

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield, Mountainside and Summit

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 69 NO. 17

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1997

TWO SECTIOI

THIS WEEK



Merry Christmas

COUNTY

Helping disabled

Resolutions passed by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will help people with disabilities gain greater self-sufficiency through many forms of support and will provide low-income families with help ranging from counseling to cash assistance. See Page B1

THE ARTS

Perseverance

Union County teen finds that perseverance pays off — even this early in life. See Page B4



Holiday fare

'Nutcracker' is on the menu of holiday fare at the Paper Mill Playhouse. See Page B4.

NEW MEDIA

News updates

Get local updates throughout the week. Call our Information hot line at (908) 686-9898. Selection 7510.

Web site

Visit our site on the World Wide Web, which can be accessed at <http://www.localsource.com/>

WEATHER

Thursday: Periods of clouds and sun. 50'

Friday: Partly sunny. 45'

Saturday: Partly cloudy. 46'

For the most up to date reports, call (908) 686-9898, Ext. 1790.

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Worrall Community Newspapers
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Holiday expression



Photo By Jeff Grant

This holiday house on the corner of Summit Avenue and Miami Court in Mountainside shows its owner's holiday spirit. Neighbors watched as a truckload of lights was delivered to the house a couple of weeks ago.

Police choose January's 'violation'

By Jim Foglio
Staff Writer

The Union County Traffic Officer's Association has selected its "Violation of the Month" for January. If you don't remove snow and ice from the roofs of your motor vehicles, you may be hit with a summons.

This statute, according to the UCTOA, was selected because it is a new law in the state. This winter will be the first time it will be in effect.

The law states that drivers must clean the snow and ice from the roof of their vehicle to prevent it from blowing off and striking another vehicle or pedestrian. If the falling snow or ice does cause damage or injury, a summons can be issued to the driver. The minimum mandatory fine for this violation is \$43.

The UCTOA also reminded drivers to clean snow and ice from tail lights, headlights and windshields.

Another dangerous condition many traffic officers have found is that drivers only clear a "peep hole" for view through a snowy or icy windshield. The obstructed vision statute requires that all windows be free of any obstruction.

The "Violation of the Month" was a program started in December by the UCTOA. Several county localities are participating in the program, including Mountainside, Hillside, Union, Kenilworth, and Scotch Plains. A single violation is chosen each month, based on its seasonal incidence, and is then enforced more than usual by police, said Cpl. Al Attanasio of the Mountainside Police Department.

For example, this past December was based on preventing speeding, since the safety of holiday shoppers, who walk around town, is of concern to police, Attanasio said. Another possibility would be that next September might focus on drivers stopping for school buses. This would be primarily aimed at keeping children safe on their way to school, he said.

Interim insurance chief is named

By Jim Foglio
Staff Writer

At the Dec. 16 Mountainside Borough Council meeting, Robert Wyckoff was appointed interim commissioner for the Suburban Joint Insurance Fund.

The former commissioner, Kathleen Toland, recently resigned from the town government. JIF is a new program, Toland said, and saves borough taxpayers money.

Wyckoff will sit in at the meetings until a new town administrator is appointed early in the new year, who will then take over permanent duties as JIF commissioner.

JIF is a national organization that provides insurance for workers in the respective towns that belong to the group. The organization has several branches in each state. Typically,

towns located close to one another join the same JIF branch.

According to Toland, Mountainside is one of the 10 localities belonging to this particular branch of JIF, including Scotch Plains, Westfield and Summit. Toland said several other prospective towns are looking into joining.

JIF also provides education for each commissioner on the specific coverage they offer clients, Toland said. Through JIF, people working in Mountainside are entitled to workman's compensation, property damage compensation, and coverage for lawsuits over injuries on the job.

"JIF commissioners meet the second Thursday of each month in Scotch Plains to discuss new laws affecting municipalities," Toland

said. "They also discuss items such as employer practices, which is becoming a hot topic. The meetings offer insight to what employers can say or do in public, because of the increasing concerns of lawsuits. It's like a risk-management education. It also covers some areas that are otherwise very vague or gray," she said.

Wyckoff, who has attended the past few meetings, has picked up where Toland left off and has learned much about the organization in only a short time.

"JIF pays for the first portion of liability for employees," he said. It's kind of like we're insuring people up to a point. By belonging to a larger group, we are also saving people money."

Toland agreed: "By joining up with See WYCKOFF, Page 3

Council announces town renovations

By Jim Foglio
Staff Writer

Mountainside Borough Council announced there will be three major renovations taking place in town beginning the new year. The town plans to improve several buildings, including the library, fire department, and the community room, which is located on the second floor of Borough Hall.

According to Councilman David Hart, there was some initial miscommunication between the library and council regarding the renovations. Hart said he had casually mentioned the plans to library employees at last month's council meeting, but when he approached Miriam Beim, director of the Friends of the Mountainside Public Library, she was shocked at the news. However Mayor Vighianti then approached Beim, and the two discussed the plans.

According to Borough Engineer Mike Disko, who is coordinating the efforts, the refurbishment plans are not fully developed yet, but the town has some primary goals they will be looking to meet.

"We are presently trying to figure out what is needed," Disko said. "In the library, they have had problems with the air conditioning and heating. We are also looking to add some new higher energy efficient lights, and replace some deteriorated cedar shingles on the side of the roof."

The community room will be improved to make it more accessible to the public. "We are looking to add some carpeting and ceiling tiles to the community room, so it can be used as a general room for the public and the Recreation Commission," Disko said. The community room was added as part of last year's renovations to Borough Hall.

According to Fire Chief Tom Salimbene, changes are also necessary for the fire building. "The building hasn't been touched in 22 years. We need certain things because much has become so outdated," he said.

Reference librarian Anne Lycan said improvements are needed on the library building's older systems as well. "The building is old and it needs work to bring it up to par. The cooling, heating, and electrical systems definitely need to be updated," she said. "Last year our roof was done. This year it seems they will finish the rest. It's good they are doing this," she said.

School Board OKs new technology plan

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

The Springfield Board of Education concerned itself with matters of the past, present and future during its meeting Monday night.

For the past, Superintendent of Schools Gary Friedland presented a midterm report on the board's goals for the school year and, for the future, questioned the high school's midterm exam process.

The present, however, was very much on the board's mind. The panel voted on 12 measures including the approval of the five-year technology plan. The \$3.4 million plan, which would bring computer and information technology hardware and software into the classroom and learning center, was unanimously carried.

"I'm pleased with the board's passage," said technology chairman Dan Garlen. "I was talking with a couple of the school principals about implementation, which is the next step. They're concerned about making as smooth an integration with the curriculum as possible."

Earlier in the public session, Friedland presented an overview of the 1997-98 school year goals. The goals, adopted last May, concerned 34 points among seven categories: Those categories are academic documentation, public relations, community relations, guidance and sports prog-

ram assessment, a curriculum evaluation, administration review, and new goal setting.

"As far as the first category is concerned, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Judy Zimmerman and the staff has the documentation ready for the monitoring Jan. 13-15," Friedland said. "One example of the client-oriented relations with the outside community is with the on-line college applications, which gives us a 10-day turnaround from send out to response. We're planning an end-of-the-year review of the guidance and athletic departments and Dr. Zimmerman has been working hard in seeing how our curriculum matches the state's Core Curriculum Standards."

However, Friedland feels greater focus should be placed, towards public relations, administration review, and setting new goals.

"While the 'Singular Sensation' rededication of Jonathan Dayton High School was a success and that school's television production classes are conducting field reports, more work is needed in public relations," Friedland said. "There are some districts which have a full-time public relations person; we choose to develop our releases in-house. With a year under our belts as a full district, the end of the year should be a time to see if our administrative structure meets our needs."

We're asking

Should the state raise the speed limit to 65 mph?

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

There is presently a bill on Gov. Christine Whitman's desk which, if signed, would raise the state maximum speed limit from 55 to 65 miles per hour.

You remember the 55 miles per hour limit; it was a blanket limit imposed by Congress during the oil embargo of the early '70s. States had to enforce the fuel conservation law or risk losing federal highway funds.

A statistical drop of highway deaths followed nationwide. That and the projected fuel savings were chief points trumpeted by safety and environmental advocates.

Opposition to the national 55 miles per hour limit, however, grew over time, and was spearheaded by less populous western states. Those asking for a repeal claimed that motor vehicle efficiency has improved over the years and that the national limit was a drain on drivers' time and attention.

Congress listened to opponents



Martinson

Moore

of the limit and divorced adherence to the law from highway funding in 1994. Many states raised the limit for certain vehicles or highway types or times of day. Montana has an unlimited daytime speed limit, although their highway patrols can ticket speeders for unsafe driving.

But high-density New Jersey is not Montana. Its government, with Connecticut and Hawaii, stuck with 55 miles per hour. And because of its high residency, car ownership, and heavy vehicular volume, it is known as a corridor state.

The bill before Whitman, sponsored by Guy Gregg, R-Sussex,

calls for changing the limit to 65 miles per hour on only 900 miles of state and federal highways. The thoroughfares to be considered are rural stretches, including portions of Route 287 and 78, the Garden State Parkway and the New Jersey Turnpike.

Whitman, a longtime 55 proponent, has some conditions of her own. She's looking for an anti-aggressive driver program and an automatic rollback clause if the highway death toll rises after a year. If a bill doesn't have those provisions, she will veto it.

Both sides on the speed limit question point to their own studies to bolster their stances. For every study that says highway deaths have decreased or held steady after raising the limit, there's another saying they have increased.

To find out what people in this area say, this paper went to local bus and rail stops, car washes and a state motor vehicle agency.

"Raising the speed limit is a bad idea on two points," said Claas



Guerrero

Vecchia

Ethers, of Mountainside. "First, we have a great deal of traffic as it is. Second, people will try to go 10 miles per hour faster than the posted limit."

"I don't think it's a great idea," said David Giobaldo, of Mountainside. "The limit is 55 now and drivers will do 70 miles per hour; if it goes to 65, they'll go to 80. There's also the increase of air pollution and fuel use."

"I think it's a good idea," said George Gorzelnik, of Mountainside. "People are doing 65 anyway. I suggest that maybe some roads should have timed speed limits, like

55 during rush hours and 65 outside of rush hours."

"I would agree with raising the speed limit to 65 miles per hour, especially if it is linked to an aggressive driver crackdown," said Lloyd Martinson, of Summit. "There are more deaths and accidents from people tailgating, driving slowly in the left lane and the like than from speeding."

"It's a good idea in places where it can be handled," said Dan Maerita, of Summit. "There's a stretch of Route 24 in Florham Park, past The Mall in Short Hills, which is level. There are states like Arizona where it goes up to 75 miles per hour in the desert but drops as it nears a city."

"I'm for the 65 miles per hour limit," said Eddie Moore, of Summit. "If you go 55, people are passing you by. Everyone's going 65."

"I'm for the new speed limit in some places," said Lou Vecchia, of Summit. "When you get on the Turnpike and get close to the city, you have more volume."

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

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NEWS CLIPS

King celebration.

On Jan. 15, at 7:30 p.m., the town of Springfield will celebrate its second Martin Luther King celebration. The program is sponsored jointly by the Springfield Clergy Fellowship and Jonathan Dayton High School. The program will be at the High School Auditorium.

The evening will include the high school choir, the Antioch Baptist choir, small group sharing on the legacy of King and other issues which remain important today. Refreshments will be offered.

In 1996, King spoke at the high school.

Town decoration drive

The Township of Springfield is asking for support of the holiday decorations around the town. Due to the usual budget restraints and foul weather last year, the displays need a lot of assistance. Almost every fixture needs wiring, light bulbs and a little paint. Since starting a few years ago, the township has come a long way from red ribbons on telephone poles to displays that rival other larger towns.

Donations may be sent to "The Township of Springfield's Annual Holiday Fund Drive," c/o Carme Venducci, 100 Mountain Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081.

Toys-for-Tots drives

The Springfield Police and Benevolent Association Local 76 and The Springfield Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association Local 57 have again joined forces this holiday season to sponsor its 6th Annual Toys-for-Tots drive in conjunction with the United States Marine Corps Reserves. These collected toys are given to needy, homeless and orphan children by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves during the holiday season. For most children, these donated toys are the only presents received during the holidays.

This annual cooperative effort between the police officers of Springfield P.B.A. Local 76 and the firefighters of Springfield F.M.B.A. Local 57 along with the donations from residents and local businesses, yields hundreds of toys for needy children during the holiday season.

Officer John Foster, president of P.B.A. Local 76, and Firefighter Chris LaVeque, president of F.M.B.A. Local 57, welcome and residents or business people who wish to contribute toys to this cause. New and unwrapped toys can be dropped off at either the Springfield Police or Fire departments.

Autoland has also taken steps to bring holiday joy to thousands of needy children by helping with the U.S. Marines Corps Reserves Toys-for-Tots campaign.

"Our employees, friends, families and suppliers wanted to do something for the children," said Andrea Karisian, spokesperson for Autoland. "Our goal is to help the U.S. Marine Corp reach their goal of 50,000 toys."

Toys for Tots is a nationwide effort to provide new toys for children who otherwise wouldn't receive gifts during the holiday season. This year marks the 50th anniversary for Toys for Tots and the 12th consecutive year Autoland has participated.

Banking on food

First Bank of Mountainside, located at 855 Mountain Ave., is sponsoring a food drive to benefit the Food Bank of New Jersey. Needed are non-perishable foods, canned fish and meats, fruit and vegetables, soups, cereals, grains and powdered milk. Donations can be left in the bank at designated locations. For more information, contact Judith Bari at (908) 654-2440. Donations will be accepted through Jan. 5.

Bagger's hours extended

The legislative office of Assemblyman Richard Bagger will be open to residents of the 22nd Legislative District from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

In addition to regular business hours on weekdays and one Saturday per month, on Thursdays, Assemblyman Bagger's office, located at 203 Elm St., Westfield, is open from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The 22nd Legislative District includes Mountainside.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To give your community events the publicity they deserve, mail your schedule to P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

Today

Several special services will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church during the Christmas season. A family service at 5 p.m. today, Dec. 24 will feature music by the Little Saints Choir and a pageant by the Youth Group. Later that evening, at 10:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Festival Choral Eucharist will be offered. The Rev. Cornelius Tarplee will preach at this service, with the music under the direction of Robert Demmert, organist, and the director of music.

Musical offerings will include organ preludes played by Demmert, anthems and communion music by the St. Stephen's Choir. Several pieces of music in the service were composed or arranged by Demmert. Members of St. Stephen's Choir include Peggy Thompson and Gordon Thompson of Mountainside, Ron Best of Scotch Plains and Dick Cole and Bob Lipnicki of Springfield. Instrumentalists will include Debbie James on cello, Jessica Schimpf on flute, Gordon Thompson on synthesizer, Jeff Markey on trumpet, Joseph Stella on trumpet and Marie Tracy on the violin.

There also will be selections by the Handbell Choir, a new group formed this fall at St. Stephen's under Demmert's direction. This will be the group's premier performance. Members of the Handbell Choir include Alex Cole, Tom Churchill and Willi Weidman of Springfield.

Some of the music selections in the service are the following: Pachelbel's "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," Bach's "Be Glad Now, All Ye Christians," Demmert's "The Annunciation of the Infant King," "Pastorale" from the Messiah, "The Virgin's Lullaby" with Harriet Jernquist as soloist, "Babalalaw" with Marilyn Lenart as soloist, and "In the Bleak Midwinter" with Marilyn Lenart and Dick Cole as soloists. "Silent Night" will be sung by candlelight.

Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Christmas Day. On the first Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 28, the Eucharist will be offered at 8 a.m. At 10 a.m., the Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held. This service features scripture readings and congregational singing of traditional Christmas carols and hymns.

Coming events Jan. 15

At 7:30 p.m., Springfield will celebrate its second Martin Luther King celebration. The program is sponsored jointly by the Springfield Clergy Fellowship and Jonathan Dayton High School. The program will be at the High School Auditorium.

The evening will include the high school choir, the Antioch Baptist choir, small group sharing on the legacy of Dr. King and other issues which remain important today. Refreshments will be offered.

In 1996, King himself spoke at the high school.

Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside will host a two-month exhibition of paintings, pastels and narrative quilts by artists Barbara Glander of Columbia, Royane Mosley of Flendon and Margaret Beach of Scotch Plains, during the month of January.

The Sisterhood of Temple Shalom, Springfield, is holding its first "Paffiemania" Doors open at 7 p.m. and admission is \$5 per person. Refreshments will be served and only those over the age of 21 will be admitted.

Lucky winners that evening will take home the pick of over 200 items. Some of the prizes being raffied include a two-night stay, dinner, and a show at Bally's Park Place in Atlantic City, Broadway theater tickets, a day of beauty, and a Saturday night's stay in a luxurious suite at the Grand Summit Hotel, including dinner and Sunday brunch.

Temple Shalom is located at 76 South Springfield Ave., Springfield. For further information, call the Temple office, (973) 379-5387.

Door-to-dorm

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COMMUNITY FORUM

The man who lives

Tomorrow, Christians next door and around the globe will pause from their daily lives to remember the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. We wish all a most joyous and peaceful Christmas.

With the start of 1998 a week away, thoughts of the turn of the century and the end of the millennium pass through our minds. It's understandable for us, such a milestone will not come again. For Christ, however, it will mark the conclusion of two millennia and the start of His third.

Man kind has known no other kingdom so enduring. No empire or alliance, no prince or potentate has led so much of the world through feats of conquest as successfully as has the Prince of Peace through His teachings of unity and love.

That is important to remember because it is that all-seeing force that inspired our Founding Fathers to chart the freedom that enable us to live as we do. We truly are fortunate. As you read this, African Christians are being taken prisoner and sold into bondage. On the other side of the world, other Christians are being jailed and killed by the government of America's few good friends, the People's Republic of China. And just 50 miles from Florida, Roman Catholics prepare for the first papal visit to Cuba, where its murderous communist government recently decided it will be acceptable to celebrate Christmas this year. That is good news that will get even better. Pope John Paul II has a habit of leaving toppled totalitarian dictatorships in the wake of his travels.

Persecution of Christians is as old as Christendom itself, dating with the Pax Romana. In future centuries, Rome was to come to further atrocities. Jails were emptied of murderers and grave robbers to make room for bishops, presbyters, scholars and the like, while peasants were smashed to the ground.

And yet, in the face of state sanctioned terrorism, His message survived. Both Paul in his Letters to the Romans and Peter in his First Epistle, write of the need for all people to submit to their governments, since they derive authority from God and will rule justly to benefit all. Their faith cost them their lives at the hands of Nero, but later came the edict of toleration that allowed Christians and all others to worship the deity they choose. The reason, said co-emperors Licinius and Constantine, was for the "welfare and security of the state."

A year later, Constantine converted to Christianity. An ironic event occurred during the first centuries after the Crucifixion: it would be easy for us today to forget those facts of history — easy, but foolish, as those realities of Africa and China attest. What must never be forgotten, however, are His teachings, handed to us from antiquity at the rule and guide for our faith and practice. Good will defeat evil, their peace will prevail.

In America, the tolerance started by Licinius and Constantine carries on, not all of us are Christians, but we are the children of Abraham. Today, as we celebrate the first day of Hanukkah and prepare for Christmas, let us include in our thoughts and prayers the peoples of the Bible around the world who suffer for their faith, and await the freedom to worship — either on this earth, or in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Remember Peter and Paul

And speaking of government adhering to God's will in the name of justice for all, we sincerely wish all of our returning and incoming elected officials the best of luck in their endeavors, on behalf of their constituents.

In the first days of 1998, members of local councils, the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the General Assembly, State Senate and the governor herself will be sworn into office. Their jobs aren't easy and we do not envy them, and as they take their seats, we hope they will remember they serve all of their constituents, not just those who supported them.

While their oaths will bind them to uphold secular law, it is not insignificant that they will place their right hands on copies of the Holy Bible. Some small-minded people say the inestimable gift of God to man has no place in government — they've rid our schools of it — but we remember Peter and Paul.

In their letters, the two apostles say no one can govern in a free society without complying with the will of God. Fair laws are rooted in His wisdom, for without them we have no defense against law-breakers.

"If you curtail any part of speech, you're not really protecting people. You're hurting them, you're patronizing them by telling them, 'This is what you can't hear because it's going to hurt you.'"

Sylvia Ibanez
lawyer
1994



WAGNER'S WAY — Instructor Erin Wagner teaches acrobatics to students at James Caldwell School. The program is one of many after-school activities being sponsored by the school PTA.

Mayor's remarks were off-base, premature

During the Mountainside Borough Council meeting Dec. 16, Mayor Robert Wagner took time out of the usual order of business to address the issue of wrongful dismissal.

Before opening the meeting to the public, the mayor announced he had written letters to add to the agenda at which point he voiced his displeasure regarding the newspaper's coverage of Mountainside, saying the newspaper should rename itself the Springfield Leader and closing its offices here. The Echo Leader can write editorially, electing the council now to the mayor, when the opposition can't elect a mayor in person.

Specifically, the mayor cited the newspaper's coverage of the town tree-lighting ceremony that took place Dec. 2 at Borough Hall.

But let me say this newspaper appreciates the mayor's comments and opinions, as we do of all the residents of Mountainside. We feel we

Core Values

By Matthew Kordeck
Managing Editor

provides an open forum for opinions and welcome letters to the editor which we publish — whether they flatter or not — on Page 4. A note in the mayor's Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication in the newspaper that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity. For more details, see Page 2.

Now, as to the mayor's charges, they are unfounded. Some simple research into the newspaper's recent coverage of Mountainside has revealed some instances the mayor might find surprising.

The spring is far in the five issues published since the merger of the Mountainside Echo and the Springfield Leader is Springfield's 18th Mountainside issue, not including three community, editorial, and the fire and police issues.

Granted, there have been some weeks when the town has received more coverage than the other Dec. 4 for example, heard the "Eagle of Mountainside" while the Dec. 18 editor visited more toward Mountainside. That unfortunately will happen, we don't make the news, we just report it.

However, as to the mayor's specific charges, let me say that there were two tree-lighting ceremonies in Mountainside that night — one at Borough Hall and the other at the Watchung Reservation. The reservation ceremony also had a county-wide Lend-a-hand program, and I thought it prudent to word my Mountainside reformer there — call it an efficient

use of resources. This doesn't exempt the from criticism, but I thought I should express my rationale.

I don't say that it seems hypocritical for the mayor to criticize a newspaper for missing one of two tree-lighting ceremonies in the same town on the same night, when the best reasons certain members of the Borough Council can give for missing the majority of their own council meetings is that they have to attend to business in other states. This, I suppose, is forgivable.

As to the mayor's other charge, that the newspaper tries to tell him how to run the town, he's wrong. And I am very sorry he feels that way. The opinions expressed in this newspaper are just that — opinions. And we will continue to express them. Many of them have been in his favor, but if the mayor doesn't appreciate input from the community, he's free to petition Congress for a repeal of the First Amendment.

'Having it all' is not meaning of Christmas

Do you remember when the Christmas season was a truly jolly, merry and good-feeling time of year? Today, Christmas is more like a feeding frenzy to see who can elbow the most people out of the way while looking for the same hard-to-get merchandise. Family seems to have eluded us; bad manners are the behavioral norm; and customers seem bent on knocking down walls to get ahead of anyone who dares to get in their way.

Why, then, do we have a surly, "Me first" attitude and the whole sense of Christmas seems to have undergone a change and not for the better.

Some kids who never had it so good can be heard having tantrums in the far reaches of stores, screaming they want this and that. Unfortunately many parents give into these angry brats and wonder later how they became such obnoxious adolescents.

It seems every year another toy is added to the wish-listed list. Someday I would not be surprised if a toy company comes out with one that can simulate eye-glazing in the anticipation of items, all in the name of fun, mind you.

But what if the most frustrating is to see Christmas become so commercialized that its meaning is lost. To

As I See It

By Norman Rauscher

Many Christmas is the time to get your parents to go broke buying the new toys and gimmicks.

The idea of giving escapes many children. "Having" what's that? Most of us get pretty much what we want a good part of the year and we aren't asked to give anything back. Whole faith is that! You're right, it's the fault of the parents who never taught their son and/or daughter that giving is a part of life. It's a two-way street. The irony is that the person Christmas is best remembered gave his life so that others might live.

But try to get that simple reasoning across to some of our young people who make getting an art form. We don't blame the merchant, since this is the time of year when money flows more easily. People equate Christmas with having it all, or at least, most of it.

How many other children throughout the world would understand how well these kids make out on Christmas

Day. They are also fed a veritable feast, unlike so many other boys and girls in this nation, as well as the entire world. A Christmas gift to a poor, orphaned kid in Zaire, the Congo, or Bosnia. Forget it. A Christmas meal for a starving family in parts of this nation. That job is relegated to the soup kitchens.

However, there are hundreds and hundreds of people and agencies willing to take that extra step to see that a destitute little boy or girl gets at least some kind of toy, or is given a wholesome meal, who make the person Christmas more tomorrow real in this world of glitz. The "me first" philosophy demonstrated by too many, is momentarily forgotten. It's not that we are selfish and greedy by nature, but our society over the last few decades has changed, and not necessarily for the better. We are guided by trends, fads, and the newest gadgetry. Things we don't really need.

What we do need is a return to what Christmas meant to most of our parents and grandparents. Sharing with others what you have, and not making a federal case in the form of a tantrum if you don't get what you want.

Although I'm not a big fan of the

comic strip "Dennis the Menace," I'll never forget one Christmas panel Hank Ketchum did that summed up the modern meaning of Christmas. We see Dennis' living room with toys as far as the eyes can see. We see sleds, toy trucks, games, television sets, radios, small desks, the latest gadgets — you name it. The panel looks as though Dennis' parents bought out the entire stock of a giant toy store.

Dennis' reaction is, "Is that all?" Poor Dennis. Someday he just might grow up, although I doubt it. But that single line sums up our modern day Christmas.

It's a sad day when a holiday dedicated to humility, generosity and giving of yourself has become a time of getting all you can with nary a thought of the millions who have nothing, not even a small, inexpensive toy or a simple peanut butter sandwich.

As far as I'm concerned, the Yule season has turned into a season of "Yule" give me this and "Yule" give me that." Sorry to be so negative in this season of joy. But we live a negative time.

Norman Rauscher, a former newspaper publisher, is an active member of the Summit community.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It wouldn't happen with TV cameras

To the Editor:
The Mountainside Mayor's sudden and very public rebuke of the Echo Leader reporter at the Dec. 16 Borough Council meeting was an embarrassment. If the mayor is displeased with the newspaper's local coverage, attacking a reporter for editorial decisions over which he has little control is a pointless exercise of elected authority. A telephone call or a letter to the editor would have achieved the objective in a more civil manner.

What was accomplished by this outrageous behavior? Hurling cheap shots at unsuspecting members of the audience during a public meeting is not an inducement to public attendance or participation at such meetings. I wonder whether if the council meeting has been televised, thereby creating some accountability for the actions of elected officials, this episode would have occurred. As things stand now in Mountainside, only those present at the meeting were aware of it.

Michael Krasner
Mountainside

VIEW POINT

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Should the Christmas-time role of presents be downgraded?

CALL (908) 686-9898 and enter #7558 - YES #7559 - NO

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Should cigarette taxes be raised to pay for schools?

YES — 0%
NO — 100%

Responses will be published next week. Polls close Monday at noon. Calls are free. Touch-tone phones only.

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Incorporating the Springfield Leader and Mountainside Echo

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...Of Christmas cookies, cards and candles

I don't recall when I first made the decision. Maybe it was the afternoon I observed a man chattering into his cell phone. Or maybe it was the night stress-related sciatic pain screamed down my leg, keeping me awake. Perhaps it was just a natural part of the aging process, but at some point I knew I needed to slow down and simplify my life.

Random Thoughts

By Barbara Wirkus

Frustrating and exhausting hours of shopping and wrapping presents. If you don't give, you don't get, so there is no need to return things that you don't like, can't use or that don't fit. Next I donated all — yes, all — of my Christmas lights and decorations to Vietnam Veterans of America. No more stringing lights on trees and bushes, freezing my fingers, nose and toes while wondering how much it was adding to my electric bill. No time to buy stuff into my hatchback and then struggle to set up. No pine needles to dig out of my rug for weeks. This was going great!

After making hard choices, I surveyed what was left of my holiday traditions. Cookies were left. Long afternoons and evenings in my kitchen, warm and fragrant with the smell of baking dough. A glass of wine, carols on the stereo as I sprinkle red and green sugar on peanut butter cookies and hum along with "Silent Night." Cards were left. Each winter, I launch the Christmas Card Photograph Project. My Olympus and I search out or create appropriate scenes to appear on next year's Christmas cards. Then I spend a long winter evening or two selecting the print I will use. This year, the golden angel that used to top my tree floats instead in front of a piece of snow-covered drift wood. "Peace on Earth" is the printed message. I mail only to those I won't be able to greet in person with a smile or a hug or a plateful of cookies.

Candles were left. I've always delighted in the rows of flickering candles lining the streets on Christmas Eve. I start monitoring the weather reports several days before, watching for predictions of rain or wind. Calm, dry weather finds me folding 48 brown bags on my living room floor. Then I move to the garage to add sand and candles. The lighting with wooden matches is next and soon I am back inside, peering contentedly out my front window as the little lights wink back at me.

Yes, cookies, cards and candles are quite enough. I'm ready to sing a lullaby to that babe in the manger.

Barbara Wirkus is a resident of Union.

Demolition driver causes six-car crash

POLICE BLOTTER

A Newark man who wanted to cross all three lanes of Route 22 East at once wrecked havoc instead on Dec. 16. The man was trying to turn his Oldsmobile station wagon from the West-East Turnpike by Fadem Road to Stern Avenue, but collided with an Oldsmobile in the left lane at about 8:40 p.m.

The Cadillac was hit from behind by a Jeep. The Jeep pulled to the corner of Stern Avenue and Commerce Street, but the driver of the station driver wasn't stopped.

Attempting another turn at Commerce Street, the wagon driver crossed a street sign and damaged a curb and sewer drain. He continued on Stern, failed to heed the stop sign before Route 22 and stopped in the highway's slow lane, where he was hit by a second Chevrolet Cavalier. The driver finally stopped when he collided with a Toyota Celica and a Ford Wagon in the center lane, bringing the grand total of cars crashed to six.

The wagoner produced an insurance card which turned out to be phony. He faces charges of careless and reckless driving, having no valid proof of insurance and leaving the scene of an accident. The wagon, Cavalier and Celica had to be towed.

A Ryder rental truck re-entered a New Jersey Transit bus which was waiting for a traffic light to change on northbound Mountain Avenue at Shampike Road Friday. The truck driver, who said she was unable to stop in time, plowed into the No. 114 bus shortly at 8 p.m.

Someone with a taste for bicycle racks attempted to steal a part from the roofs of cars parked at the Beauty's Fitness Center Dec. 15. One \$770 rack was successfully stolen and another damaged at about 10 p.m.

Springfield police report that six of the bus's 19 passengers reported injuries, five of whom were taken to local hospitals. Both drivers were not hurt but the truck operator was ticketed for careless driving.

A Saab driver who tried to find a hooping pager veered into the east-bound lanes of Mountain Road Dec. 15 and ran into an Acura at about 4:45 p.m. The Saab driver was injured in the nearly head-on collision and received care by the first aid squad.

The latest mystery driver came in the form of a tractor trailer truck with Ontario license plates at the intersection of Springfield, Morris and Meisel avenues Dec. 15. The driver of a Buick said she was hit along the passenger side door as both vehicles were turning onto eastbound Morris Avenue at about half-past noon. The truck continued onward and police was unable to identify the plates.

A patrol stop along Morris Avenue Dec. 17 yielded a Driving While Intoxicated arrest of a Morris Plains driver. The driver, identified as Marilyn McDonald, 59, was picked up at about 11:45 p.m.

An 80,000-pound tractor trailer truck was trying to back into the loading bay at a foam plastic plant on Fadem Road Dec. 17 when he made a maneuvering miscue. The tractor ended up damaging the doors of his trailer and the bay at about 1:20 p.m.

A Lincoln Continental driver said he didn't see the Pontiac Bonneville and Volkswagen Golf stopped ahead of him on northbound Meisel Avenue near Twin Oaks Road Dec. 17. The result was a three-car collision at about 8:20 a.m. and a careless driving ticket for the Lincoln driver.

Cutting across a Route 22 center island parking lot proved costly for a Dodge driver Dec. 16. The driver, who said she was crossing the Carpet City lot for 22 West, was hit by a Toyota backing out of a parking spot at about 1:30 p.m.

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Accidents call firemen from tree-lighting

FIRE BLOTTER

Springfield Duty for the Springfield Fire Department can call anytime, even during the annual tree-lighting ceremony Dec. 8. The squad went out to contain a car fire which involved a ruptured fuel tank on Mount View Road at about 5:30 p.m.

Fire and police units went to the Municipal Pool Dec. 12 to help identify some containers dumped sometime before 10:30 a.m. The items were properly disposed of by the Department of Public Works. The incident came after an engine investigated an alarm call and odor in a Skylark Road house at about 9:45 p.m. Dec. 9.

They returned in time to set up their annual open house, only to leave for a two-car accident on Route 78 East at about 7:30 p.m. Santa Claus was able to leave the Municipal Building roof during the lighting, however, as the ladder truck wasn't needed for either call.

Other Dec. 9 calls included members joining the first aid squad for medical service calls at about 2:20 and 4 p.m. and then replying to an alarm call from a Mountain Avenue house of worship at about 1:40 a.m.

An engine went to the intersection of a two-car accident at the intersection of Morris and Maple avenues Dec. 13 at about 10:50 p.m. They were called to clear fluids that leaked from an altercation between a Ford F350 and a Buick Century. All hands went to a Morris Avenue business at about 4:45 p.m. on a call for an activated fire alarm.

Most incidents logged for Dec. 7 were automotive-related. The first call was for a car accident with injuries on 78 West at just after midnight. Next was for a Plymouth Mercury catching

fire in the 7-Eleven parking lot at about 4:45 p.m.

The final call was to the Boyczuk stone yard on Route 22 West, where a Isuzu collided with a Toyota at about 7:50 p.m. The Isuzu was pitched through the Boyczuk fence, overturned and plowed into four pallets of bricks. No one was injured.

The Mountainside Volunteer Fire Department, whose building is undergoing renovations, responded to only one call this week.

On Dec. 17 at about 8 a.m., several firefighters responded to a call from a residence on Central Avenue. An activated carbonmonoxide detector prompted the call, but the area was checked and it was determined that the system had malfunctioned. The system was consequently replaced.

The Mountainside Volunteer Fire House will undergo some highly anticipated renovations starting in January. The changes are part of the borough's new plan to improve several buildings in town.

According to borough engineer Mike Disko, the plans for the fire house are not fully developed yet, but will focus on updating the building's old systems.

Correction policy It is the policy of this newspaper to correct all significant errors that are brought to the editor's attention. If you believe that we have made such an error, please write Tom Canavan, editor, 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, 07083, or call him at 686-7700 weekdays before 5 p.m.

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NEWS CLIPS

P.O. urges priority mail

Springfield Officer in charge James McDade urges customers to use Priority Mail from your Post Office, as we get further into the holiday season. Priority Mail allows you to send any package weighing up to two pounds anywhere in the country between major metropolitan areas for one low, flat rate of \$3. Complete and proper addressing, including ZIP Codes, further helps speed your package delivery.

Post Office gifts

"The holidays are here," said Summit Post Officer in Charge James McDade, "and we're here to help with a wide assortment of unique gifts." McDade said that one of the best gifts this holiday is the new 1997 Commemorative Stamp Collection, an inexpensive stamp starter kit that features the best postal commemorative stamps for the year.

For those larger presents, the price of sending a package weighing up to five pounds is as low as \$6.

"These gifts will keep on giving because stamp collecting is the hobby of a lifetime for the young and old," McDade said.

Priority Mail can get your mail to its destination quickly and cheaply. For only \$4.95 per pickup, not per package, they will also pick up your prepaid Priority Mail packages. For

Today's post office is also a great place for stocking up when it comes to stocking stuffers. Among the choices.

A new 1997 Commemorative Stamp Collection that features the best of the Postal Service's commemorative stamps for the year.

Stamp Collecting starter kits. A collection of colorful, historic and inexpensive stamp art gift collections.

"Holiday Traditions" gift items that range from tree ornaments and gift bags to puzzles for children and adults.

Commemorative self-adhesive come with a free gift folder. First Class Phone Cards that come with a free gift folder.

A sing-along video with songs from the classic animated television specials "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and "Frosty the Snowman."

McDade also suggest customers pick up a free holiday mailing brochure, which includes information about wrapping and addressing mail and the types of services available with mailing options, including insurance and registry.

We want your news

Your organization should be getting the publicity it deserves and we would like to help. We have a publicity handbook which explains how to tell your story. We would like to publicize your club, church, sports, school-news, etc. If you have an idea for a picture or story, call Managing Editor Matt Korade at 686-7700, Ext. 345 weekdays before 5 p.m. If you'd like a handbook, call and one will be mailed to you.

Clifford goes to school



Clifford the Dog meets an admirer while visiting the Edward V. Walton School in Springfield Saturday. The celebrated children's book canine made his first visit to the annual Walton Make-a-Craft fair and Book Sale.

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Father Fugee has been reassigned to St. Elizabeth Church in Wyckoff, after more than three years of service at St. Rose of Lima.

Father bids farewell

Father Michael Fugee bid farewell to St. Rose of Lima at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Nov. 23 and announced his reassignment to St. Elizabeth's Church in Wyckoff of Bergen County. He will be greatly missed by the parishioners of St. Rose after three-and-a-half years of dedicated and compassionate service. His regular duties included coordination of St. Rose's youth group and acting as Chaplain to the St. Rose of Lima School, the CCD program and Boy Scouts.

Father Fugee founded the Short Hills Outreach Program in January 1996. S.H.O.P. participates in several activities to aid the poor and disadvantaged, including the Community Soup Kitchen of Morristown, St. Roc-

co's Food Pantry in Newark, the Community Foodbank of Hillside, tutoring the children at St. Augustine's in Newark, and conducting various clothes and food collections. Father Fugee also was the force behind Hand In Hand, a day of sharing and activities held at the Middle School for 300 developmentally disabled young adults. Approximately 400 volunteers came forward from the Millburn/Short Hills Community to assist.

A reception in his honor was given immediately after Mass at the St. Rose of Lima School Gymnasium. Refreshments were organized by Cathy Pinto and the mothers of St. Rose of Lima.

RELIGION

Christmas services

Several special services will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church during the Christmas season. A family service at 5 p.m. today, Dec. 24 will feature music by the Little Saints Choir and a pageant by the Youth Group. Later this evening at 10:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Festival Choral Eucharist will be offered. The Rev. Cornelius Tarplee will preach at this service, with the music under the direction of Robert Demmert, organist and the director of music.

Musical offerings will include organ preludes played by Demmert, and anthems and communion music by the St. Stephen's Choir. Several pieces of music in the service were composed or arranged by Demmert. Members of St. Stephen's Choir include Peggy Thompson and Gordon Thompson of Mountainside, Ron Best of Scotch Plains and Dick Cole and Bob Lipnicki of Springfield. Instrumentalists will include Debbie James on cello, Jessica Schimpf on flute, Gordon Thompson on synthesizer, Jeff Markey on trumpet, Joseph Stella on trumpet and Marie Tracy on the violin.

There also will be selections by the Handbell Choir, a new group formed

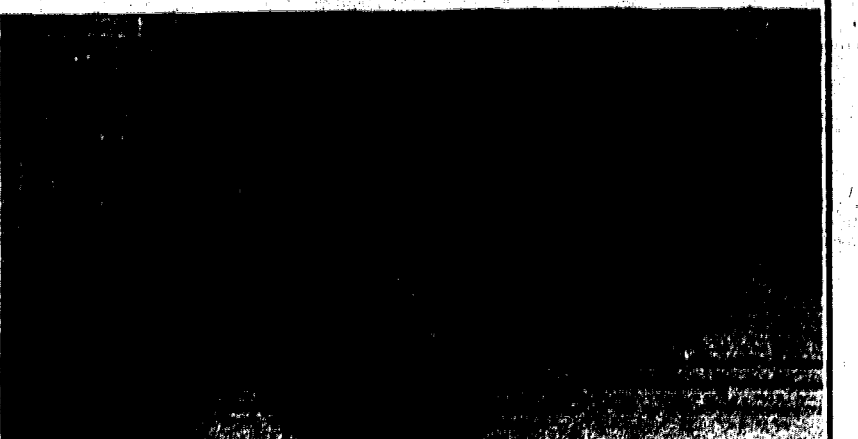
this fall at St. Stephen's under Demmert's direction. This will be the group's premier performance. Members of the Handbell Choir include Alex Cole, Tom Churchill and Will Weidman of Springfield.

Some of the music selections in the service are the following: Pachelbel's "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," Bach's "Be Glad Now, All Ye Christians," Demmert's "The Announcement of the Infant King," "Pastorale" from the "Messiah," "The Virgin's Slumber Song" with Harriet Jernquist as soloist, "Balulalow" with Marilyn Lenant as soloist, and "In the Bleak Midwinter" with Marilyn Lenant and Dick Cole as soloists. "Silent Night" will be sung by candlelight.

Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Christmas Day. On the first Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 28, the Eucharist will be offered at 8 a.m. At 10 a.m. the Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held. This service features scripture readings and congregational singing of traditional Christmas carols and hymns.

A subscription to your newspaper keeps your college student close to hometown activities. Call 908-686-7753 for a special college rate.

65th Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Walsh of Springfield celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary of Oct. 12, 1997. Mrs. Walsh is the former Bessie Cohen of Newark. They are the parents of Marilyn and Dr. Frederick Pine, and Arthur and Merle Walsh of Springfield, and Judy and Michael Dodge of Lincroft. They are the grandparents of Dr. Michael Pine, Robin and Dean Ober, Brett and Gregg Walsh, Seth and Sari Rose, and Justin and Preston Dodge. They are the great-grandparents of Kyle Lewis Ober.

Mrs. Walsh is a member of the Temple Beth Ahm's Women's League and Senior League, Hadassah, Women's International, and a past president of Flo Okin Cancer Relief, all of Springfield. Prior to his retirement 20 years ago, Mr. Walsh was affiliated with the New Jersey division of the Zenith Radio Corporation of New York, and was a vice-president and general manager of Apollo Distributing Company of Cranford, formerly of the Senior League, and the Young Men's Hebrew Club of Union, a vice-president of Springfield B'nai B'rith, president of the Cohen-Burinsky Family Circle, and a member of the Rutgers Law School's Alumni Society.

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SPORTS

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Summit hoping to build on progress made in IHC-Hills

Hilltoppers' lineup includes 5 returning seniors

By Joe Ragazzino
Staff Writer

Two seasons ago Summit High School head boys' basketball coach Mackey Pendergrast began scouting the Iron Hills Conference-Hills Division teams, knowing his Hilltopper squad was to move into that league and out of the National Division of the Watchung Conference.

Summit proved to be competitive in its new conference surroundings right away last season, finishing with a respectable 9-9 league mark and a 10-12 overall record that included an appearance in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 state playoffs.

"We had a really good showing in the league," said Pendergrast, whose team tied for third in the Hills Division with Hanover Park and Parsippany and fell to eventual Hills Division champion and sectional finalist Roselle in the first round of the state playoffs. Mendham, Pendergrast's high school alma mater, went on to defeat Roselle in the sectional final for the second consecutive season.

"We were really happy with the progress we made and we're hoping to build on that," Pendergrast said.

Many of Summit's conference contests went right down to wire. The Hilltoppers' biggest loss in the league was to Parsippany Hills by 17 points.

But Summit exacted some revenge when it beat Parsippany Hills the second time around by 15 points.

Though the Hilltoppers lost four players to graduation, five seniors return, led by co-captains John Foushee and Brendan Reilly.

Boys' Basketball

Foushee, a point guard, is the team's catalyst who has excellent passing and scoring abilities.

Reilly is an explosive shooter who can "nail a bunch of three's in a heartbeat," Pendergrast said.

John Brown and Matt Von Klemperer also provide depth at the guard spot, while Brian Rush, a 6-7 center, moves into the starting lineup this season.

The senior group has shown great teamwork in the hopes of posting a winning season.

"They just want to win," Pendergrast said about his seniors. "They're not too concerned about individual stats. That's going to help us play more as a team."

Rush was impressive in scrimmages and could develop into a force, Pendergrast said.

"He's a good offensive rebounder and that's a great attribute to have," Pendergrast said.

Junior forwards Kai Donaldson and Keyon Smith could also make significant contributions.

Donaldson is a tremendous athlete who could keep the ball alive off the glass, said Pendergrast.

Sophomore guard Jon Campagna is also vying for time on the varsity.

"They're all competitive kids and that's going to help us," Pendergrast said.

From what the Hilltoppers learned last season, the Hills Division is extremely competitive, which will continue to be the case this season, said Pendergrast.

"It's a real even league and anybody could beat anybody on any given night," Pendergrast said. "It's a real dog fight. You really have to be prepared."

Can the Hilltoppers better their performance in the league?

"I think we have the potential to improve in the league," Pendergrast commented. "Whether we will or not, I don't know. If we can overcome adversity, I definitely think we can."

"It comes down to how we handle adversity. If we handle adversity better than the other teams, then I think we'll win games."

Berger guides Bulldog boys'



Photo by Ted Matthews

Bill Berger is now in his third season as the head boys' basketball coach at Dayton High School. His Bulldogs captured their season-opener, posting a 54-45 win at home over North Plainfield last Friday in Mountain Valley Conference-interdivision action in Springfield.

MVC All-Conference football teams named

Football players from Governor Livingston and Dayton earned All-Conference honors from the Mountain Valley Conference this year. The following are the divisional All-Conference teams for 1997.

MOUNTAIN DIVISION

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers: Arnez Gardner, Newark Central; Casey Ransone, Immaculata.

Tackles: Marcus Williams, Roselle; Mike Fink, Johnson; Krzysztof Kaczorowski, Hillside.

Guards: Spencer Durkin, North Plainfield; Michael Fung, Immaculata; Terrick Meggett, Newark Central.

Center: Phil Broner, Newark Central.

Quarterbacks: Dennis Bowden, Johnson; Sal Moore, Newark Central.

Running Backs: Abdul Cherry, Newark Central; Eric Gerstner, Johnson.

Kali Lemelle, Immaculata.

Tight End: Dave Greico, Governor Livingston.

Placekicker: Keith Jurick, Johnson.

DEFENSE

Ends: Chet King, Governor Livingston; Adam Zambuto, Johnson.

Tackles: Lamar Williams, Hillside; Ernest Chandler, Roselle.

Nose Guard: Jerry Denillo, Johnson.

Linebackers: Chris Petraccoró, Governor Livingston; Brian Drake, Johnson; Sean Odom, Newark Central; Jeremy Crimmel, Immaculata.

Backs: Kirk Hopson, Roselle; Scott Senna, North Plainfield; Gerard Bishop, Hillside; Jameel Dumas, Roselle.

Punter: Doug Gapch, North Plainfield.

VALLEY DIVISION

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers: Andy Booth, Ridge; Jimmy Sweigart, Brearley.

Tackles: Vincent Gabriele, New Providence; Doug Kubeck, Bound Brook; Pat Appello, Roselle Park; Joe Rizzo, Brearley.

Guards: Darren Brady, Ridge; Mike Munoz, Roselle Park; Mike Harms, Brearley.

Center: James Scheidman, Ridge.

Quarterbacks: Erik Dial, Ridge; Mark Armento, Brearley.

Running Backs: Bert Watts, Ridge; Mike Waldron, New Providence; Eric Hernandez, Manville; Kevin Kolbeck, Roselle Park.

Tight End: Rachel Fowler, Ridge.

Placekickers: Joe Stout, Ridge; Eric Akerbloom, New Providence.

DEFENSE

Ends: Dan Kelleher, Ridge; Peter Brown, New Providence.

Tackles: Craig Marcus, Ridge; Louis Vallandares, New Providence; Victor Lohmlund, Bound Brook; Joe Capriglione, Brearley.

Nose Guard: Dexter McInnis, Dayton.

Linebackers: Mark McDonough, Ridge; Craig Tomlin, New Providence; James Lopez, Bound Brook; Jeff Vogt, Dayton.

Backs: Mike Lee, Dayton; Bill Izykowski, New Providence; Mark Dempsey, Brearley; Jason Roman, Middlesex; Randy Sidorski, Manville; Mark Owens, Roselle Park; Matt McMahon, Ridge.

Punter: Brian Noll, Manville.

From football to basketball



File photo

Seton Hall Prep senior basketball standout Jeff Miller of Springfield scored a game-high 27 points in leading the Pirates to a 92-36 blowout victory over Morris Knolls last Friday night in opening-day Iron Hills Conference-Iron Division action in West Orange. Miller was also a first-team All-State selection in football by the Star-Ledger and Associated Press. He caught an Essex County-record 20 touchdown passes this year and totaled 69 receptions for 1,260 yards for the 10-1 Pirates, who reached the Parochial, Group 4 championship game.

Springfield Sr. hoop team posts outstanding victory

The Springfield Senior Minutemen basketball team played outstanding in defeating visiting South Orange 70-60 last week.

Michael Jaffe did it all for the Minutemen, scoring 14 points, grabbing six rebounds and dishing out three assists.

Matt Paz paced Springfield in scoring with a 27-point effort.

Other Minutemen standouts included Billy Chambers with 11 points and 10 rebounds, Moe Abdelaziz with seven points and four assists, Chase Freundlich with six points, Joe Albiez with three points and Chris Sarracino with two points.

After South Orange closed Springfield's lead to four points, Freundlich made two big free throws to ice the victory for the Minutemen.

Springfield has been invited to participate in the Hanover Park High School Christmas Tournament that will take place this weekend, Saturday, Dec. 27 and Sunday, Dec. 28. Springfield's game on Saturday is scheduled to start at 9 a.m.

Springfield's junior Minutemen team was bested by South Orange by a score of 71-39.

Andre Callender had an excellent game for Springfield, scoring 11 points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

Nick Peretti had seven points and numerous blocked shots for the Minutemen.

Don Volkert, coming off the bench, did an excellent job and scored six points for Springfield.

Local swimmers make splash

The Boys and Girls Club of Union swimming team, sparked by the talents of several Springfield and Mountanside residents, continued their 1997-98 season with many notable firsts.

TWST swimmers participated in USS swim meets throughout the month of November.

Representing TWST at Princeton University was Jenilee Yerovi, who broke the Tidal Wave pool record in the 100 freestyle event.

At Ramapo University, swimmers who swam their personal-best times included: Kelly Bernaiche, Samantha Gaven, Joseph Palitto, Jason Le-Jones, Alex Reyes, Amanda Reyes and Fernando Jerez.

Michelle Newton finished first, Cara Galante second and Johnny Ceron third in their events.

The 8-and-under group swam at Ridgewood on Nov. 16 in the Gingerbread Meet. Brittany Cole placed first in the 25 freestyle event and Cesar Santana was first in the 25 breaststroke.

In a dual meet at home, TWST swimmers faced the Monmouth Barracudas.

A pool record was broken by Cole in the 50 freestyle event.

Other swimmers who significantly improved their times included:

8-and-under: Anthony Adams, Stephen Gaspar, Erik Meredith.

9-and-under: Iyanna Z. Atwell, Jose Batista, Allison Chuang, Caitlin Collins, Vanessa Rosa, Ashley Yerovi.

11 and 12: Erwin B. Argonza, Marta Batalha, Nicole Greten, Larua Hanlon.

16-and-older: Lina Chertas.

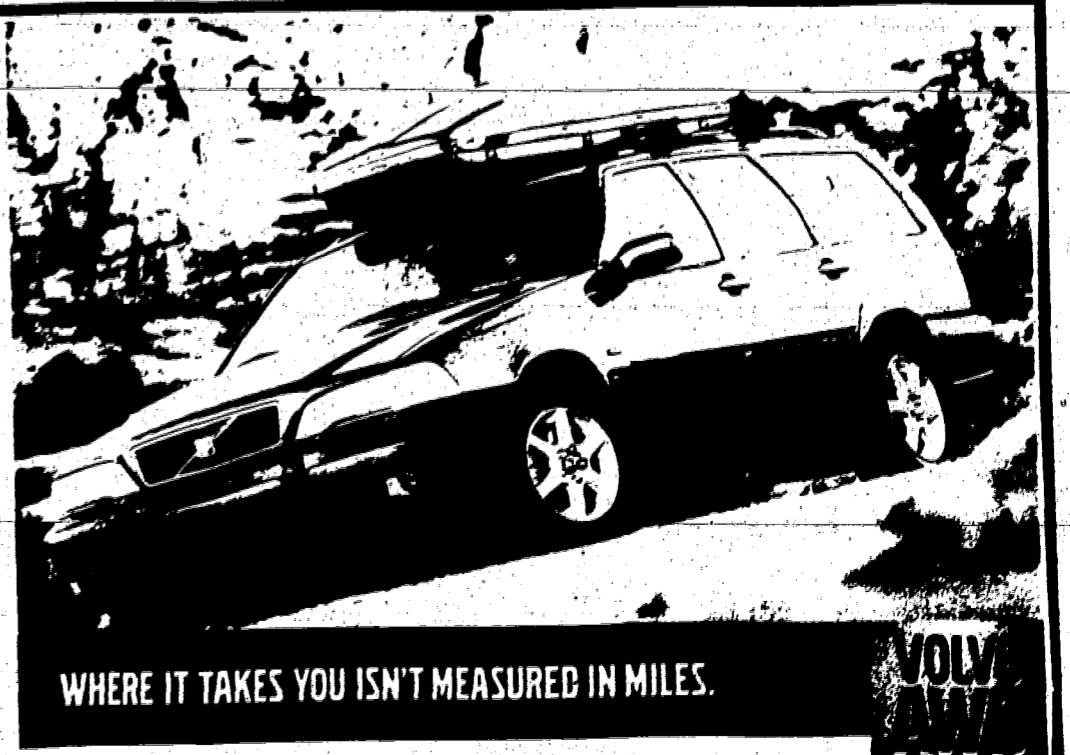
Swimmers placing first in their events and doing an outstanding job against the Barracudas included: Allen Don Jones, Matthew Mogelesky, Louis Puopolo and Paul Rotondi.

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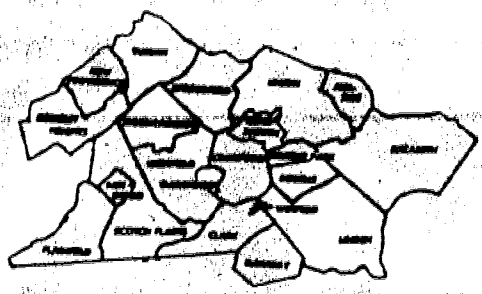
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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1997 - SECTION B

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Freeholders extend plans to assist county's needy

Earlier this month, the Board of Chosen Freeholders passed resolutions that will continue services for county residents.

Under the resolutions sponsored by Freeholder Carol Cohen, the Department of Human Services will help people with disabilities gain greater self-sufficiency through many forms of support and will provide low-income families with help ranging from comprehensive counseling to cash assistance.

"During this time of year, when the spirit of giving is paramount, it is very rewarding to be able to continue services that make people's lives a little easier," Cohen said. "Our doing this goes beyond the seasonal spirit of giving. We provide these services as part of our continuing obligations to help those less fortunate."

With \$432,905 from the state Division of Youth and Family Services' Personal Assistance Services Program, approximately 30 people with physical or mental impairments who have difficulty walking, seeing, hear-

ing or caring for themselves will receive such assistance as bathing, feeding and dressing, as well as transportation to jobs and training programs. Services will be provided for 1998.

"Without these services, people with impairments would be unable to care for themselves in their own homes. We help them maintain their independence, self-sufficiency and self-respect," Cohen added. "In addition, we help them lead productive lives by helping them pursue employment."

Another resolution authorizes County Manager Michael Lapolla to enter into a contract to use \$192,627 in state Department of Community Affairs' Community Services Block Grant funds to continue programs for eligible, low-income Union County residents through Sept. 30, 1999.

Serving approximately 600 residents, the program provides counseling for housing matters, at-risk teens, jobs and placement, in addition to cash assistance for shelter, home ener-

gy and after-school tutoring. Under two contracts funded through state grants, Community Medical Transport, Inc., of Princeton, will, from its Union offices, schedule trips, provide operators, routing and dispatch services for the day-to-day operation of the Union County Paratransit System, a special fleet of county-owned vans and buses that provides 200,000 trips annually for county residents who are disabled, senior citizens, or who meet income requirements.

The contracts — \$268,490 for routing, scheduling and dispatch services, and \$1,348,992 for drivers and other operator services — will run from Jan. 1, 1998 to the end of the year.

Using the Union County Paratransit System, eligible county residents receive transportation to medical appointments, workshops, shopping, support groups and to place of employment.

"Without this service," Cohen said, "many of these people would not be able to leave their homes."



Steve Warnock of Scotch Plains, left, demonstrates his technique at the annual Fishing Derby for People with Disabilities held recently in Wannanco Park in Roselle. Watching Steve are Freeholders Frank Lehr, seated, Henry Kurz, liaison to the Americans with Disabilities Act Committee, left, and Ed Force, liaison to the Advisory Board on the Disabled.

Golf course will close for winter

The Board of Chosen Freeholders announced that Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth and Union, will close for the winter.

This will enable the nine holes completed in Phase I of the golf course's reconstruction to "rest" during the winter and reopen to the public in prime condition on or about April 20, 1998.

Progress continues to be made on the county's efforts to improve and renovate Galloping Hill, one of the most popular and widely enjoyed, publicly operated recreational facilities in central New Jersey.

According to Freeholder Vice Chairman Dan Sullivan, the \$4,765,350 rehabilitation project, which began in 1995, consists of three phases and is designed to transform the 60-year-old Kenilworth course into one of the finest in the state. "Tees, fairways, greens, and sand bunkers on the course's 27 holes are all receiving a well-deserved facelift," he said.

"Phase II, which consists primarily of the holes on the 'single nine,' should be completed and reopened for play on or about June 1, 1998," Sullivan continued. "The final phase, Phase III, will continue throughout 1998 with a reopening of the entire course for the spring of 1999."

County's fishing derby gets residents 'hooked'

To promote sportsmanship and a feel for the outdoors, the county Division of Parks and Recreation recently held its annual Fishing Derby for People with Disabilities in Wannanco Park in Roselle.

The derby, with more than 100 adult and children participants, was co-sponsored by the Newark Bait and Flycasting Club. The day featured a talk by state Division of Fish, Game & Wildlife spokesperson Carole Skwarek and senior wildlife worker Jim O'Ross. They taught the anglers such things as how to identify the species that made up the over 200 blue gill sunfish, as well as the five other varieties they tried to catch.

Before the derby, adults and children were given a chance to do more than fish. Some assisted the state representatives in releasing fish provided by the state, into the lake.

"Fishing is one of the popular ways to enjoy the great outdoors," said Freeholder Ed Force. "This wonderful sport can be competitive or offer a time to relax. Individuals with disabilities don't have different interests by virtue of being disabled, they just need a level playing field. In an effort to address that, the county's Division of Parks and Recreation worked with the Newark Bait and Flycasting Club to create this annual fishing derby for the disabled."

"This is an opportunity for disabled individuals, their family and friends to participate, learn and enjoy the sport. Without this fun occasion, some of the disabled fishermen at the derby might not have considered fishing a recreational activity. Both equipment and assistance were available at an easily accessible site, leveling the field for the anglers. Hopefully, this derby will start these anglers on a lifetime of fishing and provide material for stories about the usual 'one that got away,'" said Freeholder Henry Kurz.



Freeholders Donald Goncalves, Dan Sullivan and Linda Stender present a resolution to Victor Fortkiewicz, president of Elizabethtown Gas Co., for co-sponsoring the county's Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs' reception in Union during Arts and Humanities Month.

County thanks gas company

To acknowledge the accomplishments of local organizations that remained active with help from the county, a reception recently was held during Arts and Humanities Month.

The reception honored 47 local organizations that received grants through the Union County Arts Grant Program for 1997-98 as well as seven arts organizations, including the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, that received awards from the State Council on the Arts.

"I was pleased to present this resolution to Victor Fortkiewicz on behalf of the Elizabethtown Gas Co.," stated Freeholder Chairman Linda Stender, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. "The company is to be commended for their leadership in promoting the partnership forged between the public and private sectors in supporting the arts in Union County."

TV program focuses on seniors

During January, "Vintage Views," Union County's cable TV program for seniors, discusses the benefits that senior citizens centers offer the country's elderly population.

"Union County has 22 senior centers that offer recreational activities, social meetings, arts and crafts, sculpture, sketching, exercise, educational programs, dances, parties and trips," said Freeholder Ed Force. "They offer our seniors everything they need to help them maintain the healthful activity levels they had, and still need."

Program host Lou Coviello of the Division on Aging will interview Patty Bender, coordinator of the Plainfield Senior Center, on how the centers meet seniors' needs. Senior centers also offer counseling and referrals relating to housing, transportation, Meals on Wheels, health insurance decisions, and income tax difficulties. All seniors are invited to contact the senior center in their town.

"Vintage Views" is made possible through the facilities and technical direction of TKR Cable Co., Eli-

zabeth, and is available countrywide: Elizabeth, TKR Cable, Channel 10, Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Plainfield, Comcast Cable, Channel 20, Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m.; Summit area, Comcast Cable, Channel 36, Tuesdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m.

Other county locations, Comcast Cable, Channel 57, Thursdays at 7 p.m.

For further information on "Vintage Views" call Coviello at (908) 527-4872.

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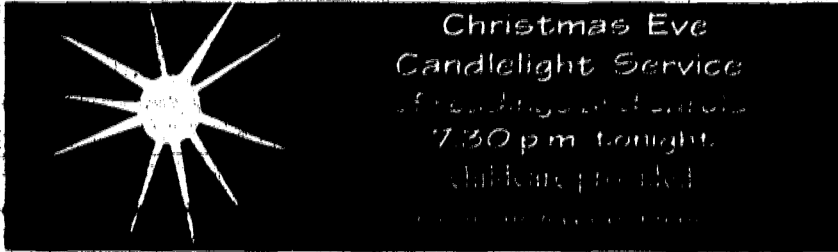


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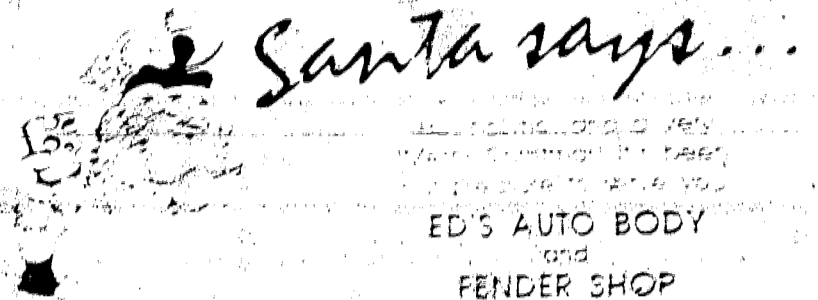


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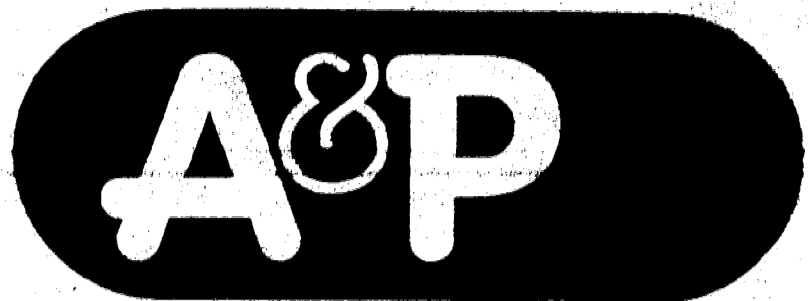
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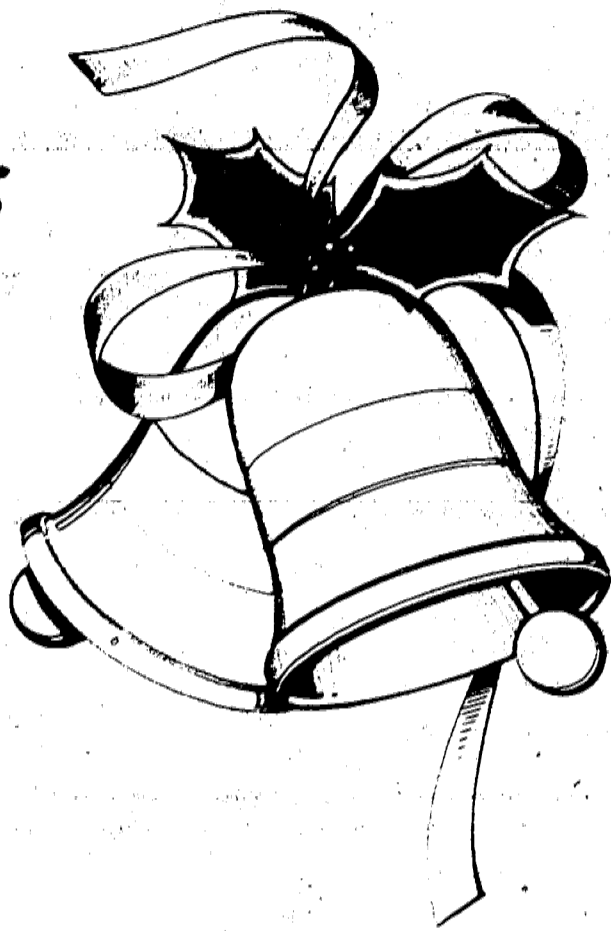
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Season's Greetings

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Perseverance pays for talented Union teen

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

It is most unusual these days to find a teenager who knows exactly what she wants in her life and her career and will not deviate from her goals. One such teenager is Diane Foster, a 17-year-old Union resident, who appeared on the Paper Mill Playhouse stage in two talking and singing roles in "Children of Eden."

A senior at Union High School, and a winner this year of Worrall Community Newspapers TEAM award for Best Actress in a Musical, the very lovely young woman, accompanied by her mother, Connie Foster, came by this office last week to discuss the making of a theatrical career.

"I play the unicorn — and a story called in 'Children of Eden' and it's very exciting," said Diane Foster, an animated, ambitious, joyful girl. At its conclusion, she will have appeared in 48 shows in six weeks.

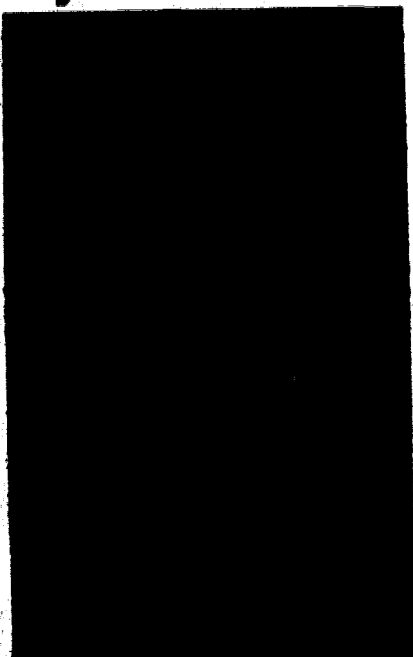
How did working at the Paper Mill all come about?

"For the past two summers," she said, "I had been taking classes at the Summer Conservatory which is conducted by the Paper Mill for kids 10 to 18 years old. It is directed by the wonderful Robert Johnson, who is coached by Patrick Parker. That's how they knew me. Patrick said, 'I want you to come to my dance class and audition.' Well, Paper said, 'I was interested. I went into New York City for the audition. There were a couple of people there, at least a dozen. I was so nervous when they called my name. I went in and I danced and I had to sing for them. I sang 'Somewhere Like You' from 'Do You Want to Dance?' and 'Do You Want to Dance?' from 'Do You Want to Dance?' And then I had to dance again. Then after conferring with Robert, Patrick came over to me and said, 'We want you in.'"

"I called my mother right away," said Foster. "So that was really exciting. It took like three weeks calling me about rehearsals and also rehearsals in New York."

As a high school senior, how did Foster manage with her studies?

"I had the full cooperation of my principal and all my teachers," Foster admitted. "They gave all their support, particularly the principal, Sam Fortunato. He said, 'I'm so proud of you' and totally promised that he would not stand in my way. I would bring my books with me to rehearsals in New York City. When I wasn't on stage, I had my nose in my books — high school revisited," she laughed. "During intermission here at the Paper Mill, all my books are all over the dressing room, which I share with another girl. And let me tell you what a great cast we have in 'Children of Eden.' And there are so many of us. They are one of the most enjoyable casts I ever worked with."



Diane Foster

In order to keep from being nervous, the first day at the Paper Mill, Foster introduced herself. After all, this is where I'm getting my feet wet. And everyone was so nice to me. They have all been so wonderful and so professional — they are really a great cast.

Best of all, she added, Robert is wonderful. During rehearsal, we would sit down on the floor making a circle around him. And he would tell us exactly what was on his mind. I knew where he was coming from. Foster said, "And he really knows what he is doing. He's a great director. Yvonne, I worked with her for two summers in 'Life on Earth.' So I'm familiar with his theatrical methods."

Foster mentioned all of those people who have helped her through her young years. For example, "I studied voice with Thomas Spargnall III of Union for two years. When I first started out, he said, 'Dancing was my thing. He totally helped me. Now, I'm not afraid to sing in front of people anymore. He's really talented, too. And speaking of talent, I studied dance with Robin La Gallicchio, who had a dance studio, Dance Impact, in Kentwood. She taught me to dance with hand movements. She really made me feel the music. There are people who can just do the steps, but when you learn from her, you really can dance."

Yvonne Kago has given me great opportunities to perform in many Union High School plays. And studying with Candice and Sam Caponegro at Burnet Middle School made me decide what I wanted to do with my life. They actually started me."

Foster, who has won many awards and a nomination for Best Supporting Actress at the Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards, learned of this newspaper's TEAM — Best Actress nomination "when I came home one night from rehearsals in New York. It

was about 9 o'clock at night, and I was sitting down to supper, when my mom said, 'You were nominated for best actress for your role as Daisy Mae in "Lil Abner" at the Linden Summer Playhouse. Suzie Spiedel of the Paper Mill had directed me in my first singing lead. Three weeks later, I discovered that I got the award. I was so shocked, and really excited. It was the first time that I ever had this singing lead. And I was most excited about being recognized for something I had just started doing."

How did it all begin?

"In the beginning," Foster mused, "my family was and still is all about sports. My father, Walter, my mother, Connie, and my brother and sisters, Walter Jr., Mary Jean, Linda, Patricia and Nancy, were into sports. I was the youngest child, and I was used to all the attention. It came from being the youngest," she smiled her frequent smile. "I always wanted to perform. My family has been so incredible to me. They are the most supportive family I could ask for. I love them, and they are my best friends."

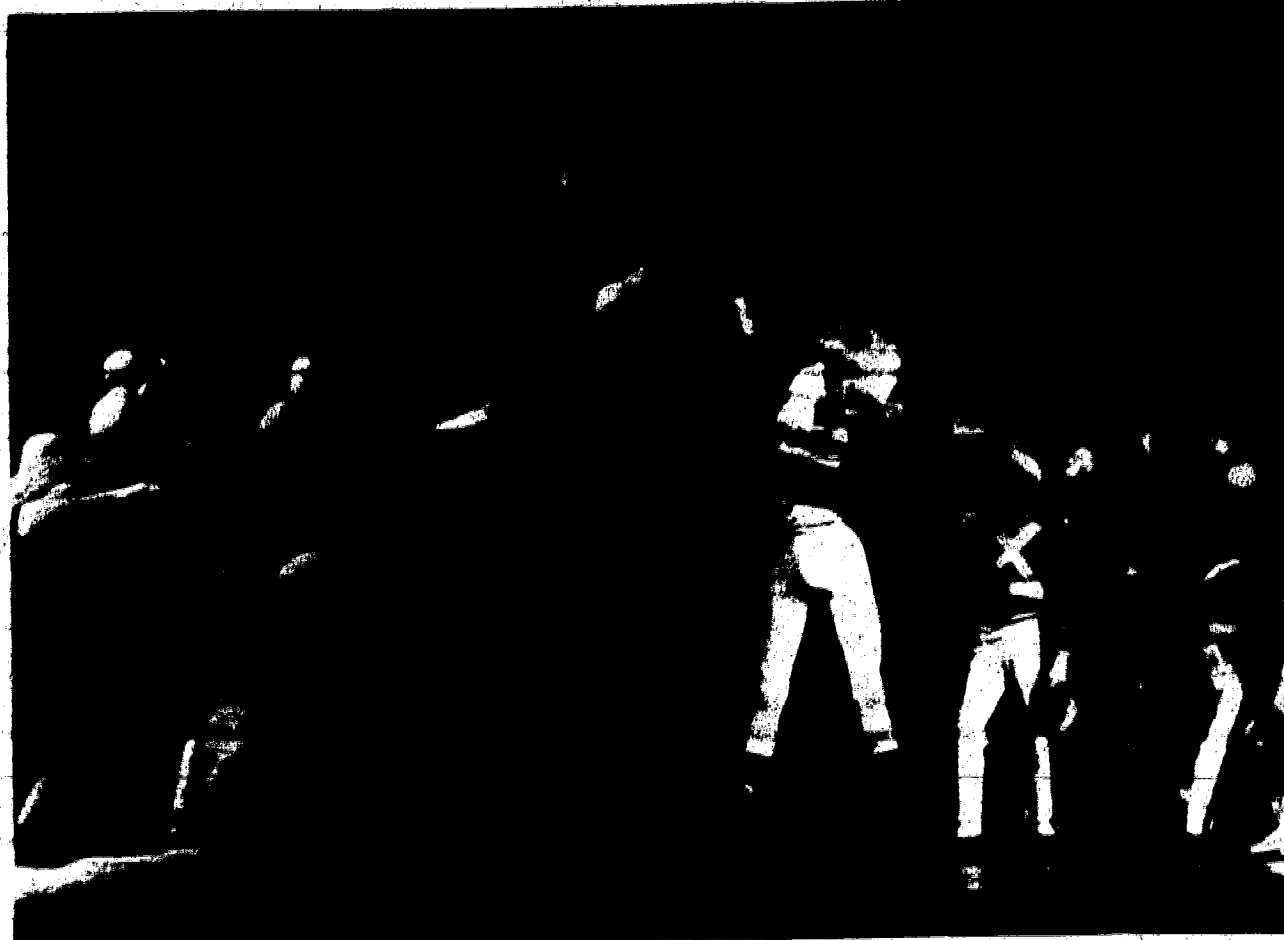
Foster said with a mature seriousness, "It all began when I entered the Little Miss Union contest at the age of 7. Two of my sisters taught me a dance called 'I Want to Dance with Somebody.' And I won! From then on," Foster indicated, "I've never seen a stage that I didn't like. This is what I want to do with my life."

She has choreographed medleys for musical festivals in preparation.

In two weeks, said the high school senior, "I have my New York University audition for the Tisch School of the Arts, which I'm extremely nervous about. I really want to go there and major in musical theater. Two of my friends from Union High School are there — Nicole Martone and Gregory Bock."

"I also want to be on Broadway. That's my ultimate goal. In an essay I'd written for the school, I said I'd like to bring back the movie musicals. They're classics. And they're timeless. And I've always loved to watch Gene Kelly. He was my idol. Someday," Foster grinned, "I want to be the female Gene Kelly." She nodded her head musingly. "I have a lot of aspirations."

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The Nutcracker and the Mouse King marshal their forces in New Jersey Ballet's production of "Nutcracker," at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn through Dec. 28.

The best in holiday fare takes the Paper Mill stage

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

The astounding, legendary "Nutcracker," which is delighting audiences, both adult and children, now through Dec. 28 at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, is being enhanced by the New Jersey Ballet Co. and the Paper Mill Orchestra.

The production, which is in its 27th year at the Paper Mill, as seen last Saturday matinee, was one of the better productions ever presented on any stage. And on a Saturday matinee, where there are more young children than adults, the completely filled theater was quiet, well-behaved and thoroughly responsive in laughter and applause.

The principal ballerinas of the New Jersey Ballet were all there to perform and rotate roles in Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker," based on E.T.A. Hoffman's "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." On Saturday matinee, Lori Christman was seen at the Snow Queen, Rosemary Sabovick Bleich as Sugar Plum and Debra Sayles as Dew Drop. It was an absolute delight to witness the elegant talents of all three, and particularly Sayles, who had been nursing an injured knee for several seasons.

Additionally, there was an international cast with dancers from Israel, Russia and China: the superb Elie Lazar of Israel, Andrei Jouravlev, Era Korotaeva and Alexander Antchoutine of Russia and You Qing Guo of China.

James Washington, who was not listed in the credits, portrayed a marvelous Snow King. One must point out that Nancy Hartman, the public rela-

tions representative of the New Jersey Ballet, who played the elderly grandmother in Act 1 last year, is back to perform, smile, dance and be generally affable. She has brought more to the role than would be necessitated, and more than likely will continue to be in the ballet for more "Nutcrackers" to come.

As the familiar story of "Nutcracker" is enacted in Act 1, at a Christmas party at the home of the mayor, his wife and their children, Clara and Fritz, a very, very good performance was given by Caitlin Lavin as Clara. The magnificent scene, with its endless Christmas tree and its beautiful ballet dancers, is played out with fun and drama as old Herr Drosselmeyer brings toys to the girls and boys, and to Clara, a colorful soldier doll called "Nutcracker," which her brother breaks, and Drosselmeyer's handsome nephew, marvelously portrayed by Sam W. Beckman, helps her to tuck away in a doll's bed.

After the guests leave, Clara returns to look at her broken doll, falls asleep on the sofa and a magic spell is cast, while giant-sized mice appear and are fought off by child-sized toy soldiers. The Nutcracker turns into a giant soldier, who kills the Mouse King, then turns into a handsome prince. He and Clara glide away in a silver swan boat, which earned the applause of the entire audience, and they pass through the forest and the King and Queen of Snowflakes and their swirling subjects dance a beautiful waltz that nearly brought the house down.

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'Tis the season to be jolly, but being jolly is not always easy to do when you are trying to choose that perfect gift for someone special on your holiday shopping list. Don't forget to stop in at the book store when you are doing your shopping this season. Books make wonderful gifts for young and old and everyone in between. And when you are trying to think of that perfect gift, don't exclude books as one of your choices because the person on your list is not a "bookworm." A well-chosen book can make a great gift for just about anyone!

I recently visited The Book Store in South Orange, in search for a few fun gift ideas for this holiday season and let me just say this, there are just shelves and shelves of endless possibilities.

"Chicken Soup for Little Souls: The Best Night Out With Dad," with story adaptation by Lisa McCourt, is one book in a series of children's books inspired by stories that appeared in the bestsellers "Chicken Soup for the Soul" and "A 2nd Helping of Chicken Soup for the Soul" edited by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen. This book tells the heartwarming story of one little boy who gives up the chance to see the circus with his father, so that another little boy who is less fortunate will have the opportunity to see the circus for the very first time with his own father. This short, illustrated book teaches a valuable lesson in a gentle, sweet way. "The Goodness Gorillas" and "The Never-Forgotten Doll" are the two other titles which are currently available in this series.

"Amelia Hits the Road" by Marissa Moss is an American Bookseller Pick of the Lists Winner. This children's book is just plain fun. The book tells the story of Amelia's summer vacation. She keeps a travel journal about the car trip she goes on with her mother and her younger sister, Cleo.

Book Worm

By Trina Marie Chance O'Gorman

They visit the Grand Canyon, Death Valley and her old hometown in California. The story is told in a unique and clever way. The book itself is designed to look like an actual travel journal. The cover resembles a composition book and the entries and drawings in the book appear to be "handwritten." I can see this book easily becoming a favorite and would probably be enjoyed by children between the ages of 9 and 12-years-old.

"The Rock Pack" by James Heike and Ron van der Meer makes a great gift for a music lover. This interactive book is just packed with memorabilia, trivia, pop-ups, facsimiles of album covers and more! The history of rock-and-roll music from the 50s into the 90s is covered and it is a "must-have" for anyone on your list who truly loves rock-and-roll. The book also comes with a CD featuring Ray Davis, Martha Reeves and others.

"The Miriam Webster Compact Reference Set" would make a thoughtful and practical gift for just about anyone from student to professional. The set includes "Webster's Compact Dictionary," "Webster's Compact Dictionary of Synonyms," "Webster's Compact Writer's Guide" and "Webster's Compact Dictionary of Quotations." The four hardcover volumes are neatly tucked in a slipcase which will take up very little space on a desk or bookshelf. They will probably come in handy for years to come!

"The Natural Beauty and Bath Book" by Casey Keller offers recipes and instructions for making natural

bath and beauty products. This is a unique book. Most of the recipes seem fairly easy and the ingredients are things that can be found in drug stores, supermarkets and health stores. The book gives interesting information about various herbs and plants and the various things for which they can be used. The book itself would make a great gift or the recipes could be used by you to make some very unique, homemade gifts for someone on your list. A basket of homemade bubble baths, shower gels, bath oils and aromatherapy oils just sounds so relaxing!

The "Zagat 1998 New Jersey Restaurant Survey" and "Zagat 1998 New York Restaurant Survey" are available now, and either book would make a great gift for someone who likes to dine out. These two books offer up-to-date information about surveyed restaurants in New Jersey and New York, including the name, address and telephone number of the restaurant, the hours of operation, ratings on the food, service and decor, information about prices, and a brief commentary on each restaurant. The "Zagat Surveys" offer a lot of options, so that someone special on your list can broaden his or her dining horizons.

As I mentioned earlier, the possibilities are just endless. There are books on just about every topic under the sun. A cookbook for someone on your list that loves trying new and exotic recipes might be greatly appreciated. Someone new to the area might love a book that tells about exciting and fun daytrips in this state! Or how about an biography for your sport lovers on his or her favorite sports figure? Did someone on your list just buy a new home? There are dozens of books out there that offer great remodeling tips.

Happy Holidays to all and happy reading!
Trina Marie Chance O'Gorman is a resident of Millburn.



Lisa Rumbauskas in her role as 'Columbine' in 'The Nutcracker.'

Linden resident dances solo role

Linden resident Lisa Rumbauskas, a junior at Linden High School and member of New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble, danced the solo role of "Columbine," one of the mechanical dolls brought to life by Dr. Drosselmeyer and also performed a solo role as "Butterfly" in four performances of "The Nutcracker."

The New Jersey Dance Theatre Ensemble is presenting its 28th season of "The Nutcracker." The Ballet Company is comprised of dedicated young dancers ages 9 to 21. These dancers from all over northern and central New Jersey attend ballet classes a minimum of twice weekly at their home dance studio and then attend Sunday classes at the Ensemble, located at Drew University in Madison.

They receive professional training in classical ballet techniques under the direction of Artistic Director Nancy Turano.

Turano joined the Ensemble after leaving her position as Principal Dancer with Ballet Hispanico of New York for nine years.

Dancers audition for "The Nutcracker" and spend most of their fall weekends in rehearsals for the performance. In addition to the Ensemble members, a number of guest artists from various professional companies are featured in the production including Rosemary Sabovick, principal dancer with New Jersey Ballet.

Director receives humanities award

Bonnie J. Monte, the artistic director of the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, was presented with the "Arts and Letters Person of the Year" Award from the New Jersey Chapter of the National Society of Arts & Letters. The award ceremony took place at the Madison Library on Nov. 23. This award is presented to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the arts in working with young aspiring artists.

Monte has been actively involved in training young artists for the American stage for the past 16 years and currently is a member of the faculty at Drew University, in addition to her position with the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival. Since she joined NJSF in 1990, Monte has introduced several educational programs that reach out to the middle and high schools in New Jersey. The Shakespeare Experience, a mentoring program that teams students with Festival actors to produce and perform a play, has been active since 1992, and more recently, the Shakespeare

Live! program presents one-hour versions of Shakespeare's plays to students with a post-production discussion. A program for elementary school students is planned.

Monte has broadened the performance schedule of the Shakespeare Festival by offering an experimental series, The Other Stage, as well as the main stage productions of Shakespearean and American classics. Currently, the NJSF is constructing a new theater funded by the F.M. Kirby Foundation on the Drew University campus.

Prior to joining NJSF, Monte was associate artistic director of the Williamstown Theatre Festival in Massachusetts for eight years. She has worked with many leading theater artists, including Tennessee Williams, Joanne Woodward, Elizabeth McGovern, Geraldine Fitzgerald and many other actors, directors, designers, composers and teachers. Monte has been a great artist and visiting assistant professor at the University of Notre Dame, where she directed Euripides' "The Bacchae."

Applications are available for some very special awards

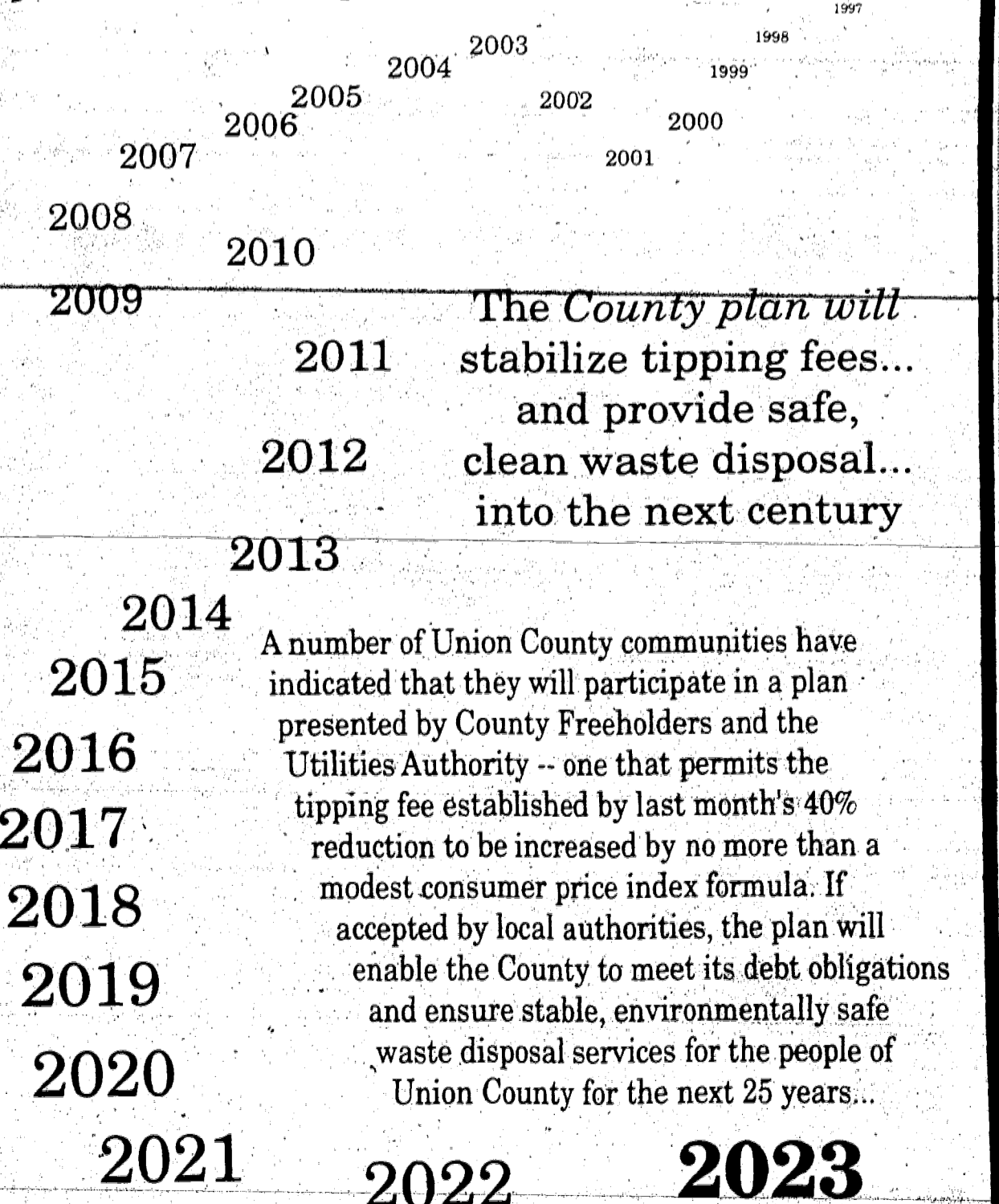
Applications are now available for the 1998 Very Special Arts New Jersey Arts Achievement Awards. These include the Student Arts Excellence Awards, presented to classified students — mainstreamed, inclusion, self-contained classes or activities — 14 to 21-years-old, who show outstanding achievement in and commitment to one or more of the art forms; and the Education In The Arts Awards presented to outstanding educators and administrators for establishing high quality arts programs for classified students. The award also recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to arts education for classified students.

The VSA/NJ Arts Achievement Awards '98 will be presented in a ceremony in the spring. VSA/NJ is a statewide organization which is part of an international network dedicated to providing arts programs to people with disabilities. The Governor's Awards in Arts Education are presented in a ceremony at the N.J. State Museum in Trenton.

For further information or application materials, contact Karen Singer, Very Special Arts New Jersey, 703 Jersey Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901; (732) 745-5935, or 745-3913.

Application deadline is Jan. 16, 1998.

Waste Rates can travel a clear, steady path... for the next generation --




The County plan will stabilize tipping fees... and provide safe, clean waste disposal... into the next century

A number of Union County communities have indicated that they will participate in a plan presented by County Freeholders and the Utilities Authority -- one that permits the tipping fee established by last month's 40% reduction to be increased by no more than a modest consumer price index formula. If accepted by local authorities, the plan will enable the County to meet its debt obligations and ensure stable, environmentally safe waste disposal services for the people of Union County for the next 25 years...

It's time to take the Risk out of Union County's Waste Rates. Ask your Council to support the County's plan.

pd. for by the Union County Utilities Authority.



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"Great Songs, Great Memories"
New Jersey News, Traffic & Weather

Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area.

Stepping Out

NIGHTLIFE

BIRCH HILL will present The Nerds on Friday. On Saturday, The Tramps.

CROSSROADS will present Open Blues Jam with B.B. and Friends at 8:30 p.m.

CLUB BENE will present Tower of Power on Sunday, on Dec. 31.

COUNT BASIE THEATER will present Richie Havens on Tuesday.

STATE THEATRE will present Cleo Lane and John Dankworth on Dec. 31.

TRADEWINDS will present Southside Johnny and The Asbury Jukes on Dec. 31.

RADIO

WBGO Jazz 88.3 will feature the following programming:

Tomorrow, at 4 p.m., "Jazz Guitar Christmas." At 5 p.m., "Jazz Piano Christmas."

Friday, 7-8 p.m. — Portraits in Blue will present "Christmas Blues," all styles, all new.

Saturday, 1-2 p.m. — Wade in the Water will feature "The Song Ministry of Charles Albert Tindley."

Sunday, 10-11 p.m. — on Jazz From The Archives.

Monday, 7-8 p.m. — Jazz From Lincoln Center will present "A Love Supreme."

Tuesday, 7-8 p.m. — Jazz Profiles will present Billy Taylor.

TELEVISION

STATE OF THE ARTS programming is as follows:

Tomorrow, "With Song and Good Cheer" will feature carolers from Westminster Choir College.

"State of the Arts" is broadcast Thursdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. on New Jersey Network.

THE STEVE AMES SHOW will feature "Dear Santa," an original song by Hillsdale resident and comedian Pat Ramthaler.

THIRTEENWNET will air "An Ode to Joy: The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra" on Dec. 31 at 9:30 p.m. on PBS.

THEATER

DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN will open Tuesday and run through Jan. 4 at New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Performances will take place in Prudential Hall. NJPAC is located at One Centre Drive, Newark.

MOMENTS TO REMEMBER at Paper Mill Playhouse will feature music from the 40s through the 90s.

The playhouse is located on Brookside Drive in Millburn.

ART SHOWS

MOUNTAINSIDE LIBRARY will present works by Alice Bryan Hondru, "Color, Line and Form in Watercolor and Print."

UNION COUNTY TEEN ARTS TOURING EXHIBIT is on display at Elizabeth Public Library through Tuesday.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL will present "Paintings to Reduce Stress" by Barbara Glander.

ELIZABETH LIBRARY Main Branch will display model ships by Elizabeth resident Manuel Souffront throughout December.

NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS will present an exhibit by sculptor and artist Peter Reginato.

ELIZABETH LIBRARY Main Branch will display model ships by Elizabeth resident Manuel Souffront throughout December.

NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS will present an exhibit by sculptor and artist Peter Reginato.

SMALL GROUP ART EXHIBITION will be on display at the Millburn Public Library throughout December.

DONOR QUILT made up by families of organ donors will be displayed at Springfield Public Library through Jan. 2.

CATFISH ROE REVISITED, an exhibition featuring drawing, embossing, painting and sculpture by Malcolm Sweet.

UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER will display pastel paintings by Cheryl O'Halloran-McLeod through Jan. 9.

VOX GALLERY will exhibit "New Works by Caballero Sisto" through Jan. 15.

WEST OF MY DREAMS is the next exhibit at Les Malarmet Art Gallery in Union.

JACOB TRAPP GALLERY will display "The Painted Tapestry" by Diana Craft through Jan. 23.

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Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

THE ANIMAL KINGDOM, an exhibit exploring the relationship between man and animals, will be on display at New Jersey Center for Visual Arts through Feb. 1.

The display is located in the Fred L. Palmer Gallery. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m., Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE INVITATIONAL exhibition will be on display tomorrow through Feb. 15 at Renee Foonsaner Art Gallery.

UNION COUNTY TEEN ARTS TOURING EXHIBIT will visit Plainfield Public Library from Tuesday through Jan. 27.

RETURNING HOME, a five-foot high oil painting by Union artist Kathy Kornish, is on display at the Westfield Community Room.

TRAILSIDE Nature and Science Center is displaying "Birds of the Watchung Reservation" and "Trap Rock Mineral Exhibit."

TRAILSIDE is located at Coles Avenue and New Providence Road, Mountainside.

AUDITIONS

Think you're funny? Have you ever wanted to write comedy but don't know how to get started?

MENTOR THEATER OF UNION COUNTY has theatrical interships available.

GEMINI GROUP is seeking camera-men and technicians for filming original works for broadcast on local cable stations.

FILMS

CASANO COMMUNITY CENTER in Roselle Park will screen "Breakdown" with Kurt Russell on Tuesday at 12:30 p.m.

ELIZABETH LIBRARY Main Branch will screen "Lilies of the Field" starring Sidney Poitier on Dec. 31 at 10 a.m.

CLASSES

PLAYWRIGHTS THEATRE will hold "Free-For-All" day of sample classes for young people and adults on Jan. 3.

LINDEN ART ASSOCIATION is offering visual arts classes on Wednesdays in five-week segments.

NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR MIME is offering a mid-winter intensive course Jan. 5-14 from 7-9 p.m. at Montclair State University.

CONCERTS

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH AIDS benefit gospel concert will be held on Sunday at 6 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DINNER at Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit will be held tomorrow from 1 to 3 p.m.

KWANZAA '97 will take place on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of Second Baptist Church, Rahway.

Montclair. To register, call (973) 783-9845.

WESTFIELD RECREATION COMMISSION announces two winter art programs taught by Kathy Kornish.

SHOESTRING PLAYERS Saturday classes in creative dramatics are being offered to children age 8 to 12.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS for teachers are being offered at New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

SWAIN GALLERIES will present "Christmas Miniatures" through Jan. 31.

HOLIDAY SEASON COLLECTORS OPEN HOUSE will be held Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at All Stamps and Collectibles.

CHANUKKAH PARTY for singles will be held tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Elmora Hebrew Center.

CHRISTMAS DINNER at Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit will be held tomorrow from 1 to 3 p.m.

KWANZAA '97 will take place on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of Second Baptist Church, Rahway.

LAZARUS NUTCRACKER will be shown through Jan. 4 at New Jersey State Museum Planetarium.

GARDEN STATE STAMP SHOW will be held Jan. 2-4 at Wayne Manor.

ADMISSION IS \$4. THE MUSEUM IS LOCATED AT 205 W. STATE ST., TRANTON.

ADULT ADMISSION IS \$2.50, CHILDREN UNDER AGE 12 ARE ADMITTED FREE.

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Dinner and a show, all at NJ Performing Arts Center

In addition to world-class performances during the inaugural season at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, a palate-pleasing selection of pre- and post-performance light fare, Sunday brunch, casual cafe lunches and elegant dinners is on the schedule.

The Theater Square Grill, located off NJPAC's main lobby and operated by the arts center's exclusive caterer Restaurant Marketing Associates Inc., offers the public a variety of dining options.

In the Main Dining Room of the Theater Square Grill, NJPAC patrons will find a moderately priced elegant buffet dinner with seating for 150 and a la carte dining with seating for 60.

The dinner buffet features such signature dishes as hand-carved roast loin of veal, poached salmon in lemongrass broth and grilled French-cut breast of chicken.

The a la carte menu at the Theater Square Grill features contemporary cuisine like herb roasted salmon and fennel and pepper crusted rack of lamb.

Sunday pre-performance brunch service began on Oct. 26. For \$29.95, exclusive of tax and gratuity, each guest can choose from hot and cold menu selections, dessert table, coffee or soft drink and one complimentary Mimosa.

Private group dining opportunities at NJPAC include a three-course pre-act lunch in the Main Dining Room for groups of 20 or more, Monday through Friday.

The Theater Square Grill's Cafe/Bar features a menu of homemade soups, upscale sandwiches, salad platters and pastas, and a selection of daily entrees.

The NJPAC is located on the Newark Riverfront near Gateway Center, Newark's Penn Station and the Ironbound District in downtown Newark.

hours prior to all Prudential Hall performances, and dessert, coffee and cocktails one to two hours after all Prudential Hall performances.

Additional services of the Theater Square Grill at NJPAC include conference catering and salon service, as well as the Rounda Bar and portable bars open prior to Prudential Hall performances.

Founded in July 1972, Restaurant Marketing Associates originally developed as a privately held, national, restaurant and private club operating company.

The NJPAC is located on the Newark Riverfront near Gateway Center, Newark's Penn Station and the Ironbound District in downtown Newark.

The NJPAC is the largest performing arts center built in the northeast in the last 30 years.

Consumerism — changing times for the better or the worse?

It is the habit, almost by rote, of environmentalists and other moralists, to decry both our aging and consumerist society. John Updike, perhaps our greatest satirist, makes use of our almost absolute worship of consumer products in "Rabbit at Rest" by describing a precocious child's consumerist chatter to her stroke-ridden grandfather to keep them alive in a storm they encounter in a sailboat off the Florida coast.

Almost all of us think there is too much selling, too many products, an over-abundance of telemarketing, and a deplorable reliance on material goods in our daily life. Yet, as Don DeLillo comments in his new novel, "Underworld," who is to judge who is to be without, saying that there is a "convergence of consumer desire — not that people want the same things necessarily, but they want the same range of choices."

That global trend is amplified by greater affluence, the media raising sights and desires, and simply the continuing increase in population growth. If there is not everywhere an emergence of a middle-class, there is the desire for that from Eastern Europe to China, with all the gadgets that connote.

There is a relationship and trend these days, too, which multiplies the consumer effect, as reported in the Oct. 17 issue of "Science" magazine. Not only is life span increasing, from an average in the U.S. of 47 years in 1900 to 76 years today, and to 83 years in 2050, but the prevalence of chronic disorders and disability in the aging is markedly falling. Surprisingly, most people today in our country in the later period of life are senescent rather than pathological. As "Science" says in an editorial, "the stage is set...to enhance the likelihood of older persons not only to avoid disease and disability, but to truly age successfully."

Successful aging includes continued consumerism for this increasingly old but sprightly age group, which will rival or surpass children, teens, young adults, and even marrieds and those in their mid-life in terms of buying power. They have the money, the leisure and the will to enjoy life as long as their health holds up, and the statistics say that is increasingly the fact. And so, a major competition has arisen among those

Art association invites artists, admirers alike

Westfield Art Association President Barbara Schwinn extends an invitation to artists and members of the community interested in fine art to join the group and enter their exhibitions.

General meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at the Westfield Community Room, 425 East Broad St., Westfield at 8 p.m. Programs focus on artist's demonstrations, speakers and workshops. A wide range of topics and media including photography, are covered. One need not be an artist to participate.

Three member exhibitions are presented to the public annually. The featured categories in the Fall Exhibition are oil, pastel, sculpture and mixed media. The exhibition held in early spring includes watercolor, graphics, photography and mixed media. The shows are judged and awards are presented at an opening reception where you may meet the artists.

On The Arts

By Jon Plaut

selling goods and services, particularly the telemarketers, to sell to the healthy aged.

Now all this is bad for the environment, isn't it? More manufacturing, products, pollution, garbage — that is the result, is it not? And we know consumerism is the unwelcome outcome of the freedom of Western culture, don't we? Well, yes, I guess so, but let's try and think that through.

In the Nov. 8 "New York Review of Books," an article entitled "The Renaissance Revealed" quotes literary scholar Lisa Jardine "to suggest that those impulses which today we disparage as consumerism...occupy a respectable place...in the new Renaissance mind." She observes in "Worldly Goods: A New History of the Renaissance" that we are reluctant "to include acquisitiveness among the defining characteristics of the age which formed our aesthetic heritage in a 15th-century life crowded with desirable consumer objects."

In our public consciousness, we have known for a long time that enlightenment was built on the age of discovery and the development of science, trade and commerce. While the "New York Review of Books" criticizes Jardine for not presenting a complete-enough picture, her viewpoint that the acquisition of material goods spurred the Renaissance makes sense in terms of the development of trade. We seem to be in a similar period today, with the evolution of global communications and the great explosion of global trade. As DeLillo said, we all hope for mastery of this technology opportunity. This includes the increasing activist role of the older healthy population in our society.

I recently heard a rabid environmentalist scold northern Europeans for eating oranges shipped to them from the South, because of the energy costs involved in that trade. That seemed to me to entail a complete loss of common sense, because it denies human desire and the potential for enlarging experience and gratification. Perhaps the consumerism of today is not leading us to an environmental Armageddon as we are led to believe, but to a new Renaissance of human values, communication and problem-solving.

Jon Plaut is a resident of Summit.

Best Wishes For The New Year from Dr. Don Antonelli and Staff

(908) 688-7373

2575 Morris Ave., Union

Arts center returns us to holidays of yesteryear

Theater View

By Jacquie McCarthy, Associate Editor

Ah, memories of childhood holidays — the warm smell of cookies, the cold feel of Auntie's obligatory kisses. Willow Cabin Theater Company brought these treasured memories to the stage with "A Child's Christmas in Wales," which ran this weekend at Union County Arts Center in Rahway.

The arts center created an appropriate atmosphere for this stage version of poet Dylan Thomas' holiday memories. As the adult Thomas faced the audience, a mesh curtain lifted to reveal his childhood home, and parents preparing for festivities to come. Thomas' mother is about to put the Christmas turkey into her new-fangled gas oven, with a word to her husband about her lack of trust in this cooking innovation.

The now-young Thomas, portrayed endearingly by Larry Gleason, is, of course, rather preoccupied with the presents he is forbidden to touch until "present time." He takes us with him throughout his day, carousing in the park with his friends until aunts and uncles arrive.

And, as so carefully planned even ever does not smooth, the less-than-

memories. Thomas is chided to be gracious when a gift proves uninteresting, the postman's Christmas "bonus" is a shot of holiday cheer, the young man has a crush on one of his aunts. Several scenes were quite colorful — an uncle remarks after dinner that he is "more full of wind than the month of March," and Thomas and his friends perform some male bonding by writing in the snow. Also of interest are Welsh holiday traditions, different carols and superstitions. Mother Thomas scolds the "adult" men when they proceed to play ball in the house after "present time." She is afraid her clock, a wedding gift, will be broken, predicting a broken home.

Willow Cabin's dual-purpose set worked wonderfully well, with trees interspersed with the Thomas home, supplemented by cold lighting for park scenes and warm for home and hearth. The moon and stars were beautiful. Boy's park scenes exhibited

great choreography. All players took turns providing accompaniment for carols, and often this was worked into the scene.

Ah, but do Thomas' memories differ so greatly from Yuletide celebrations elsewhere in the world? The production is a vivid description of memories, brought to life and infused with poetry as only Dylan Thomas could. For all the variety in winter festivals, "A Child's Christmas in Wales" reminds us that we have something in common — we are all working toward the same spirit of joy at this time of year, no matter where we live.

The Pops are 'tops' in NJ

The New Jersey Pops Orchestra prides itself on having treated the people of New Jersey to 20 years of fine and recognizable music — right in its backyard. Founder and musical director Mike Buglio has brought the orchestra to locations in New Jersey as far north as Bergen County and as far south as Cape May. The Pops have performed repeatedly in the western part of the state in Sussex County, numerous times in Morris County and often in Atlantic City. The orchestra has been accessible to nearly all New Jerseyans.

For information on sponsoring a concert, attending a concert, or general about the New Jersey Pops, contact Buglio at (973) 792-7191.

Jacquie McCarthy, Editor
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Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. box 3109, Union, New Jersey, 07083.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ORDER AND PUBLICATION
TO: OSCAR WERBERGER
By Order of the Superior Court of New Jersey, wherein 819-521 Willow Avenue Condominium Association, Inc. is plaintiff and Oscar Werberger is a defendant. Docket No. 02-007352-97, you hereby are SUMMONED and required to serve upon Victor & Ehrenworth, P.C., 30 Columbia Turnpike, Florham Park, New Jersey 07932-2261, an answer to the Complaint within 20 days of December 24, 1997. You shall promptly file the answer and proof of service thereof in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Law Division, Special Civil Part, Union County, 2 Broad Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey 07201, in accordance with the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure. If you fail to answer judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. If you cannot afford to pay an attorney, call Legal Services at (908) 354-4340. An individual not eligible for free legal assistance may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling the Lawyer Referral Service at (908) 353-4715. U7724 WCH Dec. 24 1997 (\$15.40)

Badges on sale for First Night

Admission badges for First Night Summit, 1998, the popular New Year's Eve celebration of the arts, are on sale. The complete program of events to be held in a six-block area of downtown Summit are available at the dozens of participating retailers in Summit and surrounding communities where badges are sold.

The format for First Night Summit remains unchanged with events starting at 7 p.m. on New Year's Eve at more than two dozen indoor locations, and ending at midnight with a fireworks display on the Village Green. A badge gains the wearer admittance to all performances. For the fifth year, prices remain unchanged. Advance badge sales are \$7 through Sunday, and \$10 from Sunday through Dec. 31. Last-minute badges can be purchased for \$10 at a half-dozen performance locations on New Year's Eve.

Alice and Joseph Harler, co-chairs of the volunteer committee, are seeking nearly 200 volunteers to work as site managers, ushers and ticket salespeople the night of the event. Volunteers are scheduled to work only half the night, and receive free badges to attend performances for the rest of the evening. Individuals, organizations and neighborhood groups who would like to volunteer should call 522-1722.

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VITAMIN FACTORY

Vitamin B-12 500 mcg 100s #1445 Reg. \$2.99	BUY 1 GET 1 FREE	Shark Cartilage 500 mg 60s #1741 Reg. \$17.99	BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
CoEnzyme Q-10 40 mg 20s #1873 Reg. \$14.70	BUY 1 GET 1 FREE	Garlic w/Pyonogenol 60s #1860 Reg. \$14.99	BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
Ester C 1000 mg 90s #1981 Reg. \$14.99	BUY 1 GET 1 FREE	Pygeum Extract 50 mg 100s #1817 Reg. \$16.99	BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
Carnitine 250 mg 100s #1858 Reg. \$16.99	BUY 1 GET 1 FREE	Oxitive Chewable Antioxidant 60 #1725 Reg. \$4.99	BUY 1 GET 1 FREE
Calcium 600 mg + D 100s #1290 Reg. \$4.99	BUY 1 GET 1 FREE	Echinacea 400 mg 100s #1819 Reg. \$9.99	BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

Tea Tree Oil Blemish Stick <small>DESERT ESSENCE</small> 30 oz	Reg. \$8.95	649
Black Currant Oil <small>HEALTH FROM THE SUN</small> 60s	Reg. \$19.95	1395
Mega Mass 2000 <small>JOE WEIDER</small> 216	Reg. \$59.99	3699
CoEnzyme Q-10 100 mg <small>TWINLABS</small> 60s	Reg. \$70.95	4095
Cough & Bronchial Syrup <small>8oz 8oz</small>	Reg. \$9.95	799
Silica Body Gel <small>NATURESWORK</small> 7 oz.	Reg. \$15.95	1095
Ginkgo Power <small>NATURE'S HERBS</small> 60s	Reg. \$18.99	1299
ProMax Bars <small>SPORTS PHARM</small> Box of 12 (Asst'd Flavors) Reg. \$22.69		1599
Cold & Flu Bath <small>KOSMOS</small> 10oz	Reg. \$8.95	649
DHEA 25 mg <small>WATER SOLUBLE</small>	Reg. \$21.99	1399

Everyday is sale day at the Vitamin Factory... Everything priced just a cut above wholesale!

Visa, Mastercard, Discover & MC Accepted Sale Prices Good From 12.4.97 - 1.21.98

STORE HOURS: Mon. & Thurs. 10-6; Tues., Wed., & Fri. 10-4

Are You Having An Event? And Would Like To Let Every One Know.

Place Your Notice In **What's Going On**

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is PRE-PAID and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) in Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both Counties. Your notice must be in one of our Offices by 4:30 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Offices our located at 463 Valley St., Maplewood, 170 Scotland Rd., Orange, 266 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union.

NAME _____ Phone _____

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For more information call 763-9411.

If Your Business Caters To Adult Lifestyles...We Can Deliver Your Prime Prospects

ADULT LIVING

A Special Pullout Supplement To Worrall Community Newspapers

January 15, 1998

Each Thursday since 1968 Worrall Community Newspapers have been providing towns in Essex & Union Counties with their local news. Today, **70,000 paid subscriber/target mailed households** rely on Worrall Newspapers for the news that is important to them.

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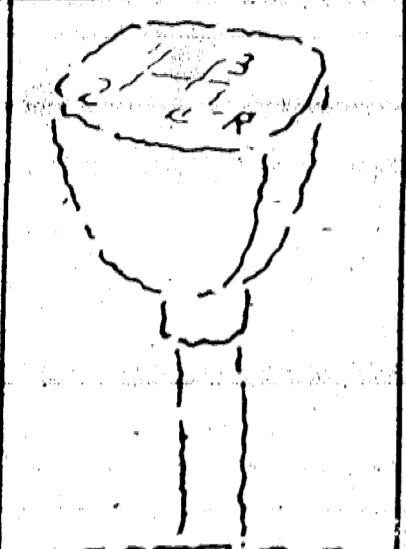
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