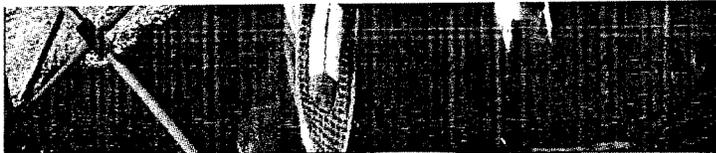


Jill Gross of Westford takes part in GLICA's 23rd annual powwow over the weekend in Bedford. The event, which was held on the grounds of Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford on Saturday and yesterday, featured drumming, dancing and other American Indian cultural events.



Sarah "Morning Flower" Libby braids the hair of daughter Kiona Ashe, 9, while Kiona's little sister Macayla "Spirit Dancer" Libby, 4, waits.

Lowell Sun 9/18/06
Sun photos by Bill Bridgeford



member or a roommate who didn't come home," said Lowell Police Capt. Robert DeMoura. If someone contacts police with a missing-person report, Please see **BODY/4**

Cell carriers unhappy with tower moratorium

Say Tewksbury vote affecting business

By ALEXANDRA MAYER-HOHD AHL
Sun Staff

TEWKSBURY — It seemed simple enough. Put any new construction of cell-phone towers on hold for a year, until the Planning Board figures out how to avoid a repeat of the fiasco involving the Sprint tower at the South Fire Station. But cell-phone providers do not see it that way, arguing that the moratorium imposed by Town Meeting in May hampers their ability to do business and strengthen their networks. "(T-Mobile) is in the process of designing and constructing a telecommunications system to Please see **TOWERS/4**

Center closes its doors

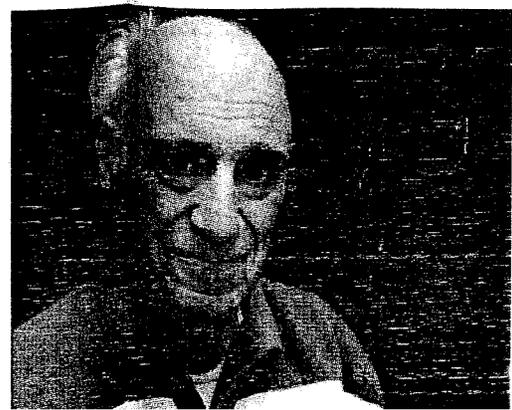
terial, financial and building needs during the past two years, Sister Janet Deaett, the center's director, said the building needs more than \$700,000 in repairs, which the sisters can't afford. With the closing of the center, Deaett said, "My shoulders are light, but my heart is heavy." About two dozen people attended yesterday's closing ceremony on the center's lawn. There were a few tears, but mostly smiles of the friendships that were formed. "We are here to remember and celebrate," Deaett told the crowd. Twenty-one years ago, nuns from the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur began the St. Julie Center after witnessing Lowell being flooded with Southeast Asians who came here after the Vietnam War and to escape the Please see **CENTER/4**



Sister Jennifer Pierce cries during yesterday's ceremony to remember St. Julie Asian Center's contributions to many of the city's Southeast Asian immigrants. The center is closing its doors after 21 years of serving the community. SUN/ANNA BETTENCOURT

Ball to books, 90-year-old volunteer is keeping busy

ifford J. Cho baseball-pitch-it all started s father gave 'alls outside his r-old Cho- to add a curve riments, he aseball game.



FROM OUR BACK PAGES

By **JIM O'LOUGHLIN**

The week of Sept. 18 to Sept. 24

50 YEARS AGO (1956)

- V.P. Nixon: 4 day work week in not to distant future
- Lowell Rep. James O'Dea wins 11-man primary for DA
- 500 turn out in Wilmington to say goodbye to George Spanos' restaurant
- Help wanted: Experienced spinners at Beaver Brook Mills in Dracut
- Sliced American cheese: 49 cents per pound at A&P

25 YEARS AGO (1981)

- "500,000 gather in Central Park to hear Simon & Garfunkel"

LOCAL NEWS

Cell carriers unhappy with tower moratorium

TOWERS/From Page 3

serve all of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," Boston Attorney Brian Grossman wrote on behalf of the wireless-service provider in two tower applications that have been submitted to the town since the institution of the moratorium. "One of the key design objectives of its systems is to provide seamless coverage."

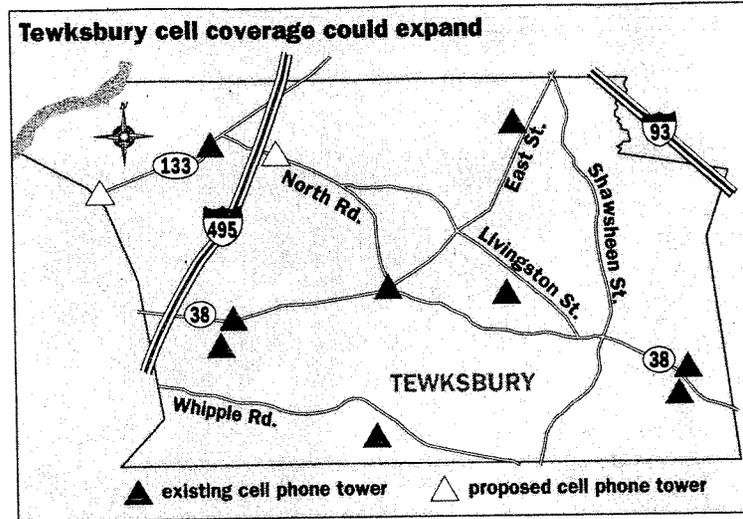
The applications for sites on Andover Street and North Street — the latter is co-signed by T-Mobile and Nextel — are currently before the Zoning Board of Appeals. Town Counsel Charles Zaroulis is in the process of reviewing how Tewksbury should handle the requests.

But one of the cell-phone companies' attorneys has already submitted to the board a set of best practices in handling moratoria that was issued by the Federal Communications Commission in 1998.

Highlighted in the document is the fact that "in many cases, the issues that need to be addressed during a moratorium can be resolved within 180 days."

Zaroulis said he is still researching whether the cell-phone carriers could resort to federal laws to push through their plans. But a preliminary look at the facts leads him to think that Tewksbury's moratorium is "reasonable."

"And the courts in Mas-



sachusetts have upheld reasonable moratoria," he said. "It's not a question of filling every dead spot in town, but only to a regular degree."

Tew Mac Terrace resident Sean Sullivan was among the residents who pushed through the moratorium, which was recently approved by the Attorney General's Office.

"The cell-tower companies should be patient. I don't see a one-year moratorium as being a deal-breaker," Sullivan said. "They should respect the voters."

The residents, outraged over the 140-foot-high tower that had been erected in front of the South Fire Station and just feet away from a memorial statue, had originally proposed at Town Meeting that all future towers be allowed only in heavy

industrial zones. Bylaws currently allow towers to be placed on municipal properties or in church steeples.

The Town Meeting article was eventually amended not to reflect the zoning change request, but instead instituted the moratorium so that the Planning Board could study the bylaw more closely.

Community Development Director Steven Sadwick said the cell phone companies would likely have preferred for the zoning change to go through.

"A lot of carriers have exhausted the church steeples and municipal sites," he said. "They would welcome anything that would give them more opportunities."

The companies have nevertheless become creative at sidestepping the zoning bylaw. The

tower that Nextel and T-Mobile are proposing to build on North Street would replace an electric pole — supporting electric wires while at the same time sending cell-phone signals.

The tower is planned to be 90 feet high and would extend 20 to 30 feet above the existing poles, Sadwick said. A fenced-in equipment "compound," measuring 30 feet by 30 feet, would be near the tower.

The second proposal, for Andover Street near the Lowell line, would include a regular tower extending 100 feet above ground.

The companies are seeking use variances for both projects from the Board of Appeals because neither tower would be on municipal ground.

"There is no existing structure or property in an allowed zoning district in or near the vicinity of the proposed facility that is feasible to accommodate (T-Mobile's) network requirements," Grossman wrote in the application for the North Street project.

Sullivan said he is not too worried about the projects becoming a reality anytime soon, as use variances are historically difficult to get.

"It is a long shot at best to begin with," he said. "Let's roll up our sleeves and go back to the drawing board."

The Board of Appeals will take up the two applications during its meeting on Sept. 28.

St. Julie Asian Center closes doors after 21 years

CENTER/From Page 3

Khmer Rouge.

"Today we say goodbye to this place, this building, this center," Deaett said. "It's sad to leave this place, but we will carry each of you in our hearts."

ESL classes at the center for five years with the goal of learning English and getting a better job.

Being a convenience-store clerk "didn't pay much," she said. Now she holds down two jobs, as a laminator and a home health aide.

center. She said she is "real sad" it is closing. "I cried," she said.

Por Theang, 32, and Meng Yun, 51, both of Lowell, had just started with the center when it closed its doors. Like many of the center's students, they will either transfer to

students, she said. If the students wouldn't come to them, then the teachers went to the students.

"We went into the their homes to teach," she said.

It didn't take long before the word spread and the center was born.