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How to reach us:

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 below.

Voice Mail:

Our main phone number, 908-686-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system to better serve our customers. During regular business hours, a receptionist will answer your call. During the evening or when the office is closed your call will be answered by an automated receptionist.

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The Echo is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$22.00, two-year subscriptions for \$39.00. College and out-of-state subscriptions are available. You may subscribe by phone by calling 1-908-686-7700 and asking for the circulation department. Allow at least two weeks for processing your order. You may use Mastercard or VISA.

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News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week. Pictures must be black and white glossy prints. For further information or to report a breaking news story, call 1-908-686-7700 and ask Editorial.

Letters to the editor:

The Echo 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 clarity.

e-mail:

The Echo accepts opinion pieces by e-mail. Our address is WCN22@localsource.com. e-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

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Display advertising for placement in the general news section of the Echo 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. Please call 1-908-686-7700 for an appointment. Ask for the display advertising department.

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Postmaster Please Note:

The MOUNTAINSIDE ECHO (USPS 166-860) is published weekly by Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc., 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J., 07083. Mail subscriptions \$22.00 per year in Union County, 50 cents per copy, non-refundable. Periodicals postage paid at Union, N.J. and additional mailing office. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the MOUNTAINSIDE ECHO, 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J., 07083.

Reservation's deer population was thinned by county

(Continued from Page 1) were taken into police custody for placing glue in the locks of the command post.

As February rolled in so did better weather, and the controlled hunt was able to gain momentum as the hunters came closer to the county's goal of 189 deer for the year. The county parks department reported 53 deer taken in the first month of the program, dozens more than were taken in January.

By mid-February, the tally had risen to 63 deer toward the goal of 189. At the end of their five year plan, the goal is to have only 60 deer left on the reservation, which the county feels would be the ideal number for the size of the park. The parks department said that about 20 deer per square mile is the ultimate goal, a big reduction from the estimated 300 deer in the reservation at the beginning of the 1996 hunt.

The deer hunt ended by mid-March, and a total of 167 deer were harvested out of the Watchung Reservation. According to the parks department, who were looking to take out between 120 and 189 deer in 1996, this was a good total.

By the end of the hunt, parks officials found evidence of poaching in the reservation by unauthorized hunters. A nine point buck was found by the parks department in the reservation. This was cause for alarm by parks officials due to the fact that the hunters who were part of the controlled hunt were not shooting any male deer. In addition, all of the county's hunters were using only shotguns for safety reasons, but the dead male deer found was hit with a .22 caliber rifle. The parks department issued strong warnings that anyone caught poaching would face severe penalties.

Overall, the parks department was pleased with the results of the hunt and planned to continue with the five year plan in 1997, pending approval by the Watchung Reservation Deer Management Subcommittee.

In July, officials from the Union County Parks Department presented a 66 page report to the county's Deer Management Subcommittee. The committee then recommended to the County Freeholders that the five year plan be allowed to continue until the county's goal of only 60 deer in the reservation is met. The report restated that 167 deer were killed in the controlled hunt.



Union County continued its program to reduce the deer population throughout 1996.

Year highlighted by election

(Continued from Page 1)

October

The Marriot Corporation held a meeting with the residents of the borough to discuss the opening of their Brighton Gardens assisted living complex, soon to open on Route 22. The meeting was set to answer any questions the residents had about the site and what exactly the corporation would be doing in the borough.

The Mountianside Women's Club celebrated their 40th anniversary with a fashion show luncheon at L'Affaire.

At a Borough Council meeting, Marie Kelly was presented the Mable Young Good Neighbor Award for her many good deeds in the borough.

November

With November came the elections and a clean sweep of the Borough Council seats by the Republican candidates. In an overwhelming victory, Thomas Perrotta, Keith Turner, and Paul Mirabelli won the local election by a wide margin and will serve the borough for the next three years. They all took time to celebrate the win at the *Alexus Steak House* on Route 22.

This month also saw the start of the renovations to the Youth Baseball Field House in anticipation of next year's season.

The Children's Specialized Hospital was able to offer better service after opening its newly renovated and

expanded Ambulatory Services Center.

Retiring Councilman William "Tex" Jackson was honored in the pages of the *Echo* for his many years of service to the borough.

December

The month brought the holiday spirit with the annual lighting of the Borough Christmas tree at Borough Hall.

Residents who attended Borough Council meeting this month had two main concerns — the Recreation Commission and the local cable television channel 35. The council heard from the public on these matters and said that they would get to the bottom of the residents' concerns.

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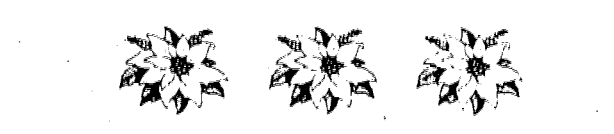
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Dissolution tops headlines in 1996

By Christopher Toohey
Staff Writer

When future generations remember 1996, the first thing that will most likely come to mind will be the dissolution of Union County Regional High School District No. 1. Throughout the year, the intricate debates and details of the dissolution captured the spotlight almost every week in 1996.

In the first week of 1996, the state Board of Review, led by state Commissioner of Education Leo Klagholz, dealt a blow to Garwood by rejecting its motion for a stay of the board's decision to conduct a public referendum on the dissolution of the district, allowing Union County Superintendent of Schools Leonard Fitts to continue his efforts to schedule a referendum.

Later that month students attending Jonathon Dayton Regional High School in Springfield spoke: They didn't want the district dissolved.

Almost three months after the Board of Review and Klagholz decided to allow a public referendum, local school officials continued to grow increasingly frustrated and impatient because a date had yet to be set.

Fitts was expected to set a date, however, he had yet to do so and announced he would be retiring at the end of the month. Board members expressed their disappointment regarding Fitts' failure to schedule the referendum before leaving office.

In early March, the boards of education of Springfield and Kenilworth called for open communications to be established, since many students attending Dayton lived in both towns.

Then on March 8, Assistant Commissioner of Education Peter Contini announced the long-awaited referendum date as May 14.

Later in the month, the DOE recommended a referendum question, which the district could put to the voters when residents of its six member municipalities settle the deregionalization proposal May 14.

If the district accepts the state's phrasing, voters would be asked "should Union County Regional High School District No. 1 be dissolved on a date to be determined by the commissioner of education?"

A source of debate developed among the superintendents of the local K-8 districts that the state law that

would allow high school teachers to remain in those districts if it was approved. That law would force the local school boards to hire the high school teachers, maintain their salaries and honor their tenure — even if dismissing untenured elementary and middle school teachers is necessary. But superintendents supporting deregionalization said they doubt the law would translate into a fight over available teaching positions.

Regional Board Secretary Peter Lanzi was expected to give the county the final version recommended by the acting county superintendent of schools on April 16 and accepted by the regional board.

The question to be posted to the voters May 14 would be: "Should Union County Regional High School District No. 1 be dissolved on a date to be determined by the commissioner of education?"

In a letter dated April 16, county Acting Superintendent of Schools David Livingston informed Regional Superintendent Donald Merachnik that "the interpretive statement indicates Garwood and Mountainside will continue to educate their students directly in grades K-8, while sending their high school students to schools governed by another board, with possibly a representative on that board."

On May 14, the public referendum was held. In order for the district to dissolve, not only would the majority of the popular vote had to have approved dissolution, but four out of the six constituent municipalities also would have had to approve dissolution.

A total of 18,806 votes were cast, with 10,274 to break up the district and 8,531 — a 22 percent winning margin. The referendum not only garnered the majority of the popular vote, it passed in four of the six towns.

Springfield, regarded as the referendum swing vote due to the division of its population concerning the issue, elected to break up the district by a margin of nearly 2-1.

Mountainside voters stood behind their Board of Education and voted to dissolve.

64 percent of Kenilworth's 4,434 registered voters came out to the polls as 2,406 voted in favor of dissolution while only 458 did not.

Only Garwood and Clark, the two

municipalities that provided the main opposition to deregionalization, rejected the referendum. Garwood residents voted to keep the district by a margin of 1,697 votes, compared to the 42 that were cast in favor, while 4,033 Clark voters sought to keep the high school district, with 536 voting to dissolve.

After nearly five years of political, financial and educational warring, those in favor of dissolution ultimately won their fight to break up the district.

In June, Klagholz ruled that the regional district was to be dissolved on July 1, 1997. It would be on that date that Johnson, Dayton, Brearley and Livingston would become the property of the Clark, Springfield, Kenilworth and Berkeley Heights boards of education, respectively. Klagholz also charged county superintendent David Livingston with developing a transition plan for the regional board by July 3.

Questioning the constitutionality of legislation passed to allow local school districts to share regional districts' assets in cases of deregionalization, Garwood's Superintendent of Schools Renee Howard said the decision to break up the district would be challenged.

Livingston forwarded the Dissolution Transition Plan and timeline to Klagholz on July 1, the date slated for the first transition activity. The timeline was to provide for "a smooth transition to four reconstituted K-12 districts," said Livingston in a letter to Klagholz.

The timeline established a Sept. 30 deadline for the Master Seniors Lists, in which the local districts would compile a list of courses offered and the teachers would be able to determine where they will go.

Local superintendents met on Oct. 7 to discuss the plan. Once the districts were dissolved, employees with more tenure would be given higher

priority in deciding what schools they want to go to.

But in late October, Klagholz issued a stay of the selection process to investigate a variety of legal issues presented by the teachers union. Among those concerns were threats of litigation by Berkeley Heights, Springfield, Mountainside and Clark, if any teachers selected positions in their K-8 districts before high school posts.

In November, the Union County Regional American Federation of Teachers Local 3417 registered a strong protest with Klagholz over what it said were, "ethical and prejudicial improprieties" raised by a letter sent to Klagholz from the constituent districts.

Later that month, the regional board voted to continue its "neutral stance" toward the issue of dissolution.

The resolution was passed by a vote of 6-2, but the last paragraph's statement supporting the dissolution of the district on July 1, 1997 was confronted by the AFT.

Members of the AFT sent a letter to Klagholz indicating that unresolved issues should warrant a possible change in the effective date of dissolution. The letter also claimed that the resolution states the board stance to be "anything but neutral."

On Dec. 6, Klagholz lifted the stay holding the process in abeyance while he looked at charges of illegality and impropriety raised by the union. The AFT information indicates that with the stay lifted, nearly all of the K-8 superintendents met for seven hours on Dec. 7 to launch the selection process.

Thus, the teacher selection process began Dec. 9. There were 253 positions available as the district will dissolve. A total of 226 of the positions are teaching positions.

Pisansky grants extension of master plan presentation

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

State Superior Court Judge John Pisansky has given Springfield an extension of the township's master plan.

Pisansky allowed Township Attorney Bruce Bergen's request for a 60-day presentation postponement. The township must now present a plan incorporating the Council on Affordable Housing requirements on March 3 instead of Jan. 3.

"The judge said he considered the request and granted it," said court secretary Lorraine Wallace. "He's sending out letters to all interested parties Thursday."

"That wasn't a hard decision to make," said Bergen. "We've been working diligently to get the master plan ready."

Pisansky has been overseeing Springfield's pending compliance of its Mount Laurel housing share for some time. The major problem for the township, however, has been where to place the 157 housing units. While credit is given to rehabilitating existing dwellings and senior citizen housing, the bulk of the units will have to be built.

Up to 10 sites have been considered over the last four years but each tract has its problems. The Columbia Lumber Yard on Mountain Ave., for example, needs grading which won't disturb wetlands on the property. Developer Jerry Pecaro sought to develop the Houdaille Quarry before Judge Pisansky ruled out his bid to buy the land from Union County and the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Another recent question is whether the Springfield Trucking Center on Morris Ave. would be included as a potential affordable housing location. The local B'Nai Brith said earlier this month that it had permission from property owner Bill Briggs to draw up a site plan for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to consider. The projected 75 units would serve as COAH credit should an envisioned senior citizens housing center be built.

"We expected the extension would go through," said B'Nai Brith Committeeman Joe Tennebaum. "We're still working with Washington, D.C. and some local banks to get the funding together."

Announcement policy

Couples are encouraged to send their engagement and wedding announcements to the lifestyle editor. Announcements should be typed, doubled spaced or legibly handwritten and no longer than one page. All announcements should have a daytime phone number for verification or if questions arise.

Information requested for engagements are parents names, high school name and town, college name, town and degree, name of employer and town where located, job title, and where the couple honeymooned and will reside.

For more information call Managing Editor Kevin Singer at (908) 686-7700, ext. 345.

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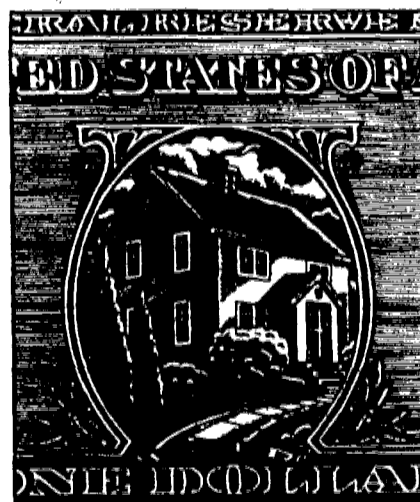
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Women's Club celebrates the holidays

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

The Mountainside Women's Club held one of its more lively monthly meetings at L'Affaire 22 last Wednesday afternoon. Given the holiday season and the fact that its charitable work has reached an annual high point, the 70 attendees had plenty to celebrate.

At first it appeared to be a somewhat formal luncheon. However, as each of the club's committee chairwomen spoke of their delegation's accomplishments, it became apparent that the group is not just a social club.

Edith Sgarro reported that the American Home Committee's cookie project went well. More than 125 coffee cans of cookies were packed, decorated and shipped to local nursing homes and other needy places. Education Committee Chief Angela Ganci announced that David Aizenberg of Springfield has received the Hugh O'Brien Youth Foundation Scholarship. The sophomore will spend a week in Trenton learning business and leadership skills courtesy of Rutgers University.

The three-course meal went quickly amid the brief but impressive 20 committee reports. Between the green beans and mashed potatoes, Florence Britton explained how the club formed.

"There were 30 of us from the local YWCA who got together and wanted to form a chapter of the General Fed-



Photo By Barbra Kokkalis

Georgette Bengue, Donna Sue Durand, Linda Esemplace, Pat Knodel, Jeanne Blackburn, and Lee Sargenti enjoy the festivities at the Mountainside Women's Club Holiday party.

eration of Women's Clubs," said Britton. "We met at the Mountainside Inn in 1956."

Britton and other members said the club has a strong tradition of service and sociability. Almost all of the com-

mittees lend themselves to some kind of communal cause. One delegation writes legislators about laws which would help families, another assists abused women or some other theme the state chapter president would advocate, and so on.

"We're big on education," said Helen Rosen. "The national club was formed at Douglass College, the first public college for women in the country. Besides the HOBY award, we give out two scholarships each May to local students."

Forty years later, the Mountainside Women's Club has grown to 130 members. The group is open to residents in the Mountainside area.

It wasn't long before the dessert was finished that the musician started playing. This club is one of the few groups that can gracefully shift their dancing from a Sinatra tune to the macarena. And why not? For all the work they do, they deserve it.

For details, call the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs, at (908) 249-5474.

Library to hold language program for children

The Springfield Free Public Library, located at 66 Mountain Ave., is starting a new program for 12- to 18-month-old children, with a parent or caregiver, called Library Babies. Each 20-minute session is designed to promote the enjoyment of language at home through teaching parents nursery rhymes, songs and movement activities which they can repeat at home with their children.

"This is a crucial pre-reading step, and it's really up to the parents to provide this experience," said Kathy Percoco, the children's librarian. "Before a child can learn to love listening to and reading stories, and before she is old enough to follow even the simplest plot, she must first learn to love the sounds and rhythms of her language — through nursery rhymes, chants and songs. If a parent makes these activities a frequent, regular, and — most importantly — loving part of the young child's experience,

that child will associate language with a sense of fun, security and love. This, in turn, paves the way for the child to learn to enjoy stories, which is the primary motivation for children wanting to learn to read. We know, of course, that kids who love stories grow into kids and adults who are book lovers."

The Library Babies program will be offered monthly starting Jan. 15. Preregistration is required. For more information, call the Children's Department at (201) 376-4930, Ext. 33.

Travelers Aid seeks volunteers

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Union County, a program of Catholic Community Services, is accepting applications for volunteers who wish to serve with Travelers Aid of New Jersey.

Travelers Aid has been operating at the International Terminal B of Newark Airport since 1992. New volunteers will be assigned to Terminal C, handling domestic flights. Training and parking are provided by Newark Airport and Travelers Aid. For more information, call Jo-Ann Croteau, RSVP director, at (908) 709-2152 or 709-2150.

Seniors aid squad

For the second time in a few months, the Springfield Senior Citizens donated their time to do a mailing for the First Aid Squad. Reminders have been sent to residents who have not sent in their donations to help support the First Aid Squad.

The following seniors participated:

Betty and Kitty Searles, Anita Franzese, Mary Rybiewicz, Dolores Thomas, Millie Guenther, Maria Lopes, Helen Winkelholz, Angie Scalera, David Boone, Nellie Boone, Louise Nepa, Helen Alpaugh, Adam and Mary Chapleski, Josephine Zentz, Edna Heyeck, Theresa Machauer, and Kathryn Gardella.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

So long, Dollar Bill!

As the current congressional term comes to a close, we prepare for the return to private life of Sen. Bill Bradley. Because his replacement will be Rep. Bob Torricelli, we're not exactly reaching for the champagne, but we'll still give a sigh of relief upon his safe departure from the Senate.

Earlier this year, New Jersey Monthly magazine profiled the senator. The article wasn't flattering; it illustrated how little New Jersey residents know about his political philosophy and voting record.

Now, we offer a brief record of what Bill Bradley represents, in the hope that you'll keep an eye on Torricelli.

• The Tax Reform Act of 1986 -- The senator played a pivotal part in the enactment of this law; he says it forces businesses to invest money to create new wealth and jobs.

What he always forgot to tell us is how the law killed the Investment Tax Credit, punishing businesses that invest money to create new wealth and jobs.

• Also on taxes, Bradley called for a line item veto on tax breaks, supposedly to curtail "corporate welfare" to special interests. Years later, he got his wish when President Clinton signed a similar bill into law.

What Dollar Bill has never understood is the definition of welfare:

Confiscating \$3 from Corporation A to pay \$2 to Public Employees B, C and D, who will forward the remaining \$1 to Private Citizen E is welfare.

Letting Corporation A keep the money it earns in the first place is not welfare, senator; but thanks for being so very compassionate.

• Regarding tax fairness, Bradley should explain to every family earning more than \$50,000 a year why the tax-exemptions on their Individual Retirement Accounts were eliminated.

• In 1981, Bradley voted against the first wave of Reagan tax cuts, called the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. He was one of three senators -- out of 100 -- to do so.

To put the era in perspective, let's recall those good old days. The unemployment rate was near 10 percent. Interest rates were at 21 percent, thanks to double-digit inflation. An ounce of gold could be had for a mere \$1,000, and no one was really sure where their next tank of gasoline would come from.

With all of this facing the government, all Bradley could think to do was oppose cutting your taxes.

Thank goodness his ideas were voted down, because the Reagan tax cuts began the longest peacetime expansion of our economy in our history. Despite the best efforts of Bill Bradley and others like him, everyone who wanted a well paying job during the Reagan years had one.

Contrast that image to today's reality, a time when the Bush-Clinton tax hikes leave many working two jobs to earn a living.

• Those who think of Dollar Bill as a lone voice of fiscal responsibility during the Reagan years should remember how the senator opposed passing the line item veto.

• In 1993, Bradley supported the Budget Reconciliation Act, which retroactively raised taxes on Social Security benefits.

• In 1993, Bradley also voted for an increase in the corporate Alternative Minimum Tax, the act intended to ensure that every corporation pays at least some tax. The plan was to collect an additional \$4.6 billion, Bradley says, but the tax mostly hurt corporations that earn little or no profits and rely on write-offs for survival.

• You tobacco smokers should remember Bradley's attempt to levy a \$1-per-pack tax on cigarettes, because you must be punished for your lawful behavior.

• Bradley has been a tireless fighter when it comes to make sure none of the "government's" land be used for something useful. The federal government owns -- we're not kidding -- 30 percent of the total land area of the United States. Not to be confused with national parks like Yellowstone, these lands remain useless for human benefit. No timber, minerals, oil or gas can be removed from the premises.

• The jewel in his environmental legislation crown is his support for Superfund, the federal program that supposedly cleans toxic waste dumps.

Even the greenest of environmentalists agree that Superfund has been a failure, not because of a shortage of dollars, but because it serves mostly as a bureaucracy of lawyers and scientists.

There is much more to recount, but this is a rounded picture of Sen. Bill Bradley and what he has stood for during his 18 years in the U.S. Senate. We're glad it's over.

"The freedom of the press works in such a way that there is not much freedom from it."

—Princess Grace of Monaco



AT THE STARTING LINE — Members of the Junior League display the latest in turn of the century transportation technology.

Courtesy Springfield Historical Society

Christmas: give me this and give me that

As I See It

By Norman Rauscher

Do you remember when the Christmas season was a truly jolly, merry, and good feeling time of year?

Today, Christmas is more like a feeding frenzy to see who can elbow the most people out of the way who are looking for the same kind of hard-to-get merchandise. Civility seems to have eluded us, bad manners are the mood of choice, and customers seem bent on knocking down walls to get ahead of anyone who dares to get in their way.

Not only do we have a surly, "me first" attitude, but the whole sense of Christmas seems to have undergone a change, and not for the better.

Some squalling kids, who never had it so good, can be heard having tantrums in the far reaches of stores, screaming they want that and that and if they don't get what they demand, threatening parents with being arrested for inhumane treatment. Unfortunately, many parents give in to these brats and wonder later how these kids became so obnoxious.

It seems every year another toy is added to the popularity list and someday we would not be surprised if some toy manufacturer comes out with a toy which can simulate the gouging out of eyes or the amputation of arms and legs. All in the name of fun, mind you.

But what is most frustrating is to see Christmas become so commercialized that its meaning is becoming less and less understood. To many, Christmas is the time to get your parents to go broke buying the latest toys and gimmicks. The idea of "giving" escapes many children. "Giving?" What's that? We get what we want for most of the year and we aren't asked to give anything back. Whose fault is that? You're right. The parents, because they never taught their son and/or daughter that giving is part of life. The irony is that the person we honor now gave His life so that others might live.

But try to get that reasoning across to our young folk who make "getting" an art form. We don't blame the merchant, since this is the time of year when money flows more easily. People equate Christmas with having it all, or, at least, most of it.

How many other children could understand that many of these kids make out like bandits on Christmas Day. They are also fed a veritable feast, unlike so many other boys and girls in this nation as well as the entire world. A Christmas gift to a poor wretched kid in Zaire, Ghana, Bosnia or Nigeria? Forget it. A Christmas dinner for a starving family in parts of this nation? That job is relegated to as many soup kitchens as we can possibly afford to help. For many, Christmas is a dog-eat-dog kind of existence.

However, there are hundreds and hundreds of people and agencies willing to take that extra step to see that a destitute little boy or girl gets at least some kind of toy, or is given a whole, some meal to make the person we honor real in a world of glitz, "me first" philosophy, and at times, make believe.

It's not that we are by nature selfish and greedy, but our society over the last decades has changed and not entirely for the better. We are guided by trends, fads and the newest in gadgetry. Things we don't need.

What we do need is a return to what Christmas meant to most of our parents and grandparents. Sharing with others what you have, and not making a federal case in the form of a tantrum if you don't get it.

Gun control laws are overrated, ineffective

Frankly Speaking

By Howard Freund

Despite the high hopes of Congress and President Bill Clinton when the Brady Bill was enacted, the law has done little toward making our cities safer.

Washington, D.C. the nation's capital, is also the nation's murder capital. Another mecca of crime is Newark, which leads the country in crimes committed, makes one wonder whether we are more safe and secure in the state with one of the strictest gun control laws than we would with less gun control. The criminal always will be able to get a gun and gun control laws only keep law-abiding citizens from buying guns. That law-abiding people have guns that are unknown to criminals makes it safer for everyone, since the criminal doesn't know who to attack. In a society where only criminals and police have guns, the criminals can strike anywhere and be sure of hitting pay dirt.

Tampa, Fla. is an experimental area, where law-abiding people are encouraged to know how to use and keep guns. Crime in Tampa fell right after the law's implementation. A lot of the problem is due to the many young people who commit the crimes in our cities. I believe mandatory curfews for young people should be imposed in cities, where crime is rampant as a first step to reducing crime. Parents should know where their children are at all times and the crime in Newark often turns into crime in Elizabeth, Hillside and other parts of the county. Curfews should be imposed. A society with more, not fewer, guns in the hands of law-abiding people should be encouraged.

The first thing all dictators do after they take over a nation is pick up all the guns from the citizenry. Ask anyone who lived in Hitler's Germany,

let us not destroy it by lowering our morals and ethics. We just finished an election, which proved the lack of moral fiber in the nation, where our morals and standards were lowered.

Stalin's Russia and Fidel Castro's Cuba. Our Founding Fathers knew full well that you only keep a free nation by having people willing and able to fight to keep it free. The Second Amendment to the Constitution affirms the right of the people to keep and bear arms. Society is breaking down all over and we have only our government to blame since the rights of the people are being restricted more and more each day as crime gets worse. The key to our nation is our people and our families and churches. We need to bring together our young people and our senior citizens in an alliance of mutual respect and admiration for each other. Our seniors have the resources, experience and means to guide our young people before turning the nation over to them.

The latest name to come out for county manager is Michael LaPolla, a bright young man, presently serving as first assistant Union County prosecutor. He has a wealth of experience and served as a freeholder, worked his way up in county government and can handle the job as manager for the betterment of Union County. The Democrats will be in control of the Board of Freeholders for at least the next two years and he has the inside track on the job if he wants it. He would make a fine prosecutor but with a Republican governor for at least 1997, there is no way he can get the job and might settle for county manager. In the long term, I see Charlotte DeFilippo, present Hillside town clerk and former freeholder and Democratic County chairman as the county manager.

Gen. Manuel Noriega, the former head of the Republic of Panama and a former intelligence agent for the United States, is scheduled to be retired after the first of the year. This is going to unearth a lot of corruption in Washington and one wonders why the United States needed this man to fight drugs in Colombia and what he was doing on our payroll. The CIA has been a great embarrassment to our country. It has operated non-partisan since it in effect is bigger than the government of the United States -- or so it thinks.

Howard Freund is a writer and former for the cable television show "Elizabeth Newsmakers."

Letters to the editor policy

Worrall Community Newspapers 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.

Worrall Community Newspapers 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, NJ 07083.

Worrall Community Newspapers also accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via e-mail. The address is WCN22@aol.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. They should be double spaced and no longer than two pages. Worrall Newspapers reserves the right to edit for length, clarity and fairness.

For purposes of verification, all letters must include a name, address and daytime telephone number.

Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

Springfield Leader

Published Weekly Since 1929

Mountainside Echo

Published Weekly Since 1958

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Raymond Worrall
Executive Editor

Tom Canavan
Editor in Chief

Jay Hochberg
Regional Editor

Kevin Singer
Managing Editor

Peter Worrall
Advertising Director

VIEW POINT

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do you approve of the performance of the governing body during the past year?

Responses will be published next week.
Polls close Monday at noon.
Calls are free. Touch tone phones only.

CALL
(908)
686-9898
and enter
#7556 --YES
#7557 --NO

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Do you support the deer hunt?

YES- 53%
NO- 47%

Sounding the fanfare for the common driver

In addition to breathing, eating and sleeping, there exists one other life function we all have in common — driving.

Except for the occasional bad breath, belch or snore, the first three aforementioned items rarely intrude upon others' well being, but the fourth has caused misery and pain ever since Henry Ford put horses everywhere searching for another fine work.

I got an early start on my experience in the dark side of private transportation. Just two weeks following the acquisition of my license, my friend Victor and I were cruising the main drag in my hometown of Cedar Grove, Route 23, in our Dodge Omega and 1972 Volkswagen Beetle, respectively.

We turned onto the two lane highway, Vic in the left, I in the right. As we headed toward the promised land, Burger King, Vic began to inch ahead of me. Naturally, I fed a little more fuel into my 50 horsepower engine and nudged ahead of him.

Just then, Vic and I looked through the filthy glass of our windows at each other. The years of built-up grime and muck seriously hindered our optical interlude, but our intense eyes and hard-earned pierce through the glass like high-powered lasers.

With engine fueled by our own adrenalin, we jumped on the gas as if by instinct. Without a word having been spoken, we both knew the situation: the first one to Burger King wins.

At the beginning of the race, we were on the north side of town. Burger

Irish Coffee

By Christopher Toohy
Staff Writer

King was on the south side. In order to reach the finish line, we would have to climb a hill, then accumulate as much speed as we could down the other side of the hill to make it up the next one, where our destination lay.

Halfway up the first hill, our cars began to show their age. Anyone who has ever owned a Beetle will swear by its loyalty and charm, but not for overpowering power. I was in fourth gear and had my right foot plastered against the accelerator. The speedometer read about 50 miles per hour.

Having seen too many episodes of "The Dukes of Hazzard" in my youth, I completely disregarded the 45-mile-per-hour speed limit, granted not by much. As we closed in on the apex of the mighty hill, Vic was in the lead by a car length — a hefty amount.

I gritted my teeth and took hold of the steering wheel. I did this not out of determination, but as an attempt to keep my light blue car from disintegrating from the violent vibrations.

We cleared the top and began our descent. Now I had my chance.

I ducked in behind Vic so he could take all the wind resistance, a little tip I picked up from watching the Nashville Network on Sunday afternoons.

With our cars pushing the lemony envelope, the only thing that could have made us go faster was gravity. Luckily, we had plenty.

Being in the heart of downtown Cedar Grove, the speed limit dropped to 35 miles per hour. A wise man would have slowed down. But my strategy was working. I quickly caught up to Vic and sling-shotted around him at the base of the hill — right in front of Police Headquarters.

Now we began our second uphill climb, but somehow, Vic really started to gain on me. Competitive juices shifting into overdrive, I weaved between lanes to prevent him from passing me. But I was put at a disadvantage: the Omega only had one operating headlight, which made it increasingly difficult to determine his exact position behind me.

And just when I had the goal in sight, Vic passed me on the left and started to pull away. Another car blocked the right lane ahead, so I quickly switched back into the left lane. Once there, the interior of my car was bathed in a series of rather brilliant red, blue and white flashes. I looked in my rearview mirror to find Cedar Grove's finest right on my tail.

As I pulled over, another cop roared by and snagged Vic, who was about 20 yards short of Burger King.

The following day in school, our tale spread quickly throughout its hallowed halls. But for some inexplicable reason, I gained more infamy than did Vic. Sure, I walked away with reckless driving and speeding tickets, but as I told everyone who asked me about the event — Vic had been winning the race!

I tell this tale to illustrate that I, like many others before me, have made their share of ridiculous mistakes in the past. But unlike so many drivers on the road right now, I learned from my mistakes.

This issue of bad drivers has been addressed by columnists, comics, authors, songwriters and poets for the

better half of the 20th century. It is not my intention to relash the same complaints and observations, as my predecessors, but to celebrate the driving experience as a responsible, law abiding — and more importantly — conscientious motor vehicle operator.

And that's the real issue real: conscience. Some have it. Most don't.

That means that although a lot of you are snickering while reading this, most of you fail to realize that you fall into that exact category. I understand that admitting you are a bad driver is difficult to say the least, but it's that kind of ignorance that drives the rest of us nuts — pun intended. Like they say, admitting you have a problem is the first step.

What exactly makes you a bad driver? It's not the number of points you have on your license, how many accidents you've been in or if you know how to drive a stick shift or not. Just because someone may be committing the despicable act of driving without a license or insurance doesn't necessarily make him a bad driver.

The good driver can anticipate others' movements, have the ability to choose the fastest lane in traffic and can dodge a deer traveling faster than a speeding bullet. Is it natural born talent that separates the good from the bad? Sometimes, but like most disciplines, a keen sense of driving can be cultivated with time.

Unfortunately, some people are beyond hope. Like the old lady who rear-ended me, not once, but twice as I was exiting a Foodtown parking lot, the guy who hit my parked car for no apparent reason or the people who drive 45 miles per hour in the fast lane.

I may have gotten slapped around by the law at the tender age of 17, but it forced me to join the illustrious ranks of good drivers. We're a dwindling group and we need members.

This holiday season, won't you take some time out of your busy day and fill out an application? Please?

Residents requested to report deer carcasses

Citing the seasonal increase in the number of deer killed on the roads, the New Jersey Department of Transportation is urging citizens to follow proper reporting procedures to ensure that deer carcasses are removed in a timely manner.

"The most important information in getting a deer carcass removed quickly is identifying the location," said NJDOT Contract Administrator Clint Griggs.

November and December are the busiest months for deer pick-ups, due to seasonal mating. "The quality of the pick-up service is directly related to the information our contractors receive about the location of the carcass," he added.

Those who see a dead deer should contact their local police departments immediately, and provide detailed information about the location of the animal, including a route, direction, nearest mile-marker, street name and nearby address, structures signs or natural landmarks.

It is also important to specify to local police if a dead deer is obstructed or hidden from view from the road. For example, the carcass could be camouflaged by foliage or located in a ditch.

While some municipalities and counties remove dead deer within their borders, two New Jersey-based private-sector vendors are under contract with NJDOT to pick up deer statewide. Each vendor is responsible for one half of the state, divided roughly into northern and southern regions. Under the contract, the vendors will remove a carcass from public right-of-way within one day after receiving the report of the animals from local police.

NJDOT officials and the vendors stressed the importance of providing complete and accurate information when reporting the location of a deer. Vague or inaccurate descriptions of a location can lead to delays in removing a carcass, which can turn result in duplicate reporting, duplication of effort, and additional delays.

Dead deer have been removed by contract in New Jersey since 1991. Between October 1995 and October 1996, approximately 16,000 carcasses were picked up under the state contract.

Home repair training offered

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County will hold a fall training series for the volunteer-based Master Home Repair Program.

Participants receive technical training in simple home repairs and air quality. After training, volunteers are asked to donate 40 hours of community service.

Each training session consists of a lecture and hands-on experience. Classes are from 7 to 9 p.m. at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield on Jan. 6, 13 and 27.

The cost is \$40, which includes the

cost of supplies and a manual. Registration is required. For more information, call Elizabeth Levin at (908) 654-9854.

Obituary policy

Obituary notices submitted by local funeral homes or families must be in writing. This newspaper cannot accept obituaries by telephone. Obituary notices must be typed and include a telephone number where writer may be reached 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For additional information, call 686-7700.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION, N.J.
ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ESTABLISH CHAPTER 73 - OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES
TAKE NOTICE, that the foregoing Ordinance was passed and approved at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, held on Monday evening, December 23, 1996.
HELEN E. KEYWORTH
Municipal Clerk
U2720 SLR Dec. 27, 1996 (\$6.00)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION, N.J.
ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO ESTABLISH CHAPTER 264 - TOWING, AND TO AMEND CHAPTER 165 - FEES
TAKE NOTICE, that the foregoing Ordinance was passed and approved at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, held on Monday evening, December 23, 1996.
HELEN E. KEYWORTH
Municipal Clerk
U2719 SLR Dec. 27, 1996 (\$6.50)

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT SCHEDULED MEETINGS 1997
In compliance with Chapter 231 P.L. 1975 Open Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, the Board of Adjustment of the Borough of Mountainside, wish to advise the meeting dates for the year 1997 are as follows:
January 13
February 10
March 10
April 14
May 12
June 9
July 14
August 11
September 8
October 20
November 10
December 8
*Meeting held on alternate Monday due to legal holiday.
U2729 MEC Dec. 27, 1996 (\$9.00)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION, N.J.
TAKE NOTICE, that there will be an Organization Meeting of the Board of Health, Wednesday, January 8, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room, Municipal Building, The Regular Meeting of the Board of Health will be immediately after. All Regular Meetings of the Board of Health for the year 1997 will be held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Room, Municipal Building.
HELEN E. KEYWORTH
Secretary
Board of Health
U2713 SLR Dec. 27, 1996 (\$6.00)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION, N.J.
ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CHAPTER VIII - TRAFFIC
TAKE NOTICE, that the foregoing Ordinance was passed and approved at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, held on Monday evening, December 23, 1996.
HELEN E. KEYWORTH
Municipal Clerk
U2718 SLR Dec. 27, 1996 (\$6.00)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION, N.J.
TAKE NOTICE, that there will be an Organization Meeting of the Rent Leveling Board, Thursday, January 2, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Board Room, Municipal Building.
KATHLEEN D. WISNIEWSKI
Secretary
Rent Leveling Board
U2711 SLR Dec. 27, 1996 (\$4.25)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION, N.J.
ORDINANCE TO PLACE A PUBLIC QUESTION ON THE BALLOT TO BE VOTED ON AT THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
TAKE NOTICE, that the foregoing Ordinance was passed and approved at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, held on Monday evening, December 23, 1996.
HELEN E. KEYWORTH
Municipal Clerk
U2717 SLR Dec. 27, 1996 (\$6.00)

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION, N.J.
TAKE NOTICE, that there will be an Organization Meeting of the Township Committee, Wednesday, January 1, 1997, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Room, Municipal Building. The Executive Meeting will be held prior to said meeting at 12:00 noon in the Caucus Room.
HELEN E. KEYWORTH
Municipal Clerk
U2709 SLR Dec. 27, 1996 (\$4.50)

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Mountainside Local Assistance Board of the Borough of Mountainside, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, New Jersey, on Friday the 3rd of January 1997 at 4:00 p.m. (Snow date, January 4).
(Mrs) Edith Shorvatt, Communications
Mountainside Local Assistance Board
U2722 MEC Dec. 27, 1996 (\$3.75)

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Borough of Mountainside after a public hearing took action on the following application on 12/9/96:
Jill Bisk, 256 Meeting House Ln., Block 3.H, Lot 16, for the construction of a garage with an addition to an existing non-conforming detached garage that encroach into the rear yard setback and setback requirement for accessory structures in the R-2 Zone contrary to Section 1003(e)(3) of the Mountainside Land Use Ordinance - GRANTED
Jonathan C. Youngbans, 9 Rodman Ln., Block 22.A, Lot 32, to permit an addition to existing garage and an addition to an existing non-conforming detached garage that encroach into the rear yard setback and setback requirement for accessory structures in the R-2 Zone contrary to Section 1003(e)(1)(f), 1003(h) & 1003(i)(4) of the Mountainside Land Use Ordinance - GRANTED
Michael Bonk, 234 Robin Hood Rd., Block 3.A, Lot 80, for the installation of a 6 foot fence extending beyond the front line of the dwelling and the location of the setback on a corner lot contrary to Section 1003(u)(4) of the Mountainside Land Use Ordinance - DENIED
Valerie A. Saunders
Land Use Administrator
U2728 MEC Dec. 27, 1996 (\$12.00)

"ERROR CORRECTION"
TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD SPRINGFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY NOTICE TO BIDDERS
NOTICE is hereby given that sealed bids for the DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND INSTALLATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE DESKS in the Springfield Free Public Library will be received at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey, on January 6, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. prevailing time. The work generally consists of the design, construction and installation of a computer compatible, modular circulation desk and a computer compatible, modular reference desk in accordance with form of proposal, contract and specifications. Specifications have been filed in the Office of the Director of the Springfield Free Public Library and may be inspected by prospective bidders at that location as listed above during regular business hours starting December 19, 1996.
The Mayor and Township Committee of the Township of Springfield reserve the right to reject all bids, to reject unbalanced bids, and to waive any informality in any bid.
HELEN E. KEYWORTH
Municipal Clerk
U2740 SLR Dec. 27, 1996 (\$11.75)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION, N.J.
ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SALARY ORDINANCE AND FIXING THE RATES OF CERTAIN POSITIONS AND THE PAY OR COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN POSITIONS AND CLERICAL EMPLOYMENTS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
TAKE NOTICE, that the foregoing Ordinance was passed and approved at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, held on Monday evening, December 23, 1996.
HELEN E. KEYWORTH
Municipal Clerk
U2716 SLR Dec. 27, 1996 (\$7.25)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION, N.J.
ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERVISOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
TAKE NOTICE, that the foregoing Ordinance was passed and approved at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield in the County of Union and State of New Jersey, held on Monday evening, December 23, 1996.
HELEN E. KEYWORTH
Municipal Clerk
U2715 SLR Dec. 27, 1996 (\$8.75)



Who Will It Be? Are You Expecting

FIRST BABY OF '97 CONTEST

A Special Delivery?

If you're expecting a bundle of joy around the first of the year, you can win a bundle of great prizes for you and baby from the participating sponsors listed below.

Just refer to the Official Rules listed here and best of luck to all of you!

- RULES -

- Parents must be residents of Springfield.
- Entries must be received at our office, 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, no later than 5 p.m. Jan. 3, 1997. (Entries may be phoned in.)
- The first baby born after the stroke of midnight, Dec. 31 will be declared the winner providing entry has been made before deadline in Rule No. 2 and is substantiated by birth certificate, physician's certification, town records or other official record accepted by judges.
- Entrants even for earlier babies cannot be accepted after the deadline entry has passed.
- Entrants agree that pictures of the baby, the mother and the father may be published in this newspaper to announce and publicize the winning baby.
- The decisions of the judge will be final.
- In the event that no baby is entered by Jan. 3, 1997 the contest will be extended another week.
- Envelope must be marked "First Baby Contest" in lower left hand corner.
- Employees of the newspaper or any participating firms or their families are not eligible to enter.
- Winner applies to First Baby born in respective town.

The Entry Blank for Springfield FIRST BABY 1997

Family Name _____

Baby's Name _____

Mother & Father's Name _____

Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Time _____ AM _____ PM

Phone No. _____ Attend. Physician _____

Address of Physician _____

Ceribathy Submitted _____ (Birth Certificate, Etc.)

I hereby authorize Worrall Community Newspapers to take pictures of our baby, and to publish them in the Worrall Community Newspapers to announce and publicize the contest winner.

Signed _____ Parent of Baby

ENVELOPE MUST BE MARKED, "FIRST BABY CONTEST"

FREE IN HOME SITTING WITH A FREE 11X14 PORTRAIT FOR THE FIRST BABY

FREE 8X10 COLOR PORTRAIT OF YOUR BABY TAKEN IN YOUR HOME TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

Specializing in Baby & Family Portraits

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- Portraits on Canvas
- Communication, Confirmation & Christening Portraits

"We Bring The Studio To You"

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Contemporary & Classic Portraiture

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Across the generations



Springfield Brownie Troop 603 visited a group of senior citizens at the Springfield Senior Citizens Housing in November. The girls brought homemade cookies and sang holiday songs. The seniors shared personal stories and told of games they played in the past. The girls ended the visit with the traditional Girl Scout friendship circle.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD "THE FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER," A Pentecostal church, seeking the face of God, 953 W. Chestnut St., Union, Church/964-1133, Fax/964-1153. Rev. John W. Bechtel, Pastor. Sunday Services: Sunday School - 9:30am. Morning Worship - 10:45am. Praise/Pentecostal Preaching - 6:30pm. Wednesday Services: Ladies Bible Study (Heart/Home) - 10am. Family Night 7:30pm with Royal Rangers boys program (ages 3-14). Missionettes girls program (ages 3-17). Adult School of the Bible. Friday Services: Youth Night - 7:30pm. In addition, there are monthly meetings of Promise Keepers, Women's Ministries and Men's Breakfast Fellowship. For directions call 908-964-1133 and press 4. "We'll look for you this coming Sunday."

BAPTIST

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, 640 S. Springfield Ave., Springfield, Rev. Clarence Alston, Pastor. Church phone (201) 379-1465. SUNDAY SERVICES: 9:30 A.M. Family Bible School, 11:00 A.M. Worship Service. TUESDAY: 7:00 P.M. Bible Class (Where The Bible Comes Alive). WEDNESDAY: 7:30 P.M. Prayer Service. Holy Communion every First Sunday. Nursery Care available every Sunday. If transportation is needed call the church office. Everyone is Welcome at Antioch.

CLINTON HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, "Where The Bible Comes Alive," 2815 Morris Ave., Union, NJ phone: (908) 687-9440 fax: (908) 687-9440. Reverend Tom Sigley, Pastor-Teacher. WEEKLY ACTIVITIES: Sunday 9:45 AM - Sunday Bible School for all ages, multiple adult electives are offered each quarter on relevant life topics, nursery care & a children's department. 11:00 AM - Celebration Worship Service. We offer a celebration service which combines a blend of contemporary and traditional worship style; weekly children's sermon, children's church & nursery care is provided. 6:00 PM - Family Gospel Hour, nursery care provided. Monday: 6:00 AM - Early Morning Prayer Meeting. 7:00 PM - Bay's 9:30 AM Bible School for all ages, interesting electives for adults. 10:30 AM - Celebration Worship Service with Nursery care and children's church. 5:30 - 7:00 PM Sunday evening AWANA program for ages 4-11. 6:00 PM Evening Service with Nursery care. Wednesday: 7:15 PM Prayer, Praise and Bible Study - Adults and Junior/Senior High Group. Super-Seniors meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:00 AM. Active Youth Ministry - Junior/Senior High. Wide-Range Music Program. Ample Parking. Church is equipped with a chair lift. All are invited and welcomed to participate in worship with us. For further information contact church office (201) 379-4351.

EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH "CHRIST OUR HOPE AND PEACE," 242 Shunpike Rd., Springfield, (201) 379-4351. Reverend Frederick R. Mackey, Senior Pastor. Sunday 9:30 AM Bible School for all ages, interesting electives for adults. 10:30 AM - Celebration Worship Service with Nursery care and children's church. 5:30 - 7:00 PM Sunday evening AWANA program for ages 4-11. 6:00 PM Evening Service with Nursery care. Wednesday: 7:15 PM Prayer, Praise and Bible Study - Adults and Junior/Senior High Group. Super-Seniors meet the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:00 AM. Active Youth Ministry - Junior/Senior High. Wide-Range Music Program. Ample Parking. Church is equipped with a chair lift. All are invited and welcomed to participate in worship with us. For further information contact church office (201) 379-4351.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Colonial Avenue and Threux Terrace, Union, Rev. Robert S. Damrau, Pastor. Church phone: (908) 688-4975. Sunday Services: 9:45 AM - Sunday School for ages, multiple adult electives offered each quarter. 11:00 AM - Morning Worship (Nursery care provided for infants through kindergarten, Primary church for grades 1-4). Holy Communion - first Sunday of the month; 7:00 PM - Evening Praise/Informal Bible Study. Wednesday: 7:00-8:30 PM - Middle School/Senior High Youth Fellowship at the Church; 8:15 PM - Prayer Meeting and Bible Study; 8:15 PM - Chancel Choir rehearsal. Thursday: 9:30-11:15 AM Women's Bible Study and Craft Class, free child care provided (meets bimonthly, October through May). Monthly meetings include: Couples' Bible Study, Women's Missionary and Service League, Men's Fellowship Breakfast every third Saturday (7:30 AM). Wide range of musical opportunities for children, youth and adults in choirs, hand bell choirs, orchestra and instrumental ensembles. This church provides barrier free accessibility to all services and activities. A personal sound amplification system for the hearing impaired is available for use during the Sunday Morning Worship Service. A cordial welcome awaits all visitors at all of our services and programs.

JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE

TEMPLE BETH AHM 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, 376-0539. Perry Raphael Rank, Rabbi, Richard Nadel, Cantor. Jack Goldman, President. Beth Ahm is an egalitarian, Conservative temple, with programming for all ages. Weekly services (including Sunday evening and Friday morning) are conducted at 7:00 AM & 7:45 PM; Shabbat (Friday) evening: 8:30 PM; Shabbat day: 9:30 AM & sunset; Sunday, festival & holiday mornings: 9:00 AM. Family and children services are conducted regularly. Our Religious School (third-seventh grade) meets on Sunday and Tuesdays. There are for-

mal classes for both High School and pre-Religious School aged children. The synagogue also sponsors a Nursery School, Women's League, Men's Club, youth groups for fifth through twelfth graders, and a busy Adult Education program. A Seniors' League meets regularly. For more information, please contact our office during office hours.

SUMMIT JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER 67 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, 273-8130. William B. Horn, Rabbi, Janet Roth Krupnick, Cantor. Janice Wilson, President. The Summit Jewish Community Center (SJCC) is an egalitarian, conservative synagogue, serving families from Summit and nearly 35 surrounding towns. Shabbat Friday services are held at 8:30 PM. Saturday Shabbat Services are at 9:30 AM and Shabbat Mincha and Havdalah are held at sundown. Weekly services, Monday through Friday are at 7:00 AM and Sunday at 9:30 AM. A Family Service is held on the first Friday of each month at 7:00 PM. In addition to regular Saturday Shabbat services, a Young Family Shabbat Services, for families with children ages 2-7, is held every third Saturday from 10:30-11:30 AM; and every second and fourth Saturday from 10:15-11:30 AM, there is a service for preschool children. The SJCC religious school provides instruction for children from Kindergarten through Grade 7 and Post-Graduate classes for Grades 7 through 12. The SJCC also offers a complete pre-school program including a morning and afternoon Nursery School, Wee Two, designed for children 18-24 months and a parent/caregiver and a Parents and Enrichment program for Kindergarten-aged children. A wide range of Adult Education Programs is offered as well as a Sisterhood, Men's Club, Young Couples Group and Senior Adult Group. For more information about programs or membership, please call the SJCC office at 273-8130.

JEWISH - ORTHODOX

CONGREGATION ISRAEL 339 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, 201-467-9666. Daily services are 6:30 A.M. and 7:15 A.M., and 15 minutes before sunset. There is one minyan on Sundays and civil holidays at 8:00 A.M. with Shabbat and Holiday services at 7:30 A.M. and 9:00 A.M. We offer a full range of religious, cultural and social programming. On Monday evenings, we learn Biblical archeology from 7:30-8:30 P.M., and from 8:30-9:30, we will survey the history of the Jewish experience in America. Please call our office for information regarding our special programs. These offerings assume no Hebrew or Judaic background whatsoever. Our Tuesday evening session is devoted to the religious thought of Maimonides, offered in the Hebrew language. On Sunday mornings, after our 8:00 A.M. services, we study Maimonides' legal code, and from 9:00 A.M.-10:00 A.M., we have an advanced program in the study of Jewish law. On Shabbat afternoons we review the weekly Biblical portion in light of traditional and contemporary commentaries between the minhah and ma'ariv prayers. We have a dynamic Sisterhood, vibrant Junior and Senior NCSY chapters, a Boy Scout troop, Karate classes for all ages, a Nursery School and Summer Camp. We are a family oriented modern Orthodox community and we welcome you to join with us for our programs. Rabbi Alan J. Yuter and Rabbi Israel E. Turner, Rabbi Emeritus. Dr. Leonard Strulowitz, President.

JEWISH - REFORM

TEMPLE SHALOM 78 S. Springfield Avenue, Springfield, (201) 379-5387. Joshua Goldstein, Rabbi; Amy Daniels, Cantor; Irene Bolton, Education Director; Holly Newler, Pre-School Director; Bruce Pitman, President. Temple Shalom is a Reform congregation affiliated with the Union Of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC). Shabbat worship, enhanced 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 2 1/2 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.

JEWISH - TRADITIONAL CONSERVATIVE

CONGREGATION BETH SHALOM affiliated with the United Synagogue of America, Vauxhall Road and Plane Street, Union, 686-6773. Harold Gottesman, Cantor; Dr. Allan Renkoff, President. Congregation Beth Shalom is an affiliated Traditional Conservative Synagogue. Daily Services - Mon & Thurs 6:45 A.M. Tues., Wed. & Fri 7:30 A.M. Civil holidays and Sunday morning Services - 8:30 A.M. Shabbat Services - Friday - 8:30 PM., Saturday, 9:15 AM; The new creative Elementary Hebrew School meets Sundays 9:30 AM - 12:00 Noon.

TEMPLE ISRAEL OF UNION 2372 Morris Avenue, Union, 687-2120. Meyer Korban, Rabbi; Hillet Sadowitz, Cantor. Ester Avnet, President; Hadassah Goldfischer, Principal. Temple Israel of Union is a traditional Conservative Congregation with programs for all ages. Friday Services 8:30 PM. Saturday Services 9:00 AM Minchah 5:30 PM. Sunday Tallis and Tefillin 9:00 AM. Religious School with a full time Principal. Grades Three through Seven meet Sundays 9-10:30 AM and Mondays & Wednesdays - 4-5:30 PM. Primer Class for Grades One and Two, Sundays - 9-10:30 AM.

Adult Hebrew Classes including Bar and Bat Mitzvah Preparation - Thursdays - 8-10 PM. Temple Israel sponsors programs and activities for Youth Groups Grades Seven through Twelve. We also have a very active Sisterhood and Men's Club.

LUTHERAN

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOLS 2222 Vauxhall Road, Union, Rev. Donald L. Brand, Pastor. 908-686-3965. Family Sunday School 9:15. Family Worship 8:00 & 10:30. Visitors Expected. Barrier-free. Various Choirs, Bible Studies, Youth Groups, Nightly Daily Meditation. Call church office for more information or free packet.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 639 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, 07081, 201-379-4525, Fax 201-379-8887. Joel K. Yoss, Pastor. Our Sunday Worship Service takes place at 10 a.m. at JONATHAN DAYTON 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.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 301 Tucker Ave., Union 688-0714. Rev. Thomas J. Bagel, Pastor. Slovak Worship 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Coffee Hour 10:00 a.m. We offer an 11:00 a.m. English Worship Service, with a children's sermon, to which everyone is welcome. Communion on first and third Sunday of every month. Sanctuary is handicapped accessible. Ample off street parking. Adult and Children Choirs, Adult Choir rehearsal every Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. Youth Group meets every Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. We have two WELCA circles. The Aldora circle meets every other month on Saturday mornings. The Alpha circle meets on the third Sunday of the month in the afternoon. Trinity Adult Fellowship meets on the last Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Ladies Altar Guild meets on the second Sunday of the month in the afternoon. Four times a year Assembly #60 of the United Lutheran Society has a meeting.

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS), Hillside and Colonia Roads, Elizabeth, (908) 245-5427. John Warner, Pastor. Our Sunday Worship Service is at 10:15 A.M. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study are at 9:00 A.M. Communion on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of each month. Hymn singing on the 4th Sunday. Call Church Office for more information or Free Packet.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL 229 Copperthwaite Pl., Westfield, Rev. Paul E. Kritch, Pastor. (908)232-1517. Sunday Worship Services, 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study 9:50 a.m. Sunday morning Nursery available. Wednesday Evening Worship Service 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first and third Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and the second and fourth Sundays at 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion will also be celebrated on the first and third Wednesdays of the month. The church and all rooms are handicapped accessible.

METHODIST

BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 241 Hillon Avenue Vauxhall, 964-1282. Sunday Church School 9:30 a.m., Church Worship 10:45 a.m. Wednesday: Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Rev. Gladwin A. Fubler-Pastor.

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Chestnut Street & East Grant Ave. Roselle Park. Rev. Dr. Nancy S. Belsky, Pastor. (908) 245-2237, 245-8820; 241-1210. Worship Services: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. in our barrier-free Sanctuary. (Church school for infants through high school at 11:00 a.m.) Coffee & Fellowship Time: at 10:00. All are welcome!

KENILWORTH COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 455 Boulevard, Kenilworth. Rev. Linda Del Sardo, Pastor. Church office 276-1956, Parsonage 276-2322. Worship Service 10:00 A.M., Sunday School 9:00 A.M. Nursery available during Worship. Communion is served the first Sunday of each month. All are welcome.

THE SPRINGFIELD EMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, located on 40 Church Mall in Springfield, NJ, invites people of all ages and backgrounds to join us on Sunday mornings for Adult Christian Education Forum at 9:15 AM, and for worship at 10:30 AM. We are a warm and welcoming congregation of Christians who gather together to be encouraged in the faith, strengthened in hope, and empowered to be brave and faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Child care and nursery are available following the part of our worship service that is especially geared toward young children. Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of every month. Know that all people are welcome here! If you have any questions, interest or concerns, please call the pastor, Rev. Jeff Markay at 201-376-1695.

MORAVIAN

BATTLE HILL COMMUNITY MORAVIAN CHURCH 777 Liberty Avenue, Union, 686-5262. Pastor John Jackson, Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Service of Worship, 10:30 a.m., Nursery provided. First Sunday every month Fellowship Hour after Worship. Prayer Group every Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Bible Study every Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Women's groups meet first Tuesday 7:30 p.m. and first Thursday 1:30 p.m. monthly. New Jersey Chrysantheum Society second Friday of month 8:00 p.m. (except Jan., Jul., & Aug.). For more information call the Church Office.

STUDENT UPDATE

St. James School honors students

The following is a list of 1996-97 honorees of the Awards Day at St. James School in Springfield:

General Excellence
Bobby Tretola, Grade 4; Alison Laurencelle, Grade 5; Jermaine Johnson, Grade 6; Jimmy Tretola, Grade 7; Katie Tuppet.

Religion
Grade 3: Sara Feld, Grade 4: Alyssa DeLuca, Grade 5: Naoma Jules, Grade 6: Amanda Maguire, Grade 7: Megan Tavis, Grade 8: Claudia Petrilli.

Science
Grade 3: John Pflug, Grade 4: Gregory Bryant, Grade 5: Courtney Irving, Grade 6: Bobby Laurencelle, Grade 7: Alphonsa Vada, Grade 8: Steven Grey.

Math
Grade 3: Marco Pannella, Grade 4: Colleen Spadora, Grade 5: Graeme Matear, Grade 6: John O'Reilly, Grade 7: Marie Deyro, Grade 8: James Malaban.

Language Arts
Grade 3: Megan Ross, Grade 4: Grace Thomas, Grade 5: Angela Saracino, Grade 6: Maura McGarvey, Grade 7: Michael Willemse.

Social Studies
Grade 3: Drew Lewis, Grade 4: Greer Callender, Grade 5: Jaclyn Esteves, Grade 6: Franny Irene, Grade 7: Carl Nazaire, Grade 8: Nina DiMuro.

Best Effort
Grade 3: Christopher Abbondant, Grade 4: Paul Goscicki, Grade 5: Cara

Galante, Grade 6: Danielle Mack, Grade 7: Dina Galante, Grade 8: Nathalie Jean-Lewis.

School Spirit
Grade 3: Jennifer Baranda, Grade 4: Brian Tavis, Grade 5: Angela Saracino, Grade 6: Cristina Gallaro, Grade 7: Katie Spadora, Grade 8: Altay Vigilante.

Special Awards
Recognition for winning at the Roselle Catholic Olympics: Steven Grey — Science; Claudia Petrilli — Language Arts.

Governor Livingston announces honors

The following Governor Livingston High School students were named to the honor roll for the first marking period:

Grade 12
David Devonshire, Rachael Faillace, Ronald Farrell, Jacqueline Fitzherbert, Heather Fresco, Christopher Goveia, Min Han, Catherine Harrison, Christine Hwang, Marc Iannotta, Alison Iles, Stephanie Jamar, Christopher Kantorek, Mansi Kanuga, Joanne Karayiannidis, Scott Keller, Mahima Keswani, Joseph Kirtland, Christine Klaskin, Matthew Kohler, Richard Kohler, John Lee, Dennis Marcantonio, Rachel Mendez, Nancy Millar, Andrew Miller, Janine Perret, Michael Pieja, John Polychronopoulos, Jason Sakowski, Amy Schielein, Emily Scull, Jennifer Scull, Elizabeth Segall, Helen Shanks, Dennis Shann, Julia Siskford, Jill Sieffert, Lisa Stefanchik, Monika Szymborski, Christine Szymczak, Meredith Timmermann, Danielle Tornambe, Erin Trimmer, Catherine Watson, Erica Weiner, Jeffrey Woulfin, Dennis Yueh.

Jonathan Dayton students recognized

The following is the Jonathan Dayton Regional High School Honor Roll for the first marking period.

Grade 12
Isabel Gorelik, Michael Ross Greenberg, Malgorzata Janowska, Karla Kelly, Julie Kessel, Adam Korngfeld, Adam Michael Lieb, Marni Luciani, Michelle Lyle, Jamie L. Moskowitz, Sabrina Pacifico, Jill Palais, Diana Panich, Christopher Perez, Meredith Pincin, Anetta Puszynski, Shane Rahmani, Yana Rashap, Scott Reipo, Gayle Rozan, Joshua Rubin, Jonathan Santos, Ziv Shlaichkoren, Vinay Vaswani, Sarah L. Wnek, Maria Wolcott, Jacqueline Zika.

Deerfield School names honor students

The following students were named to the Deerfield School honor roll for the first marking period:

High Honor Roll: Lauren Beasley, Allison DiVito, Kristin Joham, Emily Luke, Emily Porch and Noelle Tate.
Honor Roll: Olivia Banieszewicz, Erica Benninger, Sharon Brodian, Andrew Dubno, R.J. Fahrion, Alex Grunberg, Priscilla Melango, Milap Patel, Katie Schmidt and Lauren Whitenour.

OBITUARIES

Herman W. Ippich

Herman W. Ippich, 92, of Mountaintide died Dec. 16 in Somerset Medical Center, Somerville. Born in Oberderdingen, Germany, Mr. Ippich moved to Mountaintide in 1948. He was an operating engineer for American Baking Co., Newark, for 15 years and retired in 1970.

Caldwell School, Springfield, for 24 years and retired in 1972. Mrs. Ryder received a bachelor of science degree in education from New York University and a master's degree from Columbia Teachers College. Surviving are two daughters, Joan, with whom she lived, and Julie McGowan, and two grandchildren.

Helen F. Ryder

Helen F. Ryder, 86, of Springfield, retired as a teacher, died Dec. 17 in her home.

Born in Brooklyn, Mrs. Ryder lived in Springfield for 53 years. She was a fourth grade teacher at the James

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GET READY FOR FIRST NIGHT — The Pam Fenelon Trio is among the performers scheduled for Westfield's First Night celebration on New Year's Eve. The trio performs contemporary folk music for the '90s. Songs range from original compositions to their own arrangement of music by artists such as Loreena McKennitt and the Indigo Girls. The show branches out to contemporary country and pop. Those who attend First Night Westfield will have dozens of different acts and entertainment to choose from in buildings in town, starting at 6 p.m. and ending at midnight. Admission to the events is through the purchase of a button for \$10. Children under 3 are admitted free. Buttons may be purchased in Westfield at the Town Book Store, Rorden Realty, and the Westfield YMCA. This non profit celebration of the arts is for all ages and tastes, from symphony to jazz, from country dancing to ballroom.

Federal relief approved for storm victims

More than \$30,000 in individual and family grant checks have been approved to assist victims of the Oct. 18-23 storms and flooding in the five New Jersey counties of Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union, state and federal officials announced last week.

"The program, administered by the New Jersey Department of Human Services, provides grants to those who have serious needs and necessary expenses related to the disaster that are not covered by insurance or other federal, state and volunteer disaster assistance programs," said Sam Rizzo, deputy federal coordinating officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The amounts of the grants vary, depending on the unmet needs of the applicants.

The grant program is one of the many assistance programs triggered by the major disaster declaration which President Clinton issued Nov.

19 at the request of Governor Whitman.

"Essentially, the IFG Program is a safety net for people who have exhausted all other means of assistance, and are still burdened with disaster-related serious needs they simply cannot meet," said Lt. Thomas P. Gudmestad, state coordinating officer of the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management. Gudmestad emphasized that grants are administered as a last resort and only after the applicant has applied for a U.S. Small Business Administration low-interest disaster loan and been denied.

"Even if an applicant thinks he or she will not qualify for an SBA loan, it is necessary to formally apply and be determined ineligible by the SBA before his or her situation can be reviewed by FEMA and the State of New Jersey for the Individual and

Family Grant Program, Gudmestad said.

Grants can be used to cover disaster-related expenses such as essential home repairs, replacement of personal property, transportation, moving and storage, medical and dental bills, funeral expenses and disaster-related debris removal.

FEMA provides 75 percent of the grant money, and the remainder is funded by the state, which also administers the program.

Further information about the IFG program, and any other disaster assistance programs, is available by calling the Disaster Information Helpline at 1-800-525-0321 (for TTY call 1-800-660-9005.)

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Musikgarten plans for next class session

Musikgarten Family Music, an early childhood music program, begins Jan. 8 at the Edward V. Walton School Early Childhood Education Center. Sponsored by the Walton School PTA, classes will allow children aged 18 months to 3 years old, accompanied by a parent, grandparent or other adult, to explore a variety of music and movement experiences.

Each class will meet for 30 minutes beginning at 8:50 or 9:30 a.m. Classes in the 10-week program will focus on musical enjoyment, singing, dancing, moving and listening, playing instruments and ensemble development. All activities are appropriate for very young children and may be easily repeated at home.

Each class is limited to 10 children

and their caregivers, on a first-come, first-served basis. The program is open to all children, including those with special needs.

Tuition is \$60 for the full 10-week session. Optional materials, including a cassette tape, booklet and instrument are available at additional cost.

Musikgarten is based on the philosophy that early childhood music and movement experiences have a measurable, positive and significant effect on child development. Instructor Ginger Haselden explained that recent studies suggest that early music experiences may benefit a child's abilities in such seemingly unrelated areas as mathematics and language.

Haselden also holds a part-time appointment as the kindergarten and

pre-kindergarten music instructor at Walton School. A New Jersey certified music teacher, she is trained in Musikgarten, Kindermusik, Kodaly and Yamaha. Haselden is also certified by the Early Childhood Music Association and is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing and Music Educators National Conference.

Registration forms and additional information are available from the Walton School PTA, 601 Mountain Ave., Springfield, (201) 376-1025, Ext. 2505.

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SPORTS

1996-97 Area Boys Basketball Guide

By Keith Agran
Assistant Sports Editor

The following is a preview look (despite the season already being underway) of the boys basketball teams in parts of our South and West Zone coverage areas.

MT. VALLEY CONF.

Roselle

Head Coach: Stan Kokie, 19th season
Last Year's Record: 20-4
Returning Starters: 6 — Samont Washington, 6-7/Sr.; A.J. Warren, 6-2/Sr.; Chris Kelley, 6-2/Sr.; Kirk Hopson, 6-5/Jr.; Simeon Noel-Juene, 6-5/Jr.; Conroy Sykes, 6-5/Sr.
Other Returnees: Joe Hatcher, 6-4/Sr.; Koran Godwin, 6-3/Jr.; Ali Dickson, 6-0/Sr.; Ian King, 5-11/Sr.
Newcomers: Lavon Sneed, 6-7/Soph.
Outlook: There's scary talent here with three of the seniors (Washington, Warren and Kelley) being recruited as Division I-A prospects and three underclassmen who are top flight talents as well (Hopson, Noel-Juene and Sneed). The two-time MVC-Mountain Division champs, losers in the NJ Section 2, Group 2 finals last year, have six players back who started at least one game and four others who saw minutes. They boast depth, exceptional size, superb athletic ability and lots of experience. Washington is the headliner, and can play three positions, but he will be the shooting guard, joining a three-guard alignment with the dangerous and athletic twosome of Warren and Kelley. Hopson, Noel-Juene, Sykes and Sneed will see minutes at the two frontcourt spots, and each brings a different dimension to the paint. Hatcher was a quality sub last year and Godwin helped the JV team win the Union County touney last year, so there are a lot of mouths to feed with this bunch, perhaps the lone setback. Kokie doesn't want to look too far ahead, but if the group puts aside the individual, they could be among the area and state's best. The Rams opened last Friday at Roselle Catholic, went to West Orange Monday and open in the Cranford Christmas Tournament today.

Roselle Catholic

Head Coach: Pat Hagen, 17th season
Last Year's Record: 13-11
Returning Starters: 5 — Danny Mendoza, 5-6/Sr.; Daryl Palmieri, 6-0/Sr.; Ryan Benoit, 6-0/Sr.; Kevin Bullock, 6-3/Sr.; Corey Green, 6-3/Jr.
Other Returnees: Mark Rybak, 6-5/Sr.; Dave Mayer, 6-5/Sr.
Newcomers: Tim Benoit, 6-1/Soph.; James Williams, 6-3/Soph.; John Cerullo, 6-0/Jr.; E.J. Vaughn, 6-0/Jr.; Chris Scaniello, 5-6/Jr.; Mike Hodoske, 6-2/Jr.
Outlook: Five starters back is a solid building point for the Lions, the inside tandem of Bullock and Green nabbed All-Conference honors last season, and Palmieri is a dangerous outside threat. The four juniors, up from a successful JV team of a year ago, plus Rybak and Mayer, give Hagen some depth, and the experience of four seniors in the starting lineup has him hopeful that poise won't be a weakness for this group. Duplicating last year should be a shoo-in, exceeding it is not out of their grasp. The Lions hosted Roselle last Friday, open in the Tri-County Christmas Tournament at J.P. Stevens today (the second round is Dec. 30) and host Roselle Park Jan. 3.

Johnson Regional

Head Coach: Rich Donofrio, 2nd season
Last Year's Record: 5-14
Returning Starters: 1 — Nick Wray, 5-11/Sr.
Other Returnees: Ryan Grady, 6-2/Jr.
Newcomers: Jeff Martucci, 5-10/Sr.; Scott Skeitka, 6-5/Sr.; Chad Carrick, 6-0/Sr.; Jon Mulligan, 6-4/Jr.; Jason Griffin, 6-3/Sr.; Don Sretenovic, 6-5/Sr.
Outlook: After not winning a game for nearly three years before last season, the Crusaders won out of the gate and put up four more on the year. They also lost four games on overtime and five by one or two points. So, the program is making strides back toward respectability. A lot of new players will have to assume key roles quickly what with point guard Wray the lone returning starter. Donofrio likes the desire of this group, and he has size and shooting threats in Wray, Sretenovic, Carrick and Skeitka. Continued upward improvement is likely. The Crusaders hosted Hillside last Friday, played at Roselle Park Monday and opened in the Saddle Brook Christmas Tournament yesterday.

Oratory Prep

Head Coach: Mike Pilawski, 3rd season
Last Year's Record: 4-17
Returning Starters: 1 — Marco Medina, 6-0/Sr.
Other Returnees: Matt Gymrek, 6-2/Sr.; Eddie Zamora, 6-0/Sr.; Joe Bellingeri, 6-5/Jr.

Newcomers: Matt Kling, 6-0/Sr.; Jason Hill, 6-3/Jr.; Derek Wlasuk, 6-2/Jr.; Dan Reilly, 5-9/Jr.; Dustin Davis, 5-7/Jr.; Dave Cruz, 5-6/Jr.; Dan Cruz, 5-7/Jr.; John Cruz, 5-11/Jr.; Dan Linehan, 5-9/Jr.
Outlook: This young bunch, even younger with Zamora possibly on the shelf four to six weeks with a leg injury, is coming off a good summer of play in the Newark league, and Pilawski thinks the hard work they continue to put in could help them improve from last year. Bellingeri gives the Rams a solid post player, Wlasuk is an outside threat and Kling, who didn't play last season because of personal reasons, returns and is a terrific athlete who'll run the show at the point. Honing the record closer to .500 is a good possibility. The Rams traveled to Roselle Park last Friday, head to New Providence Jan. 3 and have their home opener versus Manville Jan. 7.

WATCHUNG CONF.

Linden

Head Coach: Wilbur Aikins, 18th season
Last Year's Record: 21-4
Returning Starters: 1 — Ramon Garcia, 6-0/Sr.
Other Returnees: Sham Barnes, 5-8/Sr.
Newcomers: Dan Delvelle, 5-8/Jr.; Jamal Tate, 6-4/Jr.; Tyson Shaw, 6-4/Jr.; Ray Delvelle, 6-0/Soph.; Steven Hatcher, 5-8/Jr.; Daquan Capers, 6-0/Jr.; Terry Pegram, 6-1/Jr.; Kareem Gary, 6-1/Soph.; Damion Johnson, 6-0/Jr.
Outlook: Aikins says this is the youngest team Linden has ever had, certainly the youngest he has put on the floor, and coming off a season in which they won the NJ Section 2, Group 4 title doesn't make the transition any easier. But Aikins is one of the most savvy and experienced coaches in the area, and he'll keep the sterling tradition of Linden basketball afloat. With no affirmed stars and nine new faces, it's a tough picture to get a make on in Linden. The Tigers open their season today in the Hoop Dreams Christmas Tournament in East Orange.

Rahway

Head Coach: John Petela, 7th season
Last Year's Record: 19-6
Returning Starters: 3 — Louis Campbell, 6-2/Sr.; Robert Lester, 6-0/Sr.; Keith Duncan, 6-7/Soph.
Other Returnees: Jason Lovejoy, 6-0/Soph.; Certil Charles, 5-8/Jr.; Isaac Sellers, 6-1/Sr.
Newcomers: Shaun Young, 6-3/Sr.; Jon Kelly, 5-9/Sr.; Keith Sheffield, 5-9/Jr.; Elliott Edwards, 5-10/Jr.; Torre Banks, 5-9/Jr.; Antonio Davis, 6-1/Soph.
Outlook: The success of last year's NJ Section 2, Group 3 champs will hinge around three strong returning starters. Campbell, listed preseason as one of the top players in the state, handles the point, and is an athletic slasher who has also improved his outside game. Duncan is a top young talent whom Petela is counting on primarily to be a presence defensively in the paint, a rebounder at both ends and the happy beneficiary of Campbell feeds in close. Lester is that unseen role player who does everything well and plays mistake-free. Lovejoy saw action last year, and is set to play the four spot. Charles will add another outside shooting option, and there is depth with a bevy of youngsters ready to move up. There's enough here, especially with a talent like Campbell, to make another long run. The Indians opened with Union Catholic last Friday and play in the Tri-County Christmas Tournament at J.P. Stevens today.

IRON HILLS CONF.

Summit

Head Coach: Mackey Pendergrast, 6th season
Last Year's Record: 6-14
Returning Starters: 2 — Bob Adams, 5-11/Sr.; Chas Carey, 6-4/Sr.
Other Returnees: Bren Smith, 6-3/Sr.; Dan Johnson, 6-1/Sr.
Newcomers: Matt Vonklemperer, 5-11/Jr.; Brendan Reilly, 5-11/Jr.; John Brown, 5-10/Jr.; John Fouschee, 5-10/Jr.; Brian Rush, 6-5/Jr.; Kai Campbell, 6-2/Soph.; Matt Paccione, 6-7/Sr.
Outlook: Sickness and injuries have crippled this roster early, and Pendergrast hasn't had much time to see his entire unit at work. With a full compliment, he thinks dramatic improvement is possible, and with a jump into the new conference expects the Hilltoppers to be in many close games. He feels he could have a different leading scorer every time out, and thinks the team's depth, a facet not frequent under Pendergrast, will pay dividends. Iron Hills competition humbled Summit teams a bit during the fall season, but their hoops tradition is not as daunting. The Hilltoppers opened with Parsippany last Friday.

Springfield soccer standouts



The Springfield Girls' Soccer League concluded a highly successful first season this past fall. As many as 30 girls in grades 3-6 were enrolled. Players included: Anni Demberger, Allison Filepp, Maria Inneo, Erike Kirton, Carolyn Maul, Julie Nittolo, Amanda Rodriguez, Catherine Andraski, Jacklyn Berkowitz, Stacey Fonseca, Alyson Helfand, Jennifer Karl, Abby Wilkenfeld, Ashley Goldberg, Megan Ross, Courtney Manders, Dara Poltrock, Jessica Roland, Jaclyn Salant, Daniella Scheer, Julie Schaefer, Lindsay Schuckman, Jamie Weisman, Megan Weller, Abby Nadel, Danielle DeCagna, Alexandra Kalb, Jessica Scott, Chondni Patel and Elissna Walters. The girls were coached by Springfield residents Steve Karl and Bart Salant.



The Dayton Regional High School boys' basketball team, winners of last summer's Cranford Tri-County League championship, is looking forward to having an outstanding 1996-97 season. The Bulldogs, who open at North Plainfield tonight at 7, return all seven varsity players from last year's squad.

Promising season ahead for Dayton

Bulldogs face Parsippany tonight in Ridge Holiday Tournament tilt

By J.R. Parachini
Sports Editor

"I can't wait for the season to begin," said Dayton Regional High School boys' basketball coach Bill Berger after his players captured the Cranford Tri-County League championship this past summer. Well, the 1996-97 season is upon us.

Dayton, which returns all seven varsity players from a year ago, began its quest for an outstanding season last Friday night when the Bulldogs were scheduled to open at North Plainfield.

Dayton is scheduled to face Parsippany tonight at 6 in the first round of the Ridge Holiday Tournament in Basking Ridge. The other game pits Parsippany Hills vs. New Providence at 7:30. The tournament will conclude tomorrow night.

Berger is in his second year at the helm, was previously a highly successful coach at Union Catholic. Dayton moved to the smaller Val-

ley Division of the Mountain Valley Conference this season and will battle the likes of Group 1 schools Roselle Park, Bound Brook, Middlesex, Manville and New Providence.

"If the kids continue to work hard, special things can be accomplished in the next few years," Berger said.

Boys' Basketball

Dayton finished 5-15 overall last year and tied for seventh in the Mountain Division with a 3-11 conference mark. The Bulldogs posted wins over McKee of Staten Island, Johnson Regional, Newark Central, Governor Livingston and Oratory Prep.

The roster includes: junior guard Eric Fishman (5-10), senior guard Ryan Nelson (6-0), junior forward Chris Loeffler (6-4), junior forward Chris Salvato (6-3), junior center Ralph Saracino (6-3), senior forward Giancarlo Saracino (6-0), senior forward Paul Gerber (6-0), sophomore

forward Terrence Franklin (6-2), sophomore forward Garrett Wise (6-1) and senior center Alex Jones (6-5).

Loeffler paced the team in scoring last year with a 16-point average and Salvato was the leader in rebounding with an average of 10.

Dayton managed to post a 9-3 mark in the Cranford Tri-County League and then went on to defeat arch rival Roselle 49-48 in the championship game. Once the playoffs began, the Bulldogs first defeated Westfield in overtime and then needed three overtimes to best Roselle Park in the semifinals.

In the championship game win over Roselle, Fishman's play at point guard was instrumental, as was the dominant inside game of Salvato and Ralph Saracino.

Nelson proved — time and time again — to be Dayton's clutch player with his key baskets.

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