational speaker.

Grant to fund project that aids needy seniors

The Overlook Palliative Care Program has been awarded a three-year, \$291,000 grant for a project designed to assist vulnerable seniors. The project will be coordinated in collaboration with Atlantic Home Care and has been funded by the Grota Fund for Senior Care of the Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest New Jersey. The project's goal is to coordinate services for medical care, symptom management and improved quality of life for 150 chronically ill seniors each year of the grant. Senior citizens eligible for this program would be those who no longer meet insurance criteria for home care services and have limited caregiver resources. "It is natural for older people to want to be independent. This program is for those people who need some assistance managing their health but who do not require more intensive services," said Jeanne Karwin, coordinator of the Overlook Ethics and Palliative Care Program. "Hopefully, this program will provide additional resources, so seniors will be able to extend their ability to remain independent and to enhance their quality of life." An Atlantic Home Care nurse and a social worker trained in the principles of palliative care will conduct an initial assessment of each senior citizen enrolled, make monthly home visits for six months with check-up phone calls in between and then conduct annual follow-up assessments. The nurse and social worker not only will assist seniors with managing their medications, they also will connect seniors to other services available in the community and encourage them to work with their families to discuss their wishes and to plan for long-term care. "We look at this as a way of providing services to a very vulnerable group of elderly seniors," said Pat Moulton, manager for education and research, Atlantic Home Care & Hospice. "These individuals are chronically ill, but stable enough with their illness that they are not eligible for skilled care. One of our goals is to look for some of those subtle changes and warning signs and help them before their illnesses are exacerbated." Overlook's Palliative Care Program provides comprehensive interdisciplinary support to seriously ill hospitalized patients while also providing advice and support to family members. Atlantic Hospice provides supportive and comfort care to patients who are near the end of life and to their families and Atlantic Home Care provides skilled nursing care in the home to patients who qualify. "We are grateful to the Grota Fund for allowing us to create this much-needed program to connect at-risk seniors with professionals and services," said Dr. John Gregory, director of the Overlook Palliative Care Program. "These seniors will receive more practical and emotional support while still retaining their independence." The Grota Fund for Senior Care of the Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest NJ supports not-for-profit agencies in Essex, Morris and Union counties whose programs and services address the needs of older adults and their families and enhance the quality of seniors' lives. Although Grota is a fund within JCF, it is associated in its approach to service with Grota's Request for Proposals, a proactive initiative providing funding for a period of three years, encouraging the development of continuity-based services to support older adults who wish to remain in their own homes as they age. "Grota is pleased to partner with Overlook Hospital Foundation in funding the Home-Based Palliative Care Program," said Nancy Schar, president of the Grota Advisory Council. The mission of the Grota Fund for Senior Care of the Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest New Jersey is to identify and address the needs of older adults and their families and to enhance the quality of their lives. Home-based palliative care, with its focus on an interdisciplinary team approach, will address the needs of the frailest elderly and meet Grota's priority of enabling individuals to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

Summit Chorale performs 'Songs from the Camps'

"Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps" will be performed by the Summit Chorale, under the direction of Richard Garin, on Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. at the new Concert Hall adjoining the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts at Drew University in Madison. Tickets are \$20; \$18 students and seniors, \$2 less for advance purchase. For information, call 973-292-1186 or visit www.summitchorale.org. American composer Donald McCallough and lyricist Danny Clark scored the Holocaust Memorial Museum for words and melodies written by Polish prisoners incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps. The evocative songs, readings and musical arrangements testify to the enduring power of the human spirit. Summit Chorale is joined by soloists Rochelle Ellis, soprano; David Hunsryger, baritone; Priscilla Lee, cello, and Thomas Cuffari, piano, under the musical direction of conductor Richard Garin, performing Holocaust Cantata in the recently completed state-of-the-art concert hall adjoining the Dorothy Young Center for the Arts on the Drew campus. Now in its 96th season, Summit Chorale will welcome audiences to its new home at Drew University, where it is housed in the 220 at the door, \$18 for seniors and students. For reservations or information, call 973-292-1186. The new concert hall and a large on-campus parking lot are near the main entrance of Drew University at the intersection of Madison Avenue, Lancaster Road and Elm Street. Funding for Summit Chorale is made possible in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.

SENIOR NEWS

Pastor speaks at Old Guard meeting

Robb Shoff, pastor of United Methodist Church in Madison, will speak at the Tuesday meeting of the Summit Area Old Guard of the New Providence Municipal Center. Shoff will discuss the impact of justice and social issues on our society. He will also discuss the desire for public housing and always result in a better quality of life. The meeting will be held at the Summit Area Old Guard on Tuesday at the New Providence Borough Hall, 560 Elmwood Ave. Coffee hour starts at 9:15 a.m. followed by a 10 a.m. meeting. Old Guard members participate in sports, bridge, meals and trips play, concerts and other events. The Summit Old Guard was founded on Dec. 2, 1930 and is currently celebrating its 75th year. For information, call Earl Gilkey at 908-464-2480 or visit www.summitoldguard.homesed.com. For more information about this meeting, call Frank Topper at 908-464-6186 or e-mail franktopper@aol.com.

SAGE receives grant to support SHIP

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services' Division on Aging will be awarding SAGE Health Assistance Program grant to support SHIP. SAGE is a statewide program that provides health insurance counseling and financial assistance to low-income seniors. SHIP is a program that provides health insurance counseling and financial assistance to low-income seniors. SAGE will also identify Spanish and Polish-speaking institutions, organizations and media to reach out to seniors in need of services. If you have information about SHIP, call 908-272-5550.

Springfield Seniors Club seeks new members

If any senior citizens are looking for something to do in their spare time, the Springfield Senior Citizens Club is looking for some new members. They are located at the Sarah Bailey Child Center, 30 Church Mall, Springfield. There are four senior groups, who meet twice a month. The groups have speakers, parties, play Bingo, etc. If interested, call Theresa at 973-912-2227 or just stop in and visit on either a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. The price to join their groups is \$6 per year to cover cost of coffee and dessert. Everyone brings a sandwich and they enjoy lunch together. There are many activities throughout the year. Members go on day trips, have parties on special holidays, card playing, a choir to join, etc. Anyone interested is invited to come as a guest and see their groups in action.

PREP group meets

SAGE sponsors a series of monthly support group for seniors on the third Wednesday of each month at SAGE Eldercare, 290 Broad St. in Summit. PREP — People Responsible for Elderly Parents — provides caregivers with emotional support, community resources, effective problem-solving and coping strategies, and the chance to share concerns discussing with others who are caring for their aging loved ones. PREP's next meeting will be Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For information, call Ellen McNally, SAGE Info-Care Director at 908-273-5550.

Seniors read Valentine's Day poems Feb. 21

Readings of poems, stories and songs will be held at 21 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center of the Summit Senior Citizens Center, 22 Chestnut Ave., Summit, at the Valentine's Day with poems of romance and love.

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WORSHIP CALENDAR

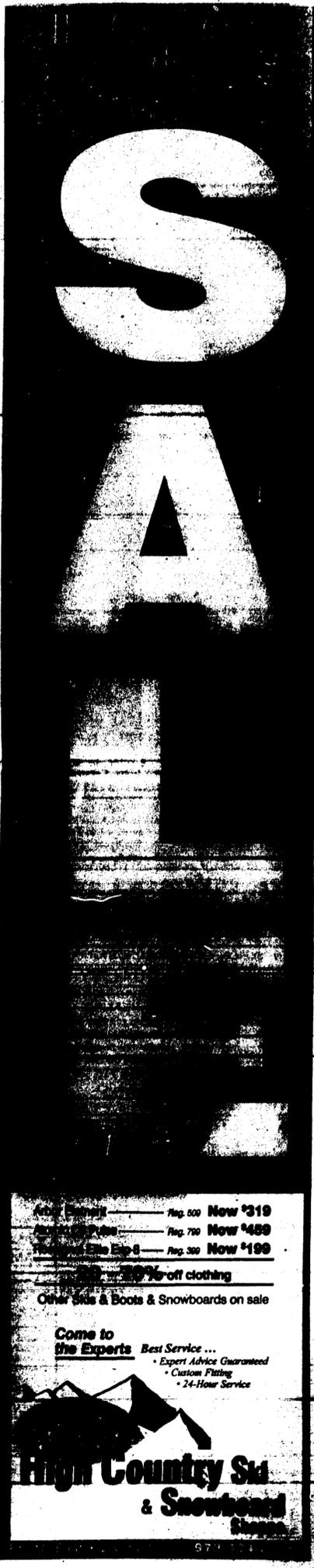
- BAPTIST**
EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH "SERVING CHRIST IN THE 21st CENTURY." 242 Shampite Rd., Springfield. Rev. Frederick Mackey, Sr., Pastor. Sundays 9:30 AM Bible School for all ages. Nursery through Seniors. Spanish Sunday School 9:30 am and 5:30 pm. 10:30 AM Worship Service and Nursery care. 5:30-7:00 PM AWANA Club Program for Children ages 4-11. 6:00 PM Evening Service. Nursery care. Wednesdays: 7:15 PM Prayer, Praise and Bible Study. Junior/Senior High Ministry. Active Youth Ministry. Wide-Range Music Program. Ample Parking. Char. Lift provided with assistance. All are invited and welcomed to participate in worship with us. For further information contact church office (973) 378-4351. Mondays: 7:00 pm - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.
JEWISH-REFORM
TEMPLE SHA'AREY SHALOM 78 S. Springfield Avenue, Springfield, (973) 376-5387. Rabbi Joshua Goldstein, Rabbi Amy Goldstein, Cantor Education Director, Nina Greenman, Pre-School Director, Mindy Schreff, Family Life Educator, Edward Fink and Hank Rottenberg, Co-Presidents. Temple Sha'arey Shalom is a Reform congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism. Shabbat worship, enhanced by volunteer choir, begins on Friday evenings at 8:00 PM, with monthly Family and Alternative Worship. Saturday morning Torah study class begins at 9:15 AM followed by worship at 10:30 AM. Religious school classes meet on Saturday mornings for grades K-5 on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for 4-7 and Sunday evenings for post-bar mitzvah students. Pre-2 school classes are available for children ages 1-2 through 4. The Temple has the support of an active Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Renaissance Group and Youth Group. A wide range of programs include Adult Education, Social Action, Interfaith Outreach, Young and Seniors. For more information, call the temple office, (973) 376-5387.
LUTHERAN
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 639 Monmouth Avenue, Springfield, (978) 973-3796. 4525. Tel: 973-379-8887. Rector: Madlen, Pastor: Our Sunday Worship Service takes place at 10 a.m. For information about our midweek children, teen, and adult programs, contact the Church Office Monday through Thursday, 8:30-4:00 p.m.
REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL, 229 Cooperworth Pl., Westfield, Rev. Paul E. Krutick, Pastor. (908) 232-5137. Beginning Sunday, July 4, Summer Worship Times are as follows: Sunday, 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning Nursery available. Wednesday Evening Worship Service, 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion is celebrated at all worship services. The church and all rooms are handicapped accessible.
JEWISH-ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION ISRAEL OF SPRINGFIELD 330 Monmouth Avenue, Springfield, 973-467-0664. Chazan: Marcia, Rabbi, Alan J. Yuter, Rabbi Emeritus, Solomon Genshaft, President. Congregation Israel is a Modern Orthodox synagogue. There are two daily weekday morning Minyan at 6:15 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Daily weekday Mincha/Mariv services are also held. Call the rabbi office for times. There are two Shabbat morning services at 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. as well as Junior Congregation at 9:30 a.m. The Nursery School enrolls children aged 2 1/2 to 4 A.

- METHODIST**
SPRINGFIELD EMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (SEUMC) is a faith community inspired by God's love for all people. Join us for Sunday worship which begins with the entire congregation at 10:15 AM before children exit for Sunday School. Express God's compassion through outreach activities. Beginning and experienced vocalists and musicians are invited to participate in the music ministry led by professional musicians. Cindy Johnson and Don Craci. Bible study, prayer, youth group and fellowship events enable all to grow in their faith. SEUMC is located at the far back end of Church Mall near the intersection of Morris and Mountain Avenues, Springfield. Call 973-376-1695 for more information.
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT is located in the heart of town on the corner of East Plain Boulevard and DeForest Avenue. Church School and Bible Study is held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning services 10:15 a.m.; the emphasis of which is to always have a "good week" because of Paul's reminder to us in his letter to the Romans "that ALL things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose". The services are uplifting, Biblically sound and guaranteed to keep you awake. The music and weekly children's message are memorable. All are welcome to have the Good News of God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ. Our church also offers nursery care, after school refreshments and fellowship, and many lively programs for everyone. Come worship with us and find out how you too can have a "good week". Call the church office or Pastor Chris or Rick Handwerker, Senior Co-Pastors for more information at 908-277-1700.
ROMAN CATHOLIC
THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES, 100 Central Avenue, Montclair, 908-232-1162. Celebrate the Lord's Day: Antiphonal Mass 5:00pm, Sunday at 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am. Holy Eucharist: Sunday-9:30am, Saturday 8:00am. Sacrament of Reconciliation, Saturday at 7pm. Pastoral Adoration Chapel for personal prayer and devotion. www.ourladyoflourdes.org, office@ourladyoflourdes.org.
THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. MARY'S, 418 S. Springfield, New Jersey 07083-376-8844. SUNDAY EUCHARIST: Sat. 5:00 p.m. Sun. 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 12 Noon, Reconciliation: Sat. 1:00-2:00 p.m. Weekday Masses: 7:00 & 8:00 a.m.
UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST
UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, 4 Walden Avenue, Summit, NJ 07981-980-223-3245. www.uzsummit.org. Rev. Vanessa Roth, Sumner, Minister, Mitchell Vitan, Music and Choir Director. Sunday Services and self-education classes at 9:30 and 11:00 AM. Adult Education and other programs.
PRESBYTERIAN
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 210 Morris Ave. at Church Mall, Springfield, 973-379-4320. Sunday School Classes for ages 3yrs. - Senior High 9:00 a.m. in our Parish House. Sunday morning worship services 10:15 a.m. Children's Church is held during the worship service. Nursery care and facilities are provided. Opportunities for personal growth through worship, Christian Education, Choir, ongoing church activities, and Fellowship. Holy Communion is held the 1st Sunday of every month. The Ladies Evening Group-meets Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

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OBITUARIES

Sophie Fritz
Sophie Fritz, 97, of Flemington, formerly of Union and Mountaintop died Jan. 26 at home.

Antoinette Petrella
Antoinette Louise Petrella, 77, of Mountaintop died Jan. 30 at home.

Ruth Gulden
Ruth H. Gulden, 80, of Berea, Ohio, formerly of Roselle Park and Mountaintop, died Jan. 26 at the South West General Hospice, Strongsville, Ohio.

Marjorie White
Marjorie White, 82, of New Providence, formerly of Springfield, died Feb. 2 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Eda Bank
Eda Bank of West Orange, formerly of Hillside and Springfield, died Feb. 2 in St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston.

Helen B. McGill
Helen B. McGill, 93, of Tinton Falls, formerly of Summit, died Feb. 1 at home.

Alan Skrifoff
Alan H. Skrifoff, 56, of Summit, an educator, died Feb. 6 at home.

Arthur Morey
Arthur Morey, 88, of St. Petersburg, Fla., formerly of Springfield, died Feb. 1 in the Oak Manor, Largo, Fla.

Richard Leonard
Richard C. Leonard, 88, of Springfield died Jan. 22 in the HCR Manor Care, Mountaintop.

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Programs help people stay heart-healthy

To celebrate February as National Heart Month, Overlook Hospital will continue to host several heart-healthy and educational programs.

Cholesterol Screenings
Total cholesterol, HDL and ratio are measured using a finger stick. Education and counseling offered based on results.

Diabetes Screenings
Learn your blood sugar and risk factors for Type II diabetes with a non-fasting finger stick for immediate results.

Body Mass Index, Body Fat Analysis
Take these quick and easy body mass index and body fat tests to assess your risk of heart disease.

Neurosurgeon rings bell at New York Stock Exchange
Neurosurgeon Richard Hodosh joined a group to ring the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange on Feb. 4.

Sessions offer insight on weight loss surgery
Overlook Hospital will offer sessions about weight loss surgery, including information and discussion about all aspects of bariatric surgery for interested individuals.

Cholesterol screenings at Brighton Gardens
Brighton Gardens of Mountaintop will host a free cholesterol screening on Monday.

Fast way to build character

Anthony Orlando of Linden would find himself serving as an Elizabeth firefighter during the week while spending weekends in places like Scotland, Denmark, Italy, England and Thailand at his part-time job.

Reservation doubles as Klondike
Scouts take part in annual contest
Sled tracks crisscrossed the snow, leading the Watchung Reservation a touch of the arctic this weekend.

Left Out
By Frank Capace
Orlando's history with the sport is traced to his father, who was also a champion.

Junior League sponsors spring Literary Luncheon
The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield has announced the sixth annual Literary Luncheon.

Class combines cardio workout with dance
The Summit YMCA offers a new fitness class, Cardio Dance, for adult members.

Cholesterol screenings at Brighton Gardens
Brighton Gardens of Mountaintop will host a free cholesterol screening on Monday.

Why do smart kids fail?
If your child has struggled with schoolwork this year, take action now to make his or her grades better.

It's simple: United Way helps people
For example, a heating company provided a grant for those people that couldn't afford to keep their homes warm in the winter.

Union County



News, Arts, Entertainment, Classified, Real Estate, Automotive

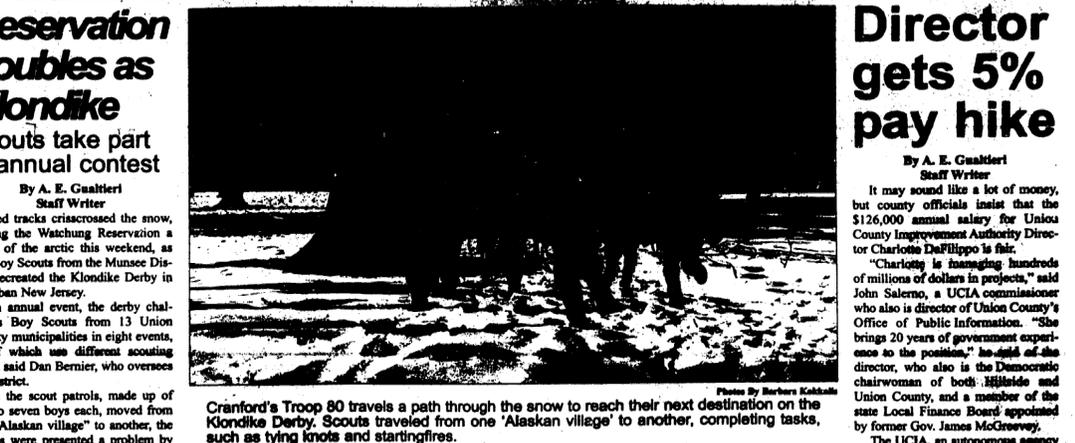
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Cranford's Troop 80 travels a path through the snow to reach their next destination on the Klondike Derby. Scouts traveled from one 'Alaskan village' to another, completing tasks, such as tying knots and starting fires.

Director gets 5% pay hike
By A. E. Gualtieri
Staff Writer
It may sound like a lot of money, but county officials insist that the \$126,000 annual salary for Union County Improvement Authority Director Charlotte DeFilippo is fair.

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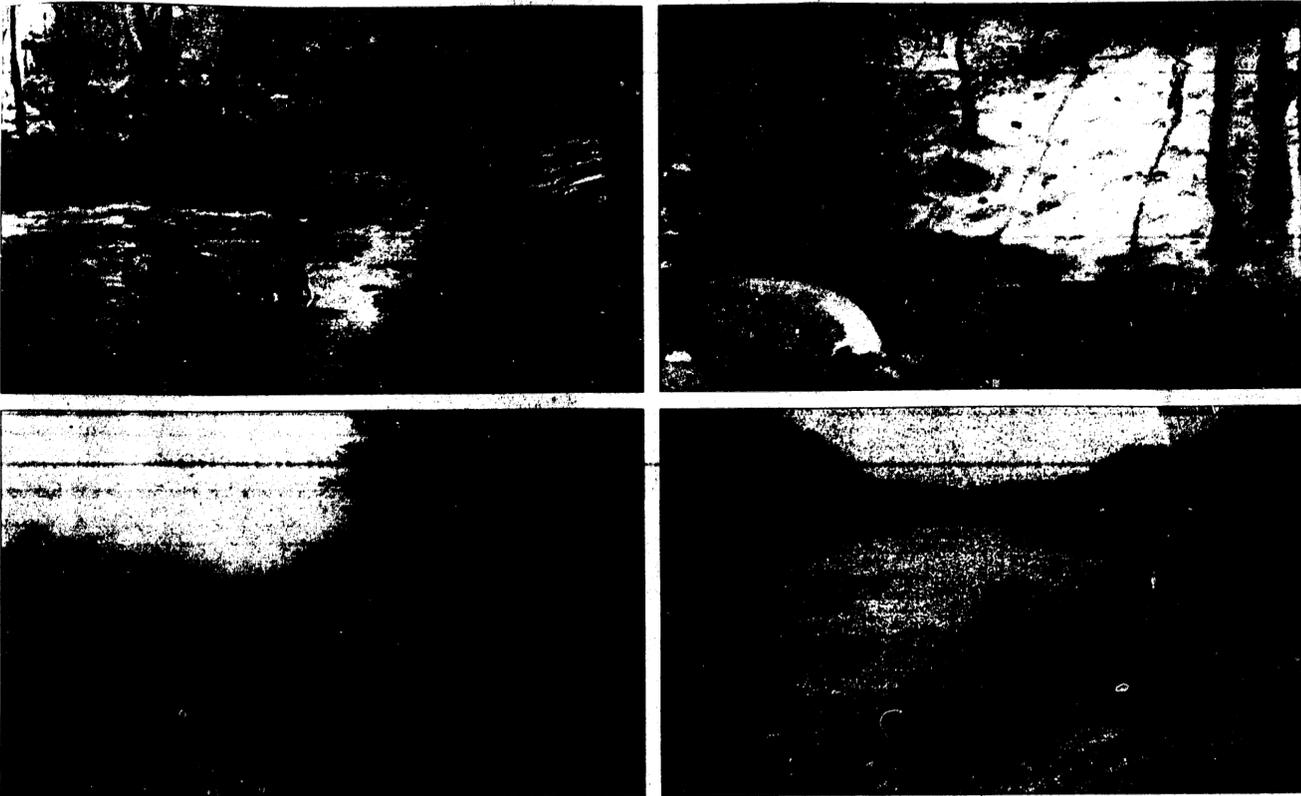
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Clockwise from the top left are: 'Low Water,' 'Afternoon Light,' 'On The Upper Delaware,' and 'Self-Portrait,' some of the paintings of Judith Baryas, which are on display at the Swain Galleries in Plainfield through Feb. 26. For information, call 908-756-1707.

Baryas exhibits her portraits of nature scenes at Swain Galleries

By Jeff Conaway
If you've ever seen a painting of a river, you know how beautiful it can be. Judith Baryas, a Swain resident, has spent the last 28 years teaching students the art of painting nature scenes. Her success as a teacher adds a slightly different element to her experience than she gets by painting.

"I felt that my education here was incredible. It was great, and I definitely want to pass that on," said Baryas. "My students become my fellow alumni as they graduate, so it's like one big family here. Quite a number of our instructors were former students."

After many years, Baryas changed her medium again. She stopped painting portraits and went to work on nature scenes because she wanted something that was looser, that would help her convey what she was seeing when she was on the kayak. So she took up the use of the pastel in the fall of 2000.

Baryas also uses nature shots from spots other than the Delaware for her work. She's painted scenes from Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield, and at the Echo Lake Park on the border of Springfield and Westfield.

Her work has been shown in many local venues, in the Swain Gallery's Christmas shows, and also in the Crown Carriage and Gallery in Frenchtown.

But in the final analysis, Baryas doesn't think about a legacy when she's painting. She's just searching for beauty, hoping to convey that to people.

"Mostly I guess, I'm looking for nice scenes, and I'm attracted I think to the light," she said. "When you see something and you say, I wish I was there, that's what I want people to see. I also like the river as opposed to the lake or ocean, because with the river, you see different scenes all the time, and you feel like you're going some place."

"My Favorite Places, Pastel Landscapes," by Judith Baryas, will be on display at Swain Galleries, 703 Westfield Ave. in Plainfield, through Feb. 26. For more information, call 908-756-1707.

Founder brings film festival home

By Jeff Conaway
It was crazy. John Columbus even said so himself.

When Columbus was 13, he got his first movie camera. Many years later, after graduating from film school, he moved his family to West Orange. That's when a light bulb went off in his head. And yes, that's exactly how he phrased it.

"It was in 1980, and I was already out of film school," said Columbus, the founder and director of the Black Maria Film Festival. Following teaching stints at Columbia University and Stockton State College, he settled down in West Orange. "I had collaborated on running a film series in South Jersey, and I missed that," he said. "I realized, as a child, I visited the Thomas Edison historic site in West Orange, and that was the inspiration for me to go into film."

As moments of epiphany go, Columbus' moment seems less dramatic than some, but his result is very impressive: He began the Black Maria Film Festival, named after the first film studio, which was founded by Edison. The Black Maria Film Festival celebrates the achievement of independent film making, a devotion to the uncommon achievement, something that would make Edison proud.

The concept began with Columbus approaching the Thomas Edison National Historic site with the idea to start a film festival celebrating independent, short film development, in honor of Thomas Edison and the origins of the motion picture.

"I had passionate about film as a life-changing experience. It completely changed the way we perceive the world around us, and the way we expressed ourselves about it," Columbus said. "It continues to celebrate independent film, to break away from the commonplace, just like Thomas Edison didn't always go with the most common approach to ideas. We don't pigeonhole or categorize films; we have every kind of first-place winner. We still focus on short films, rather than feature-length films. It's a wonderful, sonnet-like form, and that's what Edison did. If you don't like one film, you'll like the next. Typically, we show eight to 10 short films in most shows. We have a few longer films, up to 45 to 50 minutes, but not feature-length. If we do a show, we might show four of them, thinking that they're still short by most standards."

This is not to say that some people whose work is celebrated by the Black Maria Festival don't go on to achieve fame in the field of commercial film. Columbus just takes a different focus when it comes to film.

"It doesn't matter if they become successful in the industry," said Columbus. "Like any artist, sometimes people are recognized late in life. With the digital revolution, there are all kinds of ways of getting films out there to be seen, other than mainstream, general theatrical releases." Columbus acknowledged that some people in his festival have gone to achieve success in the commercial industry, including Robert Rodriguez, who directed "Boyz n the City," a short, "Spy Kids," and "El Mariachi." Mira Nair directed "Vanity Fair" in 2004, which debuted at the Millburn Theater, based on the classic book by the same name. Nair also directed a film titled "Mimic: The Struggle," which starred Denzel Washington.

But the key to Black Maria, which will be coming "home" to the Essex Green in West Orange on Sunday, is to honor the achievements of people who approach film-making without the benefit of big budgets, and without the backing of large movie studios and their powerful publicity machines. Black Maria honors those who will stop to be different, regardless of whether their films generate the big ink that signifies profit, or the red ink that sometimes do.

"The Black Maria Film Festival concludes more than 80 public shows a year, from Alaska to Alabama, from California to Rome," said Columbus, who noted that Black Maria is an Academy-Award qualifying film festival for shorts, and it has two Oscar-nominated films, which will be shown at Essex Green. One is titled "Hardwood," about the son of a Harlem clockmaker and his reconciliation with his father. The other is "Ayer," which consists of a man's mission. "Like none anybody has ever seen before, and that's the truth," boasted Columbus.

"As wonderful as big films are, I look at the other possibilities of film," said Columbus. "It's not solely a fictional form, and it's not only what you see on TV. It's also working to expand how time is used in the film. We don't have to do things in chronological order in film — we don't have to have dialogue at all, it can be more intimate, like a personality profile. It can be poetic in its form, using layering of soundtracks and visuals. In the short form, one can experiment and not spend millions of dollars, and take chances that they couldn't in feature length films."

Columbus said the Black Maria Festival will run from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Essex Green on Feb. 13, and could run a little later. For more information, call 201-200-2043, or visit the Web site, www.blackmariafilmfestival.org.

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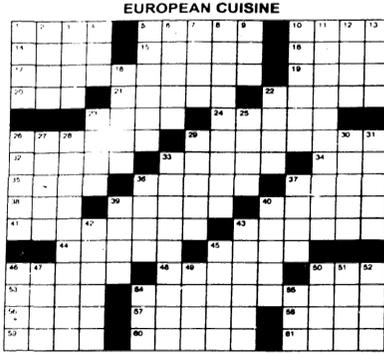
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- 20 Novelist Rand
- 21 Politician Stevenson
- 22 Hedda Gabler dramatist
- 23 Western athletic team
- 24 Unreasonable fear
- 26 Sunflower State
- 29 Frozen custards
- 32 Islamic chief
- 33 Bay, in Maine
- 34 Ornamental container
- 35 Elapse
- 36 Lures
- 37 Ancient Greek portico
- 38 Sch. for noncoms
- 39 16th Century poet
- 40 Plot to deceive
- 41 Smoked Polish sausage
- 43 Fortune-telling cards
- 44 Lariat
- 45 Remove
- 46 Pancake accompaniment: var.
- 48 Arrow poison
- 50 Pot. party
- 53 Stravinsky
- 54 Milky gelatine dessert
- 56 Entanglement
- 57 Davis or Midler
- 58 Mend
- 59 Nana star
- 60 Kind of wool
- 61 Giants' winning coach



DOWN

- 1 Rum cake
- 2 Partner
- 3 Bank transaction
- 4 Understanding
- 5 Circumvents
- 6 Scottish dances
- 7 Tiny amount
- 8 Appetizer
- 9 Originally named
- 10 Part of former Yugoslavia
- 11 Spiced ham
- 12 Italian princely family
- 13 College official
- 18 Arabian emirate
- 22 Scoop
- 23 Employa
- 25 Curved lines
- 26 Pillow stuffing
- 27 Prized violin
- 28 Candied fruit and nuts mixture
- 29 Coin of Pakistan
- 30 Rainbow fish
- 31 Rescals irritably
- 33 White-bean casserole
- 36 Ovine conversation
- 37 Dry
- 39 Cooking meas.
- 40 Northwestern capital
- 42 Actress Hutton
- 43 Male hawk
- 45 "The Divine Comedy" poet
- 46 Transgressions
- 47 "Rhythm": Garthwin
- 49 Judge
- 50 Chew on
- 51 Bête noire
- 52 Actor Sean or Christopher
- 54 Cartridge contents
- 55 Str

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE B13

ART CLIPS

Season is under way for Westfield Community Players

The Westfield Community Players 2004-2005 season is now under way. The Box Office is open at 908-232-1221 and ready to take your reservations.

New President Naomi Yablonsky, who has directed and performed at WCP, announced the season of drama, comedy, murder and song.

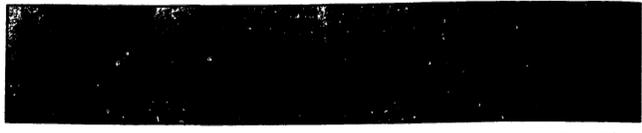
Tickets can be obtained for each performance with checks payable to Westfield Community Players, sent to Letty Hudak at 409 Harrison Avenue, Westfield. All shows open on a Saturday night and run Friday and Saturday evenings for three or four weekends, making it easy to have a local night out to experience live theater.

Two performances remain in the 2004-05 season. Agatha Christie's courtroom drama, "Witness for the Prosecution" is the March show.

True to form, confusion, doubt and double-cross are skillfully presented by the author in this Tony Award Winning play.

The play will be presented March 5 through 19 with tickets priced at \$15.

WCP ends the season in May with the drama, "The Sign of the Cross" at the Spiffire Grill.



FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY
February 12th, 2005
EVENT: Big Indoor Flea Market
PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, 1 Raritan Road, Roselle
TIME: 9am-5pm
PRICE: Call for information 908-245-2350
ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non profit organizations. It is prepared and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) for Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both Counties. Your notices must be in our Maplewood Office (463 Valley Street) by 4:00 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisements may also be placed at our other offices, 266 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291 Sayrewood Ave., Union. For more information call 800-564-8911

OTHER

SUNDAY
February 13th 2005
EVENT: The Stirling Duo In Concert With Margie Berg - Romance In The Air
PLACE: Ethical Society Of Essex County
TIME: 2:00 PM
PRICE: \$25.00
ORGANIZATION: The Ethical Culture Society of Essex County

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Water just keeps on flowing



Child's Park, one of the pastel paintings of Judith Baryas. An exhibit by the artist is on display at the Swain Galleries in Plainfield through Feb. 26. For information, call 908-756-1707.

Into the Gap



Pictured above is 'The Delaware River Water Gap,' and below is 'The Delaware River,' two of the paintings of Judith Baryas which are on display at the Swain Galleries in Plainfield through Feb. 26. For information, call 908-756-1707.



Arts Center set to host Rawls

By Jeff Cammas
Associate Editor

Lou Rawls doesn't mince words when it comes to his feelings about hip hop.

He feels much of it comes from listening to the music of the 1970s.

"The stuff they've put out lately isn't music," said Rawls, acknowledging that he's not too enthralled with some of the music produced these days. "They sample my stuff, Barry White's stuff, Isaac Hayes' stuff. They make hip hop, but there's no music, there's nothing creative about it. The music of the '70s had great stories to it, there was a melody. Classic oldies stations are getting a lot of listeners because people want to hear music."

So it's safe to say that Lou's not one to shy away from controversy.

One thing that isn't very controversial is the quality of his music.

The smooth, almost breezy tone in his voice makes his songs distinct. Rawls has one of those classic voices whose silky smoothness transcends era and popularity trends, the sort of voice that's appreciated by retirees and young adults who weren't even born when his music was at the height of its popularity.

And his music continues to be so popular that he'll be performing at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway on Feb. 19 at 8 p.m.

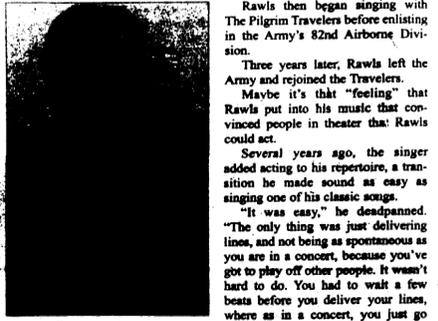
Though complimented by comments about the quality of his voice, Rawls pruned a moment when asked if he could think of any other artists whose voices were similar to his.

"Barry had it," said Rawls, referring to Barry White, who died last year. "Luther Vandross, he's got a good delivery, good sound, Bryan McKnight is clever, of course, Isaac Hayes, Michael McDonald, but his voice is more of a tenor sound. There's Smokey Robinson, but he's unique."

Of course, much of Rawls' success comes from his natural talent — which is no surprise.

But he also got training that gave him a unique preparation for his delivery, and prepared him to maximize his talents. Rawls got his training in gospel music.

"The importance of gospel is that



Lou Rawls, who will perform on Feb. 19 at the Union County Arts Center, gave me a sense of rhythm and you put more into your delivery if the story is right," Rawls noted. "Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight, we all sang from the gospel field, and could put more into a song with feeling."

Rawls' Web site noted that he went to Los Angeles in the 1950s, where he was recruited to be part of the Chosen Gospel Singers.

There's also a philanthropic side to Rawls, who has raised more than \$250,000 through the United Negro College Fund, and he readily acknowledged that those funds have helped send thousands of students to college.

For tickets to see Rawls perform at the Union County Arts Center, call Ticket Central at 732-499-8226, or visit the Union County Arts Center's Virtual Box Office at www.uccac.org.

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Volare
By Dan Wyler
Food Writer

Volare restaurant located at 630 West 1st Avenue in Roselle is the kind of place that will change the way you think about Italian food. It's one of those rare restaurants that you can't stop thinking about once you've gone there once, which is a dangerous, but a tasty combination if you're an Italian food lover.

Chef Sergio Bianchi prepares all of his food Mediterranean style, using large quantities of herbs and extra-virgin olive oil. The result is delicious Mediterranean pasta, chicken and seafood dishes that differ from the standard American-Italian fare.

"My food is very healthy," Bianchi said. "It's all organic ingredients and I cook only with olive oil, no butter."

Anyone who is used to ordering chicken parmigiana would receive a different kind of dish in Bianchi's "chicken," which is a grilled chicken breast topped with fresh mozzarella and chopped tomatoes.

Bianchi buys organic chicken and lamb for his dishes. He also picks up seafood from local fish markets when he sees something that would make a good special.

"I buy only the best," Bianchi said.

My favorite part of the meal was the complimentary bread. It's served with a homemade spread consisting of sun-dried tomatoes, garlic and olive oil that tastes amazing on top of the bread. I devoured the first basket of bread from my dining companion and was delighted when our server brought out a second basket. It is a treat that I doubt you'll find at many other restaurants.

Since my dining companion wasn't able to waste much of the bread away from me, she was happy when her appetizer of fresh mozzarella and tomatoes with basil oil arrived. The appetizer tasted good, which is tough to do at this time of year when tomatoes are out of season, she said. I had a Caesar salad, which had a different type of dressing than most Caesar salads I've had in the past. It was olive oil-based the most I've ever had. The cheese-basil taste was good enough to keep me eating long after my stomach was full.

My companion ordered a seafood and pasta medley that consisted of small clams, shrimp, tomatoes, asparagus, herbs and an authentic Italian pasta all in a white wine and olive oil sauce. The dish was one of three specials offered that evening, which my companion and several people at neighboring tables were raving about.

My companion and I capped our visit by splitting a dish of a homemade whipped, dessert able to chocolate mousse. It is smooth, rich and satisfying.

Volare offers 19 regular entrees and has about two or three specials per night, according to co-owner Jack Vaccaro. Menu items range in price from \$13-\$23 per entree. They open at 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and can be reserved for parties on other nights. Cooking time is not rigid. Wine and beer are served. Vaccaro said the month-old restaurant also plans to start a catering and food delivery service soon.

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COUNTY NEWS

Bitritto sworn in as president of Links

Michael Bitritto of Summit was recently sworn in as president of the Board of Trustees of Prevention Links, the non-profit substance abuse prevention education agency that serves all of Union County.

Bitritto is a former municipal official, and a New Jersey chemical industry executive. In 2004, she ran for public office on Summit's City Council. She was elected to the state Democratic Committee in 2003. In addition to serving as president of the Board of Trustees of Prevention Links, Bitritto is on the boards of Rumrill's Specialized Hospital, the Cultural and Heritage Program Advisory of Union County, and the Stamford Executive Women's Leadership Forum. She has been the vice chairwoman of Summit's Municipal Alliance and served on the TWIN Management Forum.

Bitritto received the Star Award from the Women's Resource Center for community service, is an honoree of the Plainfield YMCA TWIN Program for contributions to industry and women and was honored as outstanding alumna at the 100th anniversary of Holy Rosary Academy High School this fall.

She is currently the associate director of business relations for the New Jersey Commission on Science and Technology in Trenton. She holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Connecticut, master's in Chemistry from the New York Polytechnic

Institute, and bachelor's degree in chemistry and math from Douglass College.

Also elected to serve as officers on the Board of Trustees were Geri Samuel of Scotch Plains, Ray Jakko of Somerset and Larry Williams of Rahway. Other members of the Prevention Links board are Mike Blascucci, Fed Chemidlin and Al Heim.

The meeting will also be an opportunity to find out more about the chapter's activities, which include monthly and one-on-one meetings, play groups, a book club, a scrapbooking club and more.

The Union County chapter holds regular meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Westfield Area YMCA.

For more information, call K.C. at 908-789-8626 or Kim at 908-889-2286 or log on to the Union County chapter's Web site at www.geocities.com/mothersandmore.

Young Republicans host social meeting

The Union County Young Republicans will host a social meeting Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in The Cellar Bar and Grille, 1 S. Union Ave., Cranford, the basement of The Porch restaurant. The seven Republican gubernatorial candidates have been invited.

If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Union@NJYRF.net.

UCLSA monthly dinner meeting will be Feb. 22

UCLSA, the association for legal professionals, will hold its regular monthly dinner meeting at 6 p.m. on Feb. 22, at Cafe Z Restaurant, 2333 Morris Ave., Union.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the guest speaker for the evening will be Robert Missek, Star-Ledger reporter. The cost for the seminar and a complete dinner — including tax and tip — is \$23.

For reservations or more information, call Judy Reed at 908-355-4892 or send an e-mail to j.reed@att.net. UCLSA will be sponsor a bus trip

Karram and nurse Pats Jameson both of Overlook Hospital, will educate attendees on how to handle pediatric emergencies and will be available for a question-and-answer session.

For more information on how you can join your local Fresh Air volunteer team, call Susan Malone at 908-464-3321, or The Fresh Air Fund at 800-367-0003, or visit The Fund's Web site at www.freshair.org.

hazardous for this use. Snowboarding and sledding are also prohibited at Ash Brook and Oak Ridge golf courses.

Along with skating at the county's ice rink in Warranco Park, many lighted and non-lighted options for ice skating in natural areas are available. Signs announcing the suitability of any natural area for skating will be posted. The public is urged to observe any restrictions, which are based upon the lake's ice thickness and other safety concerns.

Ice hockey is permitted at designated skating areas at the discretion of the Union County Police, based upon the ratio of ice hockey skaters and non-hockey skaters, proportionate to the size of the skating area. It is the county's intention to provide adequate ice area for the enjoyment and safety of all skaters.

The Department of Parks and Recreation reserves the right to cancel winter sports at any park at any time if the conditions of the park are such that the safety of the public is in jeopardy.

For more information regarding winter sports, call the Department of Parks and Recreation at 908-527-4900 weekdays. Information on natural skating areas can also be obtained by calling the County Police at 908-654-9800.

Agencies sought for updated directory

The Union County Office of Volunteer Services and United Way of Greater Union County are updating the Union County Volunteer Directory and are seeking non-profit, cultural and social service agencies, as well as government agencies and organizations who wish to be included in the new 2005 edition.

Any Union County organization wishing to be listed in the directory should call Susan Pepper at 908-527-4753 or spperpe@ucnj.org.

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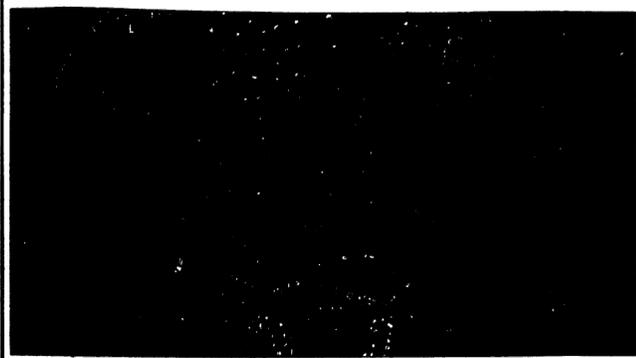
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Local art



Pictured above is 'Man With Headress,' a closeup of art created by Maplewood resident Deb Mell, which features oil on wood, glass beads, found objects and resin.

Paintings shown at Springfield Library

Heat up for winter and dream of warmer times with an exhibit of oil paintings titled "The Beach Show" by Jim Fuess. The show will be displayed at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library from through Feb. 24.

The show will feature a series of abstract paintings titled "Underwater Fire" along with paintings of underwater flowers, bubbles and assorted creatures. Included in the show is a series of paintings titled "Beach."

Jim Fuess has had more than 100 group shows and 35 solo shows in his career. He is former curator at the Watchung Arts Center and the founder and director of the 10-year-old New

Valentine's Day cards and messages. Includes: 'Dear James, My heart is filled with so much love for you...', 'Dear BCR, This year will make it for me...', 'Dear Anthony, You are a great husband and I love you with all my heart.'

HOROSCOPES

Feb. 14 to 20
ARIES, March 21 to April 19: Put your best foot forward and do what it takes to become a winner. Emphasize the team-player attitude and give 100 percent.
TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: An elder or mentor puts you to the test to see how well you can take instruction. Listen carefully and be prepared to act or react with little warning.
GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: Investigate a new and intriguing school of thought, philosophy or political interest. Do not hesitate to ask questions and formulate your own opinions.
CANCER, June 22 to July 22: Pay attention to an investment account held jointly with a partner or friend and avoid unexpected losses. Make sure that you are both on the same page.
LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: No matter how odd or far-fetched an idea might be, keep your thoughts to yourself and give your partner or mate your full support. Just say yes.
VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: The way to goal achievement and success is strewn with unexpected challenges and problems this week. Stay on course and follow a preset plan.
LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Sit down to set goals and discuss shared strategies for the future with an associate or loved one. Input from two people is far more intriguing than one.
SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Jump off of the roller coaster of emotions you have been riding and rest your heart on solid ground. If possible, spend some quiet, meditative time alone.
SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: You will be viewed as the idea merchant this week. Use your creative concepts or insights to help solve some major problems.
CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: Keep close tabs on your money or it will quickly disappear into thin air. Put yourself on a budget and do your best to save for a rainy day.
AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: Self-doubt could knock the wind out of your sails and send you in retreat or conquer the world.
PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: Your imagination is very active this week. Do not be surprised if a passing thought happens to be the answer you have been looking for.
If your birthday is this week, communication is highlighted during the coming year. Find the right avenue for personal expression and share the message or perspective that the world needs to hear from you. There is also a promise of prosperity, financial increase and happiness. Accentuate the positive, act to take advantage of the opportunities you are given and expect to excel beyond your wildest dreams.
Also born this week: Sonny Bono, Ice-T, Rene Russo, Michael Jordan, Yoko Ono and John Travolta.

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Valentine's Day cards and messages. Includes: 'Dear James, My heart is filled with so much love for you...', 'Dear BCR, This year will make it for me...', 'Dear Anthony, You are a great husband and I love you with all my heart.'

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Valentine Special Monday, February 14th Deluxe Hotel Room For Two Valentine's Deluxe Buffet Dinner 7:00-11:00 PM Shrimp Cocktail, Caesar Salad, Steak, Chicken Francese, Grilled Salmon, Panna Pesto Pink Vodka Sauce, Fresh Vegetables, Stuffed Potatoes, Blue Streak Desserts, Mimosas, Fresh Fruits, Coffee *FEATURING Live Music By Julian - Fortune Entertainment* ROOM & Dinner Package \$139.99 Includes Tax & Gratuity Room Only \$89.99 Dinner Only \$50.99 Per Person • Tax • Gratuity Additional Directions: Garden State Parkway exit 136, Make a left at the traffic light, Make a left after third street into our lot Kenilworth Inn Garden State Parkway, Exit 138 Kenilworth • 908-241-4100

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

Stepping Out

ART SHOWS
PASTELIST JUDITH BANYAS reveals what she sees of the Delaware River from her kayak in her solo exhibit...

CONCERTS
SANCTUARY CONCERTS in Berkeley Heights will present musical acts in the coming weeks.

THE MIGHTY DELAWARE
Painted by Judith Banyas, part of her collection, which is on display at the Swain Galleries in Plainfield through Feb. 26.

THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS
invites local nonprofit organizations, individual artists and scholars to apply for funding from the...

JAZZ
LANA'S RESTAURANT will offer dinner and live jazz with Warren Vache every Thursday, beginning at 7 p.m.

KIDS
TALES FOR TOTS PRESCHOOL STORYTIME will be offered at Barnes and Noble, Route 22 West, Springfield...

POETRY
POETRY OUT LOUDI will take place at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield...

VARIETY
THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mic Night every Thursday night, a disc jockey every Friday night...

HOBBIES
THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB INC. meets at 295 Jefferson Ave., Union County Arts Center...

RADIO
TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION will meet at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays of the month...

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

INTERNET
THE INTERNET LOUNGE, 256 South Ave., Fanwood, hosts an Open Mic Karaoke Night on Sunday at 7 p.m.

DANCE
Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at...

CLASS
THE DUCRET SCHOOL OF ART is located at 1020 Central Ave. and is situated on a seven-acre campus in an...



Pictured is 'The Delaware River,' painted by Judith Banyas, part of her collection, which is on display at the Swain Galleries in Plainfield through Feb. 26.

BOOKS
TOM CANAVAN, AUTHOR OF 'I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS: MY BATTLE WITH CANCER,' will host this month's Meet the Author on Feb. 16...

COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER, 570 Central Ave., Murray Hill. For the 18th year, the Suburban Community Music Center...

ADMISSION IS \$14. For information and reservations, call 908-522-1501 or send an e-mail to concert@uacnj.org...

OPEN MIC POETRY NIGHT takes place the second Sunday of every month at 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road...

TONIGHT, Woldrums, Helena & Maria, and Kerry Brader. Tonight, Spillage. Friday, Dirty Sanchez. Saturday, Substance P. Feb. 18, the U2 album...

MOLLY MAHURIE'S PUB in Clark will present a series of comedy events. Her comedy series is located at 1085 Central Ave. Clark...

THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS will present an exhibit by Christine Dolinich of Rahway in the gallery space at the offices of the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs...

THE UNION COUNTY / MERCK 2004 JURIED ART SHOW, 'Midwest as War' at the National Association of Women Artists Gallery in New York...

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HOMEOWNERS: NEED CASH? Want to Clean Up Your Debt? Put Your Business Investment To Work For You! Accountants and CPAs can help you with tax and financial expertise to help you keep more of what you earn.

Begin Your New Health Care Career Today! Kean University Continuing and Professional Education Career Training in Medical Billing & Coding Evening Classes Begin February 15, 2005

Do you have a loved one in a nursing home? There may be a much less expensive alternative. Very often people end up in nursing homes because they can no longer safely manage a home by themselves.

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Theater at the Barn



Nutley Little Theatre will present its next production, 'The Altruists,' beginning on Friday at the Nutley Little Theatre Barn. From left, front row, are cast members Jessica Colotta, Francesco Paladino and Gina Capuano. From left, back row, are Rick Brown, Penny Paul and director Sean Day. For tickets, call 973-667-0374.

Artists' work set for local salon show

Through March 5, Classic Design Framing in Maplewood Village presents the first "Winter Salon Show—a Group Exhibit at the CDF Gallery." Featured artists include area residents Dennis Barna, Niv Ben-Adi, Jane Dell, Liz Demaree, Mikel Frank, Ted Gamble, Sue Ellen Ruhner Leys, Howard Stein and Kathleen Veronesi. An artists' reception will be held tonight from 7:30 to 10 p.m. The CDF Gallery at Classic Design Framing has become an invaluable asset to the local arts community. Since December 2004, the CDF Gallery has hosted more than 25 regional artists in a warm, approachable setting. Every month the gallery is completely transformed by the uniqueness of each artist's vision. This month, the Winter Salon Show will feature more than 40 works by nine artists, ranging from oils, acrylics, pastels, photography, sculpture and mixed media collage. Artists interested in exhibiting at the CDF Gallery can call owner Krista Fahey at 973-762-5588 to set up an appointment. Conveniently located at 168 Maplewood Ave. and open to the public, gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursday from noon to 8 p.m. To further warm your heart this season, in conjunction with the Junior Women's Club of Maplewood, Classic Design Framing will host a charity art auction on Saturday at 8 p.m. Donations are \$20 per person, and proceeds will benefit Cherished Creations—a non-profit corporation whose mission is to create better lives for seriously-ill children and the underprivileged. For more information on the auction or to purchase tickets, contact Geraldyn Robinson at 973-762-7653 or Liz Petrosica at 973-763-4953. To find out more about Cherished Creations, visit www.cherishedcreations.com.

SCHOOLS, Kids & CAMPS

My Gym Westfield plans upcoming open houses

My Gym Children's Fitness Center, the international franchisor, will roll out its newest children's gym in Westfield on Feb. 25. It was announced recently by Mike Chalovich, COO of My Gym Enterprises. The addition of My Gym Westfield marks the 150th My Gym to open to date. My Gym Westfield is located at 1100 South Ave. W., next to Gemmaro's Pizzeria. The contact phone number is 908-317-0888. My Gym Children's Fitness Center combines innovative physical early learning/pre-gymnastics classes with state-of-the-art facilities to empower children from ages 3 months to 13 years by helping them develop the skills, confidence and positive self-image needed to become healthy young adults. Classes are scheduled in 10-week sessions and run 45 minutes for the younger ages and one hour for older children. As an added benefit, My Gym offers each enrolled student an additional one hour of "free play" each week. On Friday afternoons and weekends, My Gym offers unique and exciting birthday parties, individually designed for each birthday child. My Gym of Westfield will open its doors for an Open House on Feb. 25 between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. During this time, children and families are invited into the gym to meet the staff, see the facility, come play and have fun! My Gym will register children for free guest classes and offer discounted memberships and special promotions. My Gym's award-winning, structured, noncompetitive and age-appropriate classes incorporate music, dance, games, relays, special rides, sports, gymnastics and other original activities. The children develop strength, balance, coordination, agility, flexibility and social skills. My Gym instructors receive extensive training and with our maximum 6-1 student/teacher ratio, it allows children more individual attention than provided by any other nationally-franchised children's gym. According to Chalovich, "We are very excited to add Westfield, New Jersey, to our growing list of My Gym cities. We take pride in the strong relationships and ties we develop with each city in which we open. Our goal goes beyond the improved health and well-being of your children. We are a family oriented establishment. The classes and additional services we provide enhance the community and add fun and excitement to family life." Alyse Rudin, owner of My Gym Westfield, states, "I love teaching children and am delighted to introduce such a great resource for kids in the Westfield area. I truly believe in My Gym and the value of fitness training during a child's early years. I'm also thrilled that we'll be offering one of the most exciting places in the area to hold a birthday party." This is Rudin's second My Gym location in New Jersey. My Gym South Brunswick has been open for almost two years providing classes, birthday parties, parent's night out, and spring, summer, and fall fun days. Open house dates: Feb. 25, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Feb. 26, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Feb. 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; March 3, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; March 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and March 6, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come and celebrate the grand opening! For more information about My Gym, visit the Web at www.mygym.com/westfield, e-mail mygymwestfield@aol.com, or call 908-317-0888.

Open House
Sunday, Feb. 13, 1-9 p.m.
For more information, or for a camp brochure, call 908-625-8184.
Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child
44 Blackburn Road
Summit, NJ 07901 • www.oakknoll.org

Midwinter workshops planned for Trailside

Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, New Providence, is the place to go for special adult, family and children's programs during "February Festivities," held during the Presidents Day holiday vacation days, Feb. 18 to 22. Kicking off the annual festivities is a special, free workshop for adults ages 18 and older titled "The Role of New Jersey in the Civil War and Songs from the Civil War Era" on Feb. 18 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. The program is sponsored in part with funding from the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. William Gillette, a professor of history at Rutgers University and a McCormick Award winner for his recent book on New Jersey history, will rebut the traditional view of the state as a conservative bastion while focusing on the recruitment camp, combat experience, and the politics of both the home front and the state. Following the presentation, participants will enjoy light refreshments while listening to songs/guitarist Heather Mulvey performs songs from the Civil War era. Pre-registration is required for all programs and workshops. The fee for each program is \$4 per person for Union County residents and \$5 per person for out-of-county residents unless otherwise noted. "The Journey of Sap to Syrup," presented on Feb. 19 from 10 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m., or on Feb. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., will allow families with children of all ages to discover how 100-percent real maple syrup is made from the sap of a sugar maple tree. Discover what equipment is needed to collect sap and take part in a taste test which seeks to identify the real thing. A short hike will allow participants to see a tap in action on a live tree. "A Walk in Winter," presented Feb. 19 from 3 to 4 p.m. and on Feb. 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for families with children ages 6 and older, will investigate the similarities and differences of reptiles. Hold turtle shells and feel a shed skin from a snake. Then meet live snakes and turtles from Trailside's collection. "Kindling Kits," for families with children of all ages, is offered Feb. 21 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Keeping warm by an open fire has a lot of appeal, but getting the blaze going can be tough. Learn what tinder, kindling and fuel logs are and how they make a fire successful. Hike through the nursery to look for deer paths and other animal signs. Stop by Trailside's Backyard Wildlife Habitat to see which animals are visiting the feeding station. Conclude the walk around a warm campfire with some hot cocoa and marshmallows. "Snakes and Turtles of New Jersey," offered on Feb. 21 from 10 to 11 a.m. for families with children ages 6 and older, will investigate the similarities and differences of reptiles. Hold

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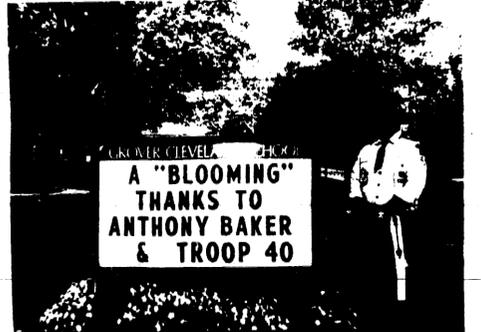
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CELEBRATING 95 YEARS

The Boy Scouts

A WONDERFUL TRADITION



Rahway High School Senior Anthony Baker an Eagle Scout, was recognized by school officials recently for beautifying the front of Grover Cleveland Elementary School. For several weeks, a sign in front of the school, honored him and his Boy Scout troop for their hard work.

At the ceremony by the Court of Honor to advance two Eagle Scouts of Troop 89 were, from left, Eagle Scout Joseph Rodriguez, Sergeant Walt Kirpas and Eagle Scout Michael DeVecchio.

2005 is the 95th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America, which was incorporated on Feb., 8, 1910. Scouting Anniversary Week offers councils, districts, and units special opportunities - from Scout Sunday, Feb. 6 through Scouting Anniversary Day, Feb. 8, to Scout Sabbath, Feb. 12 - to tell the Scouting story in communities. Special recognitions, dedications, and other local events will highlight nearly a century of service by the BSA. Community birthday celebrations, Good Turn for America service projects, public appearances, media opportunities, and more can generate positive public relations that help to attract new youth members and their families and new adult volunteer leaders, as well as support fund-raising efforts. For Scout Anniversary Week 2005, the National Council has posted a special 95th Anniversary Web page, <http://www.scouting.org/media/anniversary>, which includes a history of National Good Turns, historical facts about Scouting, and more.

This message is sponsored by these community minded businesses & organizations

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CLUBS

Register for heart jump
The 26th American Heart Association Jump Rope For Heart is now being organized. To learn how a school can participate in the program, or for information on either of our programs, contact the American Heart Association at 732-821-2610 or visit www.americanheart.org. During the 2003-04 school year Jump Rope For Heart took place in nearly 600 New Jersey schools last year. Thousands of New Jersey and Essex County students put their jumping skills to great use this past school year to fight the nation's No. 1 and No. 2 killer - heart disease and stroke. The schools collectively raised more than \$1.7 million.

Rotary seeks students for exchange program
Rotary Clubs in our area are joining together in a search for young adults to represent the region in a cultural exchange with Japan. The Rotary Short-Term New Generations Program, now in its 27th year, offers students ages 15 to 23 the opportunity to experience life in another country. The group will be departing during the last week of June for Shikoku Island, Japan, where families of Japanese Rotarians will host them for three weeks. During their stay, participants will visit Kyoto and Hiroshima, as well as cultural institutions, business and government sites in southern Japan. An equal number of Japanese students will be visiting northern New Jersey Rotarian families August on a similar adventure. The group will be limited to 30 people plus three Rotary leaders. The cost of the trip is \$2,000, which covers the cost of transportation to and from Shikoku Island. All other costs will be absorbed by the host Rotarians in Japan. Interested parties should contact their local Rotary Club, or Rotary Short-Term New Generations co-chairwoman Christine Coleman at 973-618-1186 or visit the Youth Exchange Web page at www.caldwellrotary.org for more information.

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AUTOMOTIVE

Chevrolet's Malibu Maxx is a good family car

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

Chevrolet's new Malibu Maxx is as efficient as a computer bracelet. You know the ones, padded pocket flap zipper for everything the contemporary traveler has to lug around every day.

It's pretty in a business sense, but it's better and more practical than a backpack, and the Maxx comes in pleasing colors.

That's meant as blue-chip praise for the concept of Maxx. It seems conceived with European and American influences and drivability, then built with quality materials and assembly.

Built on a stretched platform of the new and redesigned Malibu sedan, Maxx has a 6-inch-longer wheelbase, but it's about a half-inch shorter. The five-passenger hatchback body style is somewhat rare in the class of midsize cars. It's a creative adaptation of a sedan, not a wagon, that has almost as much back-seat room as the front. It's almost as if the car were designed from the back seat outward.

For any family, with growing children, Maxx has potential. The rear seat slides about 7 inches and reclines, for passenger comfort or expanding the cargo area. The seat is split 60/40, not just at the seat back but also the seat bottom so both sides can move independently of each other. The front seatback also folds forward to allow a useful alley of cargo capacity from front to rear.

In the category of "anything to make the back seat more tolerable" is a rear glass skylight, a standard feature. Two panes, each side with a sunshade, add an openness and light to the rear area, which may help people sensitive to motion sickness.

The flow of heat and air conditioning also was improved for the back seat, with floor vents and power thrusters in the front dash for quicker response rearward.

An optional rear DVD entertainment system has a seven-inch flip-up LCD screen mounted to the rear of the center console and includes two sets of infrared headphones, video game jacks, remote control and independent audio selection.

The cargo area is also multi-tasking with a power outlet, a cargo shelf with

four positions for two-tier loading. It can be positioned as a table for picnics or tailgate parties. Hooks on the cargo panel help secure smaller items, and cargo nets on each side of the cargo area help keep items from sliding around.

For humane treatment of driver and passengers, the Malibu has a remote start feature, standard on the LT in Maxx or sedan, that allows the driver to fire up the car from the comfort of home, a motel room or anywhere about 200 feet away to cool or warm the cabin.

Safety features include dual-stage front air bags, three-point belts with front pretensioners and optional head curtain side-impact air bags that span front and rear. Also appreciated are standard power-adjustable brake and accelerator pedals and a tilt-telescopic steering column and power seat-height adjuster.

Sold in LS and topline LT models, each has a 200-horsepower, 3.5-liter V-6 and four-speed automatic transmission.

Prices start at \$22,225 for the LS and \$24,725 for the LT, which has such upgrades as UltraLux and leather-trimmed seats and heated front bucket seats with reclining seatback and adjustable head restraints, six-way power driver seat, fog lights and steering wheel-mounted audio and cruise controls.

Adding package 1SH — auto-dimming inside rearview mirror and power, tilt-sliding sunroof — would push the price to \$25,630.

If you require the secure storage compartment of a trunk, the Malibu sedan ranges from \$19,395 to \$23,895.

Malibu Maxx and the Malibu sedan are GM's first use of the Epsilon architecture, also the foundation for the new Opel Vectra and Saab 9-3. The platform was engineered in Germany, which accounts, in part, for the good ride and handling.

It's also a standout for positive braking force and smooth, easy steering. The solid foundation is further enhanced with significant attention to soundproofing. The result is worthwhile.

Power from the 200 horses is adequate, not tire squealing. Fuel ratings

run 22 miles per gallon around town and 26 on the highway on regular unleaded.

Overall, the new Malibu is an exponential step forward in quality of construction and durability of materials. There was nothing too complex or confounding about the layout of the interior.

Like the placement of the ignition switch on the instrument panel, but when reaching to start the car my hand bumped the wiper stalk and activated a swipe of the wipers. Maybe the stalk is a little close to the ignition or maybe I'd smarten up and learn not to hit the wipers.

Another nitpick might be the dome light that has separate lights for the back seats. It would have been better to put a reading light at each back door.

It's not the same old thing from Chevrolet. Maxx is a multi-tasker that's good to drive and good to ride in. And it's a good start for this carmaker to lure back people who gave up and went shopping elsewhere for a car that works as hard as they do.

2004 Malibu Maxx LT

Body style: Midsize, five-passenger extended sedan, unit body frame, front engine, front-wheel drive
Engine: OHV 3.5 liter V-6
Horsepower: 200 at 5,400 rpm
Torque: 220 foot-pounds at 3,200
Transmission: Hydra-Matic four-speed automatic
Acceleration: 0 to 60 mph, n/a
EPA fuel economy estimates: 22 mpg city, 26 highway, 87 octane
Fuel capacity: 16.3 gallons
Cargo space: 22.8 to 41 cubic feet, back seats folded
Front head/leg/shoulder room: 39.4/41.9/56.7 inches
Rear head/leg/shoulder room: 39.4/41.5/55.5 inches
Length: 187.8 inches
Wheelbase: 112.3 inches
Standard equipment: Remote locking, AM-FM stereo with CD player, power-adjustable gas and brake pedals and driver seat-height adjustment, air conditioning, cruise control, electric rear-window defogger, heated front seats, driver-seat storage pocket and lumbar adjustment, fold-flat front passenger seat, carpeted floor mats, power windows, remote engine starter.

leather-wrapped shift knob and steering wheel with audio and cruise controls, power lift-gate opener and multifunction cargo shelf

Safety equipment: Dual-stage front air bags, three-point belts with front pretensioners and optional head curtain side-impact air bags
Brakes: Power-assisted four-wheel disc with ABS and traction control with Dynamic Rear Proportioning and active wheel-speed sensors; 11.65 vented discs front, solid 10.63 rear
Steering: Electric, power-assisted variable-speed rack-and-pinion; 38-foot turning circle
Tires and wheels: Bridgestone P215/60R16-blackwall touring and 16-inch aluminum wheels; compact spare

Base: \$24,725

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 VIN #68146990, Stk #06742, 8 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/w/steer/brake/roll-over, cd, roof rack, alarm, wheel, wheel/wax, side mirror, MSRP: \$40,410. Includes \$2500 factory rebate, \$1000 Olds owner loyalty, if qual., & \$500 military rebate, if qual.
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