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## September timeline for Meisel Field in question

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

After the state's matching of the already received \$1.1 million from the Garden State Preservation Trust that will go toward the rehabilitation of Meisel Avenue Park in Springfield, the field now awaits just a couple of more steps before construction will be able to commence.

"They're ready to go to bid," said Mayor Sy Mullman of the Union County-run project. First, he said, they await one more response from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

According to Union County Director of Parks and Recreation Charles Sigmund, PMK Group, which has performed environmental consulting and helped develop plans for the project, recently applied for fresh water wetlands and stream encroachment permits. The 90-day period needed for a response is just under way, according to Sigmund, and it is difficult to say just when the DEP will respond.

Once the project goes out to bid, construction should take six to nine months, Sigmund estimated.

"The county is ready," Mullman said. "The only thing holding it up now is the DEP."

Committeeman Harold Poltrok, however, said that he is very concerned about the field's eventual rehabilitation.

"I haven't been given a date when work will begin," Poltrok said. "All I keep hearing is that it will be ready for the fall of 2005."

Poltrok said that even if work began tomorrow, he has trouble believing that it would be finished for the fall.

"I have not been given any indication from the county that it won't be on time," said Committeewoman Clara Hareluk. "I have no reason to believe, at this point that the project would not be completed in the fall."

Hareluk said the county is being contacted on a regular basis, whether it is by a committee member or Township Attorney Bruce Bergen.

"We're all keeping tabs on Meisel Field," she said.

According to Sigmund, it is unlikely that the timeline of a September completion of the field's rehabilitation will be met. The main reason for the probable delay, he explained, is that the county has decided to wait for a response from the DEP prior to going out to bid. While the project could have gone out to bid with a question

mark regarding the permits being applied for, Sigmund said that from the county, and, most likely, a contractor's point of view, it "is better to be safe than sorry."

This comes after the Board of Education's proposal for the development of a varsity football program at Jonathan Dayton High School. With the necessity of a hometown field in question, Poltrok said this only adds to the pressure of meeting the timeline.

The state money that is being doled out is possible due to the issuance of bonds for \$500 million last year and securing low rates for a second \$500 million bond issue set for next year. The repayment of the bonds will come through the general obligation of \$98 million in sales taxes that was approved by voters more than six years ago.

A public hearing about Meisel Field more than a year ago attracted residents from around the township, packing the auditorium of Jonathan Dayton High School. During the meeting, proposed plans were shown to the community and county officials spoke of their dedication and commitment toward improving Meisel Avenue Park.

## Welcome to a historic home



Photo By Joseph A. Gervasio

In honor of Presidents' Day, the historic Cannon Ball House on Morris Avenue in Springfield was open to the public for tours on Sunday. The site is home to a letter written by George Washington from Springfield in 1780.

## Mountainside school board factors in supply costs for budget

By Jenni Lynn Maglietta  
Staff Writer

The final budget of the Mountainside School District's 2005-06 preliminary operating budget includes increases in supplies and additional supplies.

On Tuesday, the Board of Education approved the budget for the amount of \$11.8 million, with a projected surplus of \$12.1 million. The 2005-06 budget is a total budget of \$12.1 million. The 2004-05 budget was \$11.8 million.

mission to the Union County superintendent of schools for approval is \$10.4 million.

Since the preliminary budget is not the final draft, amounts will change. According to the third phase, funding was budgeted for additional books and extra-curricular activities.

In the fifth grade, the school board approved \$10,000 for supplies that include: additional copies, and audio tapes, which is an increase from \$8,000 in 2004-05 to \$10,000 in 2005-06.

The second grade may see a decrease in funds for supplies from \$9,000 in 2004-05 to \$4,000 in 2005-06.

For the fifth grade, supplies such as journals, markers and science tools are estimated at \$5,000 for 2005-06, which doubles last year's previous budget.

The budget for 2005-06 may not be definite yet; it is expected that sixth through eighth graders will see new textbooks. The textbook budget is budgeted at \$12,000 for new science books in the three grades.

The new science books are by the Discovery Channel and are available to the students from the sixth to eighth grades. The books are

called Science Explorer and will come equipped with DVDs, online options, and lighter, more compact books.

Co-curricular activities may see an increase in funds for the 2005-06 school year. For non-student activities, which include: chess club, art, music, and music clubs, the budget is \$1,000 for 2005-06, which is an increase from \$750 in 2004-05.

The new science books are by the Discovery Channel and are available to the students from the sixth to eighth grades. The books are

budgeted for athletic uniforms, equipment, and physical education mats.

The Child Study Team is also predicted to receive more funds for additional staff, contracted services, and testing tools. The school board estimated \$10,000 for 2005-2006, which is an increase from \$8,000 in 2004 school year.

"It's not the official budget. It is not complete yet," said Board member Matt Clarke at the Board of Education meeting. He mentioned that even the numbers approved on Tuesday may change before the final budget is

## Rising water table raises issue of property damage

By Helen Pedersen  
Managing Editor

For about four years now, Springfield resident Maria DeCosmo and her husband Kevin have been dealing with a difficult water situation on their residential property on Baltusrol Avenue near the vacant Saks Fifth Avenue site.

Together, they brought the recurring issue to the attention of the Township Committee at Tuesday's meeting, giving a brief summary of what led to their current situation.

A neighbor of theirs on Baltusrol Avenue owns a T-lot that terminates where the Saks Fifth Avenue site is, and he has sloped his entire property to the DeCosmos' yard so that he can play golf. The trouble started when the neighbor cut down all the trees in his yard, resulting in what Maria describes as a "horrific" flooding situation.

"This is really a horrible situation for us because the water is going underground and ruining all our plants," said Maria, adding that the problem has become very costly as she had had to replace many plants. She said it is also unhealthy, particularly when the standing water attracts mosquitoes and becomes a breeding ground for insects.

"The water sits in the soil and creates black mold in my basement," Maria said, adding that she takes pictures of the flooding that takes place every time it rains.

Kevin said both he and his wife have tried to work with the neighbor in addressing the problem, and to ask him to grade his property higher. Maria said Kevin has offered to install the drain himself on his neighbor's property, but said the neighbor just laughed at them and refused to help resolve the situation.

Kevin said they have contacted the building inspector, the town engineer, and the Board of Health, adding that "their neighbor is totally ignoring us."

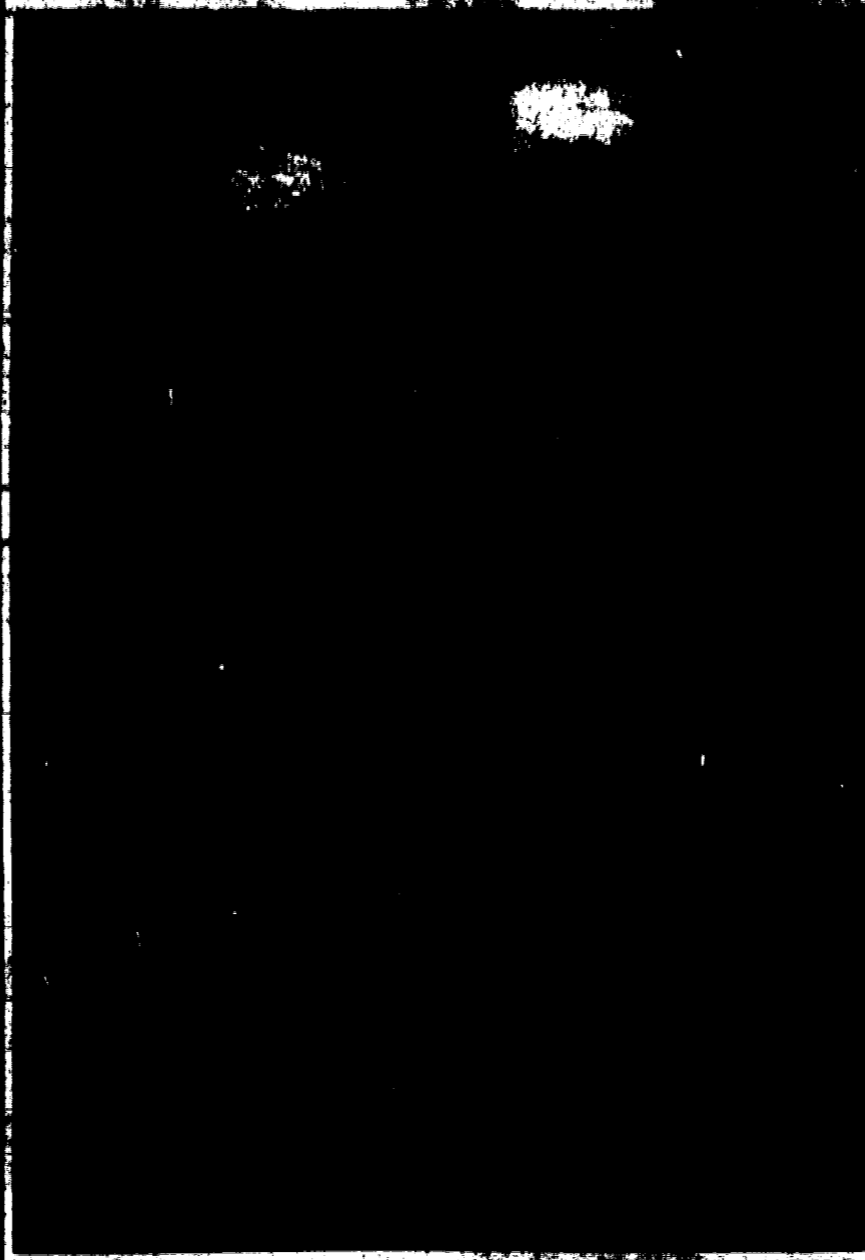
"We are looking for support," said Maria. "I just want to solve this amicably because we are neighbors."

Adjunct Professor at Sussex Drive residents has been working with the DeCosmos to try and resolve the situation. He told the Township Committee how one day the property was very flooded and filled with mosquitoes. He noted that the water table on the Saks Fifth Avenue property had fallen down. He asked the Township Committee if there was an ordinance restricting the cutting down of trees.

Township Attorney Bruce Bergen said there was but said he believed it covered only commercial property.

While Township Committee members viewed the pictures of the water damage that the DeCosmos said was caused by the neighbor, Maria emphasized that she did not want to hire an attorney to file a suit against the neighbor and asked what could be done to resolve the issue, adding that other neighbors have been affected as well. Bergen took down her information and said he would contact them to address the issue further.

## Finding a friend



Ten-month-old Connor Tracy goes looking for a friend, and finds himself at the Mountainside Newcomers Club's 'Mommy & Me' Valentine's Day Party.

## Grade shift affects DOE school budget

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

With the shifting of grade levels throughout the Springfield public school district in the 2005-06 school year, principals presented their budget proposals based on the number of students from this year's enrollment and per-student allocations. The proposals were presented at a special meeting Tuesday.

At Edward V. Wilson School, Principal Eric Hung projected that with the shifting of first and second grades, enrollment will be upward of 624 students. Funding is increased due to supplies needed for each individual student, along with the necessary purchasing of equipment that will make for a "true instructional center," as the media center becomes more frequently used than it was previously serving pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students.

At Theima L. Sandmeier and Caldwell schools, enrollment is expected to be 240 and 223, respectively. Currently, both schools house grades first through fourth.

With the grade shift, both schools would contain third through fifth graders.

According to school Business Administrator Matthew Clarke, the projections were based mainly on calculated allocations reserved for each student. In grades first through fifth, for example, each student is allocated \$295. From sixth through eighth grade, students are allocated \$310, while in the high school, students are funded in the mid-\$400 range.

"What was presented tonight are

proposals as to what the principals feel is a projected budget for their school," Clarke said. "Other important aspects will be discussed at the next meeting."

These other budgetary figures, he said, include numbers that refer to the majority of the township's school budget.

Even with dropping the fifth-grade from Florence M. Gaudinier Middle School, Principal Tim Kletty said that enrollment will rise slightly next year. Increases in the budget will be seen in areas concerning the character development program, repair of science tools and postage, he said.

These projections are based on numbers from the current school year.

At Jonathan Dayton High School, Principal Charles Sernon projected a 5.7-percent increase in the budget for the high school, based primarily on increased enrollment. Among the reasons for the increase are additional technology needed for courses that have either changed or added, along with increased enrollment in elective courses that demand equipment.

The greatest increase, he explained, will be due to co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Board member Jackie Sarnon questioned the need for an \$11,000 increase in school clubs, and while contractual agreements appeared to cloud an exact prediction as to what funding should be allocated, the board agreed to look into more specific numbers with Sernon at a later date.

The presentations did not include handouts for the public to read from, although the meeting allowed for a public comments portion.

## Search for new township administrator continues

By Rick Klittich  
Staff Writer

Nearly two months after former Springfield Township Administrator Richard Sheola's second three-year contract expired, and more than six months since knowing a replacement would be needed, the Township Committee is still in the process of advertising and interviewing candidates for the position.

"We're working on it, and should be finished within a month," said Mayor Sy Mullman.

Committeeman Harold Poltrok, who heads the selection committee as chairman of the Department of Administration, has been interviewing candidates with Mullman since late last year.

According to Mullman, the field has been narrowed as he and Poltrok decide who the best candidates are for the entire Township Committee to meet with.

Both Mullman and Poltrok said that a resolution is being approved so that the qualifications for the position are changed to widen the

field of prospects. Poltrok, however, said that while the field has been narrowed, the position is going back out for advertisement.

"We just didn't find what we considered to be a good fit for the town," said Poltrok.

The previous advertisement called for a master's degree in public administration and at least three years of municipal government experience.

The new advertisement demands a comparable post-graduate degree and two years of experience.

"We're hoping that is going to generate a greater pool of candidates," Poltrok said, "but we're not in a hurry. We're not going to sacrifice being in a rush for a qualified administrator."

Mullman said that with municipal budget preparation taking up much of the Township Committee's time, it makes it that much more difficult to focus on finding a township administrator.

According to Committeewoman Clara Hareluk, Sheola had created a preliminary

budget outline to work off of before he left and Treasurer Marie Sedlak has also been instrumental in helping develop the budget.

With Committeeman Ken Faigenbaum's expertise as a certified public accountant, as well, Hareluk said the committee is getting the job done without an administrator in place.

"After reviewing the role of the administrator and the type of person the committee believes should fill that role, the criteria was changed to open the search for a broader spectrum of individuals," said Hareluk.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Friday
St. James the Apostle Home School Association will host its annual fish and chips/bonanza at St. James the Apostle School, 45 S. Springfield Ave.

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

Sunday
Temple Sha'arey Shalom, 78 S. Springfield Ave., Springfield, will host an Outreach brunch from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Monday
The Springfield Board of Education will meet in the instructional media center of Jonathan Dayton High School, 139 Mountain Ave., at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday
The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the Board of Education in either Springfield or Mountainside is at 4 p.m.

Wednesday
The Democracy for America Meetup convenes the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave.

Thursday
Visions of God Family Worship is hosting a special service to pay tribute to the victims of the massive tsunami that devastated the Asia region at Evangel Baptist Church, 242 Shunpike Road, Springfield, at 2 p.m.

Friday
Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church will sponsor an indoor flea market at 40 Church Hill from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Woman arrested for embezzlement

Springfield
Alicia Rodriguez, 43, of Maplewood, was arrested on Feb. 17 at 9:45 p.m. for third-degree theft by deception.

On Feb. 16 at 2:28 p.m., Elcio Cantele, 39, of North Newark, was arrested at the Motor Vehicle Agency on Center Street for tampering with public records and use of counterfeit identity documents.

On Feb. 16 at 10:49 a.m., it was discovered that at some point overnight, a 42-inch plasma television was stolen from the wall in a Route 22 welcome center.

Firefighters help put out Union fire

Springfield
At 2:45 a.m. Feb. 14, Springfield firefighters responded a pumper to the scene of a house fire in Union.

Squad responded to more than 1,200 calls

The Springfield Volunteer Fire Aid Squad responded to 1,276 calls for help during 2004, or an average 3.5 calls per day.

In 1994, the squad responded 1,133 times during the same period, so responses have not increased substantially, which is in line with general population growth.

By far the greatest single number of emergencies responded to were in private homes, with a total of 679, and included almost every conceivable problem; from falls to strokes; from difficulty breathing to cardiac arrests and cut fingers to babies with high fevers.

POLICE BLOTTER

On Feb. 16 at 2:28 p.m., Elcio Cantele, 39, of North Newark, was arrested at the Motor Vehicle Agency on Center Street for tampering with public records and use of counterfeit identity documents.

On Feb. 16 at 10:49 a.m., it was discovered that at some point overnight, a 42-inch plasma television was stolen from the wall in a Route 22 welcome center.

On Feb. 14 at 10:08 p.m., Mountainside Police responded to the Loews Theater parking lot on Route 22.

FIRE BLOTTER

All units responded to a South Springfield Avenue business for an odor of something burning Feb. 16 at 6:28 p.m.

Firefighters responded to a Stone Hill Road apartment complex for a stove fire at 6:19 p.m. Feb. 16.

At 8:58 a.m. Feb. 16, firefighters responded to a Caldwell Place residence for a medical service call.

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social — Friday, noon.

Entertainment — Friday, noon. Sports — Monday, noon.

Letter to the Editor — Monday, 9 a.m. General — Monday, 5 p.m.

Speakers give hard-learned lessons

Students at Springfield's Jonathan Dayton High School recently had a chance to hear how drugs and alcohol can ruin lives. This time, however, it wasn't in a health class.

On Feb. 17, the high schoolers gathered in the Dayton auditorium to listen to the personal accounts of four minimum custody offenders that are currently serving time in a state correctional facility.

PRIDE, which stands for Promoting Responsibility in Drug Education, is a major initiative of the New Jersey Department of Corrections. The goal is to reduce drug and alcohol use.

More than 27,000 men and women are in New Jersey jails today, a Department of Corrections Officer explained. More than 80 percent of their charges, he continued, are related to drugs and alcohol.

Reggie, 27, is in the midst of a three-year term. "When they told me I was the future," he said of his childhood, "I didn't believe them."

On Feb. 15 at 9:02 a.m., firefighters responded to a Northview Terrace residence for a lock-out.

At 4:20 p.m. Feb. 14, firefighters responded to a Riverside Drive residence for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

Firefighters responded to a New Brook Lane residence for a medical service call at 6:25 a.m. Feb. 14.

On Feb. 13 at 8:53 p.m., firefighters responded to Route 24 for a vehicle leaking fuel.

Victoria speaks to students at Jonathan Dayton High School as part of the Project PRIDE program last week. Students heard the personal accounts of four minimum custody offenders currently serving time in a state correctional facility for drug and alcohol-related crimes.

Couple earns Mabel Young Award

Each year, the borough of Mountainside presents a resident with the Mabel Young "Old Neighbor" Award, recognizing contributions made for the welfare and betterment of the borough.

This year, the award, named after a former Deerfield School teacher, is being shared by Ron and Betty Glenn, who have lived together in Mountainside since 1977, impacting so many others that live in the area.

Ron, who grew up in Dodge City, Kansas, and Betty, who was raised near Boston before moving to Mountainside in the 1940s, met while working on opposite sides of Route 22.

With a succession of small jobs of honey at their Birch Hill Road residence, the Glenns also sell honey and other related products, both from their home and in Englishtown every Saturday.

Outside their house is a sign that hangs with the word "honey" on it, representing the product of their hobby. Together, the duo, experts on honeybees and everything that concerns them, have become the reliable source to get in touch with when a problem with the insects arises on one's property.

Shakira, 26, is currently serving a seven-year sentence because of an attempted car theft while she was under the influence of heroin.

"It was the 'in 'thing to do,'" she said. "I thought it was fun, but it wasn't."

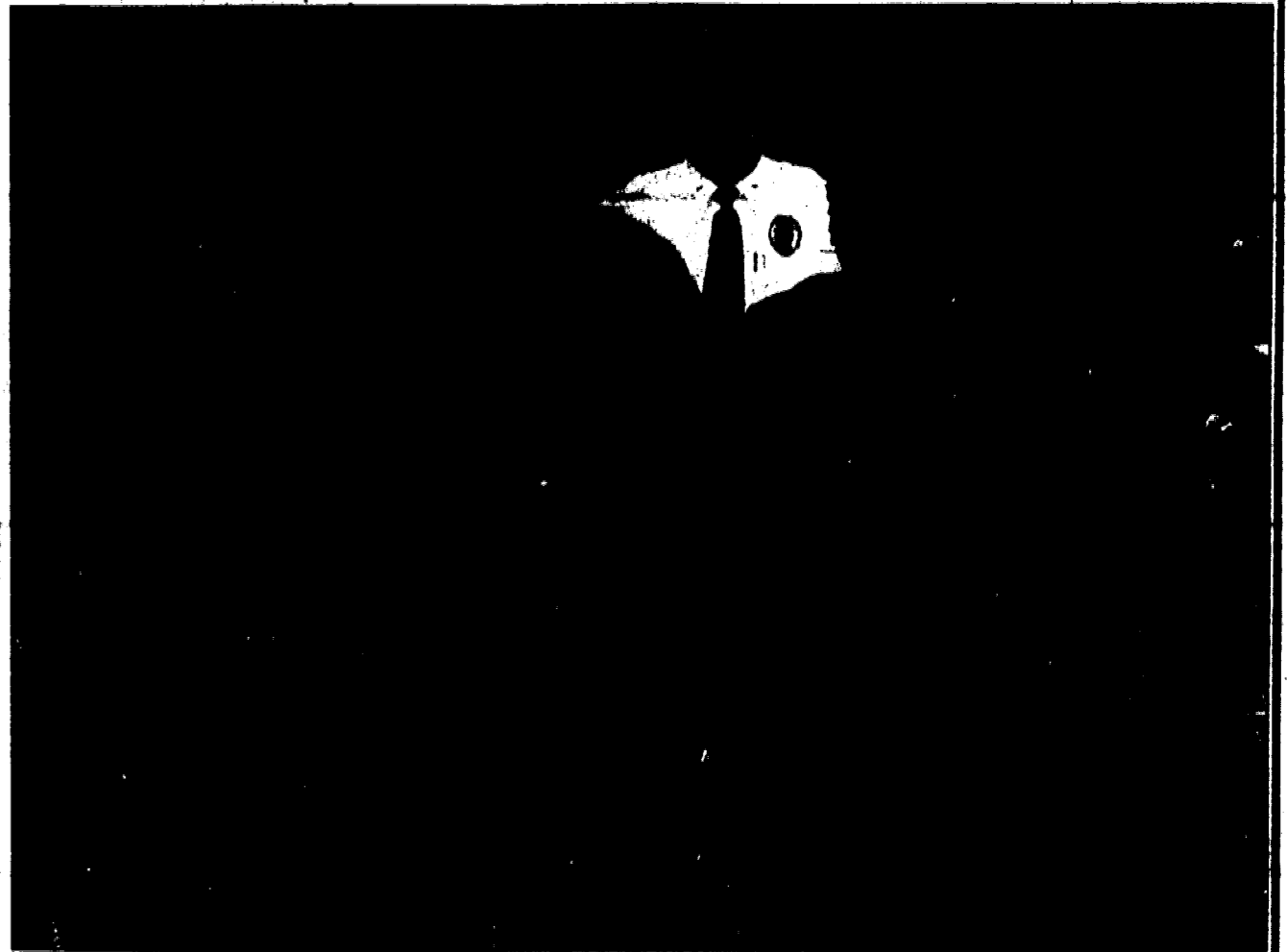
Ritter explained that many of the prisoners' bad choices to use drugs and alcohol stem from their decision to skip school. In jail, if a prisoner is younger than age 21 and without a GED, school is mandatory.

Chris, at one time an aspiring baseball player, said that he took the wrong path when he wanted to get revenge for his father's abusive behavior by getting high. Eventually becoming hooked on cocaine, he never realized that drugs weren't eliminating his problems; they just added to them.

PRIDE, which stands for Promoting Responsibility in Drug Education, is a major initiative of the New Jersey Department of Corrections. The goal is to reduce drug and alcohol use.

When I leave, there will be given replacing me," he said. "Someone will always be here to talk to you."

Ready to serve



James Fine and Edward McNary get sworn in as sergeants of the Springfield Police Department during a ceremony at a Township Committee meeting. At the event are, from left, front row, new patrolman James Mirabile and Kevin Gilchrist, and participating in the ceremony are, back row, Deputy Mayor Steven Goldstein, Fine, Police Chief William Chisholm, McNary and Committeewoman Clara Harelick.

Hospital helps youths find road to recovery

In the spring of 2004, 12-year-old Thomas Morrow and 15-year-old Jimmy Cox and their families were tragically united, eventually leading them to Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside.

Both boys were hospitalized due to an Arteriovenous Malformation — AVM — a defect in which masses of abnormal blood vessels grow in the brain.

For initial treatment, Jimmy and Thomas were both brought to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital where, in time, the boys and their families were bound to meet.

At the age of 9, Jimmy Cox was diagnosed with an AVM. Over the years, it shrank through various treatments, but the end result didn't place the place their boys were going to get better together.

to pediatric intensive care, where he was in a medically induced coma throughout his stay at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

For Thomas Morrow, there weren't any warning signs prior to May 7, 2004. It was a severe headache, screaming and the extreme abnormal sleeping desire that alerted Thomas's parents that something was wrong.

Having adjacent rooms at Robert Wood Johnson made it very easy for the families of both boys to instantly connect with one another. When the families found out Thomas and Jimmy needed intense rehabilitative care, they toured Children's Specialized Hospital together and decided it was the place their boys were going to get better together.

and Thomas would form a forever-lasting friendship that would lead to a successful recovery for both of them.

Jimmy's recovery road was quite extensive when he first arrived at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. Due to the ruptured AVM, he lost the use of the entire right side of his body and couldn't speak or eat.

Through speech, physical and occupational therapies at Children's Specialized, Jimmy's progress was so good that, within a two-month time period, he was able to move from an inpatient to outpatient status and able to walk, eat and speak again.

Today, Jimmy and Thomas are reunited and living together in Mountainside. Jimmy is now a member of the Children's Specialized Neuro-Rehabilitation Program, an intensive treatment program for children who have sustained a brain injury and are experiencing cognitive dysfunction, in Fanwood four days a week.

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# COMMUNITY FORUM

## EDITORIALS

### Get another setting

Who could have imagined there was this much room at the trough? Union County is paying an attorney, on loan from the state to the Prosecutor's Office, an additional \$40,000 that he did not even ask for, in addition to the nearly six-figure salary he earns from the state.

When they approve the annual, retroactive pay hike for County Manager George Devanney, freeholders like to suggest that the county manager's salary and benefits are comparable to that of an executive in a private corporation. Well if an executive in the private sector gave away almost \$50,000 to a "loaner" employee, he or she would be kicked out the door. An executive reports to a board of directors. That board would, and should, be infuriated by such a poor business decision. But what came from the county manager's board of directors, the Board of Chosen Freeholders?

Not a word.

It's an indictment of the county's thinking and spending practices.

This is a perfect reason why the county manager's post should be an elected position. In Union County, however, the county manager is appointed by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. So the person who has the most direct influence in the county's \$375 million budget is not directly accountable to the citizens. Freeholders should be furious about this decision. They're not. In fact, they passed a resolution to allow the extra pay. And now it's Devanney who is taking the hit. He'll be the one quoted in the media, deflecting criticisms and trying to explain this outright pension-padding abuse.

But you won't hear from any freeholder. They'll be tucked away quietly, away from the press and public, until it's time for another ribbon cutting or until November, when their name appears on the ballot, and not Devanney's.

Even Prosecutor Theodore Romankow is yielding to the freeholder board on this one. Normally, he submits resolutions for approval by the board. The Prosecutor's Office is an arm of the state but is funded by the county, generally freeholders don't have much say in the budget except to approve it. But this time Romankow issued a statement saying it was the freeholders who adopted a resolution approving the additional pay.

Mr. Romankow, it's part of your budget.

Would Romankow be as willy nilly with this cash during his days as a partner in Romankow, Rinaldo and Capece? The Burlington County prosecutor is quoted in a published report that he was pleased to have a deputy attorney general assigned to his office for free.

In addition to all this, the freeholder board was able to find a position for their old friend, former Freeholder Lewis Mingo, as director of senior services for \$65,000 a year. The next time elected officials talk about how tight their budget is and how difficult a year it will be, remember these decisions. It's no wonder the county budget is more than \$375 million. The county is quite literally just giving our money away.

### Curious decision

The County of Union has decided to refurbish Warinanco Ice Skating Center in Roselle rather than build another rink. County officials cited diminishing demand as one reason not to construct another rink.

Only several years ago, the county also cited a declining juvenile population as a reason not to construct a new juvenile detention center. Now, the county is full steam ahead on a new juvenile jail.

It's difficult to understand the county's position that there's declining demand for an ice rink. It certainly seems to be there. Local high school hockey teams and clubs are always looking for ice time. New private, for-profit facilities have been built in the area and seem to be doing quite well. Some residents in the western end of the county were hoping a second rink could be constructed in their area.

With the adeptness and fervor the county uses to market itself, and the money it spends doing it, one would think they could do the same for the Warinanco Ice Skating Center. Supply and demand is a basic economic rule. There's no reason to build an ice rink — supply — if no one is going to come — demand.

If the ice rink was privately owned, a shrewd business person might look for ways to make it more profitable. It's hard to understand the explanation that there's no demand if private businesses have found it in the very same market. Perhaps it's another example of the private sector simply doing it better than government.

*"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

### Echo Leader

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**IN THE SPIRIT** — The third- and fourth-grade PAL cheerleaders of Deerfield School in Mountaineer belted a cheer for their team during Spirit Night at Deerfield School on Feb. 11.

Photo By Keena Rose Sibayan

### Mystery surrounding spot of sacred land is solved

The township of Springfield is preparing to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the "Final Invasion" on the weekend of June 25-26 with an encampment and re-enactment of the Battle by the Brigade of the American Revolution, as well as a parade and fireworks.

As part of the ceremonies, we had hoped to include a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the statue of the Continental soldier on the grounds of the First Presbyterian Church, always referred to as the "smallest state park in New Jersey" since the area of the base is 10 square feet.

It seemed a good idea to verify that claim, which led us on an interesting journey.

The state advised that there were no records linking it to the statue and

### Uncovering The Past

By Margaret Bandrowski

that it was never a state park and no records showed state ownership of the statue itself. But the plaque at the base clearly reads "Erected by the State of NJ, 1905." Hmm. Further searching by Sally Lane revealed the statue was in fact listed in the inventory of public sculptures done in 1906 by the Smithsonian, but with no clues as to ownership.

The Springfield Historical Society, with the aid of the Springfield and Elizabeth public libraries, obtained a copy of a very lengthy article from the June 25, 1905 *Elizabeth Daily Journal*

detailed the huge celebration of the unveiling. The article includes the turning over of the deed to the land under the statue by the Rev. William Hoppaugh of the First Presbyterian Church to Governor John Kean.

Back to the state. Armed with the information from the article, the deed was actually located in the Archives by Betty M. Epstein.

We are still waiting to see it here in Springfield, but delighted it has turned up. Interestingly, the deed indicates that the money allocated for the monument included funds for the erection of monuments on the battlegrounds of Elizabeth and Connecticut Farms, Union, at points of special interest. The selection of the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield was undoubtedly in recognition of the involvement of the church in the battle itself and

events leading to it, and of course, it was the source of the Watts hymnals famously distributed by Parson Caldwell to the Continental forces as they fell back during the fighting.

So now the mystery is solved, and we know the state of New Jersey, for the consideration of one dollar, owns this spot of sacred land and its monument in perpetuity.

It may not technically be a state park, but the soldier stands proudly forever to remind us of the glory and the sacrifice of those who obtained freedom for us all during the last incursion of the British into New Jersey on June 23, 1780.

Margaret Bandrowski is the president of the Springfield Historical Society.

### With poker on ESPN, who needs ice hockey?

I was talking to my friend, Freddy, and told him how much I missed watching hockey. Freddy told me that I was going to miss it this year and probably for part of next year as well. Then he said, "You, know, last year the World Series of Poker on ESPN had better ratings than hockey."

I was showing a home recently that was rented by five or six twenty-somethings and there was beer on tap and a poker table set up in the family room.

The young man who answered the door said that he and his friends played Texas Hold 'em on weekends and that everyone started with 30 bucks. They played into the night until one of the players won all of the money.

Last week, I was at a lunch with a bunch of friends and there was an animated discussion about the different manners of the various poker players.

One of these friends has established a gambling account and plays on line. He started an account with a couple of hundred dollars, moved the account to more than \$300, but since then he had to add money to his account to continue playing.

When I got back to the office, I mentioned the conversation to Heidi-Ann, who works with me, and she said, "My boys watch Hold 'em. I like the dude with the beard, the one they call Jesus."

I've sat at a number of poker tables

### Town Crier

By Marc Kelley

over the years; usually, with stakes of one to four dollars with the dealer choosing which game was played. Normally, we play high-low, split-pot games — either stud or draw. These games generate a fair amount of action. Nobody deals Hold 'em. The game doesn't generate enough excitement.

So what makes the World Series of Poker and Texas Hold 'em so popular? Players get two cards and share five common cards — with all of the other players. There are four opportunities to place bets. First, after the two cards have been dealt to each player. Next, after the "flop" — a set of three common cards. Then after the sixth card, called the "turn" is dealt, again face up. Finally, after the last card is dealt, this called "the river," there's one more chance to bet. At any time, a player can go "all in." This means the player is betting all their remaining chips and, if they lose, they're out of the game for the tournament. One person eventually wins and all of the top finishers earn prize money.

The World Series of Poker is held at Binion's Casino in Las Vegas. Texas Hold 'em and the tournament has been around for a number of years. Twenty years ago, less than 100

players showed up for the tournament; now you'll have several thousand players, each paying \$10,000 to enter. Everybody who regularly plays poker knew about the tournament, but it fell into the "so what" category.

Enter ESPN, an acronym for Entertainment and Sports Programming Network.

ESPN, in need of programming to fill airtime, reached out to Binion's to explore the possibility of televising the poker game. The casino owners were delighted. Not only would ESPN pay for the rights, the network could be expected to better promote the tournament and the casino than Binion's had done.

The producers have found a way to let the viewer know which cards are dealt face down to each player. Further, by using computers, ESPN is able to display each player's odds of winning any particular hand after each card is dealt. Norman Chad, a comedian with a basketful of one-liners, supplies a running commentary.

ESPN has done a wonderful job of producing a soap opera that doubles as a reality show. The game lends itself to interesting storylines. The producers feature individual players with a short "bio" twice within every half-hour segment. As the game progresses and the full winnows, there is always someone to pull forward, or perhaps more likely, someone to root against. There is drama as the chip stack of the different players' rises and falls. The very

professional poker players are thrilled. The purses have grown dramatically and a much larger percentage of the players aren't very good. ESPN is thrilled.

The producers managed to fill airtime and sell advertising to sponsors seeking a young male demographic. Binion's is thrilled. They're getting paid and their tournament is more popular than ever.

The popularity of the World Series of Poker says a lot about television programming.

Too few shows develop interesting characters and present compelling storylines. This show meets minimum requirements and, with a clicker in hand, you can watch a hand or two during commercial breaks on other channels.

A resident of Cranford, Marc Kelley can be reached at mkelley@celipen.net.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Press senators for passage of bill

Currently there is a bill pending in the United States Senate which will prohibit illegal aliens from obtaining a driver's license in any state in the nation. This long-awaited homeland security precaution, which is now on its way to becoming a law, was recommended by the 9-11 Commission headed by former New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean.

The 19 hijackers, who participated in the 9-11 horrible disaster, had acquired 53 driver's licenses among themselves from various states including the state of New Jersey.

With those driver's licenses, they were able to easily travel around the United States, sometimes to enjoy a high-style life in such places as Las Vegas and Florida resorts. Ultimately, the 19 hijackers were able to use their driver's licenses as documents to buy tickets and board the four airplanes resulting in the 9-11 tragedy.

Right now, many illegal aliens are driving cars with driver's licenses which were obtained fraudulently by showing forged passports and other falsified documents.

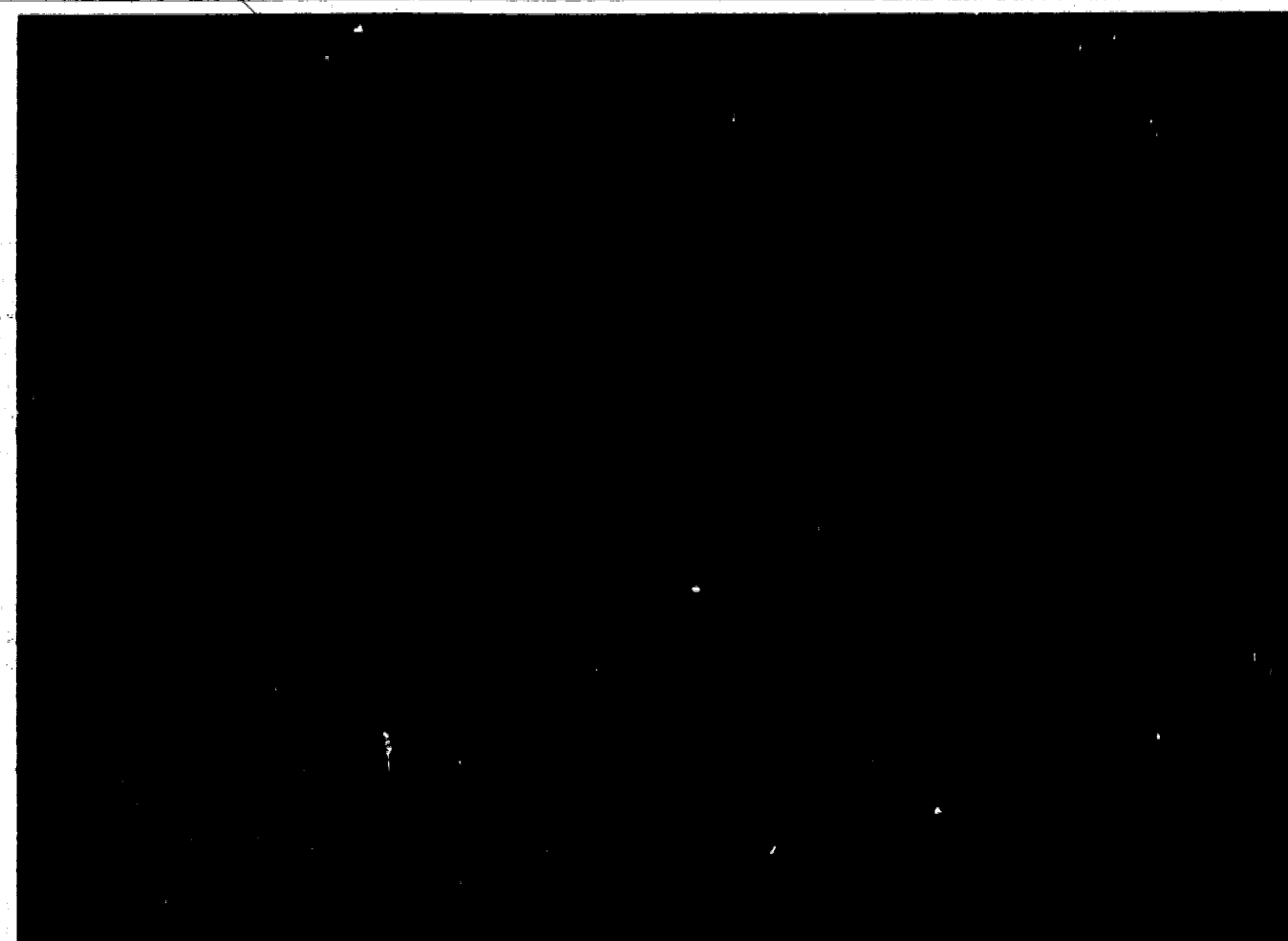
Many of these people do not speak American English very well, and most cannot read or write it well enough to read the traffic signs. Just take a ride on Route 22 from Union to Scotch Plains, and observe how many instructional traffic signs are posted. If one of these unauthorized drivers cannot read the signs, and should make a wrong move, you or a loved one could be killed in an accident.

Make a telephone call or send a letter — preferably one or two sentences — to our two federal senators whose telephone numbers and addresses are shown below: Sen. Jon Corzine, United States Senate, 502 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, Newark, Phone: 973-643-3030.

Sen. Frank Lautenberg, United States Senate, 825A Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, Newark, Phone: 973-639-8700

Your letters and telephone calls are appreciated by these lawmakers, and your interest will influence their final votes on a bill to become a law.

Hazel Hardygrove  
Springfield



Union County special needs children, ages 3 to 9, from The Arc Kohler School in Mountaineer were welcomed Feb. 8 with a special presentation titled "Keeping New Jersey's Kids Warm, Wise and Healthy" hosted by the AMERIGROUP Foundation.

## RECREATION

### Youth Softball sign-ups

The Mountaineer Recreation Department is again sponsoring softball to ball this spring for children in grades one through eight.

The emphasis is on participation, fun and team play.

An instructional clinic will be offered for first and second-graders. This program will meet on Saturdays beginning April 23 from 10-11:15 a.m. at Deerfield School. The fee is \$25 per person, and the registration deadline is March 1.

Third through fifth-graders will play in the instructional Junior Division, and sixth through eighth-graders will compete in the Senior Division. Practice for both age groups will begin in late March and games will be scheduled from mid-April to early June. The registration fee is \$48 per person for the Junior Division, and \$58 per person for the Senior Division.

### Travel plans announced

Three travel adventures are on the 2005 calendar. From March 30 to April 6, an eight-day Southern tour is planned, with stops at Monticello, Jekyll Island, and Savannah.

From Sept. 19-21, a three-day Lake George and Lake Placid trip is set. Two-nights at the Sagamore Resort and Hotel are featured, as well as a cruise on Lake Placid.

Participants will go to the White Mountains from Oct. 31-Nov. 4. This trip features two nights at the Trapp Family Lodge. In addition to a guided tour of the Stowe area, there are stops at Ben and Jerry's, the Cabot Cheese Factory, and the Maple Grove Factory.

Details are available in the Recreation Office 908-232-0015. The trips are co-sponsored by the Mountaineer Recreation Department and the New Providence and Scotch Plains Recreation Commissions.

### Koosh Kids in spring

Koosh Kids, a four-week clinic that introduces the skills of throwing, catching, batting and running to 5-year-olds, will meet this spring, beginning April 30. The clinic is sponsored by the Mountaineer Recreation Department.

Children who are 5-years-old or will be 5-years-old by Aug. 1, 2005 are eligible. The fee is \$15 per person. Beginning Tuesday, there is a late charge of \$15. Sign-ups are being accepted at the Recreation Office.

### Body sculpting classes

Join Professional Fitness Athlete Laura Bass for this challenging activity that uses lightweight, 3-5 pound hand weights to develop muscle endurance as part of a total body workout.

The adult class will meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. from Monday to April 20. The fee is \$62 for Mondays, \$62 for Wednesdays. The class meets at Borough Hall, and early registration is suggested for this class.

AM Body Sculpting meets on Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Borough Hall. The next session runs from March 3 to April 21. The registration fee is \$62 per person.

### Kick Boxing session begins Monday

The next session of Kick Boxing featuring world champion Vizzio begins on Monday. The class tones muscles, improves coordination and

balance, and promotes self confidence. Classes meet Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:15 to 10 a.m. in the Borough Hall Community Room. The next session runs from Monday to April 20. The fee is \$88 for Mondays and \$88 for Wednesdays.

### Yoga session set

Come and discover the benefits of Hatha Yoga. Strengthen and tone your body while releasing tension and stress. Techniques will be taught integrating asana — posture, pranayama — breathing — and meditation, promoting strength, flexibility and spirituality. Mary Ellen Basile will be instructing the class.

The Recreation Department has scheduled classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 8:15 p.m. beginning March 3 in the Borough Hall Community Room, 1385 Route 22 east in Mountaineer.

The session will run from March 3 to April 21. The fee is \$54 for Tuesdays and \$62 for Thursdays. Classes will be limited to 12 people per night.

### Community Pool memberships available

Winter will soon be gone, and the summer pool season will be here before you know it.

The Mountaineer Community Pool attracts people of all ages for a summer of sun, fun, and relaxation. The facility features a 50-meter pool, a separate diving tank, the zero-depth wading pool, a snack bar, and picnic grove. The season will run from June 11 to Labor Day.

### Senior van provides free transportation

The Mountaineer Senior Van provides free transportation service for borough seniors ages 60 and older. It is available for trips to doctors, dentists, shopping, hairdresser appointments, the public library, etc. For reservations, call 908-232-2400 ext. 5, weekday mornings.

### Free tax help available

Free tax help is available by appointment on Wednesdays from noon to 5 p.m. at the Mountaineer Free Public Library. Call 908-232-0115 to make an appointment.

### Mountaineer Active Retirees meet Tuesdays

The Mountaineer Active Retirees meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 east at 10 a.m.

Upcoming programs include: March 8 — Union County Drug Attack Dogs and Their Trainers; and March 22 — A Jersey Woman's Life in Saudi Arabia Prior to 911.

### Senior Citizens Club meets 2nd, 4th Fridays

The Senior Citizens Club meets the second and fourth Fridays of the month at the Community Presbyterian Church Meeting House Lane and Deer Path in Mountaineer at noon. Upcoming programs include Bingo on Friday, board games on March 11, and the Golden Lights Singers on March 25. A

## Donation keeps kids warm

Union County special needs children, ages 3 to 9, from The Arc Kohler School in Mountaineer were welcomed Feb. 8 with a special presentation titled "Keeping New Jersey's Kids Warm, Wise and Healthy" hosted by the AMERIGROUP Foundation.

Representatives from AMERIGROUP Foundation provided all the children in attendance with a free pair of mittens and a wool hat, as well as tips on keeping warm and safe during the winter season. Antoinette Gaboton-Moss, Special Projects Manager for Special Olympics New Jersey, read the book "Hats, Caps, Socks and Mittens" to the children.

"Winter safety is very important this time of year especially for children," said Norma Valone, president and CEO of AMERIGROUP, New Jersey. "Children are usually the first to come down with a cold or the flu which is why we are providing them with hats, mittens and tips for having a safe and fun winter season."

"We are very proud to be a part of this program," said Allan Kahn, principal of the Arc Kohler School.

## SENIOR NEWS

bus trip is planned for April 5. For membership and program information, call 908-233-6280.

### Springfield Club seeks new members

If any senior citizen is 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 Civic 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 desk. Everyone brings a sandwich and they enjoy lunch together. There are many activities throughout the year.

### Computer classes set for seniors

The Mountaineer Recreation Department has scheduled two computer classes for senior citizens in March at Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 east. For detailed information, call the Recreation Office at 908-232-0015.

Internet for Beginners will teach students how to surf the Internet. It will meet on March 30 at 10:30 a.m., and the registration fee is \$15.

Computers for Absolute Beginners is a basic step by step demonstration on how to use a computer.

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908-273-3330

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908-273-6916

**SPRINGFIELD YMCA**  
100 S. Springfield Ave.  
Springfield  
973-467-0838

**SUMMIT CAR WASH & DETAIL CENTER**  
100 Springfield Ave.  
Summit  
908-273-0830

**HAPPY EASTER**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Teen proved to be a true lifesaver

To the Editor:

On a recent Monday night, Stuart Maslow, 16, a junior at Jonathan Dayton High School, truly did a heroic deed. His grandmother, Goldine Weller, a diabetic, was in the midst of a crisis due to a hypoglycemic attack. After taking some newly prescribed medicine that had a negative effect, her blood sugar steadily dropped to 27, a level near unconsciousness. Stuart kept monitoring her with blood sugar tests, orange juice and chocolate. Stuart is knowledgeable as he is the captain of the Jonathan Dayton High School Emergency Response team and is certified in CPR, first aid and defibrillation.

When it became evident that the sugar level was not rising to normal, he notified the First Aid Squad, which arrived with the paramedics and police. They injected her with sugar and proceeded to the hospital.

Stuart remained with her in the emergency room until she was admitted at 6 a.m. Tuesday. If not for Stuart's quick effort, things could have turned out much different.

Stuart is the son of Janet and Larry Maslow of Springfield. As his parents

always say, he is wise much beyond his years. A truly responsible and unique young man. We are very proud of him.

Janet Maslow  
Springfield

### Our policy on letters and columns

The Echo Leader welcomes submissions from its readers. Letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages.

This opportunity also is open to all residents, officials and employees of both Springfield and Mountaineer and the county of Union.

The Echo Leader reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content and style. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification.

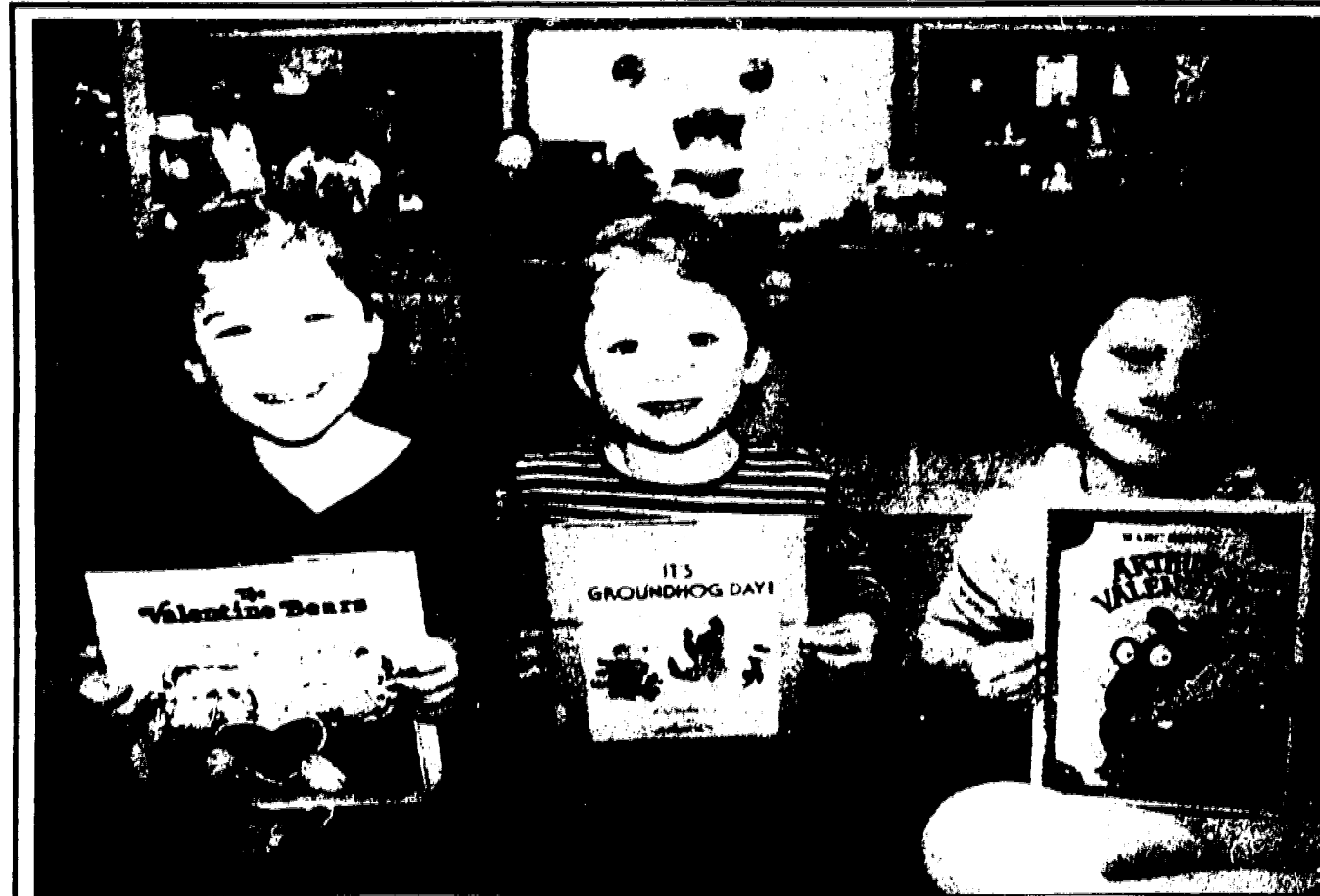
Letters must be no more than 500 words long; longer pieces must be arranged in advance with the editor. The Echo Leader accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via e-mail. The address is editorial@thelocalsource.com

Respond to letters and columns that appear on our Community Forum pages and take part in discussion of local issues each week.

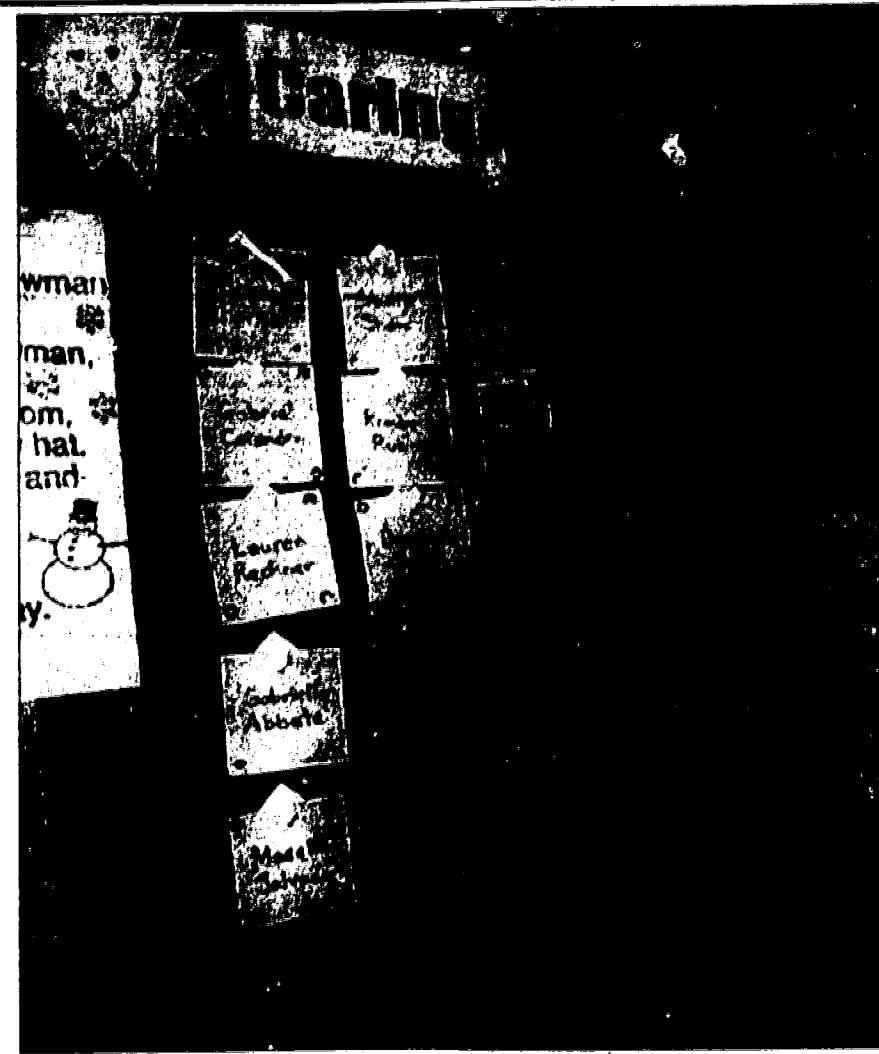
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Send e-mail to [editorial@thelocalsource.com](mailto:editorial@thelocalsource.com)





STUDENTS HAVE A HEART — It was Valentine's Day at Edward V. Walton School in Springfield and in Susan Greene's class, preschoolers Emma-Rose Bacall, Kara Puglio and Holly Wilson show off their special book for this special day. At right, Matthew Hammer shows how much he likes to help in Theresa Maul's class.



Special needs addressed

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

EVENTS

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

Newcomers meet. The Mountainside Newcomers Club will offer a Ladies Night Out at L'Affaire when they attend the annual Mountainside PTA dinner/auction/fashion show on March 3.

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

Flea market March 5. Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall, will sponsor an indoor flea market March 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fund-raiser supports GL Marching Band. On Friday, the Governor Livingston Band Parent Organization is hosting their annual fund-raising auction. The snow date is Wednesday.

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.

Advertisement for Redfield Blonsky & Co., LLC, Certified Public Accountants. Includes services like Investment Management, Tax & Estate Planning, and Retirement Planning.

Advertisement for Bloomfield College Spring Open House. Join us at the Bloomfield College Spring Open House Saturday, March 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Advertisement for W. Zimmerman, CPA. Making your Life less Taxing!!! Offering tax services to individuals and business for over 20 years.

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Advertisement for "The Perfect Wedding" Bridal Show. February 28, 6:30 PM. The Grand Summit Hotel, 570 Springfield Avenue, Summit.

OBITUARIES

Ave Ostrander. Ave Ostrander, 91, of New Providence, formerly of Summit, died Feb. 10 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Raymond Flynn. Raymond F. Flynn, 79, of Franklin, Tenn., formerly of Summit, died Feb. 9 at home.

Albert Rich. Albert Rich, 84, of Springfield, formerly of Hillsdale, died Feb. 10 at home.

Scouts invited to Bingo Madness March 4. All Springfield Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts are invited to a night of Bingo Madness on March 4 at Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall, in Springfield from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Audrey Christopher. Audrey Calvin Christopher, 84, of Summit died Feb. 8 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Paul Muller. Paul R. Muller, 93, of Springfield died Feb. 16 at home.

Steven Gold. Steven Edward Gold, 46, of Mountainside died Feb. 16 in the Manor Care Health Services, Mountainside.

Advertisement for "The Perfect Wedding" Bridal Show. February 28, 6:30 PM. The Grand Summit Hotel, 570 Springfield Avenue, Summit.

Programs promote heart health

Overlook Hospital will continue to host several heart-healthy and educational programs. Cardiac disease is one of the top causes of death among American men and women, but also has proven to be a preventable condition.

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

Bone Density Screenings. A noninvasive ultrasound of the heel provides immediate results. Counseling and educational materials are provided.

Session offers insight on weight loss surgery. Overlook Hospital will offer a session about weight loss surgery, including information and discussion about all aspects of bariatric surgery for interested individuals.

Pilates class aims to improve strength. Members of the Summit YMCA can enjoy a new approach to conditioning using elements of Pilates style exercise techniques.

Advertisement for Hacht Family Chiropractic Care. Snow Shoveling got you down? Pick yourself up and feel the benefits of gentle Chiropractic care today.

Programs promote heart health

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

Blood Pressure Screenings. Make sure your blood pressure is at or below 120/80 — the national guideline for blood pressure. Receive individual counseling and educational handouts.

Bone Density Screenings. A noninvasive ultrasound of the heel provides immediate results. Counseling and educational materials are provided.

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Children's ministries promote peace

The children of Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church have focused recently on Jesus Christ as a model healer and peacemaker.

This can be seen as a relevant topic as children struggle to deal with all that is happening around them. In age-appropriate ways, the children talked about conflicts within their communities, the United States as well as Iraq, Israel and Palestine, and numerous other places where conflict continues to erupt and be destructive.

Children's Ministry Coordinator Heather Robinson explained that the children countered discussions about conflict with ideas on how to find inner peace, and how to be a peacemaker like Jesus.

"The children had some wonderful real world examples of children reaching out to be peacemakers and healers particularly in the hard-hit tsunami region of Southeast Asia, where adults and children alike are reaching across religious borders to send aid," she explained.

In addition to creating art that reflected their feelings of peace, the children helped to assemble the health kit donations solicited by the church for the tsunami survivors.

Springfield Emanuel is located at the far back end of Church Mall near the intersection of Morris and Mountain avenues.

Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m. with a 20-minute period of family worship preceding Sunday school.

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.

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.

RELIGION

WORSHIP CALENDAR

BAPTIST
SPRINGFIELD CHURCH
232 Spruick Rd. Springfield, N.J. 07081

JEWISH - REFORM
TEMPLE SHAAR YISRAEL
78 S. Springfield Avenue, Springfield, (973) 376-5387

LUTHERAN
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
639 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, 07081, 973-379-4525

JEWISH-ORTHODOX
CONGREGATION ISRAEL OF SPRINGFIELD
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Secular, Jewish music performed at SJCC

On March 13, Cantor Janet Roth Krupnick, soprano, and Cantor Larry Goller, bass-baritone, will perform a recital of secular and Jewish music with contemporary composers including Kurt Weil, Aaron Copland, Manuel Garcia Morante, Ben Steinberg, Boaz Tsur, and Joel Engel, accompanied by pianist David Davis.

"This afternoon recital is a remarkable opportunity to bring hidden gems of the Jewish musical world to light," said Cantor Krupnick.

Krupnick, who has been cantor of the SJCC since 1991, is a member of the New Jersey Cantors Assembly and its performing group, the New Jersey Cantors Concert Ensemble.

Summit pianist David Davis enjoys a diverse musical career, including accompanying in theatrical and operatic productions, playing for services at synagogues and churches, performing solo piano literature and teaching privately as well as at the Kent Place School.

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69th UCT Boys' Basketball

A St. Patrick's vs. Linden final was the No. 1 prediction prior to scheduled semifinals contested Tuesday night and last night at the Elizabeth Dunn Sport Center.

Three of the top four seeds made it to the semifinals, with sixth-seeded St. Mary's of Elizabeth the exception.

St. Patrick's last won the UCT in 2003 when it beat Linden in the final.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Saturday, Feb. 12
At Linden: Elizabeth 55, Dayton 33

FIRST ROUND
Tuesday, Feb. 15
At Cranford: Summit 55, Cranford 50

QUARTERFINALS
Friday, Feb. 18
At Cranford: St. Patrick's 64, Summit 34

SEMIFINALS
Tuesday, Feb. 22
At Elizabeth Dunn Sport Center: 4-Railway vs. St. Patrick's

THIRD PLACE AND FINAL
Saturday, Feb. 26, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
At Elizabeth Dunn Sport Center

30th UCT Girls' Basketball
Scores: Summit is attempting to become the first repeat champ since Elizabeth won consecutive titles in 1995-1996 and 1997.

PRELIMINARY ROUND
Saturday, Feb. 12 - At Railway: Roselle Catholic 38, Union Catholic 48

QUARTERFINALS
Thursday, Feb. 17
At Roselle Catholic: Railway 33, Elizabeth 26

SEMIFINALS
Tuesday, Feb. 22
At Roselle Catholic: 44, Oak Knoll 31

THIRD PLACE AND FINAL
Friday, Feb. 25, 6:30 and 8 p.m.
At Roselle Catholic

Lacrosse sticks donated
The Berkeley Heights-New Providence Cross Lacrosse Club has donated 1,000 worth of lacrosse sticks to the Mountainside, Berkeley Heights, Oak Knoll and New Providence school systems.

Summit Seals excel at Bronze YMCA event
Swimmers garner many medals
The Summit Area YMCA Seals team of swimmers to compete in the New Jersey Bronze YMCA Championship at Raritan Valley Community College Feb. 13.

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Swimmers garner many medals
The Summit Area YMCA Seals team of swimmers to compete in the New Jersey Bronze YMCA Championship at Raritan Valley Community College Feb. 13.

St. James girls' impress in victory

The St. James of Springfield 3rd and 4th grade Pee Wee CYO girls' basketball team culminated an outstanding week with an impressive 28-14 win over Sacred Heart of South Plainfield in the opening round of the St. Francis Cabrini Tournament in Middlesex.

Leading 14-13 in the fourth quarter, point guard Brianna Mooney led St. James on a 14-1 run to close out the contest.

Benefiting from Mooney's passing were Allison Weber with 10 points and Heather Fritzen with nine. Megan Cieri and Deirdre McElroy each had a basket, while Dana Gearty hit a foul shot.

Earlier in the week, the girls' defeated Kenilworth 26-3. Fritzen poured in 10 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, Weber had six points and nine rebounds, Mooney scored six and Cieri four.

Minute 7th graders bounce 2 foes
The Springfield Minutemen 7th grade basketball team defeated Berkeley Heights 43-25 and New Providence 72-29 last week to improve to 9-2 and remain in second place in its division.

Tommy Clark rebounded well and also managed to score six points. Dan Ostas helped run the offense and scored four points.

8th graders continue to roll: On Feb. 16, the 8th grade team defeated Berkeley Heights 45-44 behind a 14-point performance by Billy Kirk. With six seconds left and trailing by one point, Zach Floyd passed to Will Rodger, who sank a jumper at the buzzer for the victory.

Another win was attained last Friday night as the Minutemen defeated New Providence 69-46. Rodger was strong with 20 points, while Hardgrove had 13 and Bujnowski 12. Mike Diamond and Kirk poured in six, Colin Gretten and Floyd five and Thoma Champsagnaga two.

The winning streak came to a conclusion last Saturday when Springfield was defeated by Milltown 49-42 in Danellen Tournament competition.

Dayton and Summit hockey sought finals
The Dayton and Summit high school ice hockey teams sought cup finals as they entered conference semifinals matchups this week.

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College captain

Kimberly Glavin of Summit, N.J., will captain the highly-ranked Vanderbilt University women's lacrosse team this spring.

The 2001 Summit High School graduate led the Hilltoppers to the 2001 state final four before spending one year at Dartmouth College.

Summit is scheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m. at South Mountain Arena in West Orange.

Dayton captured the Kelly Cup in 2003.

Second-seeded Summit, with a record of 11-11, was to play third-seeded Westfield Tuesday night in a Van Cott Cup semifinal involving Cranford, Summit, Westfield, Dayton and Summit.

The final is scheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m. at South Mountain Arena in West Orange.

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SPORTS

Zavocki leads Bulldogs

The Dayton High School girls' basketball team, sparked by one of the top players in the state in senior Cristin Zavocki (No. 14), will seek to get back to the Central Jersey, Group 1 final when the state playoffs commence next week.

Third-seeded Dayton will host sixth-seeded Florence Thursday night in a quarterfinal. The semifinals are March 5 at the higher seeds and the final March 7 at a neutral site still to be determined.

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Summit Seals excel at Bronze YMCA event

Swimmers garner many medals
The Summit Area YMCA Seals team of swimmers to compete in the New Jersey Bronze YMCA Championship at Raritan Valley Community College Feb. 13.

Representing the Seals are boys' ages 9-10 200 freestyle relay were Ben Ballintyne, Thomas O'Connell, Kevin Spillman and Dan Muro. They brought home gold medals, finishing in a total time of 2:30.96.

The 50 freestyle, Ballintyne placed second, followed by teammate Muro in fifth.

Goonan captured a bronze medal in the 50 backstroke, while Spellman contributed a fourth-place finish in the 100 freestyle.

Swimming in the 50-100 age group, Jackie Joffe earned a silver medal in the 50-yard butterfly, with a best time of 39.73.

Kimberly Colicchio placed fourth in the 100-yard individual medley (IM), followed by Kelley Delaney in sixth place. Colicchio added a sixth-place finish in the 50-yard butterfly.

Competing in the 11-12 boys' 200 IM, Marc McFarland won the silver medal with a best time of 3:19.11. Cameron Simko added a fourth-place finish in the 50 butterfly.

In the 11-12 age category, Laurel Repash grabbed a gold medal in the 100 freestyle, leading the wall in 1:07.95. Repash added a fourth-place finish in the 50 butterfly.

The team of Repash, Caroline Dolanay, Molly Feeney and Catherine Niach, placed sixth in the 200 medley relay. In the 200 freestyle relay, the quartet of Annie Feeney, Meghan O'Connell, Thana Kowalman and Hannah Park placed seventh. In the 13-14 age group, Chris Peterson swam to a first-place finish in the 100 freestyle.

Kristin Whitecrown earned a gold medal in the 100 breaststroke.

Other Seals who excelled were Benjamin Akin, Katherine Athanasios, Alexandra Epposito, Maddie Harmon, Brendan Higgins, Katherine Lee, Arielle N'Diaye, Erin Spellman, Megan Sullivan and Julia Wolk.

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# St. James plans fund-raiser

St. James the Apostle Home School Association will be hosting its annual fish and chips basket bonanza on Friday. Catering will be done again this year by Hustler's Restaurant of Kearney. The cost for tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children younger than age 12. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., with take-out orders from 5:30 to 6 p.m. Desserts and beverages are included with the meal and are donated by Saint James School.

This year's theme for the Basket Bonanza is "New Jersey — The Garden State."

Each class at St. James School is sponsoring a basket with a different New Jersey Theme. "Music is Boss," "We are the Champions," "Ivy League Alley," "Diners, Diners,

## Deadline approaches for BOE petitions

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the Board of Education in either Springfield or Mountainside is Monday at 4 p.m.

Nominating petitions are available at the local school board office. The election is scheduled for April 19.

"Prospective candidates can obtain a 'School Board Candidate Kit' along with their nominating petitions," published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the

## AT THE LIBRARY

**Good Books Group meets on March 3**

The Good Books Discussion Group of the Springfield Free Public Library will meet on March 3 at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Marches" by Julia Glass.

In June of 1989 Paul McLeod, a newspaper publisher and recent widower, travels to Greece, where he falls for a young American artist and reflects on the complicated truth about his marriage. Six years later, again in June, Paul's death draws his three grown sons and their families back to their ancestral home. Fenno, the eldest, a wry, introspective gay man, narrates the events of this unforeseen reunion.

Far from his straitlaced expatriate life as a bookseller in Greenwich Village, Fenno is stunned by a series of revelations that threaten his carefully crafted defenses. Four years farther on, in yet another June, a chance meeting on the Long Island shore brings Fenno together with Fern Hitzky, the artist who once captivated his father.

Now pregnant, Fern must weigh her guilt about the past against her wishes for the future and decide what family means to her. In prose rich with compassion and wit, this novel paints a haunting portrait of love's redemp-

**Video series continues**

The Springfield Free Public Library continues its Lighthouse Video Series, "True Stories," on Tuesday at noon.

Oscar® winner Denzel Washington stars as a government operative/soldier of fortune, who has pretty much given up on life. In Mexico City, he reluctantly agrees to take a job to protect a child whose parents are threatened by a wave of kidnappings. He eventually becomes close to the child and their relationship reawakens and rekindles his spirit.

**Donations sought**

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

Also welcome would be magazines within a years date and costume jewelry.

The library is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. For information, call 973-376-4930.

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OF THE BOROUGH CODE TO INCLUDE PROHIBITION ON FEEDING OF WILD ANIMALS IN THE BOROUGH

WHEREAS the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountainside for the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Borough, and the protection of the Wild Animals, in and around the Borough, is desirous of adopting the ordinance;

AND WHEREAS the feeding of Wild Animals is dangerous to the animals because it disturbs their normal feeding habits and draws them into close contact with humans, and automobiles, and domestic animals, and contact with humans and domestic animals can be dangerous to humans, and that animals that have the habit of scavenging and scavenging habitually to humans if provoked and that Wild Animals are especially dangerous in populated areas; this ordinance is hereby adopted and shall take effect on the 15th day of February, 2005.

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# Here's a homemade greeting



Springfield Superintendent of Schools Michael Davino recently requested that art teachers have students create drawings to be reproduced as seasonal holiday cards. These cards were sent to various school districts. At a recent Board of Education meeting, the students whose drawings had been selected were presented with the original drawing and a copy of the card created from it. Thelma L. Sandmeyer, fourth-grade student Lee Genevra displays her drawing with her family and art teacher Marilyn Schneider.

## STUDENT UPDATE

**Johnson earns dean's list at Scranton U.**

Laura A. Johnson of Springfield was among the students who made the dean's list for the 2004 fall semester at The University of Scranton, a Jesuit university in northeastern Pennsylvania.

A student must have a grade point average of 3.5 or better with a minimum number of credit hours to make the dean's list. The list includes students from the university's College of Arts and Sciences, the Kanis School of Management, the Penaska College of Professional Studies and Dexter Hanley College.

Johnson is a freshman and a communication major.

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**Youth Group serves up 'Souper Bowl Sunday'**

The Mountainside Community Presbyterian Church Senior High Youth Group served up homemade soup for "Souper Bowl Sunday" as part of their ongoing fund-raising activities for Habitat for Humanity.

This summer the Youth Group will spend a week helping to build houses with Habitat for Humanity.

Over the last few years, this Youth Group has been focused on providing help to those in need all over the world through their participation in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine. This year they have decided to concentrate their efforts on a very worthy cause closer to home with Habitat for Humanity.

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COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY

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## When the bubble bursts

A couple spent a portion of their Sunday at Sears in Roselle comparing the merits of the \$24.99 Black & Decker drill to a less expensive model.

Neely, another couple perused the rows of washing machines considering a purchase. Actually there were quite a few people shopping.

It's indisputable with the ups and downs of the stock market, how the wealth and most egg in lines of their houses. It's what they put their money.

At least one person thinks the good times in housing values are about to end.

## Left Out

The National Association of Realtors estimates that in our area in just the past two years the median housing sales price has jumped from \$310,000 to \$346,000.

There is no way my stock broker can match that jump. A 2½-bed Cape Cod in Rahway listed this week for \$335,000. A three-bedroom split-level in Battie Hill section of Union was sold for \$410,000.

According to David Hial of nearby Union and a director for the National Association of Realtors, "The market is very hot, so there are a lot of people looking for homes. It's a seller's market, but it's not a buyer's market. They don't want to pay too much for a house."

He addressed three categories of people, said Goegler. "Volunteers need to be strategic in the way they approach the market. We need to focus on people who are in need, and we need to focus on people who are in need of the opportunity to help our community," said Goegler.

## Giving the gift of literacy

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## State provides funding for Retail Skills Center

The state Department of Labor provided a \$483,000 grant to the Retail Skills Center at Jersey Gardens Mall last week to continue their program, which has served more than 17,000 people in the last five years.

"Once you have the skills, you can move forward," Department of Labor Commissioner Thomas Cervoni said. "This is a model for the rest of the country and the results are great."

The grant is expected for workforce development, and will allow the center to continue its training programs and to promote retail as a viable career choice.

The idea for the Retail Skills Center grew out of the initial projections for the mall's total employment, according to Elizabeth Meyer, J. Christian Bottigera, who discussed the program in place at the King's Prussia Mall in Berks, Pennsylvania.

"We made sure residents were being trained through the Retail Skills Center," said Cervoni.

## Time capsule to be revealed

Friday's event to kick off centennial celebration at courthouse building of its time," Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi said.

On Friday, Union County will celebrate the courthouse's centennial with a ceremony to kick off a year's worth of events. Beginning at 2 p.m., it will feature performances by the Union County Bagpipers and the Plainfield Choir Chorus, and the high point will be the unveiling of the time capsule.

In 1903, the time capsule was sealed and placed in the cornerstone of the building, which was completed two years later.

Its contents include copies of the *Elizabeth Daily Journal*, the *Elizabeth Daily Leader*, and the *Evening Times*, along with photos and the telephone key from the original 1811 courthouse.

To be shown during the ceremony is a video of the finding of the time capsule, a small copper box, which was no small feat. "There was a lot of confusion as to where it was," said Rajoppi, adding that they assumed the box was in the cornerstones of the building. "They didn't leave a note, or diagram, or anything."

First the county tried x-rays, then a manometer, said Chief Warrant Officer Lester Sargent. Finally, U.S. Customs was brought in with much more sensitive equipment, and the time capsule was finally located and chiseled out of three feet of granite.

It and its contents will remain on display in the courthouse rotunda for the rest of the year, and then will be packed up and put back in the cornerstones along with a new one from 2005. This time, though, the county will mark the spot so that future generations will be able to find it, Rajoppi said.

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# Union County

## News

### Arts

### Entertainment

### Classified

### Real Estate

### Automotive

## Old newspapers are among the items to be revealed from a century-old time capsule at the courthouse.

Other centennial events will be the courthouse exhibit, which will open in March, and a re-consecration of the historic Union County jail. There will also be a birthday party in May to celebrate the anniversary of the courthouse's opening, and a Flag Day ceremony, among other events.

The contents of the time capsule will be on display, following Friday's program in the courthouse rotunda through Dec. 9, where they can be viewed by visitors from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Magnet school aces report card

"We pride ourselves in having a strong curriculum across the board," said Union County Magnet High School Principal James Stefanikovic.

If the New Jersey School Report Card for 2003-04 is any indication, the magnet high school has succeeded.

Already a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School, a Governor's School of Excellence and a Star School Winner, the school also boasts a 100 percent pass rate for the High School Proficiency Assessment, an average SAT score of 1270, and out of 120 AP tests taken, 100 scores of 3 or better.

"We have great kids who are very motivated, who understand the value of education, and are driven to achieve said Stefanikovic of his 284 students.

The magnet school's specialty is in engineering and architecture, and students get a hefty dose of math and science, though they are expected to do well in English and social studies as well.

"Hopefully, we'll make you the most well-rounded individual that you can be," said Stefanikovic, who said that he was bringing incoming middle schoolers that they must appreciate the humanities as much as the sciences.

Students apply to the school in Scotch Plains while still in middle school, and are evaluated on their grades from seventh grade as well as their standardized test scores. Approximately 20 to 25 students are admitted each year, and there are at least two students from each town in the county. A diverse group, the school is 44 percent minority.

The project-based atmosphere contributes to students' success, Stefanikovic said. He also credited his staff of strong teachers for the recognition the magnet school has received this year, and for the students' academic success.

"We spend lots of time on professional development," he said. "Every new teacher that comes into the district, whether they have 25 years of experience or are new to teaching, gets a three-week orientation the summer. A majority of the staff, 59 percent, hold master's or doctorate degrees, and the faculty turnover rate is well below the state average.

The magnet high school also boasts above-average attendance rates, a perfect graduation rate, and 97 percent of those graduates go on to a four-year college.

"The number one response from students that come back to visit is how well prepared they are for college," Stefanikovic said.

Less than a decade old, the magnet school has earned an impressive list of awards and achievements since it opened in the fall of 1997. In addition to the Blue Ribbon School and Governor's School designations, it has also been a perfect 1000 and a Fulbright scholar among its staff.

For all the serious academic work that magnet high students engage in, there are some indulgent upcoming events, including a "win" getting contest on March 14 and a "hole-in" Day celebration on June 2.

## Words by night

Volunteers need to be strategic in the way they approach the market. We need to focus on people who are in need, and we need to focus on people who are in need of the opportunity to help our community," said Goegler.

"I enjoy the creativity that goes along with teaching, and I can use my skills in a less stressful way," said Susan Logan, a retired teacher and current volunteer.

"Our volunteers run the gamut," said Goegler. "They're everything from retired teachers to people who work full-time jobs, accountants, lawyers, retirees — they work all kinds of jobs during the day."

Some volunteers have even gone on to become teachers. One volunteer is now a teacher in Westfield, while another got involved with the Board of Education in Elizabeth, Goegler said.

"That's what it's all about. How

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COUNTY NEWS

Democracy for America Meetup

The Democracy for America Meetup convenes the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave.

FSO of Union County presents speaker

On Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., a resource workshop will be at the Westfield office of the Family Support Organization of Union County, 137 Elmer St.

participated on many state and local committees which address the mental health needs of county youth.

The resource workshop is offered free, but reservations are suggested.

Gamblers Anonymous

The Union Sunday Chapter of Gamblers Anonymous will host a public meeting Sunday from 7 to 9 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, corner of Berwyn and Overlook streets in Union.

Do you have a gambling problem? Do you know someone who might? Help is available.

'House of Silver' at Rannels March 17

The Volunteer Guild of Rannels

Specialized Hospital of Union County will feature the merchandise of "House of Silver" March 17 in the multi-purpose room of the facility at 40 Watchung Way, Berkeley Heights from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A percentage of each purchase made at these sales is given to the Volunteer Guild to obtain items for the residents and patients that may include televisions, VCRs and prizes for their bingo game.

Adoption speaker at Mothers & More

At its March 2 meeting, the Union County Chapter of Mothers & More will host Christina Schuetz, New Jersey Branch Director of Holt International Children's Services.

tion founded over 59 years ago that arranges adoptions from 10 foreign countries.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Westfield YMCA, 220 Clark St., Westfield.

For information, call Lynn Raymond at 908-965-4969, the Knights of Columbus at 908-355-2253, Kathy Rotundo at 908-352-1477, Ray Lynch at 908-272-4940, Liz Welsh at 908-486-7118 or Kevin Dowling at 732-594-1763.

Registration for the Guinness Fun run is \$25 which includes admission into Finnegan's wake, T-shirt and complimentary beverages.

WPC to honor Cox and Rajoppi

The Union County Women's Political Caucus will host a reception honoring Elizabeth Cox of Summit and Joanne Rajoppi of Union on March 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. at L'Affaire, 1099 Route 22 East, Mountainside.

'Finnegan's Wake' to raise funds for parade

The Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee will hold its annual "Finnegan's Wake" and Guinness Fun Run on March 5 at Knights of Columbus Council 253 on Union

Avenue in Elizabeth from 2 to 6 p.m. Admission cost \$20 per person, which includes food, beer, wine and soda.

There will be continuous live Irish-American entertainment featuring The Mike Byrne Band.

For information, call Lynn Raymond at 908-965-4969, the Knights of Columbus at 908-355-2253, Kathy Rotundo at 908-352-1477, Ray Lynch at 908-272-4940, Liz Welsh at 908-486-7118 or Kevin Dowling at 732-594-1763.

Registration for the Guinness Fun run is \$25 which includes admission into Finnegan's wake, T-shirt and complimentary beverages.

The race will commence at 1:30 p.m. and end at the start of the Finnegan's Wake.

Club Summer at Little Red Schoolhouse

Arts and Crafts, Music, Recreation and MORE! Reasonable Rates. Redeemer Lutheran School, 229 Cowperthwaite Place, Westfield. JULY 5 - AUGUST 19, 2005. Program Activities 9 am-4 pm. Morning Care 7:30 - 9 am. After Care 4-6 pm. 1/2 day sessions also available. For dates and more information call 908-232-1592. www.redeemerlutheranwestfield.com

Political Caucus and the Women's Political Caucus of New Jersey.

As a former assemblywoman in the early 1970s, Cox was responsible for the concept of county commissions on women in New Jersey.

Currently, along with Rajoppi, she represents the Union County Caucus on the Board of the State Caucus, and she serves the state organization as parliamentarian and by-laws chairwoman.

Rajoppi currently serves as Union County clerk. Her many accomplishments include many firsts: first female mayor of Springfield; first female freeholder director; first female Register of Deeds & Mortgages; first woman to hold the position of county clerk.

She is the author of "Women in Office: Getting There and Staying There."

Rajoppi is a Democratic State Committeewoman for Union County, and she is a founding member and on the board of directors for PAM's List, the Democratic legislative PAC for New Jersey women.

Additional information on the Union County Women's Political Caucus, and details on how to place a congratulatory message in the reception program may be obtained by contacting Brenda King at bking@pc-media.net.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Film symposium expands and refines the cinematic experience

Remember that time when you were at a movie you'd been itching to see since you first saw the trailer, but someone in back of you ruined the movie by kicking your chair or talking over the movie's dialogue?

Well, you can rest easy when you attend Chuck Rose's filmmakers symposium. No vigilante actions will be necessary, because these are films for the serious film enthusiast, and patrons conduct themselves with respect for each other, and for the film they're watching, and, hopefully, enjoying.

Rose is a Maplewood native, and though it's quite common to hear that someone in the South Orange/Maplewood area has a creative gene, in Rose's case, the real inspiration and zeal for film appreciation came after he left his hometown to attend college.

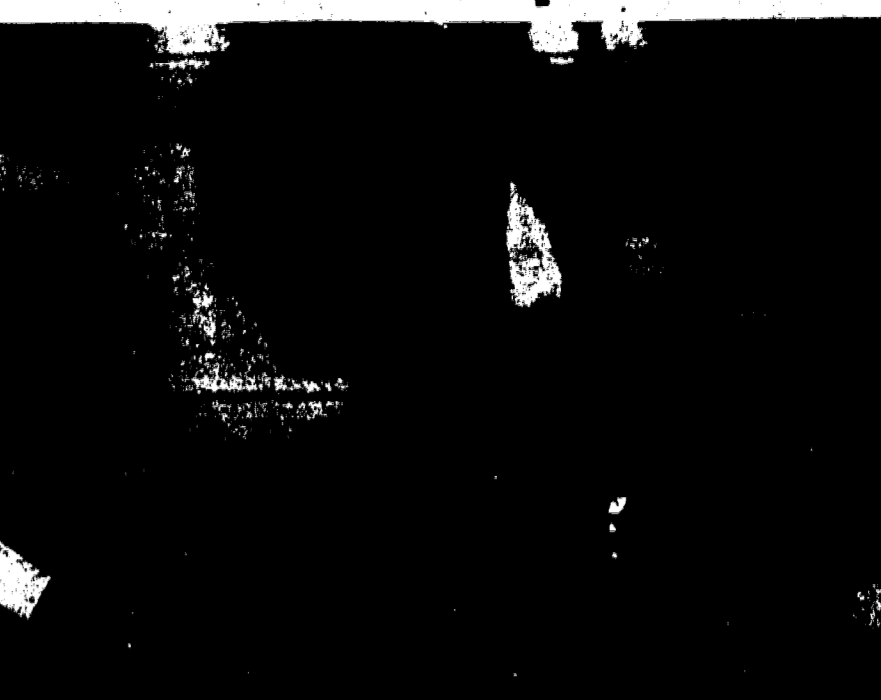
Rose developed a symposium consisting of roughly 20 films, each chosen for a discerning audience. Rose's audience — and his own taste — are both part of the reason that he doesn't show many big-studio films any more.

"When we had 'Sideways,' I had the screenwriter, Jim Taylor, as my guest," said Rose. "When I showed 'The Chorus,' a French film that is nominated for two Oscars, I had the director, Christophe Barratier, as my guest."

Rose already had an appreciation for film when he was in high school, but in college, his appreciation began to take a different shape.

"I was interested in film in high school, but it wasn't until I was a freshman in college that it overtook my life," said Rose. "It just sort of swept me away."

Rose is also a screenwriter, who is getting into publishing, and he just finished his 2nd screenplay. But it's the symposium that fuels his fire for what cinema can mean to an audience.



'Dear Frankie,' starring Emily Mortimer and Gerard Butler, and 20 additional new movies will premiere in a filmmakers symposium at Loewes Theater in Mountainside starting Monday. For info, call 800-531-9416 or visit privatescreenings.org

And in addition to seeing creative, serious films, attendees get something they won't get in the average multiplex movie theater: An atmosphere where respect for the film is sacrosanct.

"I run these screenings, and you're expected not to talk during the movie, and you sit and watch the credits,"

elling interviews, films you won't see anywhere else, Rose makes sure that his audience enjoys the benefits of each of these aspects of the cinematic experience.

For more information, call 800-531-9416 or visit www.privatescreenings.com.

SCHOOLS, Kids & CAMPS

Director to perform in touring play

Megan Muckelmann, Stars of Tomorrow's drama director and Encore Program director, will be appearing in the Helen Hayes Theatre Company's production of "The Value of Names," by Jeffrey Sweet.

Klugman appeared on Broadway and in television from the 1950s through the 1990s and is best known for playing sportswriter Oscar Madison in the TV comedy series "The Odd Couple" and as the crimefighting medical examiner on "Quincy M.E."

Open house

Redeemer Lutheran School of Westfield, located at the corner of Clark Street and Cowperthwaite Place, will have an Open House for Families on March 4 at 7 p.m. featuring storyteller 'Queen Nur' who will present a blend of tales, songs and rhymes celebrating African-American heritage.

in a warm, supportive, and fun environment. This is a camp where young performers learn how to work and create together. Stars of Tomorrow campers will experience all aspects of theater, including auditioning techniques, musical theater, scenic design, makeup, and much more.

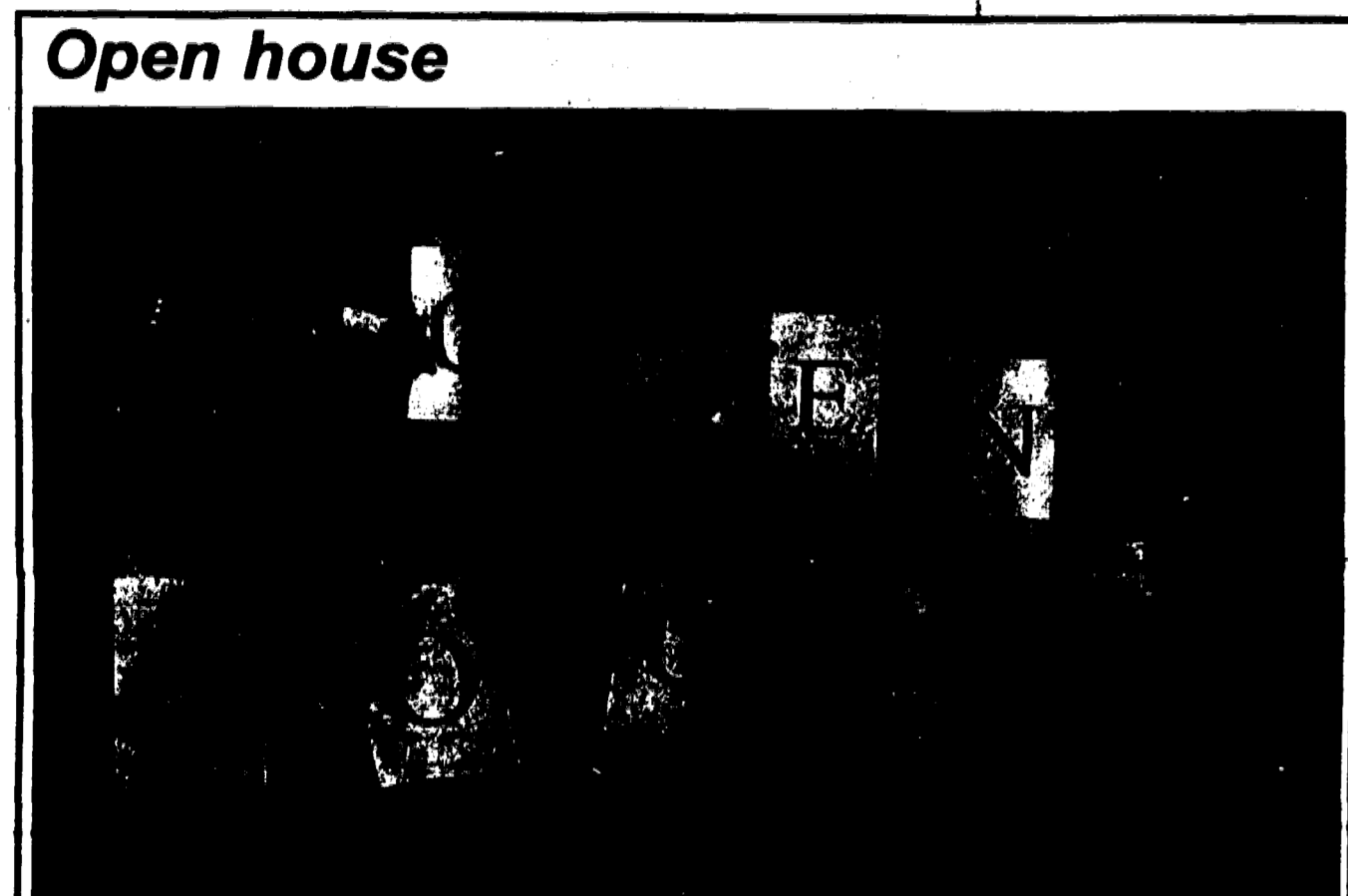
EDUCATION WITH A DIFFERENCE... SINCE 1953 REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Quality Education For The Christian Community. High Academic Standards • Concerned Certified Teachers • Nursery • Kindergarten • Elementary (Grades 1-8) • Extended Care 7:30am-6:00pm • Full-Time Summer Program

GRAND OPENING! MY GYM children's fitness center

Award winning programs for children 3 months to 13 years. Enhance strength, flexibility and self-esteem. Noncompetitive gymnastics, exercise, song, dance and more. Over 140 safe and immaculate facilities worldwide. Special Birthday Parties and events.

OPEN HOUSE! Feb. 25th 10-6, Feb. 26th 10-5, Feb. 27th 10-4, Mar. 3rd 10-6, Mar. 4th 10-6, Mar. 5th 10-5, Mar. 6th 10-3.



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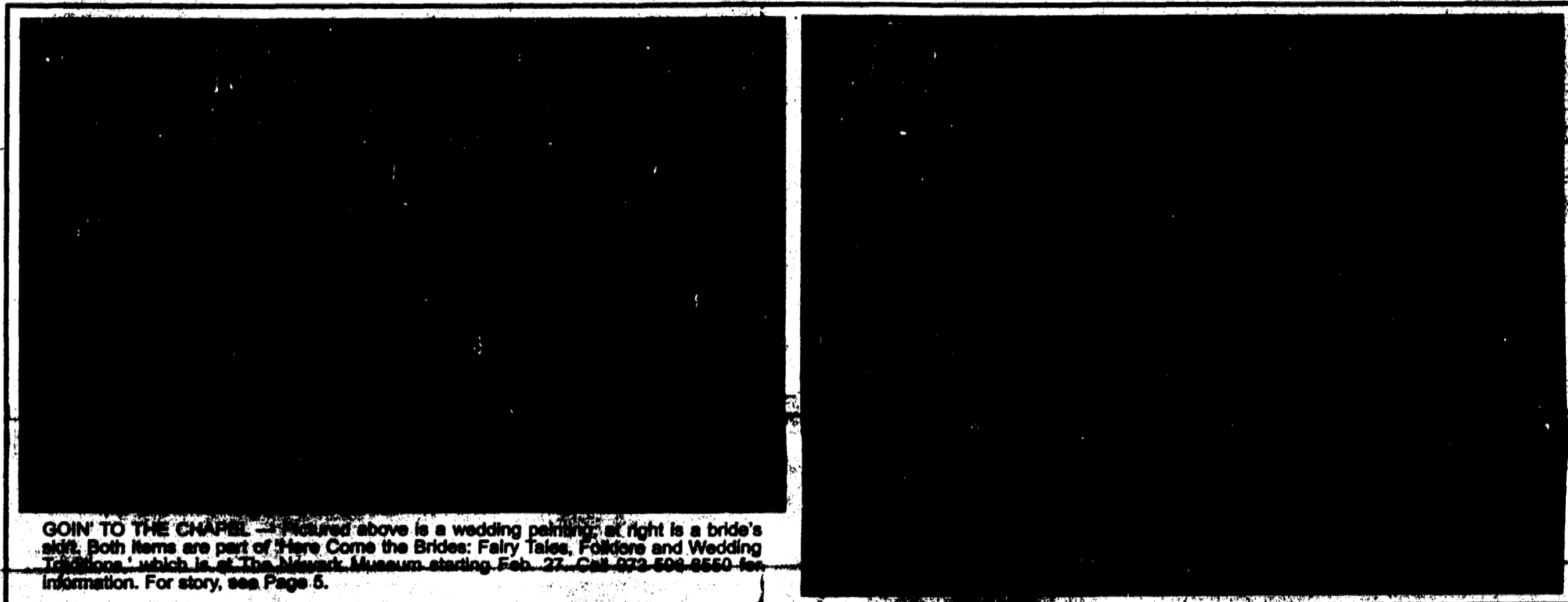
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SUMMER CAMP. Introducing Creative Parties. Camp Programs. Workshops. WE DO IT ALL! Ask About Our Costume Program.

Stars of Tomorrow Performing Arts Camp. A fun summer theatre program for children ages 3 through high school. Classes are available for campers of all abilities and levels of interest. 2005 Programs Available: Theater Tots, ages 3 & 4; Juniors a.m. & p.m., grades K-2; Juniors Combined, grades K-2; Full-Day Program, grades 3-4; Two-Week Session, grades 3+; Encore, grades 3+. OPEN HOUSE Wed., March 9, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Cranford United Methodist Church. All are welcome. www.StarsOfTomorrow.com / 908-276-8083 / StarsOfTomorrow@comcast.net



GOIN' TO THE CHAPEL. Featured above is a wedding painting; at right is a bride's sign. Both items are part of Here Come the Brides: Fairy Tales, Folklore and Wedding Traditions, which is at The Newark Museum starting Feb. 27. Call 973-594-8560 for information. For story, see Page 6.

Kean to present new theatre program. Kean University announces Premiere Stages, a new professional Actor's Equity Association theater program. Actively engaging and enhancing the professional theater academic programs at Kean, Premiere Stages will also serve a culturally diverse audience, children-at-risk, and a broad pool of artists. Premiere Stages features four uniquely conceived projects that will sustain and encourage the work of students, introduce children to the arts, attract high-profile artists to the institution and provide a forum for the development of new plays. The Premiere Stages Play Festival will present the work of emerging dramatists living in the greater metropolitan area through readings, workshops, and fully-produced world-premiere productions. For more information on Premiere Stages at Kean University, or to get on the mailing list, call 908-737-6397, ext. 4410, or send an e-mail to jwoolam@kean.edu.

HOSPICE OF NEW JERSEY. Hospice of New Jersey, the first licensed Hospice in New Jersey, currently offers comprehensive care focused on aggressive management of physical, emotional and spiritual needs that often accompany end of life illness. Our services, paid for by Medicare, Medicaid and most private insurers, are available in the comfort of your home, nursing homes and in our renowned inpatient unit in St. Joseph's Wayne Hospital. We are here for you. Call us for a free consultation. Hospice of New Jersey, 400 Broadacres Drive, Bloomfield, NJ 07003, Phone: 973-883-0518. Hospice of New Jersey, South 77 Route 37 West, Torne River, NJ 08783, Phone: 732-818-3480.

Are you looking for a neighborhood bank with a personal touch? UC SB. Come in today to one of our four convenient offices and open a Certificate of Deposit, or a Facebook Savings or Money Market account at the bank where banking makes dollars and sense.

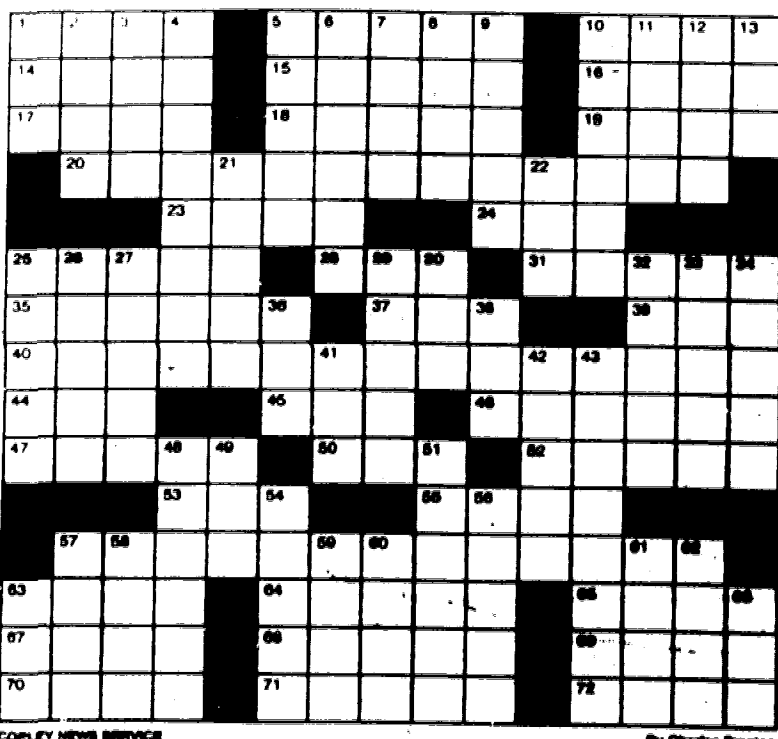
Your Future... Begins Here. Where banking makes dollars and sense. UNION COUNTY SAVINGS BANK. With more than 40 academic programs in the arts and sciences, business and management, health sciences, and teacher education, plus NCAA Division II athletics, a world of opportunity awaits. Discover the difference at Felician. Meet our faculty and students, and tour our campuses and dorms at our Open House. Spring Open Houses Saturday, March 5 Saturday, April 16 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lodi Campus - Cafeteria 262 South Main Street. Call today. (201) 559-6131. Lodi and Rutherford, NJ www.felician.edu



ACROSS

- 1 Complain
- 5 Almanac tidbits
- 10 Rigging support
- 14 Chorister
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- 16 Chianti, e.g.
- 17 Force in Bosnia
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- 18 Singer Ross
- 19 Thames school
- 20 Carpenter's payment
- option
- 23 Leno, for one
- 24 Remained quiet
- 25 Council chief
- 28 Untold centuries
- 31 Furnish guns again
- 35 Threatening words
- 37 Dove's sound
- 39 Santa Rama
- 40 Carpenter's vacation
- spot
- 44 Chart topper
- 45 Address Scala
- 46 Cleans up
- 47 Actress Burstyn
- 50 Widebeast
- 52 Without a sou
- 53 Baby holder
- 55 ... di Como, Italia
- 57 Carpenter's sign-off
- 63 Caterer's item
- 64 Thunderous
- 65 Wise about
- 67 Completely botch
- 68 Vermeacur
- 69 Clubhouse clutter
- 70 'Able was
- 71 Pair of socks
- 72 Litchings

TOOL TIME



- 5 Loses color
- 6 Fly an SST
- 7 Stick in one's
- 8 Actress Louise
- 9 Overwhelms with laughter
- 10 Gracefully slender
- 11 Gyro bread
- 12 By-and-by
- 13 His veep was George
- 21 Gymnastics equipment
- 22 The usual
- 23 Dayan
- 26 Thin as
- 27 Strelasand film
- 29 Continental divide
- 30 Turndowns
- 32 Gaffer Palmer
- 33 Throw a fit
- 34 Rumbled
- 36 A little work
- 38 Choose
- 41 Trivial amount
- 42 Baseball's Stern
- 43 Visionary philosophy
- 46 Comedian's booster
- 49 Writer Herloff
- 51 Liquid amount lost in storage
- 54 Sacred song
- 56 Curly coils
- 57 Quiz choice
- 58 It grows on you
- 59 Melody
- 60 "I ... Grow Up"
- 61 Patch place
- 62 Olla's partner
- 63 State or sect starter
- 66 Place for MDs

DOWN

- 1 Outlawry
- 2 Mideast airline
- 3 Warbler James
- 4 Supporting place

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE 18

REUNIONS

- The following schools will conduct reunions in the coming months:
- Westfield High School Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, May 21.
- Scotch Plains High School Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, June 11.
- Scotch Plains High School Class of 1975, 30-year reunion.
- Union High School, Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, 2005.
- Union High School, Class of 1995, 10-year reunion, 2005.
- Union Hill High School, Class of 1975, 30-year reunion, 2005.
- Union High School, Class of 1976, 30-year reunion, 2006.
- Union High School, Class of 1981, 25-year reunion, 2006.

Union High School, Class of 1986, 20-year reunion, 2006.

Westfield High School, Class of 1980, 25-year reunion, 2005.

For information on any of the above reunions, write to Reunions Unlimited Inc., P.O. Box 150, Englishtown 07726 or call 732-617-1000.

Hillside High School, Class of 1965, is holding its 40th reunion on June 25.

If anyone has information regarding former students or would like to join the committee, contact Barry Zins at BZ11111@aol.com.

Hillside High School, class of 1955, is planning a reunion on May 20 at the Grand Summit Hotel in Summit. Contact Paul Ladell at 973-715-7688.

FLEA MARKET

**SATURDAY**  
February 26th, 2005  
EVENT: Flea Market & Collectible Show  
PLACE: Arthur L. Johnson High School, 365 Westfield Avenue, Clark  
TIME: Indoors & Outdoors 9-5PM  
DETAILS: New merchandise, collectibles, crafts and a special garage/tag sale section!  
For information Call 201-997-9535  
ORGANIZATION: Sponsor: Clark Lions Club

SATURDAY

March 5th, 2005  
EVENT: Flea Market  
PLACE: 140-144 Bloomfield Ave., Montclair, NJ  
TIME: 8am-4pm  
PRICE: VENDORS WANTED! For more information call 973-873-7975 or 973-746-5914 or 973-878-8339  
ORGANIZATION: Bright Hope Baptist Church

AUCTION

FRIDAY  
March 4th, 2005  
EVENT: Spring Spectacular Gift Auction  
PLACE: Mother Seton Reg. HS, Valley Road, Clark  
TIME: Doors Open 6:15pm Auction Begins 7:30pm  
PRICE: \$5 in Advance, \$7 at door. For info call 732-382-1952  
ORGANIZATION: Mother Seton Parent Guild

ADVERTISE

GARAGE/YARD SALES

**SATURDAY**  
FEBRUARY 26th, 2005  
EVENT: Garage Sale to Benefit Tsumami Relief  
PLACE: Kent Place School, Field House, 42 Norwood Avenue, Summit  
TIME: 10am-1pm  
DETAILS: Festival of Caring Fundraiser with garage sale. Clothes, Kids items, Household and more. Info call 908-273-0900  
ORGANIZATION: Kent Place Middle School

OTHER

**SATURDAY**  
March 5th, 2005  
EVENT: St. Patrick's Day Dance-Featuring Willie Lynch Band, Irish Step Dancers & Pipes  
PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, 1 Raritan Road, Roselle  
TIME: 8:00-12:00  
PRICE: \$25.00 per person For tickets, Call Erin Sweeney 908-245-2332 or 908-245-2380  
ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School

**What's Going On** is a paid directory of events for non profit organizations. It is prepaid and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) for Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both Counties. Your notice must be in our Maplewood Office (483 Valley Street) by 4:00 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisement may also be placed at our other offices: 200 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291 Sylvanest Ave., Union. For more information call 800-564-8911

AUTO SPECIAL

20 words - 10 WEEKS of Exposure for '39" in UNION COUNTY or 10 WEEKS of Exposure for '59" in UNION & ESSEX COUNTY

HOROSCOPES

**Feb. 28 to March 6**  
ARIES, March 21 to April 19: Surrender to the moment. Do not attempt to hold on to people, places or things that are no longer functional in your life. Welcome change.

TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: Friends are willing to go the extra mile in order to satisfy your needs and make you happy. Show some compassion and provide them with clues.

GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: Do not jump the gun, or prematurely reveal your hand when negotiating a big business deal. It will take patience and composure to pull it off.

CANCER, June 22 to July 22: There is a high probability for foreign travel or study. Take steps to expand your personal boundaries and courageously explore the unknown.

LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: Seek financial guidance or planning from a qualified counselor and avoid a careless or indifferent streak with your money. Start planning to save.

VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: There are several ways you can contribute to or support the goals of a partner or mate. Give in a little, and you stand to gain a lot.

LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Avoid major upsets or disasters in the workplace this week. Handle minor details with care and be quick to extinguish little fires.

SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Do not allow teasing to either get under your skin or upset your state of mind. Keep a cool head while dealing with children or immature adults.

SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: Find time to spend alone and to recharge your battery. Get quiet, go within and make a conscious effort to listen to your inner voice.

CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: Stay calm and avoid overreacting to an unexpected proposal. Take a deep breath and take it in, one word at a time.

AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: You cannot expect a moonmaking idea or venture to pay off overnight. Plant the seeds of prosperity now and give them ample time to take root and grow.

PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: Relax and look forward to a highly active and involved week. Just be yourself and you will attract the ideal partners or situations for success.

If your birthday is this week, you are exposed to some intense and far-fetched concepts during the coming year. Strive to put the information you are exposed to in some type of accessible form so you can use it to improve or enrich your lifestyle. Right is a hard pill to swallow. Think carefully before doing something that will be difficult to change, forgive or overcome. Also born this week: Henry Dorsey, Mario Andreoli, James Mickle, Antonio Vivaldi, Mikhail Gorbachev and David Niven.

Bridal & Special Occasions

Wedding traditions of many nations explored in exhibit

By Jeff Camalies, Associate Editor

Ever been to a wedding out of town that struck you as different? Life offers many people numerous chances to attend weddings, both their own and those of people they know, and wedding traditions vary tremendously depending on the region, the culture, religious customs and personal preferences, among many other reasons. In fact, the number of reasons for varying wedding customs might just equal the number of people in the world, if you really got down to it.

While we're on the subject, if it's interesting to think of the different wedding customs around the nation, wouldn't it be fascinating to see what people in different countries and continents do for weddings? Well, it turns out that The Newark Museum will have an exhibit that will focus on just that idea. "Here Come the Brides: Fairy Tales, Folklore and Wedding Traditions" begins at the museum on Sunday, Feb. 27, and continues through Sept. 4. It will consist of five exhibitions that will highlight some wedding traditions in China, Victorian America, Morocco, Korea and Japan.

The primary exhibition, "The Bride Wore Red: Chinese Wedding Traditions," will be the first exhibition of its kind in the United States.

To place the exhibit in the proper context, additional research was done on weddings in China, and with Chinese families. The result was that more than 280 items — some dating back as far as the 18th century — will be included among festively-decorated pavilions and gardens in the museum's special exhibition space on the first floor.

The exhibit is being coordinated by Valne Reynolds, curator of Asian collections for The Newark Museum. Reynolds addressed the exhibit in an earlier statement.

"Marriage is such an important institution in Chinese society and the continuation, as well as transformation of wedding rituals and traditions is fascinating," Reynolds said.

The other exhibits include an "Alice Ballantine Wedding" exhibit, "A Bride in Japan: Traditions," "Queen for a Day: Saudi Wedding Traditions" and "A Bride in Old Japan."

More than anything else, these exhibits will offer something a glimpse into the grandeur and glamour of weddings in other cultures, something that

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