

ECHO LEADER

Serving Springfield, Mountaineer and Summit

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 70 NO. 15

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1998

TWO SECTION

THIS WEEK



Happy Hanukkah

NEWS

More trash?

With New York City's plan to close one of its landfills and transfer garbage to sites in Newark and Carteret, Union County finds itself in the middle of a dilemma. Will the county incinerator in Rahway be a new site for New York's garbage disposal?

See Page B1

THE ARTS

Tapping teacher

A teacher by day and a tapper by night, he is making some of his dreams come true.

See Page B3



Go west

The story of the dwarfs takes a different turn with the Cranford Dramatic Club's performance of Snow White, Gypsies, and... which runs through Dec. 13.

See Page B3

NEW MEDIA

News updates

Get local updates throughout the week. Call our InfoSource hot line at (908) 686-9898. For a menu of items, see Page B3.

Web site

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

WEATHER

Friday: Periods of clouds and sun, 47°



Saturday: Partly sunny, 36°



Sunday: Partly sunny, 45°



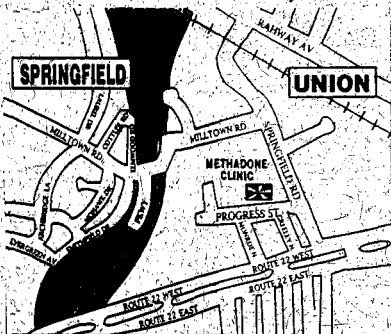
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Township files lawsuit against Union Zoning Board

Lawyers cite incorrect interpretations of ordinances in allowing methadone clinic relocation



This map shows the proximity of the proposed clinic location to Route 22 and the Township of Springfield. Separating the facility from the neighboring community is the Rahway River.

Affordable housing plan approved by Pisansky

By Craig Garrison
Staff Writer

Judge John Pisansky of the Union County Superior Court approved Springfield's affordable housing plan last week, giving the Bojczuk Stone development a 17-units/acre population density. But the decision may be overturned as Township Attorney Bruce Bergan would like to appeal Pisansky's ruling to Appellate Court in order to reduce the density to 16 units/acre. Pisansky's Dec. 4 ruling was not unexpected, as the township had approved a 17-units/acre population density under his recommendation. Pisansky had the power to approve, reject, or modify Springfield's affordable housing plan.

The Township Committee wanted to limit the Bojczuk Stone development to 16 units/acre, but failed with Pisansky's ruling to reject or modify the plan, voted last Sept. 8 meeting, from the higher population density, with the intention of later appealing the decision. The housing plan was submitted to Dorry Road and South Springfield Avenue have been opposed to the Bojczuk Stone development, because of fears that the project will bring additional traffic problems to South Springfield, Avonlea.

Democrats and Republicans on the Springfield Township Committee have been united in their opposition to a 17-units/acre population density at Bojczuk Stone. Mayor Sy Mulligan said that the higher density was being "stoked down" out there.

The Superior Court had ruled that Springfield had a minimum, low and moderate housing obligation of 153 units in order to comply with the state's "M. LaBrie" ruling on affordable housing. In order to meet this requirement, the township designated specified areas, as affordable housing zones. One of those areas was the Bojczuk Stone property, on Route 22 West.

Residents of Lynn Drive, South Dorry Road and South Springfield Avenue have been opposed to the Bojczuk Stone development, because of fears that the project will bring additional traffic problems to South Springfield, Avonlea.

By Philip Sean Curran
Staff Writer

Members of the Union Zoning Board, incorrectly interpreted local ordinance provisions in the Board's decision to allow the relocation of an individual parcel area of Route 22, argued lawyers representing different groups, opposed to the move.

The lawyers have filed separate suits to prevent the relocation from taking place.

One suit is brought by Springfield Township and the other by a coalition of business owners in the Progress Street area and residents in Springfield and Union.

An issue is a decision that the 16-member Zoning Board made in late September. The board unanimously agreed that the clinic falls under the agency of professional office use, and because a professional office is permitted in that zone, all six members agreed that a variance would not be necessary. A prohibited use in the township is a narcotic clinic, but Paul S. Werther, attorney for the clinic, said his clients operated a state-licensed ambulatory care facility, not a narcotic clinic.

But in his complaint, Springfield Township Attorney Bruce H. Bergen

wrote that the board failed to have enough factual information to determine what Werther described would be, in fact, a professional medical office and not a narcotic clinic, which led to, in his words, an "arbitrary, capricious and unreasonable" decision.

Also, township regulations make no specific mention of allowing professional medical offices into an industrial zone, he argued. According to minutes of the Sept. 23 Zoning Board meeting, the medical director of "Suburban Treatment Associates," Dr. Scott Aflet, advised that he would rent the offices that will be in the building as "medical offices."

The suit named the Zoning Board and the Suburban Treatment Associates as defendants.

Because he had not been officially served with the papers, the Zoning Board attorney, Robert W. Cockren, declined to comment. Likewise, construction code official and board secretary Richard Maloni also said he had not been served.

In fighting the suit, Werther will almost certainly use the same arguments he made before the September panel, that a Superior Court ruled in 1983 that a clinic facility "is more reasonably categorized within conven-

tial understanding as a 'personal service use,' similar in nature to a professional office.

"I feel very strongly that the Board of Adjustment acted properly, and the law is 150 percent on the side of Suburban Treatment Associates," Werther said. He has had not seen the complaint.

Public sentiment in Springfield is decidedly against the clinic moving nearer to that town. The Progress Street location is near a residential part of Springfield; but a wooded area and the Rahway River separate the towns. Officials there wasted little time deciding to file the suit.

"People don't want it," said Springfield Mayor Sy Mulligan. "They are terrified."

"I had from the beginning the only place a clinic belongs is in a hospital," 11st-Union Township commissioner Anthony Terrezza said. Springfield officials are selfishly pursuing the case to make a good impression on their constituents. The two mayors have reportedly talked about the matter and expressed their differences.

To me, this is just a political opportunity to make hay," Terrezza said. "And if Springfield officials

See DISCREPANCIES, Page 3



Author Ann Rinaldi displays her works to students at Deerfield School in Mountaineer.

Visiting author finds many fans in students at Deerfield School

By Pamela Isaacson
Staff Writer

When she accepted an invitation to address young readers at Deerfield School in Mountaineer, historical novelist Ann Rinaldi did not realize the impact she would have on 14-year-old Ashleigh Griffin.

An excited, disbelieving fan, she appeared over Griffin's face as Rinaldi autographed her fan club collection and posed for a photograph.

"This is the first thing that's ever happened to me," Griffin exclaimed.

Rinaldi's interest in historical novels began in 1976, when the nation celebrated the bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence. As a columnist for *The Trentonian*, daily, she was assigned to interview the man who was to play George Washington in Trenton's re-enactment of the troops' crossing the Delaware River on Christmas Day 200 years ago.

"I went to interview this man and a whole world was opened," Rinaldi told the students. "I saw it all come alive."

Because of this introduction, Rinaldi's family joined Trenton's re-enactment group, Her son, 14 at the time, has participated each year for the past 22 years.

"Time Enough for Drama," Rinaldi's first historical novel was written in 1991 to place readers in the Revolutionary Era. "I wanted to tell the story of the young people who came after the bicentennial could pick up a book and learn the history," Rinaldi explained.

When she attempted to get the book published, Rinaldi encountered cynicism and rejection. "I was turned down by 10 publishers," she said. "They told me that you can't give young people history, but I knew they were wrong."

She said that now every publisher of young adult literature carries a special line of historical novels. "I broke that line of resistance," she added.

Rinaldi said she "learned her craft" while producing three columns a week for 21 years at a Trenton newspaper. "I bled over my typewriter in the beginning and my computer in the end," she said. "I learned how to know a good story when I saw one."

Questions arise about school assessment

By Pamela Isaacson
Staff Writer

In a continuing effort to assess and reorganize the administrative structure of the school system, the Springfield Board of Education invited William Liberra to address questions about his findings at Monday night's meeting.

Liberra of Educational Nexus was hired by the board over two months ago to complete an evaluative study and provide recommendations to improve the administrative structure of the school system. His findings were first presented at the Nov. 16 meeting.

Questions were formulated by board members and given to Liberra prior to this week's meeting. Liberra could review and research before readdressing the board. Many concerns of the board members dealt with the recommendation of teaching supervisors based at the high school.

Liberra favors an option that would include hiring seven teaching supervisors to teach three classes and have five K-8 classes of the board members dealt with the recommendation of teaching supervisors based at the high school.

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Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

How to reach us:
The Echo Leader's publisher is Evelyn Thrushby at Vernal Community Newspapers, 129 Springfield, N.J. 07081. Phone: 908-686-7700. Fax: 908-686-7701. E-mail: editor@echoleader.com. Our offices are located at 129 Springfield Avenue, Union, N.J. 07081. We are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call any of the telephone numbers listed below.

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NEWS CLIPS

Rabbis to meet for discussion

On Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m., Temple Beth Ahim of Springfield will host a meeting of a Congregational, Outreach and Reform rabbi, who will meet with the rabbis of Reform, Beth Ahim, Rabbi Alan J. Yuter of Congregation Israel and Rabbi Joshua Goldstein of Shalom Synagogue.

The subject will be "Isaac A. American Jewish in the 21st Century."

Three Springfield Rabbis, Tash, will be the featured speakers. This is the second time that the Springfield rabbis have decided to get together to discuss the denomination to meet for discussion, study and questions and answers. The program is offered to the public at no charge.

All are welcome. Temple Beth Ahim is located at 60 Temple Drive. For further information, contact the temple office at (973) 467-0650.

YMCA to offer winter registration

Fresh and young classes will soon be available at the new Springfield YMCA located in Chesholm Community Center at the 100 South Springfield Ave. Registration begins on Monday at 7 a.m. and will continue until classes are full. The winter season will run from Jan. 4 to Feb. 28.

YMCA Sports includes classes for preschool-age children, including "Bubble" art, dance, basketball, floor hockey, soccer and sports and games. Saturday morning recreational arts classes include Arts, Doodle and Artsy Skoodles for ages 4 to 6 (Saturday morning parent-child art classes include "Artsy Doodle" and "Artsy Skoodles" for ages 1 to 4. For older children, "Karate" and "Hip Hop" dance for kids in grades 1 through 8 will meet weekday afternoons.

In addition, YMCA Child Care offers two afterschool programs including "Kids Club" for kindergarten.

ten to grade 4 and "Club Y" for grades 5 through 8. Both programs provide something fun for kids to do after school including sports and games, arts, homework time and a whole lot more. Transportation from Springfield elementary schools is available for Kid's Club. Call for program plans and fees.

For more information on YMCA programs, membership or class fees, contact the Springfield YMCA at (973) 467-0658.

Yuter to speak at local library

Jewish Women International of Springfield, formerly B'nai B'rith, Women of Springfield, will meet Dec. 16 at 12:15 p.m. at the Springfield Public Library in Springfield on Mountain Avenue. Lays Kash will conduct the meeting and introduce the guest speaker, Rabbi Alan J. Yuter.

The topic will be "Jewish Medical Ethics — The Case of Abortion." Rabbi Yuter has been the spiritual leader of Congregation Israel of Springfield since 1987. He was ordained by Yeshiva University and the Jewish Chof Rabbinic from New York University and publishes extensively on Jewish law and thought. Members and guests are welcome to attend, and a luncheon will be served.

Advent activities offered at church

In celebration of the advent season, the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, on the corner of Morris Avenue and Church Hill, welcomes all to its special activities. An Adult Bible Study led by Pastor Dan Russell will be held Thursday evenings through Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. in the chapel behind the sanctuary.

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, 07081.

Today:
• The Springfield Chapter of the Union County Chamber of Commerce will hold a holiday breakfast at 8 a.m. at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, Church Hill. Special entertainment will be provided by Jonathan Dayton High School. The cost of \$15 includes a full breakfast buffet.
• The Mountainside Recreation Department is sponsoring a bus trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The bus will leave from the Mountainside Chapel at 9 a.m. and will leave the museum at 3 p.m. for the return trip. Registration is \$15 per person, including admission to the museum and bus transportation. The fee for school citizens is \$12 per person and museum members will be charged \$9 per person. Call the Mountainside Recreation Department at (908) 232-0015 to register or for more information.

Friday-Sunday:
• The Holiday Holidays Craft Boutique will hold its sixth annual boutique at the historic Herford House in Mountainside. The boutique will feature crafts from more than 35 artisans and will be located on Constitution Plaza near the library. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free.
• Sunday:
• The Trautwine Nature and Science Center, 452 New

Providence Road, Mountainside, will present a plantarium show called "Silent Night, Silent Night" at 3:30 p.m. The show will include a live light concert featuring seasonal and holiday music. Admission will be \$3.25 per person, \$2.75 for seniors. The show is for ages 10 and up.

Coming Events:
Dec. 17
• The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will conduct a Great Books Discussion Group at 10 a.m. in the library meeting room. James Beal in the Jungist will be discussed and new members are welcome. For more information, call (973) 376-4930.

Dec. 18
• Faith Lutheran Church, 524 South St., New Providence, will hold an Advent Luncheon at 12:45 p.m. The luncheon will take place following the 12:15 p.m. spoken word program, and a lunch dinner is planned. The meal will be served free of charge, but registrations are required. Call the church office at (908) 464-5177 or faxer than noon Dec. 14.

Ongoing:
• The Springfield Recreation Department has announced that blood pressure screening will be taken at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Hill, on the second Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. The screening is open to all residents of Springfield and one charge is a waiting money. For more information, call (973) 912-2232.

Library continues foreign film festival

The 1998 Dutch film "Character" will be shown at the Springfield Free Public Library, 10 a.m. on Nov. 17 p.m.

"Character," a psychological drama, won its director Mike Van Diem the 1998 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. The setting is 1926 Rotterdam, a city filled with hatred and greed. The town built Dreyfus on his routine and peacefully evicts elderly and dying tenants from their homes, is apparently murdered in cold blood. His illegitimate son, Jacob, is arrested as the prime suspect. The film plays out in flashbacks, the young man's life story. Jacob meets his father at nearly every turn in his life. Like the impoverished state has been organized by his father, who seeks to engage Jacob's mother, who has died, to marry him. The film's dark brooding atmosphere heightens the life-and-death struggle between father and son.

Funding for this program has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. It was also funded in part by the Friends of the Springfield Public Library. The next film in this series is "Taste of Cherry," on March 11 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. This will be followed by "Men with Guns" on April 15 and "Marjane and Zanette" on May 13. Admission is free to all films. Space is limited to 60 people at each showing. The Springfield Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave. For information, call (973) 376-4930.

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Merry Yuletide carolers



Photo by Milton Mills

Washington Rock Girl Scouts Jessica and Angela Reino join mom Elizabeth Reino in singing Christmas carols during Springfield's holiday festivities outside Town Hall Monday night.

Supermarket plan may be dismissed

By Craig Garretson Staff Writer

The Springfield Zoning Board of Adjustment may be delivering the coup d' grace to the proposed Millburn Avenue supermarket at their next meeting, as the state Appellate Court has declined to reconsider their decision on the case.

Royal Abold, the Dutch-based parent company of Edwards-Super Food Store, had sought to place a supermarket at 669 Millburn Ave. on the site of what had been the Saks Fifth Avenue department store. The proposal had been opposed by both Springfield and Millburn, with residents in both townships complaining that the new supermarket would create traffic, noise and other quality-of-life issues.

Roger Clapp, Millburn's attorney, announced at his township's Dec. 1 meeting that the Appellate Court had ordered Royal Abold to reconsider their earlier ruling, which overturned a 1997 decision by Union County Superior Court Judge John Pinsky.

Pinsky had ruled that two zoning variances obtained by Saks Fifth Avenue 40 years ago were acquired by Shop

& Shop Supermarkets when they purchased the property in 1994 for \$12 million. Royal Abold subsequently acquired the property when they bought the Shop & Shop chain two years ago.

But the Appellate Court ruled Oct. 23 that a variance may not be "expanded or substantially changed" without further approval by the zoning board.

Pinsky's ruling proved the application to the Springfield Zoning Board, where it stalled for five months as attorneys representing Springfield and Millburn jockeyed to overturn the Superior Court decision. The Appellate Court's reversal gives the Springfield Zoning Board the opportunity to immediately dismiss Royal Abold's site plan application.

Royal Abold's next step would be to appeal the decision to the New Jersey Supreme Court, in addition to new variances with the Springfield Planning Board. Clapp said Royal Abold's attorney indicated that he would attempt the former path and appeal the decision to the state's highest court.

Variances granted for home expansion

By Craig Garretson Staff Writer

The Springfield Planning Board approved plans by township residents to receive job at their Oak Knoll Elementary Business Incubator at 29 Commerce St. had their application pro-

posed to the board's next meeting, scheduled for Jan. 6.

Henry and Sherry Sieig of 567 Ashwood Ave. received permission from the board to rezone a neighboring property, 10 Commerce Lane Int. The Sieigs had purchased 567 Ashwood Ave. with the intent of demolishing the existing home and expanding their home across both lots.

At 5,930 square feet, the new Stein home would be larger than any home on Ashwood Avenue, according to their architect, Lawrence Stern. "It will be the largest house on the street for size," he said. "Perhaps one and a half times the size of other houses. But the lot will also be twice as big."

Stern said the new home's proposal size would not dominate the street, as landscaping and open space would be used as a buffer from neighboring homes. He also said the new home's height, color and style would be consistent with other homes in the neighborhood. "It will be very quiet and simple," Stern said. "We're not trying to make this jump off the page. The use of open space will justify the large size of the house. The overall package will be much more pleasing than what exists today."

The Sieigs received variances on building coverage and total lot coverage in a 9-1 vote, with only Planning Board member Debra Tiele dissenting from the majority. Tiele offered no public comment on her vote against the request.

Discrepancies in dates lead to legal questions about clinic

(Continued from Page 1)

weres concerned about their constituents as they say why wasn't the mayor or any committee member at the Zoning Board hearings? he asked.

"If there were any validity, the mayor and council would have been at the hearing of the Board of Adjustment," Terrezza said.

Whether agreed that Springfield has made political issue of the matter. "The sun has to be shining on Springfield is nothing more than political," Wember said.

And Committee member John Paragon of Union added that the Zoning Board is empowered to make a decision like that in September.

The attorneys representing the coalition of business owners and area residents Brian W. Fahy, made similar arguments in his complaint, which was filed earlier.

He asserts that besides the board making a capricious judgment, prior notification procedures were flagrantly violated. "The legal notice which was issued on behalf of the applicant,

and which identified September 23, 1998 as the hearing date before the Zoning Board of Adjustment was issued on September 10, 1998, the day before the application was even filed and submitted for administrative review and completeness to the Union Zoning Board of Adjustment," Fahy wrote. "The legal notice dated and issued September 10, 1998 is of no legal consequence since there was no application then even pending before the Union Township Zoning Board of Adjustment and it failed to adequately and appropriately describe the nature of the existing and relief requested."

At the meeting, Cohen ruled that sufficient notice had been given, according to Zoning Board minutes.

Also, many errors were made in making documentation, Fahy wrote. "The plan for the use of structure and lot was prepared by EKA Associates on September 15, 1998 and thereafter was not on file and required 10-day period before the September 23, 1998 hearing despite the interesting fact that those September 15, 1998 plans

were date-stamped September 11, 1998 by the Union Zoning Board of Adjustment."

"What effect a bill being considered in Trenton might have on these matters is unclear. Sponsored by Assemblyman Joe Weingarten, R-Union, the bill sharply restricts where drug treat-

Bagger awarded with medal

Richard H. Bagger, New Jersey state assemblyman for the 22nd district, was among those honored by Legal Services of New Jersey and the New Jersey State Bar Association at their 14th annual award ceremony, Dec. 1 at the New Jersey Law Center in New Brunswick. The reception honors those who have made major contributions toward securing greater justice for people in poverty.

Bagger, chairman of the Assembly Appropriations Committee, assembly budget officer and co-chairman of the joint budget oversight committee, was presented with an equal justice medal. He was recognized for his "critical leadership in ensuring that Legal Services' funding was restored this year," and for "his unquestioned support of Legal Services' efforts to provide legal assistance to the poor."

Legal Services programs are the primary vehicle by which society provides essential legal aid in civil matters to people who could not otherwise afford lawyers. New Jersey had fifteen Legal Services programs, justice, legal aid, programs, providing direct service to clients in all twenty-one counties of the state, and LSJN, the statewide coordinating office, in Hudson

County. Legal Services provides the full range of legal services, from the initial intake and intake interview, to the representation of clients in court, and the provision of legal advice. Legal Services also provides a range of legal services, from the initial intake and intake interview, to the representation of clients in court, and the provision of legal advice.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

Residents have the law on their side

Springfield's dispute with the Township of Union regarding whether Suburban Treatment Association's private methadone clinic should be permitted to relocate near the Springfield border made news again last week as attorney Bruce Bergen filed suit in Superior Court in Elizabeth seeking to block the move. In the interest of maintaining a safe neighborhood for Springfield residents near the proposed site, we support this action and hope Judge John Pisarsky has the good sense to rule against the relocation.

Moving the methadone clinic from the residential Vauxhall section to an industrial district makes sense for Union. Union residents and business owners near the current clinic location have been complaining for more than two decades that the facility disrupts an otherwise peaceful neighborhood, attracting not only those seeking help for their addiction but also drug dealers and those looking to make a profit from the methadone dispensed at the clinic.

Moving the facility out of the area and into a fairly barren industrial zone means Vauxhall residents will be relieved from this nightmare. Unfortunately, it also means Springfield residents near the Union border may be plunged directly into it, a possibility with so many unpleasant ramifications to ignore.

Springfield's lawsuit to block the clinic move joins the opposition launched by the Progress Business Association, a group of Union business and property owners near the proposed site who have filed a complaint against the Union Zoning Board. According to their complaint, the methadone clinic is a "magnet for criminal mischief, crime and public nuisance circumstances" — confirming Springfield residents' fears that the clinic will have a detrimental effect on their neighborhood.

All the sound, sensible reasons that a narcotics clinic should not be located near a residential street seem to have been lost on the Union Zoning Board — the board seems to hear only the reasons why the clinic should not be located near Union residents.

Fortunately, Springfield's lawsuit against the proposed site has not only good sense but the law on its side. While Union's own land-use ordinance allows a professional medical office to occupy the site, it fails to specify or mention narcotics clinics. Any reasonable court will rule that a world of difference exists between an innocuous doctor's office and a clinic performing the sole function of dispensing methadone to drug addicts.

Since reason and fellowship cannot dissuade Union from transferring the problems of one residential neighborhood to another, we anticipate the law will.

Festival of Lights

A little more than 2,000 years ago, Jerusalem was ruled by the Syrian Greeks.

In 165 B.C., the Maccabees, a group of Jewish teachers, saw that their people were quickly being assimilated into the Syrian Greek culture.

With their race facing the likelihood of extinction, these teachers rallied the Jews to resist the Syrian Greek regime and resist their "idols."

They fought in the hills and valleys, alleys and streets, they fought for their beliefs, their homeland, Judah, who was one of the leaders of the Maccabees — which means mallet or hammer — led his people in some of the fiercest battles that resulted in overwhelming the Syrian Greeks and eventually helped retake Jerusalem.

When the Jews entered their Holy Temple for rededication, they only had enough oil to light the lamps for one night. The oil miraculously lasted eight nights, enough time to prepare more oil.

Thus the Festival of Lights, more commonly known as Hanukkah, was born.

Everyone can take a lesson from the Jews' resolve and determination. They have never backed down. Through the Romans, the Syrian Greeks and Hitler, Jews have stayed together in the face of great adversity.

We wish our Jewish readers a Happy Hanukkah. The fight to retake Jerusalem has been fought many times, and continues to this day. Keep the fight in your hearts — and Jerusalem will not fall again.

This year, Hanukkah begins Sunday at sundown and ends on the evening of Dec. 27.

"For God's sake, let us freely hear both sides."

Thomas Jefferson
3rd U.S. president
1634

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George S. Gifford, Consultant Director	



HOLIDAY KICK-OFF: Kassy Ciassuli, 16, of Mountside sings at the borough's holiday tree-lighting ceremony Saturday.

Property taxes may drop by sharing costs

Point Of View

By Richard H. Bagger

When French President Charles DeGaulle was asked why governing France was so difficult, DeGaulle is said to have responded, "How can a man govern a country with 600 kinds of cheese?" When one begins to examine the cost of operating government in New Jersey, one does not count 600 cheeses but 611 school districts, 566 municipalities, 493 smaller independent taxing districts and 21 counties — nearly 1,600 units of government — which raise \$12.5 billion from us in property taxes and then spend our money on government which can affect as few as 100 residents — four municipalities — or no citizens at all — 24 school districts.

There is no way around the fact that 1,600 taxing governments in our state are too many. What the proper number is, I can't say. But 1,600 governments in a state our size are inefficient, high-cost and annoy taxpayers. We simply must become more efficient.

Heeding this call, Gov. Christine Wharton appointed a Property Tax Commission to look at ways we can lower our property tax bills by becoming more efficient at delivering services. The commission studied the problem thoroughly and did its work diligently. The commission's report is comprehensive. While some of the recommendations are problematic,

others make a tremendous amount of sense. I am not a tax expert, but for too long we have allowed ourselves to be lulled into believing that building more projects is the best way to lower taxes. As the commission recognized, the average property tax doubled during the 1980s even though 61 percent of New Jersey's commercial office space was built during that decade. If growth simply equaled lower taxes, then property taxes should have fallen, not soared. We cannot build ourselves into lower property taxes; we must come up with another approach.

We who treasure home rule and self-determination know that compelling people to surrender local control is a bad idea. But we also know that with the right incentives, many of those 1,600-plus governments will realize the value of sharing costs, which, in turn, will allow us to share in lower property taxes. For that reason, the legislature should pass a bill sponsored by my colleagues Assem-

bliman Leonard Gans, R-Hungerton and Assemblyman Joseph Roberts, D-Camden. This bipartisan approach provides strong financial incentives to municipalities, counties and counties to achieve economies of scale and real savings to the property tax payers for their benefit.

There is something else that should happen, too: If the bad, old days of " Jersey Justice " was a synonym for a flawed court system that frequently turned out unfair and, unfortunately, results largely dependent upon where your case was heard. In 1987, we took a big step to curing this problem when we created a unified state court system in our New Constitution. Several years ago, the state began paying the \$350 million cost of running those courts, which had until then been paid for with property taxes.

Now it is time for a next step. The counties still pay for the prosecutors' office, a significant cost to local property taxpayers. Assemblyman Joseph Charles, D-Hudson and I are sponsoring legislation that would have the state pay these bills, providing nearly \$200 million in immediate property tax relief for taxpayers. We should also explore having the state pay for the costs of county services such as county offices, state services such as county offices of zoning, consumer affairs and environmental

commissions. Where these offices provide crucial ancillary services to state government, they should be kept and funded by the state. Where they are simply duplicative, they should be eliminated.

There is one final thing we must do. The Legislature should follow the suggestion of Jersey City Mayor Bret Schermer and move to index the amount of state aid to municipalities against the rate of inflation. If you do this, you will prevent a municipality from being shortchanged any year where inflation is high and state aid is flat. The percentage of state aid would remain constant, and municipalities and their property taxpayers would not be left in the lurch or be forced to make up for an inflation-generated shortfall by raising property taxes.

New Jerseyans do not want to see their property tax dollars taken needlessly from their wallets to overpay for programs that can and should be paid for more efficiently by the State. We can — and must — reduce the duplication that exists among our many levels of government. Governor Whitman's Property Tax Commission reports offer some significant steps to do just that.

Richard Bagger is state assemblyman for the 21st district.

Government decision is music to the ears

Problem Solver

Robert Lapidus

Has his bridge? But an arts center in Newark?

Sure, the New Jersey Symphony family, becoming a world class organization, could use a nice home. But they already had a nice home, just a few blocks away.

Sure, it would be nice if New Jersey music lovers did not have to endure the harsh commute to New York to enjoy major cultural attractions. But everyone knew that suburban audi-

ences would not come to Newark even though the city's performing arts center was broken only to a city paralyzed by rising crime rates and in a steady state of decline since

Well, would you know, it just would not listen to the conventional wisdom. They went ahead and built the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

And guess what? There is no way to imagine how this complex could have turned out any better than it is. It is perfect in every way — artistically, substantially, spiritually.

They built it, and the people did come. NIPAC regularly plays to capacity audiences in premiere season. Now in its second year, with the

curiously seekers waded out in construction to play to full houses.

And well, it should. Everything about this place is good as it can get. The public spaces are warm and gracious. The sightlines are excellent. The acoustics are perfect.

It is so good one is almost hesitant to boast about it. Getting the word out to the unimpressed means that it will be tougher for us to get good seats for our favorite performances. As a public service institution, I guess we have an obligation to let the facts out. So here, to all the planners, the thinkers, and the fund raisers. And once the politicians. This time you got it right.

Robert Lapidus is a frequent columnist for this newspaper.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Education will abate violence

To the Editor:

I am writing with respect to the most complex and troubling problems facing our nation and our state today. This problem is particularly vexing because it occurs in our homes and hurts our loved ones, and secretly erodes the trust and love within families as well as the protection and comfort of our homes. Statistics indicate that the problem can occur anywhere in our society regardless of race, economic status, social status or any other consideration. Frantically, the problem is a cyclical one that today's victims often become tomorrow's perpetrators. The problem I would like to discuss is domestic violence.

It has been estimated that between 2 and 4 million women nationwide are victimized by domestic violence every year. In 1991, at least 21,000 domestic violence crimes against women were reported to the police every week. According to the New Jersey State Police, 42 people were murdered as a result of domestic violence disputes in 1994 alone. In that same year, the total number of offenses rose 7 percent from the previous year.

Sadly, children and senior citizens are also the victims of domestic violence. In fact, studies have shown that in 70 percent of homes where women are being

battered, children are also being abused. Additionally, many elderly men and women often suffer abuse at the hands of their children.

While these facts are indeed sobering, there is hope. In the fall of 1997 I was appointed by Assembly Speaker Jack Collino to be a member of the Assembly Task Force on Domestic Violence. The task force was created to evaluate and improve, where necessary, the Domestic Violence Prevention Act of 1991. As a member of the task force, I spent time in Family Court observing trials of domestic violence cases and countless hours with county prosecutors, law enforcement officials, social workers and victims of domestic violence who shared their stories with us.

Based upon these and other efforts and the comprehensive study and review of current domestic violence laws and their implementation, the task force concluded its work and in June 1998 announced 59 recommendations of improvement to be acted upon by the Legislature. In my view, the most important aspect of these recommendations is their educational nature. Knowledge is its power and, in this case, could save lives. It is my belief that with the right awareness to the part of not only victims and abusers, but everyone in the state, we can finally eradicate the pernicious problem of domestic violence, and ensure that our homes can be a place of love, trust and caring.

Assemblyman Kevin J. O'Toole
District 21

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We're asking Where will you do holiday shopping?



Elizabeth Petrin: "I'm shopping mostly in my stores. There is one doll store in Fair Hill where I've been going. Times With Love. A bunch of teachers go together to work it."

Sherry Turner: "There are a few stores nearby. They are mostly stores in Westfield and K-Mart in Linden."

Laurie Weeks Thomas: "I'm doing a great deal of catalog shopping."

Donna Eccard: "I've been all over the Shon Hills Mall."

Area native takes to stage in Crown Heights drama

By Pamela Isaacson
Staff Writer

Springfield's Aaron Brinen is a link between the local community and Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

The Springfield native is currently starring as Johada in the off-Broadway production of "Crown Heights," a new play co-written by Dan Friedman, Jacqueline Saltz and Fred Newman.

"It is an attempt to explore, dramatically, the human tragedy of Crown Heights," said playwright Newman. "We are bringing Black and Jewish youths into this project — from Crown Heights and other communities — to play themselves, that is, to play those who have been most affected by what happened seven years ago. We are not erasing this prohibition in the interests of making a judgment, but rather in the interests of creating something new together."

Brinen plays Johada, the character representing Yankel Rosenbaum, a Jewish student who was stabbed and killed in Crown Heights in August 1991. The murder occurred after the death of Gavin Coia, a seven-year-old black child who had been struck by a car in the motorcade of the Lubavitcher Grand Rebbe, while playing with his cousin on the sidewalk. These events exacerbated already simmering tensions between the blacks and Jews who share Crown Heights.

"What I had learned from the film is that so many people are the same," Brinen said. "Each of the groups had similar problems."

There are two scenes that directly express Brinen's sentiment. After the character of Johada is killed, the Jews are fearful that they are no longer safe in America because Jewish blood has been shed. They cite examples of pogroms in Russia and Poland and the Nazi genocide during World War II in order to explain why an individual who shouts "Kill the Jews" demands attention. "Just like our ancestors, we want to be left alone," they cry.

Immediately after, black performers sing about persecution as well. They tell a story of oppression in this country by white plantation owners, police officers and government officials. "Slavery has many faces," they sing.

Brinen said he only knew a summarized version of the events that occurred seven years ago before rehearsal for "Crown Heights" began. Through his character, he said, Brinen has been able to "make points that I want to make personally."

Before he is killed on stage, Johada notes it is one of a madman between blacks and Jews, attempting to convince his Jewish friends that they should listen to the other side. "They're hungry for justice. Their children were killed," Johada explains.

"Things happen behind closed doors that people don't get to see," Brinen said. "People were hurt. This was a tragedy on both sides."

Before attending Penn State, Brinen starred in several plays at Jonathan Dayton High School, namely as Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. In January, he plans to journey to Los Angeles to participate in a showcase for the International Modeling and Talent Association.

The non-profit Castillo Theatre, located in West SoHo, contains a mission dedicated to multiculturalism, developmental theater and independence. "Crown Heights" will run until Dec. 13.

Springfield Fire Department boasts new Internet site

By Pamela Isaacson
Staff Writer

Rather than waiting 911, the community of Springfield now has another means for communicating with the Fire Department: <http://springfieldnj.com/fire>.

The website, designed by Firefighter Tom Urini, went online July 14 of this year. "We hope that citizens will be able to use it to get fire safety tips, upcoming events, contain recall information and homeownery fire safety," Urini said.

A large portion of the site contains background information about the Department itself, as well as a greeting by Fire Chief William Gras.

"The proficiency of our personnel goes well beyond the extinguishment of fires and enters in to fields such as emergency medical services, vehicle extrication, heavy rescue, hazardous materials, fire prevention, code enforcement, fire investigation and last but certainly not least, public education," stated Gras online. "Another means to help to better educate the public is through this online information center. We invite you to spend some time reading and learning about the Department."

The site also includes links to federal and state organizations that dis-

cus home safety, as well as an outline of programs provided for children and families through the Fire Department. "It covers a large audience and lets us get out our message," Urini said.

"So far, the site has been visited by nearly 200 guests."

Announcement policy

Couples are encouraged to send their engagement and wedding announcements to the lifestyle editor. Announcements should be typed, double spaced or legibly handwritten on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper. All announcements should have a daytime phone number for verification or if questions arise.

Information requested for engagements are parents' names, high school name and town, college name, town and degree, name of employer and town where located, job title, and the date of marriage.

Information requested for weddings are parents' names, date of wedding, where the wedding took place, who officiated, who attended, the bride and groom, high school name and town, college name, town and degree, name of employer and town where located, job title, and where the couple honeymooned and will reside.

A skillful artist



Photo by Jeff Grabi

Jimin Hwang, second grade student at Sandmeier School in Springfield, paints a perfume bottle during an afterschool program.

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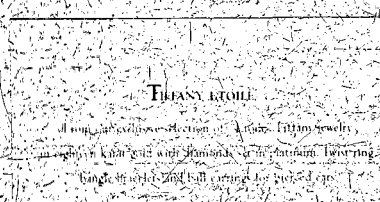
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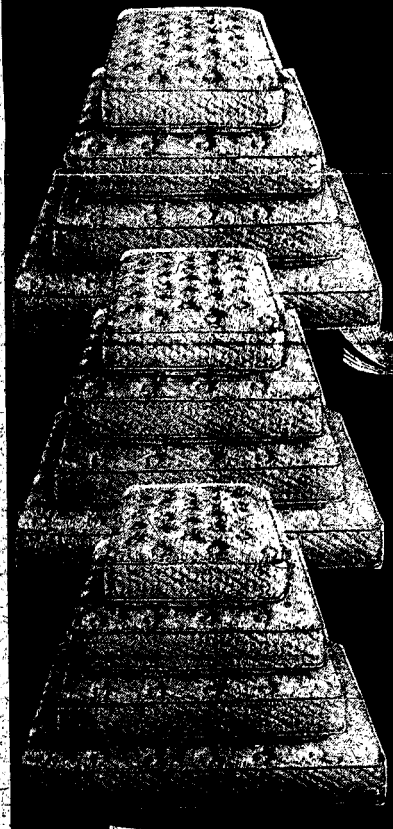
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SLEEP RESTORATION

Firefighters lend truck to bring Santa to township

Springfield
Santa Claus abandoned his reindeer for a Springfield fire engine to welcome viewers who attended the holiday fire lighting at Town Hall Monday night.

"It was a joint effort by everybody in the township," said Recreation Director Michael Terrano. "We try to get a little better every year."

This year featured a stage where over 60 members of the Girl Scout sang for an audience of 400. After their performance, the countdown began for the actual fire lighting. The lights, in addition to complimentary hot chocolate and doughnuts, were provided by the fire department.

Firefighters responded to a Route 22 business on a reported gas odor in the building Nos. 29 at 8:27 a.m. After a quiet day, all units were dispatched at 11:05 p.m. to a Brown Avenue house for an activated fire alarm.

There were no reported fires Nov. 30, but the department responded in two medical-care calls on the day. December began early for the Springfield firefighters when they responded at 4:20 a.m. to Morris Avenue for a reported truck fire. At 9 p.m., all units were dispatched to a Route 22 business for an activated fire alarm.

There were also four medical calls on Dec. 1.

At 8:47, Dec. 2, firefighters arrived at a Mountain Avenue business for an activated fire alarm. About an hour later, at 9:43 a.m., the squad investigated a spill in a street at Mountain and Hillside avenues. The spill was caused by sewer testing dyes.

The afternoon hours were also busy for the department. At 1:09 p.m., firefighters were dispatched to South Springfield Avenue and Shunpike Road for a leaf fire. Five minutes

FIRE BLOTTER

later, at 1:14 p.m., the squad responded to a Morris Avenue business for a report of smoke in the building. At 2:51 p.m., the department responded to Mountain Avenue for a motor vehicle accident with injuries. Later that evening, at 9:35 p.m., firefighters were called to Route 24 East for a motor vehicle accident.

The department also responded in one medical-service call that day.

• An early morning motor vehicle

accident with injuries brought the squad to Route 78 West at 7:59 a.m. Dec. 3. Later in the morning, at 10:32 a.m., firefighters responded to Morris and Messel avenues for another motor vehicle accident with injuries. At 2:21 p.m., the department responded to Cranford Fire Headquarters on a request from Union County Mutual Aid.

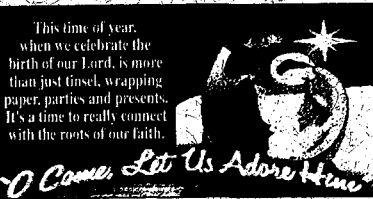
There were three medical-service calls Dec. 3.

• Dec. 4 began when the squad responded to Springfield Avenue at 10:04 a.m. for a motor-vehicle accident with injuries. About an hour

later, at 11:18 a.m., the department again responded to Springfield Avenue for smoke coming from a vehicle. In the afternoon, at 1:59 p.m., firefighters were dispatched to Highlands Avenue for a gas leak in the street. There were no injuries and no evacuations. At 4:55 p.m., the department responded to the rear of a Morris Avenue business for a brush fire.

There were also two medical-service calls on the day.

• Dec. 5 began early when firefighters responded to a Morris Avenue business for an activated fire alarm at 10:08 a.m.



First Presbyterian Church of Rahway
1737 Church Street
General West Gate (off of Church Street)
732-392-0803

The "Players in Christ" drama ministry presents a Christmas pageant

"Faces at the Manger"

Sunday, December 13, 1998 at 7 P.M. in the sanctuary

Ambiguous traffic light causes two-car crash

Springfield
• Conflicting views about a changing traffic signal led to two injuries Dec. 3. The driver of a silver Volvo had been stopped at the traffic signal, at the intersection of Springfield and Morris avenues Dec. 3 at 10:27 a.m., when she said the light turned green.

At the start of Morris Avenue, the driver's side of her vehicle was struck by a motorist in a black Ford van proceeding west in the right lane, 64 Morris Avenue. The van driver said he saw a green light in his direction as well.

One witness was stopped alongside the Honda and said she saw the light facing them turn from red to green before the accident occurred. Another witness had been stopped waiting to make a left turn from Morris Avenue when she saw the van drive past her, go through the red light and strike the other vehicle.

• A driver was injured Dec. 1 when his silver Mercedes crashed into a white driving south on Mountain Avenue. The driver said he thinks he

POLICE BLOTTER

fell asleep before the accident occurred at 11:18 p.m.

• On Dec. 2, three people were injured at 2:31 p.m. when a driver on a black Lincoln Town Car struck a red Mercedes that was turning left in front of him. The driver of the Mercedes was attempting to turn into lot number 777 on Mountain Avenue.

• Newark residents Esther Palmer, 23, and Juana Vicente, 25, were both arrested Dec. 3 at the Springfield Division of Motor Vehicles. The Guatemalan natives were charged with DMV fraud. A Paxtor attempted to use a false passport.

• One vehicle became airborne and struck a utility pole after it was struck by a motorist who proceeded through a red light on Main Street Dec. 4 at 10 a.m. Both individuals were injured. Falling was damaged a third vehicle which was parked in a nearby lot.

• Mysterious circumstances surrounded a fender-bender at 1:50 p.m. Dec. 3. The driver of a black Honda Accord said she was attempting to merge onto Route 22 West when she was struck in the rear. After the damage, the other driver left the scene.

• A vehicle was stolen Dec. 4 from the parking lot of Bob's Store on Route 22 West. Estimated value of the vehicle is \$4,500.

• Oliver Blanchon, 22, was arrested and charged with interfering when Springfield police officers were investigating items stolen and broken at the Morris Avenue 7-11. Reported stolen was one chicken sandwich and the front door closing mechanism was reported broken. Blanchon resides at Millburn but was born in France.

• After shopping in the Echo Plaza Area Dec. 7, the lease holder of a green Dodge wagon returned to the parking lot to find his vehicle damaged. There were no witnesses and the other motorist left the scene.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

BAPTIST
EVANGELIST BAPTIST CHURCH - CHRISTINA MORGAN, 1525 PINE - 241 Shungite Rd., Springfield. Rev. Frederick Mackey, Sr., Pastor. Sundays: 9:30 AM Bible School for all ages. Nursery through Seniors. 10:30 AM Worship Service and Nursery care. 3-30 PM P.M. AWANA Club Program for Children ages 4-11. 6:00 PM Hymn Service. 7:30 PM Prayer, Praise and Bible Study. Junior/Senior High Ministry. Active Youth Ministry. Wide Range Music Program. Sister Service. 1st Thursday 11 AM followed by Lunch. Adult Parking. Child Care provided with assistance. All are invited and welcomed. For more information call for further information contact church office (973) 379-9351.

JEWISH REFORM
TEMPLE SHARAY SIMON, 765 Springfield Avenue, Springfield, 07081, 973-379-5300. Interfaith and Jewish Outreach Director: Susan Danesi. Religious Education Director: Sam Goldstein. Executive Director: Bruce Pollack. Temple Shalom is a Reform congregation in the City of America's Hebrew Congregations (UAHC). Shabbat worship, including live volunteer choir, begins on Friday evenings at 8:30 PM, with monthly Family Services at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning Torah study class begins at 9:45 AM followed by shema at 10:30 AM. Religious school classes meet on Saturday mornings for grades K-5, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings for grades 6-12. Temple has the support of a full-time rabbi, cantor, and youth group. A wide range of programs include Adult Education, Social Action, Interfaith Outreach, Singles and Singles. For more information call the Temple office, (201) 379-5387.

LUTHERAN
HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 619 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, 07081. 201-379-4525. Fax 201-379-8887. Lord's Supper 10:30 AM. On-Site Worker Service takes place 10 AM at JONATHAN DAY-TOWN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, Mountain Ave., Springfield. For more information call the church office. Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.
REDEMPTEUR LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CONGREGATION 1000 Morris Ave., Montclair.

Rev. Paul E. Kruttschnitt, Pastor 973-272-1517. Religious Education, Judy A. Soderstrom. Worship Times are as follows: Sunday Morning Service, 8:30 and 10:00 AM. Sunday Evening Service, 7:30 AM. Wednesday Evening Service, 7:30 PM. Holy Communion is celebrated at all worship services. The church has all options are handicapped accessible.

METHODIST
THE SPRINGFIELD MANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, located at Church, Main at Springfield, NJ services people of all ages and backgrounds. For more information, contact Adult Christian Education at 9:15 AM, and for worship at 10:30 AM, 2:30 AM. The church has a full-time pastor, a full-time minister of Christian music, a full-time organist, a full-time choir director, and a full-time nursery worker. The church is a member of the United Methodist Church and is a member of the United Methodist Church of America. The church is a member of the United Methodist Church of America. The church is a member of the United Methodist Church of America.

ROMAN CATHOLIC
THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JAMES, 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey 07081. 201-376-3044. SUNDAY EUCHARIST: Sun 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 Noon, 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 8:00 PM. Weekday Mass: 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM.
ST. TERESA'S OF AVILA, 106 Morris Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901, 908-273-3361. Sunday Mass: Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 Noon, 5:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 8:00 PM. In the Church, Children's Mass 9:30 AM Memorial Mass Fall, 1st Sunday September, 14th, 21st, 28th. 7:00 AM, 8:00 AM. Holy Days: Same as weekday masses with 7:30 PM antiphonal Mass and 7:30 PM evening Mass. Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:00 - 5:00 PM.
NOTE: All holy changes must be made in writing and received by World Community Newspapers by 11:00 AM (12:00 Noon Fridays) please do not fax week's publication. Donors: 57. World Community Newspapers 1281 Shungite Avenue P.O. Box 2000 Union, NJ 07083.

PRESBYTERIAN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 210 Morris Ave. at Church Main, Springfield, 07081. 973-379-5300. Sunday School for all ages 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning Worship Service 10:30 a.m. (July and August 9:30 a.m.) with praise/faculty led care provided. Openings for personal growth through worship. Christian education, Choir, church activities and fellowship. Communion first Sunday of each month. Ladies' Benevolent Society. 1st Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. Ladies' Luncheon. 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Kaffetaria. 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Choir - 4:00 p.m. Thursday at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. The Rev. David A. Roubel, Jr., Pastor

ROMAN CATHOLIC
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Princeton Road and Orchard Terrace, Linden, 908-486-3073

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Sunday Church School Christmas Worship
December 20th, 10 AM
Family Christmas Worship
December 24th 9 PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion
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• Adult Forum - 9:30 a.m.
• Bible Study - 9:30 a.m.
• Sunday Worship - 10:45 a.m. (child care provided)
• Bible Study - Monday Night
• Support Group for Caregivers for the Elderly

CHRISTMAS EVE
4:30 PM and 11 PM
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:45 A.M.

OBITUARIES

Diane Feder

Diane Feder, 75, of Springfield, died Nov. 28 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Feder lived in Irvington before moving to Springfield in 1975.

Surviving are son William, 45, of Dana, N.J.; brother Meyer, 70, of Wall, N.J.; and grandchildren.

Gretchen Gifford

Gretchen Gifford, 51, of Summit, died Nov. 25 in Cape Cod Community Hospital, Nantuxet, Mass.

Born in Chicago, Mrs. Gifford lived in Summit and Brookville, N.Y., before moving back to Summit 35 years ago. She was a graduate of Oberlin College, where she received a bachelor's and a degree in English.

Surviving are her husband, William, 57, and two sons, William K. Jr., 30, of Mt. Pleasant, Pa., and a grandchild.

Oswin W. Shelly

Oswin W. Shelly, 90, of Langdon, Mass., died Nov. 27 at home in Springfield, died Nov. 27 at home.

Born in Pittsford, Mr. Shelly lived in Elizabeth and Springfield before moving to Langdon 10 years ago. He was an accountant. Mr. Shelly was a member of the Franconia County Club in Springfield and the Rockingham Hill Golf Club in Keeneworth.

Surviving are his wife, Elizabeth M., a daughter, Barbara A. Corrigan, a brother, Warner Shelly, and three grandchildren.

Raymond H. Lutz

Raymond H. Lutz, 94, of Summit, died Nov. 27 in the Ashbrook Nursing Home, Scotch Plains.

Born in Hettlingen, Germany, Mr. Lutz lived in Montclair for many years before moving to Summit six years ago. He was retired as a sales manager for the Restland Memorial Park in Newark. Mr. Lutz was a churchgoer in New York City and New Jersey and made his opera-

debut as the King's herald in Wagners' 'Lohengrin' with the Manhattan Opera Company. In 1938, he was one of the finalists of the Metropolitan Opera Audition of the Air. That year, Mr. Lutz traveled to Europe to build his concert and oratorio repertoire. He appeared in leading opera houses and concert halls in Vienna, Leipzig, Hamburg, Berlin, Weimar, Posen and Breslau. Mr. Lutz studied under Jacques Stueckgold in New York and Walter Kirchhoff, a Wagnerian tenor. His musical activities were devoted to touring recitals and concerts in which he made a reputation as an outstanding interpreter of Fierman Lieder.

Surviving are his wife, Clara, a son, Raymond, and a grandchild.

Lewis Strohmeier

Lewis Strohmeier, 76, of Mountaintop, who had dressed as Santa in Mountaintop for many years during the Christmas holiday season, died Nov. 25 in Rahway Hospital.

Born in Summit, Mr. Strohmeier lived in Mountaintop for 21 years. He was a foreman with Gordon Construction, Linden, for 35 years and retired 15 years ago. Mr. Strohmeier was known as the town Santa Claus in Mountaintop and performed at the Christmas tree lighting and the Jitsy Lodge. Last month, he received a commendation from the Mountaintop Town Council for his service to the town.

Mr. Strohmeier was a member of the Elks Lodge and the Lions Club in Mountaintop. He also was a past board member of the Mountaintop Lodge F&M in Essex County and a member of the F&A S&L lodges in Cranford and Westfield.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Alice, three daughters, Margaret, Opalsky, Alice Louise Bryan and Lucie Lynch, five brothers, Ernest, Strohmeier, and Dan, Ken, Ben and Floyd Strohmeier, three sisters, Dorothy Sniffeld, Phyllis Dunfee and Viola Lee, three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Alex Kropnicki

Alex Kropnicki, 84, of Springfield, a retired English teacher, died Nov. 29 at home.

Born in Bethlehem, Pa., Mr. Krop-

nicki lived in Easton, Pa., and Maplewood before moving to Springfield 41 years ago. He taught English in the Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in Springfield for 27 years and retired seven years ago. Earlier, Mr. Kropnicki had taught for a year at the Lower Camden Regional High School. He was an Army combat engineer during World War II. In 1950, Mr. Kropnicki graduated from East Stroudsburg University with a degree in education. In 1949 and 1950, Mr. Kropnicki was listed in 'Who's Who' edition of students attending American universities and colleges. He was a member of the New Jersey Education Association and Kappa Delta Pi at East Stroudsburg University.

Surviving are his wife, Margaret, two brothers, Edward and Chester, and two sisters, Hester Busak and Eleanor Simmer.

James P. Yannell

James P. Yannell, 75, a lifelong resident of Summit, died Dec. 1 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Mr. Yannell was a partner for five years with the Well-Done Concrete Co., Watchung, and retired 16 years ago. Previously, he had been a truck driver for 30 years with Houdaille Construction Materials in Springfield. Mr. Yannell was a partner in the A.M. during World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Marie, a daughter, Nancy, a brother, Michael, and a sister, Marjorie Capriano.

Stephen Pida

Stephen Pida of Mountaintop died Nov. 27 in the Manahawick Convalescent Center.

Born in Clifton, Mr. Pida lived in Mountaintop. He retired as vice president of manufacturing with Bristol-Myers Squibb Corp., Hillside.

Surviving are his wife, Catherine, a daughter, Kathryn Orlich, a sister, Mary Shavets, two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Lucretia C. Morris

Lucretia C. Morris, 80, of Summit, died Dec. 2 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Randolph, France, Mrs. Morris lived in Summit for 30 years. She was a French teacher at the Kent Place

School, Summit, for 20 years and retired in 1978. Mrs. Morris received a degree from the University of St. Francis in 1939.

Surviving are two sons, Benjamin G. Jr. and Layne G.; a daughter, Sharon M. Burdes, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Emma H. Calvert

Emma H. Calvert, 94, of Summit, died Dec. 4 in the Holly Manor Nursing Home, Mendham.

Born in East Orange, Mrs. Calvert lived in West Orange before moving to Summit more than 30 years ago. She was a member of the Christ Child Society, of St. Teresa's Church, Summit.

Surviving are two sons, William C. and Larrie S.; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

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SPORTS

Fax and mail deadline
 Monday morning at 9
 for sports copy to be
 considered for publication



Despite the loss of talent, Dayton coach is optimistic

Berger feels his squad can surprise some teams

By J.R. Parachini
 Sports Editor

When Bill Berger, previously a successful coach at such places as Union Catholic and Irvington, came to Dayton High School three years ago, he inherited a young boys' basketball team that showed much promise.

He took a core group that consisted of many sophomores and guided them through the learning experience of playing consistently as a team.

After two seasons of sustained improvement, the unit was ready to have a breakthrough season last year. Berger's third Bulldog team didn't disappoint as it went on to capture the school's first Mountain Valley Conference Valley Division title of the 1990s, one that is definitely earned.

The Valley Division crown was heavily won by Berger's four teams, the others being defending champion Roselle Park along with St. Mary's of Elizabeth and Middlesex, which is now in the Greater Middlesex Conference.

Dayton won its final five division games to capture the Valley championship with an impressive 14-2 record. Dayton's overall log was a winning mark of 16-7.

"We're very proud of the conference championship we won last year," Berger said. "Our players made the commitment necessary and there's no reason to believe that the players we have now can't make that same commitment."

Outside of senior forward Terrence Franklin (6-2), who's considered one of the better upperclassman players in the Valley Division, this year's team resembles Berger's first squad at Dayton (1995-96), one that will need to gain a great deal of experience before succeeding with any consistency.

"We've lost five starters and any

time you do that you're considered to be in a rebuilding position," Berger said. "But we have a nice team that's not so far and I think we'll be able to surprise some people this year."

"I'm excited about this group. If the kids make the proper commitment and work as hard as the last group they could be very, very good next year. Although we might be a year away, I think we can surprise some teams this year."

Boys' Basketball

Dayton's starting rotation includes sophomore point guard Carmine Santarella (5-11), junior guard David Woodruff (6-1), senior forward Terrence Franklin (6-2), sophomore forward Jeffrey Stagner (6-3), junior center Ryan Prudenovich (6-3), senior forward Dan Ery (6-6), junior guard Justin Rex (5-10) and senior forward Garrett Weiss (6-2).

Berger considers Franklin one of the more athletic kids in the conference. Franklin will be looked upon to be a strength inside.

"This is the same scenario as we had when we started five sophomores three years ago," Berger said. "These kids have a lot of potential, so I'm cautiously optimistic."

Berger describes Franklin as an excellent slasher, with the ability to be a force inside along with Prudenovich.

Prudenovich showed promise with his play last summer at AAU ball and has worked on the weight room. Berger's biggest concern was replacing Eric Fishman at the point and has seen good things so far from Santarella.

Carmine looks like the heir apparent to Fishman," Berger said.

This year's Valley Division race may not go down to the wire between four teams. New Providence, with several starters back, seems like a

consensus favorite. Roselle Park has senior guard Javier Garcia and Vladimir Baska back and St. Mary's of Elizabeth has center Herbie Hall to call on again. North Plainfield moved back into the Valley with Ridge back in the Mountain.

"I told the kids that we'll try to qualify for the state tournament. I think that's a possibility," Berger said.

Last year's starting five consisted of Fishman, Ridge, Santarella, Gran Carlo Saraceno, Chris Loeffler and Chris Salva.

Loeffler paced the team in scoring with a 19.6 average, scoring 451 points in 23 games. He passed the 1,000 yard career mark, only the fifth player in school history, to do so. Loeffler, who had a season-high 30 points for a loss to Parsippany, is now playing for head coach Roger Kindel at EDU Johnson.

Dayton, scrimmaged Governor Livingston and Scotch Plains last Saturday and was scheduled to scrimmage Academics of Jersey City Tuesday night. The Bulldogs are scheduled to scrimmage against Parsippany Hills this Saturday.

The season-opener is home against Manville on Friday night, Dec. 19 at 7. Dayton will play Morristown, winning 56-29 at home in January and then 75-47 in Manville in February.

Upcoming: Dec. 18, Manville, 7:00 p.m.; Dec. 22 at New Providence, 7:00; Dec. 28-29 Cranford Christmas Tournaments.

The Cranford Christmas Tournament will consist of Cranford, Dayton, St. Mary's of Elizabeth and Morristown.

Dayton will play Morristown on Dec. 24 at 7. The consolation game will be at 4 p.m. and the final at 7 p.m. Dec. 29.

Springfield resident Brett Berger, a member of the Cranford Hockey Club's Bantam Division team, scored the game-winning goal and added an assist in leading Cranford to a 3-2 victory over the Allentown, Pa., Thunder in the 7th Annual Thunderbird Thanksgiving Ice Hockey Tournament held in Pennsauken.

Berger silences Thunder by netting winning goal

Springfield hockey standout named tourney MVP

Being to the occasion. That's what Springfield resident Brett Berger was able to do.

A member of the Cranford Hockey Club's Bantam Division team, Berger scored the game-winning goal and added an assist in leading Cranford to a 3-2 come-from-behind victory over the Allentown, Pa., Thunder in the 7th Annual Thunderbird Thanksgiving Ice Hockey Tournament held in Pennsauken.

Berger earned the tournament's Most Valuable Player award, scoring one goal and assisting on three others for a total of four points.

Cranford's team also includes local players, Ilya Kravets of Springfield and John Doorley and Ryan Anderson of Morristown.

The tournament, in which Cranford finished 3-1 in place third, included 35 teams from New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Maryland and Pennsylvania and was played the last weekend in November.

Cranford opened the tournament with a 5-0 Friday evening victory over the Sewell Gladiators.

Cranford dominated the game by outscoring Sewell 16-7. Jim Nudo scored two of the five goals.

Cranford played again the following night and were able to post a 5-2 victory over a Princeton Tigers team.

Kravets played a punishing game on defense for Cranford and assisted on two of his team's five goals.

After posting consecutive wins against teams from other states, Cranford was faced with the challenge of playing a team from New York.

Cranford faced the Stars from Coney Island in a game that started just before midnight on Saturday. The winner was scheduled to face the Bayonne Rangers on Sunday for the tournament championship.

After falling behind 5-3, Cranford scored the next three goals within a four-minute span to pull to within one goal at 5-2.

Cranford then pulled its goaltender in the final minute of play to have an extra skater.

Cranford's Mark Blizewski took a slapshot from the point with one second remaining that the Stars' goalie barely blocked away.

Blizewski had an outstanding game for Cranford, netting three of his team's four goals.

Instead of playing Dayton on for the title, Cranford instead faced the Thunder in an evening game to determine the third-place finisher.

The Thunder scored the game's first two goals early in the second period, to take a 2-0 lead.

Nudo then scored for Cranford on a breakaway to tie the 2-0 at 2-2.

After killing six minutes of ice time short-handed and not giving up a goal, Cranford gained important momentum. Midway through the third period Cranford killed the game at 2-2 after Blizewski drilled a hard slapshot from the point past the Thunder goaltender.

Then, with five minutes remaining, Berger broke away on the Thunder's blinding from the right wing and lifted a wrist shot by the goal's right shoulder giving Cranford the victory.

Dayton (Brearley) ice Hockey

- Dec. 10 East Side at Iron, 4:00
- Dec. 12 Hackensack, 8:15
- Dec. 13 West Milford at SOB, 6:30
- Jan. 2 Wayne Hills, 8:15
- Jan. 3 Hackensack at Ice House, 7:00
- Jan. 5 Wayne Hills at Mont. State, 4:00
- Jan. 11 Newark Academy at SMA, 4:15
- Jan. 13 East Side, 8:30
- Jan. 16 Nutley, 8:15
- Jan. 19 Wayne Valley at Mont., 4:00
- Jan. 20 at Bernards, 6:30
- Jan. 24 Tenafly at Englewood, TBA
- Jan. 27 Tenafly, 8:30
- Feb. 3 West Milford, 8:30
- Feb. 10 Montgomery at Ice, TBA
- Feb. 13 Newark Academy, 8:15

Dayton (Brearley) Indoor Track

- Dec. 16 at Cranford, 3:45
- Dec. 21 Boys at Millburn, 3:45
- Dec. 29 DeSaver at Drew Univ., 3:45
- Jan. 4 Girls' County Relays at Eliz., 3:45
- Jan. 5 Boys' County Relays at Eliz., 3:45
- Jan. 12 Johnson Ridge, 7:45
- Jan. 15 State Relays, 3:45
- Jan. 20 Girls' County Meet at Eliz., 6:00
- Jan. 27 Boys' County Meet at Eliz., 6:00
- Feb. 2 at New Providence, 3:45
- Feb. 5 at Summit, 3:45
- Feb. 9 Varsity Classic

Springfield Minutemen preparing for season

To commence at home Saturday

Springfield Minutemen basketball teams are working hard in practice, preparing to open their seasons this Saturday at home against New Providence. Players were selected following the recently completed football season as the teams are presently getting ready for what they hope will be outstanding campaigns.

Youth Basketball

The 8th grade team, coached by Tom Whinnery, who recorded his 35th victory last year, includes Dominick Bala, Austin Baska, Adre Callender, Dean Charonik, Steven Cohen, Kevin Diaz, Sam Frank, Dale Loring, Mike Nitti, Nick Perrelli, Yan Portugal, Donald Wilkin, and LT. Wilkerson. The junior squad (7th grade team), comprised of youngsters in grades 7, 8 and 9, is coached by the Fusco brothers, Rob and Ken. Players include: Holm, Abbezzola, Lou Ferrino, Billy Fisher, Jesse Galinski, Jordan Gerber, Stephen King, Robert Klobayak, Michael Luciano, Frank Nucci, and Dan Scott. Kenneth Suarez, Stephen Suarez, Mike Tass, Harris Tuchman and Jesse Weatherston. The 7th grade team will host New Providence at 6:15 p.m. with the 8th grade game to follow at 8:15.

Home games to follow include Wednesday vs. South Orange, Saturday, Dec. 19, vs. Roselle and Wednesday, Dec. 23 vs. Maplewood.

All home games are played at the E.M. Gaudinier School boys' gym on South Springfield Avenue.

The 8th grade team will compete in a holiday tournament hosted by Linden. The double elimination tournament dates include Dec. 28, 29, and 30.

Dayton swim team competes today

The Dayton High School swimming team, which includes swimmers from Dayton and Brearley, has a meet scheduled today at Governor Livingston at 4 p.m.

The Bulldogs also have meets scheduled at Elizabeth Dec. 14 and in Pasco on Jan. 12, both at 4 p.m.

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SAFETY IS NOT AN OPTION

Friends of NJCVA sponsor trip

The Friends of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts are sponsoring a bus trip to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark to experience Cirque Ingenieux, a family treat for the holidays. On Sunday, departure time from the art center will be 12:45 p.m.

Cirque Ingenieux is a whimsical flight of fancy that the whole family can enjoy together. After touring North America, it has arrived at NJPAC in time for the holidays. It deftly weaves the anxiety and magic of the French "enrqué" tradition with the behavior of the theater into an irresistible display of beauty, comedy, playfulness and stunning human prowess. The fun, the spectacle and the mystery will mesmerize old and young alike.

Musicians Golden Globe Award winner Kitaro conjures a landscape of curious creatures who appear and disappear in the blink of an eye. Dramatic and dramatic unfolds, revealing unexpected treasures of joy and adventure.

The trip concludes with dinner at the Bennihana Restaurant in Short Hills, a restaurant famous for delicious food and family fun.

The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts also offers bus trips to New York City once each month. The bus leaves at 9 a.m. from behind the A&P in New Providence. It stops at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and continues down 5th Avenue to 57th Street for other museums, galleries and shops which passengers are free to enjoy on their own. The bus arrives from the Metropolitan Museum at 3:15 p.m.

For further information and reservations for the bus trips call NJCVA at (908) 273-0121. The non-profit New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, a full-scale art school with two interior galleries and outdoor exhibition space, is located at 88 Elm St. in Summit. It is funded in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a Permit Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

College students may use YMCA during holiday

The Summit Area YMCA is offering a holiday membership plan for college students home during winter break. Beginning Dec. 3, a Holiday Plan at each of the Y's three branch locations including the Berkeley Heights YMCA, the Springfield YMCA and the Summit YMCA will be available.

The Holiday Plan gives students full facility use at a selected YMCA branch. Each family offers a state-of-art fitness center including a circuit of CYBEX Strength Training equipment, dumbbells, a variety of cardiovascular equipment and a personal training option. Health and fitness classes include step, body sculpting, aerobics and a host of other get-fit classes. In addition, the Springfield facility offers Reebok cycling and the Summit facility offers a pool with

morning, afternoon and evening lap swim hours.

A one-week Holiday Plan is \$30. A one-month Holiday Plan is \$50. Current college identification is required for membership. The Berkeley Heights YMCA is located at 550 Springfield Ave. and the phone number is (908) 464-8373. The Springfield YMCA is located at 100 South Springfield Ave. and the phone number is (973) 467-0868. The Summit YMCA is located at 67 Maple St. and the phone number is (908) 273-3330.

Faith Lutheran hosts live Nativity

Faith Lutheran Church has invited the public to its re-enactment of the Christmas story Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. The evening will begin indoors with refreshments served amidst festive Christmas decorations in the rear of the church.

The refreshments will include hot cocoa, cider, tea, coffee and cookies. The Faith Drama Troupe, dressed in period costume, will begin their tell-

ing of the Nativity of Our Lord promptly at 7:30 p.m. in the church lawn.

The stable used in the re-enactment has already been built, with materials donated by Berkeley-Highway in Berkeley Heights and Jeager-Lumber in Stirling. It can be seen when passing by the church on South Street. Refreshments will also be available after the nativity for those wishing to warm up after the performance.

Faith Lutheran Church is located at 524 South St. in New Providence. For

more information, call the church office at (908) 464-5177.

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 Callaway, editor in chief, 1291 Stayview Ave., Union, N.J. 07087 or call him at (609-770) 1101. Send on weekdays before 5 p.m.

Overlook Hospital Ranked Best in Nation for Quick Treatment of Heart Attack Patients

Minutes count when treating heart attacks, and nowhere are minutes counted more closely than at Overlook Hospital in Summit, where cardiac specialists in the Chest Pain Center of the hospital's Emergency Department have reduced the median "time to treatment" for heart attack patients to 16 minutes. The time, which is rated the best in the nation, represents the average number of minutes elapsed between a patient's arrival to the Emergency Department and the administration of clot-dissolving drugs (called thrombolytic agents).

Receives "Best Practice" designation.

The Federal Health Care Financing Administration has designated the Overlook Hospital as a "Best Practice" in the country for its leadership role in establishing protocols that rapidly treat heart attack patients, and ultimately, save lives. Federal health officials recommend that heart attack patients receive thrombolytic agents within 30 minutes of arrival at an emergency room to reduce the likelihood of death or disability.

Fast treatment is key to success.

The national average for median time to treatment is 55 minutes.

Thrombolytic agents work by dissolving clots in the coronary arteries that are causing the heart attack.

This allows the blood supply to resume flowing to the affected areas, preventing permanent damage to the heart muscle, etc. The treatment works best if given within the first hour after the onset of heart attack symptoms.

More than half of all deaths from heart attacks occur within an hour of the onset of symptoms, usually while people delay seeking emergency care. Steven William A. Tarsis, M.D., an Overlook cardiologist who was instrumental in the creation of the hospital's Chest Pain Center, "We urge anyone experiencing heart attack symptoms to be on the side of caution and seek immediate help. Preferably by dialing 9-1-1."

Mobile units provide pre-hospital ECG.

Overlook's mobile intensive care paramedic units are among a select few in the state equipped to transmit an electrocardiogram (ECG) to the Emergency

Department prior to a patient's arrival. The data helps the Emergency Department physician, along with the cardiologist on call, to quickly determine whether a patient with chest pain is experiencing a heart attack.

"The pre-hospital ECG is a critical factor in our ability to deliver the most appropriate treatment in the most expeditious manner possible," observed James A. Espanosa, M.D., Director of Overlook's Emergency Department and co-chair, with Andrew D. Beamer, M.D., (an attending cardiologist) of Overlook's Chest Pain Performance Improvement Team.

Patients undergoing thrombolytic treatment for proven heart attacks are continuously monitored by the Emergency Department staff and admitted to the Coronary Care Unit. Those patients with chest pain that is deemed not to be coronary related are monitored for several hours in the Chest Pain Center - Observation Unit. There, in the comfort of a private room, patients with laptop computers and portable fax machines can even resume work activities.

In the past, these same patients would have been admitted to the hospital for several days of evaluation. Today, they are rapidly evaluated and released home with expert assurance that their symptoms are non-cardiac - without missing a beat in their daily routine.

Indigestion or a heart attack?

"Many people have a heart attack, and either don't recognize it or shrug it off as indigestion," commented Dr. Tarsis. "Recognizing and responding to the symptoms of a heart attack early on can help prevent damage to the heart muscle and reduce the likelihood of long-term hospitalization, disability or even death," he added. "According to the American Heart Association (AHA), the symptoms of a heart attack vary, but usually include:

- uncomfortable pressure, fullness or squeezing pain in the center of your chest lasting two minutes or more;
- chest pain that spreads to your shoulders, neck, jaw, teeth, arms or back;
- lightheadedness, dizziness, lightheadedness, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath.

These symptoms are warning signs that the heart is starving for oxygen, and the AHA recommends that those who experience chest pain lasting two minutes or more get to the nearest hospital emergency room immediately.

If you or someone you know is experiencing heart attack symptoms, call 9-1-1. For a referral to an Overlook Hospital Cardiologist, please call 1-800-AHS-9350 (1-800-247-9350).

Or, visit us at www.OverlookHealth.org to take a heart health risk assessment and learn more about what you can do to reduce your chances of developing heart disease.



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