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Public to decide athletic referendum on Tuesday

By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor

A \$3.4-million bond referendum will be presented to Springfield voters again on Tuesday that would fund various upgrades and improvements to the school district's athletic fields. The project includes work at countyowned Meisel Avenue Park which has been used by Jonathan Dayton High School athletic teams for many years.

Union County is providing approximately \$325,000 toward the project while the state plans to contribute \$675,000, leaving the remaining \$2.4 million to be raised by a five-year bond that would add approximately \$84 to the average property tax bill for the life of the bond.

Voters rejected an identical referendum on Dec. 12 by a margin of only 10 votes, about 597 votes against and 587 for. That day, a power outage affected much of the township and caused all 12 voting districts to be consolidated at two polling stations.

About \$2.1 million of the \$3.4-million bond referendum is estimated to be spent at Meisel Field; \$435,000 at the fields in front of the high school on Mountain Avenue;

\$372,000 on fields between Edward V. Walton School on Mountain Avenue and Thelma L. Sandmeier School on South Springfield Avenue; \$311,000 on the soccer fields behind

Dayton high school, and \$178,000 on the fields behind Florence M. Gaudineer School on South Springfield

See COMMITTEES, Page 5

CALL [908] 686-9898 & Enter the four digit selection # below! BOND REFERENDUM Call Tuesday after 10 p.m. for election Intosource results.

Referendum polling places

Polls for Tuesday's special school board referendum on the \$3.4-million athletic field renovations will be open Tuesday from 2 to 9 p.m. All of the following polling places are handicap-accessible:

• Districts 1, 4: Presbyterian Parish House, Church Mall, lower level off

- Districts 2, 3: Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall.
- Districts 5, 6: James Caldwell School, Caldwell Place, gym.
- Districts 7, 8, 9: Florence Gaudineer School, South Springfield Avenue, gym.
- Districts 10, 13, 14: Edward V. Walton School Mountain Avenue, gym.
- Districts 11, 12: Thelma Sandmeier School, South Springfield Avenue, gym.

For more information about your polling place location call the Union County Board of Elections at (908) 527-4123.

Replace existing walkway Meisel Field Backstops/team benches Soccer goals New fieldhouse \$786,000 30 Scoreboard All-weather, six-lane track \$605,000 \$9,680 Irrigation Grandstand/pressbox \$302,500 Water lines/spigots \$4,840 \$151,250 Drainage/piping \$4,840 Drainage inlets \$81,675 Chain-link fence \$3.025 Backstops/team benches/infield mix \$61,710 Subtotal \$311,371 \$33,880 \$24,200 Walton/Sandmeler Reseeding \$21,780 \$10,890 Chain-link fence Irrigation \$145,200 \$9,680 \$72,000 Signage \$8,450 Sodding \$54,450 \$42,350 Water lines/spigots Backstops/team benches/infield mix \$6.050 Subtotal Bleachers \$2,103,065 \$15,972 Soccer goals Dayton front fields Regrading \$12,100 Irrigation \$9,880 Storage building \$8,470 Tennis courts \$94,380 Water lines/spigots \$4,840 Underdrain Replace/reroute existing walkway \$1,050 Fill, regrading, sod Subtotal \$366,912 Topsoil \$70,180 Bleachers \$42,350 Gaudineer Backstops/team benches/infield mix \$23,305 Soccer goals \$15,972 \$15,730 Topsoil \$82,280 \$9,680 Sodding \$41,140 Water lines/spigots \$16,940 \$4,840 Backstops/team benches \$435,552 \$14,520 Remove/relocate walkway/parking lot \$12,100 Varsity soccer field Regrade \$6,776 Water lines/spigots \$4,840 Subtotal \$128,596 Lighting \$84,700 Topsoil **Grand total** \$3,400,366 Bleachers

Source: Springfield School District

The state has pledged approximately \$675,000 for the project and Union County has earmarked 325,000. The remainder will be raised through a bond referendum scheduled for public approval on Tuesday. Engineering and contingency fees are included in the cost for each item.

Community Presbyterian dates back to borough's farmland

By Joan M. Devlin Staff Writer

Editor's note: This is the sixth part in a series highlighting various houses of worship in Mountainside and Springfield.

Set back on a hill on Deer Path in Mountainside, the simple yet beautiful Community Presbyterian Church has been there about as long as its neighbors.

"All the surrounding homes were built in the early 1950s, when Mountainside came into being," said the pastor, The Rev. Christopher Belden, "and the Presbyterian congregation was formed in 1954; the church was built in 1956. For two years, the origi nal members used a room at Deerfield School for worship. Mountainside is a relatively new community, as prior to 1950 everything was farmland."

The minister has been at Community Presbyterian for the past 14 years, and is well-versed in the history of the area, which he has grown to love. The church is part of the Presbytery of Elizabeth and back in the '50s, it was part of the largest Protestant denomination. That has changed now: "We are about 10th or 11th now." said Belden, "as there was a decline nationwide in church membership after that; now, however, the pendulum is swinging back."

The parish is L-shaped, as the fellowship hall, or Christian education building as Belden calls it, connects with the sanctuary, and is virtually as large inside as the sanctuary itself. This was added to the church in 1960, and is in full use for all church events including Sunday School classes.

The church currently has 350 members. "We have been taking in new members every year, but we also lose members; usually older members move away. The homes are all very large, and when children grow up and move out, it can be too much to care for, and so that may account for the changes," said the pastor.

The good news is that just like Mountainside itself, most of the members tend to fall into the young to middle age category and are families with growing children. The minister has two teenage sons himself.

Inside the sanctuary, which is brick on the outside and wood frame on the inside, the only adornment is a huge Celtic cross; a tradition for Presbyterians. The cross is at the altar, and behind it is a long floor-to-ceiling curtain which artfully conceals their wonderful pipe organ.

"Our pipe organ is an Aeolian-Skinner, a famous manufacturer, and was one of the last ones built in America. It was installed in the early

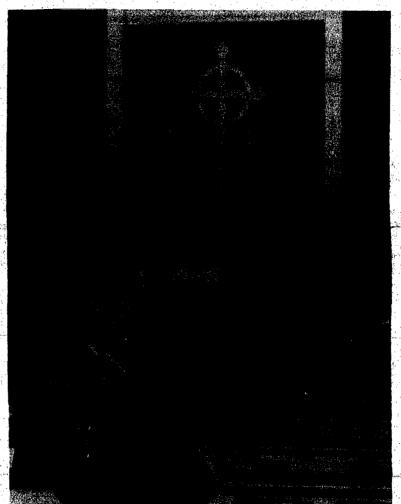
1960s. It was a whole lot of money contributed by the people, so we could buy it," the pastor said. "The sound is tremendous.'

Music is a large part of the worship as in all Protestant churches, and Belden is very happy with his choir director, a Russian emigre, Lyudmila Syrochkina. "She is an excellent musician and organist and inspires us." Besides the regular choir, the church has a bell choir which sits in the balcony.

The minister's last parish was the Christ United Presbyterian in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., where he served six years. Prior to that, he was assistant pastor at First Presbyterian, Clarion, Pa. Belden has a doctorate in theology from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

How does he like his 24/7 job? "I would not change it, but one of the things that took me by surprise at first was how much I had to deal with death and dying in my first congregation, which was primarily elderly. We are trained for this, however." Belden also has a master's degree in social work, so he is prepared for many aspects of human life, all of which he has encountered in his ministry.

When asked about the future, he said, "I see the church as a strong force in future times.



The Rev. Christopher Belden has been pastor at the Community Presbyterian Church on Deer Path in Mountainside for 14 years. The congregation was formed in 1954 and they used a room at Deerfield School for worship until the church was built in 1956.

County and township in negotiations

By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor

The Board of Chosen Freeholders last week agreed to negotiate with Springfield "for the exchange of certain properties owned by the county and the township and dedicated to Green Acres purposes." What the properties will entail precisely is what county and township officials will determine.

In a proposed trade of parkland, Springfield is expected to receive about nine acres that surround Jonathan Dayton High School on Mountain Avenue, including Wabeno Avenue Park, while the county would get more than 11 acres adjacent to four acres the county already owns at the Union-Springfield border on Mor-

ris Avenue. County Manager Michael Lapolla stressed that the swap would not include land where a former chemical dye plant was housed, which has raised concerns about the potential for contaminated soil at Meisel Avenue Park. The property the town would get extends only from the high school to fields that abut the dormant Rahway Valley rail line.

"This is just the next step," Freeholder Linda Stender said. "It doesn't finalize any agreement." The issue of potential contamination is expected to be discussed as an issue in the negotiations.

In addition to the land swap, county and local school officials are working on a new long-term agreement for use and maintenance of Meisel Avenue Park. The school board's last lease with the county expired in 1983. The park is county-owned but the township's schools have used the fields for many years.

School and county officials have had a "number of conversations" about a new lease" which would be "for a number of years, not less than 30," Superintendent of Schools Gary Friedland said during a school board meeting earlier this month.

Priority use for municipal and school use, Friedland said, is a change from the previous contract and a main point for the school district.

"There are certain things we wanted different from the original contract," he said, adding that agreements the county has with other towns, including Summit, were

examined. In 1998, the freeholders agreed to allow Summit to build new new ballfields near the Sheriff's Complex on Glenside Avenue and the city would lease the fields from the county for \$1 a year for 99 years.

Friedland said information gathered from public meetings about the \$3.4-million bond referendum for athletic fields last year was incorporated into the district's draft of the lease that was sent to the county.

Borough incumbents to seek re-election

By Joan M. Devlin Staff Writer

Mountainside Board of Education find it necessary to seek another term because the district is in the middle of plans to expand schools to address increasing enrollment. With a 4 p.m. deadline on Monday to file nominating petitions to run in the April 17 Board of Education election, no one officially filed has as of presstime, however, board President Patricia Taeschler and Richard Kress plan to seek re-election. Incumbent Sally Rivieccio could not be reached for Three of the seven seats on the

board are up, all three-year terms.

"I have served nine years," Taeschler said, "and at this time, I plan on running again; I am very dedicated to

the children and we are working so hard on the expansions now." She At least two incumbents on the also thought all incumbents would be running again.

> "We all have until the 26th of February to come forward, and it sometimes happens that people procrastinate and file at the last minute,"

"I will probably run again," Kress said when reached Tuesday afternoon. "It is pretty hard to walk away from all that is going on now, with the bond issue and the renovations."

The board will present a \$6.8-million bond referendum on March 27 that would provide funds to reopen the Beechwood School on Woodacres Drive as well as expand the Deerfield School on Central

Two of three incumbents decided in Springfield

By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor

Two of three incumbents whose terms are up on the Springfield Board of Education this year plan to file for re-election by Monday's 4 p.m. deadline to run in the April 17 public vote.

Linda Duke already filed her nominating petition last week and will seek a

See INCUMBENTS, Page 5

Annual Highlander auction Friday

Preparing for the Governor Livingston Band Parents Organization's Highlander Auction on Friday are, from left, Richard Mansfield, Richard Klumb and Daria Szkwarko. The non-bid auction, which will benefit the award-winning Highlander Band, will be at the high school, 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and the auction will begin at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person, which includes a block of tickets, a \$2.50 value, and a complimentary beverage and dessert. For more information call (908) 464-3100.

Welcome to the **ECHO LEADER**

How to reach us:

The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Worrall Community Newspapers, an independent, family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant 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

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The Echo Leader provides an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed double spaced, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and day time phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and

The Echo Leader accepts opinion pieces by e-mail. Our address is Editorial@localsource.com.

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the general news section of the Echo Leader must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m. for publication that week. Advertising for placement in the B section must be in our office by Monday at noon. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Call 908-686-7700 for an appointment. Ask for the display advertising department.

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RECREATION

'Festivities' end with program on snakes

Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, concludes its "February Festivities," Friday at 1:30 p.m. with "Snakes of New Jersey," for families with children ages 6 and older. Did you know 21 different species of snakes live in New Jersey? Meet Trailside's live snakes and learn some surprising serpintine facts while observing snake feeding in Trailside's reptile room. The fee is \$3 per person and pre-registration is required.

Trailside is a facility of the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation.

For a complete listing of "February Festivities" programs and information on upcoming events, call Trailside Nature & Science Center at (908) 789-3670.

YMCA registration

It's time to register for early spring classes at the Springfield YMCA. General registration has started. The Spring I session runs from Monday 26 to April 22.

A variety of class offerings for ages 21/2 to 6 includes preschool readiness and enrichment classes such as "Mad About Monday," "Wild About Wednesday," and "Friday Fun" that prepares youngsters in a fun way for school. In addition "Toddle Tots" a parent and child classes for walking to ages 21/2 on Tuesday, 10:15 to 11 a.m. and "Art Works" for ages 1-21/4, Thursdays, 10:15 to 11 a.m.

Youth Sports classes will be Saturdays. Classes for ages 4 to 6 include "Street Devils Hockey," a NJ Devils sponsored program from 9:15 to 10 a.m. and T-Ball from 10:15 to 11 a.m. For children in grades one and two, classes include "Street Devils Hockey" and basketball from 11:15 to noon. The Y's sports programs teach basic sports skills and emphasize team sportmanship, fair play and fun.

In addition, the Y is offering two, hands-on educational science classese for the "curious" child in grades K-6.Sign up for "Mad Science" and "Mad Science 2" both on Saturdays from 11 to noon.

Registration takes place in person at the Springfield YMCA, 100 S. Springfield Ave. For more information call (973) 467-0838.

Line dancing instruction offered at Beechwood

The Mountainside Recreation Department presents line dancing on Monday and March 5, 12 and 19 at Beechwood School Gym from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m.

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The cost is \$16 for residents, \$20 for non-residents.

Participants should wear comfortable clothes and leather soled shoes. The instructor will be Joan Wright. For more information call the Recreation Department at (908) 232-0015.

Afterschool child care

The Springfield YMCA has started enrollment in its Afterschool Child Care program for the 2001-02 school year. In-person registration is taking place at the Y, located at the Chisholm Community Center, 100 S. Springfield Ave.

The YMCA Afterschool Child Care is an afternoon program designed for children attending kindergarten to grade six attending Springfield and Millburn public elementary schools.

The state-licensed program is designed to allow children to explore and learn at their own pace. Offering activities daily, school-age children have the opportunity to participate in arts & crafts, gym recreation and sports, swim instruction, homework and special events.

Children may register in the program two days up to five days, and choose from a number of options include Before School Care and Extended Care hours and a Holiday, School and snow day plans.

The program includes afternoon transportation from Springfield schools including James Caldwell, Thelma V. Sandmeier, Edward V. Wlton, and Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School, fifth and sixth grades. Millburn schools include Glenwood, South Mountain and Wymoning elementary schools.

Registration for all YMCA childcare programs is on an ongoing basis. The program, begins on the first day of schools, in September.

For fees and more information call Michelle Mereckx, Child Care Director at (973) 467-0838 or online at www.summitareaymca.org.

Golf memberships

The Springfield Recreation Department announces it now has memberships to the Millburn Township Par 3 Golf Course available at the Recreation Office, 30 Church Mall.

The cost is \$160 person for a full membership and \$80 for a limited membership.

For more information call (973) 912-2227.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To give your community event the publicity it deserves, mail your schedule to Echo Leader, Attn: managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

- The Great Books Reading and Discussion Group meets at the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. when the Book of Job from the Bible will be discussed. The discussion leader will be Arlene Blaumeiser. All are welcome. No advanced registration is required. For more information call (973) 376-4930.
- The Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, offers Preschool Storytime for 3 and 4-year-olds on Thursdays at 2 p.m. until March 8. For more information or to register call (908) 233-0115 to sign up.
- The Mountainside Newcomers Club sponsors a Men's Night Out at 8 p.m. at Chrone's Tavern. Call Jim Pisano at (908) 389-0455 for information and to RSVP. Friday

• The Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, offers Toddler Time for 2-year-olds on Fridays at

10:30 a.m. until March 9. For more information or to register, call (908) 233-0115 to sign up. • The Governor Livingston Band Parents Organization sponsors the Highlander Auction with doors to open at 7 p.m. and the auction to begin at 8 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person which includes a book of tickets, \$2.50 value, and a complimentary beverage and dessert.

For more information call (908) 464-3100. Snow date is

Saturday Sunday

March 9.

• Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, sponsors "Winter get-a-way Australia" featuring Trailside's intrepid traveler Holly Hoffman, who will present a slide tour of Victoria Province, the jungle at Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef, at 2 p.m. Donation is requested.

Monday

• The Mountainside Recreation Department offers line dancing at Beechwood School Gym from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$16 for residents, \$20 for nonresidents. For more information call the Recreation Department at (908) 232-0015.

• The Springfield Township Committee meets for a workshop session at 7:30 p.m. in the Annex Building, 20 N. Trivett Ave.

• The Springfield Board of Education conducts a regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the board meeting room at Jonathan Dayton High School, 125 Mountain Ave. Tuesday

 The Springfield School District conducts a special election for a school bond referendum to renovate athletic fields. Polls will be open from 2 to 9 p.m.

• The Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, offers Storytime Theatre for Kindergarten on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. until March 6. For more information or to register, call (908) 233-0115 to sign

• The Springfield Township Committee meets for a workshop session at 7:30 p.m. followed by a regular meeting at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 100 Moun-

• The Mountainside Board of Education meets at 8 R.m. in the Deerfield School Media Center, 302 Central Ave. and School Drive. A reception will precede the meeting at 7 p.m. for all school volunteers.

• The Mountainside Newcomers Club sponsors Ladies Night Out, with Movie Night at the Rialto Theatre in Westfield. For more information and to RSVP call Heather Pisano at (908) 389-0455.

Upcoming March 1

• The Foothill Club 38th birthday luncheon will be at noon at B.G. Fields Restaurant in Westfield, featuring a show and tell with members participating. Guests are welcoome. For reservations call Genevieve Kaczka at (908) 232-3626.

• The Governor Livingston Hilltop Players will present "Evita" at 7:30 p.m. at the high school, 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights. Tickets are \$7, \$4 for senior citizens on Saturday night only. For advanced tickets call the GL Hilltop Players Auxiliary.

March 2

• The Project Graduation committee of Governor Livingston High School will sponsor a spaghetti dinner at the high school cafeteria from 5 to 8 p.m. The menu will include spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread. beverage, cake and coffee at a cost of \$7 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and children under 12.

Reservations are recommended and can be arranged by calling Karen at (908) 464-3006.

• The Governor Livingston Hilltop Players will present "Evita" at 8 p.m. at the high school, 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights. Tickets are \$7, \$4 for senior citizens on Saturday night only. For advanced tickets call the GL Hilltop Players Auxiliary.

March 3

• Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, seeks volunteers for trail work to be done from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 14 and up. Bring a lunch, a mug for beverage, and shovel, pickaxe and gloves, if you have them. To preregister call (908) 789-3670.

• The Mountainside Newcomers Club will sponsor Mommy & Me Bumper Bowling at Garwood Lanes. The cost is \$10 per child, which includes hot dog, chips, soda, two hours of bowling and shoes. Call Margaret DiPalma at (908) 518-0134 to RSVP.

• The Evening Group of the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield will sponsor its annual pasta dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Parish House on Church Mall. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Call the church office at (973) 379-4320 for more information and tickets.

• The Governor Livingston Hilltop Players will present "Evita" at 8 p.m. at the high school, 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights. Tickets are \$7, \$4 for senior citizens on Saturday night only. For advanced tickets call the GL Hilltop Players Auxiliary. March 4

 Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, will sponsor its Sunday family program, "Big Bird Hike," at 2 p.m., a 1 1/2-hour walk on the newest trail. Donation is requested. March 5

• The Springfield Board of Education will conduct a conference meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room at Jonathan Dayton High School.

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Expert proposes wall for supermarket site.

By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor

A 15-foot-high, 1,000-foot-long wall is one option for the owners of a proposed Stop & Shop in Springfield to meet the township's noise ordinance during nighttime hours. Edward Clark of Ostergaard Acoustical Associates of West Orange, an acoustic and noise expert for Village Supermarkets Inc., a competing supermarket firm, offered the option in a noise study presented during testimony at Tuesday night's Board of Adjustment meeting.

Clark was presented by Stephen Barcan, attorney for Springfieldbased Village Supermarkets Inc., and cross-examined by James Segreto, attorney for Royal Ahold which owns the former Saks Fifth Avenue property at 90 Millburn Ave. Segreto also brought back Henry Ney, his traffic expert, to answer questions from the public. The firm is seeking site plan approval from the township's Board of Adjustment.

The Stop & Shop application was last heard by the Board of Adjustment in November when Ney was crossexamined by Millburn's attorney, James D'Elia.

In his report, Clark had concerns about "mobile noise sources," such as trucks and tractor-trailers making deliveries, but not with rooftop equipment, such as refrigeration or condensers, because some type of shielding could be used there to meet the township's noise code. Heavy truck or tractor-trailers generate a noise level of 80 decibels, DBA, at a distance of 50 feet; 70 DBA at 150 feet, and 64 DBA at 300 feet.

Clark took noise readings last fall from two points on the Stop & Shop property. Background noise created a DBA level between 47 and 51, primarily due to noise from nearby Route 24. Traffic from Millburn Avenue and a jet plane flying overhead bumped readings to about 65 DBA and a passing firetruck with active sirens generated 70 to 75 DBA.

At a residential property line, the township's ordinance limits noise from a neighboring commercial property to no more than 65 DBA between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. and 50 DBA from

10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Noise levels are exceeded in all categories of trucks that would use the route within the property — the ring road — to make deliveries, which is only 50 feet from the residential property line. Tractor-trailers at loading docks 300 feet from the property line would generate 64 DBA. The only

way to meet township noise codes "without the extraordinary use of noise control barriers," Clark said, would be to limit trucks to daytime hours.

One supermarket Clark has worked with, in West Windsor, does have a 15- to 20-foot-high wall but it is across the street from a residential area. At a supermarket in Spotswood, a wall and burm have been put in on the residential property line.

A wall is technically feasible, Clark said, since it solves acoustical problems, but then other issues are raised such as aesthetics, wind load, cost and possibly drainage. These factors could be dealt with in the final analysis of the site wall.

Another option, Clark said might be to reconfigure the site and move the supermarket building closer to the center of the property, keeping noisy vehicles a maximum distance from homes. Segreto repeatedly asked the noise expert how the site plan could be modified to reduce noise.

"A sound wall would work, it could be done," Barcan said, "to make the operations of the site comply with noise codes." The attorney, however, said Clark is merely a noise engineer, not a site plan engineer, and cannot answer questions about reconfiguring

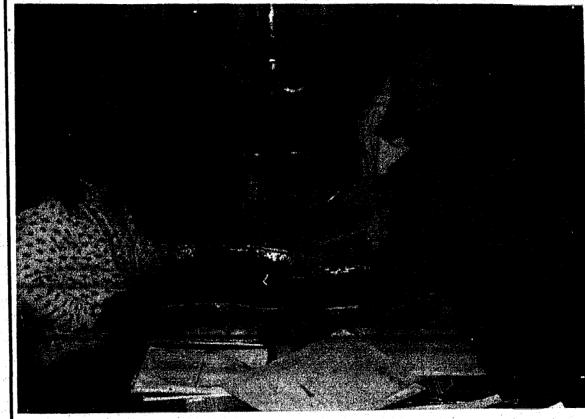
Heavy trucks need 300 feet to meet the township's daytime noise limit, Clark said. The applicant should have had a noise study done. The noise report he presented, Clark said, has options that could mitigate issues of noise on the site plan.

Ney, Stop & Shop's traffic expert, presented a study, requested by the Zoning Board, of traffic in the surrounding area. The report included recommendations to resolve existing traffic problems and will be forwarded to the Township Committee and Police Department.

Stop & Shop's site plan application is expected to continue at the Board of Adjustment's next meeting on March 20 when objecting attorneys will present a traffic engineer, planner and operations person.

Stop & Shop is looking to turn the former Saks property at the Springfield-Millburn border into a nearly 70,000-square-foot supermarket. The superarket chain purchased the 10-acre site in 1994 from Saks. The property is primarily in Springfield with only a small portion stretching into Millburn in Essex County, however, a large part of it borders Springfield homes.

Learning about soil erosion



David Rennie's fourth-grade science class at James Caldwell School in Springfield learns about soil erosion, including, from left, Jessica Armstrong, Amanda Grywalski, Michael Petrilli and Katie Murphy.

GL Hilltop Players will present 'Evita' next week

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's extraordinary opera "Evita" comes to life on the Governor Livingston High School stage. The GL Hilltop Players, featuring 34 cast members, at least 25 crew members, and the theatre production class at the high school have been working since January to bring this 1979 Tony Award-winning musical to life.

"Evita" is an opera based on the life of Eva Peron, the wife of Argentine President Juan Peron. Although she started life in humble surroundings, she became the most powerful woman her country had ever known. Still controversial, Eva Peron's life is one of great contrasts. She has been called everything from sinner to saint. Webber and Rice have drawn their own conclusions about Evita; the audience is invited to draw theirs.

Director Judith Mulder, Musical Director James Campodonico, Assistant Musical Director James Mussachio, Choreographer Patricia Limandri and Technical Director Ken Stiefel are proud of how the students have been hand-

ling this difficult musical. They all agree that this is not typical high school musical fare. The students are being challenged both artistically and intellectually as they prepare this show for an audience. Likewise, Irene O'Grady's AP Spanish class is using the

musical as an opportunity to study the literature and history of Argentina. The class is also helping by translating Spanish dialogue and completing research that will bring a sense of reality to the production.

Columbia Middle School students will appear as a children's choir in the musical and two members of GL's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program are cast memebers.

Friday and Saturday's performances will be interrupted for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Performances are March 1 at 7:30 p.m. and March 2 and

Tickets are \$7, \$4 for senior citizens on Saturday night

For advanced tickets call the GL Hilltop Players

Have We Got A Deal For You!

Council introduces boro budget

By Joan M. Devlin Staff Writer

The Mountainside Borough Council officially introduced the 2001 municipal budget during its regular meeting Tuesday night. The \$7.6-million budget expects to increase municipal taxes for the average household by approximately \$46.

The budget is approximately 2.98 points higher than last year, and under the proposed plan, the municipal tax rate would rise from \$0.84 per \$100 of assessed value to \$0.87. The average Mountainside homeowner, whose property is assessed at \$154,000, would pay approximately \$1,340 in municipal taxes under the proposed budget for 2001. Last year the average property owner paid approximately \$1,294 in municipal taxes.

A public hearing on the budget will be conducted during the Borough Council's March 20 regular meeting at 8 p.m. in Borough Hall, 1385 Borough Hall. Copies of the budget will be available after March 1.

The proposed county tax rate for 2001 is \$0.93, up from \$0.88 per \$100 in 2000. For the average borough homeowner, county taxes would rise by approximately \$77 — from \$1,355 to \$1,432. The Board of Chosen Freeholders is conducting hearings on the county budget this month and usually adopts the spending plan in the spring.

The tax bill also includes the portion for the Mountainside schools, which the Board of Education will put up for a public vote on April 17. Details on the tax impact of that budget are still not known.

Officially, the council approved a resolution entitled, "Late introduction of the 2001 Municipal Budget."

"The State of New Jersey says we must produce a budget no later than Feb. 10; however, in order to get the budget done, we needed information from them, and we did not get it on time, the reason for the term late," Mayor Robert Viglianti said.

Slaughter exhibit will open at library Friday

When Linda Slaughter touches her brush to canvas, her colors breathe life into her portraits, which will appear at The Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., from Friday to March 29.

Slaughter studied art at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts, developing her own brand of abstract portraiture using acrylic paint, cardboard and even string. "My paintings

are simply about design and color," thing come together on canvas -- color, line, shading and ideas." she said, "and trying to make every-

Springfield seniors gather to mark Valentine's Day

Springfield senior citizens celebrated Valentine's Day with a breakfast brunch at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center. Breakfast consisted of eggs, French toast, bagels and an assortment of cream cheese. There were more than 100 members present. There were door prizes and they ended the day by playing Bingo.

The club's next function will be St. Patrick's Day when

on March 16, they will have a corned beef and cabbage luncheon. The price is \$10 per person.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the senior groups can call Theresa at (973) 912-2227 or stop in at Sarah Bailey Civic Center any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and visit one of the groups.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Make the investment

The \$3.4-million referendum proposed by the Springfield Board of Education to rehabilitate athletic fields is much like making an investment in your home. It's going to cost money, but in the long run, you'll be glad you did it. With all the taxes we pay these days, it's easy to look at every new item as an expense rather than an investment, which this is.

One look at the track at Meisel Field and it's no wonder few people use it. The county must at least offer \$700,000, the school board's initial request, considering how a new track is slated to cost \$605,000 and the baseball and softball fields at Meisel are used by many from across the county since it is a county park.

The cinder track has not hosted a Dayton track meet in a decade. That borders on embarrassing as the team competes against other schools that have had all-weather tracks for many years. But the students aren't the only ones who will benefit from athletic field upgrades. The track will be used a great deal by the school teams; however, this aspect of the park is truly where most county use likely will be.

With a new track, Meisel Field will again become a popular destination for walkers and runners as it once was many years ago, not just attracting residents of Springfield, but from neighboring areas such as Union, Westfield, Kenilworth and Mountainside.

Without a doubt, two of the most important factors for people deciding where to purchase a home are recreation and education. This project will go a long way toward making Springfield more attractive to prospective homeowners and, yes, it will have a positive effect on property values.

The recently raised issue of potentially contaminated land on the Meisel property doesn't scare us. County officials have vowed to look into the situation of possible contamination. What was on the site prior to the development of Meisel Field likely was an old chemical dye plant. It wasn't nuclear waste or hazardous materials. People, including many children, have been using those fields for nearly 65 years and no one seems to be aware of any problems stemming from the former plant. Should problems arise, they can be remediated, but we see no reason to hold up the public approval of the bond.

The former regional school district and county had an agreement regarding who would maintain the land, which expired nearly 20 years ago. That should not happen again, especially with the significant investment taxpayers are providing for the fields. The regional school board allowed the athletic facilities to deteriorate to such a level. Both the current school board and the county are working on an agreement and should do what they can to ensure this does not happen again.

As for the proposed land swap between the township and the county, as long as fine details are resolved regarding maintenance and upkeep of these lands, it is simply an effort by local officials to ensure that township tax dollars are spent on township land.

Voters should cast their ballots Tuesday in favor of Springfield's \$3.4-million referendum to upgrade athletic fields. The project is a reasonable investment that will benefit the township and schools,

Consider serving

With the filing deadline Monday for the school elections in April, residents of Springfield and Mountainside should consider running for their respective boards of education. There are three-year terms are up on each board.

It is a demanding job. Preparing budgets, negotiating contracts with staff members and keeping abreast with the continuous stream of new regulations from the state Department of Education is not easy. The goal of providing a good education for the children of the community is worth the challenge, however.

Being an educator is not a requirement of serving on a school board. Ideally, school boards are meant for "regular" residents who seek to serve their community in a positive manner.

Schools also affect more than just the children who attend or the parents who are involved. The entire town is affected by a its school district and what it does.

It is a unique volunteer job with vital responsibilities and one that is not easy and sometimes even can be thankless. At the same time it can be rewarding to serve and give back to your town, setting the agenda for the educational community.

"Freedom is not a gift but a risk that must be taken." -James Cone theologian, educator 1999



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Photo By Ruthanne Wagner

IT ALL ADDS UP - Sandmeier School Student Council members Greg Krupit, left, and Matt Shanes present a check for \$310 to Marcia Krupit and Jeff Shanes, volunteer members of the Springfield First Aid Squad. Sandmeier students collected change, rolled the coins and brought them to the bank.

Reaffirm values of Washington and Lincoln

Presidents' Day, in many ways, is our most confusing holiday. Although the federal government has set aside the third Monday in February as a national holiday, each state selects the name by which that holiday shall be called. Some states opt for Presidents' Day while some still cling to the more traditional Washington's Birthday. Others celebrate a modernistic appellation of

Presidents' Day with the hyphenated Washington-Lincoln Day.

And if you go further down the rabbit hole, you find that Washington was in fact not born on the day we are celebrating this year, Feb. 19. He was born on the 22nd day of the month. But, and here it gets even more confusing, if you could ask Washington himself on what day he was born, he would say Feb. 11. That's because he was born during usage of the Julian calendar, which was replaced in the American colonies in 1752 by the Gregorian calendar, which we still use today.

The Julian calendar in America ended Sept. 2, 1752 and the very next day, when the Gregorians marched in, it was officially deemed to be Sept. 14. And Washington's birth date thus was shifted from the 11th to the 22nd.

Confusing, yes. But what's most curious is that the two men

whom we are honoring on Presidents' Day, Washington and Lincoln, are two of the least confusing heroes in American historical mythology.

Both men represent within American folklore the values of honesty, integrity, strength, leadership and courage.

Washington, so goes the story, couldn't lie to his father about cutting down the cherry tree. Lincoln, after he had mistakenly shortchanged a customer a few pennies while clerking in a store, walked several miles after the store had closed to return those

Apocryphal stories certainly, but indicative of what these men represent for us - Honest Abe and the Father of our Country.

Historically, both men led the country during war time, one as a general and the other as president, and both were considered strong leaders, tough but fair and resourceful. And honest. That's the word which keeps popping up in the mythology - honest.

We all want honest and just leaders who exhibit integrity beyond reproach. We want our leaders to govern fairly. Washington and Lincoln represent our historical standards in this idealism and it is fitting that we set aside one day each year to reaffirm those values.

Saving for college now helps ensure affordability

The United States can boast number-one status about a lot of things. When it comes to saving for the future, however, studies reveal Americans lag well behind much of

If savings accounts in general are By Kevin J. O'Toole scraping bottom now, h people expect to pay for college in five, 10 or even 20 years? Whether it's a two-year or a four-year program, tuition will be less affordable as time

passes. Scholarships are not guaranteed and normally don't cover all education costs. Despite their need, many middle-income families might not qualify for financial aid. And loaded down with student-loan debt is a poor way to begin life after college.

A recent survey by the New Jersey Association of State Colleges and Universities found 97 percent of Garden State citizens believe a college degree is essential for future success.

At the same time, 77 percent of parents with children living at home are worried they might not be able to afford their children's college tuition when the time comes. Seventy percent of the people polled said the state should do more to encourage parents to save for their children's education.

Recognizing children's need for college savings and parents' need for the motivation to save, the Assembly is poised to consider legislation to address both concerns.

Assembly

Assembly Bill 1622, which I am sponsoring along with 10 of my colleagues - both Republican and Democrat - is scheduled for an Assembly vote today. The bill would establish the Prepaid Higher Education Expense Program and would allow families to plan financially and begin paying tuition costs well before their children enroll in college.

This prepaid tuition program is meant to encourage parents to think ahead, and lay the financial foundation for their children's future higher education needs.

For many reasons, a prepaid tuition program is important not only for individual students and families, but for the future success of our economy.

Keeping in mind that a college education often defines a person's earning potential for the rest of his or her life, teen-agers need every opportunity to further their education. Unfortunately, poor financial planning denies many young New Jerseyans the chance to study for high-earning careers.

The new millennium is ushering in a new economy that requires a fresh approach to educating and training our students to meet future workforce

By all accounts. New Jersey's technology- and science-based economy is growing and expanding. But the labor pool to fill essential jobs in these high-tech fields is shrinking. Our labor shortage is at an 11-year high, with the most serious shortages occurring amoung skilled workers and technical and professional staff. The vast majority of those fields requires advanced study, including college and graduate degrees.

The Prepaid Higher Education Expense Program, along with the New Jersey Better Educational Savings Trust program, would be administered by the yet-to-be-established Prepaid Higher Education Expense Board in the Department of State.

Under the bill, money deposited in the Prepaid Higher Education Expense Trust Fund would be maintained, invested and expended solely for the program's purposes, and include plans for county colleges and universities.

At least 18 states currently have established state prepaid programs, and 22 states have operational savings programs. Colorado, Massachusetts and Virginia are the only states with both prepaid and savings programs.

The recent "Measuring Up 2000: The State-by-State Report Card for Higher Education" showed New Jersey was one of just three states to receive all As and Bs. New Jersey has so many higher-learning choices some of them world-renowned.

To maintain our state's high educational standards, we need to make higher education available to as many students as possible. For so many families, though, the determining factor for college is affordability. And when families must devote a relatively large portion of their income for tuition and related costs, too often college takes a back seat to more imme-

The prepaid program is a commonsense approach geared toward reducing reliance on loans and financial aid while eliminating the need to choose between paying bills and earning a

As with anything, most people find it easier to afford something given at a substantial cost, if they pay for it through regular contributions.

When it comes to children's futures, it's never too early to start saving.

A resident of Cedar Grove, Republican Assemblyman Kevin J. O'Toole represents the 21st Legislative District, which includes Springfield.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tax cuts only for those who pay

To the Editor:

With all the discussion about tax reduction can we keep in mind that it's for people that pay taxes; any kind of renumeration to everybody is nothing more than socialistic, which is trending in this great democracy called "The USA." Joseph C. 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 on the opinion pages.

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

The Echo Leader reserves the right to edit all 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, 07083.

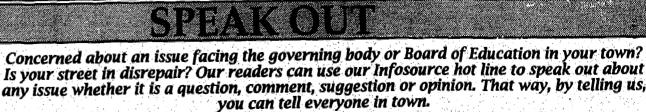
The Echo Leader also accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via

e-mail. The address is WCN22@localsource.com. Letters and guest columns must be received by 9 a.m. on Mondays to be

considered for publication in Thursday's edition. Letters received via e-mail must be on topics of interest, preferably in response to content that appeared in the newspaper. For purposes of verifica-

tion, all letters must include a name, address and daytime telephone number. Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.





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county property.

come out for, against referendum Committees

(Continued from Page 1) Some residents have questioned why the school board should pay for improvements to a county park. The township is currently negotiating with Union County to swap about 11 acres of land on Morris Avenue near the Union-Springfield border, for about nine acres of property surrounding the

In recent weeks, resident Gene Schramm has presented both the Springfield Township Committee and the Board of Chosen Freeholders with documents that indicate the soil at Meisel Field might contain contami-

Jonathan Dayton High School. Meisel

Avenue Park, however, would remain

nated soil from an old chemical dve plant prior to the development of the fields in the late 1930s.

"Young people new to town don't know the history," Schramm told the freeholders last week. "They've been totally razzle-dazzled by the Board of Education."

"I'm part of the group that's been 'razzle-dazzled,' "said George Pallis, a member of the Springfield Committee on Recreation and Education. SCORE is a committee that formed as a result of the failed referendum in December; a group of about two dozen residents who "represent a variety of interested factions," including some involved in local recreational

When it rains on a Monday, he said, ballfields at Meisel are not playable until Thursday or Friday because of drainage problems. The unavailability of fields causes recreation leagues to reduce their scheduled number of

The referendum would "go a long way toward making Springfield a more desirable place to live," Pallis said. "Improvement doesn't come free. This is going to be a big boost."

"The Springfield Improvement Association wants safe, healthy playgrounds, no doubt," said Hazel Hardgrove, who identifies herself as cochairman of the association. The school board's plan, she said, has many questions with answer that have not been forthcoming, with no itemized list of how the money is to be

spent. The improvement association has been around for many years its members said, but became more active as a result of the school board's first referendum in December.

"It's incredibly ironic that this group chose its name," said Marc Marshall, a former mayor and member of SCORE, about the Springfield Improvement Association. "I have yet to see what they are seeking to improve."

Board member Richard Falkin, chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, said no one knows to what extent the land will be dug up as architects and engineers have yet to begin the design phase. Until the referendum is approved, and other necessary approvals are received from the proper agencies, the board "is being prudent and not spending taxpayer money on designs of anything.

Hardgrove also questioned how the school board was able to vote last month on presenting a new public question after the public notice about a new referendum already had been

The Board of Education does not publish the election notice, President Jacqueline Shanes said, and the Union County Board of Elections has no statutory requirement to have school board approval to publish. The school board selected the new date for the referendum at the request of the Board of Elections, which oversees all elections in the county, to combine it with a school referendum in Clark and save money, she added.

During a recent school board meeting, resident Jack Goldman asked how the bond referendum will affect future elections on the annual school

Falkin said the referendum will be paid for through a five-year bond and thus, after five years of payments. "it's done."

"Of course one will impact the other," Falkin said of the annual budget and referendum, but if the referendum is voted down "it's done, it's finished." The board can only revisit a referendum under a certain framework regulated by the state, he added.

Failed school budgets still go before the Township Committee for recommendations on what to do.

The board has proposed, and the public has approved, several additional questions in recent years regarding technology and security for the schools, Falkin said.

The gift of giving

Students and staff at Mountainside's Deerfield School, from left, Rochelle Hreczny, Ana Lopez and Barbara Komoroski collect gifts for distribution to children who attend the afterschool program at the Eastern Union County YMCA day care center in Elizabeth. This year, over 600 gifts were sorted and packed.

Mountainside senior club offers Bingo Friday

The Mountainside Senior Citizens Club meet the second and fourth Fridays of the month at the Community Presbyterian Church, Deer Path and Meeting House Lane. The meeting begins at noon with light refreshments served. The program scheduled for Friday will be a "Happy Hour of Bingo."

On March 9, Bill Connary, a speaker from the State Department of Law, will speak on Elder Fraud.

On March 23, a program for young and old will be a talk on diabetes.

incumbents seek re-election

(Continued from Page 1)

second term on the board while Benito Stravato plans to file his petition to go for a fifth, three-year term. Incumbent Richard Falkin said Monday he was undecided about a re-election bid but will come to a decision by the deadline on

Falkin, who earns his living in commercial real estate, is currently chairman of the school board's Buildings and Grounds Committee. He is completing his third term on the board.

A teacher at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark, Duke taught at Jonathan Dayton Regional High School for many years prior to the breakup of the regional system.

Stravato is director of health and physical education for the Rahway public school system and director of its adult basic education evening program. "At this point, the board needs some stability from the guys who have been

on a long time," Stravato said, with facility improvements planned including Tuesday's \$3.4-million referendum to improve athletic fields, and the search for a new superintendent to replace Gary Friedland, who will retire later this

The three incumbents were elected in 1998, defeating a fourth candidate, former Township Committeeman Harry Pappas.

Last year, incumbents Larry Levee, Robert Fish and Jacqueline Shanes were re-elected in an uncontested election while in 1999 incumbents Keith Kurzner, Kenneth Faigenbaum and Steven Fischbein were re-elected when they defeated Marc Marshall, a former mayor of Springfield.

STUDENT UPDATE

Honor roll announced

The following students at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield have been named to the honor roll for the first marking period of the 2000-01 school year:

Ninth grade Karen Alberti, Tricia Barrett, Keren Bitton, Melissa Capece, Theodore B. Chelis, Mack Cicchino, Lindsay Coughlin, Lisa Cypcar, Anthony Denicolo, Christopher Dorvil, Keith H. Dworkin, Lawrence Fish, Amanda K. Garlen, Rachel Goldman, Inez Gradzki, Andrea Handeli, Kimberely Kraemer, Drew Krumholz, Jill Kurzner, Nicole C. Lay, Lisa Listowski, Steven Luksenberg, Arekadiusz Maciak, Alyssa Mason, Rachel G. Millman, Margaret Mysliwiec, Ilana S. Nahmias, Jonathan Rego, Ana Rodriguez, Joseph M. Rodriguez, Erica R. Rosenbaum, Karen Rozenbolm, Jayme Sablosky, Razanne Sarinas, Danielle Schwartz, Genny A. Schwarzberg, Renu C. Shah, Allison Sharpe, David E. Sklar, Matthew Traum, Brett Yanow and Zhanna

Tenth grade

Jenna Alifante, Jonathan Au, Anna Batler, Allison Canton, Manoah Finston, Sean Frank, Sunana Gill, Donna Golin, Kristin Griffin, Sherri L. Grobarz, Timothy P. Homlish, Joseph K. Kahoonei, Ross Kravetz, Allison Lau, Andrzej Moczydlowski, Jake B. Morano, Jamie L. Neville, Chandni Patel, Svetlana Polyakova, Jared Preston, Jennifer Rego, Casey Santo, Louis Sarracino, Matthew Schachtel, Cassondra Smith, Brian I. Sperber, Michael P. Stauhs, Andrew E. Tide, Elana Toboul, Elissa Walters, Jay T. Weatherston, Joshua Wolkoff, Theodore Young, Mallory Zambolla, Marina Zeltser and Valerie Zlotsky.

Eleventh grade

Esther Aizenberg, La Quan Boone, Lindsey Butler, Bryan R. Demberger, Chase Freundlich, Alexander K. Garlen, Garry Goldman, Evangeline Guilas, Marsha Handeli, Hani Heiba, Scott Hollander, Nicole L. Krivak, Anna Lepore, Jennifer Lewis, Jonathan Lewis, Melissa M. LoSchiavo, Juliet Marx, Samantha Pellet, Joseph Petraccaro, Miri Rosen, Kevin

Schulman, Monica Schwartz, Alexis Seidel, Heather Shanley, Laurie Sherman, Carlos Soto, Rena Steinbach, Ryan A. Stromeyer, Megan Anne Tavis, Kimberly Terhune, Pamela Traum, Alphonsa Vadakethalakel, Jared Weisman and Talia Zuberman.

Twelfth grade

Frank Applegate, Victoria Bingle, Lawrence Bluestone, Victoria Bruno, Jennifer Cheung, Gregory Deangelis, Lisa Denicolo, Giovannina Dimuro, Lillian Fasman, Alexis Ferrin, Joseph Flesch Jr., Christina Florio, Chad Freundlich, Maria Gonnella, Daniella Guida, Alla Gulchina, Andrew Harris, Alycia Johnson, Sergey Khoroshevskity, Victoriya Kozlenko, Alex Kramers, Michael Lyubavin, Rachel Mandel, Cristobal R. Melendez, Ilissa Nico, Claudia Petrilli, Alisandra Puliti, Aaron Rhodes, Jodi Santo, Nicole Sayki, Mark Tratenberg, Joseph Voorhees, Brian Wedemeyer, Maggie Zambolla and Jonathan

Ortiz on dean's list

Tara Michelle Ortiz of Springfield

was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Kean University. Upon graduation, she hopes to teach high school math.

Stapfer recognized

Jessica R. Stapfer of Springfield, a junior elementary education major at the University of Scranton, has been named to the dean's list for the 2000 fall semester.

The dean's list, which recongnize students for academic excellence, requires students to have a grade point average of 3.5 or better with a minimum number of credit hours to make the dean's list. The list includes students from the College of Arts and Sciences, the Kania School of Management, the Panluska College of Professional Studies and Dexter Hanley

Stravato on Drew list

Maria A. Stravato, daughter of Maria and Ben Strayato of Springfield, has been named to the dean's list at Drew University for her

academic achievement for the fall semester.

Glassman earns honors

Elliot Glassman of Springfield was among 1,402 undergraduate students who earned dean's list honors for the fall 2000 semester at New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark. Glassman is majoring in architecture.

There were 5,645 undergraduate students enrolled at NJIT during the fall term. To qualify for dean's list, students must complete 12 credit hours, achieve a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale and receive no incomplete grades or a grade lower than a C.

UCC president's list

Several residents of Mountainside and Springfield were among the students named to the president's list for the fall 2000 semester at Union County College.

Earning honors from Springfield were Julia W. Egan, Brian D. Freedley, Richard M. Gee, Elizabeth Kowalewska, Glenn Monticello, Anna

Marie Quagliato, Alex R. Tarantino, Mahilthini Vianeswar, Joseph M. Voorhees and Robert L. Wiatroski.

Mountainside achieving the president's list were Katherine Cullerton, Mony A. El Kfoury, Dawn Kizmann and Denise L. Shann.

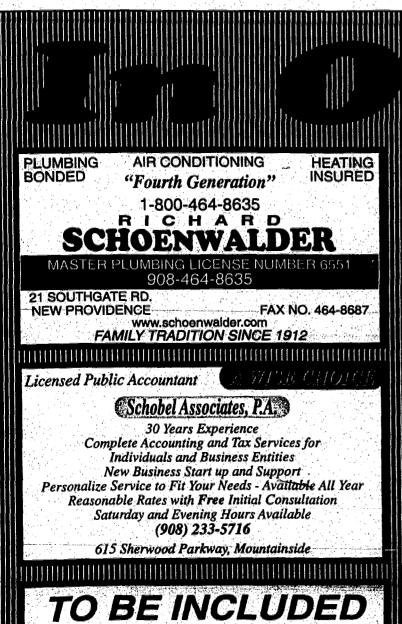
Baker, Kuenzel make dean's list at ECC

Springfield residents Jason Baker and Peter Kuenzel were named to the dean's list for the fall 2000 semester at Essex County College Students must attain a 3.5 higher grade point average to be recognized.

Four earn fall honors at Newark Academy

Four Springfield residents were among more than 350 students to achieve honors at Newark Academy. Livingston, for their academic achievements during the fall term.

Earning high honors was Jacob A. Feldman, grade nine. Acheiving honors were Jacquelyn S. Dorsky, grade eight; Erica D. Horwitz, grade 12, and Kevin Zhu, grade 11.

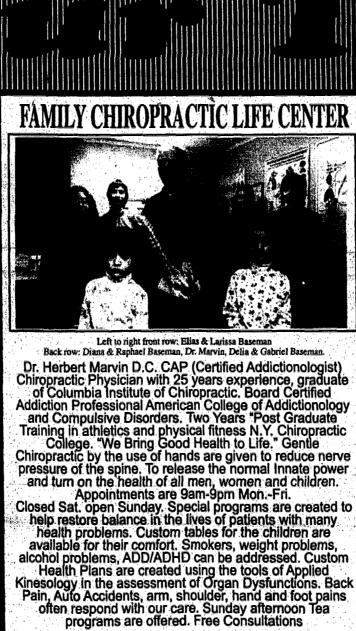


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HOMETOWN PAGE

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Area churches prepare for Lenten season

By Joan M. Devlin Staff Writer

Christians all over the world are about to begin the somber observance of Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday, on Feb. 28, and culminates in the happy ending of Easter Sunday,

A study in contrasts, Lent focuses on the inevitable events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on Good Friday. This was the darkest day for believers, but Christians believe Jesus Christ rose from the dead as He said He would, three days later on Easter Sunday, turning the darkest day into the most joyous of all Christian holidays.

This special time is celebrated in a variety of ways by all Christians, some more strictly than others, but Lent itself is a time for introspection. self-examination, repentance and eventual forgiveness. Some faiths distribute ashes, which goes back to the early church custom of the wearing of sackcloth and ashes in distress and

Oak Knoll's 'The Boyfriend'

Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child in Summit will pre-

sent a musical production of 'The Boyfriend' March 1-3.

The cast includes, from left, first row, Alexandra Lofre-

do and Erica Hoeri; second row, Meghan Rafferty, Ste-

phanie Tan, Jessica Roy and Sarah Mumma; and

standing, Margot Stephenson, Lauren Stephenson and

Tina Brinck-Lund. For tickets call (908) 522-8146.

Some churches physically distribute the ashes to worshippers when the priest or pastor makes the sign of the cross on the forehead in ashes of the penitent person. Primarily done by Roman Catholic churches, today many Protestant churches observe this custom as well. Others "think in their hearts the ashes" but it is a solemn

occasion either way. The first Christians celebrated Lent for only one week, the Holy Week preceding Easter. However, as time went on and the religion grew all over the world, the 40 days of observation mimicked Jesus's introspection when He went into the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights to fast and to pray. Today, fasting is still common, but is a personal option of believers, and not required.

Summit • The Dominican Nuns at the Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary on Springfield Avenue, although a cloistered society, open their chapel to the public on special occasions. One such event is Ash Wednesday, when all are welcome to share the 7:15 a.m. Mass on Ash Wednesday which will also have distribution of ashes.

• At the United Methodist Church at Kent Place and DeForest Avenue, a huge 16-foot banner declares the season of Lent and the Call to Repentance, and beginning with Ash Wednesday, weekly services will begin at 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday, preceded by a 6:30 p.m. soup and salad supper. Pastor Lee Weaver will lead a unique service that night called "Ashes." Each Wednesday thereafter, a different character from the Easter story will be portrayed at the Lenten services. The theme of the Lenten messages is "People at the Cross."

• St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Ave., will conduct two Ash Wednesday services, both with distribution of ashes. The first will be at noon, and the second at 7:30 p.m., when the Rev. Wayne Dreyman, pastor, will preach on the theme "Why Sorrow?" Thereafter, there will be 7:30 p.m. services every Wednesday during Lent, preceded by a 6:30 p.m. soup supper, and everyone is welcome.

• St. Teresa of Avila Roman Catholic Church on Morris Avenue will observe Ash Wednesday with Masses at 7, 8:30 a.m; 12:10 and 7:30 p.m.. A special prayer service with the distribution of ashes will take place at 3:30 p.m. and all of the services will be in the main church.

· Central Presbyterin Church on Maple Street offers two Ash Wednesday services of worship. The first service will be at noon in the chapel, led by the Rev. Patti V. Weikart, and the second service will be at 8 p.m. also in the chapel, led by the Rev. Robert A. Colman. The church will also offer a Brown Bag Lenten series, which are free worship concerts every Friday during Lent at 12:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. People attending these special concerts can either bring their own lunch or purchase a sandwich and drink from the Presebyterian Women for \$3. Everyone is welcome.

Also being offered during Lent is a special presentation of Handel's "Messiah" at 4 p.m. March 18, performed by the Motet Choir and Calvary Chorale, when a free will offering will be taken. Additionally, a lenten series is planned for the Adult Forum Sessions, at 9:15 a.m. every

Sunday in the board room. Mountainside

· Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, 300 Central Ave., will offer four Masses for Ash Wednesday worship. They will be at 7 and 8 a.m. and at 3:30 and 7 p.m.. The Stations of the Cross will be on all Fridays at 7:30 p.m. during Lent.

The Rev. Patrick Leonard, pastor, also announced a 7:30 p.m. Penance Service on April 2.

Springfield

• The First Presbyterian Church on Church Mall is planning Lenten Wednesday Vesper services all at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel. The Rev. Daniel J. Russell will conduct the traditional Ash Wednesday service of ashes, led by the confirmation class. Ashes will be administered to those who elect to come forward, and the ashes are derived from last year's Maundy Thursday service of nailing burdens to the cross. Each burden was removed and converted to ashes for use in this special Lenten ritual. Guest pastors will preach at the subsequent Wednesday evening Lenten services.

• Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Mountain Avenue will observe Ash Wednesday with a 7:30 p.m. service with Holy Communion. All in the community are welcome.

• The Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church on Church Mall conducts its Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 p.m., preceded by a 6:30 p.m. soup and bread supper. All of the Wednesdays in Lent will follow the same schedule, with the soup and bread supper and services following. The entire community is welcome.

• St. James the Apostle Roman Catholic Church on South Springfield Avenue will conduct Masses on Ash Wednesday at 7, 8 and 11 a.m., and at 7:30 p.m.. Distribution of ashes will take place at each of the services. There also will be a distribution of ashes at 3:30 p.m.. Also this year, the church will conduct its seventh annual Morning of Reflection for Women, from 8:45 to 10:45 a.m. each day during Lent, with guest speaker Theresa M. Dunnells, who will address issues of stress in daily life and how it affects people and their prayer life. Dunnells is a board certified art therapist.

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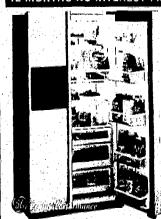
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Fire Department answers to calls for activated alarms

The Springfield Fire Department responded to a South Springfield Avenue residence for an activated fire alarm at 2:18 p.m.

Friday

All units responded at 11:19 a.m. to a Shunpike Road business for a water flow alarm. At 2:07 a.m., firefighters responded to a Morris Avenue apartment for an activated fire alarm. The department received call about a motor vehicle accident with injuries on Route 22 East at 12:42 p.m., and at 11:13 p.m. for a Morris Avenue apartment for an activated fire alarm.

Feb. 15 At 1:54 p.m., the department

FIRE BLOTTER

responded to a Mountain Avenue residence for an activated fire alarm before being called to a motor vehicle accident at Morris and Short Hills avenues at 5:23 p.m.

Feb. 14

Firefighters responded to the area of Milltown Road to investigate smoke in the area at 1:15 a.m.

The department responded with a ladder truck to the scene of a fire in Union on a request from Union County Mutual Aid at 7:18 a.m.

Firefighters responded to activated fire alarms at a Morris Avenue business at 8:02 a.m. and a Wentz Avenue residence at 7:23 p.m.

Medical service calls were answered at 10:46 p.m. at a Severna Avenue residence; 12:04 p.m. at a Morris Avenue business; 2:03 p.m. at a Center Street business, and 2:32 p.m. at a South Springfield Avenue residence. The Fire Department responded at 4:16 p.m. to Route 78 East milepost 44 for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

Feb. 13

Medical services calls were responded to at 7:56 a.m. and 8:46 a.m. on Route 78 East. Another medical service call came in at 12:51 p.m. at a Skylark Road residence.

Firefighters responded at 8:33 a.m. to Milltown Road and Smithfield Drive for a motor vehicle accident with infliries.

At 10:08 a.m., all units responded to a Cornell Parkway business for an activated fire alarm. Feb. 12

At 2:02 p.m., the department responded to a Tulip Road residence before heading to a Robin Court residence at 12:45 p.m. and a Bryant Avenue residence at 5:24 p.m., all for medical service calls.

Feb. 11 Firefighters responded an an activated fire alarm at 2:02 a.m. at.

Men's Night Out tonight The Mountainside Newcomers

Club announces the following member activities for the near future:

• Men's Night Out, tonight: The monthly ritual takes place at 8 p.m. at Chrone's Tavern. Call Jim Pisano at (908) 389-0455 for information and to

· Ladies' Night Out, Tuesday: Join Movie Night at the Rialto Theatre in Westfield when the club catches a good "chick flick" and maybe even stops by Starbucks afterward for a cappuccino and conversation. For more information and to RSVP call Heather Pisano at (908) 389-0455.

• Mommy & Me Bumper Bowling on March 3 at Garwood Lanes, noon to 2 p.m. The cost is \$10 per child, which includes hot dog, chips, soda, two hours of bowling and shoes. Space is limited, reserve early. Call Jean Marie Morgan at (908) 518-9409 to RSVP.

· Mommy & Me is anticipating Spring with its annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the Loop Playground, Watchung Reservation. The cost is \$5 per child. RSVP to Margaret DiPalma by April 1. Rain date will be April 14.

CLUBS IN THE NEWS

Foothill Club hosts 38th birthday luncheon

The Foothill Club 38th birthday luncheon will be March 1 at noon at B.G. Fields Restaurant in Westfield, featuring a show and tell with members participating. Guests are welcoome.

For reservations call Genevieve Kaczka at (908) 232-3626.

Retirees meet Tuesday

The Mountainside Active Retirees will meet Tuesday at 10 a.m. in Borough Hall, 1395 Route 22 East, where a film, "Railway Journey Through Ireland," will be shown.

Meetings of the Mountainside Active Retirees are conducted on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. Mountainside residents and their guests are always welcome.

Mountain Avenue home is burglarized

Springfield

A home along the 400 block of Mountain Avenue was reported burlgarized on Saturday. The incident occurred sometime between noon and 5:25 p.m.

The homeowner reported an unknown amount of jewlery and approximately \$600 missing. There also was a broken glass window, police said.

• More than \$2,000 worth of digital cameras were reported stolen from the display counter at Staples on Route 22 East on Feb. 4. The five cameras, varying in value, were stolen along with one alarm box valued at \$50.

• A Caldwell resident who had her white 1985 Cadillac parked behind **POLICE BLOTTER**

businesses along the 200 block of Morris Avenue reported a break-in to the vehicle. A Nokia cellular phone was taken from the car on Feb. 10.

• A motor vehicle was reported stolen from Diamond Road on Saturday just after 7 p.m. The vehicle contained a driver's license, two Visa credit cards and one Amoco credit card.

• A 19-year-old Plainfield man was arrested Feb. 8 at 3:40 p.m. for allegedly shoplifting at The Sports Authority on Route 22 East. Police also charged Tyshow Howell with joyriding and being in a motor vehicle with a juvenile.

Mountainside

Jason W. Patibucci, 25, of Mountainside was arrested Friday at 10:39 p.m. for possession, use and being under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance under 60 grams, as a result of a plain view observation.

• On Sunday at 11:43 p.m., Rigoberto Serrano, 24, of South Plainfield, was arrested for driving with a suspended license and invalid registration, with outstanding

• Kelton K. Braithwaite, 43, of Newark, was arrested at 12:52 p.m. on Sunday on Route 22 East in Mountainside for contempt of a judicial order, outstanding warrants to Mountainside. He posted \$500 bail.

• Walter Laddy Jr., 34, of Edison, was arrested at 11:16 p.m. Sunday for contempt of a judicial order, outstanding warrants totaling \$628.

• Naomi A. Davis, 19, of Plainfield, was arrested on Sunday at 9:08 p.m. for disorderly conduct and improper behavior after being stopped for speeding on Route 22 East.

• On Feb. 14 at 3 p.m., Terrence Grant, 37, of Irvington, was arrested on Route 22 East in Springfield following a theft investigation. He was charged with criminal attempt in the fourth degree. He was found to be driving with a suspended license and to have outstanding warrants, according to authorities.

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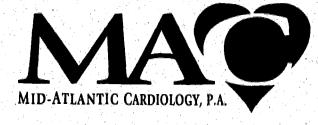
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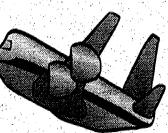
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COMPUTER REPAIRS



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Students in Maria Bright's science class at James Caldwell School in Springfield created craters of various sizes. Using marbles as symbols of meteors, students changed their size and speed to show how various craters would be created. including from left, Doron Greenberg, Matt Pallis, Alex Gonzalez, Kyvann Gonzalez, Dylan O'Brien and Mike Stigliano.

Dinner raises money for Project Graduation

The Project Graduation committee of Governor Livingston High School will sponsor a spaghetti dinner at the high school cafeteria on March 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. The menu will include spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, beverage, cake and coffee at a cost of \$7 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and children under 12.

Reservations are recommended and can be arranged by calling Karen at (908) 464-3006. Proceeds will be used to fund this year's all-night drug and alcohol-free graduation celebration for the GL Class of 2001.

The committee invites residents to dine and then to attend the high school spring musical production of "Evita" that evening. Senior citizens who attend the spaghetti dinner on Friday will receive a \$3 discount on play tickets for that night.

Annual pasta dinner planned

The Evening Group of the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield will have its annual pasta dinner on March 3 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Parish House on Church Mall.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. The menu includes baked stuffed ziti, salad, bread, dessert and beverage; meat sauce optional.

OBITUARIES

William G. Melinek

William G. Melinek, 83, of Clark, formerly of Springfield, died Feb. 13 in John F. Kennedy Hartwyck at Edison Estates

Born in Newark, Mr. Melinek lived in Springfield before moving to Clark 20 years ago. He was an insurance agent at Prudential Insurance Co. for 30 years before retiring. Mr. Melinek served in the Army during World War

Surviving are his wife, Mary; a son, Stuart; two daughters, Irish Meckler and Judy DiElmo; a brother, Harold, and five grandchildren.

Michael Pettinicchio

Michael A. Pettinicchio, 80, of Holiday, Fla., formerly of Springfield, died Feb. 12 in the Madison Pointe Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, New Port Richey, Fla.

Born in Elizabeth, Mr. Pettinicchio lived in Springfield before moving to Florida 10 years ago. He was a selfemployed landscaper in New Jersey before retiring. Mr. Pettinicchio served in the Army during World War

Surviving are his wife, Connie; a son, Michael Jr.; a daughter, Mary Ann Ruban; six sisters, Angela, Mary, Nancy, Rose, Grace and Louise; five grandchildren and four greatgrandchildren.

Michelle E. Mancini

Michelle E. Mancini, 67, of Springfield died Feb. 14 at home.

Born in Newark, Miss Mancini lived in Springfield for 15 years. She was a secretary at the Department of Veteans Affairs New Jersey Health Care center at East Orange for 41 years and retired last year.

Surviving is a brother, Philip P.

Olga Maria Vasselli

Olga Maria Vasselli, 67, of Springfield died Feb. 14 in Morristown Memorial Hospital.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Vasselli lived in Florham Park, East Orange and Irvington before moving to Springfield in 1963. She was an executive secretary with Olivetti Corp., Somerville, for 18 years and retired in 1991.

Mrs. Vasselli was a graduate of the Drake Business School in Newark. She was a school aide at the James Caldwell School in Newark, a Girl Scout leader in Springfield and a member of the Little Theater of the city of East Orange.

Surviving are her husband, Joseph; two daughters, Victoria Paterek and Joanne Wilson; a brother, Americo LaSilvia, and two grandchildren.

Jerome J. Blabolil

Jerome J. Blabolil, 62, of Springfield died Feb. 15 in the Ashbrook Nursing Home, Scotch Plains.

Born in Brooklyn, Mr. Blabolil lived in Matawan before moving to Springfield 31 years ago. He was an accounts coordinator with Fleet Securities Inc., New York, for 44 years.

Surviving are his wife, Sheila; two sons, Robert and Jerome; his mother, Jeanette Schoeneberg; a brother, James, and three grandchildren.

Daniel James Duffy

Daniel James Duffy, 74, of Springfield died Feb. 15 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Jersey City, Mr. Duffy lived in Kearny before moving to Springfield 41 years ago. He was a shipping and receiving clark with General Motors Corp. — United Delco - in New Brunswick for 40 years and retired in 1991.

Mr. Duffy was a Navy veteran of World War II. He was a life member of the Springfield Volunteer First Aid Squad and a Scout master in Spring-

field for many years. Surviving are his wife, Gloria; two sons, Daniel and Kevin; three daughters, Ann Katherine, Patricia and Eileen; two brothers, Thomas and

Francis, and three grandchildren. Harry Chernet

Harry Chernet, 77, of Springfield died Feb. 17 in St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston.

Born in Newark, Mr. Chernet lived in Irvington, Matawan and Manalapan before moving to Springfield in 1990. He owned two restaurants in the Matawan area for 10 years and retired

Earlier, Mr. Chernet had been a route delivery man for Sealtest Dairies, Newark, for 25 years. He served in the Navy during World War II.

Surviving are two sons, Steven and Jeffrey; three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Theresa Hagenbush

Theresa Hagenbush of Manahawkin, formerly of Springfield, died Feb.

Born in Millburn, Mrs. Hagenbush lived in Springfield and Berkeley Heights before moving to Manahawkin two years ago. She was a bookkeeper employed by Jay-Dor Inc., a liquor distributor, in Millburn for 28 years and retired 11 years ago.

Mrs. Hagenbush was a choir member of Our Lady of Peace Church, New Providence, and a member of the Rosary Society of St. James Church, Springfield.

Surviving are her husband, Robert J.; a son, Robert J.; a daughter, Kathleen H. Telesca; a brother, Daniel D'Andrea, and five grandchildren.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

BAPTIST

EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH - "CHRIST OUR HOPE AND PEACE." - 242 Shunpike Rd., Springfield. Rev. Frederick Mackey, Sr. Pastor. Sundays: 9:30 AM Bible School for all ages - Nursery through Seniors: 10:30 AM Worship Service and Nursery care - 5:30-7:00 PM AWANA Club Program for Children ages 4-11; 6:00 PM Evening Service & Nursery care. Wednesdays: 7:15 PM Prayer, Praise and Bible Study: Junior/Senior High Ministry. Active Youth Ministry; Wide-Range Music Program; Super Seniors 3rd Thursday at 11 AM followed by lunch. Ample Parking. Chair Lift provided with assistance. All are invited and welcomed to participate in worship with us. For further information contact church office (973)

JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE

TEMPLE BETH AHM 60 Temple Drive, Springfield. 973-376-0539. Mark Mallach, Rabbi. Richard Nadel, Cantor. Dr. Scott D. Zinberg, President. Beth Ahm is an egalitarian, Conservative temple, with programming for all ages. Weekday services Mon.-Fri. 7:00 AM Sun.-Thurs. 7:45 PM Shabbat (Friday) 6:00 PM & 8:30 PM Shabbat day 9:30 AM & sunset; Sundays, 8:30 AM. Festival & Holiday mornings 9:00 AM. Family and children services are conducted regularly. Our Religious School (third-seventh grade) meets on Sunday and Tuesday. There are formal classes for both High School and pre-Religious School aged children. The synagogue also sponsors a Pre-School Women's League, Men's Club, youth groups for sixth through twelfth graders, and a busy Adult Education program. For more information, please contact our office during office

JEWISH - REFORM

TEMPLE SHA'AREY SHALOM 78 S. Springfield Avenue, Springfield, (201) 379-5387. Joshua Goldstein, Rabbi; Amy Daniels, Cantor/Education Director; Nina Greenman, Pre-School Director; Murray Bell, President. Temple Sha'arey Shalom is a Reform congregation affiliated with the Union Of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC). Shabbat worship, enchanced by volunteer choir, begins on Friday evenings at 8:30 PM,

with monthly Family Services at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning Torah study class begins at 9:15 AM followed by worship at 10:30 AM. Religious school classes meet on Saturday mornings for grades K-3; on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for 4-7; and Tuesday evenings for post bar/bat mitzvah students. Pre-school, classes are available for children ages 21/4 through 4. The Temple has the support of an active Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and Youth Group. A wide range of programs include Adult Education, Social Action, Interfaith Outreach Singles and Seniors. For more information, call the Temple office, (201) 379-5387.

LUTHERAN

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 639 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, 07081, 201-379-4525, Fax 201-379-8887. Joel R. Yoss, Pastor. Our Sunday Worship Service takes place at 10 a.m. at JONATHAN DAY-TON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information about our midweek children, teen, and adult programs, contact the Church Office Monday through Thursday, 8:30-4:00 p.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL, 229 Cowperthwaite Pl., Westfield, Rev. Paul E. Kritsch, Pastor. (908) 232-1517. Beginning Sunday, July 6, Summer Worship Times are as follows: Sunday Worship Services, 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning Nursery available. Wednesday Evening Worship Sunday Sun ship Service, 7,30 p.m. Holy Communion is celebrated at all worship services. The church and all rooms are handicapped accessible.

METHODIST

The SPRINGFIELD EMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, located at 40 Church Mall in Springfield, NJ invites ALL people of all ages and backgrounds to join us in their spiritual journey. Sunday Worship Service starts at 10:30 A.M. with childcare available for babies and toddlers. Christian Education opportunities for children begin during the Worship Service with a special time for children led by the Pastor before they depart for classes. Service of Prayer and Healing held the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 P.M. Please call and ask about our Adult Christian Education, Young Adult Ministries, Bible Studies, Small Group Ministries, Prayer Chain, Music Ministry and other opportunities to serve. If you have any questions, interest in opportunities to serve others, or have prayer requests, please call the Rev. Jeff Markay at the Church Office: 973-376-1695.

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Summit is located in the heart of town on the corner of Kent Place Boulevard and DeForest Avenue, Church School and Bible Study is held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning Worship is at 10:30 a.m.; the emphasis of which is to always have a "good week" because of Paul's reminder to us in his letter to the Romans "that ALL things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose". The sermons are uplifting, Biblically sound and guaranteed to keep you awake. The music and weekly children's message are memorable. All are welcome to hear the Good News of God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ. Our church also offers nursery care, after worship refreshments and fellow-ship, and many lively programs for everyone. Come worship with us and find out how you too can have a "good week". Call the church office or Pastor Lee Weaver for more information at

PENTECOSTAL-NON-DENOMINATIONAL

VISIONS OF GOD FAMILY WORSHIP RAISING PEOPLE OF POWER FOR THE 21ST CENTURY". 242 Shunpike Road, Springfield (located at Evangel Baptist Church). Office located at 1132 Spruce Drive, Mountainside, Phone: 908-928-0212. Pastors, Paul & Sharon Dean. Worship Service - Sunday at 2:00 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study - Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Ministries include: Singles, Married Couples, Women, Men. We welcome eveyone who is someone to come and worship with us.

PRESBYTERIAN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 210 Morris Ave. at Church Mall, Springfield. 379-4320. Sunday School Classes for all ages 9:00 a.m., Sunday morning Worship Service 10:15 a.m. (July and August 9:30 a.m.), with nursery facilities and care provided. Opportuni-ties for personal growth through worship, Christian education, Choir, church activities and fellowship. Communion first Sunday of each month; Ladies' Benevolent Society - 1st Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m.; Ladies' Evening Group - 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.; Kaffeeklatsch - 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.; Choir - every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. The Rev. Daniel J. Russell, Jr., Pastor.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JAMES, 45 South Springfield Avenue, Spring-field, New Jersey 07081. 201-376-3044. SUN-DAY EUCHARIST: Sat. 5:30 p.m. Sun. 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 12:00 Noon. Reconciliation: Şat. 1:00-2:00 p.m. Weekday Masses: 7:00 &

ST. TERESA'S OF AVILA, 306 Morris 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 (Spanish), 5:00 PM in the Church; Children's Mass -9:30 AM Memorial Hall will resume September 14th; Weekday Masses: 7:00, 8:30 AM, 12:10 PM; Saturday weekday Masses, 8:30 AM; Holy Days: Same as weekday masses with a 5:30 PM anticipated Mass and a 7:30 PM evening Mass. Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:00 - 5:00 PM.

NOTE: All copy changes must be made in writing and received by Worrall Community Newspapers No Later than 12:00 Noon, Fridays prior to the week's publication. Please address changes to: Grace M.

Worrall Community Newspapers 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue P.O. Box 3109 Union, N.J. 07083

Breast Cancer

Special Program for Women at increased risk

For info call 973-992-8484

Murray H. Seltzer, M.D., P.A.

Murray H. Seltzer, M.D. & Janette H. McDermott, M.D. "THE BEST" Noted in Top Docs of N.Y. & N.J. Magazines

** E.S.P.

(Extra Special People) Volunteers:

JFS of MetroWest & Alzheimer's Association of Greater NJ

for a new initiative of

4C'S FOR CAREGIVERS Care, Coordination, Compassion, Concern

★ Provide guidance to caregiver, helping them care for their loved one Work with professional geriatric case managers

* Learn how to engage individuals with Alzheimer's through therapeutic a

Daytime or evening training sessions offered: Monday, March 12 and Tuesday, March 20 9:00 am - 12 Noon OR 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Training will be held at: JFS of MetroWest, 256 Columbia Tpk., Suite 105, Florham Park For more information or to register for training, ALZSEIMER'S please call Anita Millman at JFS: 973-765-9050, ext. 231

Professional Directory

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David J. Witherspoon, Attorney at Law

Chiropractor

Touch Stone Chiropractic LLC

1300 Stuyvesant Ave; Union

FREE SPINAL EXAM

Tuesday & Thursday 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Call For Appointment! 908-810-7424

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TABLE SHOWER IN LINDEN 908-862-1901

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Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social - Thursday

Entertainment - Friday noon. Sports - Monday noon. Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m. General - Monday 5 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING
PLANNING BOARD

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an application has been made to the Planning Board of the Township of Springfield by David L. and Margaret Patterson for preliminary and final major site plan approvals and any variances for 36 Commerce Street. All sections referring to the zoning ordinance of the Township of Springfield. Also any other variances that may be necessary as evidenced by the plans now on file or as may be modified at the request of the Planning Board. This application is made for premises located at 36 Commerce Street, Springfield, N.J., Block 3001 Lot 57. This application is now Calendar No. 5-2001-S on the clerk's calendar, and a public hearing has been ordered for 8:00 P.M., March 7, 2001, in the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, N.J. and when the calendar is called, you may appear either in person or by agent or attorney, and present any objections which you may have to the granting of this application. All papers pertaining to this application may be seen in the office of the Administrative Officer of the Planning Board of the Township of Springfield located in the Annex Building, 20 N. Trivett Street, Springfield, N.J.

HUGO M. PFALTZ, JR.
Attorney At Law Of New Jersey
U3927 ECL Feb. 22, 2001 (\$14.00)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that public hearings will be held by the Planning Board of the Borough of Mountainside in the Mountainside Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, NJ on March 8, 2001 at 8:00 p.m. on the following applications:

Continued applications will be heard at this meeting: Joseph D'Antuono, 1170 Wyoming Drive, Peter Metz, 1009 Mary Allen Lane, and revised site plan for Syncor International, 1094 Globe Avenue, Bulk variances, if required. Variances subject to the Mountainside Land Use Ordinance.

Other issues may be discussed and action may be taken.

Ruth M. Rees ecretary (\$8.00) U3919 ECL Feb. 22, 2001

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF BID

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Borough Clerk of the Borough of Mountainside for: "PAVING IMPROVEMENTS ON PROS-PECT AVENUE AND SYLVAN LANE, CONTRACT 2001-4"

Plans and Specifications will be available on February 26, 2001.
Bids will be opened and read in public at the Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, N.J. on MARCH 9, 2001, at 11:00 A.M., prevailing time.
Bids shall be in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by the Borough Engineer. Proposal blanks, specifications and instructions to bidders may be obtained at the office of the Borough Clerk at the Mountainside Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, 1st Floor, Mountainside, N.J.

at the Mountainside Municipal Building, N.J.
1385 Route 22, 1st Floor, Mountainside, N.J.
Bidders will be furnished with a copy of the Plans and Specifications by the Engineer, upon proper notice and payment of a check for twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) payable to the Borough of Mountainside, said cost being the reproduction price of the documents and is not returnable.

Bids must be made on the Borough's form of bid and must be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to the Borough Clerk, Borough of Mountainside, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, N.J. and hand delivered or sent via certified mail at the place and hour named. Bids shall be endorsed on the outside of the envelope with the name and address of the bidder and: "Bid Proposal for Paving Improvements on Prospect Avenue and Sylvan Lane, Contract 2001-4".

Each proposal must be accompanied by

Lane, Contract 2001-4".
Each proposal must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or a bid bond equal to ten percent (10%) of the full amount of the bid, not to exceed \$20,000.00, and made payable to the Borough of Mountainside as a Proposal Guaranty.
Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, C. 127 (NJAC 17:27).
The Borough of Mountainside hereby

17:27).
The Borough of Mountainside hereby reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to award the contract to any bidder whose proposal, in the Borough's judgment, best serves its interest. Judith E. Osty, Borough Clerk U3925 ECL Feb. 22, 2001 (\$22.75)

NOTICE OF DECISION
On November 1, 2000, the Township of Springfield Planning Board adopted a Resolution granting Preliminary Site Plan and Variance approvals to Nicholas Netta, Applicant and Owner, for the construction of 8 condominium/townhouse units on the property commonly known as 823 South Springfield Avenue, Lot 5 of Block 3701 on the Tax Map of the Township of Springfield Acopy of the Resolution has been filed in the office of the Planning Board located at the Springfield Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey, and is available for inspection by the public between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

STEPHEN F. HEHL U3920 ECL Feb. 22, 2001

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE TO ALL REGISTERED VOTERS OF CLARK and SPRINGFIELD IN UNION COUNTY

PURSUANT to N.J.S.A. 19:12-9, you are hereby advised of the following procedure to be used in the SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION on FEBRUARY 27th, 2001.

(1) any person attempting to vote may be challenged by the duly authorized challenger a public question, or by a member of the district board of elections, because the challenger or board member has good cause to believe that the voter is not entitled

district board of elections, because the challenger or board member has good cause to believe that the voter is not entitled to vote;

(2) members of the district board and all duly authorized challengers are prohibited from challenging, delaying or preventing the right to vote of any person because of that person's race, color, national origin, expected manner of casting a vote or residence in a particular ward, housing complex or section of a municipality or county;

(3) a person who is challenged may seek to establish his or her right to vote by swearing out and signing an affidavit attesting to the voter's qualifications and/or providing a suitable identifying document for inspection which may be -- but is not limited to -- the following: a valid New Jersey Driver's License, a sample ballot with the voter's name and address, an official Federal, State, County or Municipal document, a utility or telephone bill or tax or rent receipt dated -- or a piece of mail postmarked on or after the 60th day before the election; a copy of the affidavit shall be given to the challenged voter; the district board shall determine the validity of the challenge by voting on it pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:15-24;

(4) any person who is challenged by a duly authorized challenger or by a member of the district board of elections may seek to establish his or her right to vote by swearing out and signing the affidavit and/or providing the proof described in Paragraph (3) above; the district board and letermine the validity of the challenger who succeeds in denying a voter the right to vote must sign an affidavit stating the reason why the voter is not entitled to vote and must furnish a copy of the affidavit to the challenger affidavit be signed when the challenge is made;

(6) any person who is denied the right to vote by geing before a Superior Court Judge at UNION COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS to seek a court order allowing that person to vote; the applicant should take copies of any affidavits given to him or to her at the polis and any

PUBLIC NOTICE

TERESA M. HALE, MEMBER MARY ELLEN HARRIS, MEMBER U3746 ECL February 15, 22, 2001 (\$

PUBLIC NOTICE:
Public Notice is hereby given that an Ordinance #BH01-2001, entitled "An Ordinance relating to salaries of officers and employees of the Board of Health of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey", was adopted by the Springfield Board of Health at a regular meeting held on February 14, 2001.
This Ordinance shall take effect immediately after publication according to law.

Marylou Fashano-Sotils Board Secretary

Board Secretary U3918 ECL Feb. 22, 2001 (\$5.75)

NOTICE OF BID

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Borough Clerk of the Borough of Mountainside for:

CONTRACT 2001-5
"PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO COMMUNITY ROOM AT MUNICIPAL BUILDING"

Plans and Specifications will be available on February 23, 2001.

Bids will be opened and read in public at the Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, N.J. on March 9, 2001, at 11:30 A.M., prevailing time.

Bids shall be in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by the Borough Engineer. Proposal blanks, specifications and instructions to bidders may be obtained at the office of the Borough Clerk at the Mountainside Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, 1st Floor, Mountainside, N.J.

1385 Route 22, 1st Floor, Mountainside, N.J.

Bidders will be furnished with a copy of the Plans and Specifications by the Engineer, upon proper notice and payment of a check for twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) payable to the Borough of Mountainside, said cost being the reproduction price of the documents and is not returnable.

Bids must be made on the Borough's form of bid and must be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to the Borough Clerk, Borough of Mountainside, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, N.J. and hand delivered or sent via certified mail at the place and hour named. Bids shall be endorsed on the outside of the envelope with the name and address of the bidder and: "Bid Proposal for Proposed Improvements to Community Room at Municipal Building".

Each proposal must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or a bid bond equal to ten percent (10%) of the full amount of the bid, not to exceed \$20,000.00, and made payable to the Borough of Mountainside as a Proposal Guaranty.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, C. 127 (NJAC 17:27).

17:27).
The Borough of Mountainside hereby reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to award the contract to any bidder whose proposal, in the Borough's judgment, best serves its interest.

Judith E. Osty, Borough Clerk U3928 ECL Feb. 22, 2001 (\$23.25)

MARCH 2001

YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO PROGRAMS, SCREENINGS AND SUPPORT GROUPS **DESIGNED TO IMPROVE** THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

> Programs focus on health promotion. disease management and lifestyle, and are conducted by hospital medical staff, community health educators and health care professionals.

It's time to take care of yourself.

To register, call 1.800.AHS.9580 or visit



Bone Density Screening

Women 40 years and older or determined to be at high risk after completing a risk assessment form are encouraged to attend.

Monday, March 5, 10 a.m. to Noon Springfield Family Practice, 105 Morris Avenue, Springfield

Sponsored by Overlook Hospital's Healthy Avenues Van Available for women over 40 years old or determined to be at high risk after completing a

A Breast Cancer Patient's Route through the Insurance Maze Learn about a survivors experiences with insurance and employment issues.

Wednesday, March 7, 7 to 8:30 p.m. The Connection For Women & Families, 79 Maple Street, Summit, NJ Presenter: Claudia Luecke, breast cancer survivor Sponsored by Overlook Hospital's Pathways Breast Cancer Organization To register, call Pathways at (908) 277-3663.

Colorectal Awareness Program

Join Overlook Hospital's Healthy Avenues Van and learn about testing and treatment of colorectal cancer. First 25 people to register receive free hemacult.

• Wednesday, March 7, 10 a.m. to Noon

New Providence Senior Center, 15 E. 4th Street, New Providence

Wednesday, March 14, 2001, 10 a.m. to Noon

Home Care America, 300 Main Screet, Madison, NJ Wednesday, March 28, 2001, 10 a.m. to Noon Watchung Library, 12 Stirling Road, Watchung, Nj

Prenatal Yoga

Relive tension in the shoulders, upper chest and back while preparing your body for childbirth. (Please bring a pillow.) Wednesdays, 10 a.m.

For fee information and to register for this Atlantic Mind Body program, call (973) 971-

Look Good, Feel Better

Help with appearance and related side effects for women currently undergoing cancer treatment. Monday, March 12, 2001, 10 a.m. to Noon

Overlook Hospital, Conference Room 3 Sponsored by American Cancer Society and Overlook Hospital's Pathways Breast Cancer Organization To register, call Pathways at (908) 277-3663.

Rocket Fuel Nutrition

Cancer survivors and interested community members will learn how nutrition really does affect our lives and well being

Wednesday, March 28, 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Location: The Connection For Women and Families, 79 Maple Street, Summit Presenter: Joseph Frasco, M.D. Sponsored by Overlook Hospital's Pathways Breast Cancer Organization To register, cal Pathways at (908) 277-3663.

Arthritis Self-help Course

Learn about arthritis, proper use of exercise and new treatments and medications. To better control your arthritis, you will be taught pain management strategies and ways to cope with stress and depression.

Six session course meets: Tuesdays, March 6, 13, 20 and 27, 10 a.m. to Noon Overlook Hospital, Conference Room 3

Presenters: Jennifer Melitski and Kathleen Hodapp Fee: \$20 includes all educational material and "The Arthritis Helpbook" Sponsored by The North Jersey Regional Arthritis Center at Atlantic Health System

Arthritis Support Group

Monthly support group designed to teach individuals with arthritis, and their families and friends, how to copy with the physical, medical and emotional aspects of their illness. Tuesday, March 13, 10:30 a.m.

Homecare America, Madison Plaza Shopping Center, 300 Main Street, Madison Sponsored by The North Jersey Regional Arthritis Center at Atlantic Health System

Diabetes Screening

Monitor your blood pressure and glucose levels. Fasting not required. Thursday, March 15, Noon to 2 p.m. Overlook Hospital, Conference Room 3

Improved Nutrition through Dental Implants

Dental implants, the surgical procedure involved and what to expect following the procedure will be discussed.

Wednesday, March 21, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Presenter: Kevin Corry, D.D.S., chief, Oral Surgery, Overlook Hospital Sponsored by Senior Contact

Hospice Volunteer Training

This stx-week course trains volunteers to bring friendship and loving care to homebound, terminally ill patients and their families. Participants will offer companionship and emotional support, run errands and provide respite to caregivers. No medical background is necessary. Tuesdays, March 27 through May 1, 9 a.m. to Noon Atlantic Hospice, 33 Bleeker Street, Miliburn

To register or for more information, call (973) 379-8444.

Take Charge of Your Health
From taking note of important issues at different stages of life to figuring out the insurance maze, learn to manage your own health care Thursday, March 29, 7 to 9:30 p.m. Presenters: Marnie Doubek, M.D., Samantha Pozner, M.D., and Nicole Henry-Dindale, M.D.,

Tai Chi

This Chinese martial art form utilizes movement to focus the mind and calm the body. For fee information and to register for this Atlantic Mind Body program, call (973) 971-4575.

Yoga for Healing

Springfield Family Practice

sdays, 12:15 p.m. For fee information and to register for this Atlantic Mind Body program, call (973) 971-4575.

Breast and Prostate Cancer Screenings and Education

On-site breast and prostate cancer screenings and education are available for local community groups, schools, houses of worship and businesses. Services are provided by Mountainside Hospital or Overlook Hospital's Health Avenues Van, depending on the location of your organization. For more information, call 1-800-AHS-9580.

Irritable Bowel Disease Support Group

For Individuals desiring support and information on Irritable Bowel Disease Call the Self-Help Clearinghouse at 1-800-367-6274 for dates and times.

Unless otherwise noted, call 1-800-AHS-9580 (1-800-247-9580) to register by requesting program name, date, time and location. You may also visit us at www.AtlanticHealth.org to register for any of the free health education programs, which are posted in the "Community Health" section of our website.



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LOCAL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Springfield's Fishman excels for Bucknell baseball

Eric Fishman of Springfield is considered one of three upperclassmen who will provide quality depth for the Bucknell University baseball team.

The 1998 Dayton High School graduate is one of several reserve outfielders for the Bisons, who last year fashioned a 22-25 overall record and 12-8 Patriot League

The junior batted .326 and drove in 14 runs last year, his second year on the squad.

Fishman, a two-sport standout at Dayton where he starred in basketball and baseball, is one of seven New Jersey residents on the 38-player roster.

One of the other New Jersey players is freshman Jon Campagna a 2000 Summit High graduate. Campagna (6-4, 205) is listed as a first baseman, bats and throws righthanded and wears No. 40.

Fishman (5-11, 185) bats and throws lefthanded and wears No.

Fishman was a starting guard on Dayton's 1997-98 Mountain Valley Conference-Valley Division champion basketball team and was one of the better southpaw pitchers in the MVC.

Campagna was a three-sport standout for the Hilltoppers, starring in football, basketball and baseball.

Summit Baseball evaluation Tuesday

Summit Junior Baseball has scheduled its final evaluation session for Tuesday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Lincoln School gym in

All players who have not attended a session are requested to

Registrations are still being accepted for the spring season, which is scheduled to commence

April 7. Registration forms can be downoaded from the Summit Junior Baseball web site: www.summitnjsports.com or by

calling 908-273-6529. Registrations are now being accepted for the Summit Junior Baseball camp that will be held the spring break week of April 16-20.

Camp information and registration forms can be downloaded from the baseball web site or information may be obtained by calling 908-273-6529.

Summit YMCA seeks booters

The Summit YMCA is looking for soccer players. Spaces are still available on first grade and second grade teams in the Youth Soccer Association spring league.

The spring soccer season runs from April 8 to June 10.

YSA is an instructional soccer league where children learn basic skills, build confidence, participate in games and have fun. The cost is \$72 plus a YMCA Youth or Family membership.

More information may be obtained by calling sports director Lorie Zuchowski at 908-273-3330.

Umpire training sessions offered

The Union County Amateur Softball Umpires' Association, in conjunction with the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, is offering a five-week training session for men and women, 18 years of age and older, who want to become registered umpires.

Classes will commence Monday and continue March 5, 12, 19 and 26 at the Union County Administration Building, Elizabethtown Plaza at Rahway Avenue, in downtown Elizabeth.

More information may be obtained by calling Bill Smith at 908-527-4840 or Leo Spirito at 908-527-4904.

Openings for men's, women's SB teams

The Union County Amateur Softball Association, in cooperation with the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, has openings for men's, women's and coed slow-pitch softball teams for the 2001 season.

Call 908-232-2354.



The Summit Recreation 7th grade basketball team jumped out to an outstanding 9-0 start this year. Kneeling, from left, are Josh Sussman, James Johnson, Mark Garcia, Mike Mahoney and Taylor Robinson. Standing, from left, are coach Bruce Fenska, Andrew Bell, Sam Zerfoss, Justin MacPherson, David Richards and Mike Kaufman. Team members not in the picture include Andrew Gunther, Ryan McGeough and Matt Olsen.

Summit Rec hoop squads are off to their best starts

7th grade team won its first nine games

Summit Recreation boys' basketball traveling teams are off to their best starts.

As of last last week, the 7th grade squad stood in first place and the 8th grade team in third place in Bi-County League competition.

Summit, traditionally a lower division team, has picked up the pace the past few seasons. Both squads won Hills Division championships last year en route to nine wins each, a Summit record.

This year the 7th grade team jumped out to a 9-0 start, while the 8th grade team was 7-2 after its first nine

The 7th grade team is sparked by the play of point guard Mike Mahoney, who is averaging 20 points. Guards James Johnson and Josh Sussman are averaging eight and seven

"I haven't seen a 7th grader as good as Mike Mahoney since Winston Smith," coach Bruce Fenska said. Smith starred in high school at St. Patrick's of Elizabeth and is now at UMass.

"Mike has the ability to take over a game and is so courtsmart for a 7th grader," Fenska said. "He gets everyone involved and has a great attitude."

Mike Garcia is the team's leading rebounder and averages 10 points. David Richards and Taylor Robinson have been rotating the final starting position.

The rest of the team includes Andrew Bell, Andrew Gunther, Mike Kaufman, Justin MacPherson, Sam Zerfoss and Matt Olsen. The team lost a strong inside player and starter in Ryan McGeough due to an operation.

Dominant wins have come against Berkeley Heights, Warren, Chatham and Madison and hard-fought victories have come against Cranford, Roselle, Fanwood and Hillside in overtime.

"The team has come together faster than anyone could have expected," Fenska said. "Everyone has progressed nicely. To be undefeated and in first place at the halfway point is incredible. The kids have stepped up and played

The 8th grade team is led by guards Geoff Marks, John Alpizar, Tim Fields and Matt Fields and forwards Peare Talbot, Zach Barber and John Stucker. Marks and Talbot average nine points each, Stucker eight and Barber five.

The remainder of the squad includes Wellington Smith, Chris Conlon, Ian Kelly, Pete Melcon and Henry Dickson. Conlon aveages seven points.

"I've never seen a group of 8th graders come into a season so dedicated and with a purpose to improve," Fenska said. "We added a few big people in Stucker, Smith and Conlon, which has improved us."

Depth is the key to this team, as not many squads in the league are as deep as Summit. Last year's squad went 9-6, while this year's squad has already defeated Chatham and Roselle, two teams it lost to last season.

"We're probably the deepest 10-strong team in the league," Fenska said. "To go into Roselle last week and sweep it on its home court has to be one of the greatest moments in Summit Recreation basketball history."

Summit boys' basketball seeks to Carey on in the state playoffs

By JR Parachini Sports Editor

Ryan Carey is filling the basket like he's never filled it

The Summit High School boys' basketball standout, one of the best point guards in North Jersey, scored 50 points in

two games last week. The senior first netted 27 in a 63-56 loss to Cranford in the first round of the Union County Tournament at the Dum Sport Center in Elizabeth. His season-high total included nine field goals and seven free throws. Two of his

field goals were three-pointers. Carey helped Summit get back on the winning track Thursday as he poured in 23 points in a dominating 73-50 Iron Hills Conference-Hills Division win at home over

Summit, among the top teams in the Hills Division, began the week with an overall record of 14-4. The Hilltoppers were swept in conference play by Weequahic and split with Mendham.

Summit will not have to deal with Mendham when the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 playoffs commence next week because the defending champion Minutemen moved up to Group 3 this year.

However, Summit will have to beat a tough Chatham team at home in the 5-at-4 quarterfinal to get a shot at playing top-seeded Weequahic in the semifinals. Weequahic will have to beat either eighth-seeded North 13th Street Tech of Newark or ninth-seeded Montville in its quarterfinal.

Summit has already defeated Chatham, beating the Mor-

North 2, Group 2 **Basketball Quarterfinals Next Week**

Boys': 5-Chatham at 4-Summit

Girls': 7-Summit at 2-Hanover Park Semifinals Next Weekend

ris County school in Suburban Classic competition back in December.

But if the Hilltoppers want to reach the sectional final. they will have to find a way to finally beat Hills Division champion Weequahic.

In addition to Carey, Mike Jones had a hot hand for the Hilltoppers last week. He nailed five three-point baskets in a 15-point effort against Cranford and then scored nine points on three more "treys" against Hanover Park.

Lamar Freeman had seven points against Cranford and 15 against Hanover Park, while Dan Dugan netted five points against Cranford and 15 vs. the Hornets.

Summit's girls' team, after falling to Scotch Plains 47-41 in first-round UCT action at Roselle Catholic, was defeated again by conference foes last Thursday and Friday.

Summit lost to Hanover Park 46-30 in East Hanover Thursday as Karen Jann led the Hilltoppers with 14 points. Summit was then upset by 3-15 Parsippany team Friday as it was edged 43-42 in Parsippany. Jann netted a team-high 10 points in that contest.

Jarm was also Summit's high-scorer against Scotch Plains as she had a 17-point performance. Summit reached the semifinals the past two UCTs, winning the county for the first time in 1999.

Summit began the final week of the regular season with a 10-8 mark.

The Hilltoppers are the seventh seed in North 2, Group 2 and will play at second-seeded Hanover Park in the

Here's a look at the two North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 brackets:

BOYS'

North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2: 1-Weequahic. 2-Roselle. 3-Newark Tech. 4-Summit. 5-Chatham. 6-Hillside. 7-Caldwell. 8-North 13th Street Tech. 9-Montville. First Round: 9-Montville at 8-North 13th Street Tech. Quarterfinals: Montville/North 13th Street Tech at 1-Weequahic. 5-Chatham at 4-Summit. 7-Caldwell at 2-Roselle. 6-Hillside at 3-Newark Tech.

GIRLS' North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2: 1-Chatham. 2-Hanover Park. 3-North 13th Street Tech. 4-Newark Tech. 5-Governor Livingston. 6-North Warren. 7-Summit. 8-Caldwell.

Ouarterfinals: 8-Caldwell at 1-Chatham, 5-Governor Livingston at 4-Newark Tech. 7-Summit at 2-Hanover Park. 6-North Warren at 3-North 13th Street Tech.

Summit seeks to improve fortunes

Playoff games abound

By Jeff Wolfrum Staff Writer

"The nice thing about getting to the finals of the league playoffs is it prepares you for the state tournament," Summit High School hockey coach Keith Nixon said about what might be ahead for his team.

The Hilltoppers, who were 14-5-2 as of Monday and ranked No. 10 in the state, faced St. Joseph of Montvale Tuesday night in the first round of their league playoffs. Summit has beaten the Bergen County school twice this season, first by a 7-2 score Jan. 3 at Warinanco Rink in Roselle and a then by a 2-1 count 10 days later at Sport-O-Rama in Monsey, N.Y.

"St. Joseph's has played very well the past few weeks," Nixon said. "They have really improved since the first two times we played them."

High School Ice Hockey

If the Hilltoppers get by St. Joseph's, they will meet either Montclair or Clifton in the next round. Summit defeated Montclair twice this season by scores of 2-0 and 2-1 and split with Clifton, losing 3-1 and winning 2-1.

"Both teams are tough, so it won't be a bargain playing either one," Nixon

The coach feels if all goes right and they make it to the finals, Toms River North will be sitting there also. Summit tied TRN 3-3 Dec. 27 at Winding River Rink in Toms River and then

lost to the South Jersey squad 5-3 Jan. 16 at Warinanco. "I like our chances," Nixon said. "In all the divisions, anybody can beat

In defeating Westfield on Feb. 13 by a score of 10-3 to place them at 14-5-2,

the Hilltoppers only losses have come by teams that are ranked higher than 'We've beaten everybody who's behind us and have lost to three teams that

are ranked ahead of us," Nixon said. The coach is most proud of the way his squad bounced back from an 0-1-1

start and went 10-2-2 in league play since. Leading the way has been the play of senior goalie Richard James, who has a 2.44 goals-against average and a 1.77 mark in league play. He also has three shutouts to his credit and will play in the Senior All-Star game on March 26 at

Pro Skate Rink in South Brunswick. "Richard has just been phenomenal this year," Nixon said.

Scoring punch comes from juniors Matt Starker, Keith Schroeder, Craig Oliver and senior Mike Nelson.

The Hilltoppers have played well defensively and don't give up many goals. Tight games are also something that doesn't rattle Summit as is attested to its four 2-1 victories.

"We have no fear of playing in a one-goal game," Nixon said. That will probably not be seen until after the lower seeds have played in the

NJSIAA Public Schools Tournament. The third-seeded Hilltoppers will face the winner of the Verona-at-Nutley game. Verona getting the 35th seed and Nutley the 30th.

If Summit wins, a possible matchup between Clifton or Roxbury looms. "They are both very good teams and to advance we must pay attention to every detail," Nixon said.

If the Hilltoppers are fortunate enough to reach the semifinate they could face second-seeded powerhouse Brick. The final could easily have top-seeded Toms River North in the mix.

"We've seen a lot of these teams head-to-head," Nixon said. "We should have a shot at winning it, but it's going to be difficult."

Summit swim teams excel in states

Both Summit High School varsity swimming teams excelled in NJSIAA Tournament competition.

The girls' team defeated New Providence 92-78 in North Jersey, Public B quarterfinal-round action before falling to Scotch Plains 100-70 in last Thursday's semifinals.

The boys' team defeated Caldwell 105-65 in the quarterfinals before being edged by Northern Highlands 88-82 in last Friday's semifinals.

For the girls' against New Providence, Lindsay Jordan finished first in the 50-yard freestyle in 26.46 and was also first in the 100-yard backstroke in

Katie Ardington was first in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:15.46 and first in the 200-yard individual medley in 2:26.59.

Summit captured the 400-yard freestyle and 200-yard medley relays as well. The Hilltoppers had a time of 4:09.22 in the 400-yard freestyle behind A. Ardington, Jones, Jordan and Morris and a time of 2:01.16 in the 200-yard freestyle behind K. Ardington, Jordan, Morris and Jones.

Against Scotch Plains, Jordan was first int he 100-yard backstroke and Ardington first in the 200-yard IM. Summit also won the 400-yard freestyle relay behind Ardington, Jordan, Jones and Morris.

Summit had an outstanding record of 12-2 after the Scotch Plains meet. For the boys' against Caldwell, Alex Lovejoy captured the 200-yard freestyle in 2:00.03 and the 500-yard freestyle in 5:30.17, while Nick Nagel won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:08.23 and the 200-yard IM in 2:11.38. Parker placed first in the 100-yard backstroke in 1:00.46.

Summit also captured the 400-yard freestyle relay in 3:58.20 behind Beamer, Mulligan, Lovejoy and Clark and the 200-yard medley relay in 1:45.26 behind Clark, Nagel, Matthews and Shea.

Nagel also won two events against Northern Highlands, finishing first in the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:05.30 and first in the 200-yard IM in 2:09.47. Lovejoy was first in the 200-yard freestyle in 1:58.80.

Summit won the 400-yard freestyle relay in 3:48.08 behind Beamer, Mulligan, Lovejoy and Clark.

Summit had an outstanding record of 12-2 after the Northern Highlands

Dayton girls' basketball improved record to 13-6

Play at Glen Ridge in states

By JR Parachini

Sports Editor

After falling to Governor Livingston 54-37 in the first round of the Union County Tournament at Linden, the Dayton girls' basketball team won consecutive conference road games to begin the week with a 13-6 record.

Dayton improved to 11-4 in the Valley Division of the Mountain Valley Conference after beating Brearley 41-25 in Kenilworth Feb. 13 and then topped St. Mary's 58-32 in Elizabeth last Friday.

In the win against Brearley, Esther Aizenberg scored 25 points and Sara Steinman and Linda Agostinelli had five each. Aizenberg had 19 points against St. Mary's, while Tara Listowski had 10 points and 10 rebounds and Sara Abra-

ham nine points. The state playoffs commence next week. Here's a look at Dayton's section: North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1: 1-Butler. 2-Glen Ridge. 3-Mountain Lakes. 4-Bloomfield Tech. 5-New Providence. 6-Whippany Park. 7-Dayton.

8-Kinnelon. 9-Cedar Grove. First Round: 9-Cedar Grove at 8-Kinnelon.

Quarterfinals: Cedar Grove/Kinnelon at 1-Butler. 5-New Providence at 4-Bloomfield Tech. 7-Dayton at 2-Glen Ridge. 6-Whippany Park at 3-Moun-

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