

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 78, NO. 49

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2006

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School hours OK'd but busing unsure

By Meave Sheehan
Staff Writer

School board members voted on the new school time schedules and continued their discussion of the busing shortage at Springfield's special Board of Education meeting Monday night at Jonathan Dayton High School.

Of the five school time schedule options that board members presented to parents at last week's meeting, the fourth option was chosen. With this schedule, Jonathan Dayton High School will start at 7:40 a.m. and end at 2:31 p.m. Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School will start at 7:45 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. The James Caldwell and Sandmeier Schools will start at 8:40 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. Walton School will start at 8:50 a.m. and end at 3:10 p.m.

Drop-off times for Jonathan Dayton and Gaudineer begin 10 minutes before the start times. Caldwell, Sandmeier and Walton Schools' drop-off times begin 15 minutes before school starts.

Addressing the busing shortage, board members said they plan to stop subscription busing, which allows parents to purchase yearly seats for their children. The board will not be leasing more buses for the 2005-06 school year.

"The budget constraints we're under do not allow for additional bus purchases," said board member Irwin Sablosky. He cited additional costs, such as salaries for bus drivers and aides and maintenance and insurance fees.

Business Administrator Matthew Clarke said that the district currently owns five large and five small buses. One small bus is being replaced with a large bus. The five small buses seat less than 30 students each.

As with last week's meeting, board members suggested that parents who live within two miles of school and are

not eligible for busing should organize independently.

Clarke offered to help parents by sharing his knowledge of busing issues, but the board agreed that they did not want to be involved with such an effort on an official level. Superintendent of Schools Michael Davino said that the board cannot give the names of parents to bus companies.

Board member Jacqueline Shanes said that there were "different parameters" for the board when leasing a bus and that it would be easier for parents to take action because they did not have to take into account certain state laws.

Risa Yesowitz, a Springfield parent, said she was disappointed in the board and believed that they were "not representing the community." Regarding the board's suggestion to parents to independently organize, Yesowitz told the board, "If you decide that you're not willing to pitch in, well, then we'll do it."

Shanes said subscription busing is not, "a mandatory thing," and that the way that subscription busing has evolved over time has created expectations that it will be provided. In the past, routes have not been established solely for parents who pay a subscription. Shanes said she was surprised that "this year, there was a 100 percent subscription bus to Caldwell School."

In the past, empty seats on buses have been sold to children who live within two miles of school and are already on a bus route. These seats are sold depending on availability, since children who live more than two miles away from their school are entitled to seats on the buses whether they use them or not. Board members said they are not allowed by state law to sell these seats.

In addition to the cost of leasing a bus, Davino also said that if the board were to lease a bus, some parents

	EWG (Pre-K Only)	EW (Grades K-2)	FDHS (Grades 3-5)	FMG (Grades 6-8)	JDHS (Grades 9-12)
Drop off Time	All Buses 6:45 a.m.	6:45 a.m.	6:45 a.m.	6:45 a.m.	6:45 a.m.
Start time	8:50 a.m.	8:45 a.m.	8:40 a.m.	7:45 a.m.	7:40 a.m.
Dismissal	All Buses 11:25 a.m.				
Start time	PM Session 12:35 p.m.				
Dismissal	PM Session 3:10 p.m.	3:10 p.m.	3:00 p.m.	2:30 p.m.	
Effective September 2006					
Approved 7/22/06					

The Springfield Board of Education recently approved these new changes in the start and end times for each school in the district, starting in September.

might pull out of the arrangement and there might be future complaints from parents who are paying for a service that they do not use.

Board members said they were open to suggestions and comments from parents.

"We'll take what you say back to the table and figure out which options are available," said Sablosky.

He noted that there are usually only four or five parents at board meetings.

Board members said that they were trying to make the best out of a bad situation. When asked by parents why they had not realized that there would be a busing shortage months ago, board members blamed their budget and other variables, such as not knowing what enrollment at the Walton School would be.

"I can't roll back time," Sablosky said.

Parents re-iterated their concern about the lack of communication between the community and the school board. One parent, Alex Mezza called on the board to, "ask us for our feedback instead of assuming something can't be done."

Currently, the board has no means of communicating with parents. Unlike neighboring districts, their school board meetings are not televised. The board said that they stopped publishing their quarterly newsletter due to budget constraints and as a result of the recently defeated school budget. In addition, they have cut out mailing letters home to parents.

Parent Lori Hogge asked board members why there was no announcement of the special meeting on the town or school marquee or anywhere else. Hogge said she had found out about the meeting through the *Echo Leader*.

"I think you have to tell people," Hogge said.

Ilene Shewitz, another parent, told the board, "You keep giving us different answers."

Davino and board members said they are looking at other ways to communicate with the entire community. There will be an improved Board of Education Web site this fall.

Parents who rely on subscription busing have not been informed of the

board's decision yet.

The board has spoken of sending letters home to parents, despite their statements about budget constraints.

With the time schedule decided upon, Davino cautioned that the board will be waiting along with everyone else to see if their planning makes for a smooth start to the new school year on Sept. 8.

"Everything that's presented here is a maybe," said Davino.

Board President Patricia Venezia later confirmed that letters will be mailed to those parents who used subscription busing in 2004-05.

To get out the message about time changes, the board has started a PTA phone list and e-mail chain through the local community organization Springfield Cares.

Parents will also receive separate letters for their children's class assignments.

Springfield resident Risa Yesowitz would like interested parents to contact her about independent busing as soon as possible at ryewo@comcast.net or by calling 973-885-4701.

Township anticipates land swap

By Meave Sheehan
Staff Writer

The anticipated land swap between Union County and the Township of Springfield that will the township athletic fields surrounding Jonathan Dayton High School has not become official yet.

At its meeting Tuesday meeting, the Township Committee presented a resolution to award a professional services contract for \$7,600 to Keller & Kirkpatrick Inc. for a land survey of the parkland.

Mayor Sy Mullman said the land swap, "is a fantastic deal for us." For the price of the land survey, Springfield will be receiving \$1 million worth of land, Mullman said.

The initial proposal for a trade of parkland was made more than three years ago when the Township Committee met with the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Union County currently owns 7 acres of land near Jonathan Dayton High School. Springfield is looking to acquire complete ownership of the property by giving up about 11 acres of parkland near the Springfield-Union border.

Since both pieces of land are classified as Green Acres property, state approval is necessary for the exchange and has not been granted yet.

The land, once it becomes township property, is going to be leased to the Board of Education for \$1 a year.

The township plans to help maintain the property with the Board of Education.

The county will look to tie the Morris Avenue property it would receive with other land along the Rahway River, extending trails and connections with waterways.

The land was previously used for Springfield recreational sports but, due to the muddy condition of the field, it eventually stopped being used. The parcel abuts the Rahway River.

The property line for the parkland next to the high school currently runs through the softball field adjacent to the tennis courts in front of the school. The township owns land on the other side of the courts.

The property line along the Rahway River on Morris Avenue is located at the Union border, with the county already owning about four acres adjacent to the parkland.

Recreation groups will have access to the land, along with the schools.

The school board proposed a multi-million-dollar bond referendum to improve athletic fields three years ago. Most of these fields are owned by the county but are used primarily by the local schools. Voters rejected the bond referendum and environmental tests at county-owned Meisel Avenue Park led to the ongoing million-dollar cleanup.

Residents near golf club get free PGA tickets

By Meave Sheehan
Staff Writer

Local residents can expect to brave the crowds for the week of the PGA tournament at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, from Aug. 8 through Aug. 14.

Traffic and parking are two concerns for Baltusrol's neighbors. Springfield Chief of Police William Chisolm said that Shunpike Road will be closed the week of Aug. 8 through Aug. 14 from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. by county ordinance. There will be limited access to Mountainview Avenue. Chief Chisolm said that Springfield police will set up 13 traffic posts and county police will be present.

Mountainside's Chief of Police James Debbie said the Police Department expects an "extremely large amount of traffic," and that six officers will be working each day of the tournament.

Summit Avenue will be closed during the

week of the tournament. One officer will be posted at the intersection of Summit Avenue and Charles Street from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day. There will be no parking on Charles Street at all.

The following streets will be closed, except to local traffic: Garvey Lane, Linda Drive, Old Grove Road, Sunny Slope Drive, Sunny View Road, and Rolling Rock Road. There will be no parking on the west side of Linda Drive, Old Grove Road and Rolling Rock Road. Signs will be put up next week warning drivers that vehicles will be towed.

Chief Debbie said that he expected some people to try to park illegally. There will be an officer checking the side streets.

Ina Golub, a Mountainside resident who normally uses Summit Road to get to her house, said that she will have to take an alternate route that week. Golub plans to stock a refrigerator full of food, the week of the tournament. Golub said

that she plans to avoid the Summit area, traveling instead to Westfield when she has to drive.

In return for their cooperation and patience, neighbors of the golf course have received complimentary, week-long tickets.

About a month ago, Springfield and Mountainside residents whose homes border the golf club received an invitation to a wine and cheese event at Baltusrol. Shortly after, neighbors received two free tickets for each day of the practice and championship rounds through the mail.

In addition to the tickets, residents who live near the course have noticed some changes in their neighborhoods as a result of tournament preparations. A new service road to Baltusrol has been built off of Charles Street. Chief Debbie said that a police officer will be stationed at the entrance. A nearby swamp in the same area has been dredged.

Mountainside resident Fatima Tavares, who

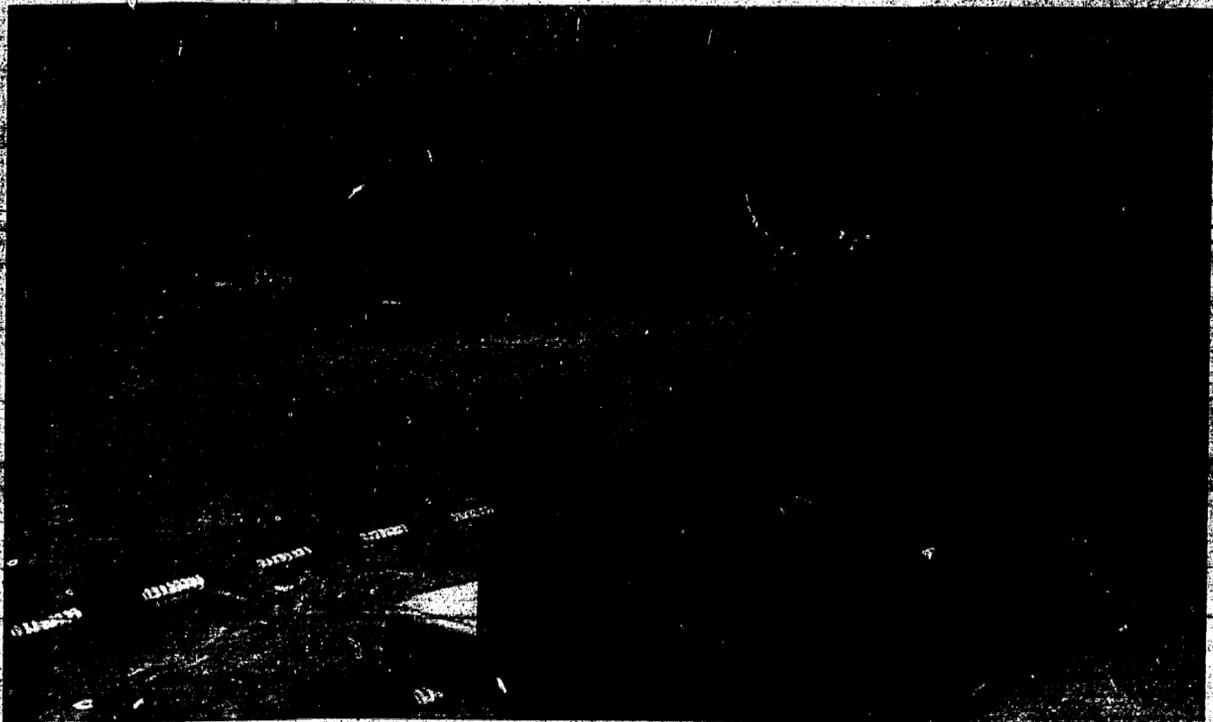
has lived next door to the golf course for two years, said that she has been too busy to take much notice of the planning for the tournament and did not attend the PGA's wine and cheese event or receive tickets.

Theresa Balazik, a Mountainside resident on Rolling Rock Road for 40 years, has a back yard that faces out to the Lower Course. Having been around for many golf events that Baltusrol has hosted, Balazik is used to special treatment from the golf course. Neighbors on Rolling Rock Road were also given free tickets when the U.S. Open came to Springfield in 1993.

Balazik said that she is willing to deal with any traffic inconveniences that might arise and believes that the tournament's positive effects for the town, local businesses and surrounding areas are worth it.

"People who complain are just complainers," Balazik said.

People pack into pool as temperatures rise



Mountainside Community Pool gets packed with swimmers as temperatures rise above 90 degrees during a sweltering summer afternoon. The barrier-free facility features a 50-meter pool, a separate diving tank, the zero-depth wading pool, a snack bar and picnic grove.

Mountainside district hires asst. principal

By Meave Sheehan
Staff Writer

Mountainside's Beechwood School welcomes a new faculty member this fall. Michael Craver has recently been appointed as curriculum coordinator and assistant principal at the elementary school.

Craver's post becomes effective Monday, at a salary of \$81,200.

Prior to his appointment, Craver was a fifth-grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary School in Westfield. Having served on many committees in the district, Craver said that his background in strategic planning will serve him well in his new position.

Craver holds a bachelor's degree in education from Syracuse University and a master's degree in administration and supervision from Montclair State University.

Craver has experience with the Everyday Math program that Beechwood School is implementing this fall. With a handful of other teachers, he helped pilot Westfield's Everyday Math program, which is a discovery-based approach to learning mathematics that encourages students to be active learners.

Everyday Math uses different types of instruction. Along with the usual teacher to group instruction, students work alone, in small groups, or with a partner. The program seeks to make

mathematics more meaningful by using real life contexts and situations, and giving children the opportunity to become actively involved in learning.

This curriculum change required educating parents about the program.

"You had to reach out to the community," Craver said.

He hosted teacher/parent meetings and went through lesson plans with parents. Of Everyday Math, Craver said that, "kids are really thinking math."

"Everyday Math is a terrific program to make students math thinkers, not just doers."

Craver said that he hopes to be a resource for parents and teachers when Everyday Math is implemented this fall.

Having started a school-based television news program at Jefferson, Craver will now help Beechwood School start its own television news program.

At Jefferson, students delivered the news, which included information about school sports and events.

Craver said that he plans to involve students from each grade level at Beechwood.

Summit YMCA lectures explore nutrition topics

The Summit Area YMCA will continue a series of lectures throughout the summer, covering several nutrition topics and concerns. These lectures are free and open to the community.

The first lecture, "Nutrition and Exercise: What to Eat Pre- and Post-Workout," will be today at the Summit YMCA, from 10 to 12 p.m.

The fourth lecture, "Take a Pause for Menopause," will be Wednesday at Berkeley Heights YMCA, from 9 to 10 a.m., Springfield YMCA, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., and Aug. 18, Summit YMCA, 1 to 2 p.m.

For information, call Susan Fieseler, Summit Area YMCA nutrition counselor, at 908-273-3330 ext. 167.

Red Cross to host blood drive Wednesday

The Westfield/Mountaineer Chapter of the American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, from 3 to 8 p.m. at the Chapter House, 321 Elm St. in Westfield.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh more than 110 pounds and be in good general health. Federal regulations require donors to wait 56 days between donations.

Donors are asked to bring picture identification and know their Social Security number. Also, donors are asked to eat a regular meal before donating.

For information, call 908-232-7090.

Learn how to prepare for emergencies

The Westfield Regional Health Department and Union County Lines presents, "All Hazards Approach to Community Preparedness" at the Mountaineer Public Library on Aug. 9, at 7 p.m.

Learn how to prepare yourself, your family and your community in times of emergency. The guest speaker is Lorraine Kowalski, M.A., C.H.E.S. The presentation is free, but requires advanced notice of attendance.

All are welcome. For reservations, call 908-233-0115. If you should have any questions regarding this program, call 908-789-4070 ext. 4073.

Free blood pressure screenings offered

The Westfield Regional Health Department will provide free blood pressure screenings the last Thursday of every month at the Fanwood Public Library.

This service is also open to residents of Mountaineer and Springfield.

A registered nurse will be there to take blood pressure, calibrate mechanical blood pressure and answer any questions about blood pressure blood pressure monitoring and maintenance. Each month a nurse will be able to see trends in one's blood pressure reading to "keep one informed of the proper steps to take in order to keep one's blood pressure at its lowest."

For information, call 908-789-4070.

Children can get free immunizations

The Westfield Regional Health Department, which serves Springfield and Mountaineer, offers free immunizations and physicals to all children from the age of birth to 18 years.

This is done through the department's Child Health Clinic. This clinic is conducted twice a month by appointment only.

The department's pediatrician performs the immunizations and physicals.

The Child Health Clinic is for children who do not have insurance or whose insurance does not cover well visits.

The Westfield Child Health Clinic only cares for children who are well. The clinic does not offer medical treatment to children who are suffering from any illness.

For information or to make an appointment, call Anne Traviano, public health nurse, at 908-789-4070, Ext. 4073.

Great Books discussion

Once a month the Great Books Discussion Group meets to examine the great books of our civilization. The spring selections range from essays to fiction.

The group meets the third Thursday of each month at Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., at 10 a.m. There will be no meeting in August.

Charles Louis de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu, discussed in "The Spirit of Laws," his best known work, the influence of climate on society, the separation of political powers, and the need for checks on a powerful executive office.

The group will discuss an excerpt on "The Principles of Government," which covers three kinds of governments and their qualities.

The Great Books compilation may be purchased for \$24 at the Circulation Desk. The discussion group welcomes new members.

Participants are invited to come to any or all of the discussions.

For information call 973-376-4930.

International Film Festival continues

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its summer International Film Festival tonight with "Monsieur Ibrahim" at noon and 7 p.m. tonight with "Motorcycle Diaries," same times.

The series will continue on Thursdays throughout the month with "Kitchen Stories" on Aug. 4 and "Magdalene Sisters" on Aug. 18.

Funding for the film festival has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and the Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library.

Admission is free for all films. Space is limited to 60 people at each showing. Refreshments will be served.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

Visual artist to exhibit mixed-media paintings

Visual artist Lydia R. Watson, known for her creative mixed-media paintings, will be showing her work at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of Springfield Free Public Library through Sept. 1.

Watson uses a limited palette and recycled materials.

She has been showing her artwork locally since 1990 and has shown as far as Beijing, China. She studied at Nevada Art Studio.

In her home state, including Atrium Gallery, Barron Art Center, Joyce Gould Palette Gallery, AT&T, Johnson & Johnson, NJIT and The Kessler Institute.

To see her online gallery, visit www.lrwatsonartist.com. The Donald B. Palmer Museum is located in the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave.

Hours of the exhibit are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

Library screens 'Magdalene Sisters'

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., concludes its summer International Film Festival on Aug. 18 with "Magdalene Sisters" at noon and 7 p.m.

Admission is free for all films. Space is limited to 60 people at each showing.

Refreshments will be served.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

Navy Seal turned babysitter draws laughs

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., concludes its Youth Film Festival on Aug. 10 at 2:30 p.m.

Tim Diesel plays as a navy seal turned babysitter in this kid-friendly action comedy.

A botched rescue mission results in the death of a scientist and the hospitalization of seal team leader Shane Wolf (Diesel).

Once he recovers, he is assigned to duty as a bodyguard for the dead man's family.

The film is 96 minutes, rated PG.

The film will be shown in an air-conditioned room, and popcorn and soda will be served. The event is free and open to the public.

Funding for the video series has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and the Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library.

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Children's summer programs come alive

Many programs are designed to keep kids cool this month at Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave.

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Red Cross offers hurricane survival tips

Hurricane season 2004 was unprecedented, with four major hurricanes wreaking havoc within a six-week period.

A new hurricane season began June 1, and hurricane forecasters are predicting another above-normal hurricane season, with the possibility of at least 12 to 15 tropical storms, and seven to nine of them becoming hurricanes.

In anticipation of this year's hurricane season, the Summit Area Chapter of the American Red Cross encourages people to be prepared now.

Every year, communities suffer loss of life and property because of hurricanes, which can devastate a region with destructive winds, heavy rains and flooding, storm surges and tornadoes. Hurricanes can affect the communities served by the Summit Area Chapter, including Springfield and Summit and many vacationers from this area head to coastal communities and more hurricanes-prone areas.

"It is vital that every family create a plan, in order to stay safe this hurricane season," said Dan Iradi, emergency services director. "Hurricane

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Museum accepts applications for artists

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Applicants are asked to submit a current resume, 10 slides representative of the work and a stamped, self-addressed envelope with return Monday, Dec. 12 to be included with the application for programming, no sculpture will be accepted.

For information call 973-376-4930.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINAIDE
COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following proposed ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a meeting of the Board of Adjustment held on Tuesday, July 19, 2005.

Application # 2005-7

Applicant: Irena Knapp Saporta

Site Location: 844 Knapp Avenue
Block: 3912 Lot: 1

For: a side yard variance and building setback variance for construction of a sunroom.

Was: Approved

Continuation of Nestlé Communications, Inc. (Nestlé) is making a major restructuring of a monopoly at the Elks Lodge, 100 Mountain Ave., in the Township of Springfield, New Jersey.

Application # 2005-8

Applicant: David and Tina Miller

Site Location: 307 Hillside Avenue
Block: 2803 Lot: 24

For: a variance for a rear yard set back for a deck.

Was: Approved

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COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following proposed ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a meeting of the Board of Adjustment held on Tuesday, July 19, 2005.

Application # 2005-7

Applicant: Irena Knapp Saporta

Site Location: 844 Knapp Avenue
Block: 3912 Lot: 1

For: a side yard variance and building setback variance for construction of a sunroom.

Was: Approved

Continuation of Nestlé Communications, Inc. (Nestlé) is making a major restructuring of a monopoly at the Elks Lodge, 100 Mountain Ave., in the Township of Springfield, New Jersey.

Application # 2005-8

Applicant: David and Tina Miller

Site Location: 307 Hillside Avenue
Block: 2803 Lot: 24

For: a variance for a rear yard set back for a deck.

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Gerald Castles

Gerald Castles, 65, of Summit died July 11 at home.

Mr. Castles was the sexton at Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit for 15 years before retiring.

Born in Newark, he lived in Summit for 26 years.

Surviving are Gwendolyn, his wife of 39 years; sons, Gerald and Gary; a daughter, Dr. Kathleen Castles-Forsythe; brothers, Thomas, Robert, James, Daniel, Richard, Phillip, Michael and Patrick; sisters, Evelyn, Elizabeth and Irene; Sara, Florence and Anna, four grandchildren.

Silvio Lombardi
Silvio Lombardi, 82, of Springfield died July 12 at home.

Mr. Lombardi was a tailor with Bloomingdale Department Store in the Mall at Short Hills for 21 years before retiring in 1989. He served in the Italian Navy during World War II.

Born in Guardia Sanframondi, Italy, he emigrated to Paterson in 1956 and moved to Springfield in 1967.

Surviving are daughters, Rita and Angela, and brothers, Corrado and Fausto.

Dr. Charles Coniaris

Dr. Charles Coniaris, 80, of Springfield died Saturday at his vacation home in Saco, Maine.

Dr. Coniaris was an optometrist in Newark and Vailsburg. He provided free eye examinations for children in the Newark public school system.

Dr. Coniaris earned a degree from the Northern Illinois College of Optometry in 1949.

He served in the Army during World War II with 1st Army Air Force Base Unit as an airplane and engine mechanic. Dr. Coniaris served on the church board at St. Nicholas Church.

He was a member and former commander of the American Legion Helene Post 440, and was the oldest surviving charter member of the American Hellenic Education Progressive Association Eureka Chapter 52.

Dr. Coniaris was also a master mason member of the Ophi No. 186 F&AM for 52 years and a member of the Maplewood Country Club.

Born in Morrystown, he lived in Newark before moving to Springfield. Surviving are Betty, his wife of 52 years; a daughter, Cynthia Mandarakas; sons, Dean and John; a sister, Venetia Caudill, and four grandchildren.

Marie Giordano

Marie J. Giordano, 87, of Whiting, formerly of Union and Springfield,

was a health underwriter at Prudential Insurance, Newark, where she worked for 30 years before retiring 31 years ago.

Born in Germany, Mr. Hoffmann lived in Roselle Park before moving to Mountaintide 15 years ago. He owned Commercial Communications, Kenilworth.

Surviving are his wife, Joanne; two daughters, Lisa Marie Drewett and Jennifer Lynn Sherer; two brothers, Reiner and Joerg, and three grandchildren.

Surviving are a son, Dr. Robert C. Andrews; a daughter, Dorothy Lee Walsh; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Morse was a custodian at Chubb Insurance Co., Warren, and All State Insurance Co., Murray Hill. He also worked at Union County College, Cranford. Mr. Morse was a member of the usher board and choir and the custodian at the Wallace Chapel AME Zion Church, Summit.

Mr. Morse was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America and the Rosary Society of St. James Church, Springfield. She was one of the founders of the Springfield First Aid Squad and was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels. Mrs. Andrews was the secretary for the Springfield Fourth of July Committee. She was honored by the Archdiocese of Newark with a citation for her 40 years of dedication and devotion to Catholic children in the diocese.

Obituary notices submitted by local funeral homes or families must be in writing. This newspaper cannot accept obituaries by telephone.

Obituary notices must be typed and include a telephone number where writer may be reached 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information, call 908-686-7700.

OBITUARIES

Robert Lunzer

Robert J. Lunzer, 90, of Exeter Township, formerly of Springfield, died July 21 at home.

Born in Newark, Mr. Lunzer lived in Springfield before moving to Exeter Township. He had been a machine designer for Hyatt Roller Bearing Division of General Motors Corp., Clark, before retiring.

Surviving are a daughter, Diane R. Lunzer-Naugle, and two grandchildren.

Mrs. Andrews was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America and the Rosary Society of St. James Church, Springfield. She was one of the founders of the Springfield First Aid Squad and was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels. Mrs. Andrews was the secretary for the Springfield Fourth of July Committee. She was honored by the Archdiocese of Newark with a citation for her 40 years of dedication and devotion to Catholic children in the diocese.

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Agnes Andrews

Agnes M. Andrews, 99, of Springfield died July 23 at home.

Born in Brunswick, Maine, Mrs. Andrews lived in Bath, Maine, Newark, Elizabeth, Union and Irvington before moving to Springfield in 1941. She was a teacher at Verona Dyestuff, Union, for nearly 20 years

before retiring 14 years ago. Before that, Mrs. Andrews worked for Mooney Brothers, Newark.

She was a member of the Avon Presidents Club, having sold Avon products for more than 40 years. Mrs. Andrews completed a two-year program at the Greg Business School in Newark.

She was a member of the Girl Scouts of America for 55 years. Mrs. Andrews also served on the advisory board of the Boy Scouts of America and was a den mother for several Cub Scout troops.

Mrs. Andrews was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America and the Rosary Society of St. James Church, Springfield. She was one of the founders of the Springfield First Aid Squad and was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels. Mrs. Andrews was the secretary for the Springfield Fourth of July Committee. She was honored by the Archdiocese of Newark with a citation for her 40 years of dedication and devotion to Catholic children in the diocese.

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Stories and photos may be emailed to UnionCountySports@yahoo.com

SPORTS

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

Union County All-Stars make it 3 Snapple Bowl wins in row GL's Bergeski paced UC rushers with 51 yards

By Timothy Desman Staff Writer
New year's Snapple Bowl will return to East Brunswick High School.

Five Snapple Bowls have taken place at East Brunswick (1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2004), four at Union (1994, 1996, 1998, 2000), two at Kean University (2002, 2005) and one at Sayreville (1995).

SNAPPLE BOWL 12 AT KEAN UNIVERSITY
Union County All-Stars 21, Middlesex County 14
SECOND QUARTER
UC — Mike Siesel of Johnson recovered fumble in end zone, Steve Caprio of Cranford kick, 14:55.

UC — Eric McDaniel of South River 4 run, Matt Mariano of East Brunswick kick, 13:48.
UC — Aaron Hale of Plainfield 2 run, Caprio kick, 11:02.
MC — Matt Bouchard of Woodbridge 13 pass from Mariano, Mariano kick, :56.

THIRD QUARTER
U — Jamal Elder of Plainfield 39 pass from Chris Drechsel of Cranford, Caprio kick, 6:16.

MVPs FROM 13 DIFFERENT SCHOOLS
There have been 13 MVPs from 13 different schools in the first 12 Home News Tribune Snapple Bowls.

Two MVPs were selected for the first time in last Thursday's 21-14 win by Union County over Middlesex County. Union County now leads the series 7-5 after becoming the first team to win three straight. UC has won five of the past six games.

The MVPs in last week's game at Kean University in Union were quarterback Chris Drechsel of Cranford for UC and quarterback Matt Mariano of East Brunswick for MC. Union County MVPs have now come from - in order - Summit, Rahway, Elizabeth, Linden, Johnson, Westfield and Cranford.

Middlesex County MVPs have now come from - in order - Monroe, South Brunswick, Dunellen, Perth Amboy, South River and East Brunswick.

Here's the list of scores, MVPs and the positions they played for the first 12 Snapple Bowls:

• 2005: Union 21, Middlesex 14
UC MVP - Chris Drechsel, Cranford, quarterback
MC MVP - Matt Mariano, East Brunswick, quarterback
At Kean University

• 2004: Union 19, Middlesex 7
MVP - Jan Cocozziello, Westfield, quarterback
At East Brunswick High School

• 2003: Union 13, Middlesex 0
MVP - Mike Voci, Johnson, quarterback
At East Brunswick High School

• 2002: Middlesex 28, Union 20
MVP - Zack Earvin, South River, running back
At Kean University

• 2001: Union 17, Middlesex 16
MVP - Brandon Bracey, Linden, defensive back
At East Brunswick High School

• 2000: Union 27, Middlesex 21
MVP - Billy Gilbert, Elizabeth, running back
At Union High School

• 1999: Middlesex 28, Union 6
MVP - Jeff LaSeur, Perth Amboy, wide receiver
At East Brunswick High School

• 1998: Middlesex 33, Union 7
MVP - Luke Cianello, Dunellen, quarterback
At Union High School

• 1997: Union 28, Middlesex 7
MVP - Billy Gilbert, Elizabeth, quarterback
At East Brunswick High School

• 1996: Middlesex 21, Union 6
MVP - Kenny Rogers, South Brunswick, running back
At Union High School

• 1995: Union 17, Middlesex 15
MVP - Jamie Allen, Summit, wide receiver
At Sayreville High School

• 1994: Middlesex 35, Union 14
MVP - Thomas Jackson, Monroe, running back
At Union High School

• 1993: Middlesex 29, Union 7
MVP - Mike Voci, Johnson, quarterback
At East Brunswick High School

• 1992: Middlesex 33, Union 22
MVP - Mike Voci, Johnson, quarterback
At East Brunswick High School



The 2005 Springfield Junior Baseball League Minor League championship was captured by the volunteer Fire Department Royals. Sitting, from left, are Chris Scalzo, Matt Seale, Joe Florenza, Joe Balboni and Matt Disko. Standing, from left, are Manager Mike Disko, Marcellus Murdoch, Vince Freda, Will Francis, Tom Walsh, Stephen Lynn, Matt Ranieri, Ryan Fitzpatrick and coach Jon Balboni. Team member not in picture is Guy Seale.

Royals capture Springfield JBL Minor League championship

The Volunteer Fire Department Royals captured the 2005 Springfield Junior Baseball League Minor League championship by defeating the Marlins in the best-of-three series.

The Royals defeated the Marlins 6-5 and 8-4 behind the strong pitching of Joe Balboni, Joe Florenza and Stephen Lynn.

The team's final record was 12-5-2. The Royals were also sparked by the outstanding play of catchers Matt Seale and Matt Ranieri, infielders Matt

Disko, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Will Francis and Tom Walsh and outfielders Vince Freda, Marcellus Murdoch and Chris Scalzo.

The team was coached by Jon Balboni, Mike Disko and Guy Seale.

The Royals compiled a .395 team batting average and scored 157 runs in 19 games.

Balboni paced the squad with 10 doubles, five triples, two home runs, 33 RBI, 21 runs and an impressive .667 batting average.

Disko, Ryan Fitzpatrick, Will Francis and Tom Walsh and outfielders Vince Freda, Marcellus Murdoch and Chris Scalzo.

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Bringing Our "Neighborhood" to Yours
Innovative Alzheimer's Care at Sunrise Senior Living
Sunrise Senior Living provides specially designed Alzheimer's care based on each resident's rich history and individual needs. The result is a personalized environment as loving as it is innovative. We call it the Reminiscence Neighborhood.

Soccer in Europe
Members of the Summit Plains soccer team traveled to Europe to participate in the San Marino Cup, playing teams from Italy, Greece, England and the United States. Games were played in San Marino and neighboring towns in Italy. Front row, from left, are Kendall Baker, Doug Williamson, Edward Espinoza, Evan Elko, Joe Galban, Alex Lucaci and Alex Zerfos. Second row, from left, are Ben Sherer, Matt Neuerichwander, Stephen Chivers, coach Terry Baker, Eric Forcell, Grady Hogan and Eddie Hagan.

Senior Legion All-Stars battle to a 3-3 deadlock
Goldman, Fumaguera, D'Annunzio on Nationals
By Timothy Desman Staff Writer
CRANFORD - The Union County Senior American Legion Baseball All-Star Game took place at Memorial Field on July 20, ending in a 3-3 tie after seven innings.



Chris Drechsel (No. 4 with ball) was the Union County All-Stars MVP.

Calling all square dancers

The summer square dance season has arrived and the local clubs have joined together to sponsor Saturday night dances in the Springfield YMCA.

The local clubs are Harmony Dancers, Y Squares, Bee Sharps, and Rutgers Promenaders.

For the prospective dancers, a free open house will be conducted on Sept. 10, at 7:30 p.m., in the YMCA/Chisolm Recreation Center at 100 S. Springfield Ave. in Springfield. This is an opportunity for all to try their hand at the New Jersey official folk dance. No reservations are needed at this time.

For information, call Leo at 973-379-3901.



The summer square dance season has arrived and the local clubs have joined together to sponsor Saturday night dances in the Springfield YMCA. The local clubs are Harmony Dancers, Y Squares, Bee Sharps, and Rutgers Promenaders. These dancers are enjoying a fun time at the recent Scotch Plains/Fanwood parade.

AT THE LIBRARY

Young orphans embark on quest in thriller

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its Youth Film Festival on Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. In this thriller full of magic, dangerous escapes and special effects, two mysterious young orphans with supernatural powers escape from a ruthless millionaire in their efforts to reach Witch Mountain.

The film is 97 minutes and rated G.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

3-D film takes viewers through VR game

The Springfield Free Public Library concludes its Youth Film Festival on Aug. 9 at 10:30 a.m., 66 Mountain Ave.

This is a special showing with 3-D glasses. The third in the amazingly successful "Spy Kids" series takes viewers to the third dimension — literally.

This 3-D adventure has mini-spy Juni Cortez entering a dangerous virtual reality game that has captured his sister Carmen. The pair must stop the evil Toymaker's game before it takes over the world. 3-D glasses will be provided for viewing this film. The film is 72 minutes and rated PG.

The film will be shown in an air-conditioned room, and popcorn and soda will be served. For information, call 973-376-4930.

Shakespeare in the Park...ing Lot returns

"Shakespeare in the Park...ing Lot" returns to the Mountaintop Public Library this summer with the second outdoor production by the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. "London Assurance" by Irish playwright Dion Boucicault will be presented on Aug. 5 at 7 p.m. on the library grounds.

In 1841, 21-year-old Dion Boucicault took the London box office by storm with his debut comedy, "London Assurance." Old Sir Harcourt Courly and his son Charles take a trip into the country that turns into a rollicking farce of mistaken identities when each finds himself secretly wooing the same young woman.

The Friends of the Mountaintop Public Library are sponsoring the play which is free and open to all and recommended for ages 12 and older.

Books for Babies

Mountaintop Public Library, Constitution Plaza, has started a new program to welcome newborns and their families to the wonderful world of reading.

"Books for Babies" is a special program expressly designed for the youngest members of the Mountaintop community. Parents of newborns and babies younger than one year of age are invited to pick up a free "Books for Babies" bag at the library.

Each kit is packaged in a sturdy "Born to Read" canvas bag which is perfect for library books and other errands. Inside are a "Read To Your Bunny" board book by Rosemary Wells; "Our Little Reader" photo magnet; "Read To Me" baby bib; "Reading: The Key to a Better Future" teaching keys; two bookmarks with recommended baby books and a library card application.

"Books for Babies" is supported through the generosity of the Friends of the Mountaintop Public Library.

To obtain a free kit, bring proof of Mountaintop residence to the Mountaintop Public Library or call the library at 908-233-0115.

Ice Cube stars in family comedy

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its Youth Film Festival on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.

Ice Cube stars in this family comedy as Nick Persons, a thirtysomething player with a new Lincoln Navigator, who checks out every fine lady who

passes by the window of the sports collectibles store where he works with pal Marty.

Decked out in all the latest clothes, Nick confidently approaches his latest attraction, Suzanne, only to learn that she is a recent divorcee with two kids.

The film is 96 minutes and rated PG.

The series will continue on Aug. 10. The films will be shown in an air-conditioned room, and popcorn and soda will be served. The event is free and open to the public.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

Library closes Aug. 11 for staff training

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will be closed the morning of Aug. 11 for staff training. The library will be open from 1 to 9 p.m. on this day.

For information, call 973-376-4930 or send an e-mail to: questions@springfieldpubliclibrary.com.

Video series offers travel adventures

Spend your lunch hour dreaming of far away places. From noon to 2 p.m., in the Donald B. Palmer Museum, the Springfield Free Public Library presents the Out of this World Travel Video Series, which will continue on Aug. 8 with "Italy" and on Aug. 10 with "Spain & Portugal."

Bring your lunch. Juice and cookies will be provided.

Library survey seeks info from patrons

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., is looking for help from residents of Springfield to help improve services.

The library asks that both users and non-users of the library fill out a patron survey online starting Monday through the library's Web site: www.springfieldpubliclibrary.com. Non-residents can also complete the survey.

The survey will be tallied in mid-October. Anyone who fills out the survey is entitled to a coupon for one free video rental from the library.

Part of the library's long-range planning process, the survey will help the library staff and Board of Trustees determine which services and hours will encourage people to use the library more. They intend to incorporate the survey results and suggestions into the long-range plan.

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Union County

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In the matter of...

William Wright: Letter writer William Wright recently wrote "Frank Capece didn't bother to check with rail experts before he wrote about the restoration of the railway valley railroad." He added, "this line was never abandoned."

Actually the Third Circuit Federal Court of the District of Columbia including Supreme Court Nominee John Roberts ruled in the written opinion the line had in fact been "abandoned." To quote one of the attorneys for the railroad who argued the case, upon being read the letter, "This time Wright is wrong."

Left Out

By Frank Capece

Health insurance crisis: The report by the US Census Bureau, "Helping you make informed decisions" released last week hammers home the crisis in health insurance. They estimate that 68,444 Union County residents, including 57,000 adults, are uninsured. That equates out to 13.1 percent compared to the state average of 12.3 percent.

Kerry Kelly of the State Hospital Association said, "Lack of health insurance has a huge impact on people's quality of life, but also puts great pressure on hospitals because many of these patients depend on emergency rooms for routine primary care."

R. Bruce Johnson, the State ElderCare of Summit, who has just scored another spot on the Board of Bruce Johnson to their board. This guy has a record of community involvement that is outstanding. From zoning to computer-aided judicial decisions, improvements to the library, this industrial engineer has devoted himself to improving his community. He hobbies as a genealogist.

Municipal conflict of interest: In 1993, Epinoza, was ousted from his spot on the bench via senatorial courtesy. In New Jersey, state senators can block judicial nominations in their districts. In Epinoza's case, then-Morris County Sen. John Dorsey voted against granting her a lifetime tenure after her first seven-year term.

"I had to do what I thought was right," she said Friday. "I felt I owed to my father-in-law, and my fellow judges."

Epinoza's father-in-law is the late state Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard J. Hughes.

National Probation Parole Week: If you have missed the announcement last week, we honored probation officers. We should appreciate them the other 51 weeks. It's estimated that the average cost to supervise a probationer is \$200 a year, compared to \$36,000 for the same person incarcerated.

In Union County, the 70 probation workers bring in \$54 million through collection work such as ensuring child support payments are made. A key point is that all sides support the child support payments via the probation officers.

Free fall at Merck: The most recent numbers regarding Merck & Co Inc. of Rahway aren't good. The record quarter financial report saw a numbing 59 percent drop in profits. Combined with the negative publicity at the trials regarding their product Vioxx, the company is going through rough times. Merrill Lynch concluded that the company had dropped to sixth in terms of drug company size being surpassed by AstraZeneca P.L.C.

In terms of the Vioxx case under way in Texas he revealed that Merck has reserved \$675 million for a legal defense fund. The future looks bleak for Merck. Even their profit-making anti-cholesterol Zocor drug will lose its patent-protected life next year.

As attorney, Frank Capece is a resident of Cranford.

New youth jail taking shape

By Lauren DeFilippo and Mark Hryvas

Director of Human Services Frank Guzzo will make a special presentation about the construction of a new juvenile detention center during tonight's regular meeting of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The board meets at 7 p.m. on the sixth floor of the Administration Building, Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth.

The freeholders are expected to approve a \$30.1 million bond ordinance for the construction of the new facility in Linden.

Union County purchased the 4-acre property on Edwards Street, off Routes 1&9 near Linden's border with Rahway, last year for \$4.3 million. An 80,000-square-foot, two-story building on site was demolished last fall to make way for construction.

Guzzo gave a similar presentation at the July 20 meeting of the Union County Improvement Authority, which is overseeing the construction of the new center for the county.

Though Guzzo has previously said

that no official timetable has been established for the project, he is expecting a 16- to 18-month construction period. Bids will go out in two to three weeks and are expected back the last week of September.

When the center is completed in 2007, it will be able to house 80 residents, amid four 16-bed pods and two eight-bed pods.

The current juvenile detention center, which was constructed in 1968 on top of the seven-story county parking garage, is capped at a capacity of 34 juveniles.

UCIA Executive Director Charlotte DeFilippo said that if the facility is not full to capacity, then portions of the center will be able to be closed. The new facility, she added, would take into account the City of Linden's and the improvement authority board's request that the structure appear as aesthetically pleasing as possible. The facility will be totally encapitated, she said, and have no fence.

Any recreation will take place on



The new Union County juvenile detention center, to be constructed off Routes 1&9 in Linden, does not look like a typical jail — and it's not supposed to. The new facility looks more like a school, and there is an absence of barbed wire and fences.

the inner courtyard located at the center of the building, Guzzo said. The state has blessed everything done so far. The current rooming location has minimal recreation space for residents.

Overcrowding of up to 50 juveniles at the George W. Herlich Juvenile Detention Center in recent years drew concern from the state juvenile justice Commission, which last year capped the capacity, forcing the county to

send juveniles to other facilities in the state.

May 2003's suicide ignited protests about the conditions at the facility after almost 10 years of studies find a site for a new center.

Second chance on the bench

By Lauren DeFilippo Staff Writer

After a dozen years of waiting, Marianne Epinoza will wear a judge's robe again as a member of the Superior Court of the state of New Jersey.

After serving in temporary Erie County, Epinoza, 47, checked all the boxes and was appointed to the county bench. She has been on the bench with both realists and some whimsy.

"I am very grateful," Senator Lesnik and Governor Corbett, she said. "I'm just so grateful they have a sense of humor."

"And, there is a long history there. In 1993, Epinoza, was ousted from his spot on the bench via senatorial courtesy. In New Jersey, state senators can block judicial nominations in their districts. In Epinoza's case, then-Morris County Sen. John Dorsey voted against granting her a lifetime tenure after her first seven-year term.

"I had to do what I thought was right," she said Friday. "I felt I owed to my father-in-law, and my fellow judges."

Epinoza's father-in-law is the late state Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard J. Hughes.

"During her address, she said that her own parents, who immigrated from Spain and Nicaragua, had a profound influence on her.

"They imbued in me the zeal of an immigrant as well as a deep and abiding pride in the heritage we shared," she said.

Epinoza grew up on Long Island



Marianne Epinoza is sworn in as the newest judge in the state Superior Court of Union County by Assignment Judge Walter Barsonek, while her daughters Meredith and Flanery hold the Bible.

Dorsey refused her appointment because he claimed she was too young. Heigan, who came into her courtroom.

After leaving the bench, Epinoza, now 47 and a mother of two, practiced civil law as an associate at the Newark law firm of Thompson, McGuire, Walsingham and Pary.

Said Sen. Lesnik, "The county school that sent me to prison that a rewarding, in contrast to a 'one-in-a-lifetime' event, and she is the first woman to be appointed to the bench. It's a great honor. I can't guarantee that I will deliver the highest level of justice every day," she said. "I promise you I will try."

Superior Court in Union County after moving to Summit a year ago.

This time around, the state Senate confirmed her nomination by a vote of 34-2, last month. Superior Court judges are appointed first to seven-year terms and then must be reappointed to lifetime tenures. Judges earn an annual salary of \$74,000.

By the same token, Caroselli said the county does not issue nearly as much debt as it's legally allowed to.

According to state statutes, the county can issue debt up to 2 percent of its total assessed valuation over a three-year period. The assessed value of all property in Union County is \$48,874,702,611. The county's debt is currently in the neighborhood of 0.71 percent of that figure.

"We're comfortable with that," Sullivan said.

Some capital projects that sit on the horizon, like the new juvenile detention center and expansion of the Vocational and Technical School in Scotch Plains, could impact the county's future payments, Caroselli said, but there is room to maneuver if need be.

"Usually, we do our best to keep our debt service level," he said.

However, a major change is slated to affect the county's 2008 payments.

In 2007, the county will make the last big payment on the Union County Jail. That last large lease payment, which is approximately \$5 million, Caroselli said, is for a project that was completed more than 15 years ago, financed through the Union County Improvement Authority.

In addition to steady debt payments, the county also takes advantage of the low-interest payments that it is offered based on its favorable bond ratings. Ratings services like Moody's, Standard and Poor's and Fitch have given the county high bond ratings, and that, Caroselli said, attracts investors to come and help development projects along. In fact, Monday afternoon, the county accepted seven bids on a sale of notes, or temporary financing mechanisms.

Debt paid off at \$36M per year

By Lauren DeFilippo Staff Writer

Union County is in good financial health, as far as its debt service payments are concerned, officials said.

The county currently has a debt of \$348,543,435. Of that, \$261,236,000 is currently outstanding.

Freholder Daniel Sullivan, the liaison to the Financial Review Committee, said debt service payments are similar to mortgage payments on a home.

"This year's debt service payment is \$36.8 million, slightly more than last year's payment of \$32.5 million.

"That total includes interest as well as the principal payment," Director of Finance Lawrence Caroselli said.

The county probably pays between \$30 million and \$36 million annually for debt service, Caroselli said.

"It fluctuates all the time," Sullivan said of the county's debt service. "We take on some debt, and we retire some."

"According to Caroselli, all of the county's outstanding debt is to be paid over the next 25 to 30 years.

"It's really just another line item, but one of the items we can control a little more closely than others, because we decide which projects go forward," Sullivan said.

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COUNTY NEWS

Han named coordinator of anti-terror task force

Union County Prosecutor's Office Detective Paul Han has been named to be permanent coordinator of the Union County Counter Terrorism Task Force...



Han

550 E. Broad St., Westfield. The meeting will also be an opportunity for interested persons in the area to find out more about the chapter's activities...

Juvenile committee seeks volunteers

Volunteers are being sought for the Juvenile Conference Committee of the Family Court.

A JCC is a community-based panel that hears matters involving alleged juvenile offenders.

The gathering will be at the Oak Grove picnic area at the loop above Surprise Lake.

For more information, contact the Juvenile Conference Committee, Office of the Court Administrator, Union County Courthouse, 2 Broad St., Elizabeth.

Senior Farmers Market

The Union County Division on Aging in the Department of Human Services is continuing the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program to help senior citizens enjoy the fruits and vegetables of the Garden State's summertime harvest.

The 24x36-inch poster includes 18 historic scenes, taken from vintage postcards in the private collections of Lester Sargent, chief warrant officer for the Union County Sheriff's Office and Charles Shalleross, an Elizabeth resident.

Sargent is president of the Union County Historical Society; Shalleross is a past president. The poster was designed by Matthew DiRado, director of Special Projects and Graphic Compliance for Union County.

"Below each postcard is a short informative description of the photograph and its place in history. The postcards show the evolution of the county complex and of Midtown Elizabeth over the past 100 years," said Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppe, chairwoman of the Union County Courthouse Centennial Committee.

The earliest photo is an 1890 shot of the previous courthouse, which was built in 1811. Other photos include the current courthouse, which opened in 1905 and saw additions in 1927 and 1933.

The posters are available for \$10 each, with proceeds going to pay for Courthouse Centennial programs and the preservation of historic artifacts.

Posters can be obtained by calling 908-527-4787 or in person at the Union County Clerk's Office, Union County Courthouse, Old Annex, first floor, Elizabeth, 07207.

Payment may be made by cash or a personal check made out to "Union County Courthouse Centennial Committee." To have the poster shipped, include a postage and handling fee of \$2.25.

The Courthouse Centennial Committee and the Board of Chosen Freeholders are hosting an ongoing series of activities celebrating the Union County Courthouse's 100 years as a center of law, justice and government in Union County.

Pool hours for Walter E. Ulrich Pool are Monday and Wednesday from 11 to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Pool hours for John Russell Wheeler Pool will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1 to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

County Courthouse's 100 years as a center of law, justice and government in Union County. A Courthouse Centennial and Cornerstone Capsule Exhibit will be on display through Dec. 9. The exhibit includes unique artifacts from a time capsule buried in 1903 as well as memorabilia celebrating the past 100 years of history in Union County.

This summer will be the third year of the Union County Summer Youth Rugby Program. Boys and girls from any town in the county kindergarten through eighth grade are eligible to participate in the Summer Youth Program.

Unlike the traditional game of rugby, flag rugby is a non-contact alternative that is designed as a safe and enjoyable way of introducing rugby to young people.

Kids wear removable Velcro flags instead of being tackled. The game emphasizes athletic skills, such as running, kicking, passing, teamwork, self-confidence, good sportsmanship and fun.

Last summer over 100 youngsters played youth flag rugby in Cranford and Berkeley Heights. This year the program has expanded into Westfield. Children can play in any town they wish, regardless of where they live.

To participate in the non contact youth flag rugby program, players must be between 5 and 13 years old. No previous flag rugby experience is required to participate.

There are four different age-based teams; The Owls ages 5 and 6, Falcons 7 and 8, Hawks 9 and 10 and the Eagles 11 to 13; all teams are co-ed. The players are taught more rugby skills as the age level increases.

The youngest age group focuses on fun and simple rugby concepts. The skills progress to passing and defense with the older age groups, with the oldest age group learning rugby skills such as rucking. All age groups are introduced to skills such as lineouts, scrums and drop kicking conversion tries.

The games are played with 10 to 15 minutes halves with a running clock. All players participate equally and should a player have to miss a game or practice they will still fully participate when they return.

The season will begin on or about June 21 so that it will not interfere with any other spring sports or school activities and will conclude on July 30. Practices for all the teams will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

The Cranford-based team will practice at Unami field, while the Berkeley Heights team will practice at Columbia Middle School and practice for the Westfield team will be at Edison Junior School.

To make it easier for parents, all games are held Saturday mornings. The season runs for six weeks and will include home and away matches between all three teams and two road trips. The season will conclude with all the teams playing in the American Flag Youth Rugby Festival, in Morris County, which is the largest youth flag rugby tournament in the nation.

Registration for the youth flag team is \$60 and \$50 for each additional sibling. Included with the registration fee are a shirt, socks, shorts and a rugby ball which the child keeps. Applications can be downloaded online at www.muhlenberg.org and the Youth Program section. Simply fill it out and mail it in with the entry fee.

For more information, call Tim Dobbs, director of Youth Rugby at 973-540-8503 or 973-615-2814, cell, or e-mail tdobbsale@attglobal.net and tdobbs@optonline.net.

After spending nearly 20 years in corporate finance with mid-sized entrepreneurial driven companies, Precull, 45, and a resident of Westfield, decided, "I just didn't want to do it for someone else anymore."

Taking a page out of his own book, he investigated a variety of businesses and became intrigued by the sign industry and how he could apply his business experience to an arena that is usually considered pretty straightforward.

The result was the opening of SignSource in Clark last June, specializing in eye-catching custom signs and graphics.

Enter Joe Dooley and Bill Gehring, members of the Union County Police & Fire Pipes and Drum Band, a popular staple of local Memorial Day parades, graduations, and the Bristol Independence Day parade, the oldest in the nation.

Dooley and Gehring approached Precull with a problem common to all bands — whether pipe, marching, or entertainment.

"I, and many of my fellow drummers, have gotten frustrated that our best advertising — the logo image on our bass drums — could cost us sound quality," said Gehring, who serves as bass drummer for Union County as well as Leatherneck Pipes & Drums and St. Columille's United Gaelic Pipe Band.

"Some of our best advertising opportunities — playing in parades — help fund our projects and travel for the year. But competition against other pipe and drum bands is also important, so we're very sensitive to sound quality. Until now, we have had to choose between image and sound because the traditional methods of applying an image to the drum head — painting it on, for example — have altered the sound. Sacrificing either is not desirable."

Precull and his graphic artist, Doug Marzighiano, teamed their graphics knowledge and research with Dooley and Gehring's knowledge of drums and, over the course of a couple of months, developed an entirely new method of graphics application that can be used on any bass drum. They developed a process whereby a band's logo is placed on the inside of a clear drumhead. The graphics are vivid and there is virtually no change in sound quality.

"SignSource's innovative process has been so successful that they have now completed orders for not only the Union County Police & Fire Pipes and Drums, but also the Leathernecks, St. Columille's, Suffern United Pipe Band, the Middlesex County Police & Fire Pipes & Drums and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 164 Pipes & Drums as well.

Club offers co-ed flag rugby during summer

The Union County Rugby Football Club is currently recruiting players for its summer co-ed non-contact flag rugby program.

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To make it easier for parents, all games are held Saturday mornings. The season runs for six weeks and will include home and away matches between all three teams and two road trips. The season will conclude with all the teams playing in the American Flag Youth Rugby Festival, in Morris County, which is the largest youth flag rugby tournament in the nation.

Registration for the youth flag team is \$60 and \$50 for each additional sibling. Included with the registration fee are a shirt, socks, shorts and a rugby ball which the child keeps. Applications can be downloaded online at www.muhlenberg.org and the Youth Program section. Simply fill it out and mail it in with the entry fee.

For more information, call Tim Dobbs, director of Youth Rugby at 973-540-8503 or 973-615-2814, cell, or e-mail tdobbsale@attglobal.net and tdobbs@optonline.net.

After spending nearly 20 years in corporate finance with mid-sized entrepreneurial driven companies, Precull, 45, and a resident of Westfield, decided, "I just didn't want to do it for someone else anymore."

Taking a page out of his own book, he investigated a variety of businesses and became intrigued by the sign industry and how he could apply his business experience to an arena that is usually considered pretty straightforward.

The result was the opening of SignSource in Clark last June, specializing in eye-catching custom signs and graphics.

Enter Joe Dooley and Bill Gehring, members of the Union County Police & Fire Pipes and Drum Band, a popular staple of local Memorial Day parades, graduations, and the Bristol Independence Day parade, the oldest in the nation.

Dooley and Gehring approached Precull with a problem common to all bands — whether pipe, marching, or entertainment.

"I, and many of my fellow drummers, have gotten frustrated that our best advertising — the logo image on our bass drums — could cost us sound quality," said Gehring, who serves as bass drummer for Union County as well as Leatherneck Pipes & Drums and St. Columille's United Gaelic Pipe Band.

"Some of our best advertising opportunities — playing in parades — help fund our projects and travel for the year. But competition against other pipe and drum bands is also important, so we're very sensitive to sound quality. Until now, we have had to choose between image and sound because the traditional methods of applying an image to the drum head — painting it on, for example — have altered the sound. Sacrificing either is not desirable."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Ups and downs of the art of acting inspire comedy at Kean

By Jeff Cummins Associate Editor

If someone has a life's dream, how long should they follow it before taking an easier road?

This is just one of the questions posed in Susan Barsky's "Owed to my First Love," being presented by Premiere Stages at Kean University's Wilkins Theatre.

The play, which will be performed by the Wilkins Theatre at Kean University, focuses on the frustration faced by an actor struggling to make his way.

Yet, Barsky's play raises additional questions about ethics in business, as well as the challenges of personal and professional relationships, questions to which there are no simple answers.

Nick Farco plays the role of John, a young, aspiring actor who has already passed up the promise of law school for the one-in-a-million hope of achieving stardom in the entertainment field.

Farco excels at showing the wide range of emotions an actor endures in his quest for success.

Farco masterfully shows the range of emotions an aspiring actor goes through, from the nervous uncertainty he exudes while performing — unintentionally — in a pornographic movie, to the cynically aggressive persona he takes on toward the end of the production when he attempts to con an old girlfriend into giving him the phone number of a big director, under the pretense of lobbying him to give her an important role.

At the beginning of the play, two characters who will be close friends of John are introduced, with Christine Albright playing Stacey and Keith Arthur Bolden playing Alex. Stacey is John's girlfriend for part of the play, and their first meeting together illustrates the nerves that get involved when two people meet for the first time. After Albright's Stacey initially seems dismissive of John, the two develop a chemistry of sorts. Throughout the production, Albright exhibits many of the emotions actors go through. At first, she's sincere and optimistic, yet nervous at the same time.

Later, she tries to show compassion when dumping John for another guy, and their final scene together, when John attempts to get her to give him the director's phone number, was excellent. Albright showed Stacey's vulnerable side, a marked departure from her nervous, but confident beginning.

Bolden's character exuded the confidence of a veteran actor at all times throughout the play. Bolden acts with a self-confidence that borders on a swagger, which was perfect for the character of Alex. Like Albright, his first and last scenes with Farco are memorable. In their first scene together, Bolden's Alex tells Farco's John that he'll need to wait tables to survive while he's breaking in as a waiter, leading to a scene where John gives liners to the specials on the night's menu. Bolden and Farco shine in their last scene, in which the jealousy between competitors rears its ugly head, as Bolden celebrates a role in a long-running play, prompting Farco to respond angrily.

The resulting damage to their friendship feels real, and the audience senses the frustration that comes not only with failing to achieve success in one's craft, but with allowing emotions felt in the moment to end a personal relationship.

But the genius of Barsky's play really truly emerges in the play's final scene, when John, disheartened by so many past failures, tears up a business card given to him by a director who possesses the power to make John a star.

"Owed to my First Love," features professional Actors' Equity Association cast, and will run in the Wilkins Theatre Thursday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and a matinee will start at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

To order tickets, call 908-773-7469. For more information, log on to www.kean.edu/premierestages.

Nick Farco, surrounded by the cast of "Owed to my First Love," being performed at the Wilkins Theatre at Kean University in Union.

Nick Farco, Keith Arthur Bolden and Andrea Bianchi in "Owed to my First Love," being performed by Premiere Stages at Wilkins Theatre in Union at Kean University.

Marivaux's humor relieves the summer's oppressive atmosphere

By Ruth Ross Correspondent

"The Triumph of Love," the frothy comedy now being performed by the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey at the outdoor amphitheater at St. Elizabeth College, is a welcome respite from the blistering heat and humidity of the past few weeks.

This screwball farce by the most popular and successful master of 18th century French comedy, Pierre-Claude de Marivaux, will have your head spinning as you follow the machinations of a beautiful princess in her quest to win the heart of Agis, a handsome youth brought up in seclusion by a Stoic philosopher named Hermocrite. To do so, the Princess Leonide must worm her way into the philosopher's fortress-estate — and heart, using her agile mind and feminine — and masculine — wiles, and the fun begins!

It seems that, while walking in the forest, the Princess has spied Agis, the rightful heir to the kingdom she rules, and fallen in love at first sight. Her sense of fair play leads her to plot to woo him, wed him and restore him to the throne. To gain access, the Princess disguises herself and her saucy maid as two men, Phocion and Hermidas, respectively, and presents herself with the intent of studying with the learned Hermocrite, a plan doomed to failure because Hermocrite, his sister and his ward, Agis, have withdrawn from the world, from members of the opposite sex and from, of course, affairs of the heart.

Without giving away too much of the fun, suffice it to say that the Princess' woe, Hermocrite's sister, Leonie, as Phocion; Hermocrite him-

self as a fugitive from the "wicked Princess" named Aspasia; and Agis, first, as Phocion, seeking friendship, and then, when she reveals herself as a woman, as Aspasia. Her keeping these three balls in the air makes for much merriment, leading to the happy ending so necessary to comedy. Adding to the confusion are two lower class characters, the wily jester Harlequin and the gardener Dimas, who mangles the language to understand the truth.

But it's Pamela Vogel as Leonie who almost seals the show. Prim and proper in the beginning, she sits up a tad straighter and preens a bit as the Princess/Phocion raves about a beautiful woman she supposedly spied in the garden — her — and her painful smile is more a squiggle across her face than an up-turned expression of joy. By the end of the play, she has shed her Puritan weeds and become a pretty woman — the result of unlocking the "formidable" fortress that surrounds her heart.

Bonnie J. Monte's translation has preserved Marivaux's signature flirtatious bantering tone to give us something to take our minds off the oppressive heat. "The Triumph of Love" may be a bit of fluff, but it certainly shows the transformative power of love to bring us out of our own self-imposed worlds to connect with others. That it's done with great style and wit makes the experience all the more satisfying.

"The Triumph of Love" will be performed in the Greek Theatre on the campus of St. Elizabeth College in Convent Station through Aug. 7. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8:15 p.m. and Sundays at 7:15 p.m. Tonight, Miller and Monte will present an insightful pre-performance talk from 7 to 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, there will be a post-show discussion with the cast and artistic staff. Audience members are encouraged to bring a picnic; snacks and soft drinks are available for purchase and stadium seat cushions may be rented for a nominal price. For information and tickets, call the box office at 973-408-5600 or visit www.ShakespeareNJ.org.

Ruth Ross reviews theater for Worrall Community Newspapers.

Healthy Living

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ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE B8

HOROSCOPES

Aug. 1 to 7

ARIES, March 21 to April 19: A social or romantic relationship is stressful, yet enlightening. Keep the avenues of communication open and lay the foundation for a solid friendship.

TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: Enjoy sharing the fruits of your labor with friends and family. Plan a special celebration and include lots of food, drink and merriment.

GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: A criticism from a concerned party is not meant to hurt you. If the shoe fits, be willing to wear it until you have learned your lesson or outgrown it.

CANCER, June 22 to July 22: Do not waste time or money in an attempt to buy love or happiness. Instead, use kindness or a gentle approach to impress and charm a loved one.

LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: Seize the reins of leadership and see how far you can go. Motivate those around you with your confidence and sheer determination to win.

VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: Make an attempt to get in touch with some one who has been on your mind a lot recently. Pick up the phone and seek information as well as closure.

PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: Take a much deserved break from hard labor, chores or duties. Fill your leisure time this week with hobbies or activities that you find really enjoyable.

LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: You will discover laughter and good cheer can be very contagious. Spread your optimism and high hopes among your best friends and associates.

SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Someone in a position of authority takes you under his or her wing. Head their thought-provoking comments or advice.

SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: Do some homework and come up with a well-researched solution to a complicated dilemma. Know your options and make an informed decision.

CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: It is important to plan for your retirement. Explore your current investment opportunities and think in terms of what will be good over the long haul.

AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: Avoid making false promises or using manipulation to gain control of loved ones. Keep in mind, you can gain their respect and trust with honesty.

If your birthday is this week, be prepared for a period of expansion, learning or exposure to new ideas and concepts during the coming year. The circumstances of your life have changed so drastically over the prior year that you hardly know who you are anymore. Take time to grow into your new life and to re-establish your goals. Dare to dream big and uncover the key to your own personal happiness.

Also born this week: Francis Scott Key, Myra Loy, Martha Stewart, Billy Bob Thornton, Neil Armstrong, Louis Leakey and Dustin Hoffman.

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY July 31st, 2005
EVENT: Flea Market & Collectible Show
PLACE: Frank Vincent Marina, Passaic Avenue, (next to Burger King), Keamy, TIME: 9-5PM Outdoors
DETAILS: New merchandise, crafts, collectibles, and paragon sale items.
FOR INFORMATION: Call 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Sponsor By: Keamy Rotary

RUMMAGE SALE SUNDAY August 7th 2005
EVENT: Rummage Sale
PLACE: Temple Sha'arey Shalom, 75 South Springfield Ave., Springfield, TIME: 9:00-2:00, 5:00-7:30
PRICE: Free Admission. Something for everyone. \$5-Brown Bag Night Sunday evening. Bargains galore, clothing, linens, books, housewares, toys, etc.
ORGANIZATION: Sisterhood Temple Sha'arey Shalom

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REUNIONS

The following schools will conduct reunions in the coming months:

- Scotch Plains High School Class of 1975, 30-year reunion, 2005.
- 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.
- Linden High School, Class of 1955, will hold its 50th reunion celebration dinner on Oct. 29 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 36 Valley Road, Clark.
- For more information, contact Janet Melley Patrick at 732-458-8843, or Janice Cabary Wenk at 332-370-4103.
- Orange High School Class of 1950 is having its 55th reunion on Sept. 28 at the Essex House on Northfield Road in West Orange. Contact Bob Rizzo for information at 973-736-1320.
- The cost is \$32 per person.
- South Side High School Class of 1935 will hold its 70th reunion on Sept. 28 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Appian Way Restaurant, 619 Langdon St., Orange.
- There will be a cash bar. Reservations are \$30 per person.
- Make checks payable to South Side High School Alumni and mail them to Allan G. Katz, 170 Forest Hill Road, West Orange, NJ 07052-3921.
- All graduates from the 1930s are welcome to attend.
- For more information, call Allan Katz at 973-731-6475, or Arnold Minsky at 908-688-4659.
- Anyone with information on missing classmates should contact these two men.

Sell Your Home UNION CLASSIFIEDS CALL 908-686-7850
 Search your local classifieds on the internet www.localsource.com

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 Union Office (1291 Sijoyes Ave) by 4:00 PM on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisement may also be placed at our other offices, 266 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 463 Valley St. N. Maplewood. For more information call 908-686-7850

WORRALL NEWSPAPERS

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, NJ 07046. Faxes may be sent to 973-763-2557.**

Stepping Out

CLASSES

THE DUCRET SCHOOL OF ART is located at 1030 Central Ave. and is situated on a seven-acre campus in a historic residential area of Plainfield. The school offers full-time and part-time day and evening classes in fine art, graphic design, computer graphics and illustration.

For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-361-2535 or 908-241-8492.

THE "SUMMIT" INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS group has begun a new season with sessions on Fridays at 8 p.m. at the Conectoria, 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 973-487-8278 for information and a flyer listing the season schedule.

LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM on Morris Avenue in Union has scheduled its popular Lunch and Learn series, which is free to members of the public who are invited to bring their lunch and learn. Lunch and Learn takes place on a Tuesday from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Space is limited, so call 908-527-0400 for your reservation.

Liberty Hall Museum, 1003 Morris Ave., Union, chronicles more than 200 years of New Jersey and U.S. history. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m., April through December. For more information about upcoming Liberty Hall events or for reservations call 908-527-0400.

THE NEW SCULPTURE STUDIO of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts has prepared an expanded curriculum. The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts will be offering a new stone carving course for the fall 2005 semester. Classes start Sept. 12. Call 908-273-9121 for information.

ART SHOWS

"LARGE SCALE WORKS FROM 1990-1994" by Gayle Ruskin-White will be on exhibit through today at Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For more information, call 908-739-9155.

AN EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS by award-winning realist artist Paul Casale will run through Sunday 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, chrysope, beach scenes and figurative work will be on display.

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 973-574-1818.

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 90 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/>.

ROBERT KAPLOW will sign copies of his book, "Me & Orson Welles," on Saturday at 4 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble in Springfield. The book features a star-studded New Jersey cast and promises to provide an inside look at the room for young Bob Kaplow at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-378-6581.

Web site: <http://www.watchingarts.com> or <http://www.watchingarts.com/Arts/Arts.html>

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 info@watchingarts.com.

Web site: <http://www.watchingarts.com/Arts/Arts.html>

HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRYSTAL will appear at the Barnes & Noble in Springfield today at 11:30 a.m. Colorful fun follows the story of Harold and the Purple Crystal by David Johnson. Children are invited for a "very colorful" day. Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-378-6581.

NEW WRITER'S NIGHT at the Springfield Barnes & Noble features Irvington's Póla Lauretis, Craig Gember, author of "A Poetic Twist of Fate" and "A Poetic Quest for Faith," who will join Terry Pringle-Khalil of Newark, a successful entrepreneur, and Divya Sood of Westfield, an award-winning short-story writer, for a "New Writer's Night" discussion and signing. Their latest books, on Aug. 11 from 8 to 8 p.m. Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-378-6581.

CHICK-LIT BOOK CLUB at the Springfield Barnes & Noble on Aug. 17 from 7 to 8 p.m. features "The Girl on the Train" by Susan Hubbard to discuss her latest novel, "Lisa Marie Takes Off." Hubbard is the author of "Lisa Marie's Guide for the Perplexed," the prequel to this book, as well as "Wishing on a Leaf" and "Blue Moby-Dick." Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-378-6581.

WEEKLY STORY TIMES are presented every Monday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Springfield Barnes & Noble. Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-378-6581.

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank IC Henry School, Raritan Road, Clark. The fee for each lesson is \$4.

CONCERTS

MEET THE ORCHESTRA concert series continues at the Suburban Community Music Center, 570 Central Ave., Murray Hill. For the 18th year, the Suburban Community Music Center, in cooperation with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, will host the Meet the Orchestra series for children ages 3 to 8.

For more information, call 908-700-0700.

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DISCUSSION

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, 833 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202, call 908-556-2550, Relay users dial 711; or send inquiries via e-mail to culturalinfo@uconj.org.

INTERNET

THE INTERNET LOUNGE, 256 South Ave., Fairwood, hosts an Open Mic Karaoke Night on Sundays at 7 p.m. Join the group for a cup of gourmet coffee and a wide variety of organic foods and participate in an original poetry reading, a stand-up comedy routine or a musical number. There's no cover charge, and patrons can come in, make new friends, surf the Web, play a game of Dialecto, Never/Win/Never/Nights, WarCraft or Counter-Strike. To ask about a schedule of events, call 908-490-1234 or visit its Web site: www.theinternetlounge.com.

FILMS

THE PURPLE VIOLET FILM FESTIVAL, an innovative event established by Kean University, will provide professional and student filmmakers with an opportunity to have their work seen and embraced by a large audience. Selected works will be presented in the O'Meara Auditorium, located in Hutchinson Hall, at Kean University over two days in October. Three of the films showcased will be selected for a more formal viewing in the 950-seat Wilkins Theatre on the third and final day of the festival. Winners will be selected in three categories: feature, documentary and student, and each of those individuals will be awarded a prize of \$1,000. A reception for the filmmakers follows the screening.

To receive more information about the Purple Violet Film Festival, go to www.kean.edu/premierestages to download an application, visit www.kean.edu/premierestages.

POP TRIO GROOVELY will be presented by the Paper Mill Playhouse and the Millburn Recreation Commission in a three-day cabaret at Taylor Park, 100 Main St., in Millburn on Sunday at 7 p.m.

For further information, call Rich Ferraro at 212-695-7400, ext. 22.

HOBBIES

THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB INC. meets at 295 Jefferson Ave., Union, behind Home Depot on Route 22 East. The club is open to the public Saturdays from 10 to 4 p.m. For information, call 908-464-9724, or 908-964-8808, send inquiries via e-mail to TMRCinc@aol.com or visit the Web site at www.tmrc.com.

THE HARVEST QUILTERS OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY will meet the first

DANCE

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank IC Henry School, Raritan Road, Clark. The fee for each lesson is \$4.

CLASSES

THE DUCRET SCHOOL OF ART is located at 1030 Central Ave. and is situated on a seven-acre campus in a historic residential area of Plainfield. The school offers full-time and part-time day and evening classes in fine art, graphic design, computer graphics and illustration.

For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-361-2535 or 908-241-8492.

THE "SUMMIT" INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS group has begun a new season with sessions on Fridays at 8 p.m. at the Conectoria, 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 973-487-8278 for information and a flyer listing the season schedule.

LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM on Morris Avenue in Union has scheduled its popular Lunch and Learn series, which is free to members of the public who are invited to bring their lunch and learn. Lunch and Learn takes place on a Tuesday from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Space is limited, so call 908-527-0400 for your reservation.

Liberty Hall Museum, 1003 Morris Ave., Union, chronicles more than 200 years of New Jersey and U.S. history. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m., April through December. For more information about upcoming Liberty Hall events or for reservations call 908-527-0400.

THE NEW SCULPTURE STUDIO of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts has prepared an expanded curriculum. The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts will be offering a new stone carving course for the fall 2005 semester. Classes start Sept. 12. Call 908-273-9121 for information.

CONCERTS

MEET THE ORCHESTRA concert series continues at the Suburban Community Music Center, 570 Central Ave., Murray Hill. For the 18th year, the Suburban Community Music Center, in cooperation with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, will host the Meet the Orchestra series for children ages 3 to 8.

For more information, call 908-700-0700.

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 info@watchingarts.com.

Web site: <http://www.watchingarts.com/Arts/Arts.html>

HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRYSTAL will appear at the Barnes & Noble in Springfield today at 11:30 a.m. Colorful fun follows the story of Harold and the Purple Crystal by David Johnson. Children are invited for a "very colorful" day. Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-378-6581.

NEW WRITER'S NIGHT at the Springfield Barnes & Noble features Irvington's Póla Lauretis, Craig Gember, author of "A Poetic Twist of Fate" and "A Poetic Quest for Faith," who will join Terry Pringle-Khalil of Newark, a successful entrepreneur, and Divya Sood of Westfield, an award-winning short-story writer, for a "New Writer's Night" discussion and signing. Their latest books, on Aug. 11 from 8 to 8 p.m. Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-378-6581.

CHICK-LIT BOOK CLUB at the Springfield Barnes & Noble on Aug. 17 from 7 to 8 p.m. features "The Girl on the Train" by Susan Hubbard to discuss her latest novel, "Lisa Marie Takes Off." Hubbard is the author of "Lisa Marie's Guide for the Perplexed," the prequel to this book, as well as "Wishing on a Leaf" and "Blue Moby-Dick." Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-378-6581.

WEEKLY STORY TIMES are presented every Monday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Springfield Barnes & Noble. Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-378-6581.

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank IC Henry School, Raritan Road, Clark. The fee for each lesson is \$4.

RADIO

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.

SCRIPTS

PREMIERE STAGES, the new Actors' Equity Association theater program at Kean University, is currently accepting play submissions for the Premiere Stages Play Festival from professional playwrights born or currently residing in New Jersey, as well as in the surrounding areas of New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. There is no fee required to submit a play to the Premiere Stages Play Festival. To request entry guidelines, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Laura Kelly, producing assistant, Premiere Stages at Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union, N.J. 07083.

The Back Porch is located at 605 Main St., Rahway.

For information, call 732-381-6996.

CROSSROADS, 78 North Ave., Garwood, presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts, as well as food-themed nights.

Every Sunday: Live comedy, funk and poetry; Live at Instant Coffee, 8 p.m.

Every Monday: Open Mic Night, 8:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday: Jazz Jam; all pints, \$2.

Every Wednesday: Karaoke Night; Miller Lite and MG0; \$2 all night.

Every Thursday: Fiesta Night; Corona, Cuervo and margaritas; \$2 all night.

For information, call 908-232-5696 or visit www.crossroads.com.

MOLLY MAGUIRE'S IRISH PUB in Clark will present entertainment in the comfort of Molly Maguire's. The pub is located at 1085 Central Ave., Clark. For information, call 732-388-6511.

SECOND SATURDAYS COFFEEHOUSE will take place the second Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Summit Unitarian Church, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit. Featured will be an "open mic" forum of music, poetry, comedy and performance art. Refreshments are served. Admission is \$4. Talent is sought for future dates.

For information, call 908-928-0127 or send an e-mail to info@secondsaturs.com.

VAN GOGH'S EAR, 1017 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, will present a series of musical events. Tuesdays are "Acoustic Tuesdays," some of which feature open mic from 8 to 9 p.m. for folk singers, poets and comedians. All songs, poems and comedians will be judged by a "Blindfolded" panel. Open mic participants sign up at 7:30 p.m. and get 10 minutes at the microphone. Jazz and blues are featured Sundays at 8 p.m. The cover charge is \$3 for all Sunday concerts, unless otherwise noted. For information, call 908-810-1844.

THE CONCORD SINGERS, a unique, non-auditioning women's community chorus, seeks new members. Rehearsals are Mondays from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit.

For more information, call Debra Boyman at 908-771-0978 or visit the Web site, www.concordingers.org.

VARIETY

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mic Night every Friday night, a disc jockey every Friday night and solo artists and bands on Saturdays.

Happy Hour is 4 to 7 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, with \$1 drafts and \$3 Long Island iced teas. Mondays are Mexican Mondays with \$2 shot specials; \$2 Coronas, \$2 margaritas and \$1 teaco. Wednesdays are Ladies' Nights and Karaoke.

SINGLES

DINNERMATES and **EDUCATION** 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 location, call 732-822-9798 or visit www.dinnermates.com.

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call 908-889-8265 or 908-889-4751.

SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING for 45-year-olds and older, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Yankee Buffet Grand Ballroom, 2680 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is \$7. For information, call 908-686-9818.

THEATER

"OLIVER" will be performed by the Mystic Village Players through Sunday at the Linden High School auditorium. Tickets are \$15 with reservation, \$10 with children, and \$17 at the door, \$12 with children. For information, call 908-325-9088.

THE KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY will present its second annual "The Bard on the Boulevard" outdoor summer Shakespeare festival. Performances in the series include "Richard III" on Sunday and "Love's Labour's Lost" on Aug. 14. All performances are free and open to all members of the general public. Because seating will be provided, the public is encouraged to bring lawn chairs or other portable seating. Blankets and beach towels are not recommended. In the event of rain, the performance will be moved indoors to the Kenilworth Public Library at 548 Boulevard. For more information, call the Kenilworth Public Library at 908-276-2451.

THE THEATER PROJECT IN CRANFORD will present "Jackie, An American Life" which continues through Sunday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m., and Sunday at 3 p.m. General admission is \$20. On Thursdays, tickets are \$12. Student tickets are always \$10. Reservations are recommended.

For more information, call Debra Boyman at 908-771-0978 or visit the Web site, www.concordingers.org.

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AUTOMOTIVE

Cobalt is a good ride, but lacks style

Jerry Garrett
Copley News Service

Cobalt is which of the following:
A) An ingredient in Vegemite, Australia's equivalent of peanut butter mixed with poi.
B) A radioactive metal found in meteorites.
C) A salt used to turn glass blue.
D) A vitamin-based flavoring in Marmite, the English sandwich spread.
E) The latest incarnation of Chevrolet's Cavalier.

The answer, interestingly enough, is all of the above.

When it came time for the next-generation Cavalier, people like GM's co-chairman Robert Lutz felt the new model shouldn't arrive loaded with Cavalier baggage. It deserved a fresh start.

Some in GM argued, "We sold 6 million Cavaliers, so this is a success we need to keep going."

But in its last years, the quality of trim pieces, construction and drivability all lagged the imports.

Wisely, GM decided to have a private graveside service for the Cavalier name, and before the body was even cold, they replaced it with the name Cobalt, a metallic chemical element said to be "lustrous."

After driving a Cobalt, we're not sure the name fits.

Lutz's strategy for GM seems to be emerging as a two-step process: fix the cars first, fix the styling after that. We've seen that strategy played out so far in new models such as the Buick LaCrosse, Pontiac G6 and Chevrolet Malibu.

They're vast improvements over the vehicles they are replacing, but with underwhelming new styling. And isn't that an ironic twist for Lutz, probably the auto industry's leading proponent of bold styling?

The first thing you need to know about Chevy's Cobalt, says a GM press release, is that it is the company's latest "no compromises" vehicle.

Chevrolet says the Cobalt development process started with a 150-point "wish list" that engineers drew up.

Not on that list, however, was a double wishbone rear suspension, six-speed manual or five-speed automatic transmissions and standard ABS on all models.

Want to compete head-to-head with the likes of the Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla, Ford Focus and Volkswagen Jetta? Those are the types of features the competition can showcase. Not all do.

In Cobalt's defense, it does offer a few things the other guys don't. Like, the most powerful base engine, with its 145-horse 2.2-liter Ecotec four.

An upgraded 2.0-liter supercharged version in the top-of-the-line SS coupe, with 205 horsepower, blows the competition away—especially with the 200 foot-pounds of torque that also come with it. That does come at an enveloping cost premium, however.

Cobalt, Chevy says, is the class leader in NVH, or noise, vibration and harshness measurements. Based on our test drive of it through California's serpentine but lovely central coast wine country, Chevy might be right. It's a surprisingly quiet ride, even in base trim.

"We aim to be the class leader in NVH, power, ride and handling," says Brent Dewar, Chevy's general manager.

Three out of four isn't bad. Not that the Cobalt handles all that badly. The coupes, some of which come with sport-tuned suspensions, stick to the road rather well. The coupes without that pricey option and all the sedans still have road-holding issues when pushed to the limit.

But all in all, the Cobalt is a significant leap, if not a quantum one, above the Cavalier.

Most-lasting impression of the Cobalt? The sense of quiet stability that comes with extensive use of laminated "quiet steel" panels, as in the recently introduced LaCrosse, and a lot more sound-deadening materials.

Interior treatments are generally higher quality than last year's Cavalier, but the fake wood trim in the up-rated luxury interior is not much of an enhancement.

The fabric-covered seats also seem more comfortable than the more expensive optional leather ones. The best seats, by the way, are the form-fitting Recaro buckets in the SS coupe.

Styling-wise, the Cobalt is pleasant looking, if not a knockout. The grille treatment is the most finely detailed Chevy nose job since the division's styling heydays ended circa 1966. The

SS is truly a stylish ride with its lowered stance, "show-n-shine" 18-inch wheels and sporty spoiler.

And finally, there's no faulting in the power of the counter-balanced Ecotec.

Even when mated to the not-exactly-cutting-edge four-speed automatic or five-speed manual, the delivery of power is smooth and the gearing logically placed. These transmissions, by the way, rate a tip of the cap for their industry-leading reliability.

The supercharged model is all kinds of fun, if pricey.

The entire Cobalt line advances up the pricing scale — another benefit of cutting the cord completely from the Cavalier.

Gone is the blue-light special coupe that started at \$10,135. The lowest-priced model is the base coupe or sedan at \$14,190. The LS coupe or sedan is \$16,485; the LT sedan is \$18,760. The SS model starts at \$21,995.

The top-of-the-line Cavalier, the old SS sport, used to base out at \$17,525.

It remains to be seen how compelling the buying public will consider the Cobalt. But when they are offered the keys to one at Budget car rental, there's no longer a need to upgrade to a midsize.

2005 Chevrolet Cobalt
Body style: Compact, five-passenger, front-wheel drive coupe or sedan
Engine: 2.2-liter DOHC four-valve I-4, optional 2.0-liter supercharged DOHC four-valve I-4
Horsepower: 145 at 5,600 rpm, 2.0, 205 at 5,600
Torque: 155 foot-pounds at 4,000 rpm, 2.0, 200 at 4,400
Transmission: Four-speed automatic with overdrive, optional: five-speed manual with overdrive
EPA fuel economy estimates: 24 mpg city, 32 highway, automatic; manual, 25/34; SS, 23/29
Fuel capacity: 13.2 gallons; 87 octane
Cargo volume: 13.9 cubic feet
Front head/leg/shoulder room: 38.7/42/53 inches
Rear head/leg/shoulder room: 35.7/32.2/49 inches
Length: 180.5 inches
Wheelbase: 103.3 inches
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TRANSLATOR LT 4 dr, 2.0L I4, auto, 110 hrs, power windows, air, alloy wheels, 15" steel wheels, BSW tires, VIN#5WZ1S192, MSRP \$16,100 \$14,810 FORD FAMILY PLAN PRICE \$2500 BEST OFFER	TRANSLATOR LT 4 dr, 2.0L I4, auto, 110 hrs, power windows, air, alloy wheels, 15" steel wheels, BSW tires, VIN#5WZ1S192, MSRP \$16,100 \$14,810 FORD FAMILY PLAN PRICE \$2500 BEST OFFER	TRANSLATOR LT 4 dr, 2.0L I4, auto, 110 hrs, power windows, air, alloy wheels, 15" steel wheels, BSW tires, VIN#5WZ1S192, MSRP \$16,100 \$14,810 FORD FAMILY PLAN PRICE \$2500 BEST OFFER
TRANSLATOR LT 4 dr, 2.0L I4, auto, 110 hrs, power windows, air, alloy wheels, 15" steel wheels, BSW tires, VIN#5WZ1S192, MSRP \$16,100 \$14,810 FORD FAMILY PLAN PRICE \$2500 BEST OFFER	TRANSLATOR LT 4 dr, 2.0L I4, auto, 110 hrs, power windows, air, alloy wheels, 15" steel wheels, BSW tires, VIN#5WZ1S192, MSRP \$16,100 \$14,810 FORD FAMILY PLAN PRICE \$2500 BEST OFFER	TRANSLATOR LT 4 dr, 2.0L I4, auto, 110 hrs, power windows, air, alloy wheels, 15" steel wheels, BSW tires, VIN#5WZ1S192, MSRP \$16,100 \$14,810 FORD FAMILY PLAN PRICE \$2500 BEST OFFER

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\$10,928

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\$17,928

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\$18,928

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<p>2002 CHEVROLET MALIBU 4DR 6 cyl, auto, a/c, p/str/brks/seats, am/fm/cd, cruise, tilt/mirrs, 18,267 mi. Stk#6614. VIN#2M009390.</p> <p>\$10,528</p>	<p>2003 CHEVROLET MALIBU 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, cd, alum whls, 34,510 mi. Stk#6833. VIN#3A693113.</p> <p>\$11,928</p>	<p>2003 MITSUBISHI GALANT LS 4DR 4 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds/lks/a/c, am/stereo, 14,316 mi. Stk#50842A. VIN#3E056675.</p> <p>\$11,928</p>	<p>2001 NISSAN ALTIMA GLX 4DR 4 cyl, auto, a/c, p/str/brks/seats, am/fm/cd, cruise, tilt, leather, 31,325 mi. Stk#50858A. VIN#5B118929.</p> <p>\$12,928</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER 4x4 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks, a/c, am/fm/cd, cruise, tilt, leather, 17,163 mi. Stk#6538. VIN#2282714.</p> <p>\$13,928</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds, a/c, cd, alloy, tilt, 46,413 mi. Stk#50847A. VIN#Z2170109.</p> <p>\$13,928</p>
<p>2000 FORD EXPEDITION XLT 4X4 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, alum whls, white tire, alarm sys, tilt, cruise. 8,738 mi. Stk#50681A. VIN#4K131001.</p> <p>\$13,928</p>	<p>2004 TOYOTA COROLLA LE 4DR 4 cyl, auto, a/c, p/str/brks, pwr winds/lks/mirrs, cd, cass, tilt, wall trs. 15,231 mi. Stk#50242A. VIN#4C194264.</p> <p>\$13,928</p>	<p>2003 CHEVROLET BLAZER LS 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, p/locks/mirrs, a/c, cd, cruise, 34,508 mi. Stk#6532. VIN#3R105369.</p> <p>\$14,528</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds, p/locks/mirrs, a/c, cd, alloy, tilt, 46,413 mi. Stk#50847A. VIN#Z2170109.</p> <p>\$15,928</p>	<p>2002 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, cd, leather, tilt, 30,495 mi. Stk#50838A. VIN#Z282287.</p> <p>\$16,728</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds, a/c, cd, alloy, tilt, 46,413 mi. Stk#50847A. VIN#Z2170109.</p> <p>\$17,728</p>
<p>2002 CHEVROLET S-10 LS CREW CAB 4X4 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, alum whls, white tire, alarm sys, tilt, cruise. 8,738 mi. Stk#50681A. VIN#4K131001.</p> <p>\$18,928</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER EXT 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/seats, a/c, alum whls, 3rd row seat. 53,563 mi. Stk#50718A. VIN#20134089.</p> <p>\$18,428</p>	<p>2003 CHEVROLET TAHOE LT 4X4 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, p/locks/mirrs, a/c, cd, leather, alarm whls, sec sys. 67,912 mi. Stk#50956A. VIN#3R106667.</p> <p>\$19,928</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds/seats, a/c, cd, leather, tilt, alarm sys, alarm, 30,748 mi. Stk#6538. VIN#2282714.</p> <p>\$21,928</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE 2.7L 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, p/locks/mirrs, a/c, cd, leather, alum whls, alarm whls, lugg tr, alarm sys. 41,660 mi. Stk#50549A. VIN#26300038.</p> <p>\$23,928</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LT 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/seats, a/c, cd, leather, lugg tr, alum whls, sec sys. 55,127 mi. Stk#50901A. VIN#26281165.</p> <p>\$24,928</p>

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