



Springfield Leader

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Two sections



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Alternate ed gets OK

By SUZETTE STALKER
The Union County Regional Board of Education Tuesday approved an alternative education program, slated for September, which will help high school seniors at risk of not graduating to get their diplomas.

A concept developed through County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Vito Gagliardi's Office, the alternative education program will be held at three area locations, including Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in Springfield, and in Union Township and Plainfield.

The program will be conducted at Dayton on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Nancyanne Kopp, director of the program, reported that alternative education, titled "Project SPANS," — Seniors Progress At Night School, is designed to help students who, for whatever reason, do not have enough credits to graduate with their class in June.

These at-risk students may be those who transferred from another school district and may not have sufficient credits to graduate from the regional district, or those who have fallen behind either academically or failed their attendance requirements.

"It's a beneficial program in that these students will be able to graduate with their class," Kopp explained. "Students who don't graduate sometimes do not get their diplomas right away and they miss the opportunities and privileges which go along with having their diplomas."

In other news, Howard Heller, a Berkeley Heights resident, was sworn in Tuesday as the board's new Berkeley Heights representative. Heller replaces the late Robert J. Kostal, who died June 26. Heller will fill Kostal's unexpired term until April 1990.

Heller received a bachelor of arts degree in government from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania in 1965, and his M.B.A. from the University of Virginia in 1969. He is employed as national sales manager for the Muller Machinery Co. in Metuchen.

Heller and his wife, Pamela, have two children. Son Matthew will be entering Governor Livingston Regional High School in Berkeley Heights as a ninth-grader, while daughter Robyn is in the fourth grade.

The board also introduced its revised smoking policy for the regional district, which will go into effect Dec. 16, based on Governor Thomas's Kean's state-wide policy regarding smoking in New Jersey schools signed on June 16.

Under the new policy, smoking will be prohibited by all students, staff members and other citizens within the four regional high schools, including Jonathan Dayton, Arthur L. Johnson in Clark, Governor Livingston in Berkeley Heights and David Brearley in Kenilworth, as well as vehicles used to transport students.

A free smoking-cessation program for students and staff members will also be available in the fall for anyone

who wishes to participate in it.

"If smoking is as harmful, as the Surgeon General of the United States, so indicates, it is harmful to all; regardless of age. Therefore, the Regional District determines to enforce a similar policy for all students and staff alike as well as citizens within our buildings," the policy mandates.

The board's original controversial proposal, which had been slated to begin last January, called for cigarette smoking to be banned from all school buildings, grounds and vehicles.

That proposal sparked the Union County Regional Federation of Teachers and the Union County Regional Education Association to file an unfair labor practice suit with the state's Public Employment Relations Committee.

Kean signed the state-wide policy, however, before PERC rendered its decision.

Air collision kills ex-Springfielder

A former Springfield resident was killed, along with six other people, after two small planes collided moments after one of them dropped four parachutists at an airport festival in Pennsylvania on July 30.

Peter C. Miller, 46, of Sellersville, Pa., was piloting the Cessna 82 which had carried the parachutists to Queen City Airport, which was hosting the sixth annual Lehigh Valley Balloon Festival.

The Cessna collided with another small plane about a mile southwest of the airport at about 1:34 p.m. Miller's plane crashed at the edge of a nearby parking lot mall, while the other plane landed about 1,000 feet away.

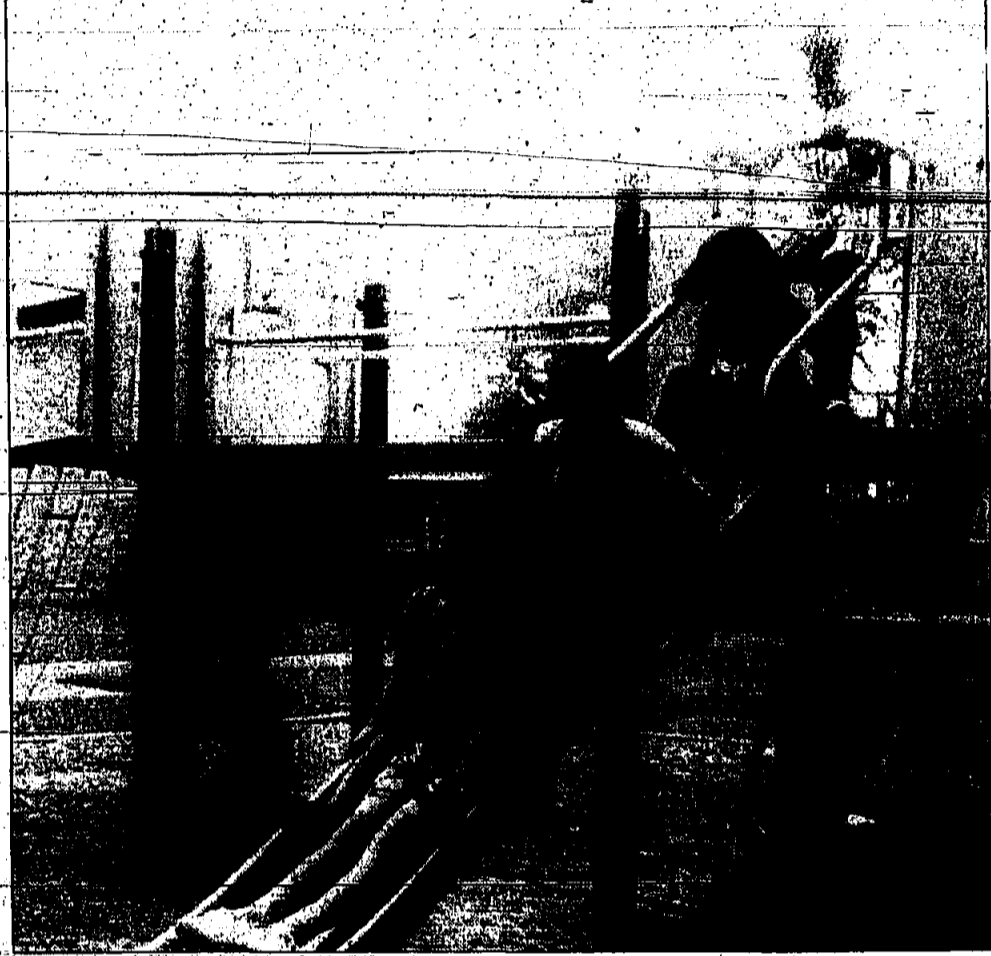
One person on the ground was reportedly injured. There were no

known survivors from either of the two aircraft.

A native of Summit, Miller was raised in Springfield and graduated from Jonathan Dayton Regional High School and Kean College. He was employed as a postal carrier with the Riegelsville Post Office in Pennsylvania.

The Vietnam veteran was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 245 in Sellersville, Pa., and belonged to the Loyal Order of Moose in Quakertown, Pa. A memorial ceremony for Miller was scheduled to be held at the Moose lodge last night.

Miller is survived by his wife, Betty June; his mother, Rose R. Miller of Springfield and a brother, Robert M. Miller, also of Springfield.



SLIP SLIDING AWAY — Springfield youngsters, left to right, Michael Masseu, 10, Michael Lee, 9, Marshall Carden, 11, Nicole Masseu, 12, and Stacey Jones, 11, take a group ride down the slide at Sandmeier School playground on a hot summer's day.

Psychotherapist explores the trauma of divorce

By CHERYL APTOWITZER
Springfield psychotherapist Gary Dushkin spoke recently at the Summit YWCA on the "Trauma of Divorce — How to Get Through It," discussing how certain painful emotions can compound the divorce process, and offering ways people can begin a fresh start.

There are two phases that a person goes through: decision making, where one or both partners determine if they should get a divorce or try and make the marriage work, and transition, where the spouse and the child learn to adjust to the changes that are taking place.

During this period, according to Dushkin, people going through the trauma of divorce frequently experience shock, fear, sorrow and anger which can make the divorce process even more difficult.

"Very intense reactions are natural," says Dushkin. "But it is important to recognize these feelings. Ignoring or denying them is not healthy."

The time following the divorce, especially the first few months, is very stressful. Family and friends should be supportive and give their loved ones a lot of tender loving care.

An estimated one million divorces occur annually, with young couples having more than those married for over 25 years. Dushkin feels that the widespread prevalence of divorce may be due to several factors.

They include no-fault divorce laws making it easier to get divorced; a loosening affiliation with religion and the notion of the "me" generation, where people concentrate on what they can get out of the marriage rather than what they can give.

According to Dushkin, some of the signs that indicate that the marriage is failing include not looking forward to going home, a decrease in the frequency of sexual relations and fighting that results in physical violence.

"When the communication stops and there's nothing to talk about besides the weather or financial concerns, that's when it's time to look into getting a divorce," maintains Dushkin.

The situation has to be looked at from a long-term perspective, according to the psychotherapist. If the problems don't go away within several months or a year, chances are it's more than just a difficult period.

Divorce affects everyone for the worse whether it be monetarily or emotionally. After trying to work it out on their own, Dushkin recommends that couples see a counselor before making the decision to divorce.

As in a death, many feel a major loss and a sense of guilt over having their children growing up in a single parent home. The experience is a very traumatic one, not only for the splitting parents, but for the kids. "It is crucial that the child have access to both parents," Dushkin insists.

"Many parents find it difficult to continue nurturing their kids who rely on them. Ninety percent of those who get custody are women who are now responsible for managing a household by themselves. She may find herself



GARY DUSHKIN

in a diminished capacity to give to her kids during this time.

"It is not a good idea to wait until the children are older if it's obvious that the marriage won't last. Under the age of three, they usually won't remember anything. However, it's not fair for children to have to grow up where there isn't a happy home," Dushkin warns.

"Children must be told that they aren't to blame and that they will be cared for," he continues. "Parents should reassure them that they will continue to see both parents after the divorce. Living arrangements should be discussed with them."

Some people have false expectations about their partners. Others grow apart over the years. Separation is an option which usually leads to divorce. For them, it is a second opportunity to gain happiness.

Dushkin adds, "Hopefully, the person comes to understand why the marriage didn't work so that they don't repeat the same mistakes." Evidence of this is the statistic that 80 percent of divorced people remarry.

Therapy is geared towards minimizing the stress as much as possible. A professional is someone who can reduce the continuing conflict. The focus is on treating the family as a whole and each member individually.

Another seminar on the topic is scheduled to be given by Dushkin this October. Dushkin has his doctorate in clinical psychology, is licensed in the state as a Marriage and Family counselor and specializes in Divorce Therapy.

Tick warnings are issued

By SUZETTE STALKER
The recent discovery of deer ticks in Mountainside has also put Springfield residents on the alert to the dangers of Lyme disease, a progressive and debilitating illness commonly carried by ticks in wooded areas.

Several ticks submitted to the Mountainside Health Department were sent to the New Jersey Department of Health in Trenton for laboratory tests. Unfortunately, the ticks were not considered viable for testing.

Symptoms of Lyme disease include a rash; flu-like symptoms, swelling and pain, as well as less common reactions such as an irregular heartbeat, facial paralysis and weakness in the legs.

The deer tick is smaller than the American dog tick or the brown dog tick frequently found on pets, according to David Adam of the state Health Department's Consumer Health Services.

Adam explained that deer ticks who carry Lyme disease generally

pick it up while in the larva stage from mice, and that they transmit it to humans or animals during the nymph and adult stages of their lives.

Deer ticks are usually found in wooded areas frequented by deer, though the parasites may select other animals as hosts.

Adult deer ticks are a dull reddish color, as compared with the American dog tick and the brown dog tick, which are both brown in color. American dog ticks can also transmit Lyme disease to humans and pets, said Adam, though these ticks usually decline around mid-summer.

Residents are urged to check family members and pets for ticks following outdoor excursions, particularly in wooded areas. They are also advised to wear long pants or shorts light enough in color to detect ticks.

Those who suspect they may have been bitten by a deer tick should attempt to bring the tick into the Health Department either alive or as

soon as possible after death. Keeping the tick in a container with a moist cotton ball will help keep it alive or keep the body moist until testing can be done.



Photo By Peter Clambell

'Mr. Peanut' is selected

By CHERYL APTOWITZER
Sixteen youngsters went "nuts" last Sunday when they participated in the annual Mr. Peanut contest. The competition, held at the Springfield Municipal Pool, was hard to crack. Three judges watched intently as the one to five-year-olds waded to their admirers.

Recreation Director Brian McNany attributed the small turnout to that day's inclement weather. "It's an event for kids other than swimming. Normally we get a great response."

A winner was chosen based on "honey-dipped smiles and cuteness appeal," according to McNany. Mary Almeida, Helen Geller and Helen Winkelholz all volunteered to make the difficult decision. Three-year-old Scott Greenblatt was given first place in a "Jiffy." Trophies were "shelled" out to the top three contestants.

AND THE WINNER IS ... Three-year-old Scott Greenblatt of Springfield, who took first place in the 'Mr. Peanut' contest at the Springfield Municipal Pool on Sunday. Contestants, who ranged in age from one to five-years-old, were judged on their smiles and charm, according to Recreation Director Brian McNany.

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Note to readers
 The Springfield Leader looks a little different today. We've eliminated the tabloid Focus section and moved many of its familiar features into the new Lifestyles section. Those features can now be found on Pages 7-9 in the newspaper's front section. Our new B section debuts today, featuring news of sports, entertainment, business and real estate, our business directory, and our classified ads.

SHOWCASE OF HOMES

Real estate transactions

Linden

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Buyer: Saul & Emilia Tenreiro

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Buyer: Timothy & Denise O'Shea

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