

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield, Mountainside and Summit

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 70 NO. 22

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1999

TWO SE

INTS

THIS WEEK

NEWS

Road work ahead
The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is expected to approve a road reconstruction plan at its meeting tonight which would repave 14 miles of county roads, this spring and summer, and begin work on several intersection and bridge improvement projects.
See Page B1.

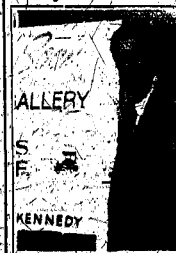
Energy savings

The freeholders were presented with a plan to save money through energy conservation and newer, more energy-efficient equipment. The plan was a result of an energy audit conducted by NUI, which targets Runnels Hospital in Berkeley Heights and the county complex in Elizabethtown.
See Page B1.

THE ARTS

Family time fun

A Union-based dance company is planning some family time fun.
See Page B3.



Historic legacy

The newly formed Arts Guild of Rahway has a new home, and its executive director shares his views on the future of the group, as well as his plans.
See Page B3.

NEW MEDIA

News updates
Get local updates throughout the week. Call our InfoSource, hot line at (908) 686-0909. For a menu of items, see Page B1.

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

WEATHER

Friday: Rain, breezy and mild; 46°
Saturday: Periods of clouds and sun; 38°
Sunday: Partly cloudy; 40°

For the most up-to-date reports, call (908) 686-0909, Ext. 1700.

INDEX

- Community calendar 2
- Editorial 4
- Web site 4
- Obituary 6
- Sports 6
- County news 21
- Entertainment 23
- Classified 23
- Real Estate 23
- Advertiser 24

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Proud parents Stephen and Nancy Gabriel of Springfield join newborn Amanda, near a warm fire. Amanda was the first baby born in the township in 1999.

Gabriels boast first 1999 baby

By Pamela Isaacson
Staff Writer
The newest musician in the Gabriel family, Amanda, Rose, is Springfield's first baby of the year. Born Jan. 3, to Stephen and Nancy Gabriel, Amanda arrived at 6:25 p.m. by way of St. Barnabas Medical Center.
Welcoming in at 7 pounds, Amanda is the firstborn for the Gabriels and the first granddaughter for both families. "It was incredible watching our parents see her for the first time," Nancy Gabriel said. "They were overjoyed."
The grandparents, Mel and Ray Gabriel (from outside Philadelphia), and Norbert and Marie Gombartz of Lindertown, knew Amanda would be a girl. "We were so curious, we just wanted to know," Nancy said. "We kept her name a secret, though."
Both Nancy and Stephen are musicians and work in Manhattan. His company's paternity leave policy allowed Stephen to stay home with his wife and newborn first week she was home. Nancy, who worked until the very end of her pregnancy, plans to return to her career as the head of the dance division at IMG Artists in early April, spending two days working at home and three in New York.
"I had a very easy pregnancy," the new mother said.

"I paid for it during my labor."
For the new dad, the toughest part of his wife's pregnancy was mentally preparing to become a father. "It was the mental thing that had to happen. Thank God, God gives you nine months."
As professionals in their early 30s accustomed to remaining in Manhattan after hours, Stephen said their new addition will be a lifestyle adjustment, but one they are both willing to make. "It was a fear of mine that I wouldn't slow down enough," he said. "So far it has just taken its natural course. This changes our priorities."
Although Amanda is just three weeks old, she is already a connoisseur of classical music. Her parents bought Bach and Mozart compact discs they say studies show will enhance her brain development.
Since music has been an instrumental part of the Gabriels' lives, they hope their daughter will share their love of the art. "Music has added so much to our lives; we want her to share that language," Stephen said. "We want her to be able to experience that."
Nancy and Stephen, married in July 1996, met at a performing arts conference in Kansas City, Mo., when they were agents for competing companies. They have been residents of Springfield for one year.

Jitney contract a boon for Township Co

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

The Springfield Township Committee approved a contract Tuesday night with NJ Transit to run the municipal railroad, jitney.
All four Township Committee members voted to enter into a two-year agreement to run the jitney. The vote was made before 15 audience members during the governing body's open meeting. The residents also were permitted to ask questions about the new project after that session.
"It's here," Committee member Roy Hirschfeld said while holding the contract. "I know we've been saying every two months that the jitney is going. The contract needs to be signed and sent to NJ Transit, who told me the bus is in their Irvington garage to pick up."
"I had some misgivings about the contract," Mayor Greg Clarke said. "There are enough clauses in it weighing in favor of NJ Transit that someone can void the contract on any one thing. Still, I voted in favor because we spent a lot of time on it and it will benefit our commuters."

Springfield and the transit authority are now bound to a two-year operating contract. NJ Transit provided a \$30,000 grant the first year and loans the ownership a minibuss. The municipality will set up a feeder route to a nearby Morris and Essex commuter rail station at least during weekday rush hours.
The township service will operate between the Duffy's Corner parking lot off Morris Avenue and Caldwell Place and the Short Hills station. The single bus will run every 15 minutes from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 6 to 8:45 p.m.
"On our end of the contract, we get \$30,000; \$35,000 if we show \$70,000. The third year, we return the bus and are on our own."

Springfield was one of six towns receiving NJ Transit's Morris and Essex Minibus Challenge Grants last June. Berkeley Heights, Chatham Township, East Orange, Maplewood and West Orange also were awarded \$50,000 and a minibuss each. The authority sought to alleviate the area's parking shortages thanks to their popular Midtown Direct service.

"Of the six towns granted, we and maybe Maplewood were able to get their minibusses rolling," Clarke said. In Maplewood's case, they already had a minibuss thanks to another grant. "In our case, it seemed NJ Transit said 'Here's the contract and grant you see the problem out for the other towns.'"

The greatest change from what the committee envisioned in the rates riders would pay. Residents may pay \$350 a year to receive a hangtag and an assigned parking spot at Duffy's Corner and non-residents \$550 a year. Those who prefer to leave the car at home and walk to the bus are to pay \$50 less and one-way fares are available for \$2.

"You can blame me for changing the rates from \$20 each per year for an ID card and the parking permit," Committee member Steven Goldstein said. "With all the calculations we did, I was concerned that we may have to raise rates if we don't get the second-year grant. So I suggested that we build up a war chest with an annual self-sufficiency."

The committee calculated jitney running times based on a 15-minute round trip and revenues and expenses of \$5 riders. More than 80 riders were put on a waiting list since the summer and the schedule will be fine-tuned as experience warrants.

Borough police to seek grant after board's approval

By Pamela Isaacson
Staff Writer
A uniformed police officer in the borough may become a reality as Board of Education members approved legislation Tuesday night for the Mountainside Police Department to apply to participate in the Corps-in-Blue role program.
The board's decision comes two weeks after Police Chief James Debbie presented them with the nationwide initiative. Federally

added, the program allocates a \$125,000 grant for police departments to hire an additional officer. It would assist directly at the school.

Staff Sergeant Scott Hild School and Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights. The officer would perform any tasks deemed necessary by the board such as organizing safety assemblies, running DARE classes, controlling traffic, and patrolling the facility and surrounding area by bicycle.

Debbie hopes to apply for the grant Feb. 4, receive notification in March, and begin the program with the Fall 1999 school year.

Preliminary budget
Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller and Interim Business Administrator Board Secretary Frances Tully also presented the preliminary budget for the 1999-00 school year. The board must vote on the budget Feb. 23. Consequently, the board has added to its regular meetings and will meet each week next month. A public hearing for the budget is scheduled for March 23.

One of the proposed changes that includes the number of class sections to accommodate the predicted enrollment at Deerfield. The first grade, currently existing with four sections, will be reduced to three. The second grade will remain at four sections.

Business leaders, officials examine Route 22 traffic

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer
Delegations from Mountainside and Springfield were among those talking traffic and transit issues at the Route 22 Chamber of Commerce Transportation Summit Tuesday.
Two borough representatives and another four from the township were among 39 business leaders and public officials who gathered at L'Affaire. They came to describe problems along Route 22 and discuss some possible solutions.
"I have a business right across from 22 but I spend half my time on the highway," E.J. Graphics owner John Shebeck said. "My clients don't want to drive or so they make us to fax or deliver their materials. I have employees who drive back roads to avoid 22 during rush hour."
Shebeck recalled a recent fatal car accident in Edison on 67-year-old woman attempted to make a left turn onto a cross street and was run over by a tractor-trailer truck. The woman's lawyer contacted car and driving rules and Shebeck is about the same as his own.
"My wife lives on in the morning road," Shebeck said. "Once for five and a second because I drive on 22."
Shebeck was not alone in describing the state of Route 22. Five other speakers talked about different aspects of its problem. Councilor Robert Kato and Betty DiMasi, for example, outlined their concern in several spots along Route 22 West in their Union area.
Union Township Chief of Police

Thomas Kraemer sketched the road's latest car accident statistics.

"We have a two-mile stretch in Union where we get 3,500 cars one way per rush hour," Kraemer said. "We average 2.5 car accidents a day, by around 700 per year. I don't know of another stretch that long that is so great a volume."

"We're down to about 300 accidents per year on 22," Springfield Traffic Cop David Hartung said. "The U-turns are the biggest hot spots."

"Something has to be done on 22," Mountainside Chief of Police James Debbie said. "I get calls from people getting lost on the highway, asking me how to get to L'Affaire or the Municipal Building."

Volume seemed to be the biggest Route 22 problem since it was built in State Highway 29 in the 1920s. The Union County segment was designed to carry 40,000 motor vehicles daily but grew to 70,000 by the 1990s. Widening attempts and bridge repairs have helped for a period, but the annual volume yielded is 140,000 in the 1990s.

Other problems brought before guests from the New Jersey Department of Transportation and NJ Transit include the numerous cut-through bypasses, a lack of bus stops, and proper signs, pedestrian crossings, possible transit alternatives and more.

"They've done a good job of putting the problems," Springfield Township Engineer Robert Karpuszek said during the conference. "I want to hear how they've done it." See CHAIRMAN, Page 3

Dismissed police officer's appeal postponed

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

Springfield resident Vernon Pedersen's day in Superior Court will have to wait until at least Feb. 16.

Those who expected Pedersen's attorney, John Young Jr., and Springfield representative Mark A. Tabkin open their arguments before Judge Edward Toy were in for a surprise Monday morning. Toy presided over a judicial trial from his 10th floor courtroom instead that day.

"Young requested a postponement due to a schedule conflict Friday," Tabkin said. "He had a criminal trial in another county that was going long. Both parties and Judge Toy agreed to reschedule the appeal hearing for Feb. 16."

Tabkin is an attorney for the Ruderman and Glickman law firm in Springfield. The firm was hired by the township to represent the municipal government in labor-related negotiations and court cases.

Pedersen and Young are seeking to overturn the former Springfield police captain's dismissal by the Township Committee. The Township Committee dismissed Pedersen, a 26-year veteran of the force, on July 28. This occurred after receiving a recommendation by independent hearing officer Robert Cappel to suspend Pedersen for 90 days.

It is Young's contention that the Township Committee overstepped its boundaries at firing the officer. Young said the governing body rejected Cappel's report after a nonbinding interdepartmental hearing in May.

He asserts the Township Committee acted in public pressure by firing Pedersen. Members of the Springfield City Council advocated that Pedersen resign or be fired for his conduct in addition to a phone conversation with Lt. Gen. Shapow March 10.

Pedersen called to state vice personnel reassignment and Shapow received the call that night. He then made anti-Semite remarks against Shapow, thinking the lieutenant had hung up. Shapow recorded the phone call and sent an audio tape to his attorney.
When the tape was made public April 8, Chief of Police William Chisolm conducted an internal investigation. Chisolm found both officers violating four code of conduct infractions and sent a notice of disciplinary action to them.
While Shapow faced suspension and demotion to patrolman, Pedersen was immediately suspended. Charges against Shapow were dropped in favor of a reprimand letter before Cappel was about to hear the matter.
In the meantime, the Clergy Council and some other members of the public favored Shapow over Pedersen. Giving parallels to Pedersen's conduct related to Patrolman Walter Brooks, the council staged a rally and set in the process for Shapow's reinstatement hearing.
Brooks has filed disciplinary suits against the township, claiming Pedersen made racist remarks before him in 1993. Shapow was held tonight up on other disciplinary charges while Pedersen was not disciplined. Brooks said the department created a hostile work environment.
Attorney Theodore Kowalski and Mark Broderick, who respectively represent Shapow and Brooks, said they claim discrimination suits against the township are in the courts. They said other members of the public are allowed in Toy's gallery, but not to comment.
"I understand about the delay," Kowalski said of the Pedersen appeal postponement. "I plan to have someone representing the appeal hearing which is before."
Is it still Shapow whether a representative for Brooks will be present at the Union County Commission in Elizabeth at 9 a.m. Feb. 16.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

How to reach us:
The Echo Leader is published every Tuesday by World Community Newspapers, an independent family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1281 Springfield Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below.

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The Echo Leader has an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed, double spaced, be accompanied by a return address and daytime phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity.

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Display advertising placement in the general news section of the Echo Leader may be placed by phone by Monday at 9 a.m. for publication the following week. Advertising for placement in the B-section may be placed by phone at any time. An advertising representative will discuss with you in preparing your message. Call 908-686-7700 for an appointment. Ask for the display advertising department.

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NEWS CLIPS

Recreation department offers summer positions

The Springfield Recreation Department is accepting applications for summer pool positions from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Interviews for all positions will be held after applications are turned in to the recreation department. Pick up and return applications to the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall. Previous employees must re-apply. Applicants must be mature, hard working individuals only and must be a certified lifeguard, CPR certified and first aid trained. Experience with lifeguarding, plus, and applicants must be personable and willing to work 20-40 hours per week including holidays and weekends. Mature individuals are also needed to staff the front desk at the pool. Applicants must be personable and willing to work days, weekends and holidays. Applicants for the maintenance staff of the pool must be willing to work outdoors, maintaining pool grounds and buildings. Individuals must be willing to work days, weekends and holidays.

Kindergarten registration set for Deerfield School

Deerfield School has announced its registration for 1999-2000 kindergarten classes. Registration and screening will be conducted by appointment. Feb. 9 and 11 appointments for registration and screening will begin at 8:45 a.m. Parents are requested to bring Susan Nugent to make an appointment for the screening that will be conducted by kindergarten teachers, a speech therapist and an occupational therapist. Barbara Kumrook, Deerfield's guidance counselor, will assist with screening. Parents should call Deerfield School at 908-233-8828 to reserve a spot that should be completed and returned. A registration form, children being registered should be five years of age by Oct. 1, 1999. A birth certificate and proof of residency must be presented to Nugent at the time of the appointment.

Committee sets dinner and dance for February

Dance committee members from the Fathers and Friends of Delbarton, including Edward Collins of Mountainside, have announced that their group will sponsor their annual fund-raiser, Feb. 5 at the Madison Hotel in Concord Station. Delbarton's financial aid program, and the Rod and Regina Keller Scholarship Fund will receive all benefits from the black-tie affair.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception in the conservatory, to be followed at 8 p.m. by dinner and dancing.

For dinner reservations or information, call the Delbarton development office secretary at (973) 538-3231, ext. 3051.

Filing deadline for school board election-March 1

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the Board of Education is 4 p.m. March 1. The election is scheduled for April 20. For dinner reservations or information, call the Delbarton development office secretary at (973) 538-3231, ext. 3051. For more information, call the local MDA office at (732) 750-2333.

MDA to sponsor gala in Mountainside

The 1999 Black & Blue Ball to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association will be held Feb. 6 at L'Affaire in Mountainside. The gala is an unusual and outrageous combination of a dinner with a walk on the wild side. Tickets are \$100 per ticket. The price of the ticket includes an open bar, six international-cuisine stations, Taor cards, and a tuxedo on a Harley Davidson and a face tattoo. The Muscular Dystrophy Association is an organization health agency working to defeat 40 neuromuscular diseases through programs of worldwide research, comprehensive client and community services, and far-reaching professional and public health education. It is important to note that the dollars raised will benefit hundreds of Central New Jersey residents with neuromuscular diseases. The Muscular Dystrophy Association receives no grants or fees from clients, but relies on the sole support of private contributors and the business community.

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 us on schedule to: P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083.

Today
The public is invited to attend a free seminar on buying, selling and retaining real estate at the Springfield Library, 66 Mountain Ave., from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Speakers will be several real estate and loan representatives as well as two attorneys and a financial consultant. Light refreshments will be served. Call Heather Suter at (973) 992-5300 to reserve a seat.

Sunday
The Trailside Nature and Science Center will conduct two Sunday planetarium shows. The first, called "Onion's Winter Battle" will begin at 2 p.m. and will explore the evening winter sky and Orion's battle with Taurus and his assistants, the dogs Argo and Gemini. The second program, called "Venus, Earth's Sister" will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will feature differences between Venus and Earth. Each show has an admission price of \$3 per person, \$2.50 for seniors, and both are for ages 6 and up. For more information, call 908-789-3670.

The Trailside Nature and Science Center will conduct a Family program on the Watchdog Reservation at 2 p.m. The program will feature a slide show of plant geology and animals in the reservation. Admission will be \$3.

Tuesday
The Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, will conduct a children's story time the after at 2 p.m. The program will last 45 minutes and will combine acting, puppetry and library. Registration is open to Mountainside library cardholders only and the program will run through Feb. 9. To sign up, visit or call the library at 908-686-2301.

Coming Events
Feb. 4
The Boylston Club of Mountainside will have a function at noon featuring "Getting into Crafts" with speaker Brenda Ayres. The event will take place at B.G. Fields in Weirfield and guests are welcome. Call (908) 232-3626 for reservations.

Feb. 10-March 4
The Mountainside Public Library will conduct Toddler Time for 2-year-olds Wednesday at 10 a.m. The program will include stories and nursery rhymes for children accompanied by a parent or caregiver. In addition, Preschool Storytime will be presented for 3- and 4-year-olds, Thursday at 2 p.m. The program will feature stories and simple crafts, and parents must remain in the library for the duration. Both programs will last about 30 minutes and are open to Mountainside library cardholders only. Registration requested. Visit or call the library at 908-686-2301 to sign up.

Ongoing
The Springfield Senior Citizen Nutrition Program is now located at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center. A nutritional hot lunch is available for seniors from 12:00 Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, at noon.

Honoring local students



The Mountainside Rotary Club has honored three students of the month from Governor Livingston High School. From left, GLHS teacher and Rotary interact club advisor, Ron Costello joins students Christopher Schakenberg, Robert Phillips and Esther Yun.

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SPRINGFIELD 1000 Springfield Blvd. Springfield, NJ 07081	UNION 1000 Union Blvd. Union, NJ 07083	WINDY HILL 1000 Windy Hill Blvd. Windy Hill, NJ 07093
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Township Board of Ed to change administrative structure of staff

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

The Springfield Board of Education ended five months of exploration and debate by voting to change its administrative staff structure Monday night.

The board approved, with one abstention, to abolish the supervisor of secondary education position by July 1. Moves to abolish the supervisor of technology and computer operations, plus advertising for six teacher-supervisor and two information management openings, were unanimously passed.

The measures were part of seven points Superintendent of Schools Gary Friedland recommended Dec. 22 and which the board deliberated about Jan. 11. Friedland and NEXUS consultant Bill Fabrega sought to make the school administration more efficient while working with an \$500,000 budget cut.

Specifically, the current personnel fall in the Gaudinucci Middle School dean of students post Feb. 8 through June 30, it already underway. Ralph Celebre, who was hired on an interim basis since Sept. 1, is leaving Feb. 5. The post will become Gaudinucci's vice-principal/dean of students next September.

A remaining recommendation for replacing the post is to hire a gifted and talented specialist and staff developer. In short, the plan calls for reassigning up to four high-level administrators to ramp the management of information services office and hire six teacher-supervisors. Friedland hopes that a \$25,000 savings, largely by the balance of the interim dean's salary, would be realized.

"I ask the board to consider approval of the recommendations," Friedland said. "By approving now, we will have sufficient time to recruit highly qualified multi-disciplined teachers or supervisors between March and June. These posts are extremely hard to fill."

The four current administration personnel who may be transferred are the supervisor of gifted and talented students, the supervisor of secondary education, the Dayton guidance department director and the assistant superintendent of schools.

Seven candidates are listed as candidates for 10 other administrative positions, including the Dayton vice principal/dean of students. That dean was considered before Dayton students and parents rejected this particular proposal at the Jan. 11 meeting.

On the vote on abolishing the supervisor of secondary education, board member Richard Filten abstained. Stephen Fishburn, who arrived late, moved all four items as a member of the School Government Committee committee chair Jacqueline Shanes was absent.

School calendars

The board received feedback from parent Marie Milano about the proposed 1999-2001 school year calendar. She took exception to the timing of last week's miss mailing and the placement of the 2000-01 April recess.

"There are people who would be greatly affected by the 2001 spring recess," Milano said. "We have children and volunteer teachers who take religious studies in the late afternoon. If the schedule is, they may have to choose between taking a vacation or not conduct religious school that week."

Milano said she approached officials of St. James the Apostle Church about the schedule Sunday. She said they did not know about it.

"We moved the recess to April 21, 30 because of the way the holidays fall in 2001," Friedland said. "It's a year where Holy Thursday and Good Friday fall ahead of Passover. The same week we sent out the calendars, we mailed copies to the 14 churches and synagogues in Springfield."

The board decided to send out a two-year calendar to help parents plan their holidays and vacations. Friedland said the administration always sought advice from town ship clerks and he was willing to write in contact with St. James' clergy.

The board, despite holding a 75-minute public session moved on several other matters. They heard Dayton students So-i-a Sumbur, Mira Srivastava and Lina Cherfus present letters to the National Honor Society, Dropouts, and Read program.

Learning the writing ropes



Author and poet Diarb Stelling teaches students at Sandmeier School in Springfield about skills needed to become an author.

Chambers of Commerce address Route 22

(Continued from Page 1)
some funding proposals. One idea is to make standard signage for ramp and road directions.

"We do have a ramp access adjustment plan but it takes time to implement," NJDOT Access Design Project Manager John Jones said. "We have 300 curb cuts along the center island area. It is re-adjust too many. We do put you out of business and no traffic would be so."

NJDOT Permitting Supervisor Maurice Kauland said signage may make for more clear, but simultaneously add to the highly-busy clutter. Fellow chamber Peter Kenny said the lack of sidewalks and shoulders plus disorienting bus shelter country but pedestrians walking across of along the highway. When it came time for center island shuttle bus proposals, NJ Transit Bus Service Manager Steve LaSalle said the difficulties in establishing such service.

"It costs NJ Transit a dollar per minute to run a bus, which means we need 60 passengers an hour to make a shuttle bus," LaSalle said. "We're using a 40-foot bus on the 114 route to pick up late-shift workers at Target, use the 114 and drop them off at Union Center. That run is done 10:15 p.m. weekdays."

LaSalle's vice president of Mountain side said that it is all can exist with such a run. He is concerned about a 12-minute delay involving some 350 rush hour riders of a shuttle makes stops from the Park Avenue I.C. Center.

"We had a study where it would cost \$500,000 to run such a shuttle," LaSalle said. "If some employer wants to be a sponsor or if anyone has other ideas, I'm willing to listen."

Attention churches, social clubs

This newspaper encourages congregations, social and civic organizations to inform the editors about scheduled events and activities. Releases should be typed, double-spaced, and include a phone number where a representative may be reached during the day. Send information to: Alison Bernberk, managing editor, P.O. Box 2109, Union, N.J. 07083.

Borough resident honored for civic dedication

Bridget Roughneen of Mountain side will be among the 1999 honorees of the Gribbin Association for her many years of outstanding efforts in both civic and charitable endeavors. The Gribbin Association, a civic group organized in 1954 and dedicated to the improvement of community life, will sponsor its 45th anniversary service and party at the Sacred Heart School gym on the 14th Street section of Newark from 4:30-9 p.m. Feb. 14.

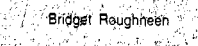
In announcing the honorees, the Gribbin Association standard-bearer Thomas J. Gribbin said, "In choosing Bridie, the Gribbin Association is able to honor someone who exemplifies the spirit of community dedication that makes us all proud. Her recognition is only a portion of the esteem and respect which they are held by their family, friends, and neighbors."

Roughneen has dedicated her life to her family and various community organizations. Roughneen, originally from Ireland, came to the United States in 1965. On arrival she found a job working at the Horv & Harder's Restaurant in New York City and met her husband Joseph.

The couple moved to Livingston to start a family and by January 1974 they had five children. The family was based in Union and finally settled in Mountain side.

A mother, first and foremost, Roughneen believes furthering her children's education is the highest priority. The success of her children is a testament to this belief. Roughneen's children all hold baccalaureates and have excelled in their fields.

Proceeds from the Gribbin Association party will benefit ongoing charitable endeavors of the civic organization. For more information call (973) 257-6429.



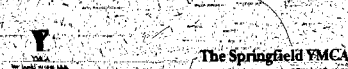
Bridget Roughneen

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COMMUNITY FORUM

Storage facilities are unsavory trend

A recent use variance and site plan application for yet another self-storage facility on Route 22 in the borough was approved recently by the Mountainside Zoning Board of Adjustment. We share the displeasure felt by many Mountainside residents who feel that their home is being transformed into a dumping ground for other people's unused stuff.

The Zoning Board voted 5-2 Jan. 11 to allow Lackland Self Storage to build on 1221 Route 22 East after initially rejecting the application Aug. 10. Lackland's attorney, Arthur P. Antonacci, cited the many suggestions made by the board which his client had implemented before asking the borough to reconsider.

Among the modifications are:

- Instead of four structures, two buildings and a foundation for a third will be constructed.
- Accessories to the buildings such as paving and curbing will be done in one phase to minimize construction time.
- Chain link and stockade fencing will be placed around the perimeter of the site.

Despite these modifications, the fact remains that borough residents, especially those on nearby Locust Avenue, will still be forced to tolerate another construction site and then another unattractive self-storage facility almost right in their backyards. Residents also fear that the business will bring unappealing sodium vapor lights to their neighborhood.

No one wants to live near big, ugly businesses of industry. While self-storage facilities typically don't smell, make much noise or pollute the environment, they also don't exactly enhance the area by bringing entertainment, commerce or even convenience to local residents. While self-storage is not the worst thing the borough could have, it is far from being the best.

And Mountainside already has two such facilities within its somewhat modest perimeter.

If current borough residents object to this trend in Mountainside's industry, prospective residents are likely to feel similarly and turn to other areas for their homes. This means a potential decline in property values in the borough.

While the Zoning Board cannot take back its recent approval of the Lackland Self Storage application, we hope board members and borough officials will take a closer look at the direction Mountainside's industry is taking. The flavor of the borough will be permanently, negatively altered for residents if this unsavory trend is allowed to continue.

Progress

Included elsewhere in this week's newspaper is our annual Progress edition: a special section which features stories about local businesses as well as giving an overview of the economic outlook for towns in the area. We urge our subscribers to take the time to read this publication because it will give them an indication of the local economy and what their elected officials and business leaders are doing to improve their hometown.

Formerly years, merchants in local business districts have waged a war against regional malls to attract customers. That war has had to be expanded in recent years as national mega department stores have made their appearance on the local scene and vied for the customer base. In some instances, these national franchises have been welcomed into the community and have spurred local economic growth and provided jobs, while long-time merchants in other areas have been unable to compete and forced to close.

What is common to several municipalities in Union is their reliance on large redevelopment plans to change the face of the downtown shopping area of just improve a specific parcel in the district that has become underutilized, abandoned or dilapidated. It is hoped that when completed these projects will serve as an anchor and magnet and attract people to a commercial area they may have forgotten about or never knew existed. Other municipalities have created special improvement districts or received designation as an Urban Enterprise Zone to help market and spur growth.

But no matter what municipality you visit, residents can rest assured their elected leaders and local merchants are doing whatever they can to revitalize their town.

The health of a community rests in the health of its business district. Stories in this year's edition of Progress will demonstrate that officials are taking a pro-active approach.

Our policy on letters and columns

The Echo Leader welcomes submissions from its readers. Either letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages.

This opportunity also is open to all officials and employees of the borough and the County of Union.

The Echo Leader reserves the right to edit submissions for length, content and style. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification.

For publication, all letters and essays must be received before 9 a.m. Monday at 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, NJ 07083.

The Echo Leader also accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via e-mail. The address is: WCN22@localsource.com

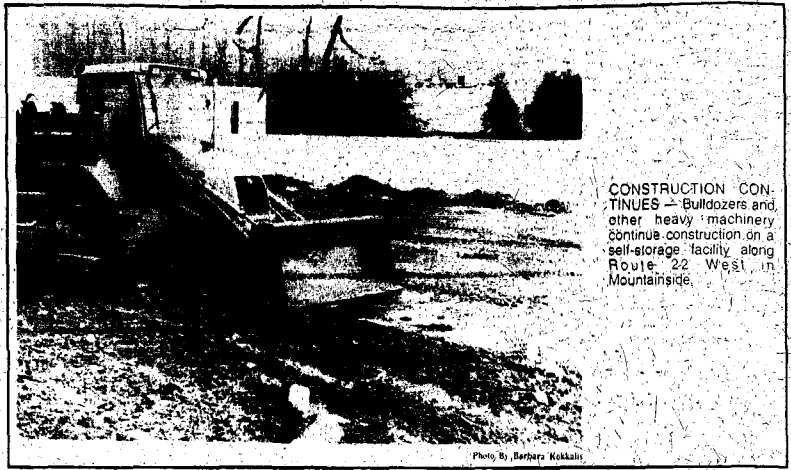


Photo By Barbara Kakkalis

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES — Bulldozers and other heavy machinery continue construction on a self-storage facility along Route 22 West in Mountainside.

Autism cases deserve legislative attention

Report From Trenton

By C. Louis Bassano

Autism is a mysterious neurological illness that plagues about 12,000 New Jerseyans and some 400,000 people nationwide. The disease confuses and distorts the understanding of medical science after decades of study and countless cases of inaccurate diagnoses and misunderstanding.

Sadly, case histories of the disease reveal that many individuals afflicted with autism, as well as their families, had to endure both a lack of clear answers from the medical establishment and the stigma of ostracism or harsh judgment by the community at large due to a common misperception of the disease as an emotional disorder caused by bad parenting or childhood trauma.

Some of the common misunderstandings about the disease may revolve around the isolating aspects of some forms of autism in which a child becomes virtually non-communicative, experiences severe difficulty speaking or writing and sometimes retreats into a state of nearly constant, expressionless silence.

While autism is a disease that is inextricably linked with childhood — the symptoms generally manifest themselves within the first two years after a birth — its devastating impact lasts a lifetime and typically persists

inordinate emotional and financial burdens on affected families due to the intensive support involved in caring for an afflicted loved one.

In fact, the enormous responsibility of assisting in the care of an autistic individual goes beyond even the most caring family's ability to cope — which is why I am leading the effort to provide \$1.8 million in state funding to establish a specialized center devoted to medical research and treatment of infantile autism. A Center of Excellence for Autism would be established under the aegis of the state's University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey in New Brunswick for the purpose of financing grants and awards to engage in research, diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

I had the terms of this legislation, S-1409 state funding would be designated to fund pilot studies dedicated to the treatment, diagnosis and

research to determine the causes of autism as well as to help build awareness among physicians and the public of the need for early intervention and treatment.

A seven-member Governor's Council to be headed by the president of UMDSNJ and which would include leading clinicians involved in autism research and treatment, would select and administer grants devoted to its cause, diagnosis, early detection, prevention, control and treatment.

One of the most compelling reasons this legislation should be enacted is that New Jersey is unable to compete with other states to attract funding from the federal National Institutes of Health for the purpose of conducting research and treatment to fight autism because of the lack of a state-supported research center.

It is not just about attracting federal dollars, however. Establishing a Center devoted to autism within the state of New Jersey will prevent the need for families with afflicted children from having to travel to New York, Philadelphia, Connecticut, or Baltimore in order to get treatment.

It is a testament to how great the public cry is to do something to address the needs of the autistic and their families that in the short year since I introduced this bill there has

been an outpouring of support expressed in letters and phone calls from community groups, consultants, specialized treatment organizations such as New Jersey's Care Autism, and municipal governments across the state signing support for this bill. Recently, S-1409 cleared approval in the Senate and will now advance to the Assembly, where it will face hearings before both the Health and Appropriations Committees.

I believe the momentum is building for the establishment of the New Jersey Infantic Autism Biomedical Research and Treatment Center in 1999. This will enable our state to begin the new millennium with a genuine chance of helping lead the effort to find a cure for this baffling disease.

Based on the annual cost of an estimated half a billion dollars associated with services devoted to autism, results of this disease are a considerable emotional toll. It is a problem we cannot afford to wait any longer to address.

Republican State Senator, C. Louis Bassano represents the 21st Legislative District, which includes Springfield and Summit.

Economic issues dominate upcoming year

Report From Trenton

By Donald T. DiFrancesco

The countdown to the new millennium may have already started. However, I believe that the next year may, in fact, be even more critical than the historic milestone that awaits us. Faced with a number of unique challenges ranging from energy deregulation to school construction, state government will be asked to make a number of tough public policy decisions this year. The decisions we make today will determine just how well New Jersey will be able to embrace the significant technological, demographic and economic changes that will take place tomorrow.

Recognizing this responsibility, economic issues, including property tax relief, will be one of the Legislature's top priorities this year. Although property tax levies have grown at the lowest rates in 20 years, property taxes still represent a significant burden for most New Jerseyans.

I have proposed an initiative that would increase municipal aid by the rate of inflation so that municipalities can budget accordingly and accurately and pass their efficiencies on to their residents in the form of property tax savings. I am confident that this program will be one of the ideas the Legislature and the administration will examine in 1999 as we work together to leverage the state's property tax revenue base into direct property tax relief.

New Jersey, which has long suffered under energy rates 50 percent higher than the national average, is now at the forefront of a national energy revolution that will end with a deregulated energy marketplace.

Building upon legislation enacted in 1998 that cut energy taxes and mandated a rate reduction, the Legislature will be finalizing an agreement in early 1999 that will introduce competition into the state's retail energy industry for the first time in decades.

At the same time, the legislation will implement strong consumer and environmental protection measures so as to ensure that longer energy rates and a greater choice of electricity and natural gas services — the benefits of deregulation — do not come with unexpected costs.

Choice is also the hallmark for transportation in the years ahead. New Jersey roads are the most heavily traveled in the nation, a statistic that underlies the need to heighten investment in both road improvements and rail line construction. It is for that reason that the Legislature must work in 1999 to protect the economic feasibility of the Transportation Trust Fund, the state's financing agency responsible for millions of road and rail projects each year, and to renew its mandate due to expire in 2000 in a timely fashion.

Every child in New Jersey, no matter where they live, has the right to be

educated in a safe and educationally sound facility. Funding the means by which to finance school capital construction projects that are projected to cost the state more than \$5 billion will dominate the Legislature's education agenda in 1999.

Faced with a Supreme Court mandate to fund 100 percent of costs related to new construction and repair projects by April 2000, initial plans have been drafted to dedicate nearly \$2.6 billion for so-called special needs district and \$1.2 billion to non-special needs districts. I am confident Gov. Christine Whitman and the Legislature will rise to meet this education challenge just as we did last year in addressing the 30-year-old education funding dilemma.

It is understandable that even an

agent as innocuous as the turn of the century, would elicit the fear that precedes a 4 billion, however, that 1999 may be even more important than the much heralded year 2000.

There is an opportunity this year to hold upon your vision, returns an area from auto insurance, education funding. More important, there is time now to lay the groundwork for a brighter, more prosperous New Jersey, and to fully prepare this state to meet the challenges of the uncharted century before us.

Republican Donald T. DiFrancesco is president of the State Senate and represents the 22nd Legislative District, which includes Mountainside.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Freeholders take care of themselves

To the Editor:

Regarding the Union County Freeholders — there's nothing free about their salary increase approval. It's good to see they are taking care of themselves, but so I don't have to worry about someone making \$100,000 a year able to put bread on the table. This is in addition to no doubt generous expense reimbursements. No wonder the campaigns for these positions are both so costly.

And please freeholders, do not tell me how long it has been since you've raised and how the salary compares to an equivalent private industry position. For one thing, you don't vote your own annual increases in private industry.

Frank Marchese
Mountainside

"News should be covered but not exploited"

Daniel Schorr
journalist

Echo Leader
Published Weekly Since 1922
inspiring the Springfield Leader and Mountainside Echo

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Carl Lucchesi

Let them go through a rehabilitation place and let the people there and what they have to go through to get clean. This would especially be effective for youngsters.



Michelle Deegan

The best way to talk to them at a very young age. Parents are responsible for explaining the risks and dangers of drug abuse. Schools, as well, have to get kids attuned to life beyond test books.



Brad Reave

Talk to them about drugs and abstain and keep returning it.



Marvin Estrada

Parents should talk to their kids and start when they're tiny. They have to do it little by little, so the kids can understand what is good versus what is bad.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Officers deserve commendation

To the Editor: I am a long-time resident of Mountaineer. I always felt we had a good police force. But I must tell you, I recently witnessed a performance that was simply extraordinary.

On Jan. 14 and 15, there was a power outage during the ice storm causing a traffic backup and chaos on New Providence Road. I saw officers standing in the road for hours, patiently reconfiguring the traffic flow with amazing composure while being extraordinarily courteous and patient with many frustrated motorists.

On Jan. 15, a lighted cement on New Providence Road and Route 22. Again, this time in a driving rain with lightning flashing all around, the officers courteously and competently sorted out the maze.

The guys on duty those days should be highly commended for their superb work.

Paul Muir
Mountaineer

Pedestrians seriously injured in Mountain Avenue accident

Springfield
Two pedestrians faced critical injuries after they were struck while crossing Mountain Avenue at 7:12 p.m. Jan. 22. The Springfield Fire Department responded to the scene and administered first aid to both victims, one of whom was six months pregnant.

According to Fire Chief William Gray, the woman was transported by the department to the trauma center at University Hospital in Newark. Both sustained considerable injuries.

The driver of a Saab two-door car said he had exited from Route 22 East when he saw two people walking across Mountain Avenue. He was unable to stop in time and struck both walkers.

The first pedestrian hit was struck on her right side while the second was hit on her left. Damage incurred to the Saab were dents on its hood and right side mirror.

Firefighters and first aiders treated the injured pedestrians, who said they had just left the Sheffield Street bus shelter. Police officers, who are still investigating the incident, found the Saab's wires, lights and brakes working.

A fire and police also responded on a two-car accident at South Springfield Avenue and Ruby Street Saturday. A Cadillac, with two passengers aboard attempted a left-hand turn from Ruby to northbound South Springfield when they were hit nearly head-on by a southbound Honda.

All three Cadillac riders reported injuries to the Springfield First Aid Squad. Fire crews helped clear debris.

FIRE BLOTTER

and absorb spilled fluids. While the police ticketed no one, they had both cars towed.

A variety of circumstances led to four calls Jan. 22. At 10:54, a gas-fighters responded to an activated fire alarm. A reported car fire took them to Route 29 at 3:16 p.m., although no fire was discovered.

The squad also responded to one medical service call on the day.

A five medical service calls made up most of Jan. 21 for the department. At 11:20 a.m., firefighters responded to a Benjamin Dry's residence at an activated alarm. Later in the afternoon, at 3:21 p.m., they traveled to a Morris Avenue business for another activated alarm.

Jan. 20 included an 8:27 a.m. response to a Milltown Road residence on a police assist and one medical service call behind the post office at 1:27 p.m.

A water condition required members of the department to respond to a Rolling Rock Road residence at 1:11 p.m. Firefighters went back to school at 2:23 p.m. for an activated alarm at Jonathan Dayton.

The squad also responded to two medical service calls on the day.

An early morning car fire brought firefighters to a Route 22 business at 3:44 a.m. Jan. 17. A Dodge sideswiped the Route 22 West center divider, lost a left front wheel, crashed into Holiday Inn structure and caught fire.

Police arrest area resident for narcotics possession

Springfield
A Springfield resident and an out-of-state man were arrested the same day in separate incidents Thursday.

The township citizen, identified as Kurdyk Marus, 24, was found to have possession of a narcotic at about 4:45 p.m. He was apprehended along Morris Avenue.

The out-of-state resident walked into Police Headquarters at about 1:30 p.m. that same day. The man, identified as James Moore, 31, of Allentown, Pa., surrendered himself when he learned he was found guilty of a contempt of court citation. He was taken to the Union County Jail for processing.

The driver of a Honda Accord said she was letting a bus by on eastbound Morris Avenue Friday. The Nissan behind her was unable to stop and the resulting rear-end accident happened by Walnut Court at about 11:57 a.m. There were no injuries.

Officials at Jonathan Dayton High School reported the theft of four graphic calculators of the police Thursday. The calculators, with a total value estimated at \$320, was taken from a classroom between 10:4 and 2:35 p.m. Jan. 17.

A Lexus 300 driver attempted left turn into a Morris Avenue gas station collected an eastbound Mazda Millenia instead near Springfield Avenue just about 10:25 p.m. Thursday. A Ford Explorer pilot, thinking Morris Avenue became a one-way street, west of Mountain Avenue, tried to move to the left lane at about 11 a.m. that day. The Explorer sideswiped an Audi A6

POLICE BLOTTER

resulting in a careless driving charge for its driver.

A Volkswagen Jetta received a dent from a Ford ahead of it on Route 24 East Jan. 20. The Jetta driver said an exhaust pipe from the Ford fell off and rebounded onto the hood, roof and trunk at about 4:50 p.m.

Two auto accidents occurred on Springfield roads Jan. 20 and 19. In the first incident, the driver of a Honda braked to avoid an unknown car ahead of her at the intersection of Mountain Avenue and Shunpike Road at about 8 a.m. Jan. 20.

The Toyota Camry behind her couldn't stop in time, triggering a rear-end collision. The Honda and Toyota drove on exchange information at the Jonathan Dayton High School parking lot further north on Mountain Avenue.

The other incident apparently began when another Honda suddenly braked for the Bally's health club entrance from the Route 22 East center lane Jan. 19. The Ford behind the Honda slid into it, followed by a Dodge rear-ending the Ford and a Chevrolet striking the Dodge at about 5:51 p.m.

A shopping cart joyride in a Route 22 West clothing store ended with a missing purse of a Plainfield woman Jan. 19. The woman said her sister left a note, in charge of the cart to use the restroom at about 8:30 p.m. When the sister found the niece, who pulled her brother around the store for 30 minutes, she saw that the purse was missing from the cart.

TV-36 seeks volunteers

TV-36 is looking for volunteers. TV-36 Communities on Cable Inc. is the local non-profit cable television system station. The station's Berkeley Heights, New Providence, Millburn, Springfield and Summit, and is offering a class to introduce interested citizens in the basics of television production.

No prior experience is necessary to register for this class. The class will be Feb. 22, March 7 and 8 from 6:00 p.m. The fee for this course is \$75 for adults and \$45 for seniors and students. Upon completion of this class, students are eligible to work with other volunteers on programs produced by TV-36.

TV-36 is a volunteer organization that values all the talented volunteers who make it possible to produce production of quality local television programming.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer for TV-36 should contact Station Manager, Ginger MacMahon at 278-9410.

Governor's plan may alleviate school tax burden

By Pamela Isaacson and Philip Sean Curran

A proposal by the state administration to maintain the economic health of the state, specifically regarding the governor's plan to provide relief from school taxes, has received local support from school administrators.

Hope can come to fruition, said Mountaineer Chief School Administrator Charles Schaller. "An increase in some municipalities are experiencing. Any kind of relief would be a great assistance to taxpayers can see their dollars stretched out a little further."

Gov. Christine Whitman's proposed NJ School Assessment Valuation Extension Bill program is expected to provide \$1 billion in tax relief in the form of an annual check equal to the school taxes paid on the first \$40,000 of the assessed value of owner-occupied, primary residences.

When the program is fully implemented after a five-year phase-in, the average New Jersey homeowner will receive more than \$600 a year, which is equal to about one-third of the average local school tax bill in New Jersey, Whitman announced in her State of the State address.

This tax relief funds a income tax rate to voters, said it is in addition to another phase I-tent of income tax rate of 30 percent. She added, "With the NJ SAVER's implementation, each Mountaineer homeowner could expect to receive a \$256 check in the fifth year of the plan — 2003 — effectively a 16 percent reduction in the school tax bill. That is the lowest of any year in Union County with the exception of Warwick. Springfield taxpayers will receive \$533, representing a 25 percent reduction."

Year-one estimates are expected to average \$120 stateside, however, recent figures released by the Department of Community Affairs indicate average school property taxes will increase without the average rebate this year. Whitman has suggested that the plan's purpose is merely tax relief and that real return is needed.

Assemblyman Richard Bagger of the 22nd District, which includes Mountaineer, answered a query he said has been a frequently asked question since the governor's address and proposal: why is the money not sent directly to the school district?

The governor wants to provide a direct reduction in school taxes by reducing money directly to taxpayers, Bagger explained. "This was the program because all property taxpayers in the state, regardless of what town they are in. He added that funds were distributed directly to school districts, not every community in the state would reap the benefits.

Implementing this initiative first requires approval by the Legislature. State Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco of the 22nd Legislative District has already expressed his support of the proposal. "I look forward to working with the governor on this important proposal and am anxious to help her meet the April 15 deadline for legislative approval of the bill," he said. "So that property tax relief can become a reality in 1999."

His support comes partly because DiFrancesco views Whitman's proposal as a permanent feature once the program gains approval. "The NJ SAVER program is just what the taxpayers have asked for from Trenton," he added. "This relief will go from the State House to your house."

Bagger said his challenge as chairman of the Budget and Appropriations Committee is to make sure that the structure of the future state budget in a way so that this remains a permanent part of the budget.

Republican State Sen. C. Louis Bassano of the 21st Legislative District, which includes Springfield, allayed fears that schools will lose aid this year resulting from the governor's plan. Bassano, whose district includes Unadilla, said there is a "net increase in aid budget for education."

Bassano continued, "I think it has that \$600 figure a lot of things have to happen. The economy stays good and no structural changes are thrown in the state budget."

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Springfield temple plans evening of prayer, music

By Ben Smith
Staff Writer

A highly evocative evening of prayer and music has been planned by cantor Amy Daniels and the Temple Choir at Temple Shalom, 2810 Springfield Avenue, Springfield, tomorrow evening at 8:30 p.m. The temple will hold its Annual Music Sabbath, featuring a special Klezmer service composed for the occasion. The choir will play and sing in Hebrew, Yiddish, and English.

"We do an annual music Sabbath in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Temple's founding," Daniels said. "It will contain the same songs as our Sabbath at the B'nai B'rith of the Rock, but with a different focus." Daniels said that the music will be a mix of traditional Jewish music and contemporary Klezmer music.

The music will include traditional tunes, as well as contemporary tunes, which will be performed by the choir and by the cantor. Daniels said that the music will be a mix of traditional Jewish music and contemporary Klezmer music. The choir will play and sing in Hebrew, Yiddish, and English. The cantor will lead the choir in prayer and song.



Cantor Amy Daniels

Shalom Shalom is a Hebrew word meaning peace. It is associated with the Union of Reform Judaism. The temple is a member of the Union of Reform Judaism. The temple is a member of the Union of Reform Judaism. The temple is a member of the Union of Reform Judaism.

Area Boy Scouts host annual Klondike Derby

At 8:30 a.m. Saturday, the Boy Scouts of the Patuxent District of the Washington Area Council will hold their 42nd Klondike Derby. The derby will be held at the picnic area above Sunrise Lake in the Washington Reservation in Mount Airy. Tom Brueckner of Berkeley Heights will again serve as Derby Chairman and 100 adult leaders and volunteers from various scout groups will assist in conducting the event.

The Klondike Derby is a competition where different skills will be tested. The tasks include: knot-tying, map-reading, compass use, and other survival skills. The tasks will be graded on their performance in different scout-skill problems such as first-aid, knot-tying, and map-reading. Each team's test scores and elapsed times will be tabulated to a central scoreboard and determine the winners in each age group.

The public is welcome to view the event. The derby will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. when the last waves have completed the race. The Patuxent District includes towns and towns in the area around Westfield, Summit, Milling, North Hanover, and Scotch Plains.

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Borough teen brings 4-H project to governor

Lauren Kobel, Mount Airy teen, brought a lifetime thrill recently when she met Governor Christine Whitman. Kobel accompanied her A.H. Seeing Eye Puppy Club to Trenton along with other members of the club. The club is a group of blind people who donate their time to helping puppies that will one day take their place at the side of a blind master.



Mount Airy resident Lauren Kobel, top left, joins the 4-H Seeing Eye Puppy Club in Trenton for a visit with Governor Christine Whitman, center.

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Grand opening celebration



The Windmill restaurant in Summit recently held its grand opening, offering a variety of gourmet fast food. Photo by Barbara Kakkala

O'Toole, Weingarten support legislation

Legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Kevin O'Toole and supported by Assemblyman John Weingarten, who would restrict convicted felons from holding office or positions of influence within public employee labor organizations was signed by Governor Christine Whitman Jan. 19. The bill, A-192, will assist in weeding out convicted felons from gaining control over public-employee labor organizations.

"We need to halt the criminal element from gaining powerful influential positions among the public employee unions. It's not a good environment for the honest, hard-working members of those groups to have criminals in leadership positions," said O'Toole, R-Essex, Union.

"Government is based upon a system of trust. We need to avoid the ability for a conflict of interest to develop. Prohibiting persons with a felony conviction from holding positions of influence in labor organizations will help give service this special trust," added Weingarten, R-Essex, Union.

The bill provides that the prohibition applies for the term of conviction even if an appeal is filed, but any salary to which the individual is entitled during the appeal period will be held in escrow until the appeal is resolved. The bill further allows the Public Employment Relations Commission to determine what prohibition is necessary on a case-by-case basis.

Helen Charles

Helen Charles, 85, of Springfield, formerly of Elizabeth, died Jan. 20 in the Manor Care Nursing Home, Mountainside.

Born in Omaha, Neb., Mrs. Charles lived in Elizabeth for many years before moving to Springfield. She was a computer specialist with the Union County Criminal Court System for more than 20 years and retired in 1991. Mrs. Charles was a member of the Deborah Shapell Foundation of Elizabeth, the B'nai B'rith of Springfield, the Mount Nebo Link and the Sisterhood of B'nai Yitzchok. She also had been an executive secretary for the Jewish Educational Center in Elizabeth.

Surviving are a daughter, Marilyn Charles Schiffman; two sons, Mark and Stuart; and four grandchildren.

Ruth Klausner

Ruth Klausner of Springfield died Jan. 19 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Brooklyn, Mrs. Klausner lived in Newark and South Orange before moving to Springfield 30 years ago. She was a life member of the Essex County chapter of Hadassah. She also was a member of the Senior Citizens and Sisterhood of Temple Beth Ahab, both of Springfield.

Surviving are two daughters, Marjorie Roth and Francine Gold; a brother, Robert Berger; two sisters, Frances Freedman and Lena Phillips; nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Dorothy Longell

Dorothy Longell, 71, of Mountainside, died Jan. 20 at home.

Born in Irvington, Mrs. Longell lived in Berkeley Heights before moving to Mountainside two years ago. She was a secretary and bookkeeper for Bestmister Florist Inc. for 16 years and retired in 1996. Mrs. Longell was a founding member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Berkeley Heights, and a charter mem-

OBITUARIES

ber of the Berkeley Heights Rescue Squad.

Surviving are two sons, Leslie L. and Leland L., her mother, Etta Meyer, and four grandchildren.

Kathy E. Francke

Kathy Francke, 64, of Gilford, N.H., formerly of Mountainside, died Dec. 15 at Lakes Region General Hospital, Gilford.

Born in Rimonsbath, Northern Hungary, Mrs. Francke graduated from Jonathan Dayton Regional High School, Springfield, and received a bachelor of science degree from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill. She continued her education at Plymouth State College in New Hampshire, where she received a master's degree in education.

Surviving are her husband, Dr. Gary R. Francke; two sons, Gregory Pratz Francke and Nicholas Gregory Francke; a daughter, Ilkko Margit Francke; and her parents, Leibel and Charlotte Telek.

Donna Marie Weller

Donna Marie Weller, 39, of Springfield, formerly of Union, died Jan. 23 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Orange, Mrs. Weller lived in Union before moving to Springfield eight years ago.

Surviving are two daughters, Megan and Ashley; a son, Ryan J.; her parents, Walter and Dolores Battato; a sister, Laura-Musson; a brother, Kenneth Battato; and her grandmother Josefa Holt.

Leslie Goldstein

Leslie Goldstein, 74, of Springfield, died Jan. 22 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Newark, Mr. Goldstein moved to Springfield 35 years ago. He was a furniture representative for various furniture manufacturers in the state for more than 40 years and retired in 1984. Mr. Goldstein was a member of the New Jersey Furniture Association and the 131st Bratt Chapter of Springfield. He served in the Army's 1257 Combat Engineer Battalion during World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Shirley; two sons, Dr. Jeffrey and Steven; a daughter, Dr. Debra; a brother, Jason Schram; a sister, Phyllis Goldstein; and six grandchildren.

Albert Wayer

Albert Wayer, 81, of Summit, died Jan. 24 in Runnels Specialized Hospital, Berkeley Heights.

Born in Holland, Mr. Wayer lived in Hopkens before moving to Summit in 1947. He was a mechanical draftsman employed by C. F. Braun in Murray Hill. Mr. Wayer attended the Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, and the Juillard School of Music, New York City, and from 1940 to 1960 taught piano in the Summit area and played with many area bands. Mr. Wayer was a member of the New Jersey Live Steamers Association and the Old Guard of Summit.

Surviving is his wife, Wilma.

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news, Church, club and social, Thursday, noon. Entertainment - Friday noon. Sports - Monday, noon.

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WORSHIP CALENDAR

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EVANGEL-BAPTIST CHURCH - 241 Sturgis Rd., Springfield, 9:30 AM Bible School for all ages. Nursery through Pre-K. 10 AM Morning Service and Nursery care. 5:30-7:00 PM KIDWAXA High Program for Children ages 6-11. 6:00 PM Evening Service. 8:00 AM Church. 7:15 PM Prayer Band and Bible Study. Junior-Senior High Ministry. Active Youth Ministry. Wide Range Music Program. Super Service of Thiazas at 11 AM. Fellowship at South Ample Park. Closed on Wednesdays. All are invited and welcomed to participate in worship with us. For further information contact church office (973) 378-3147.

JEWISH CONSERVATIVE
TEMPLE BETH AHM 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, 973-376-6338. Parry, Ragaat, Bako, Hadfield, Naska, Carter, Heli, M. Pappas/President. Beth Ahm an egalitarian, Conservative temple, with programming for all ages. Wednesday services: Men, 7:30 AM. Sun. 7:00 AM. 8:30 AM Sabbath (Friday) 6:00 PM. 8:30 PM Sabbath day 9:30 AM & 8:00 PM. Sun. 8:30 AM. Festival of Shabbat morning, 9:00 AM. Family and children services are encouraged regularly. Our Religious School (Monday-Friday) grades from Pre-K to 12th. There are formal classes for both High School and Pre-Religious School aged children. The synagogue also sponsors a Priced School of Jewish Studies. Men's Club, Youth groups for both through 12th grade. Men's Hebrew Adult Education Program. A Senior League meets regularly. For more information, please contact our office during office hours.

METHODIST
THE SPRINGFIELD EMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, located on the Church Mall in Springfield, NJ, invites people of all ages and backgrounds in person or Sunday mornings for Adult Christian Education. From 9:15 AM to 10:30 AM for worship at 10:30 AM. We are a warm and welcoming congregation of Christians who gather together to be encouraged in the faith, strengthened in love, and empowered to be brave and faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Child care and nursery are available following the part of our worship service that is especially geared toward young children. Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of every month. Know that all people are welcome here. If you have any questions, please call the pastor, Rev. Jeff Matlack at 973-378-6695.

ROMAN CATHOLIC
THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JAMES, 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey 07081, 201-376-3044. ST. JAMES ECUMENICAL SAT 5:30 p.m. Sun. 7:00, 9:00, 10:30 AM. 12:00 Noon. Sacraments: Sat. 1:00-2:00 p.m. Weekday Masses 7:00 & 8:00 AM.

ST. TERESA'S OF AVILA, 306 Monticello Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901, 908-277-3700. Sunday Masses: Saturday, 5:30 PM; Sunday, 7:30-9:00, 10:30 AM, 12:00 Noon, 1:15 (50¢); 5:00 PM in the Church; Children's Mass 9:30 AM Memorial Hall with videos September 14th, 21st, 28th, 29th, 30th, 1998. Weekday Masses: 12:00, 1:00 AM, 12:15 PM; Saturday Masses 8:30 AM. Holy Days: Mass on weekdays mass with a 5:30 PM Mass on Wednesdays and a 7:30 PM evening Mass. Sacraments of Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:00 - 5:00 PM.

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REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL, 229 Cooperway Pl., Westfield, NJ. Paul E. Menzies, Pastor. (908) 732-9145. Beginning Sunday, July 6, Sunday Worship Times are as follows: Sunday Worship Service, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. Sunday morning Nursery available. Wednesday Evening Worship Service, 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion at 10:45 AM at all worship services. The church and all programs are handicapped accessible.

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Wrestlers gaining experience and also coming up winners

By J.R. Parachini
Sports Editor

One of the goals of the Brearley High School wrestling team was to improve on its record of a year ago, a mark that was 3-16 in its first year back on the mat.

Well, that mission has already been accomplished as the Bears took an impressive 8-5 record to Montclair yesterday for non-conference matches against Montclair-Kimberley and Bay-Lilred.

Brearley won two matches last week to extend a winning streak to three. The Bears entered yesterday's matches having won four of five.

"The kids are wrestling better and winning matches that they would not have won last year," second-year head coach Brian Luciani said.

For Brearley to begin the week with as many as 13 matches under its belt is a feat in itself since those programs in the area have not reached 10 matches yet.

Luciani feels the more competition his wrestlers face, the better they will eventually become.

"I'd like for our wrestlers to have about 26 matches prior to the districts," Luciani said. "That should provide them with enough matches, experience-wise, so they will be ready

for the districts, which is when the season really gets serious.

Brearley posted wins last week at Mountain Valley Conference rival Ridge 5-4, Saturday in Basking Ridge and Jan. 19 at home against Seton Hall Prep 39-34.

Those two wins followed an impressive 41-32 conference win at New Providence Jan. 16.

"Beating New Providence was big for us," Luciani said.

New Providence beat Brearley 50-25 last year.

"Mike Harris was able to come up with an 8-5 win for us at 215 and scored a couple of points late in the match to secure that victory and the victory for the team," Luciani said.

Also winning for Brearley against New Providence were Altay Vigilante at 112, Stefano Sarracino at 149, Sean Cunningham at 125, Mike Puorro at 135 and Rick Miceli by pin at 160.

Here's a look at individual records prior to yesterday's matches:

- 103: Mark Yospin (6-7), 112: Altay Vigilante (8-2), 119: Stefano Sarracino (9-4), 125: Joe Ruggiero (16-4), 130: Mike Puorro (10-4), 145: Attila Vigilante (10-4), 152: Giancaro Pesante (9-3), 160: Rick Miceli (9-5), 215: Mike Harris (5-3) and Chris Tyne (3-3). Heavyweight: Eric Vitale (6-2).

"Altay is working very hard and Stefano has done well as a freshman," Luciani said. "Ruggiero (17-10 at 103 last year) is getting accustomed to 125 and Puorro is really improving after breaking his hand last year."

"Attila Vigilante continues to pile up the victories, coming off a 16-8 season at 145 last year as a sophomore.

Vigilante wrestled Donnie DeFilippis well before falling to the New Providence standout 12-4.

"I think Attila has a good chance to place in the regions and advance to the states," Luciani said.

Luciani has also seen improvement in Pesante and Miceli and sees that Harris and Tyne know what to expect a bit more this year as opposed to last year. Vitale coming out for the first time and being the heavyweight has helped the team a great deal as well.

"With Eric being a real heavyweight, it allows Mike and Chris to practice against each other and gives us two quality kids at 215," Luciani said.

Brearley is now preparing for tomorrow night's big match against Roselle Park, a team that has not lost a regular-season match in four years.

"The Panthers entered last night's home match against Middlesex County for Metuchen with a 56-match regular-season winning streak.

"They're as close to a dynasty as what we have in Union County," said Luciani, who was previously the head coach at Irvington. "We would like to score more points against them this year and not get pinned as quickly in certain matches."

Roselle Park defeated Brearley 71-10 in Roselle Park last year en route to a 19-1 season that ended with the Panthers falling to Paulsboro in the Group 1 state championship match.

"One of our main goals is to eventually beat a team like Roselle Park," Luciani said.

Roselle Park has never lost to Brearley and has not suffered a loss against a Union County opponent in a long time.

"We now have a good recreation program with a lot of kids coming out for wrestling, so we're going to look for them to really help us in the future," Luciani said.

Battle for the ball



Dayton's Linda Agostinelli, No. 15, battles a North Plainfield player for possession of the ball during last week's high school varsity girls' basketball game in Springfield. Although North Plainfield won the Mountain Valley Conference-Valley Division contest 48-37, Agostinelli had a solid performance, leading the team in scoring with an 18-point effort. Dayton, looking to snap a five-game losing streak began the week with a 2-7 overall record and 1-6 Valley mark.

Two of the best



Two of the top girls' basketball players in the Mountain Division of the Mountain Valley Conference, Governor Livingston's Lauren Kobel on the left and Roselle's Dana Lake on the right, were scheduled to face each other again two days ago in Berkeley Heights. Kobel began the week at 7-3 overall after having lost to Hillside and Roselle Catholic last week. Two teams it had previously defeated in Mountain Division play.

Grapplers improving

- 12-19 Brearley 48, R. Cath. 36 (H)
- 12-19 Milburn 53, Brearley 26 (H)
- 12-19 Gov. Liv. 39, Brearley 26 (H)
- 12-20 St. Peter's P. 54, B. 27 (A)
- 12-20 Brearley 48, Glen Ridge 33 (A)
- 12-20 Brearley 46, W. Orange 36 (A)
- 1-2 Brearley 48, Irvington 25 (H)
- 1-6 Hanover Park 72, Brearley 6 (H)
- 1-12 Brearley 58, East Side 20 (A)
- 1-12 Bound Brook 50, Brearley 25 (A)

1-16 Brearley 41, New Prov. 32 (A)
1-19 Birtcher 39, Seton Prep 34 (H)
1-23 Brearley 54, Ridge 24 (A)
Record: 8-5
Mountain Valley Conference: 3-2
Home: 4-2
Away: 4-3
Brearley was scheduled to wrestle Bayley-Eliard and Montclair-Kimberley at Montclair Kimberley yesterday before returning home to face R. Park tomorrow night at 7 p.m.

Dayton boys' hoops remain a tough Valley team to beat

The Dayton High School boys' basketball team continues to impress this year as it took a 5-3 overall record, and 4-2 Mountain Valley Conference-Valley Division mark into Tuesday night's scheduled game at Marlville, a team it defeated 64-42 in Springfield in its season opener.

Dayton defeated North Plainfield 62-60 and Oratory 55-41 on the road last week before falling at St. Mary's 54-35 at home on Friday.

Dayton is scheduled to host St. Mary's in its last regular season game on Friday night, Feb. 19 at 7 as the Bulldogs have now lost to the Elizabeth parochial school twice, once in tournament play and once in conference competition.

Ryan Freundlich had an outstanding game against North Plainfield, scoring 22 points and grabbing 15 rebounds. Justin Woodruff and Terrence Franklin scored nice points.

Garret Wise had eight and Carmine Santarella netted seven.

Lorenzo Williams had a team-high 10-point effort against Oratory. Franklin had 11, Wise eight, Jesse Weatherston and Woodruff seven each and Freundlich two.

Freundlich had 15 points and Franklin 11 against St. Mary's.

Dayton is scheduled to host New Providence tomorrow night at 7 and remain at home for a game Tuesday night at 7 against Bound Brook.

Upcoming: Jan. 29 New Providence, 7:00; Feb. 2 Bound Brook, 7:00; Feb. 5 at Gov. Livingston, 7:00; Feb. 9 Oratory, 7:00; Feb. 12 at Brearley, 7:00; Feb. 16 at Roselle Park, 7:00; Feb. 18 North Plainfield, 7:00; Feb. 19 St. Mary's, 7:00.

Mountainside baseball standout honored

Mountainside's Craig Conway, Railway's Yvette Brodenck, Roselle Park's Pat Appello, Union's Tom Graiser and Linden's Keith Blazowski were among the athletes honored last Wednesday at the Union County Baseball Association's 563rd Hot Stove Dinner held at L'Affaire in Mountainside.

Conway, a 1997 Governor Livingston graduate who presently attends Montclair State University, was named the county's top male athlete.

Conway was an All-County and All-Group 2 selection while at GL and had an outstanding freshman season for MSU last year, earning Rookie of the Year recognition.

Callender becomes 3rd to reach 1,000 Joins former Minutemen hoop stars R. Huber, Miller

Andre Callender became only the third player in Springfield Minutemen basketball history to reach the 1,000-point mark under the 18-year tutelage of 8th grade coach Tom Wiertelowski.

Callender scored 31 points and also grabbed 16 rebounds to lead the Minutemen against Long Hill, although Springfield was defeated 56-53.

Springfield did bounce back to defeat Milburn 51-30 and Saratoga 65-55 to improve to 10-4 overall.

The only other players to score 1,000 points for the Minutemen under the tutelage of Wisniewski were Ryan Huber, a 1993 Dayton Regional graduate, and Jeff Miller, a 1999 Seton Hall Prep graduate.

Huber, who started in the early 1990s for the Bulldogs, is now an assistant varsity coach at Dayton under head coach Bill Berger.

Miller, a three-sport standout at RHP, is now at Seton Hall University on a baseball scholarship.

Mike Milano scored in double figures in both of Springfield's victories while Nick Parrati played well under the boards, was aggressive on defense and made over 13 free throws for the team.

The 7th grade team began the week with a 7-4 overall record and 5-0 mark in league play. Springfield defeated Long Hill, lost to Milburn and beat Saratoga.

Final scores of the two games Springfield won were not reported. In the win over Long Hill, 14 Springfield players had assists. Robert Kierman led the team in scoring with eight points and three rebounds.

Jose Galinkin

Mike Ties contributed with three points, Mike Luciani had two and Kaitlin Stanz said Stephen Sevens made our foul shot team.

Milburn managed a 37-32 victory and pulled away after the game was knotted at 23-23.

Frankie Miceli paced the Minutemen with a 12-point effort and Garber had 11 points and seven rebounds.

Ferris scored seven points, grabbed six rebounds, came up with three steals and dished out one assist. Tias made one free throw.

Milich made a three-point basket to give Springfield the lead for good at 53-50 against Saratoga.

Dan Scott paced Springfield with 19 points, including one three-pointer. He also grabbed four rebounds and had two steals.

Garber had 18 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

Ferris scored 17 points, one of his baskets a three-pointer. He also grabbed three rebounds, came up with five steals and had 10 assists.



Springfield Minutemen basketball player Nick Parrati shown here taking a free throw in a game against South Orange. Played well under the boards, was aggressive on defense and made over 13 free throws for the week in helping guide the 8th grade team to victories in two of three contests.

Township residents' business used to announce project

Springfield residents Roy and Barbara Leibovitz... announced an environmental study...



From left, Marc D. Leibovitz and Springfield resident Roy A. Leibovitz... announced an environmental study...

Involved in the culmination of a regional-wide plan to improve Port Jervis... the next generation of residents...

of where much of this product is distributed... Marc Leibovitz added...

Borough, township students earn honors at Oak Knoll

Three Mountainside residents recently achieved first honors or were named in the honor roll for the first trimester at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit...

The students listed by honor are: First Honors - Nicole Kross... Three Springfield residents recently were named to the honor roll...

Table with PUBLIC NOTICE columns and salary information for various positions.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE... SHERIFF'S NUMBER CH-73417... DEPENDANT MARION WYCHE ET AL...

PUBLIC NOTICE

Township of Springfield... Ordinance 100-99... AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-10...

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ordinance 100-99... AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-10 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE...

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Sale... Public notice is hereby given that Constant S. Ludlow, Collector of Taxes of the Borough of Mountainside...

Wednesday, the 18th day of February... By virtue of the above-mentioned writ...

Notice is hereby given that the Borough of Mountainside... has adopted the following Ordinance...

Block Lot Assessed To... Block 11 - Stevens, Glenn G. & Andrea A. 375 Summit Road...

Notice of Sale... Public notice is hereby given that Constant S. Ludlow, Collector of Taxes of the Borough of Mountainside...

Public Hearing... The Planning Board of the Borough of Mountainside...

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BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

Grid of business advertisements including: ADDITIONS, AIR CONDITIONING, CLEAN-UP, CLEAN UP, FLOORS, GUTTERS/LEADERS, GUTTER CLEANING SERVICE, HANDYMAN, HOME HANDY SERVICE, LANDSCAPING, MASONRY, MOVING, PAINTING, PAINTING, PAINTING, POLISH AGENT, ROOFING, ROOFING, WANTED TO BUY, BATHROOMS, HOME HEALTH CARE, SPACE AVAILABLE.