

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

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722-4-1353

Vets honor war dead

By Alexander George
Correspondent

Memorial Day was observed Monday and while some observe the holiday by visiting the Jersey shore or taking advantage of Memorial Day sales, veterans celebrated the holiday with appreciation and remembrance of their fallen comrades.

Ethel Smith, vice commander of American Legion Post 228 in Springfield, said "Memorial Day is not a three-day holiday, rather a time to honor the memory of our lost ones." She also stressed the gratitude owed to fallen soldiers: "We must understand that we owe our freedoms to these fallen soldiers and we must pay tribute."

Smith, a veteran herself, served as an army nurse in the South Pacific during World War II and has been staunchly pro-veteran since her return to America. This past Monday, and every Memorial Day since she has been at the American Legion, all the veterans at her post have gone to place American flags on the graves of all veterans at four nearby cemeteries.

While Smith stresses the importance of showing gratitude, she is all for enjoying the weekend.

"We should enjoy all the freedoms that men and women of our country fought for. Freedom does not come easy."

Robert Farley, commander of Mountainside Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10136 and head of Westfield's Elks Club, had a packed schedule for Memorial Day but took his duties in stride.

Farley served from 1967 through 1973 during the Vietnam War as an aviation engineer, repairing and occasionally flying planes for the Navy.

Though he only spent a short time in the Pacific, he said, "I ended up enjoying it and my only regret was not spending more time in service."

Farley's responsibilities were perfect for him: "I loved my work, there were no big dangers, and I felt good serving my country."

Despite his short involvement with the war, he said he has "absolute appreciation" for those who died serving our country.

The Mountainside VFW, with about 60 members, and the Elks Club, with over 200 members, joined forces to honor fallen soldiers, in a bevy of ceremonies, memorial and cemetery visits, and parade marches on Monday.

Farley spoke at multiple gatherings that day but broke the mold of most Memorial Day speeches by honoring some overlooked American heroes such as "the members on the 9/11 flight who made efforts to stop the on-board terrorists. Also, the civilians doing relief work in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other war-torn countries."

"These people are doing their part; their work is just as important. Considering how we are sometimes seen as the aggressors, these volunteers are also working to benefit how the world sees the United States."

Memorial Day certainly holds special meaning to veterans. They most appreciate the sacrifices men and women in uniform made so that everyone may enjoy the freedoms to which they dedicated their lives.

Demonstration of Neptune



Photo By Joseph A. Bernardi

A demonstration of the Neptune firefighting system took place along the waterfront in Elizabeth on Friday. Components of the massive apparatus are housed by surrounding fire departments, including Springfield. See story on Page B1.

School board approves early dismissal for end of year

By Jean M. Devlin
Staff Writer

The Mountainside Board of Education last week approved three revisions to this year's calendar school calendar, allowing an early dismissal of 1 p.m. on June 21-23.

"It is for time needed for the teachers to complete a tremendous amount of paperwork at the end of the year," said Chief School Administrator Richard O'Malley said.

"It should have been put on the calendar

at the beginning of the year — not left to the last moment," board member Patricia Knodel said.

MaryBeth Schaumburg said it was a good suggestion and Perrin said, "We will work on that next year."

Knodel voted no while all other six board members voted yes.

Fall is not far away, and the new 2005-06 school calendar indicates the first day of school for students will be Sept. 8, while teachers and staff report the day before that, Sept. 7. Non-teachers will report on Sept. 6.

To honor the Jewish holidays, schools will be closed for Rosh Hoshanah on Oct. 4. Then there will be an in-service day on Oct. 10 when the schools will be closed again. The high holy day of Yom Kippur falls on Oct. 13, when schools will also be closed in observance of this.

The month of November has two days; Nov. 10 and 11, for the NJEA convention when schools will be closed. Also, there are parent-teacher conferences which are set for Nov. 21 and 22, at 1 p.m., and a 1 p.m. dismissal on Nov. 23.

Schools are closed Nov. 24 and 25 for Thanksgiving. More parent-teacher conferences will be Nov. 28 in the evening and there is a 1 p.m. dismissal that day as well.

Winter recess is set for Dec. 26 through Dec. 30 when all schools are closed for Christmas holidays.

Schools reopen on Jan. 2. They honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Jan. 16, when schools close.

In February, schools close on Feb. 20 for Presidents' Day, and in March, March 20 is a 1 p.m. dismissal for a staff in-service day.

Spring recess this year will be April 10-14. May 10 brings an open house, and an in-service day on May 15 with 1 p.m. dismissal. May 29 schools will observe Memorial Day, the last Monday in May.

And finally, the last day of the school year will be June 21, the official graduation day.

If more than five day are needed due to inclement weather, the spring recess could be reduced, or school could be in session on holidays, or even extended for students and teachers in June.

Process to vetify candidates

By Jean M. Devlin
Staff Writer

Mountainside school officials are reviewing dozens of applications for the position of assistant principal at Deerfield Elementary School.

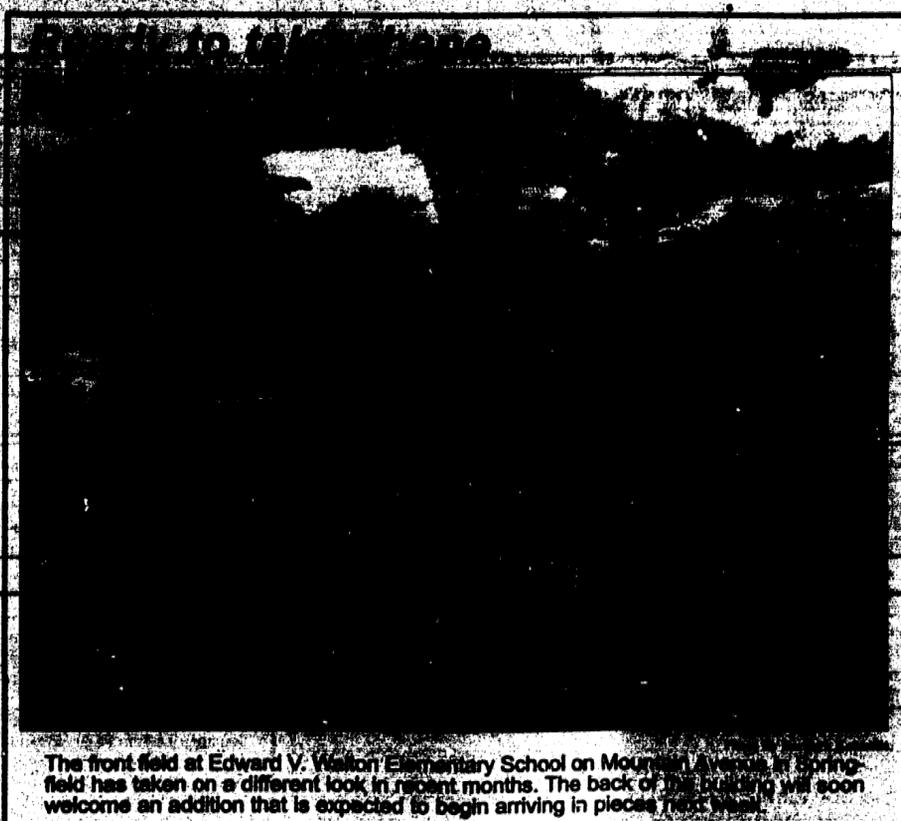
Chief School Administrator Richard O'Malley said there will be an extensive interview process, which is under way, and expects to screen the 70 applications already received during the next several weeks.

"We will narrow it down to about 15 if all goes well, and then bring in about eight to 10 people for informal interviews. We will have community members of parents and staff to help us narrow it down."

He added, "We want to do a thorough process to find the best candidate."

The job of assistant principal will combine the position of curriculum coordinator, which had been held by Angela Cosimano.

The assistant principal position is open as of July 1, "but this will depend on the status of the person's present job, and other factors," O'Malley said, adding that the position's salary range has not yet been determined.



The front field at Edward V. Walton Elementary School on Mountain Avenue in Springfield has taken on a different look in recent months. The back of the field will soon welcome an addition that is expected to begin arriving in pieces next week.

New Dayton principal to take helm July 1

By Keith Rowe
Correspondent

Elizabeth Cresci, the current principal at Highland Park Middle/High School, has been chosen to become the new principal at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield for the 2005-06 school year.

She will replace Charles Serson, who is retiring in June after serving many years as principal of Dayton.

Cresci will be taking over at Dayton July 1 and is excited about her new position.

"I'm excited to get started early and look forward to meeting with different teachers, students and parents," she said.

She is under contract from July 1, to June 30, 2006 at an annual salary of \$114,033.

Cresci has been in the education field for numerous years, and has an extensive background as a school administrator.

She attended New York University for her undergraduate and graduate years, where she eventually received her master's degree in Education in 1985. After attending graduate school, she got her first job as an English teacher at LaSalle Academy in New York, where she stayed for four years.

Following that, she taught English for eight years at East Brunswick High School before moving on to Monroe National Administrative and Supervision from Rutgers University in 1997.

Cresci's latest stop have been at Ridge High School in Somerset, Conn.

ty as assistant principal for two years and then Highland Park Middle/High School, where she has been principal for the past three years.

"Taking over at a new school is never easy, but Cresci believes the small size of the high school will aid her in her transition from a larger district.

Cresci said that in a "smaller high school it is easier to get to know students on an individual basis, where in larger schools you can't do that as easily."

The current enrollment at Jonathan Dayton High School is 513, while Highland Park has an enrollment of 603.

Also, Dayton's student-teacher ratio is 9.6, compared to Highland Park's 10.8. Both are lower than the state average of 11.6.

"When asked about what she would like to bring to her new high school, Cresci said she would like to "continue the tradition that is already there, which is of high expectations for student achievement."

Jonathan Dayton High School and Highland Park High School are similar in that both are classified in the GH District Factor Group by the state Department of Education.

DFGs were developed in 1975 "for the purpose of measuring students' performance in assessing the assessments across districts." The data is updated when the Census Bureau releases the latest data every 10 years.

DFGs represent an approximate See HIGHLAND, Page 2

School board to get laptop presentation

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

Superintendent of Schools Michael Davino hopes to present a plan to the Springfield Board of Education for implementation of the laptop program before the end of this school year. The final board meetings of the school year are scheduled for Monday and June 27.

During last week's school board meeting, administration officials said they expect to order between 350 and 400 laptops, depending on enrollment. The potential cost for each computer could be \$300 over a three-year lease, Davino said, with specifics still to be negotiated with whichever company is selected by the board. He was to meet today to determine when to make the presentation to the school board.

The initial laptop proposal was cut in half, by about \$146,000, after defeat of the \$31-million school budget in April. As a result, only seventh- and eighth-graders will receive laptops next year instead of all middle school students, as originally proposed.

Davino implemented a laptop program in his previous post as principal and chief school administrator at Michael J. Petrides School, a K-12 laboratory school in Staten Island designed to develop new techniques to share with other schools.

A simple Internet search reveals numerous newspaper articles, studies, memos and assorted papers

about the implementation of laptop programs and their successes and drawbacks.

Flush with a \$30 million budget surplus, former Maine Gov. Angus King, 1999-2003, launched statewide laptop programs in 2000. All 2,100 seventh- and eighth-graders in the state received laptops, at a cost of \$36 million over five years. Maine was the first state to "take on the task of widespread implementation of one-to-one computing, through the Maine Learning Technology Initiative."

The program was funded with the help of a \$1 million grant from the state and Maine's Gates Foundation. The program was also funded with a \$400 million grant from the Gates Foundation.

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Mountain County public schools, with a diverse enrollment in suburban Richwood, Va., equipped 23,000 high school and middle school students. Horizon Elementary School in Springfield, Mass., wanted to give all K-5 students laptops but because of financial problems, only first through fifth-graders received them in the first year, according to a report in the October 1998 in the Urban News.

In some districts, teachers younger than middle schoolers have been equipped with laptops. At East

Rock Magnet School, a K-5 school in urban New Haven, Conn., third- and fourth-graders are assigned laptops, and according to reports, test scores have increased along with student motivation. Gorman Arace Middle School, an inner-city school in Bloomfield, Conn., near Hartford, borrowed \$2.5 million at one middle school to equip students with laptops. In-school suspensions dropped by 80 percent in two years.

A decline in behavioral problems are among the positive attributes cited with laptop programs, along with increased student motivation and motivation. In many cases, the positive behavioral improvements are seen in at-risk and low-achieving students.

A spring 2004 study by the National Education Policy Institute indicated that laptop programs demonstrated an increase in critical and creative thinking. A key component of the laptop program is the ability for students to learn at home, leading to more out-of-classroom learning opportunities.

A survey by the National Institute of parents, teachers and students at Maine's Piscataquis Community High School did not "reveal any glaring disadvantages or concerns about the laptop program."

But some concerns have been raised about laptop programs and the amount of time they can pose in class, inappropriate use in class, and equipment failure.

See ONE-TO-ONE, Page 2

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

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The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Worrall Community Newspapers, an independent, family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below.

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Highland Park principal makes move to Springfield high school

(Continued from Page 1)
measure of a community's relative socioeconomic status," according to the state Department of Education. They range from A, which include Abbott districts like Elizabeth, to J, like Westfield and Summit, and J, which includes Millburn and Mendham.

The only other GH district in Union County is Cranford. Cresci noted how she got the sense that the school is a community and that the school along with the town seem to "work together very well in order to make the school a focal point in the community."

Citing Jonathan Dayton as an "excellent school, in a district with a fine reputation," Cresci is looking forward to working with the Board of Education. She said Springfield appears to be a "great place to be a part of" and cannot wait to get started come July 1.

Cresci is the third recent hire from the Middlesex County school district, joining the Assistant Superintendent Hillary Corburn and Director of Human Resources Elly Atherton.

One-to-one laptop programs can be found throughout U.S.

(Continued from Page 1)
The final 33-page report of the high school laptop report can be found at www.mitchellinstitute.org.

In some cases, the laptop programs were met with skepticism. According to a *New York Times* report in March 2003, the Maine initiative was seen as extravagant, with the state Senate president at the time saying there were other priorities for the state's schools, such as construction and renovations. Also, people thought students would not take care of the equipment.

Technology usually allows the laptop to be configured in a way that should it removed from the network, the laptops lose "significant functionality," and in many cases, theft of computers is not an issue.

Rockman Et Al, an independent research organization, conducted evaluations from 1996 to 2000 of Microsoft's Anytime Anywhere Learning program. President Saul Rockman wrote in an October issue of *TECH LEARNING* magazine, that, among other things, laptop programs "promote collaborative learning as students and teachers move around more; students are highly engaged; productivity increases, and attitudes toward writing improve," among other things.

"Unfortunately, one desired outcome of laptop use seems to remain stubbornly beyond the efforts of researchers to capture it: improvement on standardized achievement tests," Rockman wrote.

"The current Holy Grail of any change in educational practice seems to be producing a corresponding improvement in student performance on these tests." All the skills involved in participating in a laptop program "are desirable in the world of work but difficult to measure in cost-efficient ways."

'Give 'em Watts' on display Sunday

Beginning on Sunday, the famous painting by John Ward Dunsmore, "Give 'em Watts Boys," will be on display at Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. Library hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library desk can be reached at 973-376-4930.

The display of this painting is part of the township's celebration of the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Springfield, scheduled for June 25 and 26.

The 225th Anniversary Committee secured the painting through the offices of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution's New Jersey and New York chapters. This painting is part of the John Ward Dunsmore Collection housed at the Francaes Tavern Museum.

The painting depicts the moment when the Rev. James Caldwell, whose wife, Hannah, had been killed at the Battle of Connecticut Farms on June 7, 1780, went into Springfield's First Presbyterian Church and took the old Watts Hymnals from the attic and passed them out to the troops for "wedding" and carriage paper. As he did so, he shouted, "Give 'em Watts, Boys, Put Watts Into Them!"

Locals and historians are familiar with this famous painting — also referred to as The Battle of Springfield, from history books and a mural on the back wall of long-gone Newberry's Department Store.

Dunsmore was a late 19th-early 20th-century painter best known for his realistic and historically accurate paintings. He was the first director of the Detroit Museum of Art and a member of the Sons of the Revolution. He donated the majority of the collection of historical paintings directly to Francaes Tavern.

This is a landmark exhibition of 45 paintings, the largest such collection in need of restoration.

The New Jersey and New York Chapters of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution paid for restoration of this painting.

John Ward Dunsmore was born in Riley, Ohio, in 1856 and died in Dover in 1945.

Volunteers wanted for Battle of Springfield

"Our township is honored to have been the site of the last British military encounter in New Jersey during the Revolution," said Scott Seidel, chairman of the committee that has undertaken to appropriately observe the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Springfield.

"This is a multi-faceted event involving an impressive battle reenactment by the well-respected, nationally-known Brigade of the American Revolution and hosted by the 3rd New Jersey Regiment," said Seidel.

The two-day schedule includes a reenactment that affords attendees an opportunity to understand America's social, cultural and military history as well as an extensive parade, complete with marching bands and games. The event will conclude with special fireworks.

The Springfield Project Graduation Committee is in the process of planning the celebration for the Jonathan Dayton High School senior class of 2005. Committee members are in desperate need of funds in addition to those that have already been raised.

The celebration is a supervised, drug- and alcohol-free, fun-filled evening at the Madison YMCA. Activities will include swimming, sports events, DJ and an all-night foodfest. Transportation will be provided. This event will take place following graduation ceremonies on June 23.

The estimated cost of this celebration is approximately \$20,000. All donations are tax deductible and your business and/or organization will be identified as a sponsor in the journal distributed to graduates and their families.

Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to: Jonathan Dayton High School P.T.S.O., Project Graduation 2005, 139 Mountain Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081.

The JDHS Project Graduation thanks everyone for their support as the committee works toward providing a safe and enjoyable celebration for the Jonathan Dayton High School class of 2005.

For information, call one of the Project Graduation 2005 committee members.

The Springfield Township Committee will meet for a workshop session in the Municipal Annex Building, 20 N. Trivett Ave., at 7:30 p.m. on June 24.

The Springfield Township Committee will convene a regular meeting in the Committee Room of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave., at 8 p.m., preceded by a workshop session at 7:30 p.m.

The Mountainside Board of Education will meet in the media center of Beechwood School, 1487 Woodacres Drive, at 8 p.m.

The Mountainside Borough Council will meet for a workshop session in Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 east, at 8 p.m.

B'Nai B'rith of Springfield plans a trip to Atlantic City at the Claridge Casino hotel. The package includes breakfast and brunch at Bagel Chateau, 222 Mountain Ave., Springfield, next to the post office at 11:30 a.m. The bus will leave from Echo Plaza Mall at 1 p.m. between Mountain Avenue, and Route 22, Springfield. The bus will take you down to the Claridge Casino where they will receive \$16 Bally Bucks and a show ticket to "Legends in Concert" at 7:30 p.m. in the Palace Theatre. The cost per person is \$35.

For reservations and information call Jerry Kamen at 908-687-9120 days or 908-277-1953 evenings. RSVP by Monday; mail checks to 2824 Morris Ave., Union, 07083. Limited to bus capacity.

The Springfield Board of Education will meet in the media center at Jonathan Dayton High School on Mountain Avenue at 7:30 p.m.

The Springfield Township Committee will meet for a workshop session in the Municipal Annex Building, 20 N. Trivett Ave., at 7:30 p.m.

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

The Senior Citizens Club gathers at church. The Senior Citizens Club meets on

ough Hall, 1385 Route 22 east in Mountainside from 10 a.m. to noon.

Call Lisa Cassidy at 908-232-4406 for information.

The Handyman program provides assistance to seniors to keep their homes in good condition through minor repairs and improvements as well as preventive maintenance. Eligibility requirements include: resident of Mountainside, age 62 or older, with income limits of \$40,250, one person, or \$46,000, two people, including Social Security.

For information, call Lisa at 908-232-4406.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

A lack of openness

While the decision to reduce the defeated Springfield school budget by \$200,000 has already been decided by the Township Committee and the result is said and done, what hasn't been said was how Township Committee members came made their decision.

The questionable closed session the Township Committee members conducted on the night they made their decision prevented anyone from the public from finding out the thoughts of their elected officials on an issue that sharply divided the town.

Whether people in the community didn't want a single cent cut from the school budget or preferred millions of dollars chopped out, they all deserved to hear how the members of the Township Committee reached their decision. But they didn't hear it that night, nor did they hear anything the night before when the committee heard comments from the public during a meeting at the high school.

Closed sessions — which are allowed when governing bodies are discussing litigation, personnel or negotiation matters — are probably the most abused and misinterpreted laws in the state. There's no better example than the Springfield Township Committee's executive session to discuss the defeated school budget.

The public is entitled to hear how their elected officials reached this decision. The closed meeting conveniently prevented that.

Welcome aboard

The hiring of Elizabeth Cresci as the new principal at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield, effective July 1, marks an important turning point for the district. As long-time principal Charles Serson retires from his position after many years of service, Cresci has the ability to bring a fresh perspective to the school and continue the success Serson had earned during his tenure.

As the third person in an administrative position to come from the Highland Park School District during the past year, Cresci comes to Springfield with a strong background in fostering academic success among the students she serves, as evidenced by her extensive educational experience.

We wish her well in her new position.

A louder voice

Whether it's state or federal government, local school boards seem almost constantly saddled with requirements and mandates that are not accompanied by adequate, and in some cases zero, funding.

Educators across the nation have been up in arms since the passage of the federal No Child Left Behind Act in 2002. No Child Left Behind has caused an uproar not only in New Jersey, but nationwide. In Utah, the governor signed a bill allowing state officials to ignore the federal requirements that clash with state programs, even though that action could cost the state federal dollars.

The National Education Association, the largest teachers' and school employees' union in the nation, has filed suit against the federal Department of Education, claiming that NCLB is underfunded by \$27 billion.

Though school administrators and teachers' union are likely critics of programs that would try to tie funding to test scores or other quantitative measures, NCLB is the typical unfunded mandate that school boards always must deal with, in the face of escalating property taxes and annual costs. Whether it's the feds not coming up with their required share of special education costs or the state requiring districts to bus students, there are numerous mandates that are not supported by funding. So it ends up coming from property taxes.

The goals of the No Child Left Behind are admirable: they raise standardized test scores and ensure qualified teachers for all children. But school administrators in nearly every district have complained about the costs and resources tied up in the bureaucracy of all the federal requirements.

In Cranford, the Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution last week urging the New Jersey Attorney General to seek legal relief from the federal government's requirements. School boards in Mountainside and Springfield should seriously consider doing the same, banding together to generate a louder voice that will be heard in Washington, D.C.

"The concept that government may restrict the speech of some elements of our society in order to enhance the relative voice of others is wholly foreign to the First Amendment."

— Buckley vs. Valeo
U.S. Supreme Court opinion
1976

Echo Leader

Published Weekly Since 1929
Incorporating Springfield Leader
and Mountainside Echo

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A GRAND SLAM — Amy B. Mansue, president and chief executive officer of Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside recently welcomed Somerset Patriots Manager and former Yankees player, Sparky Lyle, left, and members of the Somerset Patriots, Newark Bears and Newark Bears ball clubs to announce a grand slam. Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation will host celebrations at the Somerset Patriots, Newark Bears and Trenton Thunder on June 9. Game time is 7:05 p.m. Tickets to benefit the foundation may be ordered by calling 908-301-5457 or visiting www.forchildrens.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Highway is dangerous enough

Most would have to agree that Route 22 is one of the more dangerous roads traveled in Union County, and perhaps within the state. What with cars and trucks entering from all sides, some even traversing lanes to get to their destination and, of course, those foolish pedestrians who attempt crossing Route 22 at all hours of the day, including rush hours. It makes driving this road a veritable obstacle course and unless your eyes are peeled to your immediate surroundings, you could be headed for trouble.

With that in mind, how can the Township of Springfield permit Autoland to erect a "video" billboard with bright flashing lights that can only be targeted for the attention of passing drivers. And now, today, there are two such signs and soon, I'm sure, there will be five or 8 or 15; for how can you grant the erection of such a sign to one merchant and discriminate against another?

Isn't the enormous American flag enough for Autoland to advertise their location? Soon, Route 22 will be a drive-through video game, sure to grab the attention of drivers and take their eyes away from other obstacles that Route 22 produces, only to increase the accident and/or death rate that already exists.

I've been a resident of Springfield for 35 years and am disturbed by how easily such pollutants can be approved. Don't let this continue. In fact, don't let it be.

Phyllis Landow
Springfield

Biased stance toward school system

Am I the only one who is getting tired of this newspaper's biased stance toward the Springfield school system? Last week the *Echo Leader* staff wrote a scathing editorial toward the Springfield Township Committee stating that they did not feel the committee cut enough out of the school budget. Two hundred thousand dollars is not enough? Yes, the budget was defeated by a 60/40 margin but the 350-vote difference as a percentage of the 5,000 plus registered voters is less than a percentage point. Why does the *Echo Leader* have a problem with the town trying to roll out a new dynamic initiative? Don't the children of Springfield deserve the opportunity to receive the best education possible? The only fact the newspaper got right is that the program is new and different and would have required an additional \$5 out of each taxpayer's pocket. Did anyone on the *Echo Leader* staff read any of the many research articles praising the benefits of an in-school laptop program?

I think the decision reached by the committee was extremely dynamic. Yes, the budget failed and yes the laptops were probably the reason. But look at the outcome. As a result of a well thought out approach, the school gets to try out the new initiative with two grades — if there are observable benefits hopefully the program will continue. Maybe I am being naive but I am willing to pay approximately \$2.50 this year to see what the results will be.

The *Echo Leader* states that they can't imagine how frustrated the homeowners are. Where did they come up with that one? Did they ask the same two outspoken residents who complain every year, did they draw their own conclusion even though they don't own a house, have children or pay real estate taxes or did they actually conduct a survey in towns? Something to think about when we read their biased opinions in the future.

Gary Bachman
Springfield

Our taxes keep our town pleasant

I am angry that fellow resident, Harry Pappas, calls our Township Committee members "useless coconuts" in response to the recent \$200,000 budget cut. I am also growing weary of Hazel Hargrove's "woolly county" in which she complains about tax money being spent for services in Springfield. Her pet peeve is the jitney to the train station.

I would like to thank the Township Committee for their stewardship. My family moved here four years ago. Coming from the South, it was very difficult finding a community in New Jersey or New York, offering everything we needed. We settled in Springfield because it offered affordable housing, excellent education — the high school is practically a private school — a jitney which brilliantly turned Springfield into a Midtown Direct "train town," virtually no crime, great emergency services, and the lowest taxes with a highly-rated high school. Later, I found out that the library offers wonderfully creative programming. Finally, after some disruption, we now have an innovative superintendent who wants to dig in and prepare our students with valuable, new technology.

I understand that we have residents in our community who do not want to pay for these services because they have no use for them. However, the solution to this problem is not to call our committee members obnoxious names and cancel the great service delivery in our town. Our taxes keep our town pleasant, our property values high and prepare our kids for the future. I believe we all share these values. The simple solution for those who do not, is to move to a community which best caters to your needs. By the way, because we have high standards and lower taxes than our surrounding affluent towns, you are going to get a great price for your house.

Even though my husband and I will become empty-nesters in August, I will

always continue to vote for candidates and school budgets that insist on high quality education in Springfield. It's my civic duty and it's self-serving. I want to live in a town with a government committed to excellence.

Frank Middleberg
Springfield

Public should speak beforehand

On May 24 I attended the public meeting of the Springfield Township Committee and I was appalled over the arrogance of several of our elected officials. I found that Clara Harelik is quite impressed with herself. Ken Faigenbaum continues to talk down to anyone who would have the audacity to ask him a simple question and that the real mayor and sixth committee member is Township Attorney Bruce Bergen, who runs most of the meeting. When the subject of the \$200,000 school budget cut came up, most of the committee members went on the defensive patting themselves on the back while Hillsdale cut their school budget \$1.8 million; Westfield \$725,000 and Rahway \$955,000.

Additionally, I was dismayed to find that the Township Committee has invoked new rules at their public meetings by not allowing residents to speak on any pending item on the agenda before official action is taken. When I served on the governing body we were happy to have residents speak, question and/or suggest anything they wanted on any subject listed on the agenda. Not this bunch of coconuts. This crew wants to stifle residents. Why bother to have a public meeting if one can only speak after the Township Committee has taken official action? Their actions defy all logic and are reprehensible.

There appeared a resolution on the agenda expanding some \$8,200 of public funds. When I asked if I could ask a question, Harelik promptly stated that I could not speak and cut me off. It is precisely these types of government arrogance that gets government officials in trouble with the authorities. I question the legality of not permitting residents to question any spending proposal before the governing body takes official action. Perhaps if government were more open, U.S. Attorney Chris Christie would not have the massive list of indictments and convictions already to his credit. The one question that politicians don't like to answer in Springfield is why on any subject.

When I requested Bergen to review the policy of past years, he flatly refused stating that this portion of the meeting was never open to the public. As usual, he is incorrect. Either he was being less than truthful or he doesn't know what he is talking about or this is what the governing body does. This crew has changed the format not to permit residents to speak on agenda before any official action was taken. And, they have the nerve to call themselves the keepers of the public trust?

I am again calling upon our elected officials to research their current policy and permit residents to speak on any subject that is listed on the agenda before any official action is taken. Not only do I believe the Township Committee is obligated under the laws of New Jersey, but it also shows respect to our residents who are forced to sit for hours listening to their reverend and unimaginable self-serving rhetoric.

Harry Pappas
Springfield

Why not cap county's budget too?

In a recent column, Freeholder Daniel Sullivan states that "To preserve our quality of life, we must develop a better system to fund services." The all-Democrat controlled freeholder board is supporting a tax convention. Hmm, interesting timing. This comes just weeks after the county announced the budget which has increased \$18.8 million and one week before they hold a public "hearing" on it. As if the freeholders had anything taxpayers have to say.

The million-dollar county public misinformation department that we the taxpayers are footing the bill for is already spinning this in the county's favor. All overspending politicians not wishing to take responsibility for their actions will publicly insist on the need for a citizens tax convention. That way they get to portray the problem of escalating property taxes as being out of their control. This will be a public relations coup in that they will try to deflect our attention away from their mismanagement, overspending, patronage jobs, pension padding, no-bid contracts to political contributors, etc.

The county has raised taxes about 50 percent in the past five years. Has your town seen your county services increase 50 percent? The state has imposed a spending cap on school budgets. Why not do the same for county budgets which now? Do we need a tax convention to accomplish this? Will a convention force our elected officials to look at the line on spending, which is the real culprit?

Only a healthy democracy can solve our tax problem. When was the last time you read an informative press release from the county regarding your ever increasing tax bill? If you want to control your tax bill, start demanding the truth and accountability from your elected officials. Democracy is not free. It is something that has to be fought for and protected every day by each citizen or we all pay the price for it. We must force politicians to act for the good of the people and not themselves.

That may take a revolution not a tax convention.

Tim Korman
Cranford

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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Elks honor D'Alessio



Springfield-Hillsdale Elks BPOE Lodge 2004 officers and members recently honored Sgt. Pasquale 'Pat' D'Alessio, a member of the U.S. Army National Guard and lodge member at a dinner held in his honor. He recently returned from a tour of duty in Cuba. At the presentation are, from left, his son, Sgt. Pasquale Jr., Dave Bugel, Elks Veterans Committee chairman; D'Alessio; Brian Hopkins, Elks district deputy, and Elks ECD Vice President Rich Zacc.

Rosary Society meets

Rosary Altar Society of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 300 Central Ave. in Mountainside offers a Rosary and Novena on Monday at 7 p.m., followed by a 7:30 p.m. Mass for living members, by the Rev. John McCrone.

A pot luck supper and installation of new officers will take place at 8 p.m. All are invited.

In-store book fair sponsored by St. James

The Home School Association of St. James the Apostle School in Springfield and Barnes & Noble are teaming up to have an in-store book fair for students, families and friends of St. James.

Barnes & Noble is donating a percentage of all purchases to St. James School to be used toward funding educational programs. Anyone wishing to participate and help raise funds for the school, need simply make a purchase at the Springfield Barnes & Noble on Route 22 west, between Wednesday and Sunday, and submit a voucher to the cashier.

Vouchers may be obtained by calling the St. James School office at 973-376-5194 and may only be used in the Barnes and Noble in Springfield.

Trip to Atlantic City planned by B'nai B'rith

B'nai B'rith of Springfield plans trip to Atlantic City at the Claridge Casino Hotel on June 26.

The package includes breakfast and brunch at Bagel 'n' Breatz, 222 Mountain Ave., Springfield, next to

EVENTS

Church Mall street fair coming in September

The second Church Mall Street Fair will be in Springfield on Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vendors and service organizations are encouraged to reserve a space at the Fair now. Space is limited so the event can move indoors in case of inclement weather. Approximately 20, 10x10 spaces are still available.

This street fair is different from most in that the focus is on encouraging stronger, healthier communities as a way of honoring the lives of those persons who died on Sept. 11, 2001. The community groups represent a wide array of non-profit and social service organizations that help people, animals and the environment in our area. Not only can the public learn about services available to them in Union County, they can also help in many ways they can help their community.

Admission to the Fair is free. The Kid's Zone will offer old fashioned carnival type games and make-your-own-craft tables. Food, music, a community stage and a brief time of remembrance for 9/11 will be featured during the day. Vendors and community group displays are spaced along Church Mall and Academy Green Street in Springfield. Community organizations and local businesses interested in performing on the stage are also asked to respond to this invitation. Organizers are hoping to draw dance troupes, youth or college performers, martial arts, acrobats and other groups who may wish to demonstrate their skill onstage.

Adult swing dance offered at Trailside

Adults 18 and older are invited to join "Star Swing" director of "Swing Dance Plus in Mountainside" for an evening of music and dance under the stars at the Skytop pavilion in the heart of the Watchung Reservation at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside on June 18 from 8 to 10 p.m.

Practice steps to popular swing and Latin music and then dance the night away. Partners are not necessary. Light refreshments will be served. Pre-registration is required and the fee is \$15 per person for Union County residents and \$20 per person for non-county residents.

Trailside is a facility of the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities.

Call 908-789-3670 for information.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

BAPTIST

EVANGELISM-BAPTIST-CHURCH "SERVING CHRIST IN THE 21st CENTURY" - 242 Shopton Hill, Springfield, 9:30 AM Bible School for all ages - Nursery through Second Spanish Sunday School 9:30 am and 5:30 pm - 6:00-7:00 PM AWANA Club Program for Children ages 4-11; 6:00 PM Evening Service and Nursery care. Wednesday: 7:15 PM Praise and Bible Study. Senior/Senior Plus. 7:30 AM Adult Bible Study. 7:30 AM Music Program. Adult Fellowship. Choir. Life provided with assistance. All are invited and welcomed to participate in worship with us. For further information contact church office (973) 379-4511. Mondays: 7:00 pm - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.

JEWISH REFORM

TEMPLE SHA'AREY SHALOM 71 S. Springfield Ave., Springfield, (973) 379-5387. Joshua Goldstein, Rabbi; Amy Daniels, Cantor/Editha Dreyfus, Music Director. Pre-School Education and Youth groups provide a wide array of communal programming. For further information call the synagogue office at 973-467-9666.

JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE

TEMPLE BETH ALEM 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, 973-374-0539. Mark Malach, Rabbi; Richard Nadel, Cantor; Marilyn Oler, President. Beth Aleim is an egalitarian, Conservative temple, with programming for all ages. Weekly services Mon-Fri: 7:00 AM Shema; 7:45 PM Shabbat (Friday); 6:00 PM & 8:30 PM Shabbat day 9:30 AM & sunset; Sunday, 8:30 AM. Festival & Holiday services 9:00 AM. Family and children services are conducted regularly. Our Religious School (bi-weekly) meets on Sunday and Tuesday. There are Shabbat classes for both High School and pre-Sabbath classes for children. The synagogue also sponsors a Pre-Sabbath Women's Luncheon, Men's Club, youth groups for sixth through twelfth graders, and a Baby Adult Education program. For more information, please contact our office during office hours.

LUTHERAN

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 639 Mountainside Avenue, Springfield, 07081, 973-379-4525. Fax 973-379-2827. Rocco Marotta, Pastor. Our Sunday Worship Service takes place at 10 a.m. For information about our midweek children, men, and adult programs, contact the Church Office Monday through Thursday, 8:30-4:00 p.m.

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

2200 Coppenhaver Pl., Westfield, N.J. E. Kripp, Pastor. (908) 232-1317. Beginning Sunday, July 6, Summer Worship Times are as follows: Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning Nursery available. Wednesday Evening Worship Service, 7:30 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated at all worship services. The church and all rooms are handicapped accessible.

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Trailside is a facility of the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities.

Call 908-789-3670 for information.

Methodist

SPRINGFIELD — EMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (UMC) is a faith community ignited by God's love for all people. Join us for Sunday worship which begins with the entire congregation at 10:30 AM before children exit for Sunday School. Express God's presence and strength through outreach activities. Beginning and experienced vocalists and musicians are invited to participate in the music ministry led by professional musicians Ginny Johnson and David Johnson. Bible study, prayer, youth group and fellowship events enable all to grow in their faith. SEMUCH is located at the far back end of Church Hill, near the intersection of Church Hill and Academy Green Streets. Call 973-376-1695 for more information.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SUMMIT

Summit is located in the heart of town on the corner of East First Street and DeForest Avenue. Church School and Bible Study is held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship is at 10:30 a.m., the emphasis of which is to always have a "good word" because of God's reminder to us to be kind to all men. "What always has and will be the good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose." The sermon is uplifting, biblically sound and guaranteed to keep you excited. The music and weekly children's message are memorable. All are welcome to hear the Good News of God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ. Our church also offers nursery care, after worship refreshments and fellowship, and many lively programs for everyone. Come worship with us and find out how you too can have a "good word" because of God's reminder to us to be kind to all men. For more information call 908-277-1700.

PRESBYTERIAN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 210 Morris Ave. at Church Hill, Springfield, 973-379-4320. Sunday School Classes for ages 2yr.-Senior High 9:30 a.m. at our Parish House. Sunday morning worship service 10:15 a.m. Children's Church is held during the worship service. Nursery care and facilities are provided. Opportunities for personal growth, stewardship, Christian Education, Choir, ongoing church activities, and Fellowship. Holy Communion is held the 1st Sunday of every month. The Ladies Evening Group meets Wednesday of each month 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday of each month 7:30 p.m.;

EDUCATION

Preschoolers sought for special ed services

Disabled preschoolers aged 3 to 5 who are in need of special education and related services are being sought by the Springfield school district. Preschool children with disabilities demonstrate delays in cognition, speech, language, vision, hearing, motor or social/emotional development. Springfield offers a program for preschool disabled youngsters called SPROUT, Springfield School Readiness Opportunities for Unique Kids.

Anyone who knows a preschooler who may be eligible for this program, may call the Springfield school district, Department of Special Services at 973-376-0948 to request an evaluation of the youngster.

Red Cross offers lifesaving courses

The local Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross,

321 Elm St., Westfield, has announced its spring health and safety course schedule.

To register or for information on any of the following courses and programs, call 908-232-7090. Unless otherwise noted, all courses will take place in the chapter house. First aid kits and supplies are for sale at the Chapter house.

• Infant CPR teaches how to recognize and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies in infants. The fee is \$35. The course will be today from 9:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

• Child CPR teaches how to recognize and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies in children ages 1 to 8. The fee is \$35. The course will be offered Friday from 9:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

Education foundation offers T-shirts for sale

The Springfield Education Foundation

is selling two different shirts, a tank top and T-shirt, to honor Springfield. These shirts are an original design just for the township of Springfield. All funds raised from the sales of these shirts will benefit the Springfield Education Foundation.

Youth and adult tanks are available for \$10 each, youth and adult T-shirts are available for \$12.

Those who are interested in purchasing a T-shirt can make a check payable to: Springfield Education Foundation, Attn: Laura Delia and place it in your child's backpack.

Any orders placed will be sent back to you through your child's backpack before the last day of school.

All orders must be paid in full. Once the refund is placed, there will be no returns or exchanges.

If you would like to see samples of the shirts they will be available during the selling period. For information, call Laura Delia at 973-467-2226.

RECREATION

Registration opens for 2005 swim team

Springfield Recreation Department offers swim team 2005 registration. To register, call 973-912-2227 or mail to: Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall, Springfield, 07081.

Fees are \$35 for the first child; \$30 for each additional child; payable to "Township of Springfield," and \$15 for each child, payable to "Swim Team Parent Association." Make two separate checks.

The swim team is for girls and boys from ages 5 to 17. The swim team will be divided into two groups, with a small percentage making up the developmental team.

The developmental team will be made up of children ages 8 and younger who need a little more instruction and guidance. These participants initially must be able to demonstrate the ability to swim freestyle and be willing and able to swim in the 5-foot section of the pool with a coach in the water along side them.

Coaches will assess the participants in an informal tryout within the first few weeks of practice. Coaches will determine which group the child belongs in or if they want to participate in swim lessons in place of being on the team for the remainder of the season.

All other swim team participants must be able to swim a lap of the pool without stopping and be comfortable swimming in the deep water.

Scrapbooking classes meet at Borough Hall

Learn to preserve your stories and photos for generations to come. Join a scrapbooking class, the class, sponsored by the Mountainside Recreation Department, meets in the Community Room at Borough Hall on June 10 from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. The fee is \$12 per person.

For information or to register, call

the Recreation Office at 908-232-0015.

Learn how to create cards for all occasions

Make your own greeting cards, birthdays, holidays or any occasion, at a greeting card class Friday at Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East, Mountainside.

Classes are for adults, and the registration fee is \$14 per person.

Get in the swim

Summer will soon be here, and pool memberships are still available for the award-winning Mountainside Community Pool. The barrier-free facility features a 50-meter pool, a separate diving tank, the zero-depth wading pool, a snack bar and picnic grove.

The pool is scheduled to open on June 11, and registration for the first session of swim lessons will begin on the June 11. Daily operations begin on June 24. The season runs through Labor Day.

Coaches will assess the participants in an informal tryout within the first few weeks of practice. Coaches will determine which group the child belongs in or if they want to participate in swim lessons in place of being on the team for the remainder of the season.

All other swim team participants must be able to swim a lap of the pool without stopping and be comfortable swimming in the deep water.

Discover healthy benefits of yoga

Come and discover the benefits of Hatha Yoga. Strengthen and tone your body while releasing tension and stress. Mary Ellen Basile will be instructing the class.

Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 8:15 p.m. in the Borough Hall Community Room. The session will run until June 16.

Summer Youth Tennis Team takes off

Get your rackets ready. A town tennis team for boys and girls ages 10 to 17 is planned for this summer. Intermediate and advanced players can participate.

OBITUARIES

Joan L. Zisa
Joan L. Zisa, 68, of Springfield died May 22 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Rosina Schieppe
Rosina Schieppe, 76, a lifelong resident of Summit, died May 26 at home.

Robert Camporine Jr.
Robert A. Camporine Jr., 75, of Mountainside died May 20 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Thomas Williams
Thomas Kniley Williams, 91, of Whiting, formerly of Summit, died April 28 in Keswick Pines, Whiting.

Rita O. Kentz
Rita O. "Obie" Kentz of Spring Lake and Vero Beach, Fla., a retired teacher in Summit, died May 22 in Wall Township.

Lorraine Ford
Lorraine Ford, 74, of Port St. Lucie, Fla., formerly of Mountainside, died May 23 at home.

Susie W. Gast
Susie W. Gast, 89, of Princeton, formerly of Summit, died May 21 in the Acom Assisted Living, Princeton.

Ella Speisel
Ella Speisel, 94, of Summit died May 27 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Catherine Ingate
Catherine Ingate, 95, of Bridgewater, formerly of Springfield, died May 28 in Somerset Medical Center, Somerville.

Christine L. High, Betty Sue L. Reed and Nancy L. Spears, two stepdaughters, Judy G. Plath and Linda G. Bayha; a stepson, Jerry A. Gast, 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Surviving are three daughters, Mary Jane Landrieu and Bette McDermott; a son, Anthony Laurence III; a sister, Margaret Spencer; 17 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

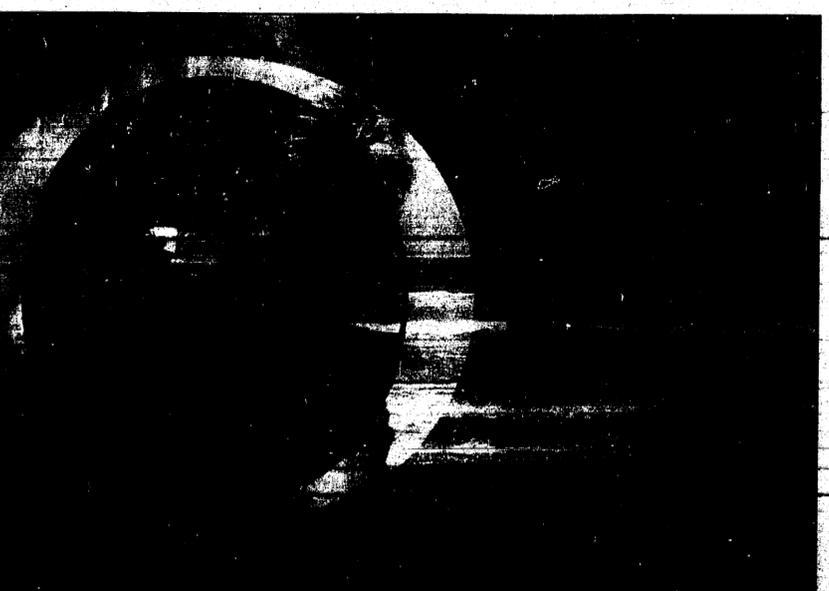
Also surviving are two daughters, Maryanne Sea and Patricia Ondo; two sons, Frederick C. III and Andrew W.; a sister, Anne O'Brien, and four grandchildren.

Surviving are three sons, John Joseph Keiderling, John Joseph Ford and Robert E. Ford; three daughters, Linda Bodycomb, Deborah K. Ford and Karen Marie Dorfman, and 12 grandchildren.

Surviving are two daughters, Angela Losco and Mary Ann McNeill; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Surviving are three daughters, Maryanne Sea and Patricia Ondo; two sons, Frederick C. III and Andrew W.; a sister, Anne O'Brien, and four grandchildren.

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Union County
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• Real Estate
• Automotive

Summer notes

On Memorial Day: U.S. Sen. Jon Corzine marched in the Summit parade. Last year he did Cranford. This year Cranford had State Sen. Tom Kean Jr., Freeholder Bette Jean Kowalski and Republican Chairman Phil Morin.

Left Out
By Frank Cepece

Work hard play less: A study by Universal Orlando told us what we already knew — we work hard. Turns out the Newark metro area, including Union County, uses the least vacation time of anyone in the country.

Know your rights: Bravo to the Linden High School kids who came in first in the state in the ninth annual New Jersey Consumer Bowl. These kids learned about lemon laws, pricing and credit fraud. They bested 54 other schools.

Yarusavage: The death of public official was hero and nice guy Bernard Yarusevage of Clark was mourned last week. He was praised for an even temperament and as a man who after long service as mayor, and after being defeated, came back to serve as a councilman in his hometown.

Flood picture: The upcoming report by the state Department of Environmental Protection on flood control should be mandatory reading for local officials.

Environmentalists want regional, not local steps. They also target hot spots who expand their homes in flood-prone areas.

5,000 watts: It's hard to single out any of the five Cranford Township Commissioners as the most verbose. Newcomer George McDonough is giving it a good shot with his irrelevant quips and painful pauses for effect during the commissioner comments.

Tough guy: It's getting rough in Springfield, PA, President John Cook is still angry with Mayor Sy Mullman. The top cop says he won't let his union be blamed for the battle over the school budget.

Tip cost: And you thought gasoline costs were the problem. The American Automobile Association estimates that the average cost for a 100-mile drive has risen 3 percent. Lodging per day for a family of four has risen 4.7 percent. The cost for meals for a family per day has risen 7.1 percent.

How offensive: How offensive are the signs of candidates scattered on Route 22, North Avenue and other public locations.



The Iron Man nozzle is capable of dispensing 5,000 gallons of water per minute, enough to fill an 18 by 4-foot swimming pool.

Forging water into a sword

By Deag McNamara
Staff Writer
"Can we forge that water out there into a mighty sword to fight fire," State Fire Marshall Lawrence Pettilo said at Friday's demonstration of Elizabeth's new Neptune firefighting system at the marina.

The Neptune system is capable of suppressing large petrochemical fires from land or sea. In addition to dispensing water, the Neptune can also dispense a foam needed to fight many oil fires.

In Union County, the large industrial site of Elizabeth, Linden, Elizabeth, Newark, York, City, houses many petrochemical plants, which are potential fire hazards and ideal terrorist targets.

Elizabeth also has an arrangement to deploy the system throughout the larger, six-county area called the Urban Areas Security Initiative.

Twins Daniel and Ryan Forte watch the demonstration with their uncle, Elizabeth Firefighter Kevin Preston.

With over a mile of 12-inch hose, the Neptune is the first system certified to supply potable water to areas in need.

"New Jersey is the first in the world to develop this equipment for this application," said Pettilo.

At the demonstration, both Neptune systems were on display. The day's highlight was the "Iron Man" nozzle, which can dispense 5,000 gallons of water per minute or roughly the amount of water in an 18 by 4 foot swimming pool.

To show the system's flexibility on land and sea, one Iron Man was mounted on the "Quick Attack" Pick-Up Truck and another on a barge in the Arthur Kill. In addition to the Iron Man, two other smaller nozzles — capable of dispensing 1,000 gallons per minute — were on display.

In honor of Memorial Day, the Elizabeth Fire Department dyed the water in each of the nozzles red, white and blue.

Perhaps more amazing than the system itself was the relatively short time it took to coordinate all the agencies involved. "The cooperative effort is amazing," said Elizabeth Fire Chief Kevin Preston.

Elizabeth also said that the school really encourages its graduates to get involved in society — something he would repeat later in his address to the graduates and their families.

At the genesis of "Prom and Circumlocution" filed the common of the Northampton Building, friends and family sought higher ground. With camcorders and cameras held high, they stood on their folding chairs to get a better glimpse of the graduates filing in below.

For 72 years Union County College has provided the gateway of "open access" through which dreams can be realized," Brown said in his speech.

Budget adopted

By Lauren DeFilippo
Staff Writer
The Board of Chosen Freeholders unanimously accepted the more than \$390 million county budget during its meeting May 26.

Others had what Freeholder Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella called "constructive comments."

Peterson, who ran for a freeholder as a Republican last year, was asked to leave by Freeholder Chairman Rick Proctor and County Counsel Robert Barry after making what they called accusations about members of the freeholder board. He was escorted from the chambers by a County Police Officer. Peterson's removal marks the second such incident this year.

The multimillion-dollar budget includes \$12.5 million in higher taxes for county residents, even though rates in the county — tax revenue-generating properties — have increased approximately \$13 million in the last two years.

Average property tax increases range from \$13 in Clark to \$194 in Mountainside, while New Providence residents will see a \$22 decrease.

The budget adopted last week was also roughly \$16 million more than the executive budget introduced by County Manager George Devaney in January.

Since then, \$12 million in state and federal grants had been awarded to county.

Cost-saving measures like the privatization of the print shop was estimated to save the county \$4 million, and initiatives like reducing employee travel, downsizing the county's fleet of automobiles, were highlighted by the administration.

At the meeting, Devaney also pointed out that Runnells Specialized Hospital, for the first time in its history, has actually experienced a profit, which had a positive impact on the budget.

Finance Committee Chairman and Freeholder Daniel Sullivan again echoed his statements from the April 28 meeting, when the budget initially was introduced by the board, saying that a number of the 25 new positions allotted in the new budget — more than half — would be public safety related. He also cited rising insurance costs as a prime reason why the budget had been so large.

"We were basically in a hole of about \$15 million before we even got started," he said.

"These are very difficult budget times," he said. "The state is faced with a many billion dollar debt." The problems of increasing property taxes is not particular to Union County he said, noting that every municipality and county in the state faced a similar challenge.

"That being said, we're going to continue to work throughout the year into next year to make sure we can deliver services at the best price possible," Sullivan said.

Tuesday's primary to determine fall ballot

By Lauren DeFilippo
Staff Writer
In Union County, 13 candidates are seeking the overcast, the first hurdle toward a spot on the county's Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Three slots are up for grabs, and winners of Tuesday's primary will find their way onto the November ballot in the General Election along with any independents who have until Tuesday to file.

Democrats Angel Estrada of Elizabeth, Freeholder Chairman Rick Proctor of Rahway and Nancy Ward of Linden are all seeking re-election.

Other Democrats who have filed for the primary are George O'Grady and Marlene Abitiano, both of Elizabeth and Becky McHugh of Linden. Also running off the party line are Robert L. Bender and Rebecca L. Williams of Plainfield.

The Republican Party is backing candidates Patricia Quattrocchi of Garwood, Stuart Kline of Fanwood,

and Albert Ott of Summit. Other Republicans, Pete Peterson of Summit, and Jeff Katz, former mayor of Springfield, are running on the Best 2005 line, hoping to improve the ballot position of gubernatorial candidate, and former Jersey City Mayor Bret Schneider.

County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi is also seeking re-election for a five-year term while Saunders Spector, the Republican chairwoman in Plainfield, filed for the GOP nomination.

In the governor's race, Union County Republicans will have their choice of seven candidates: Schandler; Doug Forrester; Steve Lonegan; Paul DiGaetano; Bob Schroeder; John Murphy; and Todd Calligaris. Forrester was awarded the organization line during the spring convention.

Democrats, on the other hand, only have a choice between three candidates: Jon S. Corzine, James D. Kelly Jr. and Francis Tomaglio.

Graduates prepare for next step after commencement

By Lauren DeFilippo
Staff Writer
It's "a rainy day outside, but there are a lot of warm hearts inside," Union County College President Thomas H. Brown said just before the school's 71st Commencement exercises May 25.

Of the school's more than 700 graduates, in more than 91 areas of study, approximately 400 donned silver caps and gowns and marched in the procession before roughly 1,600 friends and family.

"It's one of the most diverse classes we've had," Board of Trustees' President Victor Richel said.

"We really hope the learning never stops," Richel said. He noted that Brown and himself emphasize that with all students because it is imperative to their success in the real world.

Richel also said that the school really encourages its graduates to get involved in society — something he would repeat later in his address to the graduates and their families.

her weeks to get an idea of what to write about. But, in the end, it took her only 30 minutes to get all of her ideas on paper, and two revisions to get all prepared.

Sherrian, who is also the outgoing president of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society on campus, said that her message to her fellow graduates was to just realize that there is nothing that they cannot do.

"Just tonight shows us how determined we are," she said before taking the stage.

At the genesis of "Prom and Circumlocution" filed the common of the Northampton Building, friends and family sought higher ground. With camcorders and cameras held high, they stood on their folding chairs to get a better glimpse of the graduates filing in below.

For 72 years Union County College has provided the gateway of "open access" through which dreams can be realized," Brown said in his speech.

"This year was reinforced during Sherrian's comments.

"Many look down on the community college experience, viewing it as beneath them. But at the same time, the majority of those individuals will never be able to sit where we sit today as we take control of our lives and receive a degree that we have sweat and cried over," she said.

"Without our strong will we would not have made it to this point, and since we have come this far, I believe we must press on further," Wilson said.

Sherrian was chosen out of a handful of other student volunteers to speak at commencement.

Before lining up to process into the ceremony, Sherrian said that it took

her weeks to get an idea of what to write about. But, in the end, it took her only 30 minutes to get all of her ideas on paper, and two revisions to get all prepared.

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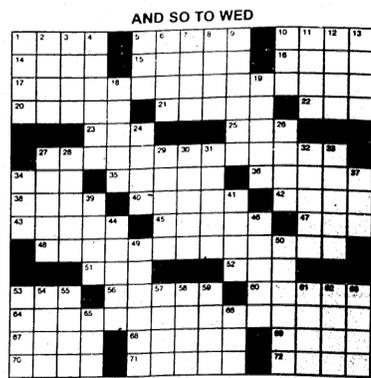
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ACROSS

- 1 First lady of scat
- 5 Salad ingredient
- 10 Indolent
- 14 End
- 15 Hide
- 16 Melville novel
- 17 Start of a ruy
- 20 Role for Gloria and Glenn
- 21 Type of chair
- 22 Studio that produced "Citizen Kane"
- 23 Frost, in the air
- 25 Bull follower
- 27 More of quip
- 34 Lizzie's weapon
- 35 Incline
- 36 Ache
- 38 In the sack
- 40 Sum
- 42 Late fashion designer
- 43 Wretched hut
- 45 Embroidery loom
- 47 Apple
- 48 More of quip
- 51 Society page word
- 52 Slangy negative
- 53 USAF readiness group
- 56 Fear
- 60 Washer cycle
- 64 End of quip
- 67 Actor
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- 15 Foo
- 24 Batter
- 26 Ecigency
- 27 "The ___ Incident"
- 28 Superman portrayer
- 29 Crazy
- 30 Some nerve
- 31 Juicy delight
- 32 Unsophisticated
- 33 Un, deus, ___
- 34 Shower sound?

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE B10

REUNIONS

- The following schools will conduct reunions in the coming months:
 - 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 BZins1111@aol.com.

- Hillside High School, class of 1975, will hold its 30th reunion at Costa's Restaurant, Roselle Park, on Nov. 26. Anyone with information about missing classmates may contact Shirley Anne at 908-241-8298,

What's Going On

FAIR
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
June 4th & 5th, 2005
EVENT: Harrison's Multicultural Celebration
PLACE: Held along Harrison Avenue, Harrison, NJ.
TIME: Saturday 10AM-10PM & Sunday 11AM-6PM
DETAILS: Foodfest, rides, live entertainment, over 100 vendors & local merchants. Kiddie rides, games & more! For information call 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Sponsor By: Mayor McDonough & the Harrison Town Council

FLEA MARKET
SUNDAY
June 5th, 2005
EVENT: Flea Market and Collectible Show
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Avenue, Belleville (off Jorlemon Street)
TIME: Outdoors (Indoors if rain) 9-5PM
DETAILS: New merchandise, crafts, collectibles, and garage/tag sale items. For information call: 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Sponsor By: BHS SGO

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HOROSCOPES

June 6 to 12
ARIES, March 21 to April 19: Take time to do some mental work this week. Think about the issues that have been weighing on your mind and work toward resolution and peace. TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: Make a special effort to act fiscally responsible. Stick to your budget. Avoid unwise lending. GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: You are at the top of your game this week. Take a confident, positive and self-assured approach to life. Problems or challenges tend to fade away. CANCER, June 22 to July 22: New insights or understanding are born out of periods spent in quiet meditation. Process your thoughts through your subconscious to gain clarity. LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: Information that comes to you is timely and important. Share a powerful message or send an e-mail to hbsclasof1975@comcast.net.

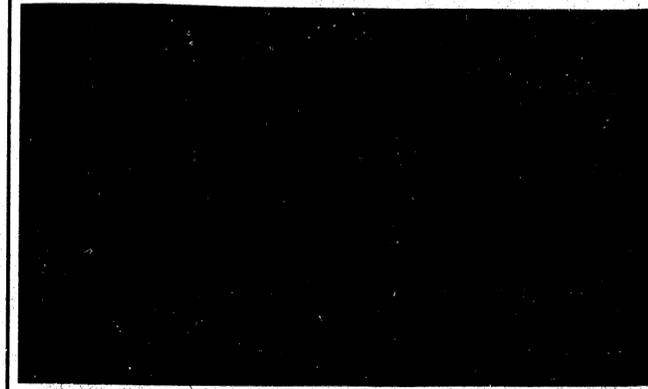
Virgo, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: Step up to the plate in the business world and play ball. Utilize the talents, skills and experiences you have to attain the ideal job and lifestyle you desire. LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Steer clear of a philosophical or political debate this week. Take the path of least resistance. Go with the flow and agree whenever possible. SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: In your continuing quest for success, do not lose sight of what is really important to you. Review and revise your goals. Take time to smell the roses. SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: Key relationships will play an important role. Expand your horizons and increase your knowledge base with the help of a partner or mate. CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: Scattering your energy or dividing your time may cause you to lose your effectiveness. Play it smart and concentrate or focus on one task at a time. AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: A social setting is a great place to meet a variety of new people and make new friends. Accept an invitation to a party or another popular gathering. PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: It is time to clean house emotionally and mentally. Take steps to let go of out-grown habits, old beliefs or negative feelings that are holding you back. If your birthday is this week, look forward to several new and exciting beginnings or adventures during the coming year. Pay attention to the thoughts that pop into your head. They are likely to transform your old thinking patterns. Expansion is easy and quiet. Clarify your goals and use your creative talents to break down barriers in business or financial areas. Also born this week: Dean Martin, Nancy Sinatra, Frank Lloyd Wright, Saul Bellow and Jacques Cousteau.

THE ARTS

Musicians meet at workshop to hone their craft
Area musicians who are looking for an opportunity to fine tune their skills and share their talents have several options available provided by Westfield's New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Music Studio. Janet Lyman, will run from October through March at a fee of \$100 for Music Studio students and \$175 for non-students. Participants must have one year playing experience. For information on these and other Music Studio programs, including private and group lessons, call 908-789-9696.

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 (463 Valley Street) by 4:00 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisement may also be placed at our other offices: 289 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1281 Stuyvesant Ave., Union. For more information call 800-564-8911.

Art display in Summit



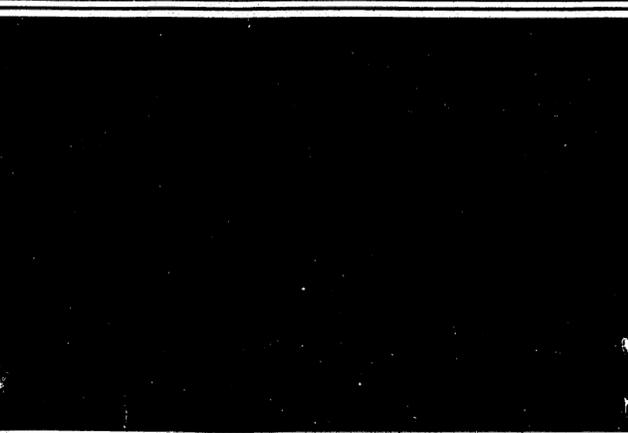
Above left is 'Legato,' and above right is 'Opposites,' two of the works by artist Robin Tedesco, whose work will be on display at the Domo Gallery in Summit through Saturday. For information, call 908-608-0079.

Book store celebrates Father's Day

From now through Father's Day, Springfield Barnes & Noble, located at 240 Route 22 West, also accessible via Hillside Avenue, is going to the dogs and cats with various events, featured guests and gift-wrapping at the Springfield Barnes & Noble benefiting the animal welfare efforts of Jersey Animal Coalition. Also featured will be table displays of dog books and gifts appropriate for dads and other pet lovers. One special dog book will be featured on June 11 at 2 p.m. when renowned New Jersey dog trainer and "Today" show canine expert Kathy Santo will read, discuss, and sign her latest book, "Dog Sense" and take questions on dog training from the audience. Spot the Dog — the lovable spotted character featured in Eric Hill's books, will be visiting the Springfield Barnes & Noble on Father's Day from 2 to 3 p.m. There will be a special storytime, as well as balloons, prizes and giveaways. It's also a great opportunity to have dad's photo taken with Spot and the kids. On June 20 at 11:30 a.m. and June 23 at 11:30 a.m., the Springfield Barnes & Noble will also host special storytimes for toddlers featuring Spot stories and prizes. In addition, as a special feature for dads and grads, Barnes & Noble is offering a buy-two-get-one-free DVD sale on all DVDs, including boxed sets — the lowest price item is free.

Bob DeVos is set to perform in jazz series

In the late 1960s, organist-vocalist sensation Trudy Pitts was a major creator of the organ as a jazz instrument. A few years later she picked a then young Bob DeVos to replace Pat Martino on guitar. Pitts and DeVos toured extensively during the 1970s then went on to their separate careers. They reunited in 2000 to play at the Kennedy Center a few years after Trudy was named a Living Legend for her lifetime achievements in jazz. This June, they are playing together once again. The Trudy Pitts-Bob DeVos Organ Trio opens the 40th anniversary of the Newark Museum's outstanding free Jazz in the Garden Series on June 23, noon to 1:45 p.m. This weekend, June 24 and 25, the trio plays at Trumpets Jazz Club in Montclair. They are joined by drummer Bill Drummond. Three sets starting at 8:30 p.m., with a \$15 music charge. Call 973-742-2600 for details.



Above left is 'Legato,' and above right is 'Opposites,' two of the works by artist Robin Tedesco, whose work will be on display at the Domo Gallery in Summit through Saturday. For information, call 908-608-0079.

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City Tavern
By Dan Burns
Staff Writer
You don't have to be in the mood to dine at the City Tavern at 1109 Elizabeth Ave., in Elizabeth. The restaurant and bar is a great place to go no matter what type of food and drink you're in the mood for. The menu features an array of steak, seafood, chicken and pasta dishes, almost all of them priced in the \$10-\$18 range. Most of the dishes feature Spanish or Italian cuisine. When I first entered the tavern, I noticed it was a charming place with a neighborhood feel to it. It is a suitable setting for a small business lunch, a dinner date, a family meal or drinks with friends. The tavern's owner, Concetta Bongiovi, said a lot of different people patronize her tavern, especially business people during the day and neighborhood residents in the evening. After sampling the fresh bread basket they brought to my table, I ordered a plate of linguini with garlic and olive oil. My dining companion ordered shrimp and chicken in a spicy red sauce. Although I was looking forward to the pasta, I became a little jealous when I saw my friend's dish come out of the kitchen. The waiter carried three separate plates: one each for the main dish, yellow rice confection and french fries. My friend said the chicken and shrimp, covered with vegetables and sauce, tasted terrific. He said the rice was even better, calling it "the best yellow rice he's ever had." My pasta was served with plenty of fresh garlic, just the way I like it. There was an array of other pastas and sauces available as well, including fettuccini alfredo and penne in pink vodka sauce. Bongiovi said the skirt steak and various meat skillet dishes are some of City Tavern's most popular meals. I recommend that anyone who eats at the City Tavern order dessert, even if you're full from dinner. The dessert portions will satisfy your sweet tooth, but they're small enough that you won't feel as if you're overstuffing yourself. I had the flan and my friend ordered tiramisu. Both desserts were very good. My friend and I left the tavern satisfied. We both agree that the City Tavern is a great place to eat, whether you feel like a quick, low-key meal or a three-course feast.

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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to: Worrall Community Newspapers, 463 Valley St., P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, 07040. Faxes may be sent to 973-763-2557.

ART SHOWS

ANDRA SAMELSON will be the focus of an exhibit at the Domo Gallery, 447 Springfield Ave., Summit, through Saturday. For further information, call 908-608-0079. or visit www.domogallery.com

ROBIN TEDESCO will be the focus of an exhibit at the Domo Gallery, 447 Springfield Ave., Summit, through Saturday. For further information, call 908-608-0079. or visit www.domogallery.com

FIRSTLOOK 2005 EMERGING ARTISTS SERIES will continue at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts Maple Street Gallery, 34 Maple St., Summit. Call 908-273-9121 for more information.

"LARGE SCALE WORKS FROM 1990-1994" by Gayle Ruskin-White will be on exhibit at Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For more information, call 908-709-9155.

A UNION COUNTY ART EXHIBIT will be held at Liberty Hall Center, 1085 Morris Ave., Union, through June 13. For more information, call 908-558-2550.

AN EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS by award-winning realist artist Paul Casale will begin with an opening reception on June 10, from 6 to 10 p.m. June 11 from 1 to 6 p.m. and June 12 from 1 to 4 p.m. at The Framing Center, 9 Eastman St., Cranford. Casale's art combines a 19th century approach to painting with contemporary subject matter. Recent paintings in oils, pastels and watercolors of landscapes, cityscapes, beach scenes and figurative work will be on display. The show will run through Aug. 31.

BOOKS

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN BOOK GROUP will meet at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 973-574-1818.

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6544.

THE "LORD OF THE RINGS" READING GROUP meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 973-574-1818.

KEAN UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS and The Star-Ledger have partnered to publish a new book titled "World of Wonder: Exploring the Realms of History, Science, Nature and Technology." The book brings together 40 of the most fascinating subjects surveyed by the World of Wonder series. The book is now available for purchase in the Kean University book store and on the Web site of The Star-Ledger at http://www.nj.com/worldofwonder.

Laurie Sue Brockway, interfaith minister and wedding officiant, will sign copies of her latest book, "Wedding Goddess: A Divine Guide to Transforming Wedding Stress into Wedding Bliss" on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. Learn ways to create your own rituals and vows that reflect your values and discover "sage" advice on staying connected with your groom through the craziness. Tell your bride-to-be friends about this special event. For more information, call 973-376-6581.

DOROTHEA BENTON FRANK will sign copies of her book, "Pawleys Island," on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For more information, call 973-376-6581.

DOG BEHAVIORIST KATHY SANTO will sign copies of her book, "DOG SENSE: Everything You Need To Know About Raising, Training, and Understanding the Dog in Your Life," on June 11 at 2 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For more information, call 973-376-6581.

FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION WITH SPOT THE DOG! Spend a fun-filled afternoon with Spot the Dog in honor of Father's Day on June 19 at 2 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For more information, call 973-376-6581.

DIANE GOODSPEED will present a biking book geared specifically toward families with young children on June 22 at 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For more information, call 973-376-6581.

SPORTS COLUMNIST MAURY ALLEN will discuss the 1955 Brooklyn Dodgers' World Series win over the New York Yankees on June 23 at 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield.

Stepping Out

For more information, call 973-376-6581. LOVE A GOOD MYSTERY! Get a sneak peek at the new American Girl Mysteries on June 24 at 4:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield.

SOPHIE KINSELLA will be the subject of July's Chick Lit Book Club on June 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield.

"THE BOOK OF SALT" BY MONIQUE TRUONG will be the focus

reservations, call 908-522-1501 or send an e-mail to concerts@causes@aol.com. Also, visit the Web site, http://www.coffeewithconscience.com. THE COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES OF WESTFIELD will take place at First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 E. Broad St., Westfield.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m., shows start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$14. For information and reservations, call 908-522-1501 or send an e-mail to concerts@causes@aol.com. Also, visit the Web site, http://www.coffeewithconscience.com. Upcoming shows are: June 18, the Dreamscapes.

KNITTING GROUP meets every Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. Knitters are encouraged to bring a favorite project to the Springfield Barnes & Noble Café. For more information, call 973-376-6581. HICKORY TREE CHORUS, an award-winning women's chorus singing four-part a cappella harmony in barbershop style, meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the New Jersey Youth Symphony Music Center, 570 Central Ave., New Providence. Open to residents of both Essex and Union counties. To learn more about Sweet Adelines, Hickory Tree and its quartets, women and teen-aged girls who sing are urged to visit the Web site, hickorytreechorus.org. send an e-mail to

Monday and June 9 at 11:30 a.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581. DORA THE EXPLORER will be the subject on June 13 and 16 at 11:30 a.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581. "SPOT BAKES A CAKE!" will be among the books by Eric Hill that will be read on June 20 and 23 at 11:30 a.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581. ELMO HAS A BIRTHDAY Come celebrate Elmo's birthday week on June 27

Return to Abbey Road



Aregatta Productions presents Rain, performing 'A Tribute to the Beatles,' on Friday at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. For information, call 732-499-8226.

of the "Discover" book group on June 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For more information, call 973-376-6581.

CROSSROADS IN GARFIELD will feature the following: Every Monday, Open Mic Night. Every Tuesday, Jazz Jam. Every Wednesday, karaoke night.

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

THE SUMMIT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS group has begun a new season with sessions on Fridays at 8 p.m. at the Connection, Morris Ave. at Maple St., in Summit. Beginners are welcome, no partners are needed. All sessions begin at 8 p.m.; newcomers may arrive at 7:30 p.m. for extra help. Admission is \$2 for the evening.

Call 973-467-8278 for information and a flyer listing the season schedule.

LANA'S RESTAURANT in Clark will offer dinner and live jazz with Warren Vache every Thursday, beginning at 7 p.m. For information, call 732-869-9024.

JAZZ IS BACK AT THE COVE! "Wednesday's Jazz Cocktails" will feature the house band, Tempo, playing at Duxie's Place, formerly known as "The Cove," 112 Chestnut St., Roselle. Saturday Jazz Showcase features top acts from the New York Metropolitan area. Grant information, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202; call 908-558-2550. Relay users dial 711; or send inquiries via e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS invites local nonprofit organizations, individual artists and scholars to apply for funding from the 2004 Union County HEART — History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands — Grant program. To request HEART Grant information, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202; call 908-558-2550. Relay users dial 711; or send inquiries via e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

THE WATCHING ART CENTER ACOUSTIC-FOLK SERIES has begun at Watching Art Center, 18 Sterling Road, Watchung. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the shows start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$15. For information and reservations, call 908-753-0190 or send an e-mail to WACenter@aol.com. Visit the Web site, http://www.watchingarts.org/afolk.html. The following artists will perform as part of the Watching Art Center Acoustic-Folk Series: Saturday, Dewey's True Story.

THE COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES OF SPRINGFIELD will take place at Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Hill, Springfield. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., shows start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$14. For information and

reservations, call 908-964-9724 or 908-964-8808, send inquiries via mail to TMRClnc@aol.com or visit the Web site at www.tmrcl.com.

THE HARVEST QUILTERS OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY will meet the first Monday of each month at Cozy Corner Creations quilt shop, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.

LEARN ABOUT GRADUATION DAY with Ellen Weiss' "Hello Kitty on Graduation Day," "Happy Graduation" by Namrata Tripathi, and "Biscuit's Graduation Day" by Alyssa Satin Capucilli on

and 30 at 11:30 a.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION will meet at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays of the month at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. For information, call 908-241-5758.

DINNERMATES and Entrepreneurs Group invites business and professional singles to dinner at a local restaurant; wine and mingling is at 8 p.m., dinner is at 9 p.m. Two age groups are available. For information on dates and locations, call 732-322-9796 or visit www.dinnermates.com.

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call 908-889-5285 or 908-889-4751.

SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING, for 45-year-olds and older, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Yankee Buffet

For information, call 908-810-1844.

THE GORCONO chorale, unique, non-singing chorale's "gorconos" chorus, seeks new members as its spring 2005 season begins. Rehearsals are Mondays from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit. The Spring Concert will be presented in May at Calvary Church. For more information, call Debra Boyman at 908-771-0978 or visit the Web site, www.gorconosingers.org.

SPORTS AMERICA KIDS MONTH starts today at 11:30 a.m. at the Barnes & Noble on 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. The Berenstain Bears Go Out for the Team," by Jan Berenstain, will be among the fun books to read. For information, call 973-376-6581.

LEARN ABOUT GRADUATION DAY with Ellen Weiss' "Hello Kitty on Graduation Day," "Happy Graduation" by Namrata Tripathi, and "Biscuit's Graduation Day" by Alyssa Satin Capucilli on

Monday and June 9 at 11:30 a.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

ELMO HAS A BIRTHDAY Come celebrate Elmo's birthday week on June 27

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ELMO HAS A BIRTHDAY Come celebrate Elmo's birthday week on June 27

Grand Ballroom, 2660 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is \$7.

For information, call 908-688-8816.

MEN AND WOMEN 60 to 70+ are invited to a Jewish singles gathering to meet, greet and make new acquaintances at Domans, 230 W. Westfield Ave., Roselle Park, on June 26, starting at 12:30 p.m. Reservations are required, space is limited. Admission is \$24 with your R.S.V.P. due by June 11. Admission includes a complete buffet. Same-day admission will not be allowed. Call 60-70+ at 908-687-0274 for details.

For information, call 973-376-6581.

"SPOT BAKES A CAKE!" will be among the books by Eric Hill that will be read on June 20 and 23 at 11:30 a.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

ELMO HAS A BIRTHDAY Come celebrate Elmo's birthday week on June 27

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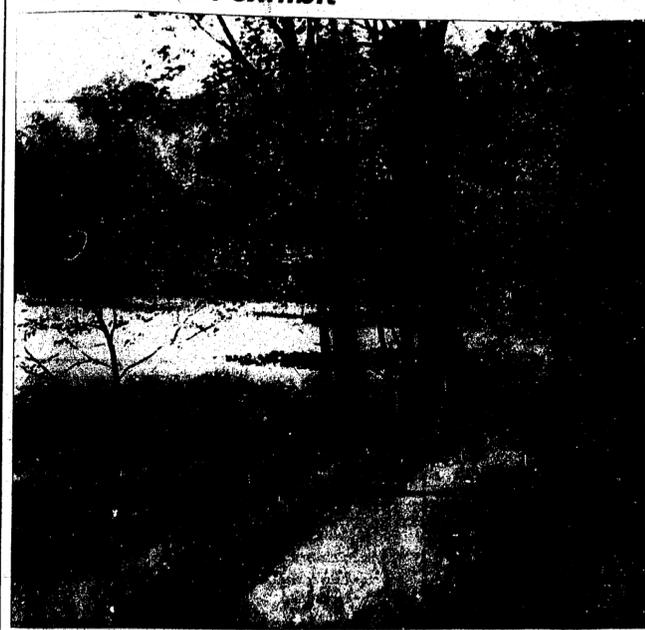
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Plainfield art exhibit



Clockwise from top left, 'Meadow,' 'Gulls,' 'Peggy's Cove,' and 'Rocks,' four of the works that have been painted by Frederick N. Kerberger, whose work will be on display starting



Saturday and continuing through June 30 at Swain Galleries, 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For information, call 908-756-1707.



For information, call 908-756-1707.

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MINI VAN, Nissan Quest, GXE, 2001, v-6, 3 tr, silver 7 passengers, auto, all power, cruise, air, video 59,500 miles, \$10,750, 973-256-4813.

OLDSMOBILE, CUTLASS Supreme, 1990. 70,000 miles, good condition. 4-door, white. \$2800 or best offer. 908-285-1263.

AUTO FOR SALE

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CRANFORD \$459,900
Just a stone's throw away from Nomahegan Park, this lovely 3 Bedroom Colonial has a large Master Bedroom, fireplace in Living Room and patio with gas grill.



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Updated throughout! This Cape Cod custom home sits on a 40' x 125' lot with a 25' x 100' adjoining lot. This home offers 8 rooms and includes 3 Bedrooms, 2 full baths, located on a beautiful, tree-lined street and is ideal for in-law use.



LINDEN \$279,900
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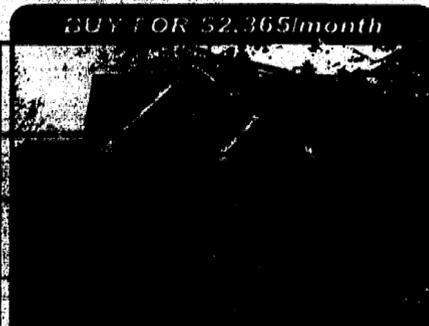
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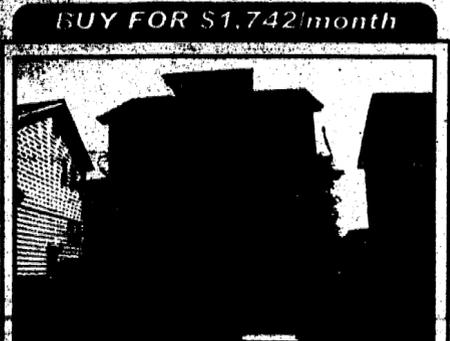
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UNION TOWNSHIP - Nice floor plan! Tastefully decorated with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, Living Room with a fireplace, Lower Level Rec room plus office, thermopane windows, 3 seasons porch, and a one car attached garage! Beautiful area! \$409,800.



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UNION TOWNSHIP - Offering 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, modern Eat-in-Kitchen, Dining Room, Living Room, screened Porch/Summer room, and a full finished basement! New roof, gutters, siding and windows! One car built-in garage with double width driveway! Beautiful! \$485,000.



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