# Echo $1=A D \neq ?$ <br> Serving Springfield and Mountainside 

Students wait for Santa

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer For many, the holiday esason
means fieavy shopping a break to means fieavy shopping, a break from
work and spending time with those

For kindergartners at spingftemds Edward V. Walton schood t means
classroom fun and anticipating the
time of the year that rewards themy for being good
Ahson faccars class took a tim share what they fore looking for vard to in this season of givinge, and of course, receiving ared Horowitz, for example the traditional board game based on he New York Yankees baseball team: o get his Hot Whecls he can't wall his wish were follow doning C . nor Maboney and Steven Singer naming the specific set that they bope o get. Steven's holiday season will xtend into January, when he will isit Disney World with his family. Whice Mary Athan is looking for also awaitio a whe house to spend time with her family, Caroline Fairfax expects "Princess PJs, " white Stephanie Zhang can't wait for her Britney Spears costume. While the duo is ready to receive spedescribed by Placea as the fashion expert, is anxious to unwrap clothes general,
Jonathan Holland, who celebrates both Hanukkah and Christmas, has best gift he could get: "Shrek" Jennifer Popescu, Ryan Locke and Karly Fizpatrick an seem to have a loye for animals, as Jernifer wants a mermaid doll, Ryan hopes to add od Karly wans a stuffed dog, a pug in particular:
Adam Berkowitz received XBox or Hanukkah and is enjoying his Cavorite NASCAR racing game, while apture memories with a new camera While Sam Khazaci enjoys baking cookies with his mom. each year, her own hoping for Oven" for the holiday
Although Connor Mahoney did not specify the gift he looks forward 10 getting most, he is anxious to

## Senior scores big



Cristin Zavocki Photo By Recon Roone Slibyna Cristin Zavocki, a senior at Jonathan Dayton High
School in Springield is congratulated by a well-wisher School in Springfield, is congratulated by a well-wisher after earning her 1,000 th point during the Dayton girls'
basketball game against Union Cathotic on Friday. For more, see Sports on Page mas tree
to in the snow during the vacation were nor said that they will play in his tory, Most of the childen seem to be Peter Buth' sente Christmas as wel as Peter Burns sentiments of playing
in the snow during the vacation were
echoed by several students, exclaim-


Emma Ares, a student at Edward V. Walton School in Springfield, colors her-Christmas cookies with a magic marker that uses edible food coloring. For the kindergartners in All son Placca's class, learning about the holiday is both fun and tasty


Adam Berkowitz and Grace Miskewitz show off their artwork, displaying the two major symbols of the season that can be found during this time of year - the dreidel and the Christ-
ng. "Me too, me too,", already bad enough of the cold air and brisk winds.
loking forward to summer,"
Whil
While the 5 - and 6 -year-olds au
heir holiday cookies, decorated with
edible markers that turned many mouth blue, it was evident that folit
day traditions have only begun to day traditions
affect the class.

Whether they were receiving gifts isiting with relatives or playing dur ing the holiday break, all are ready for

## Public's help sought in raising clock funds

## By Rick Klittich Stant Writer

After making strides toward funding a proposed clock outside Valley
National Bank on Mountain Avenue, plans have taken shape and Mountainside Mayor Robert Viglianti said that he will be soliciting donations from residents starting in January. turer based in Union County has designed the clock and superimposed it into digital photos that allow for a visual picture of what the intersection will look like before installation. "This is not a borough project."
said Viglianti, adding that it will take said Viglianti, adding that it will take the public selp tio alise money for
the clock A committe is to be formed to start raising money, though much has already been coilected. Four main plates located on the base of the clock will bear the names
of three companies and the borough of three companies Valley National Bank conitself
tributed $\$ 5.000$ to have its name on the plate, while PSE\&G has donated $\$ 2 ; 500$ toward the clock to bear its
name on another plate. name on another plate
hes to remain anonymous for the time being.
Viglianti stressed that the plate obtained by the borough is not being
paid for through tax dollars. paid for through tax do his
be around $\$ 40,000$. Controlled by satellites triggered with a global positioning system, the fivir-faced clock, as compared to a two-theed model, is
of a traditional make of a traditional make minimal, as the manuffeturer said that
a half-hour seminar will follow the completion of the installation, In explained to borough representatives Viglianti said the Deparment of Public Works may take care of it, but that will be decided upon later.
The clock is expected to be in place by spring.
The manufacturer uses the identical green color used by Mountainside In logos around the borough, so the
clock will be green with bearing a white fren with gold trim, post attached to the clock will har spots for plaques and nak will hava who helped donate toward the clock' purchase and installation.
The manufacturer also mak miniature clocks, approximately five inches wide, that can allow the public to see what the clock will look like
These replicas can serve as momento These replicas can serve as momento
for people who help pay for the clock Viglianti said.
If this idea is used, for example there could be different-sized clock or desk sets that would be offe
residents around the borough. residents around the borough.
Viglianti said that solicitation be made to residents for a minimum contribution of $\$ 250$. Confident that there will be an excess of funding for the project. Viglianti said that he for sees no problems in soliciting contr
butions. Verdin Design Group has a promo-
tional program with another company tional program with another company
to send mailings to Mountanside to send mailings to Mountainside
businesses and residents Lierstur businesses and residents. Literature
and postcards are examples of what and postards are examples of what residents may receive, viglianti said.
Any extra money raised by the

## District undecide distribution of fu

## By Rick Khitich Staff Writer

Staff Writer
White the Mountainside Board of While the Mountainside Board of
ands. While this did not cover all Education looks forward to receiving
reimbursement payments for the dissolution of the Union County Regional High School District in 1997, board President Peter Goggi said that even
atter two paymentit dates have passed. atter two payment dates have passed
it has yet to be discusiced how the extra money will affeet the school budget. The biannual payments are made in April and October cach year by Springfield, Kenilworth, Berkeley
Heights and Clark to the wo recciving communities, Mountainside and Garwood A total of $\$ 11$ million will be paid to the two towns over a five-yer span, with Mountainside receiving 76 percent of the total payment and Gar
wood receviving 24 percent The Mountainside Board of Education decided to contribute more than
$\$ 400,000$ toward local property tax elief, according to Gogg Goggi said the school board is still
figuring out what can be done with the riguring out what can be done with the
extra funding that will consistently be paid to the district. "We haven't discussed it," he said:
Gogei said the Board of Education is somewhat limited in what it can spend the money on. ects, for examplë; can't use the surplus funds if they have already been contracted, However, Goggi said, if a boiler is needed in a school building in two
years, that is something along the lines of what the money can be put toward Mayor Robert Viglianti said that earlier this year, the Board of Education gave the borough a check fo
more than $\$ 160,000$ to help the bor more than $\$ 160,000$ to help the bor
ough pay for legal expenses it bore during the process and fight in court casonable portion of them He esti: mated the total
around $\$ 215,000$
I don"t know what their official plan was," said Viglianti of the school board's conversations on how to use
the repayments. He added that it was he repayments. He addec that it was
possible hat each year, the Board of Education may consider providing some funding toward lowering the property tax levy, white using the ther proft of trict projects
We
We have to check with our legal
counsel and ensure the ways we can spend it," said Goggi. He noted that he would not be against using some moncy for tax abatement.
Any surplus funding gets looked "Any surplus funding gets tooked
at the end of the year," Goggi said. at the end of the year," Goggi said,
It must be decided in the first quarter of the year" how to use the money.. While in March, Springfield applied for a stay and an appeal to push back the start of the payments,
the district has already written two cheeks to Mountainside and Garwood Each Mountainside installment totals. 166,119, while the payments to Garood are $\$ 52,438$ each
The repayment increases the annu-
school tax by
$\$ 40$
37 assessed at $\$ 100,000$ in Springfield. The state Board of Education had nforced the state Supreme Court's reversal decision that held the four payment of $\$ 3.3$ million to Moustainside and Gatwood, but this was lowered to $\$ 11$ million, upon review. A bill considered in the Legislature field and the other of districts spould held and the other districts would from five years to 10 years never took shape, as payments are ongoing.

## Offices close for holidays

| The offices of this newspaper will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 in observance of Chisistmas and Friday, Dec. 31 in observance of New | - Letters to the editor - Mon day, 9 a.m. <br> What's Going On - Monday, <br> 4 p.m. |
| :---: | :---: |
| Year's Eve <br> We will reopen on the following Mondays | - Display ads - Monday 5 p.m. for Section $A$ and noon for Section B |
| The deadlines for the Dec 30 | Sports news - Monday noon |
| d Jan. 6 editions are as follows | General news - Monday, |
| - Lifestyle, including church |  |
| nd club news, etc. - Today, | - Classified advertising |
| - Legal advertising - Monday, | We wish all of our readers and |



A rendering of the design for a proposed clock near Valley National Bank on Mountain Avenue in Mo
Donations will be sought to pay for the clock.
project is to be donated to the Moun-- next month, Vigliant sald, "and we tainside First Aid Squad, although will proceed from there.
Viglianti said that this does not mean Viglianti said that this does not mean The Mountainside Clock Trust
the Borough Councit is looking to Fund was opened by Borough raise an extreme amount of money to Fund was opened by Borough Council "We will start soliciting residents keep track of the funds


Rollover yields Dul charge


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 and
Artist uses paintings to create a form of chaotic precision in art



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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

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 lists September awards Otice's top awards in septenber in
addition, the entire oofice won the regional a avard for top restic listings during September liarvey Tekel.

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ilso holds membership in the New

 Jetey. Asociation on Realtors Niki Fry terned the office's awird | or top listings |
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| Sthe is a member or Weichers | 2003 Million Dollar Sales and Mar

keled Clubs, and weideris 2003 keted Clubs, and Weicherr's 2003
President's Club; an honor that places her in the top I percent of the compai ny's 13,300 sales associates. In addi. tion. Fry is a 2003 member of the
NJAR Circle of Excellence a the sil$\underset{\substack{\text { ver levcl. } \\ \text { Holly } y \text { Cohen was named top pro. }}}{ }$ ducer for the montuh She is a member of Weichert's 2003 Million Dollar Sales and Marketed Clubs and Weicherr's 2003 Presiden's Club, In addition. Cohen is a 2003 member of
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