

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD N.J., VOL. 76 NO. 17

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2004

TWO SECTION

Library funding increase pending

By Brian Pedersen
Managing Editor

Providing a glimpse into the future of library funding throughout the state, Mountainside Mayor Robert Vigilanti revealed news that another state-mandated library funding increase is planned for next year.

At the Borough Council work session on Tuesday, Vigilanti explained the details of the mandate. This year, the borough will have to increase its budget for the public library from \$49,000 to \$60,000; a 35 to 40 percent budget increase within the next two years. This will mark the third year in a row that the borough has been faced with a major increase.

Whenever the public library needed work done, whether it be moving heavy objects, maintenance, or roof work, the borough would send its Department of Public Works staff to perform the tasks free of charge. Now, the borough plans to charge the library for these costs. The amount will be "fair and reasonable," according to Vigilanti.

"We have no choice," said Councilman Glenn Mortimer, who serves on the library's Board of Trustees. "It has to do with our rapidly rising property taxes. Nobody's income is going up that fast."

Vigilanti agreed, pointing out the more than \$30 million worth of new homes recently being constructed in the borough.

Although the library has not requested any funding, Mortimer said the library is aware that they will now be charged for this work. He said the library has come to realize that they will also have to create a fund for large expenditures.

Vigilanti directed the borough administrator to draw up a list of the costs that will be incurred, with the library being billed on a monthly basis.

The state funding mandate for libraries will most likely be a fixture for years to come.

"Next year, you will see it again," said Vigilanti.

Parent committee forms to study odor

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

Although the odor at Beechwood School in Mountainside is, for the moment, completely gone, Gary Whyte, a concerned parent, was "shocked," he said, to receive a letter in the mail last week from Interim Chief School Administrator Walter Rusak, inviting concerned parents to form a committee about the situation.

"We have already had two meetings," he reported just before the Board of Education meeting officially began on Tuesday night.

Board member John Perrin gave his updated report. "Since our last meeting, LEW, the environmental consultant, is exploring the classrooms where we previously had the odor. They conducted their last investigation just last weekend," said Perrin, "and we are expecting their full report by Dec. 17."

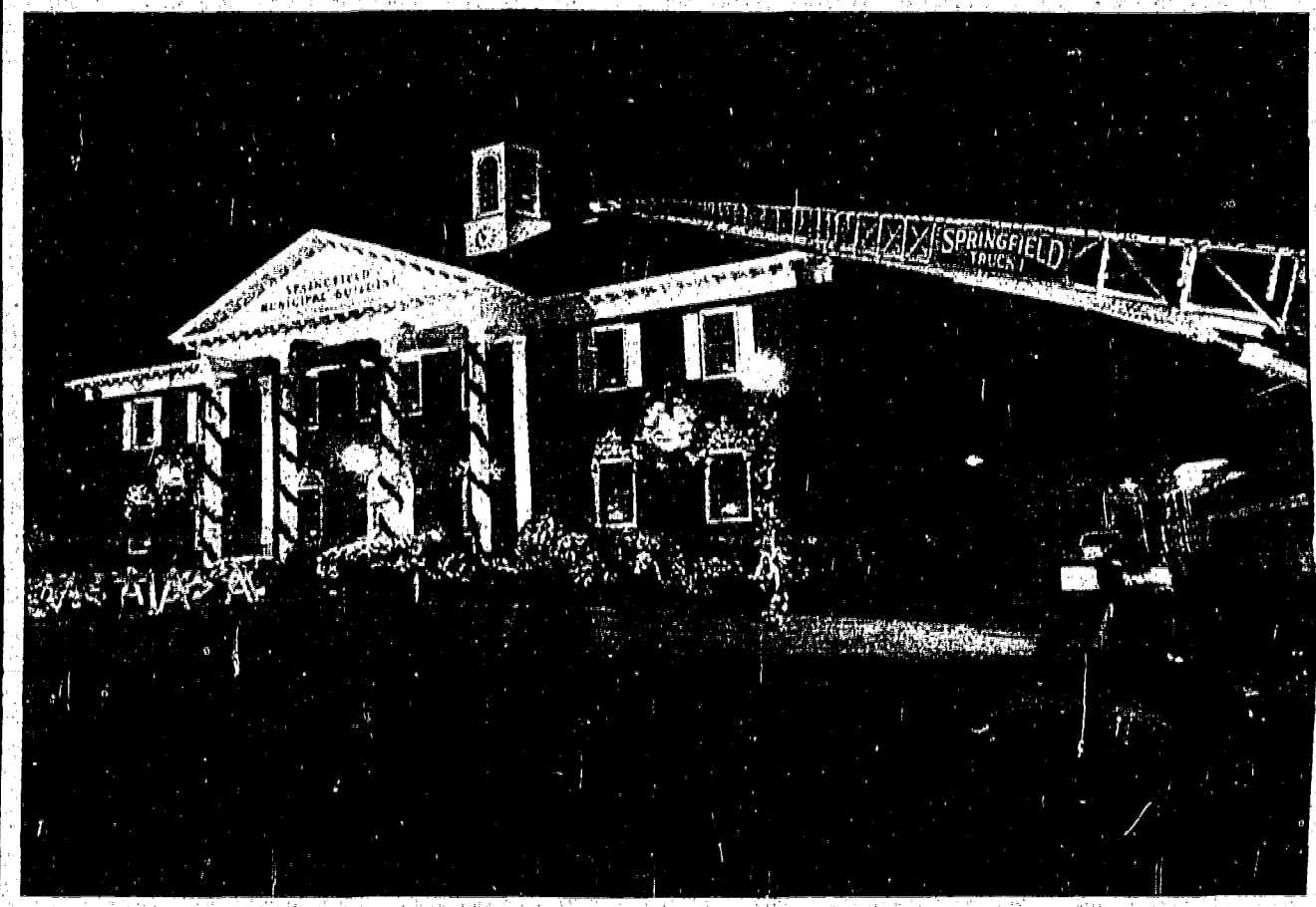
Perrin also reported that the Board of Education was to have a large meeting the following day with Paul Otto Construction, the architect for the school. Perrin said they met on Nov. 30 with the Department of Health and Social Services, and said they were enthusiastic about all the efforts that were employed.

"Three teachers, two board members and seven parents have formed this citizen's committee, and there have been two meetings to date," said board member Gene Nagel. "The purpose was to get the committee's input into the situation. We are moving forward and trying to solve the problem, and we will continue to meet periodically."

Whyte and Richard Wurst, also a concerned parent, each thanked the board for forming the committee and continuing to try to find a cause to resolve the problem, once and for all.



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS — Seven-year-old Patrick Karan of Springfield, a student at James Caldwell School, asks Santa Claus for his two front teeth for Christmas. Springfield's Winter Wonderland Celebration on Sunday gave the community a chance to come together to light the tree on the lawn of Town Hall and sing holiday songs. Below, the building awaits Santa's arrival from a fire truck ladder.



Cell tower bid goes rejected

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

Due to what Township Attorney Bruce Bergen termed "language problems," Springfield's Township Committee rejected the lone bid Tuesday to lease the proposed cell tower that will be put up on the same property as the firehouse.

Bergen said that upon its advertisement the second time around, the wording of the bid will be changed. After that, there aren't any problems expected once it goes back out, he said.

The bids will go out immediately after the language is adjusted, Bergen said.

Being that the sole rejected bid was made by AT&T/Cingular, the product of a recent merge, Bergen indicated that it is safe to assume that once certain terms and conditions are adjusted, the company will be part of the bidding process once again.

If AT&T/Cingular remains the sole bidder, the company should be awarded the bid.

The tower was proposed earlier in the year and is hoped to reach the construction process in the near future.

According to Mayor Clara Hareluk, space at the top of the tower will be reserved for Springfield, giving residents the best quality of service and reception.

Hareluk said that on average, cell towers produce a revenue of about \$24,000 each year.

Another advantage included in the tower is that the Fire Department, Police Department and Office of Emergency Management will benefit in that they will also receive high-quality reception through their radio system, Hareluk said.

Whoever leases the cell tower space will be in charge of not only building the structure, but maintaining it, as well.

"This is strictly revenue," said Hareluk, as there are no costs for the project on the township's end.

Often, cellular companies can rent space on a specific tower to compete for business.

Interim principal joins Walton School; Gaudineer VP now sought

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

After being named interim principal of Springfield's Edward V. Walton School in mid-November, the Board of Education announced last week that Susie Hung will remain in the position until at least the end of this year.

"It's a good place," said Hung, who took over for Lisa Ferrare while she is away on maternity leave. "I'm happy here. I come to work looking forward to see the kids every day."

While the appointment of Hung to the Walton position fills one void, it leaves her old position, vice principal of Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School, without a replacement.

"This is a similar situation," said Superintendent Michael Davino, comparing the open Gaudineer position to that which Hung filled at Walton. "It's not a vacancy."

Davino said he will be talking to people with appropriate certification for the job and hopes to see somebody in place in early January, possibly right after winter break.

Considering the position is temporary, Davino said he wouldn't expect someone from out of the district to want to come in as vice principal and leave when Hung is ready to come back.

Asked if he would prefer someone within the district to take Hung's place, Davino said, "I'd like to."

Current principal of Gaudineer Tim Kielty said everything's working fine without a vice

principal at the middle school. "We're holding our own," he said. "Obviously, as soon as we can get someone here, it'll be good. But, we'll be okay."

Kielty said he got the impression from Davino that someone within the district will, in fact, be hired shortly after winter break.

"The staff and everyone here has been great," said Kielty of the extra help he's been getting when necessary. "Everybody's pitching in."

Meanwhile, Hung is enjoying her time at Walton.

"Everyone's been very supportive," she said. "Even the parents and the entire staff have been great."

Hung added that she would be willing to

stay at Walton as long as it takes, including into next school year, if Ferrare does not return by September.

Davino, who did consider other candidates for the position, said that based on her administration experience and background in early childhood education, she would be the best choice for the job.

Both Hung and Davino were unaware of the amount of the exact pay raise the principal job at Walton would bring, though they confirmed there is one.

Hung previously spent nine years in Paramus and Westfield teaching on the elementary level and has her doctorate in education administration.

Along with the shifting and hiring of new

administration in the two schools, Davino said the situation will be analyzed again at the end of the year, as there will be many teachers and staff members retiring.

"I like to leave my options open," Davino said, "while at the same time, staying focused on the students."

The retirements of 10 teachers and staff members were accepted at the last Board of Education meeting. Davino said that with all the pending openings, appropriate measures will be taken.

"Once we have a pretty good idea on the areas that will be impacted," he said, "we'll advertise for certified teachers accordingly."

Davino added that the advertisements will go out earlier than they normally would.

Washington project continues

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

When Mountainside resident Bill Sanders decided to undertake a project that would honor the 200th anniversary of American war hero George Washington's death, he had no idea he was about to enter a battle of his own.

In 1998, Sanders decided that in an effort to recognize the Dec. 14, 1999 anniversary, he would push for the hanging of at least one George Washington portrait in every New Jersey school. Willing to supply them himself, it seemed to be a task that would take only his hard work and an open arms welcoming by school districts around the state. The latter, he found, was hard to come by.

"Back in 1932," Sanders explained, "a congressional mandate said that every classroom in the country would have his picture. Since that time, there's been an erosion of American history."

Sanders said that while Washington's likeness was stripped from schools slowly but surely, the complexion of the National Education Association's leadership also changed. In fact, the New Jersey Department of Education initiated legislation to omit the words "Washington," "Jefferson," "Franklin," "war" and "pilgrim" from

the state's core curriculum, Sanders said. If the story hadn't come out from behind closed doors in Washington, Sanders felt, New Jersey could be the laughing stock of the country.

"They wanted to take out the founders of our nation," said Sanders. "How can you do that?"

Sanders, who frames the reproduced portraits himself for a cost of \$250 apiece, has succeeded in posting about 250 of them in close to 10 states, with the highest percentage in New Jersey. While momentum is building, he still searches for local support and donations to help fund and propel his plight. Needless to say, it's taken a more concerted effort than he ever thought would be necessary.

"We're already down to maybe 10 percent of what was in our history books about Washington since (1932)," Sanders said. "I just wanted this project to start in New Jersey, being that it's the crossroads of the Revolution, and set the example for the rest of the nation. This battle is just beginning."

Sanders has traveled to cities around the nation to present his idea and talk with schools, as well as do radio shows, such as the ones in Arkansas that led to each of the state's high schools displaying Washington's

portrait. Opponents of the idea, according to Sanders, are diminishing the nation's greatest leader.

"I think it's due to a total lack of understanding who he was and is," Sanders said. "The portrait of Washington reminds us of what it means to be an American, and of the ideals, devotion and love of country that he so strongly exemplified."

One example of the misconceptions Sanders speaks about is that Washington promoted slavery, or did nothing to end it. At the time, Sanders explained, it was illegal to free slaves. Washington, who, singlehandedly, could only do so much about the problem of racism, freed his slaves upon his death. In his will, Washington revealed a bank account that had been set up for them and encouraged them to become educated and learn a trade.

"It was a beautiful time," Sanders said of Washington's era. "He probably set every example we needed as a newly formed country."

While a bill was introduced in 2000 and reintroduced in 2001 to put a portrait in each of the state's 2,400 schools, the measure only made it beyond the Assembly. Knocked down by a Senate committee, Sanders says all he can do now, while still traveling to promote the idea, is wait for a more



At his home in Mountainside, Bill Sanders displays one of his many portraits of George Washington. Sanders, who frames the portraits himself, has traveled to cities throughout the nation to talk about his goal of getting a portrait of the first president of the United States hung inside each school in the country.

Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

friendly legislature. Happy that both schools in Mountainside display the portrait, Sanders said he doesn't need

essarily reach out to individual schools. Rather, he likes the local effort to come from both sides, and for

the idea to be met with equal appreciation. "We are in a battle for the soul of this nation," Sanders said.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER... The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by World Community Newspapers...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Today: Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its fall International Film Festival... Friday: Babies' Lullaby at Springfield Free Public Library...

Saturday: Msgr. Francis X. Coyle Council Columbianettes of Springfield will be sponsoring a trip to the South Street Seaport, New York...

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

Monday: The Board of Trustees of Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, will meet in the meeting room of the library at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday: The Springfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet in the Committee Room of the Municipal Building...

Wednesday: The Springfield Township Committee will meet for a workshop session in the Annex Building...

Thursday: The Joseph Pepe III Memorial Holiday Tournament will take place at 5 p.m. in the Main Gym at Jonathan Dayton High School...

Friday: The event features a game between girls varsity basketball teams. Admission for adults is \$3, children \$2...

Saturday: The Springfield Township Committee will meet for a regular meeting in the Committee Room of the Municipal Building...

Sunday: The Joseph Pepe III Memorial Holiday Tournament will take place at 3 p.m. in the Main Gym at Jonathan Dayton High School...

Monday: The event features a game between girls varsity basketball teams. Admission for adults is \$3, children \$2...

Tuesday: The Mountainside Borough Council will have its annual reorganization meeting in Council Chambers...

Wednesday: The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., concludes its Lunchtime Video Series...

Thursday: The paths of two warriors converge when the young Emperor of Japan, wooed by American interests...

Friday: The Good Books Discussion Group of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. will meet at 7 p.m.

Saturday: The Echo Leader has a large, well read classified advertising section. Advertisements must be in our office by Tuesday at 3 p.m.

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

Facsimile transmission: The Echo Leader is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by fax. Our fax lines are open 24 hours a day.

Website: Visit our Web Site on the internet at http://www.localsource.com. Find all the latest news, classified, community information, real estate, and hometown chat.

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Man arrested for DWI on Rt. 22

On Saturday at 3:24 a.m., Jose Gierena, 41, of North Plainfield, was arrested on Route 22 west for driving while intoxicated...

POLICE BLOTTER

Thomas Herndon Jr., 27, of Lioboken, was arrested at 3:17 a.m. Saturday for driving while intoxicated on Route 22 east...

FIRE BLOTTER

At 3:10 p.m. Dec. 1, Mountainside firefighters responded to a report of downed electrical power lines along a section of Sherwood Parkway...

Springfield Toys for Tots drive ends

The Springfield Fire Department will continue spreading the holiday spirit as they conduct their annual Toys for Tots drive through Friday...

Art exhibit uncovers unusual NYC

"Only in New York!" is an expression most people hear all the time. Often, there is a store for every want and desire, and they never close...

Stuyvesant HAIRCUTTING Quality Hair Cuts At Affordable Prices. SENIOR CITIZEN SPECIAL Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 20% OFF. OPEN MON. thru SAT. 1654 STUYVESANT AVE., UNION

Legacy stays bright

By Rick Klitich Staff Writer

When her father first placed two candles outside on the front lawn as a holiday decoration more than five decades ago, lifelong Mountainside resident Kathleen Ruggeri had no idea of the tradition that was being created...



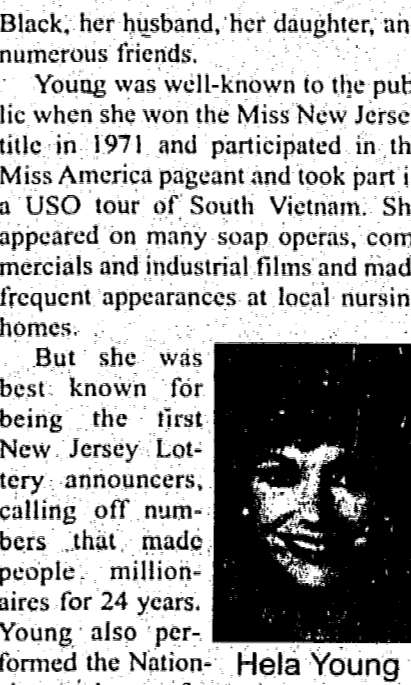
Rich and Kathleen Ruggeri of Mountainside stand outside the lawn of their home on Orchard Street with two decorative 4-foot candles, created by Kathleen's father...

Rich and Kathleen Ruggeri of Mountainside stand outside the lawn of their home on Orchard Street with two decorative 4-foot candles, created by Kathleen's father...

Concert honors memory of Hela Young

By Bea Smith Staff Writer

The first of many memorial concerts by the NJWA Concert Band for the late Hela Young was Dec. 5 at the Yon-YWHA on Green Lane in Union...



Hela Young

Howard Toplansky, conductor of the New Jersey Workshop Concert Band, and its members, ranging in age from 10 to 90 and who hail from Springfield...

Experiences... it's what makes us different! Capital Senior Living has been a tradition for seniors all over the country. Spring Meadows Summit, a Capital Senior Living community, opened its doors in November, 2000...

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Newspaper offices close for holidays

The offices of this newspaper will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 in observance of Christmas and Friday, Dec. 31 in observance of New Year's Eve...

Dayton students earn AP scholar designation

Thirteen students at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield have earned the designation of AP scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level advanced placement program exams...

Students took AP exams in May after completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement, based on student's performance on AP exams...

Max Plus Relationship Banking. Introducing Max Plus - a new relationship banking account from Union Center National Bank! Max Plus combines your savings and checking balances to give you the greatest savings and control over your finances.

Union Center UNION CENTER NATIONAL BANK. 2.25% 3-Month Interest Rate with an APY of 1.13. To open your Max Plus Account, visit one of our 13 Union & Morris county locations today!

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SENIOR NEWS

SAGE caregivers support group meets

SAGE offers a major community resource for caregivers... monthly support group for caregivers...

AARP meets

The Summit Area AARP will host a December meeting... The next regular monthly meeting...

Team helps seniors make minor repairs

SAGE's major community resource for elders is currently recruiting a team of handypersons... The team will assist seniors with minor repairs...

Golden Age group gathers at rec center

The Golden Age group in Summit meets every Friday... Under the direction of the new senior coordinator, Christine Melendez...

Young violinist performs

Della Natasha Davies, a young concert violinist from Summit, will return from Switzerland to play her third Brown Bag Concert Friday...

Old Guard enjoys golf luncheon

The Summit Old Guard enjoyed their season at the annual golf luncheon on Nov. 30 at O'Connell's Beef 'n' Ale House... Four golfers had the low gross scores...



Shau-wai Lam, a long-time Summit resident and president and CEO of the DCH Auto Group, accepts an award of recognition from Bergen Community College student Qi Feng Chen...

Speaker shares his journey to success

The speech wasn't long, but it came from the heart... Lam then talked about how Asian-Americans must also overcome the basic personal characteristics they have been taught...

SAGE Eldercare offers bill paying service for seniors

Do you struggle to balance your checkbook? Do you have a problem organizing your monthly bills? SAGE's bill paying service can help...

Prosperity 24-Month 'Step-Up' CD 3.25% APY, 18-Month CD 2.70% APY, 12-Month CD 2.30% APY. Includes NorCrown Bank logo and contact information.

Support For Your Continuing Independence. Juniper Village at Chatham Assisted Living Residence. Features list: Free local scheduled transportation, Three chef-prepared meals daily, Cable TV and telephone with local calls included...

George Remolina Designs, Inc. Fine Jewelry Design is our Specialty. We feature a choice selection of contemporary designs in 14K, 18K gold and platinum. Includes image of a dragonfly ring.

BILL'S You'll Walk Away HAPPY HOLIDAY SALE! One stop shopping for the Best Brands, the Best Selection, and the Best Price. Includes 'OPEN 7 DAYS' and '973.467.0086'.

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Enter our Sweepstakes to Win! GRAND PRIZE: PHASMOIC DIGITAL CAMERA. 1ST PRIZE: PHASMOIC PORTABLE DVD PLAYER. 2ND PRIZE: PHASMOIC 5 DISC SHEET SYSTEM.

Penn Federal Savings Bank. 2624 Morris Avenue, 908-964-7601. Includes logo and branch information.

'Pipes of Christmas' play Friday. The Clan Currie Society, based in Summit, is one of the country's premiere organizations dedicated to preserving and promoting Scottish history and culture. Includes Burns Night details.

Total Wine & More SUPERSTORES. Northern New Jersey's Largest Wine Stores. Includes wine selection table with various brands like Kendall-Jackson, Bogle, Santa Margherita, Meridian, Korbel, Carlo Rossi, etc.

Adult spelling bee benefits Women's Resource Center programs. The third annual Adult Spelling Bee to benefit the Women's Resource Center and the Summit Educational Foundation will be Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. at Summit High School, 125 Kent Place Blvd. Spellers of all abilities are welcome to join.

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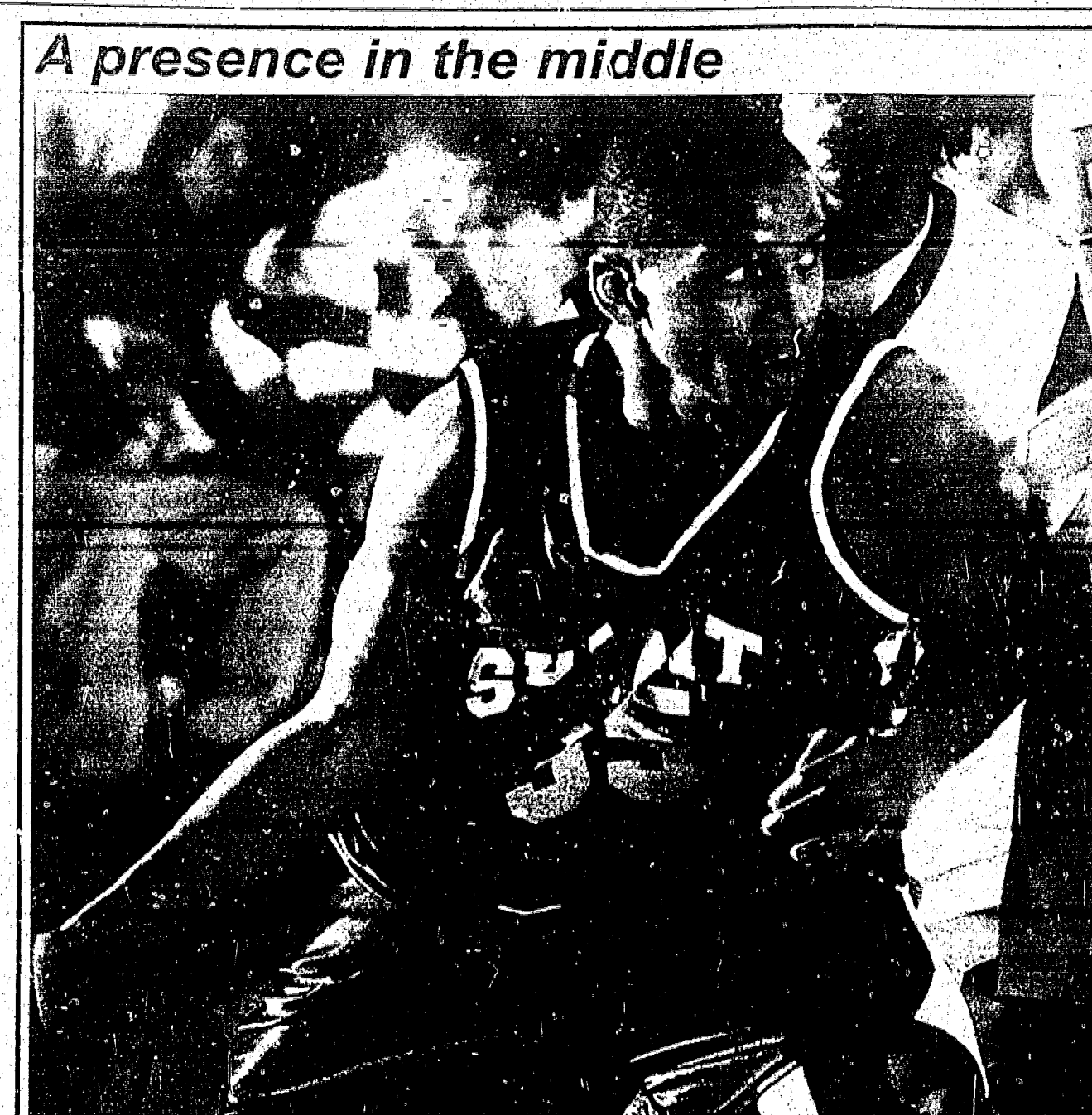
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SPORTS

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

Summit Boys' Basketball Dec. 17 Morris Hills, 7 p.m. Dec. 20 Weequahic, 7 p.m. Dec. 22 West Essex, 7 p.m. Jan. 4 Dover, 7 p.m. Jan. 7 Parsippany Hills, 7 p.m. Jan. 11 Chatham, 7 p.m. Jan. 14 at Mendham, 7 p.m. Jan. 18 Hanover Park, 7 p.m. Jan. 21 at Parsippany, 7 p.m. Jan. 25 at Morris Hills, 7 p.m. Jan. 27 Weequahic, 7 p.m. Feb. 1 West Essex, 7 p.m. Feb. 3 at Dover, 7 p.m. Feb. 8 Parsippany Hills, 7 p.m. Feb. 10 at Chatham, 7 p.m. Feb. 15 Mendham, 7 p.m. Feb. 17 at Hanover Park, 7 p.m. Feb. 22 Parsippany, 7 p.m.



The Summit High School boys' basketball team will be sparked by the talents of senior center Wellington Smith (No. 35). Smith's play helped Summit finish 24-5 overall last year as the Hilltoppers won North 2, Group 2 and reached the Group 2 final. Summit also won the Iron Hills Conference-Hills Division with a 17-1 record. Smith paced the team in rebounds with 259 and was second in scoring with 444 points for a 15.3 average. Summit is scheduled to open its season tomorrow night at 7 at home against Morris Hills.

Summit Girls' Basketball Dec. 17 at Morris Hills, 7 p.m. Dec. 20 Weequahic, 7 p.m. Dec. 22 West Essex, 7 p.m. Dec. 28-30 Millburn Tournament Jan. 4 at Dover, 7 p.m. Jan. 7 Parsippany Hills, 7 p.m. Jan. 11 at Chatham, 7 p.m. Jan. 14 Mendham, 7 p.m. Jan. 18 at Hanover Park, 7 p.m. Jan. 21 Parsippany, 7 p.m. Jan. 25 Morris Hills, 7 p.m. Jan. 27 at Weequahic, 7 p.m. Feb. 1 at West Essex, 7 p.m. Feb. 3 Dover, 7 p.m. Feb. 8 at Parsippany Hills, 7 p.m. Feb. 10 Chatham, 7 p.m. Feb. 16 at Mendham, 7 p.m. Feb. 17 Hanover Park, 7 p.m. Feb. 22 at Parsippany, 7 p.m.

Dayton girls' will be sparked by Zavocki She's going for 1,000 tomorrow

Experience. That's what Dayton High School girls' basketball coach Dave Rennie hopes will be the key factor in his team's success this season. Coming off its best season ever, Dayton posted a 21-6 record and reached the Central Jersey, Group I title game.

Dayton boys' basketball is starting new with coach Nash Bulldogs working hard to improve their game

Not sure what to expect. That's the dilemma facing Dayton High School boys' basketball first-year head coach Dave Nash this season. Taking over a squad that went 7-14 last season, Nash heads up a program with a new coaching staff.

Summit Swimming Dec. 16 at Morris Knolls, 4:30 p.m. Dec. 20 at Hanover Park, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 4 Morris Hills, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at Livingston, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 18 Chatham, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 25 Parsippany, 3:30 p.m. Feb. 1 at Columbia, 4 p.m. Feb. 8 New Providence, 3:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at West Essex, 3:30 p.m.

Summit Bowling Dec. 16 at Livingston, 3:30 p.m. Dec. 16 at Westfield, 3:30 p.m. Dec. 21 at Eastside, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 4 at Union, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 6 at Plainfield, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at Elizabeth, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 13 at Shabazz, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at Cranford, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 20 at Seon Hall Prep, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at Scotch Plains, 3:30 p.m.

Summit Winter Track Dec. 17 at TBA, 3:45 p.m. Dec. 18 Lifer Invite at Drew, 9 a.m. Dec. 19 at Bish, Laughlin Inv, 8 p.m. Dec. 23 at Holiday Relays, 4:30 p.m. Dec. 27 DuScherer Inv.-Drew, 9 a.m. Dec. 29 Pasarelli Inv.-Drew, 9 a.m. Dec. 31 Valentine Inv. at Drew, 9 a.m. Jan. 3 Polar Bear-Drew, 4:30 p.m. Jan. 3 UCT Relays at Elizabeth, 6 p.m. Jan. 7 Iron Hills Champs-Drew, 4:30 p.m. Jan. 8 Hispanic Games-Armory, 9 p.m. Jan. 9 Group 2 Relays-Princeton, 9 p.m. Jan. 12 at Millburn, Caldwell, 3:45 p.m. Jan. 16 Group 2-Princeton, 9 a.m. Jan. 22 New Bal. Games-Armory, 9 p.m.

Summit Swimming Dec. 16 at Morris Knolls, 4:30 p.m. Dec. 20 at Hanover Park, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 4 Morris Hills, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 11 at Livingston, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 18 Chatham, 3:30 p.m. Jan. 25 Parsippany, 3:30 p.m. Feb. 1 at Columbia, 4 p.m. Feb. 8 New Providence, 3:30 p.m. Feb. 10 at West Essex, 3:30 p.m.

SETON HALL PIRATES BASKETBALL PUT A PIRATE UNDER YOUR TREE! SIX-GAME PLANS START AT \$84! SHUPIRATES.COM CALL TO ORDER YOUR SIX-GAME PLAN TODAY! 1-877-SHU-HOOP and receive a signed holiday card from Coach Louis Orr!

Artist's work captures nature

Five-time Heart Grant recipient, Nancy Ori of Berkeley Heights, will be exhibiting her Union County historical photographs at Bouras Galleries 25 DeForest Ave., Summit, from Jan. 5 through February.

The galleries are open to the public by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Linda Cole at 908-777-0054.

Ori created a large body of photographs that were used in a historical guidebook put together by the county. She spent months doing research on the 58 sites and numerous interiors throughout Union County.

Her artistic selection of subject matter is determined by the best summary of images to depict the lifestyle of the people who lived throughout the county during different time periods in history.

Ori refers to these images as "portraits" of the architecture and artifacts.

"Since 1970, I have traveled throughout the world working on various photographic and video projects which has given me the opportunity to

explore many popular and cherished places," she said.

"I have discovered that right here in my own back yard there are wonderful sites to photograph and images to share."

"I proposed the grant project in order to best volunteer my skills to benefit my own community and have since been inspired by not only the interesting subject matter and history of New Jersey, but also by the many volunteers I have met while doing my research and photographing the sites."

The body of work will provide a balance of images between the architecture, furniture, costumes and artifacts of by-gone eras to reflect those who lived, worked and played in Union County at earlier times.

Some images are romantic in style and provide a contrast to the playful sections of antique dolls and toys, some are bold forms of tools and objects presented almost as sculptures and some are planned or contain artistically composed from set ups to provide more formal images.

Ori is recognized internationally as an industrial photographer and video producer for New Jersey Media Center in Berkeley Heights.

She also enjoys teaching photography classes and workshops each year throughout the United States and Europe.

She is on the faculty of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit, Peiers Valley Craft Education Center, the Somerset Art Association and Watchung Adult School.

In 1990, she established the New Jersey Heritage Photography Workshops, conducted each spring in Cape May.

In 1995, she co-founded the New Jersey Photography Forum, a group of professional and very serious amateur photographers who meet to critique each other's work and exhibit together locally.

Along with the idea of a venue for New Jersey artists goes the added bonus that part of the proceeds from any sales at the Bouras Galleries goes to benefit Overlook Hospital.

A show of appreciation



Dorothy Sztot, principal of Holy Trinity Interparochial School, was honored by the students of the Mountainside campus on Principal's Day, which is sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark. Sztot was presented with flowers and a handcrafted book of students' artwork in appreciation of her 36 years of academic excellence. From left are Brendan McCabe, Kelsey Eelman, Dorothy Sztot, Kelly Farmar and Thomas Miner.

Scouts sought for arboretum project

Is your troop, pack or den in need of a service project? Reeves-Reed Arboretum is looking for creative young leaders to help "Celebrate the Earth" on April 17. Participants in the program are asked to create a display, booth or activity on how to care for the earth. The event is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. on the grounds of the arboretum. Themes such as recycling, invasive species, endangered species, organic gardening, pre-cycling, living lightly on the earth, gardening for wildlife, and the importance of trees are just a few of the earth-friendly topics.

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The-Sports-Academy.com



Five-time Heart Grant recipient, Nancy Ori of Berkeley Heights, will be exhibiting her Union County historical photographs at Bouras Galleries 25 DeForest Ave., Summit, from Jan. 5 through February.

Registration opens for spring workshops

The educational department at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, 165 Hobart Ave. in Summit recently opened registration for the popular family fun winter-spring programs.

Family fun workshops are designed to educate young children about nature in a fun and exciting way. Workshops are for children, ages 3 to 7 years-old, Monday through Friday afternoons, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Children in the pre-kindergarten class enjoy a craft or planting and a short hike. Caregivers are required to attend and assist their child. Children in the kindergarten through 7-year-old class participate in hands-on activities as well but spend more time exploring the grounds. Caregivers are welcome but not required to stay.

The hour-long classes allow caregivers of older children just enough time for a stroll through the grounds and/or a trip to The Garden Shop.

Winter Spring classes are Magic Rocks, January, Papermaking, February, Edible Nests, March and Terrific Trees, April. Pre-K offers two classes per session. The fee per workshop is \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members. Class sizes are limited and spots fill quickly.

For information, call 908-273-8787 and ask for ext. 14 or 25.

Reeves-Reed Arboretum, a non-profit organization, is the only arboretum in Union County and is funded entirely by memberships, fund-raisers and donations.

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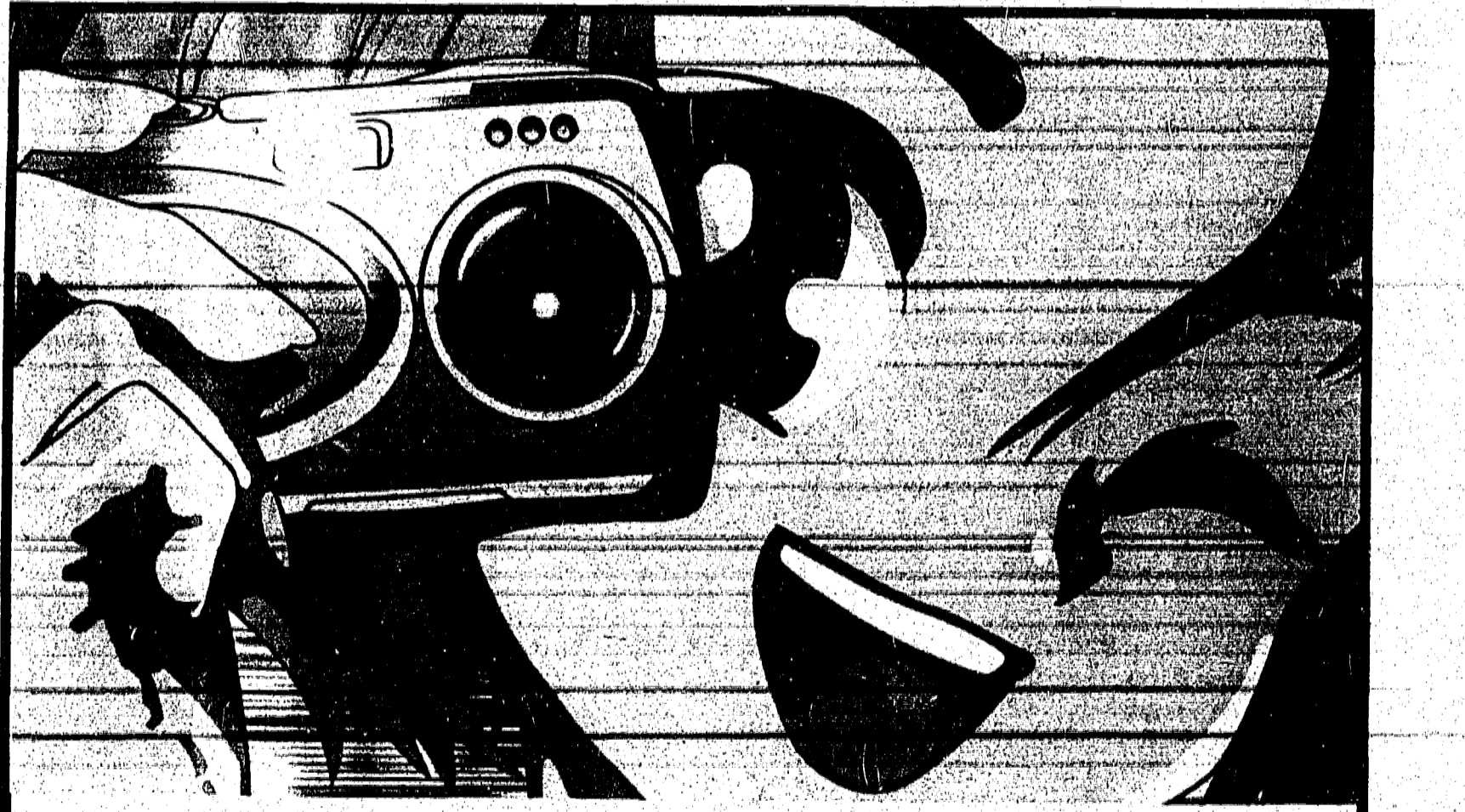
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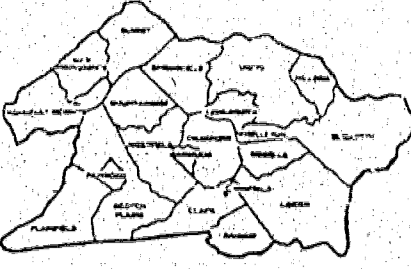
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Union County

WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2004 - SECTION B

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Naughty and nice

Happy holidays to Joanne Schwab of Hillside. The deputy surrogate for the county gets raves for her competency and compassion with people experiencing the confusion after the death of a loved one. She's straight out of central casting as the kindly aunt who patiently helps people at a vulnerable time in their lives.

Humburg to Linden Councilman Rich Gerbouka. The great Linden handicapped sign controversy was sparked when he ripped down an unapproved parking sign. The problem is for a guy who portrays himself as such a straight arrow to justify the ripping down of a sign. He probably can't.

Left Out

Happy holidays to Karishma Desai. This Roselle Park High School senior juggles two jobs and a rigorous academic schedule. She wants to go to professional school. She also happens to be a really nice kid.

Humburg to Cranford Administrator Mariena Schmidt. At a recent town meeting she engaged in an animated discussion with the township attorney ignoring public speaker and Town Elder Leo McMahon. At one point she even motioned the mayor to move things along. She could learn a few things by listening to McMahon. Maybe Bell's Pharmacy can prescribe something for her discomfort.

Happy holidays to Robert Frump from Summit. His book on the wreck of a merchant marine ship off Virginia in 1983 was so riveting it was turned into a documentary by the History Channel.

Happy holidays to Jon Bramnick. The assemblyman recently introduced a common sense bill to help communities facing those annoying signs left on utility poles. He first checked with officials and moved the bill carefully.

Humburg to Attorney General Peter Harvey. After being hit in the press for not enough convictions, he seems hell bent on showing what a tough guy he has become. Both versions are offensive.

Humburg to Seth Michaels from Summit and anybody else trying to delay the efforts of Superintendent Carolyn Deacon to end overcrowding in the school system.

Happy holidays to Union Township Sunday Chapter of Gamblers Anonymous. They celebrated their 31st anniversary last Sunday.

Humburg to Walter Garthwaite who manages the county Jury Division. The reports are that his style is akin to Gil Favor on "Rawhide" - "Move-in and move out."

Happy holidays to Pat Nasta. The clerk of the Union Township Municipal Court doesn't hide behind counters and doors. She deals with the problems of a busy court efficiently and usually finds time for a smile.

Humburg to every newspaper and public official who isn't alarmed that the state debt rose in one year from \$1.6 billion to \$2.4 billion. Some believe the number is even higher.

Happy holidays to the Rev. Valencia Norman of First Presbyterian Church of Cranford. Her eulogy "Gratitude for a life well lived" at the death of a mutual friend was wonderful. There probably is a papal edict that prohibits a Catholic from hugging a minister, but her words were stirring.

Happy holidays to Adele Gilman who runs the senior housing in Cranford. She is loved and respected by her tenants.

Happy holidays to Bill Fidurski of Clark. Even though he takes barbs at this corner, there is a need at the table for a guy who fights the good fight against freight line extensions, challenges to the environment and a misplaced senior building.

Happy holidays to Assemblyman Neil Cohen from Roselle who Sec SEASON'S, Page B2

Directors up for pay hikes

County freeholder board set to vote on raises tonight

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

County department heads are slated to receive average salary increases of almost 4 percent under an ordinance to be voted on by the Board of Chosen Freeholders tonight.

Freeholders introduced the ordinance at their meeting on Dec. 2 by a 7-0 vote with Freeholders Lewis Mingo and Chester Holmes absent. The Board of Chosen Freeholders is scheduled to conduct a public hearing at its meeting tonight before approving the salary ordinance.

Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, chairman of the board's Fiscal Affairs Committee, said all department heads' salary increases are a recommendation from the county manager. All are merit increases based on performance during the past year while the county manager's pay hike is based on a discussion and decision by the board as a whole, Mirabella said.

"Collectively, the board felt he's doing an outstanding job of running the day-to-day operations. He's had an outstanding year administering our initiatives."

"Obviously, some directors had better years than others," Mirabella said, adding, "we tried to keep the average down."

Union County Manager George Devaney said the pay hikes have always been retroactive to Jan. 1, reflective of the director's performance during the past year. Especially in a leadership position, he said, raises should not be given automatically at the start of the year.

Devaney said it's important to him to keep raises within what labor unions for county employees have received. The overall total dollar amount in pay raises among directors averages out to what has been awarded countywide for the second straight year, he said.

Position	2003	2004	Increase
County manager	\$136,740	\$144,258	\$7,518/5.50%
Deputy county manager	\$119,743	\$126,029	\$6,286/5.20%
County counsel	\$125,000	\$131,250	\$6,250/5.00%
Director, parks and recreation	\$103,481	\$108,396	\$4,915/4.70%
Director, human services	\$110,320	\$115,008	\$4,688/4.20%
Director, finance	\$112,977	\$117,496	\$4,519/4.00%
Director, public safety	\$102,000	\$105,825	\$3,825/3.75%
Director, engineering and DPW	\$108,006	\$111,786	\$3,780/3.50%
Director, economic development	\$99,395	\$102,376	\$2,981/3.00%
Director, operations & facilities	\$111,264	\$111,264	\$0/0.00%

Note: Salary increases are retroactive to January 2004.

cent, increasing their part-time salaries from \$27,000 to \$28,013.

"Everyone feels we're compensated fairly, everyone's working hard and we're doing our part to be fiscally responsible," Mirabella said. "I don't think an increase is called for each year, although he thinks one would be justified."

Union County Chairman Philip Morin said the salary ordinance comes up every year, before Christmas but after the November election. "The county doesn't raise revenue by selling products, it raises revenue by raising property taxes. The raises are coming out of the pockets of Union County residents."

"It's somewhat unseemly to keep giving people retroactive 11-month salary hikes," Morin said, adding that the county should give its justification to the public upfront for the annual raises.

Centennial celebration



County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi and Chief Warrant Officer Lester Sargent of the Sheriff's Office examine the original window from the county courthouse that was donated to the Courthouse Centennial Celebration Committee. The window and other artifacts will be part of a year-long celebration featuring exhibits and events to showcase the courthouse as the center of law, justice and county business. The courthouse marks the 100th anniversary of its dedication in May. If you have items to lend, or questions about the project, contact the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at 908-585-2550 or e-mail at culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

Several bills in state Legislature would increase minimum wage

By A.E. Gualtieri and Mark Hrywna

New York may have done it first, but if legislators have their way, New Jersey may not be far behind. A half-dozen bills are working their way through the state Senate and Assembly that seek to raise the minimum wage by as much as \$3.85.

If you have a family of four and earn less than \$18,556, you're considered poor by national standards. A full-time worker making minimum wage in New Jersey — where the cost of living is estimated to be at least 20 percent higher than the national average — would earn \$10,300 a year.

Adjusted for inflation, the federal minimum wage in 1973 would be \$8.10 per hour in 2002 dollars. Only 11 states have higher minimum wages than the federal standard, mainly on the West Coast and upper Northeast. Nearby, Delaware at \$6.15, and Connecticut at \$7.10, have higher minimum wages.

In the Legislature, bills to raise the minimum wage were introduced as early as January and as late as November, but all have been in the Senate or Assembly's Labor Committees ever since.

Richard Codey, the acting governor and state Senate president, D-Essex, sponsored a bill, S-1000, that would increase the minimum wage 25 cents this year and 50 cents next year. Kelley Heck, a spokeswoman for Codey, said, "The governor supports not only a minimum wage, but a living wage," and stressed that the governor would continue to work toward that end.

Another bill, A-1252, sponsored by Assemblyman Craig Stanley, D-Essex, would instruct the state labor commissioner to set the minimum wage at 30 percent of the average

Public input sought on rail shuttle project

A. E. Gualtieri
Staff Writer

Commuters on the Raritan Valley Line who are tired of the morning parking spot shuffle may be relieved to hear of the shuttle project under consideration for some Union County communities along the rail line.

The county Bureau of Transportation will hold a public meeting on Friday to introduce the project and hear public feedback on the plan. The hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the first floor public meeting room of the county Annex Building, 300 North Ave. East, Westfield.

Shuttle services currently operates in Roselle Park. The program seeks to expand to serve six other municipalities along the Raritan Valley railroad line: Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Plainfield, Scotch Plains and Westfield.

For municipalities with many commuters, parking and congestion, especially along Route 28/Westfield Avenue, are a major concern.

"Certainly there's always a demand for parking," said Cranford Town Commissioner George Jom, pointing to the over two-year waiting list for commuter spaces at the lot behind the Cranford train station.

While Cranford has discussed the possibility of shuttle service in the past, according to Jom, concerns arose over logistics. However, he said, the possibility of shuttle service is "certainly something we could revisit."

Freeholder Chairman Angel Estrada said the shuttle plan could alleviate some of the traffic issues facing these communities.

"This could take individual vehicles off the roads and help reduce some of the congestion we see during rush hour," he said in a prepared statement.

The county had received a federal grant through the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority to do a technical study of the viability of weekday commuter runs, midday townwide circulators and weekend services.

Shuttles would be obtained through NJ Transit on a declining scale over a three-year period, with the expectation that communities would eventually self-support the program.

The initial shuttles would be run in Cranford, Fanwood and Scotch Plains. Westfield and Garwood could receive service originating in those towns, with the option to start their own shuttle services in the future.

The perfect score

Sara McArdle, a senior at the Union County Magnet High School in Scotch Plains, was honored by the Board of Chosen Freeholders this month for achieving a perfect score on the SATs. Only 939 high school seniors, or 0.006 percent of high school seniors who took the exam scored a 1600. She plans to study biomedical engineering in college. With her is her mother, Maria.

COUNTY NEWS

Free passport, photo IDs for kids under 16

The Union County Clerk's Office is offering free passport and identification photos for children aged 16 and younger through the end of the year...

Westfield. The normal processing fee for the photos is \$7.

The Westfield Annex, 300 North Ave. East, processes County Identification cards, passport applications, sworn-in notary publics, and clerk certifications.

Season's greetings

(Continued from Page B1) is pushing legislation in Trenton that would mandate large box retailers like Wal-Mart complete a regional assessment before being able to build in our state.

McGuire of the Union County Police Department who has been in Iraq since September.

Happy holidays to Diana Eufrazio of Roselle. Her portrait and doll artistry is getting statewide acclaim. She also has a great first name.

Operation Breadbasket needs your support

"Operation Breadbasket" is in urgent need of donations of money and food in order to continue its mission of providing needy families with food deliveries this holiday season.

Gun surrender program

A unique gun surrender program that will allow Union County residents to turn in handguns and rifles in exchange for certificates good for up to \$50 for food or sports equipment.

Skate with Santa

Santa Claus will visit the indoor ice skating rink at Warnanco Park in Roselle from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

This witch casts her own spell for writing

Books about witches are not uncommon, but books about witches, who attempt to live as normal a life as possible without having to resort to "magic," are fascinating.

On the Shelf

By Bea Smith Her family has mixed feelings about her return, but still welcomes her with open arms. Connor, now a married man, still yearns for Samantha.

One such author is Lita Harris of Kenilworth, who wrote an interesting novel, "Lady Samantha," published by Xlibris in 2003, and its equally attention-getting sequel, "Samantha's Awakening," in 2004.

In the first book, Samantha Donnelly, who left her home, fiance and family of witches in a Victorian house in Willow Lake 10 years ago under mysterious circumstances, has had no contact with any of them.

So, naturally, a reader will reach out to continue Samantha's journey, by rote, and the second book gives reader a better understanding of Harris' characters.

As with her other two books, Harris has once more whetted the reader's appetite with the beginnings of the first chapter of her third book, "Samantha's Destiny," which will be available to the public in the summer of 2005.

Bea Smith is a staff writer for Worrall Newspapers.

Holidays at The Ritz



A scene from 'Babes in Toyland' which will be performed on Saturday at the Ritz Theatre in Elizabeth.

Friends overcome differences in book

By Jeff Cummins Associate Editor

When you're on the road some day, going through the traditionally harrowing North Jersey commute, take a look at the faces on the drivers around you.

Clearly, Skead's efforts have been pretty effective, given the fact that he's had four books published during the last half-dozen years.

You'll never see Jack quite like this again

By Jeff Cummins Associate Editor

So it's the holiday season, and you're in search of a last-second selection of entertainment that will dazzle your whole brood — not easily accomplished, when you consider that each of you wants something different out of your entertainment.

"Simple. What better to choose than a panty play. No, don't be upset. You're not the only one reading this. A panty is usually based on a children's play, and features a lot of double entendres, i.e., phrases with two meanings.

"I had plenty of ideas in my head on how to improve the story, but I knew I'd be doing an author visit at an elementary school and thought maybe I could teach and inspire the kids with a special brainstorming session.

Sleep deprivation won't stop author

By Bea Smith Staff Writer

Novelist Lita Harris of Kenilworth has proved that the creative juices in a born writer continue to multiply under any and all circumstances.

Now, Harris is planning to write full time and hopes to complete the third in the trilogy, "Samantha's Destiny," by the summer of 2005.

"The trouble with being at home all day long," Harris admitted during breakfast the other morning in a diner in Kenilworth, "is that every one thinks you're always available.

Harris said she spends a lot of time in the library. "A lot of research goes into writing a book. And it can become very lonely. It's just you and your lap top computer.

Harris said she always enjoyed writing. She wrote plays in school, and "people paid attention."

"One thing I write to a kid when I personalize a book is 'Never give up on your dreams,'" said Skead. "I'm not a rich author, or a famous author, but it's nice to accomplish a goal.

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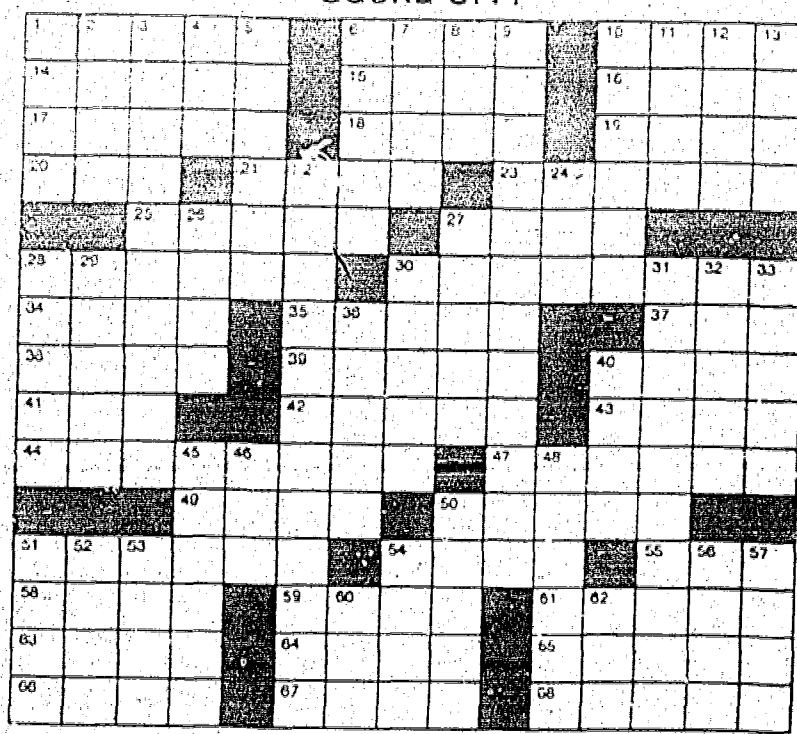
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35 Businessman
36 Sikorsky
37 Pig enclosures
38 Reverent wonder
39 Henna, for example

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE B12

REUNIONS

The following schools will conduct reunions in the coming months:
Scotch Plains High School Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, Dec. 31.
Westfield High School Class of 1994, 10-year reunion, Dec. 31.
Westfield High School Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, May 21.
Scotch Plains High School Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, June 11.
Scotch Plains High School Class of 1975, 30-year reunion.
Union High School, Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, 2005.
Union High School, Class of 1995, 10-year reunion, 2005.
Union Hill High School, Class of 1975, 30-year reunion, 2005.
Union High School, Class of 1976, 30-year reunion, 2006.
Union High School, Class of 1981, 25-year reunion, 2006.

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news:
Church, club and social events — Friday at noon.
Entertainment — Friday at noon.
Sports news and game results — Monday at noon.
Letter to the Editor — Monday 9 a.m.
General news and information — Monday 5 p.m.

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY December 19th, 2004
EVENT: Flea Market & Collectible Show
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Avenue, Belleville, NJ (off Jovannoni Street)
TIME: Indoors & Outdoors 9-5PM
DETAILS: New merchandise, collectibles, crafts and a special tag/garage sale section!
Pictures with Santa 11AM-3PM
For information Call 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Sponsor by BHS Variety

SUNDAY December 19th, 2004
EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: St. Mary's High School, 237 South Broad Street, Elizabeth
TIME: 9am-3pm
INFORMATION: Over 100 tables of bargains. Limited space. For more information call 908-352-4350
ORGANIZATION: St. Mary's High School

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Jeff Cummins, Editor
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HOROSCOPES

Dec. 20 to 26

ARIES, March 21 - April 19: Financial or business proposals are popular and well-received. Take advantage of this opportunity to make a splash in the professional arena.
TAURUS, April 20 - May 20: Step forward and lead the charge to rectify a policy or issue that has not been given a fair judgment. Speak out and show your support.
GEMINI, May 21 - June 21: Stop and look within for the answers to a gnawing mystery or question. Use your psychic view to recognize the truth of the situation.
CANCER, June 22 - July 22: A close personal relationship is destined to lift you to a higher plane. Relax and enjoy a wild and wonderful ride in the arms of a loved one.
LEO, July 23 - Aug. 22: Time is like money, and should be well-spent. Practice discipline in your work or daily routine and avoid making what

could be a very costly mistake.
VIRGO, Aug. 23 - Sept. 22: Do not make promises to children or loved ones that might be very difficult to keep. You can make a greater impact by speaking the truth.
LIBRA, Sept. 23 - Oct. 23: Focus your energy on home and family this week. Discuss your feelings and concerns and make necessary changes within your domestic environment.
SCORPIO, Oct. 24 - Nov. 21: Shy away from drawing conclusions without the proper proof or information. Get the facts straight before lowering the boom of judgment.
SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 - Dec. 21: A shared financial goal is presented for your review and consent. Clarify the details of the agreement prior to signing the dotted line.
CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 - Jan. 19: Patience is your key word this week. Slow down and connect or identify with the center of calm that can be found deep inside of you.

AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 - Feb. 18: A misunderstanding between you and a co-worker can be quickly and easily improved or streamlined with the help of a mediator. Put your ego aside and make an honest confession.
PISCES, Feb. 19 - March 20: Social activities involving friends can be financially, mentally and physically draining. Keep some time, energy or cash in reserve for yourself.
If your birthday is this week, all forms of communication are highlighted during the coming year.
Look into ways in which you can improve or streamline the way information is gathered and processed on the business and professional level.
Avoid conflict, strife or discord with friends or loved ones.
Find a common ground for working together in order to achieve a shared goal.
Also born this week: Lars Ulrich, Jimmy Buffett, Ricky Martin, Eddie Vedder, Robin Gibb, Samuel L. Jackson and Jane Fonda.

Actress with Shakespeare Theatre is honored with fellowship

At its recent annual Awards Gala, the Princess Grace Foundation-USA announced that Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey resident artist Marion Williams was selected to receive a Princess Grace Award in the Theatre Fellowship category.
A national program with a mission to assist the career development of young theater, dance and film artists, the Princess Grace Award recognizes artistic promise and a dedication to excellence. The \$10,000 grant was awarded to Williams, a native of Cookeville, Tenn., following a highly competitive selection process, in which more than 400 young artists

from throughout the nation were nominated to receive the honor. As a member of The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's company of designers, Williams was selected to receive a Princess Grace Award in the Theatre Fellowship category.
Said Shakespeare Theatre artistic director Bonnie J. Monte, "Marion Williams is one of the most exciting young designers with whom we've worked in recent years. In her double role as both a scenic and costume designer, she has chosen an interesting and unusual path as an artist. Marion represents, I think, that special brand of designer who, like great directors, envisions the total scope of

a piece of stage art — she sees the entire canvas of a play, opera or dance piece in all its visual cohesiveness."
Monte also remarked, "It was a bold step for this young woman to set aside, for awhile, her burgeoning costume design career to pursue graduate work in set design — a realm mostly dominated by men."
Among Williams' recent Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey credits are the scenic and costume designs for the company's highly acclaimed Main Stage production of "Of Mice and Men." Her credits also include costume and/or scenic design for the renowned Jose Limon Dance Compa-

Abandoned factories could provide ideal space to facilitate arts efforts

Better still, the area where these factories are located, known as "The Valley" in Orange, oozes with a lot more history and charm.
The former F. Berg Hat Factory, which the Housing and Neighborhood Development Services group plans to revitalize, was once the biggest, most productive of the 34 hat factories in Orange, which was known as the "Hat capital of the world."
"We're cheek to jowl down here," said HANDS Executive Director Pat Morrissey, referring to the vitality and industry-related congestion that existed in the area when the hat-manufacturing industry was at its peak. HANDS plans to revitalize several buildings in the Valley area, some of which were built as early as 1864. Morrissey is approaching this devel-

opment with a different feeling than many developers have, however.
"We don't think of ourselves as a big housing producer," he said. "We redevelop eyesore properties. If you can take pivotal eyesores and turn them around, you can create hope."
And if there's anyone who senses the artsy tone of the community, it's Morrissey, who lives in the area and has a plan for utilizing the arts to restore some luster to "The Valley."
"We're knitting this into the neighborhood," said Morrissey, who plans to restore properties in a way that maintains the historical spirit of "The Valley." Indeed, a cursory glance around the neighborhood reveals an area that was once buzzing with industry, vitality and flavor. Popping up on one corner is a bar with a sign that indicates

creative people of all types breathing new life into a neighborhood that once served as the economic anchor for a mini-region — and could again.
A cursory glance around "The Valley" offers a glimpse of an area that is ideal for the arts. There's a diverse, almost free-spirited feel to the area that goes hand-in-hand with its tremendous history.
The arts are ideal for Orange because they offer both promise and opportunity, with a mix of mediums, including painting, pottery, poetry, theater, that have a way of breathing new life into neighborhoods, slowly bringing investment and business with them. Art carries with it the potential to renew many facets of life in "The Valley," bringing coffeehouses where art is often appreciated, sending new

St. Petersburg Ballet comes to NJPAC

The celebrated St. Petersburg State Ballet on Ice presents its stunning version of "Nutcracker on Ice," choreographed by Konstantin Rassadin, on Dec. 28 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 29 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's Prudential Hall. Tickets are \$12 to \$50, and may be purchased by telephone at 888-466-5722, at the NJPAC box office at 1 Center St. in downtown Newark, or by visiting the NJPAC Web site at www.njpac.org. The performance is part of the NJPAC PSE&G holiday celebration.
The stage at NJPAC will turn into an enormous ice rink in this magical, visually stunning holiday production which features more than 150 exquisite costumes and newly-created opera sets. With Tchaikovsky's score, this magnificent show is the largest theatrical production of its kind. It made its world premiere in the United States in 1996. Like the traditional ballet version, it tells the story of the young girl, Clara, who receives a nutcracker doll from Herr Drosselmeier that miraculously becomes human. The ballet was created for skaters by Konstantin Rassadin, the company's resident choreographer.
Rassadin was a leading soloist with the Mariinsky Theatre of Opera and Ballet — formerly the Kirov — in St. Petersburg for 23 years and was a

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The Pierogi Palace
The Pierogie Palace is the little place that takes pride in its Polish food. Right off St. Georges Avenue on West Grand Avenue in Rahway, it has served the best hand-made pierogies in Union County for the last 11 years.
Jessica Avent took over the business two years ago, and she expanded on the previous success of the place through consistency — not to mention great take-out food.
"We plan to keep doing what we're doing," said Avent. "We work hard, and it pays off."
When asked what set apart her restaurant, Avent explained that her restaurant takes pride in its specialties. "People know we hand-make all our food. They can get machine-made pierogies anywhere," she said.
These beauties come in all varieties. The best-selling ones are the potato/cheese and sauerkraut kinds, although there are plenty of others. There are plain potato, potato/onion, potato/garlic, cheese, potato with sauerkraut, sweet cabbage, potato/spinach, jalapeno cheese/potato, potato/cheese with broccoli/prune, and cabbage with noodles selections for the adventurous pierogi fanatic. Just add a dab of sour cream, and each mix comes through with pungent deliciousness.
On the side, there are trays available of stuffed cabbage, stuffed peppers and kielbasa or sauerkraut. Potato pancakes are also available, particularly during their Wednesday special. Since the Palace is only take-out, everything is extremely affordable and delicious, even when reheated; all the dishes can be bought either frozen or hot, and during their holiday season, it will be next to impossible to get some of the Palace's finest, since orders have already piled up. Jessica and the rest of the cooks are hard at work on cranking out 250 dozen pierogies per day for the 10 day period before Christmas. The same is normally true around Easter time, and orders must be made two or three weeks in advance of those times of the year.
But any other time, this West Grand institution is relentlessly producing some of the best Polish food in Union County, even rivaling the places in nearby Linden.

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Handbags shown at Newark Museum

For more than 30 years, a Judith Leiber handbag has represented the ultimate in craftsmanship and design. Leiber's remarkable works of art are the subject of an exhibition at The Newark Museum through Feb. 27.

A comprehensive survey of the designer's career and art, "Fashioning Art: Handbags by Judith Leiber," celebrates Leiber's extraordinary artistic achievement by showcasing her creative genius and influence on nearly four decades of fashion.

The exhibition features more than 170 of Leiber's unique handbags and minaudières — gilded metal evening bags.

The exhibition, organized by the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., and sponsored by the Nef Fund series, includes a range of work, from the first beaded bag created in 1967, to more recent designs.

Judith Leiber bags are inspired by a variety of sources, including Asian culture, nature, Hollywood and museum objects.

Coveted by celebrities, socialites and collectors, Leiber's bags take on many forms, including fruits, vegetables, flowers and animals.

Artists such as Henri Matisse, Georges Braque, Gustav Klimt and Charles Rennie Mackintosh and periods of art such as Art Deco and Pop Art are represented.

Craftsmanship and high fashion blend harmoniously in Leiber's creations through the use of fine materials, including leather, antique fabrics, and Swarovski crystals.

Leiber's bags still hand-headed in the United States, usually take two years to design.

The hand of the artist is evident at every step of the creative process. Minaudières are constructed out of cardboard, stamped in brass, gold plated, and beaded.

Every design is assembled with painstaking precision — each crystal is picked up with a tweezer and individually glued onto the bag, where the design has already been outlined.

One beaded bag can be encrusted with as many as 13,000 Swarovski crystals, and can take up to five days to complete.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1921, Leiber was the first female apprentice and master in the Hungarian handbag guild.

Eventually she and her husband, an American soldier, moved to the United States and founded their own company in 1963.

Their first factory had four employees whom Leiber worked alongside, teaching them her expertise.

"There was such a sense of

Museum spotlights life of the last tsar

Through Jan. 9, The Newark Museum will offer visitors a unique opportunity to experience the private world of Russia's last imperial family.

"Nicholas and Alexandra: At Home with the Last Tsar and His Family" is the first exhibition to display the Romanov family's personal belongings from its living quarters in the Alexander Palace in Tsarskoye Selo, 15 miles outside of St. Petersburg.

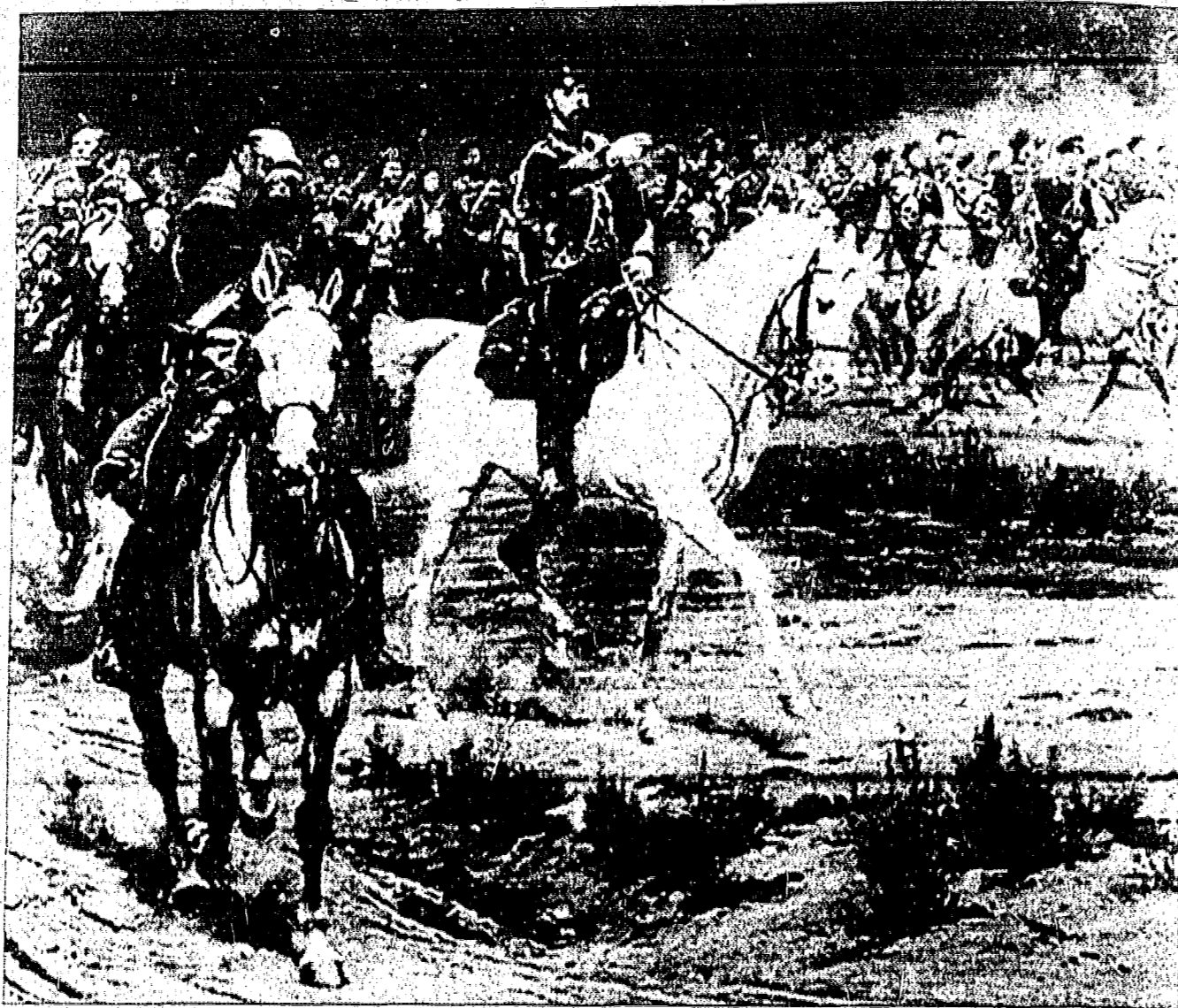
More than 250 precious objects, most of them never before seen outside of Russia, will be presented in a series of vignettes that depict the private life of Tsar Nicholas II, Tsarina Alexandra and their five children before they met their tragic fate.

The museum's Engelhardt Court will be transformed into a grand room of state, with spectacular chandeliers and drapery added for the exhibition's duration. Exquisite porcelain, tapestry, paintings, and portraits, uniforms and dresses, icons, decorative arts, textiles, books, photographs and letters are some of the items from the royal couple's personal collection that will be displayed.

Rare film footage of home movies and photographs taken by the tsar, an avid amateur photographer, will be included in this remarkable exhibition. Cherished family heirlooms and ordinary daily belongings will be combined to complete an extraordinary picture of life at the turn of the last century.

At the Newark Museum, the only East Coast venue for this traveling exhibition, there will be a small selection of Russian objects from the museum's decorative arts holdings, including several pieces with imperial provenance.

Marilyn Pfeifer Swezey, a specialist in Russian decorative arts and cultural history, is the guest curator for "Nicholas and Alexandra: At Home with the Last Tsar and His Family," Swezey's longstanding association



Nicholas II among the Hussars, part of the current exhibit at The Newark Museum titled, "Nicholas and Alexandra: At Home with the Last Tsar and His Family," which will run through Jan. 9.

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Shakespeare Theatre appoints new chairman, elects new trustees

The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's board of trustees has announced the appointment of Richard B. McGlynn of Far Hills as the company's next chairman, as well as the election of two other new officers and four new trustees.

McGlynn is a retired vice president and general counsel for United Water Resources Inc., and has been an active 26-year member of The Shakespeare Theatre's board of trustees. He assumes his two-year term as chairman in January. McGlynn previously served as chairman of the theater's board when the current artistic director, Bonnie J. Monte, was engaged to lead the company 15 years ago. McGlynn served as a County Court judge in Essex County and as a New Jersey Public Utilities commissioner during the 1970s, and was a candidate for governor in the 1981 Republican gubernatorial primary election. He practiced public utilities law for many years in Newark before joining United Water in 1995. McGlynn is also a member of the board of directors of Pepco Holdings Inc., the parent company of electric power and delivery companies in New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

He succeeds Martin Prentice of Morris Township, whose two-year term as chairman concludes at the end of this month. Said Prentice, "I could not be handing the reins of chairmanship to a better qualified person than Rich McGlynn. His deep knowledge of and commitment to The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey is second to none." Prentice will remain on the board of trustees, as a member of the Executive, Personnel and Corporate Development committees.

Mary O'Malley of Chatham, vice president for Local Initiatives at Prudential, was named vice president of the theater's board of trustees. O'Malley has been a member of the theater's board of trustees since 2002.

John Hyland of Morristown, a managing partner at Morristown

Financial Group, will succeed Michael D. Schlesinger of Summit as treasurer and chairman of the Finance Committee.

Since 2003, Hyland has served as chairman of The Shakespeare Theatre's Government Advocacy Development Committee. As treasurer and Finance Committee chairman, Hyland will now provide advice and oversight of the theater's financial operations. Schlesinger, who will remain an active member of the Finance Committee, served as treasurer for more than 10 years.

Four new board members were also elected recently. Jacqueline E. Brevard, of Westfield; William T. Knox IV of Basking Ridge; Mark L. Lichtenfeld of Bernardsville; and Rosemary McLaughlin of Hoboken.

Brevard is vice president, chief ethics and compliance officer of Merck & Co. Inc. A leader in the field of worldwide business ethics, she is a member of the board of directors of the Ethics Officer Association and has

lectured and conducted seminars internationally on this subject.

Kravis is a certified financial planner with RegentAtlantic Capital in Chatham. He was a tax lawyer in private practice for 25 years, and was listed in "Best Lawyers in America" from 1991 through 2001. A national speaker and author on estate planning with retirement plan and IRA assets, he is a past chairman of Section of Taxation of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Lichtenfeld is senior vice president with RBC Dam Rauscher, one of the nation's largest full-service regional securities firms. He leads The Lichtenfeld Group of RBC Dam Rauscher in Morristown, managing more than \$400 million in assets for families, non-profit organizations and corporate clients. Lichtenfeld and his wife, Laurie, have been supporters of The Shakespeare Theatre for several years.

McLaughlin is a playwright, poet and associate professor of theater arts at Drew University. The author of

"Voices Carry," among other works, her current projects include the play, "The American Trilogi, commissioned by Playwrights Theatre, about silk strikes, salons and the founding of the Provincetown Players. She has been named a Distinguished Teaching Artist by New Jersey State Council on the Arts Department of State.

The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey board of trustees is also comprised of William E. Miller, president, Emma N. Byrne-Kathleen B. Clingman, secretary, Margaret L. Dunbar, Michele E. Fabrizio, Peri Gilpin, Suzanne Glatt, T. Handolph Harris, Pamela P. Hirsch, vice president; S. Dillard Kirby; Stephen H. Kneel; Judith A. Maynes; Anisa Melidi; Karl H. Meister; John M. Pellicchia; Dana M. Reece; Rick Sordelet; A. Wayne Tamarelli; Robert K. Upham and Teresa F. Winslow. Ex officio members are the Thomas H. Keen, honorary chairman, and Ellwood R. Kerkeslager, mayor of Madison.

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REAL ESTATE

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Five associates earn Coldwell certification

Diana Weizer-Kane, James O'Neill, Marie Turin, John Sweney and Laune Kennedy, sales associates with the Summit office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey and Rockland County, N.Y., have achieved Coldwell Mobility Real Estate certification. This two-year certificate is part of the Certified Agent Advantage program, a professional standard available exclusively to members of the Coldwell Mobility Principal Broker Network. The Coldwell Mobility Broker Network is the leading network of real estate brokers serving the clients and customers of Coldwell Mobility.

Coldwell Mobility requires qualified network agents to become certified as relocation experts, by participating in three Certified Agent Advantage courses and passing a written exam upon completion. The course covers issues surrounding the purchase of a destination house, as well as the most effective techniques for helping clients research communities, locate their new home and settle into their new area anywhere in the United States.

"As members of the Coldwell Mobility Broker Network, our agents strive to deliver top block service to every client," said Martha McDonnell, manager. "The Certified Agent Advantage programs help to differentiate our agents and provides them with a wider range of resources and career growth opportunities."

For more information about buying or selling real estate throughout Union, Morris, Essex and Somerset counties, call the Coldwell Banker Summit office at 908-277-1770. The office is located at 357 Springfield Ave., Suite 1 in Summit. You can also view the company's listings on the Internet at www.coldwellbanker.com. For a no-obligation mortgage pre-approval, call Coldwell Banker Mortgage at 888-299-0401.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokers in New Jersey and Rockland County, N.Y., is a member of the NRT family of companies. NRT Incorporated, a subsidiary of Coldwell Banker, is the nation's largest real estate brokerage company. NRT has more than 950 offices and 55,000 sales associates operating in more than 30 of the

nation's largest metropolitan markets. In 2003, NRT posted a real estate industry record of \$167 billion in closed sales volume.

Balsley joins ERA at its Summit office

Burgdorff ERA recently announced that Kristin Balsley has joined the company as a sales associate in ITS Summit office, located at 401 Springfield Ave. Balsley is a licensed New Jersey sales associate who possesses excellent communication, management and people skills. As a full-time agent she tracks up-to-the-minute information about the local real estate market and new listings, information she shares with clients. Known as a highly motivated, outgoing self-starter, she began her career in the advertising industry. She was an account executive at Berent Greenhouse and Webster, a New York advertising agency, where she successfully launched more than 100 Bed, Bath and Beyond stores. Balsley also worked for Corey Kay and Partners and Wells Rich Greene HDP, two other New York-based ad agencies.

Balsley has a bachelor of science degree in television and radio from Ithaca College, N.Y., with a concentration in advertising and public relations. She was raised in Berkeley Heights and is a resident of Summit. The Burgdorff ERA Summit office is a full-service real estate office. For real estate assistance, or to inquire about a career in real estate, call the office at 908-522-1800.

Founded in 1958, Burgdorff ERA is the top producing ERA real estate firm in dollar volume nationally, with 16 offices and more than 700 sales associates in New Jersey. The ERA real estate network includes more than 29,100 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 30 other countries and territories. Each office is independently owned and operated except offices owned and operated by NRT Incorporated. Burgdorff ERA is a member of the NRT family of companies. NRT Incorporated, a subsidiary of Coldwell Banker, is the nation's largest real estate brokerage company. The Burgdorff ERA Web site is located at www.burgdorff.com.

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by Jill Guzman

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If you are a homeowner thinking of the possibility of selling your home, you want the best. Ethics, professionalism, honesty, service, and consumer exposure are all the factors that will open the doors to a successful Real Estate transaction.

The "R" represents "Realtor". Knowing that a Real Estate professional proudly wears the "R" symbol next to the name, is as reassuring as MD, next to your physician title. The "R" signifies that your Real Estate Agent and Brokerage are members of the local, state, and National Boards of Realtors. It means they follow, and subscribe to the highest rules of Ethics and are well educated professionals in their field.

The "MLS" signifies Multiple Listing Services and assures you as a home owner that your home will be offered to all Real Estate professionals in the MLS ensuring top activity and thus many more offers which lead to a better price!

Caveat Emptor - let the consumer beware! Make certain when listing your home that the Brokerage will offer you the type of activity you deserve by placing your home on the MLS. Many discount brokers do not offer that opportunity for your home, they promise to save you money in the long run, cause you to sell your home under its value, there by costing you a substantial amount! We at Jill Guzman Realty, Inc. now proudly celebrating our 15th year of success, pride ourselves on the "R" that stands next to

our name and the Garden State MLS in which we place our homes as per owners request. We take pride in ourselves for having received the honor of being in the Elizabeth in a sale - brought to homeowners.

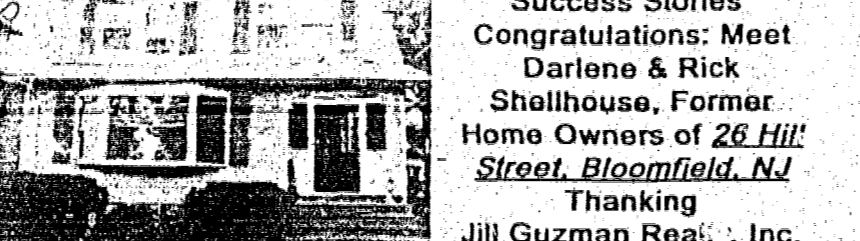
Thinking of selling? Look for the "R" and the MLS and make your decision the right one. We look forward to seeing you!

Jill Guzman has achieved the ultimate distinction of being among the TOP 1% of more than (approx.) 7,040 Active Real Estate Professionals by units of listings sold in the year 2003!

The professionals at Jill Guzman Realty are achieving honors and distinctions year after year. They offer personal service, true knowledge of market value, and a marketing program to enhance your home together with honesty and integrity. Their best reference is, and always will be, your neighbor.

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76 ELMORA AVE., ELIZABETH
908-353-6611
FAX: 908-353-5080
www.JillGuzmanRealty.com

Thank you Jill Guzman



"Dear Jill:
Writing to thank you and our agent, Melanie De Bella for all of the help-making the fast sale of our home happen. We got exactly the price we wanted and Melanie was always there to make the process simple and painless. Thank you for everything!!

Sincerely,
Darlene & Rick Shellhouse

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mortgage market place

Weekly Mortgage News

Lender & phone	30yr fixed rate+pts/apr	15yr fixed rate+pts/apr	ARMs(ppm) rate+pts/apr	Additional programs/Information
American Federal	5.125-1.625(5.125)	4.5-1.5(4.529)	4.25-1.375(4.339(5))	All Rates and Fees are Guaranteed in Writing!
Montara Corp	5.625-0.5(6.29)(p)		3.0-0.0(3.0)(p)	www.amfedmg.com
888-321-4687	5.375-0.5(5.7)(1)(A)			

Columbia Bank	5.000-0.5(5.284)	4.250-0.4(4.716)	4.125-0.5(2.9)(1)	20yr fix 5.500-0.5(5.522 to IMM / 10yr fix
800-952-4889	5.250-0.5(5.455)	4.500-0.2(4.844)	4.250-0.5(2.9)(5/1)	4.875-0.4(5.281 Ask about our construction perm
	5.500-1.5(6.115)	4.750-1(4.841)	4.500-0.5(2.7)(5/1)	2nd & Invest homes, Affordable housing discount
	5.750-0.5(5.774)	5.000-0.5(5.059)	5.125-0.5(2.7)(1/1)	80/10 no PMI orig reduced doc & many more

Fleet Mortgage	5.5-0.5(6.0)	4.75-0.5(4.25)	4.375-0.4(3.8)(5)	Call 1-800-8FLEET-1
800-466-3070				

Intertec Service	5.75-0.5(5.75)	5.00-0.5(5.015)	4.125-0.4(3.6)(5/1)	Other loan programs available.
Bank			4.5-0.4(4.9)(5/1)	Loans to \$2.5 million.
800-252-8119			5.125-0.5(5.141)(1/1)	Jumbo rates the same as conforming rates.
				Particulate lender.

Everwood Financial	5.375-0.5(5.5)	4.75-0.4(4.2)	4.625-0.4(4.1)(5/1)	Look and Apply Over the Phone
800-353-6885	5.125-1.5(5.38)	4.5-1.4(5.75)	4.375-0.4(3.9)(1)	Rates & Fees in Writing
				20 Year Fixed Rate 5.25 0 Points 3.38 APR

Loan Source	5.75-0.5(6.2)	4.88-0.4(5.4)	5-0.4(4.7)(10/1)	M.J.'s lowest mortgage rates! Jumbo specialists.
800-591-3278			5.75-0.5(6.4)(5/1)	www.loansearch.com
			4.65-0.4(4.3)(5/1)	

Partners	5.125-0.5(5.17)	4.5-0.4(5.4)	4.250-0.4(3.7)	Zero pts., zero fee loans available.
888-RATE-SALE				Free reference letter.
1-888-728-3725				partners@deal.com
				Wabnmas Equal

Street Bank	5.75-0.5(5.7)	5.125-0.5(5.19)	4.25-0.5(3.7)(1)	Call us about our latest rates!
800-693-3838			4.75-0.5(4.1)(5/1)	Other products available, please contact us for more details and rates.
	5.875-0.5(6.2)(6)	5.25-0.5(5.2)(6)	5.5-0.5(5.1)(1)	

30-year mortgage National Average: 5.71%
15-year mortgage National Average: 5.14%
1-year ARM mortgage National Average: 4.12%

30-year mortgage National Average: 5.71%
15-year mortgage National Average: 5.14%
1-year ARM mortgage National Average: 4.12%

LENDERS: TO BE LISTED IN THIS SURVEY CALL 1-800-CNS-8525

Information is current as of December 13, 2004 and believed to be accurate but can not be guaranteed and can change without notice. Credit history, FICO score and other factors may affect program terms. Rates based on \$163,000 single family loan. Jumbo rates (loans over \$139,650) based on a \$75,000 loan. Minimum down payment requirements, and other restrictions, may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. R = reference program only. Pts = points include origination and discount fees. Lock = rate lock period 30-60 day lock unless specified. APR = Annual Percentage Rate and is calculated by each company. Includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. ARM (ppm) = Adjustable Rate Mortgage program. Copyright 2004 Consumer News Systems, Inc.

Weekly Mortgage News

McLean, VA - Freddie Mac (NYSE:FRE) today released the results of its Primary Mortgage Market Survey in which the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage (FRM) averaged 5.71 percent, with an average 0.7 point, for the week ending December 9, 2004, down from last week when it averaged 5.81 percent. Last year at this time, the 30-year FRM averaged 6.02 percent.

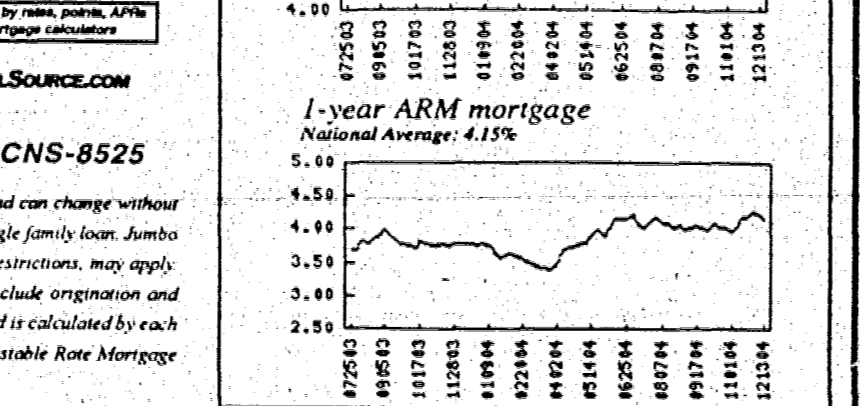
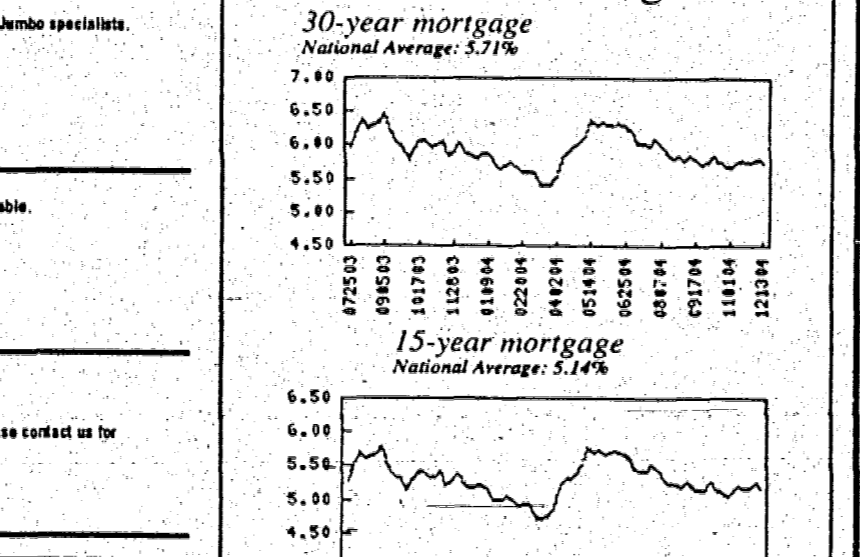
The average for the 15-year FRM this week is 5.14 percent, with an average 0.6 points, down as well from last week when it averaged 5.23 percent. A year ago, the 15-year FRM averaged 5.36 percent. One-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 4.15 percent this week, with an average 0.7 point, down from last week when it averaged 4.19 percent. At this time last year, the one-year ARM averaged 3.77 percent.

(Average commitment rates should be reported along with average fees and points to reflect the total cost of obtaining the mortgage.) "Responding to a weak labor market report that showed November job growth to be far less than had been anticipated, long-term yields - and that includes mortgage rates - reversed last week's hike and fell to the previous week's level," said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac vice president and chief economist.

"However, many other indicators remain strong and this we think will lead the Federal Open Market Committee to raise short-term rates another quarter point to a target of 1.4 percent, putting upward pressure on frequently adjusting ARMs.

Freddie Mac is a stockholder-owned corporation established by Congress in 1970 to create a continuous flow of funds to mortgage lenders to support homeownership and rental housing. Freddie Mac purchases mortgages from lenders and packages them into securities that are sold to investors. Over the years, Freddie Mac has made home possible for one in six homebuyers in America.

National Averages



ERA makes a commitment meet the needs of the Hispanic market

The fastest growing demographic group in the United States, the Hispanic market, represents more than 13 percent of the total United States population, about 40 million people, and a remarkable \$581 billion in purchasing power. When it comes to real estate, the ERA Brokers of New Jersey are committed to understanding and meeting the housing needs of the growing Hispanic communities in New Jersey with bilingual sales agents and support staff, a Spanish-language Web site and brochures and many other unique

services. ERA associates have access to a wide variety of tools and a marketing system that gives them a distinct advantage in working with this market. In addition to Spanish-language recruitment and training materials for sales associates, marketing materials and ERA's award-winning consumer Web site, www.ERA.com, are translated into Spanish to better serve the Hispanic community.

To meet the specific needs of Hispanic customers, ERA focuses on the important roles cultural differences

and language play in the real estate transaction process.

Carl Reed, broker-owner, ERA Reed Realty Inc., knows this market well since 40 percent of his office's business can be attributed to the Hispanic market.

"We have found that our buyers prefer a home that is close to public transportation, with a sizeable property and the potential for expansion in order to house extended family," he said.

To accommodate their clients' work schedules, agents usually meet with

them during evenings, and on Saturdays and Sundays. Showings are often scheduled for after 8 p.m.

One key to succeeding in this market is to have bilingual agents and support staff.

"Our clients want to communicate in their native language, so we provide agents, support staff and even mortgage specialists who can speak to them in Spanish," added Reed.

Another cultural difference found in working with the Hispanic market is that they often bring their extended

family and children to meetings, showings and closings. To make their offices more children-friendly, some ERA offices have created larger conference rooms, while others provide a big screen television, arts and crafts, a place to do homework, and candy and soda machines.

Clients appreciate that ERA offices have brochures and videos, home warranties, the consumer information statement, and even translations of contracts, in Spanish. Currently, New Jersey law does not allow for Spanish-

language contracts, but customers can read a Spanish translation and then sign the English contract.

For more information, contact a local ERA office or visit ERANJ.com. ERA is a global leader in the residential real estate industry with more than 30 years of experience in developing consumer-oriented products and services. The ERA Real Estate network includes more than 28,000 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 30 other countries and territories.

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Our Featured Agent is Joe Signorella.
Joe has been a long time sales leader in the Union Office. He is a member of the Coldwell Banker Presidents Circle for 2003 and was recently named to the NJAR Distinguished Sales Club. This award is given to agents who have over 10 years in the NJAR Circle of Excellence. If you are considering listing or selling your home call Joe Signorella at 908-688-3000.

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CRANFORD
Charming 3 BR Colonial located close to town, schools and NYC train. Features new kitchen w/ granite counter top, built-in cabinet, LR w/ fireplace, brood frs, new windows, roof and exterior paint in 2003. French doors from LR lead to deck and yard with an above ground pool. Great home for relaxing and entertaining.
\$439,900

LINDEN
Spacious, all brick Split in Sunnyside section offers spacious room, 3 Bedrooms, 2 full baths, Family Room with fireplace, Kitchen with breakfast bar and finished basement with Family Room, spacious Eat-In Kitchen with dishwasher, private fenced yard with above ground pool.
\$385,000

CLARK
Warm and inviting 3-4 Bedroom, 2 full bath home in move-in condition. Many updates including furnace, windows, siding, hot water heater and finished basement with Family Room, spacious Eat-In Kitchen with dishwasher, private fenced yard with above ground pool.
\$374,900

UNION
Immaculate and spacious Split Level situated on fabulous, deep property, located on very pretty tree-lined street, offers 8 rooms and includes 3 BR, 1 bath, Formal DR, 1st floor Kitchen and Den and additional, newer roof, in basement w/ FR and much more.
\$329,900

WESTFIELD
Yesterday's elegance/today's amenities! Grand CH Colonial offers a perfectly renovated DR with box beams, French doors, screened porch or deck, designer Kitchen with cherry, stainless and granite adjacent to large FR, Master Bath w/ steam shower.
\$1,350,000

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We at ERA Village Green Realtors would like to wish you & your family a very Happy Holiday Season!

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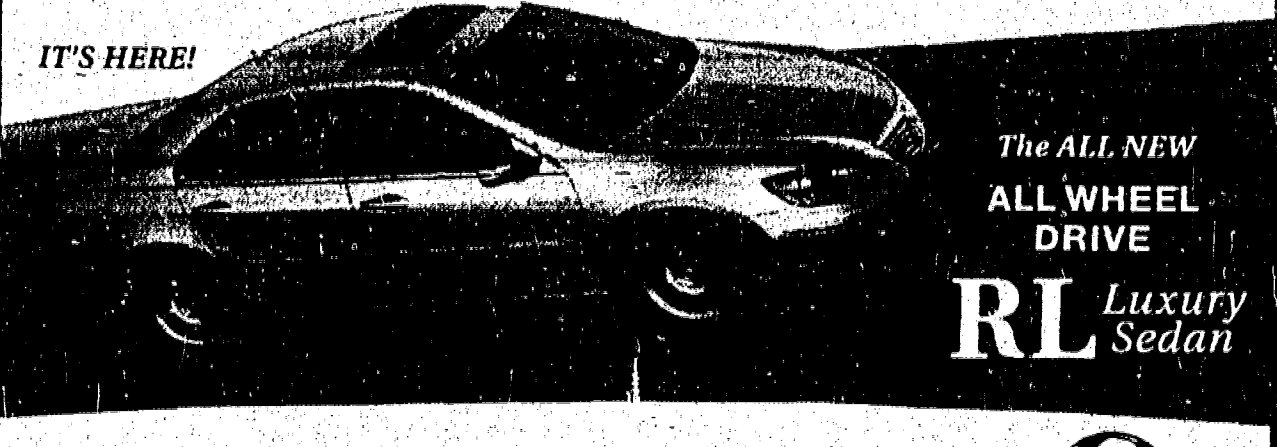
FORD F150 1997 4x4 SUPER cab (anor 72,000 miles, auto loaded, low package. Mint condition. Original owner. 48 L. Leather. \$12,500. 973-762-0099

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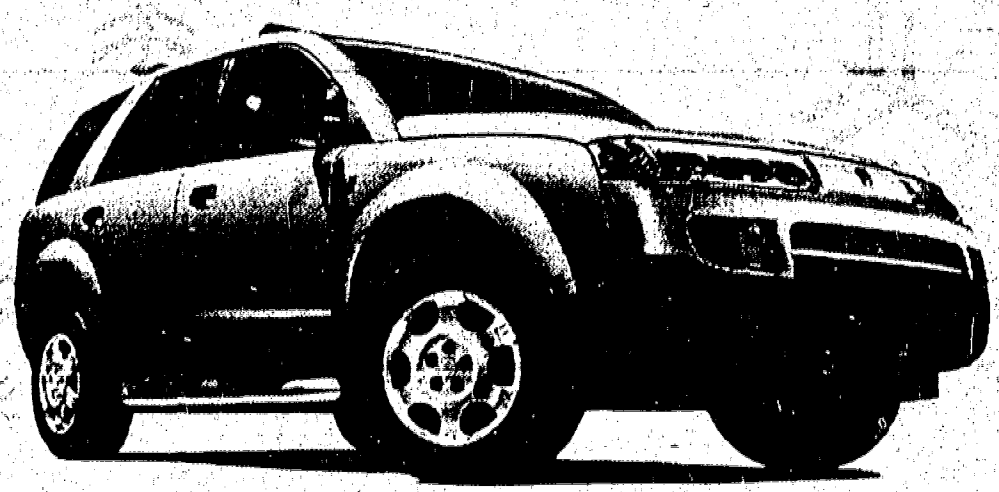
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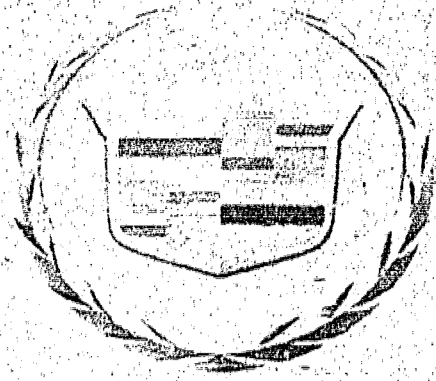
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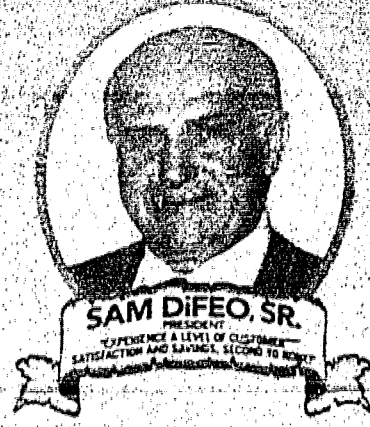
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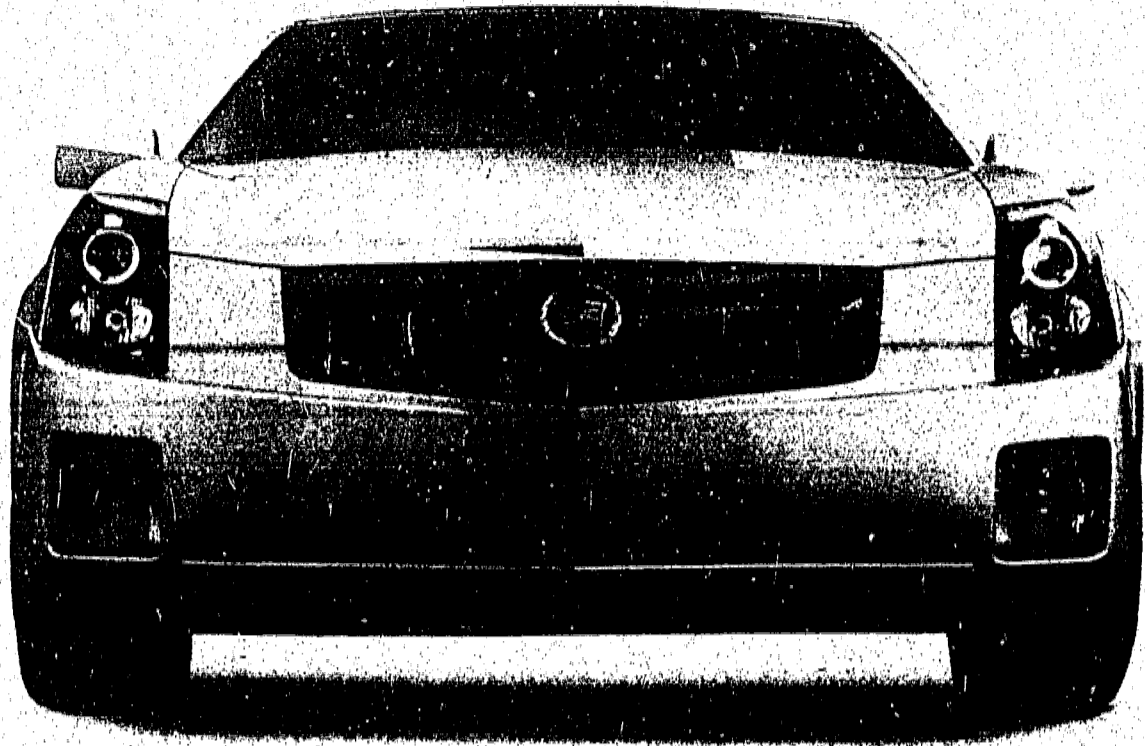
Cadillac



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NEW 2005 CTS
 LEATHER | ONSTAR NAVIGATION | AM/FM STEREO CD
 DUAL ZONE ELECTRONIC CLIMATE CONTROL

\$113 LEASE PER MO. X 24 MONTHS

6 cyl. auto trans, air, p/strg/ABS, p/wind/seats/cks/mirrs/ant, tilt, cruise, r/def, lthr int, s/b tires, OnStar Navigation Safety & Security sys, AM/FM Stereo Cass/CD, int wip, dual air bags, fog lts, MSRP \$33,745, Stk. #V51828, VIN# 50136138. 24 mo closed end lease w/12,000 mi/yr; 20¢ thereafter, \$2995 cust cash or trade equivalent + \$113 1st pymnt + \$695 bank fee = \$3803 due at signing, 11 pymnts \$2712. Ttl cost \$6402. Purch opt at lease end \$21,084. Lease incl. \$1090 North East DMA, \$1500 Instant Value Certificates if qual***, \$500 GM Military Program if qual††, \$1000 Customer Cash Rebate, \$1000 Oldsmobile Owner Loyalty if qual^, \$500 Crown Loyalty if qual^^, \$750 GM Bonus & \$1000 GMAC Bonus-Cash.



NEW 2005 SRX
 LEATHER | ONSTAR NAVIGATION | AM/FM STEREO CD
 REAR PARK ASSISTANCE

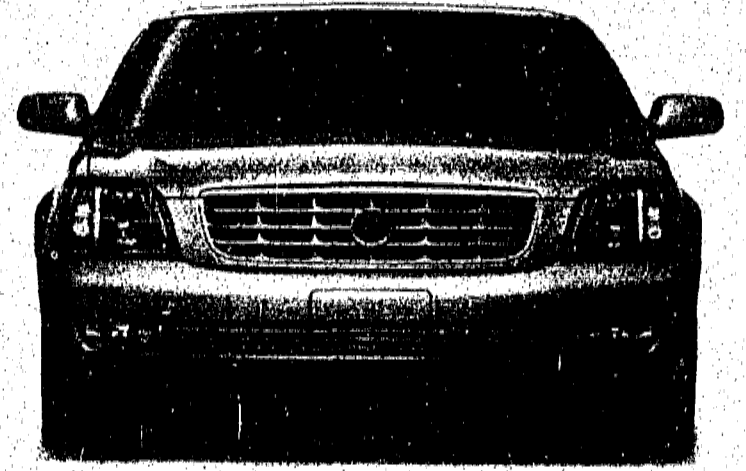
\$197 LEASE PER MO. X 24 MONTHS

6 cyl. auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS/wind/seats/cks/trunk/ant/mirrs, tilt, cruise, r/def, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, alloys, lthr int, int wip, dual air bags, fog lts, OnStar Navigation Safety & Security sys, rear park assist, MSRP \$39,035, Stk. #R5062, VIN #50117189. 74 mo closed end lease w/12,000 mi/yr; 20¢ thereafter, \$3995 cust cash or trade equivalent + \$197 1st pymnt + \$695 bank fee = \$4891 due at signing, 11 pymnts \$4728. Ttl cost \$3418. Purch opt at lease end \$25,482. Lease incl. \$1000 Customer Cash Rebate, \$1000 NE Customer Cash, \$1000 Oldsmobile Owner Loyalty if qual**, \$500 GM Military Program if qual†††, \$1500 Instant Value Certificates if qual***, \$500 Crown Loyalty if qual^^.

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SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE 3-YRS/36,000 MILES
 WITH THE PURCHASE OF EVERY NEW CADILLAC.
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NEW 2005 DeVille
 XM SATELLITE RADIO | LEATHER | SUNROOF
 ONSTAR NAVIGATION | HEATED/COOLED SEATS

\$375 LEASE PER MO. X 24 MONTHS

8 cyl. auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS, pwr wind/seats/cks/trunk/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, lthr, cruise, r/def, lthr int, sunr, lthr int, rads, int wip, dual air bags, Prem pkg, XM satellite radio, Comfort & Convenience pkg, heated & cooled seats, heated str whl, memory & personalization pkg, FULLY LOADED! MSRP \$50,125, Stk. #05183, VIN #50134396. 24 mo closed end lease w/12,000 mi/yr; 20¢ thereafter, \$3995 cust cash or trade equivalent + \$375 1st pymnt + \$695 bank fee = \$5065 due at signing, 11 pymnts \$3900. Ttl cost \$13,690. Purch opt at lease end \$28,893. Lease incl. \$4500 Customer Cash Rebate, \$1000 Oldsmobile Owner Loyalty if qual^, \$500 GM Military Program if qual††, \$1500 Instant Value Certificates if qual*** & \$500 Crown Loyalty if qual^^.

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 2) DRIVE IT. WITH UNLIMITED MILEAGE FOR UP TO 60 DAYS.
 3) EXCHANGE IT!™ IF YOU'RE NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED. NO QUESTIONS ASKED. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS.
THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LISTING, ALL MAKES AND MODELS AVAILABLE!

<p>2001 Cadillac Catera Beige, 6 cyl. auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS, p/wind/seats/cks/trunk/ant/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, lthr int, rads, int wip, dual air bags, fog lts, 40,667 mi, Stk. #812669, VIN #1R036404</p> <p>\$17,391</p>	<p>2002 Cadillac Seville Blue, 8 cyl. auto, air, pwr str/ABS/wind/seats/cks/trunk/ant/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, lthr int, s/b rads, int wip, alum whls, lug rack, conv spare, dual air bags, fog lts, 33,814 mi, Stk. #812769, VIN #2U167381</p> <p>\$24,992</p>	<p>2002 Cadillac DeVille Blue, 8 cyl. auto, air, pwr str/ABS/wind/seats/cks/trunk/ant/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, lthr int, s/b tires, int wip, alum whls, dual air bags, fog lts, 32,833 mi, Stk. #812760, VIN #2U296925</p> <p>\$26,992</p>	<p>2004 Cadillac CTS Silver, 6 cyl. auto, air, pwr str/ABS, p/wind/seats/cks/trunk/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, lthr int, alum whls, lthr rads, int wip, dual air bags, fog lts, 29,936 mi, Stk. #812706, VIN #30110641</p> <p>\$28,993</p>	<p>2003 Cadillac DeVille White, 8 cyl. auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS/wind/seats/cks/trunk/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, lthr int, rads, int wip, alum whls, dual air bags, fog lts, 27,696 mi, Stk. #812596, VIN #3U209405</p> <p>\$29,903</p>
<p>2003 Cadillac CTS Red, 6 cyl. auto, air, pwr str/ABS, p/wind/seats/cks/trunk/ant/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, lthr int, rads, int wip, alum whls, dual air bags, fog lts, 31,937 mi, Stk. #812707, VIN #30117709</p> <p>\$29,993</p>	<p>2003 Cadillac DeVille DTS Blue, 8 cyl. auto, air, pwr str/ABS, p/wind/seats/cks/trunk/ant/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, lthr int, rads, int wip, alum whls, dual air bags, fog lts, 29,430 mi, Stk. #812704, VIN #3U113640</p> <p>\$31,993</p>	<p>2002 Cadillac Escalade Black, 8 cyl. auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS/wind/seats/cks/trunk/ant/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, lthr rads, int wip, alum whls, lug rack, dual air bags, fog lts, 28,345 mi, Stk. #812763, VIN #2R114045</p> <p>\$38,992</p>	<p>2004 Cadillac SRX Silver Green, 6 cyl. auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS/wind/seats/cks/trunk/ant/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, lthr rads, int wip, alum whls, dual air bags, fog lts, 28,283 mi, Stk. #812690, VIN #40190374</p> <p>\$38,994</p>	<p>2004 Cadillac SRX Black, 6 cyl. auto, air, pwr str/ABS, p/wind/seats/cks/trunk/ant/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, lthr int, rads, alum whls, lug rack, dual air bags, fog lts, 3704 mi, Stk. #812714, VIN #50103877</p> <p>\$39,995</p>

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