

Echo LEADER

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2001

TWO SECTIONS

Township faces arbitration with its employees union

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

The Springfield Township Committee's first regular meeting of the new year brought a seldom-talked about union to the microphone.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees is headed toward arbitration with the township. The union, which represents about 38 clerical and public works employees, filed for arbitration Dec. 28, following the interpretation of a grievance by Committeeman Steven Goldstein.

According to AFSCME staff representative Carole Lanni, the union felt it was denied the opportunity to meet with the Township Committee to discuss certain aspects of Goldstein's interpretation of their page-and-a-half-long grievance.

The grievance covered several issues, including the question as to whether Christmas Eve should be considered a holiday. There was also some controversy as to the number of holidays as totaled by Goldstein. AFSCME submitted the grievance to Township Administrator Richard Sheola on the heels of the Township Committee's rejection of its contract proposal.

"I've been in this role eight years, and this is the first time I've had to appear here," Lanni told the Township Committee. "Why is the committee unwilling to talk? The township wouldn't talk to us, and now we're going to arbitration, which will cost the taxpayers \$1,000. I hope this isn't the beginning of an adversarial relationship."

Committeewoman Clara Hareluk denied that the committee refused to meet with AFSCME representatives. She said the union did not specifically request a meeting with the Township Committee, and that any errors — such as the total number of holidays — did not, in and of itself, necessarily imply the need for a meeting.

Goldstein agreed, calling the situation a misunderstanding. "They didn't ask for a meeting in their grievance. Whoever reads the grievance has to decide if a meeting needs to take place. In that case, it's only a matter of, 'Do I need more information from them?'"

When Sheola used the term "cutting to the chase" in regard to Lanni's complaint, the representative responded, "That's the problem — 'cutting to the chase.' We feel we're being ignored." Lanni eventually agreed to submit a list of Goldstein's perceived errors to Sheola in writing. No date for an arbitration hearing has been set yet.

FMBA bound for arbitration

Petition to be filed this week

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

With no formal negotiation session with the township since September, Springfield firefighters claim they are most likely headed toward arbitration.

"We've sincerely tried several times to settle this without going to arbitration," said Frank Fiorelli, vice president of the Fireman's Mutual Benevolent Association Local 57. "We don't want to go to arbitration."

David Fox, attorney for the FMBA, confirmed that a petition to initiate compulsory interest arbitration will be filed this week.

Fiorelli said the union's last meeting with Township Administrator Richard Sheola Sept. 28 — in which Sheola reportedly focused on the union's proposed 24-hour shift — has

not resulted in another meeting, and that any discussion on the matter with Sheola since then has been "informal — in passing."

"We've tried numerous times to negotiate and come up with something substantial," Fiorelli continued. "We've gotten nothing in the way of a formal proposal. If the Township Committee wants to save money as they claim they want to, and have a good relationship with us, why not speak to us? Why put us in the position of having to file for arbitration?" Fiorelli said the FMBA has asked for, but has never received, a written proposal from the township.

Union representatives from both the township's fire and police departments have expressed their displeasure in having to negotiate with Sheo-

la. Township Committee members Clara Hareluk and Steven Goldstein have assumed the roles of negotiators in talks with the Police Department.

Asked about having Hareluk and Goldstein — or any other two Township Committee members — assume the negotiating duties with the FMBA, Mayor Sy Mullman said, "I have no problem with that." The mayor added that he's waiting for the results of the township-instituted study of the Fire Department by Tridata Corporation before going back to the bargaining table.

Tridata's study will provide information on such issues as shift recommendations and staffing. The study is somewhat similar to that performed by Carroll Buracker & Associates on the township's Police Department last year.

Pool fees to escalate this season

By John Celock
Staff Writer

Mountainside residents who plan to join the community pool this summer may have to pay more.

Borough Recreation Director Sue Winans said the pool fees will go up to help pay for routine cost increases associated with pool operations.

The new fee schedule, which has to be approved by the Borough Council, calls for resident families to now pay \$205 instead of \$195 and non-resident families will now pay \$575 instead of \$525.

"It is to keep up with the pace," Winans said of the increases, which will fund the pool's \$245,000 annual budget.

The community pool is operated by the Recreation Department as a utility. As such, the pool's budget comes out of revenue raised from membership fees and concession stand payments. No taxpayer money is involved.

Councilman Keith Turner, chairman of the council's Recreation Committee, said he is in favor of the proposed increase in pool fees. "I think that it is important to keep up with the times." See ANNUAL, Page 9

The dream continues



Photo By Barbara Kakkalis
Rabbi Mark Mallack of Temple Beth Ahm leads marchers in a candlelight vigil from the Jonathan Dayton High School to the vestibule of Town Hall on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Members of the Springfield Clergy Association and the community shared songs and prayers for nonviolent social change.

School book faces public perusal

By Joan M. Devlin
and Kirsten Matthew

Mountainside Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller sent a letter to the parents of all Deerfield School sixth-graders last week in which he admitted the district failed to conduct a state-mandated meeting with parents on school curriculum at the beginning of the school year.

At the Jan. 9 Board of Education meeting, parents Brian Kinney and Gary Hennings took the floor to protest a booklet the district uses in its health classes. Kinney read graphic passages from the book, called "Growing to Maturity," which board members purported never to have seen before.

Describing the resource as a "how-to book," the fathers' insisted the material was inappropriate for 11- and 12-year-old children, specifically, their daughters. Almost immediately, Schaller promised to pull the resource from the curriculum and investigate how it ended up in the hands of sixth-graders without the board's knowledge. Kinney's copy was apprehended by the school administrator after the meeting.

Kinney later reported he received Schaller's letter, dated Jan. 10, the next day. The letter outlines the topics of study for this semester's Family

Life program and includes an excerpt from the New Jersey Administrative Code which allows for parents and guardians to provide written notice to school administrators in order to exclude their children from instruction in Family Life education if it "conflicts with his or her conscience or, sincerely held moral or religious beliefs."

In a second letter, dated Jan. 11, Schaller took responsibility for the inadvertent oversight by the Board of Education to schedule a state-mandated meeting with parents this fall to review the sixth-grade health

curriculum. An informational meeting with parents was set for 7 p.m. last night in the Deerfield Media Center, after presstime.

Board President Patricia Taeschler admitted last week that "a breakdown in communication" had occurred between the board and parents and said "the board didn't actually evaluate the book."

"We were questioning whether this book was a part of the approved curriculum. It might have been on the approved list," Taeschler said.

The board president noted that See CURRICULUM, Page 10

Borough's teen birth rate nil

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

Statistics can prove or disprove almost anything. The Mountainside Bureau of Records and Vital Statistics must keep a record of all births within the borough, along with the ages of the mothers. According to Deputy Borough Clerk Sharon Pele; there were no births to underage mothers, ages 11 to 14, for the past three years in Mountainside.

Mountainside's uniqueness from that of surrounding areas was one of the points that came out of the Jan. 9 Board of Education meeting. After hearing objections from parents Gary Hennings and Brian Kinney regarding a booklet used in the sixth-grade sex education curriculum, board member Frank Geiger noted, "Many 14-year-olds go home to take care of their babies after school, in many districts." Hennings then responded, "Maybe, but not in Mountainside, and that's why we live here."

See BIRTHS, Page 10

Bricks pave way toward history book

By John Celock
Staff Writer

Mountainside residents now have the opportunity to leave a piece of themselves in the borough.

The borough's Historic Preservation Committee has created an engraved brick program. According to committee member George Benninger, the program's coordinator, the engraved bricks are being sold to fund a new book on the history of the borough. All bricks will be used to create a new walkway to the historic Hetfield House on Constitution Plaza.

Benninger said the new book would serve as a continuation of the first book on Mountainside's history. The first book, written by Jean Harvey, covered the years 1895 to 1945.

Councilman Glenn Mortimer, liaison to the committee, said the book is being produced to honor borough residents. "A lot of the folks who made the history in the past 56 years, are still with us."

The Historic Preservation Committee is currently in the process of sketching a preliminary plan for the book. Current plans include locating an author and publisher for the hard cover book.

When the committee began discussing ways to fund the creation of the book, members decided to ask the Borough Council for its assistance. Mortimer said it was Council-

man Keith Turner who first suggested the brick sale.

Turner said he came up with the brick sale program from ideas he observed in other communities. He thought it was an idea that would allow residents to commemorate their lives in the borough with a lasting presence.

"I've had family living in Mountainside for years and I'm sure that my parents would like have their name in the walkway," Turner said.

Benninger said that after Turner proposed the brick program, committee members began to plan the logistics. Mortimer said he also searched the Internet for potential brick ideas.

"Glenn Mortimer is a dynamic member of the Borough Council and he got samples and saw how it would enhance the Hetfield House," Benninger said.

Mortimer said the vendor chosen for the projects has completed several other projects in the area, including ones in Summit and Westfield. He noted that a sample brick is on display in the Hetfield House for residents to see what they can purchase.

"I'm all for the brick program. It is a great idea that we can get something done, without spending taxpayer money," Mortimer said.

In addition to funding the book on the borough's history, Mortimer said additional funds may be used to pay for sev-

See JUNE, Page 9

District's growth spawns need for building principal and staff

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

Growth has been occurring at an unanticipated rate in the Mountainside School District, and due to the upcoming school expansion and the soon-to-reopen Beechwood School, more personnel will be needed.

"Because of the predicted large kindergarten enrollment — we are looking at at least 60 new children and it may be 70 — we must have new first grade and kindergarten teachers to accommodate this," Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller said during the Jan. 9 Board of Education meeting.

Schaller, who also serves as principal of Deerfield School, is searching for a building principal to work at either Beechwood or Deerfield, depending on the need, during the 2001-02 school year, when Beechwood School is completed.

"I will be floating between schools to a certain extent, and need someone to

be where I am not. Dr. Keshish will become Director of Curriculum, which has always been her area of expertise," he said, referring to Deerfield Assistant Principal Elizabeth Keshish.

"The building principal position would be one of potential growth. The school does not plan to be opening officially until 2002 and I am looking at the matter from all sides: full-time versus part-time," said Schaller.

Several other positions also will need to be filled. A Supervisor of Special Services will be needed for a 12-month position. The applicant must have full certification for special education and knowledge of regulations relating to special education. A part-time special education position will be available to assist the Supervisor of Special Education. The position entails classroom consultation and case management and evaluation; the same certification is required. Substitute teachers are also needed for the next school year.

No projected salary figures were available yet, as the district's budget is not complete.

Schaller predicted an increase to a projected 673 students in the 2001-02 school year — 59 more than this year. "Mountainside is atypical and is experiencing great growth," said the administrator.

The changes are flexible, and according to Schaller, will all be positive because the school district is expanding and growing. "We are at this time also thinking of totally revamping the curriculum, and this is just in the planning stages."

At the meeting, board member MaryBeth Schaumburg, who is the liaison to the PTA, reported back to the board on the surveys regarding population which the PTA had conducted so far. "We have about 2,300 inquiries sent out to the

See SURVEY, Page 10



Photo By Ruthanne Wagner

Holocaust survivor Jay Sommer, center, describes his life's journey to Jonathan Dayton High School students, from left, Alexis Saidel, 17, Scott Hollander 16, and Kim Terhune, 16. Sommer asked students to take responsibility for their future with great dignity during an assembly at the school last week.

Holocaust survivor conveys story of persecution to high school students

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

"As a human being, you acquire certain experiences that become part of your personality," Holocaust survivor Jay Sommer told an auditorium full of Jonathan Dayton High School students in Springfield Jan. 11.

Describing himself as "73-plus years old, 26 years old and six years old," Sommer said, "It's all a package. You don't throw away anything."

Sommer, whose journey in life took him from the small Czechoslovakian village of his birth to a forced labor camp outside Budapest to a refugee camp in Italy to the borough of Brooklyn and eventually to a National Teacher of the Year Award and a ride aboard Air Force One with President Ronald Reagan, doesn't dwell on the ugly facts of the Holocaust. Despite the loss of most of his family and his own narrow escape from Nazi persecution, Sommer keeps his talks focused on the upbeat and simple theme of triumphing in the face of adversity.

Now a master of 10 languages, Sommer told the gathering how deprived he felt when, at the age of eight, poverty forced him to drop out of school.

"In order to run away from poverty, we left the village, but poverty follows you wherever you go," Sommer said. "It's a wonderful friend."

Challenging the notion of "Jews being lazy," Sommer developed into an exceptional mechanic. "Hitler took away my freedom and my family but not my knowledge," he said. "Your knowledge can't be taken away. Knowledge stays with you for life."

After spending seven months in a forced labor camp, Sommer took a chance and escaped with a friend to Budapest. Stopping at a printing shop in Budapest, hoping to secure false papers, Sommer discovered the following day that the printer had betrayed him to S.S. officers. "Totally petrified" and literally running from bullets for two hours, Sommer eventually found himself at a farm, where he was fed and given a job. He remained at the farm for four months, before being forcibly taken in by the Russian Army.

Dryly describing his experience in the hands of the Russians as "not the best thing that happened to me," Sommer, after being thrown onto the front lines, became an interpreter as a result of his natural talent with language. But he escaped again, before the army was able to transfer him to Moscow.

Sommer's route to the United States was delayed by a two-and-a-half-year stop at a refugee camp in Italy, where

he developed a love of the country's culture. He stated that Italy's willingness to open its doors to refugees such as himself "renewed my spirit."

Although he had picked up several languages along the way, Sommer knew not a word of English at the time of his arrival in the United States. Delighted to discover public education, he learned English at a public school in Brooklyn, earning his high school equivalency diploma within the year.

"I thought, 'My God, how do I repay America for this?' " Sommer said he asked himself. "And I answered, 'You become a teacher.' "

"Kids like you have given my childhood back to me, which was taken away from me," he told the assembled Dayton students. "Despite my tragedy, so many wonderful things have happened to me — being a teacher, giving back to America."

In 1981, Sommer was chosen as a National Teacher of the Year out of a list of more than 150,000 teachers. The awards ceremony brought him to the White House. Sommer was eventually appointed to the National Commission on Excellence in Education, established by President Reagan — the only teacher on the commission's 18-member panel. His appointment enabled him to travel about the country, gathering information for a report titled "A Nation at Risk."

Sommer taught high school Russian, Hebrew, Spanish and French for more than 20 years in New Rochelle, N.Y., the town in which he currently resides. He earned his B.A. in Russian from the Brooklyn College School of General Studies, an M.A. in Spanish and Spanish literature from Hunter College and a second M.A. in Russian language and literature from Fordham University in 1965. The culmination of his academic career came when he completed his course work toward his Ph.D. in comparative literature from New York University. He is currently a visiting professor at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University.

All this from a man who had to run from S.S. officers with bullets whizzing past his head.

"I wanted to be something beyond a permanent victim," Sommer said. "You have to rise above your circumstances. Please have dreams. Dreams become reality." He encouraged students to "take responsibility for your future with great dignity. When you meet someone, try to find something you like about them rather than something you don't like. That's the only hope for the world. Otherwise we'll repeat the mistake of the Holocaust."

Hoover campaign arrives in borough

By John Celock
Staff Writer

A Mountainside resident is leading a campaign to bring George Washington to the children of America.

Borough resident William Sanders is the founder and executive director of the Portraits of Patriots program. The program's mission is to place the first president's portrait in elementary school classrooms throughout the United States. In addition, the program is encouraging schools to place more Washington-related material in the social studies curriculum.

"It is a project from the heart," Sanders said of the program.

Sanders said he started the program several years ago as an extension of work begun during the administration of former President Herbert Hoover, 71 years ago.

"In 1930, which was two years prior to the 200th anniversary of the birth of Washington, a presidential commission was put together to study ways to commemorate the event," Sanders said.

Sanders said the commission discussed several types of projects, and in 1932, Congress appropriated money for a portrait of Washington to be placed in every classroom in America. In addition to the placement of portraits in classrooms nationwide, Sanders said portraits were also placed in council chambers and courtrooms as well.

According to Sanders, the Washington portraits began to come off the classroom walls during the 1960s. He said he does not know why the portraits began to come down during this decade.

"You can't walk into a school in New Jersey and see a portrait of Washington today," he said.

In 1999, the 200th anniversary of Washington's death, Sanders began the program to place the first president's portrait in all New Jersey schools. The program grew from a statewide one to a national one within several months.

Currently, a bill is pending before the New Jersey Legislature, which appropriates money for portraits to be placed in each of the state's 602 school districts.

At the Borough Council's Jan. 2 reorganization meeting, Sanders officially presented Mayor Robert Vigilanti with a Washington portrait for Borough Hall. It is to replace the one Sanders saw in historical photos of the council.

Members of the council have said they are pleased with Sanders' program and his gift to the borough.

"He is active in the community and a dedicated citizen. He is dedicated to Mountainside and it is nice to see citizens make that kind of presentation," Councilman Thomas Perrotta said.

Sanders said he is working on the Washington portrait program because he thinks the former president sets many examples for Americans.

"The man sets so many fine examples of love of country. It is a great thing for kids to grow up with," he said.

Sanders said he has noticed that history books today have approximately 10 percent less Washington-related material than the history books of the 1960s. In addition, Sanders pointed to statistics which show that 60 percent of fourth-graders nationwide did not know why the Pilgrims came to America and 7 percent did not know what happened in Philadelphia in 1776.

"There is not a kid in this country that should not understand the principles that this country was founded on," Sanders said.

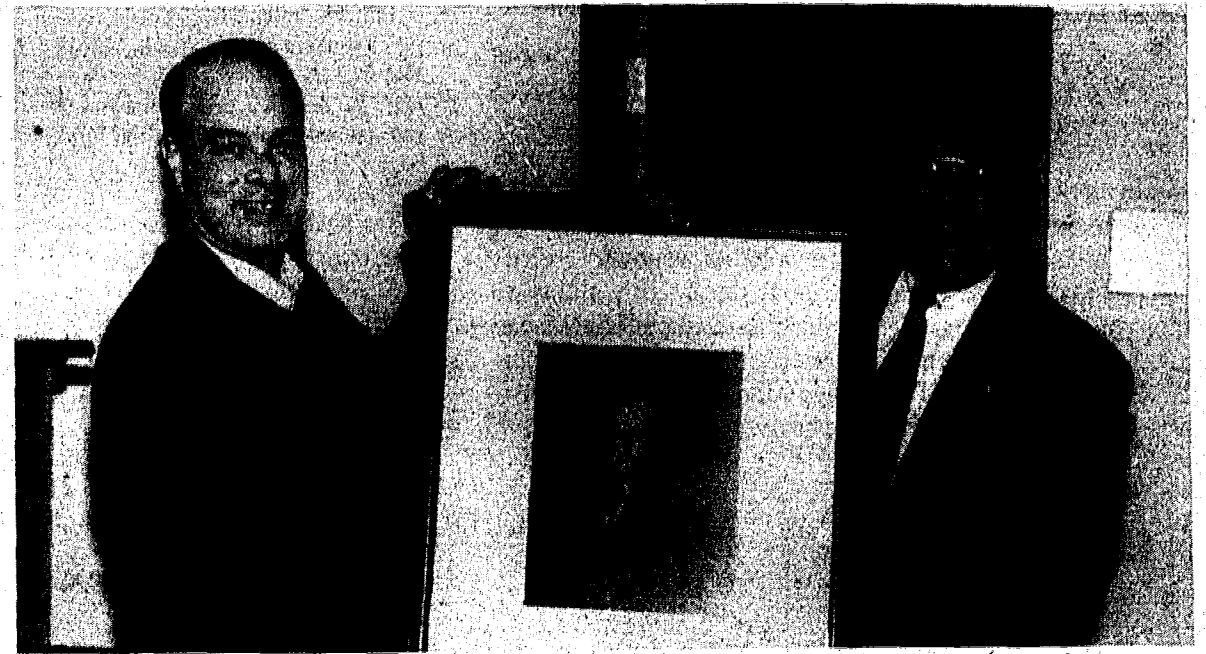


Photo By Barbara Kakkalis

Borough resident William Sanders presents Mountainside Mayor Robert Vigilanti with a framed portrait of President George Washington at the Borough Council's Jan. 2 reorganization meeting. Sanders is leading a campaign first started by President Herbert Hoover to place the Founding Father's portrait in elementary school classrooms throughout America.

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EDITORIALS

No room for irresponsibility

A breakdown in communication between the Mountainside Board of Education and parents of Deerfield School students was brought to light by Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller and board President Patricia Taeschler last week.

In a Jan. 11 letter sent to all district parents, Schaller admitted that the board had inadvertently failed to schedule a meeting with parents in the fall to review the sixth-grade health curriculum. By state statute and school policy, the board is required to conduct a comprehensive overview of the district's curriculum each school year.

An effort by this newspaper to obtain a copy of the book — deemed public information by a state public records law and the federal Freedom of Information Act — was refused by Schaller Friday afternoon. Schaller's actions demonstrate that he believes the people do not have a right to know what is happening within their public schools.

Schaller should not forget that residents of Mountainside are paying to support the schools and his salary. It is their vote in school elections that makes them the ultimate educational bosses in the borough.

Board of Education members have diligently spent time at this year's meetings tweaking and changing the district's policy manual. Why was this particular policy overlooked?

Taeschler admitted that parents did not receive proper notification about the curriculum but could not explain why. Schaller admitted that "we are the cause of the problem" but didn't elaborate on how the oversight occurred.

We have serious questions about the board's ability to manage its own protocol. Administrators should have been aware of their requirement to present an overview of the curriculum to the public. There is no room for such irresponsibility when it comes to the education of Mountainside's children.

Roses and thorns

Roses — to Mountainside Borough Councilmen Thomas Perrotta and Bill Lane for their willingness to pursue more services and programs geared to the increasing number of young families in the borough. Such a growth trend cannot be overlooked.

Thorns — to Springfield Deputy Mayor Gregory Clarke for the prepared statement he read during the Township Committee's Jan. 1 reorganization meeting in which he padded salary tabulations for the township's public safety officials. FMBA and PBA members had no opportunity to respond to Clarke's allegations, which were later called "a cheap shot" by the vice president of the FMBA Local 57.

Roses — to Mountainside Borough Councilman Keith Turner for pledging to equip all borough police cars, schools and Borough Hall with life-saving defibrillators. Turner has suggested that the Borough Council seek state grants in order to fund the program.

Roses — to the Springfield Board of Education for its tenacity in reintroducing the district's \$3.4-million bond referendum for track and field rehabilitation. The referendum question will be put before voters again on Feb. 27, since board members feel the unusual weather conditions of Dec. 12 contributed to its defeat. We agree. Voter turnout was a mere 13 percent.

Roses — to Mountainside Borough Councilman Paul Mirabelli for his election to the presidency of the Borough Council Jan. 1.

Thorns — to the suspect who was arrested by township police late last month for posting bias handbills in the windows of local restaurants and businesses. Hate crimes such as these tear at the fabric of our society and should never go unreported. We applaud the businesses for reporting the incidents to the Springfield Police Department.

Roses — to Mountainside Borough Councilman Glenn Mortimer and the Historic Preservation Committee for their commitment to launching the borough's engraved brick program. The revenue from the program will pay for a book on the history of Mountainside from 1945 to the present. Such a book will educate borough residents about this important period.

Roses — to the nine Mountainside police officers who were recently commended by Police Chief James Debbie for their professional handling of incidents last year.

"I speak by right and not by permission. I will never tamely... submit to yield a right... guaranteed by the Constitution."

—Millard Fillmore
13th U.S. president
1840

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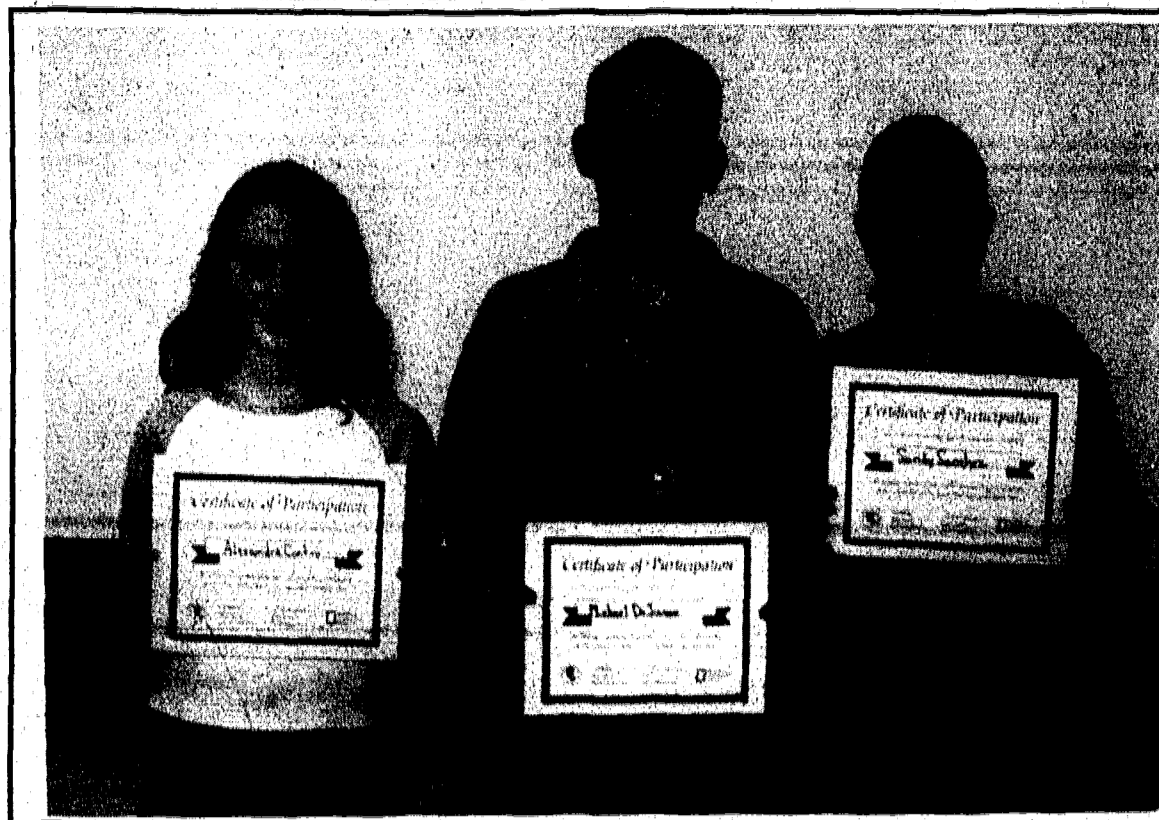
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A GEOGRAPHIC BEE — Honorees in the recent geographic bee at Deerfield School in Mountainside, from left, Alexandra Contini, Michael DeJenne and Sandy Sanchez take pride in their accomplishments. Contini and Sanchez were semifinalists and DeJenne was the first-place winner. DeJenne has taken the national geographic qualifying test for a chance to compete in the National Geographic Bee in Washington, D.C.

Mountainside is better in 2001 than last year

Editor's note: The following are excerpts from Mountainside Mayor Robert Vigilanti's State of the Borough address delivered at the Jan. 2 reorganization meeting of the Borough Council. This is the second of two parts.

The following is an update of this past year's construction progress:

- Municipal parking lot at the library was completed. Cost was \$196,500, using a \$180,000 grant from NJDOT.

- Reconstruction of a section of Mill Lane and Lawrence Avenue was completed at a cost of \$122,000, using a \$90,000 grant from NJDOT.

- Reconstruction of Wood Valley Road is complete, except for sodding. Work is being done using a \$120,000 NJDOT grant.

- Four tennis courts were resurfaced; approximate cost was \$35,000.

- Work has been completed in improving manholes and sanitary sewers to reduce runoff water infiltration and inflow. This work reduces the amount of extraneous water that enters the sewer system and surcharges the lines. The cost was approximately \$153,600.

- Improvements were made to the HVAC system in the library meeting room. The cost was approximately \$28,500.

- Repairs were made to the electrical service at the library. The cost was approximately \$1,200.

- A handicapped ramp was constructed at the exit of the court room.

From The Mayor's Desk

By Robert Vigilanti

The cost was \$9,500, and a grant of \$7,800 was received from the Union County Community Development grant program.

- Renovations to the firehouse are almost completed. This work included a new gas boiler, structural improvements and general renovations. The gas-fired boiler cost \$45,700 and the general renovations cost about \$100,000.

Some additional grants and improvements have been received and include the following:

- The borough has received a \$105,000 grant from NJDOT for section two of Wood Valley Road from Old Tote Road to Central Avenue.

- A grant of \$100,000 has been received from Union County for an ADA-accessible restroom in the Community Room, an exercise room for seniors and others in the Community Room, computers for classes for seniors and an ADA-accessible door at the Mountainside Public Library. These items are in the process of design and selection, at present.

- A Union County Community

Development grant for \$20,000 has been obtained for an automatic ADA-accessible door at the front entrance of the Municipal Building. This project is under design.

The following street projects are on the list that we hope to complete during the year 2001: Robin Hood Road, Bayberry Lane, Greenwood Road, Tanglewood Lane, Sylvan Lane, Prospect Avenue, Watchung Avenue at Library Road, Sunny Slope from Ledgewood to Belair Parkway, Hillside Avenue from the New Providence Road to Mountain View, a section of Queen's Lane, a section of Nottingham Way, a section of Friar Lane, Woodacres Drive, Turnabout Circle, Woodacres Court, Chattin Court, Old Tote Road from Knollwood to Poplar, Old Tote Road from Knollwood to Wood Valley.

The following various intersections are also part of the project: Grouse Lane/Fawn Ridge, Forest Hill Way/Deer Path, Chapel Hill/Ackerman Avenue, Ackerman Avenue/Outlook Drive, Wood Valley Road/Creek Bed, Dunn Parkway/New Providence Road, Cedar Avenue/Holly Hill, Holly Hill/Old Farm Road, Willow Road/Summit.

We also expect to repave the firehouse parking lot.

In addition to the above work, we hope to complete about 10 assorted storm drainage improvements in various sections of the borough.

Finally, we hope to complete some additional sanitary sewer improve-

ments to reduce extraneous flows due to storm water infiltration and inflow into the sewer system.

We presently have applications before the New Jersey Environmental Protection Agency for permits for repairs and improvements along several stream beds in town. As soon as all the permits are received bids will go out and construction will commence. This should be by late spring.

Last year, the community pool had the highest membership in its history. I have received numerous compliments praising the construction of the pool and the professionalism of the staff.

Mountainside did very well in 2000. As a homeowner, you saw your property values reach an all-time high. You are seeing upgrades in improvements to your borough's facilities. You have seen increases in recreation, police protection and other community services.

Mountainside is better in 2001 than last year. However, we must not stop. We must always look to the future — providing for our children, caring for our seniors and recognizing that our younger and middle-aged residents expect a progressive community with an excellent school system for their children, and that all residents deserve a fair tax rate.

A Republican, Robert F. Vigilanti is serving his fourth term as mayor of Mountainside.

What does it mean to be 'liberal wacko?'

What are we at the *Echo Leader*? "Liberal wackos," according to a scribbled message on a recent subscription invoice. Looks like the *Echo* is down one subscriber.

The label — which, by the way, was addressed to the editorial staff in general, and not to me specifically — was given to us by a Springfield resident.

What she said exactly was this: "Due to the liberal wackos on your editorial staff, you can keep my copy to line your birdcage!!" All caps. Underlined. Two exclamation points.

I needed a good laugh that day to lift my spirits. That little message was just what the doctor ordered.

Why would words like that cause me to crack my first smile in about eight days? Because it's important to

Joe's Place

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

generate a response from your audience. The very fact that you've generated a response is significant, even if they hate you.

In any business in which you have an audience — if you're a fiction writer or a journalist or a painter or an actor or a vocalist or whatever — if you don't earn a response, you've failed. Not just failed, but flopped. If they look at your paintings and say,

"Well, that's nice," and just saunter on, you should be in another business.

Same thing is true of a newspaper. If they call you a liberal wacko, or a conservative wacko, or a wacko period, then you're stirring them up, and that's good.

Just how we stirred this particular reader is a mystery. That's the frustrating part. Her complaint was vague, to say the least, and while we all enjoyed being called liberal wackos, we wondered what touched it all off, and whom it applied to specifically.

Mind you, I'm not looking to raise hackles just to raise hackles. But if you've read this column before, I'm sure you'll be aware that I hate hand-guns. If you've read me before, you'll know that I think the National Rifle Association needs at least a grammar

school education. If you read me as recently as last week, you'll know that I think people who believe in UFOs are bored and/or cuckoo.

These are all genuine feelings, and if they mark me as a liberal wacko, then okay, I'm a liberal wacko — in this woman's estimation. Judging her response strictly on logic, our subscriber critic is a conservative. I'd like to say "conservative wacko," but I won't.

The managing editor and the reporters at the *Echo Leader* love the label. We're mystified by exactly what it refers to, but we're tickled to death about it. When they're calling you names, you're doing your job.

Save a tree! Save the grass! No gunfire in the streets! Liberal wackos! See you next week.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kindergarten registration upcoming

To the Editor:

Deerfield School announces its registration for 2001-02 kindergarten classes. Registration and screening will be held by appointment March 5, March 6, March 8 and March 9. Appointments for registration and screening will begin at 8:45 a.m.

Parents are requested to call Susan Nugent to make an appointment for the screening that will be conducted by kindergarten teachers, a speech therapist and an occupational therapist. Barbara Komoroski, Deerfield's guidance counselor, will assist with screening.

Parents should call Deerfield School at (908) 232-8828, Ext. 213 to receive forms that should be completed and returned at registration. Children being registered should be 5 years of age by Oct. 1, 2001. A birth certificate and proof of residency need to be presented to Mrs. Nugent at the time of the appointment.

Gerard A. Schaller, chief school administrator
Mountainside

Our political horizon looks ominous

To the Editor:

Does it surprise anyone to see how viciously the Democrats reacted to a Bush victory?

The Bush win is a result of the "rule of law," as the courts adjudicated. There is no reason for anyone to claim the election was "stolen" as the sore losing Dems claim. All America has won.

An Al Gore presidency would be a disaster and President-elect Bush will at least forestall what is ominously on our political horizon.

Joseph Chieppa
Mountainside

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.



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Concerned about an issue facing the governing body or Board of Education in your town? Is your street in disrepair? Our readers can use our Infosource hot line to speak out about any issue whether it is a question, comment, suggestion or opinion. That way, by telling us, you can tell everyone in town.

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We're asking

Do you watch 'Temptation Island?'



Lyndi Borne

"Oh no."



Marcia Langer

"I saw part of the first one. It's ridiculous, horrible. I can't imagine calling two people who'd do that a committed couple."



Benjamin Saberin

"My girlfriend did. I saw it too. It was kind of lame."



Neal Keohane

"I did watch it. I thought it was a farce."

NEWS CLIPS

Board vacancies exist

Mountainside Mayor Robert Vigilanti has announced that he is seeking borough residents who are interested in filling one of several volunteer board vacancies.

At the Borough Council's reorganization meeting Jan. 2, the mayor announced that he is seeking appointees to fill vacancies on the Board of Health, the Local Assistance Board and the Local Ethics Board.

Interested residents are encouraged to contact either Vigilanti or the Borough Council member who serves as liaison to the particular board. Residents can call either the mayor or a council member through the clerk's office at (908) 232-2400.

The council liaisons are as follows: Councilman Keith Turner, Local Assistance Board and Local Ethics Board; and Councilman Werner Schon, Board of Health, Shade Tree Commission and Local Ethics Board.

The mayor urged that Mountainside residents who are interested in

serving in one of these volunteer positions should contact clerk's office as soon as possible.

Volunteers needed

The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, is currently looking for people to become volunteers.

The Motor Works Program, which provides local residents with transportation to medical/professional appointments, is looking for drivers. Drivers are needed Monday through Friday, and hours and days are flexible.

Clerical and data entry volunteers are also needed. Volunteers can do as little or as many hours/days as they would like. No previous experience is needed, and training will be provided.

The Red Cross is also seeking individuals to instruct CPR, First Aid, babysitting and lifeguarding classes. Interested individuals should call Health and Safety Director Linda Johnson at (908) 232-7090 to find out

more details or to set up an interview.

District conducts survey

During the next few weeks, the Mountainside School District will be conducting a resident survey.

This brief survey is a follow-up to a similar survey mailed last year. Its purpose is to provide school administrators with the most accurate information possible regarding future incoming students. In order for the information obtained from the survey to be valid and therefore valuable, it is necessary that a very high rate of return be obtained.

In order for this goal to be met, this survey will be performed on a door-

to-door basis, wherein every home will be visited by a volunteer who will ask for the resident's cooperation in answering a few simple questions. It is anticipated that this surveying process will take place approximately every two years.

At this time, the district is seeking volunteers to help with this effort. Those interested in becoming part of this communitywide project can call the Deerfield School Office or complete and return the form that was sent to every homeowner. Forms can be sent to school with a student, dropped off in the main office, or mailed to: Resident Survey Volunteers, Deerfield School, Central Avenue, Mountainside, 07092.

Mountainside residents earn fall dean's list

Mountainside residents Elizabeth C. DeAnna and Jamie P. Oels have been named to Quinnipiac University's dean's list for the fall 2000 semester. De Anna is a health science/physical therapy major while Oels is majoring in occupational therapy.

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Hilltoppers gain early acceptance

More than a dozen students accepted to colleges

By John Celock
Staff Writer

Several members of the Summit High School Class of 2001 do not have to worry about where they will be a year from now.

High School Guidance Director John Schnedeker said approximately 35 students have decided to take advantage of the early college admissions program.

Under the early admissions program, high school seniors have the option of applying earlier than other students. With this program, students who participate are informed of a potential acceptance decision in December, instead of waiting for the traditional acceptance dates in March and April.

Under the program, students who choose to apply early do face one difference from students who go through the regular admissions process.

Traditionally, students who do not receive an acceptance letter in December under the early acceptance program have the final admissions decision deferred to the spring. Schnedeker said this is no longer always the case.

"More and more schools are not deferring the applications; they are rejecting them. There are now three out-

comes and the possibility that you will be rejected," Schnedeker said.

Schnedeker said that his office does not always recommend the early admissions to Summit High School students. He said the decision on whether or not to make the recommendation is based on how far along the student is in their college search.

"If you start on your research early, you can be in the place to apply early to the schools," he said.

Schnedeker said that students who do not apply early, do so for various reasons. He cited the two most common reasons as students who have not completed their college research and students who prefer waiting until their fall semester grades are announced.

"We encourage each student to be aware of the impact of their decision," Schnedeker said.

Of the 35 students who have applied early decision this year, Schnedeker said approximately half have been accepted in the process. He said the numbers are average for Summit High School in recent years.

Schools which have been applied to by Summit High School students in recent years during this process include: Georgetown University, Hamilton College, Boston College and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Photo By Jeff Grant

About 35 students at Summit High School are taking advantage of the early college admissions program. Students who are accepted under an early admissions process are bound to attend the school and must sign a form stating that they will withdraw applications to other colleges they have applied to.

OBITUARIES

Thelma Rozett

Thelma Rozett, 87, of Murray Hill, formerly of Summit, died Jan. 7 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Summit, Mrs. Rozett lived in Murray Hill for 50 years. She was a claims specialist with Kemper Insurance Co., Summit, for 15 years and retired in 1973. Earlier, Mrs. Rozett had been employed by BH Frumppin Inc., a family-owned business that specialized in dry goods and notions, in Summit. She received a bachelor of arts degree in 1935 from Beaver College in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Rozett was a founding member of Temple Sinai in Summit and a member of the Hadassah of Union County.

Surviving are a daughter, Joanne Bowman; a son, Robert; a sister, Frances Rachlin, and six grandchildren.

William Geitz

William Geitz, 77, of Florham Park, formerly of Summit, died Jan. 2 at home.

Born in Woodbury, Mr. Geitz resided in Summit before moving to Florham Park 15 years ago. He led one of the largest independent oil companies, Union Texas Petroleum, for about 20 years as a chairman and chief executive officer and retired in 1985. After his retirement, he managed a resort hotel on St. Kitts, a Caribbean island. As part of his duties in the oil company, Mr. Geitz traveled worldwide, and negotiated drilling rights with prime ministers and presidents in such locales as Indonesia, Borneo and Pakistan.

Managing the Frigate Bay Beach

Hotel, he and his wife, Laura, became co-owners. He also was chairman of the board. Mr. Geitz served in the Navy during World War II and navigated a troop transport ship during the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

During the June 1944 Allied Invasion of France, he navigated an LST, a 325-foot landing ship and made a record 27 crossings between England and France, carrying soldiers, tanks and equipment and returning with wounded soldiers. It was reported that the vessel on which Mr. Geitz served is the only one of its kind still afloat and operates as a ferry between Long Island and New London, Conn.

After the war, he enrolled at Washington College, Chestertown, Md., where he received a degree in liberal arts. During his business career, Mr. Geitz served on the college's board of governors. He also received a master's degree in chemistry from the University of Delaware. He began his career with Mobile Oil and later served as vice president of Allied Chemical's specialty chemicals division.

Also surviving are a son, Michael; a sister, Marjorie Estilow, and two grandchildren.

Willy McKinley

Willy McKinley of Bayville, formerly of Summit, died Jan. 6.

Born in Summit, Mr. McKinley lived in Summit and Princeton before moving to the Multiply-Impaired Home for the Blind in Bayville 15 years ago.

Surviving are his mother, Barbara Jean Peterson; his father, Bill McKinley; his stepmother, Pat McKinley;

two brothers, Thomas McKinley and Jody Schum; four sisters, Jennifer and Erin, Jaime Schum and Jill Schum, and his grandparents, Virginia Peterson and Eleanor and William McKinley Jr.

Joseph Boulos

Joseph Boulos, 80, of Maplewood, formerly of Summit, died Jan. 10 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Egypt, Mr. Boulos lived in Boston, Newark and Summit before moving to Maplewood in 1978. He was an engineer with AT&T in Newark for 15 years and retired in 1985. Earlier, Mr. Boulos had been the managing director of railroads throughout Egypt. Mr. Boulos received a degree in mechanical engineering from Cairo University in 1942 and was ranked seventh for academic achievement in Egypt. He was a member of the Engineering Association of Egypt.

Surviving are his wife, Lily; two daughters, Suzan Abadir and Sonia Fanous; a son, Tony-Magued Boulos, and eight grandchildren.

Helen Mercurio

Helen Mercurio, 86, of Millington, formerly of Summit, died Jan. 11 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Newark, Miss Mercurio lived in Summit and South Orange before moving to Millington nine months ago. She was a fabricator employed by John Herslow, Sillocks and Miller Co., Berkeley Heights, for 10 years and retired 28 years ago.

Surviving is a sister, Vera Baldacchini.

Dominick R. Belfatto

Dominick R. Belfatto, 94, of Mountainside died Jan. 9 in the Ashbrook Nursing Home, Scotch Plains.

Born in Newark, Mr. Belfatto moved to Mountainside in 1954. He was a plumber employed by Schrenell and Co., Irvington, for 30 years and retired in 1983. Earlier, Mr. Belfatto

worked for John E. Joyce and Co., Newark. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Plumbers, Local 24.

Seymour Bloom

Seymour Bloom of Springfield died Jan. 9.

Born in Newark, Mr. Bloom moved to Springfield in 1950. He owned

B&B Delivery Service, Millburn, for 35 years and retired in 1987. Mr. Bloom was a member of B'nai B'rith in Springfield and the Elfin Unger Post Jewish War Veterans of Springfield.

Surviving are a daughter, Ellen Kobrin; a son, Edward; a brother, Saul; a grandchild, and two great-grandchildren.

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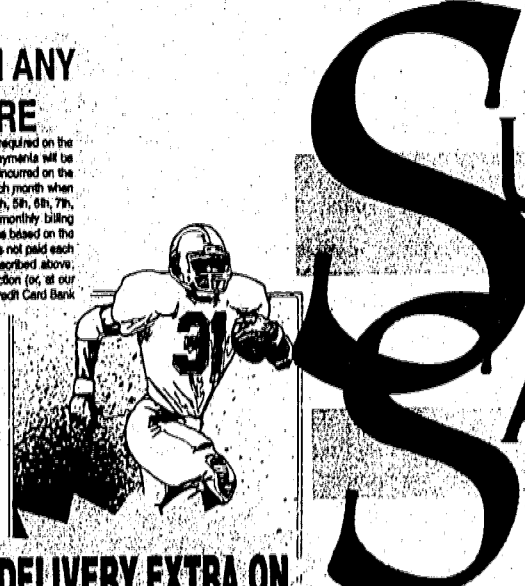
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Summit Diner to go down in Super Bowl history

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

Attention all Summit sports fans: on Super Bowl Sunday, you will see something very familiar in the pre-game show, via CBS Sports — the city's very own Summit Diner.

The show will be hosted by former Giants quarterback turned announcer Phil Simms, and sportscaster Greg Gumbel. Called "The All-Iron Team," the segment will include a 20-minute skit inside the Summit Diner.

Co-owners Jim Grebaris and John Anastos could not be happier, as they are both aware that millions of Americans will be watching, not to mention fans all over the world.

"The plot is humorous, and shows rough types of customers sitting in the diner — all of whom are actors — criticizing Bill Parcells, Phil Simms and other famous sports figures, when those guys walk in the door of the diner, the customers stop and start praising them," said Grebaris. "It is all in good fun."

When CBS and its crew filmed the segment, they arrived at the diner two days last month, Dec. 20 and 21. The first shoot brought Bill Parcells. The next day, Simms and Gumbel had their chance to film. Professional actors played the parts of other famous sports figures each day and Grebaris became a patron of the diner and sat in the background one of the days. Hamburgers were served to each of the actors.

Co-producer of the show, Al Szymanski commented, "We needed a place dripping in character. Our program is rough and ready, and that is exactly what the Summit Diner is."

Well, sort of. Although the diner has been in existence since 1929, and Grebaris and Anastos have co-owned it since 1964, the patrons are not the dirty-fingernail types that Szymanski had the actors portray. The cast included a rude waitress, a chef with a stained hat, and other roughs.

In fact, the customers usually wear ties and suits and carry briefcases, the co-owner said. "Even women come

here," said Grebaris, laughing. The owners don't mind the type-casting for the show, as their business is terrific, and they said everyone in Summit viewing the show will know what they are really like.

When asked how the Super Bowl producers found the Summit Diner, the answer was simple. "They found our web site listed on the Internet. Also, we are part of njdiner.com, which is a group of businessmen who help the homeless and the hungry through a club called Other Fellow First Foundation," Grebaris said. "It was started by diner owners two years ago and we are proud to be part of it."

Part of what the OFFF does is collect canned food for distribution through the New Jersey Community Food Bank, solicit contributions through the web site, and sell merchandise celebrating diners.

When asked what the celebrities were like when they came to the Summit Diner, both Anastos and Grebaris

insisted they were all "regular, down-to-earth guys." Said Grebaris, "Bill Parcells was here the first day of shooting, and he is a real nice guy." Anastos said exactly the same words about Simms and Gumbel, and added, "I am very excited and will be watching the show all day."

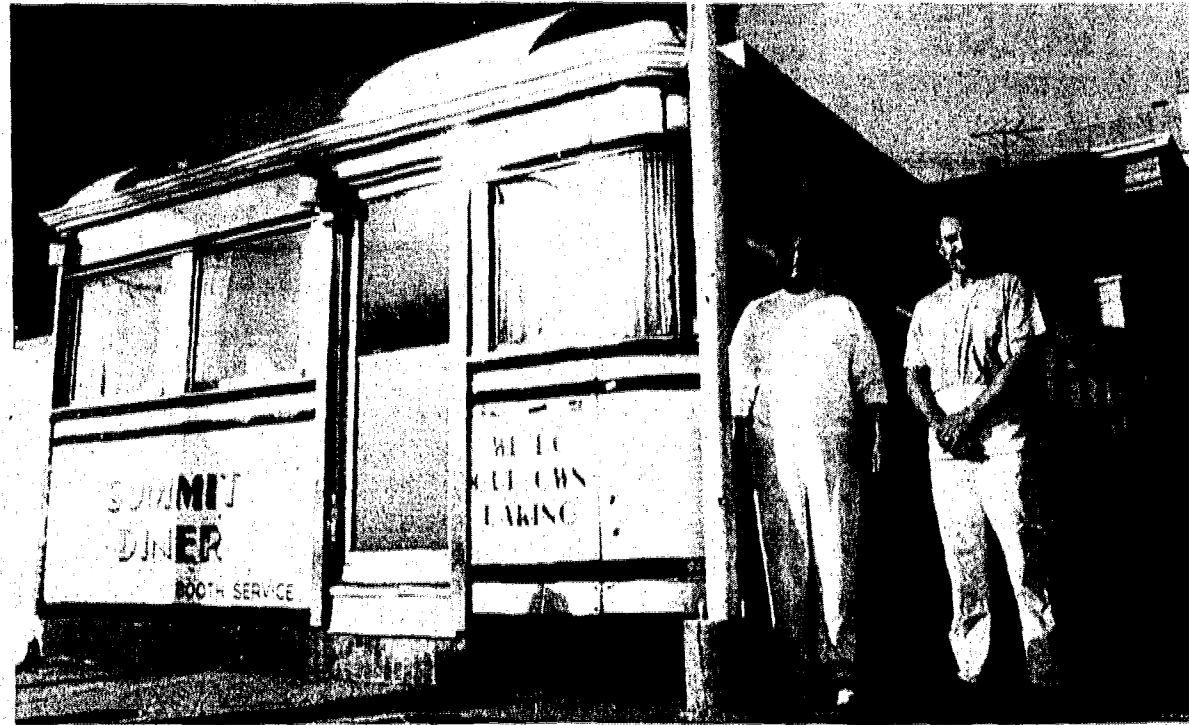
The owners do not know the exact time of the pre-game show, but thought it would be in the middle of the afternoon, with the kickoff at 6 p.m. "This is perfect because we both work on Sundays from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m., when the diner closes," Anastos said. "We will have time to get home and watch the show."

Grebaris lives in Bernardsville with his wife, Michelle, and two children; Peter, 14, and Georgina, 13, and he said the entire family will be watching. Anastos lives in New Providence with his wife, Nancy, and their two daughters, Kirsten, 18 and Megan, 16. "We will all be watching also," said Anastos.

Grebaris laughed and said they couldn't buy better publicity for any price. The diner hasn't changed much since 1929, and that is the way they want it. Many loyal Summit fans wouldn't have it any other way.

Daily specials are old-fashioned home cooking, like corned beef and cabbage, grilled steak and baked ziti. Soups are made fresh every day by chef Tommy Mixas. Ten employees alternate hours, and both owners help out; they cook, serve and work the register when necessary. Both men put in well more than 40 hours, but Grebaris is philosophical. "At least when we do get home, we don't take the work with us, like lawyers, for instance. We can just forget the place. Yes, I still like the job."

Summit Police Chief William Schneller walked in the diner for a late lunch just as this interview ended. When asked about the food, he said enthusiastically, "It's great. I eat here every day."



During the Super Bowl pre-game show Jan. 28, the 72-year-old Summit Diner will be featured during a 20-minute skit. Co-owners John Anastos and Jim Grebaris are thrilled that millions of fans around the world will see the local landmark.

CLUBS IN THE NEWS

Guard to study Africa

The program at the Summit Area Old Guard meeting Tuesday will focus on Africa. The guest speaker will be Willis H. Logan, director of the Africa Program of Church World Service and Witness, National Council of the Churches of Christ.

Logan associates with the principle agencies and governments throughout the continent. He has been special assistant to the General Secretary of the All-Africa Conference of Churches in Nairobi, executive director of the City College YMCA and project director of the American Committee on Africa.

Logan's talk, which was arranged by Old Guard Program Chairman Arthur Bauer, will provide an interesting and unusual insight into Africa. A question-and-answer period will follow the presentation. Members are encouraged to invite guests.

The Old Guard is an organization for retired men. Its members come from Summit and 25 neighboring communities. Meetings are conducted weekly on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at the New Providence Municipal Building.

In addition to weekly meetings which feature talks on interesting subjects, Old Guard members participate in sports such as golf, swimming, fishing and tennis as well as bridge, theater and trips.

Membership is open to all retired men. Information is available by calling Bob Regan at (908) 464-5329; at the web site at www.summitoldguard.homestead.com; or by writing P.O. Box 386, Summit, 07902-0386 for a free descriptive folder.

AARP meets Monday

The Summit Area Chapter 5040 of the AARP will conduct its regular

monthly meeting at 10 a.m. Monday at St. John's Lutheran Church. Coffee and social begin at 9:45 a.m.

This month's meeting topic will be a discussion about the benefits of long-term care insurance.

Reservations are still being accepted for the Caribbean cruise scheduled for April 21 to 28. Day trips are being planned to see the Tim Gillis Jamboree Feb. 18; the Broadway show "Contact," with dinner in Little Italy March 4; and a West Point Military Academy tour, Hudson River boat cruise and lunch May 17. Call Angie Coiro at 273-3146 or Herman Piraneo at 273-1962 for reservations and details.

The Summit Area Chapter of AARP conducts its regular monthly meetings at 10 a.m. on the fourth Monday of each month at St. John's Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Ave. Its next regular meeting will be Feb. 26.

Fortnightly Club lunch

The Fortnightly Club will host a noon luncheon Wednesday at the clubhouse, 214 Springfield Ave.

Carol G. Titus, a professional storyteller and retired educator, will speak. She is also known for having coordinated the annual Storytelling Festival at Waterloo Village. She has a vivid imagination — you may find yourself in some of her stories.

The luncheon committee, headed by Mrs. George Montague of Summit, will include Mrs. Solomon Rubenstein of Fanwood, Mrs. Wayne Rutsky of Millburn, Mrs. Bruce Dickerson of Mountainside, and Mrs. Saba Balish and Mrs. William Pierson of Summit.

The cost is \$12 and reservations will be taken by Ann Dunn by calling (908) 273-3462.

Checks should be sent to her by Friday at 139 Stoneridge Rd., Murray Hill, 07901.

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Springfielder robbed at gunpoint

Springfield

- A Springfield Avenue resident was robbed at gunpoint by an unknown suspect near the Morris Avenue Foodtown Jan. 10. The victim, who was not injured, was robbed of \$680 cash and \$600 worth of traveler's checks. The theft occurred around 3 p.m.
- Short Hills resident Joshua David Pollack was transferred to Springfield Police Headquarters by Millburn officers Jan. 10 on two outstanding warrants. He was released on bail.
- A brown backpack belonging to an Elizabeth resident was reported stolen from the gym floor of Bally's Total Fitness on Route 22 East Jan. 9. The bag contained \$100 cash, a bank card, the victim's driver's license, car keys and house keys.
- A Hillside resident reported the theft of their vehicle from the Bob's Store parking lot Jan. 8.

POLICE BLOTTER

- A birth certificate and Social Security card belonging to a South Amboy resident were reported stolen from the Division of Motor Vehicles on Center Street Jan. 4.

Mountainside

- Plainfield resident Brian Jones, 33, was arrested by borough police Jan. 14 and charged with driving with a suspended license. Jones also had a warrant out of Highland Park in the amount of \$780. A court date was set in Mountainside for Feb. 22.
- Jorge Lopes, 18, of Newark, was arrested for driving with a suspended license Jan. 13. He was given a court date of Feb. 22.
- Elizabeth resident Vivian Alvarado, 23, was arrested by borough officers Jan. 12 for driving with a suspended license. She was stopped on

Route 22 West and Justin Place for not having an inspection sticker posted on her vehicle.

- Plainfield resident Francisco Demosoco and Guttenberg resident Edilberto Londono were both charged with driving with a suspended license Jan. 11. Wayne Blanchard Jr. of Plainfield was picked up by South Plainfield police on a warrant out of Mountainside.
- James Nash, 66, of Newark was arrested by Westfield police on a warrant out of the borough Jan. 10. Another Newark resident, Rizal Gilmore, 26, was arrested by Edison Police on a Mountainside warrant. Bail for Gilmore was set at \$261. Robert Evans of Plainfield was charged with being an unlicensed driver after he was stopped by borough police at the Mountainside/Scotch Plains border. He was released on his own recognizance and given a court date of Jan. 25.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Matthew Leibowitz, son of David and Diane Leibowitz of Springfield, will celebrate his sixth birthday on Jan. 26. Joining in the celebration will be brother Andrew and grandmothers Carol Grieco of Springfield and Gloria Leibowitz of Elizabeth.

Annual hikes reflect CPI

(Continued from Page 1)

The councilman said he is in favor of a small hike this year, following one in 2000, rather than having a large hike after several years of no increases.

"We are getting to the point of a cost of living increase annually," Turner said.

Turner said the additional revenue for the pool will fund several routine facility and equipment upgrades. In addition, the revenue derived from the fee increase will be used to fund additional social programming at the pool.

Turner noted that the additional activities will include the continuation of float nights and adult parties. More programming will be added so that non-resident members and resident members have an opportunity to get to know each other.

"We are trying to get a daily volleyball game started," Turner said, noting that basketball games have also been conducted.

Turner said he is interested in trying to focus on activities to assist both the resident and non-resident members of the pool. He supports having non-Mountainside residents utilize the facility and has seen an increase in recent years.

her home than the Scotch Plains pool and it offered good swim lesson programs for her children.

Wiener said that while she can sympathize with borough officials over the rising cost of running the pool and maintaining current programs, she does not find this to be the appropriate time to raise the pool fees.

"I can understand that costs are rising, but I don't think that it is wise time to do this. Last year, with the weather, the pool did not have as large of an attendance as in past years," Wiener said, noting that her family's attendance rate went down last year as well.

Wiener said many out-of-town members of the Mountainside pool are debating whether or not to rejoin this year. She said the most common reason cited by her friends is that their children are older and they use the pool less than in previous years.

Wiener said her family also is debating whether or not to rejoin the pool this year. She said her family will make a decision after analyzing their attendance rate from last year and anticipated attendance this year.

Wiener said her son will be attending a camp over the summer, limiting the amount of time her family will spend at the facility.

Kitchen cabinets go up in flames

Springfield

A saucepan filled with cooking oil touched off a cooking fire at a Robin Court residence Friday.

The pan, which had been left unattended, resulted in the kitchen's cabinets catching fire. Firefighters extinguished the flames with a hose-line and removed the saucepan to the backyard. The area was checked for fire extension, but none was found. Two foam extinguishers were used to wet down the charred wood around

FIRE BLOTTER

the stove and the kitchen window. No injuries were reported.

- A utility pole fire sent the department to the intersection of Morris and Linden avenues Saturday. There was one motor vehicle accident and one call for an activated fire alarm.
- Firefighters responded to a Meisel Avenue residence on a report

of an odor of gas Friday. One motor vehicle accident on Route 24 West, two calls for activated alarms and four medical service calls were also answered.

- The department placed a ladder truck on standby for the Union Fire Department on a request for mutual aid Jan. 10. There was one medical service call.
- There were no calls Jan. 9.
- Six medical service calls kept the department hopping Jan. 8.

June unveiling of path expected

(Continued from Page 1)

veral improvements to the Hetfield House.

According to both Benninger and Mortimer, the Historic Preservation Committee has launched a several-pronged marketing campaign for the brick program.

Currently, there is no final deadline for when brick orders have to be placed. Benninger said the committee is hoping to unveil the new pathway at the beginning of June. He said sales for the brick program are progressing at a steady rate and he hopes to see more orders come in soon.

Mortimer said the final brick orders will be placed to the vendor to receive a bulk rate. For information on ordering a brick, call the Historic Preservation Committee at (908) 232-2400.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE
PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mountainside Shade Tree Commission will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday, January 31, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. on the second floor of the Mountainside Municipal Bldg., 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, NJ. All are welcome to attend and participate at this meeting.
Ruth M. Rees
Secretary
U3338 ECL January 18, 2001 (\$5.00)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Premises commonly known as 3 DIVEN STREET, SPRINGFIELD, NJ 07081 BEING KNOWN AS LOT 37, BLOCK 123, on the official Tax Map of the Township of SPRINGFIELD. Dimensions: 66 ft. x 101 ft. x 65 ft. x 101 ft.
Nearest Cross Street: Springfield Avenue
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SHERIFF: RALPH FROELICH FULL LEGAL DESCRIPTION IS FILED AT THE UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE DOLLARS AND SEVENTY CENTS. TOTAL JUDGMENT AMOUNT (\$118,539.70)
Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 2001 (\$88.00) U2978 ECL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Health of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey.
Be it ordained by the Board of Health of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that General Ordinance #BH01-2000 entitled as above be amended as follows:
Section 1
The following annual salary is hereby fixed for officers and employees of the Board of Health and shall be retroactively payable from January 1, 2001.
Board Attorney \$1,500.00
Jerrod J. Wohlgemuth
Section 2
This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after final passage and publication according to law.
Patricia Lynn
President, Board of Health
U3375 ECL Jan. 18, 2001 (\$19.50)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD
COUNTY OF UNION
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RENT CONTROL BOARD WILL BE HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2001 AT 7:30 P.M.
MURRAY FROMER
SECRETARY
U3382 ECL Jan. 18, 2001 (\$5.00)

SHERIFF'S SALE
SHERIFF'S NUMBER CH-755243
DIVISION: CHANCERY
COUNTY: UNION
DOCKET NO. F1199899
PLAINTIFF: OCWEN FEDERAL BANK, FSB
DEFENDANT: JOHN JEROME BROWN, ET ALS.
WRITE OF EXECUTION DATE: APRIL 10, 2000
SALE DATE: WEDNESDAY THE 7TH DAY OF FEBRUARY A.D. 2001
By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public vendue, at the UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 10 ELIZABETH TOWN PLAZA, Elizabeth, N.J., on WEDNESDAY, at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.
Property to be sold is located in the Township of Springfield, County of Union and State of New Jersey.

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD
COUNTY OF UNION, N.J.
TAKE NOTICE, that the Workshop Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2001, at 7:30 p.m. has been rescheduled for 7:00 p.m.
The Tuesday Meeting will be held in the Caucus Room, Municipal Building, KATHLEEN D. WISNIEWSKI Township Clerk
U3381 ECL Jan. 18, 2001 (\$5.00)

GENERAL ORDINANCE #BH01-2001
An Ordinance by the Board of Health of the Township of Springfield to amend Ordinance #BH01-2000 of the Board of Health entitled "An Ordinance relating to salaries of officers and employees of the Board of Health."
Marilyou Fashano-Solito
Board Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public notice is hereby given that an Ordinance of which the following is a copy was introduced, read and passed on first reading by the Springfield Board of Health at a Re-organization meeting held on January 10, 2001. The Board of Health will further consider the same for final passage on February 14, 2001 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held in the Springfield Annex Building, Springfield, New Jersey, at which time and place members of the public will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said Ordinance.
Marilyou Fashano-Solito
Board Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE
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Patricia Lynn
President, Board of Health
U3375 ECL Jan. 18, 2001 (\$19.50)

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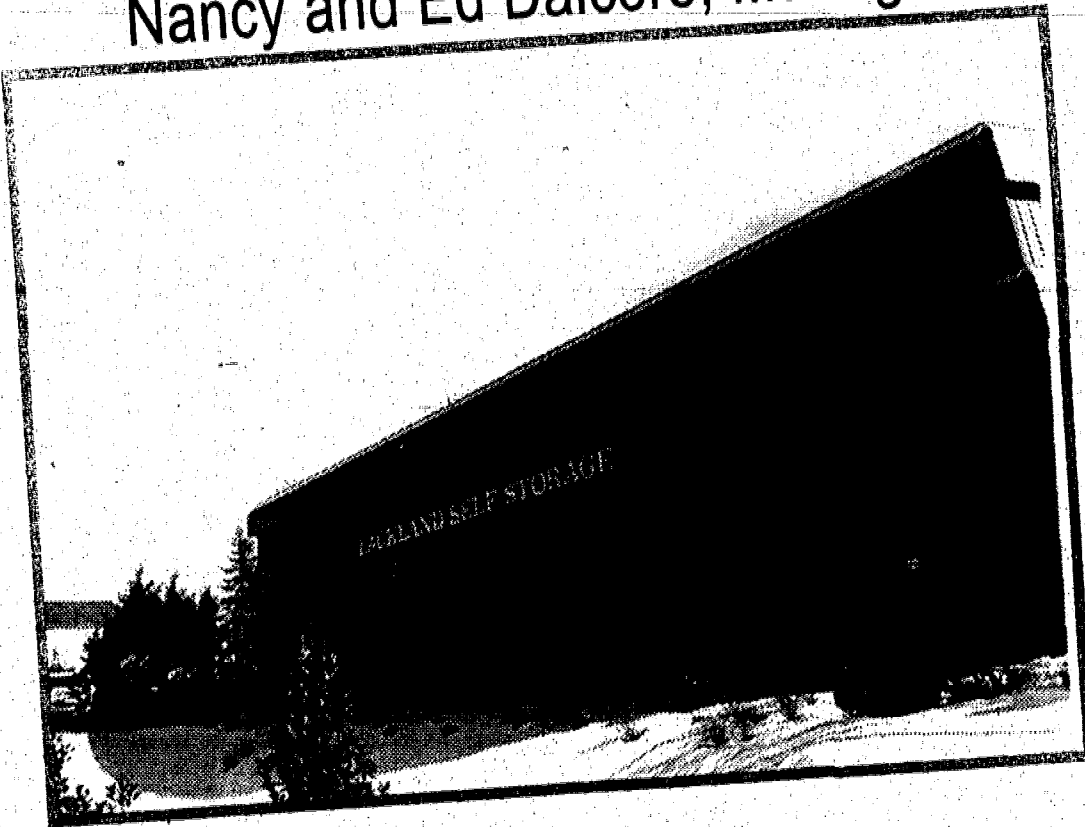


Nancy and Ed Dalcerio, Managers

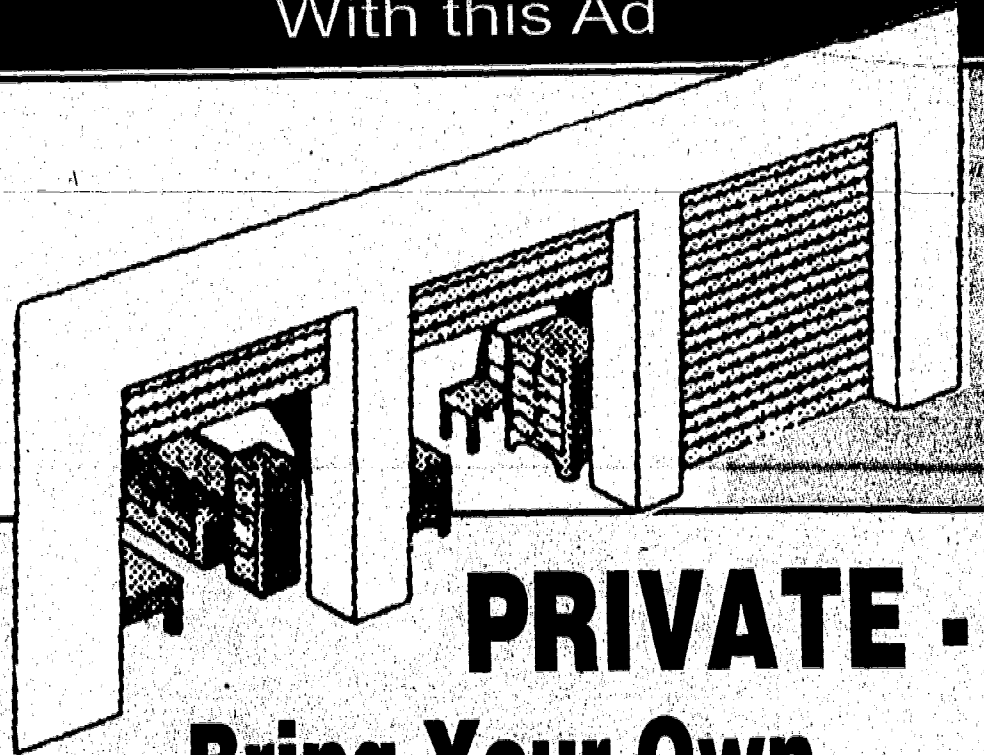
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