

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield, Mountainside and Summit

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 68 NO. 25

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1998

TWO SEC

TS

THIS WEEK

NEWS

Program derailed

The county's engineering consultants are saying the county will need more money to fix railroad lines to create a light rail system through parts of Union County.

The county manager is applying for an additional \$6 million to \$8 million.

See Page B1.

Prostitution jump

A 25 percent increase in prostitution arrests in Union County has angered a countywide crackdown on sex-for-hire in the suburbs. Hear what the Union County Prosecutor has to say.

See Page B1.

THE ARTS



Art on display

"Dead Life Talking" will be on display through today at the Tomasulo Art Gallery.

See Page B6.

SNOW ALERT

Schools superintendents will use our Inforecast hot line to alert parents to school closings during inclement weather.

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WEATHER

Friday: Showers and mild.

46°
Saturday: Showers and breezy.

47°
Sunday: Partly cloudy.

44°

For the most up to date reports, call (908) 686-9898, Ext. 1790.

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Puzzling love



Photo By Barbara Kozak

Brownie Scouts from Troop 603 help seniors put together puzzles the Scouts made bearing Valentine's Day messages. Pictured above are Jessica Fiorelli, Pearl Chernet, Jaquelyn Cassells and Harry Chernet.

Date set to start DeVino trial

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

Springfield resident Ralph DeVino received both good news and bad news from State Superior Court Judge Ross R. Anzaldi Feb. 11.

On one hand, Anzaldi has set Feb. 27 as the start of the state versus DeVino criminal trial. All pretrial motions from either side must filed on or before Monday.

On the other hand, time and witness scheduling has extended the hearing session, which resumed Tuesday. It is not clear if more sessions will be needed as of press time. The state's investigation and prosecution of DeVino is 13 months old. DeVino, then a member of the Springfield Zoning Board of Adjustment, was arrested Feb. 3 for allegedly soliciting and accepting a bribe. The charges are based in part on two surveillance tapes made that day and on Jan. 30, 1997.

A grand jury subsequently indicted DeVino May 23, 1997. DeVino, who left the Zoning Board in March, was then diagnosed as having cancerous tumors in his throat and trachea. His trial was delayed until doctors felt he was sufficiently fit. Furthermore, the original judge and prosecutor were replaced due to scheduling conflicts with other trials. Health and scheduling concerns continued in the Feb. 11 hearing. Anzaldi requested that DeVino appear with his attorney, David Biunno, to see whether he was sufficiently healthy. There was a question of how a surveillance squad

officer would be able to appear, as he is scheduled to testify in the Elizabeth detention center abuse trial at about the same time.

"I asked the counselor to bring his client with him," said Anzaldi. "I understand he had cancer treatment Feb. 9 and I wanted to see if he was sufficiently alert to stand trial. From my observations and the letters given by the doctors treating him, I can see that the defendant is prepared."

In conversations among the officer and Prosecutor Monique Imbert, Anzaldi said he will talk with the judge presiding over the detention center trial, Miriam N. Span.

"I'm resuming this hearing at 9 a.m. Wednesday," said Anzaldi to the officer. "Judge Span will let me know when you're scheduled to testify in the other trial. We will work around that case, even if I have to wait into the afternoon."

The officer was part of the surveillance team that taped DeVino and a wired volunteer on January 30 and Feb. 3, 1997. Biunno was seeking to have the 30-minute tape dismissed on procedural and quality grounds. Anzaldi has allowed the playing of the tapes and hearing any motions Biunno files.

"I must remind you that you had a 14 day period to file a motion after the grand jury indictment and it's late," said Anzaldi to Biunno. "I want to get the trial going. I will allow you and the state, however, to file any motions until Jan. 23."

Brighton celebrates first anniversary

By Jim Foglio
Staff Writer

Marriot's Brighton Gardens of Mountainside, an assisted-living community for senior citizens, opened their doors to government officials, business leaders, local professionals and health care providers, and hosted their one year anniversary reception Feb. 17.

Visitors had the opportunity to tour the residence, meet with the community's staff, and get a first hand look at the new lifestyle alternative which Brighton Gardens provides for seniors.

"Many people who have referred clients to the community came and saw our establishment," said Director of Community Relations Star Ramella. "We also invited local Congress representatives, Union County officials, local mayors, and even Gov.

Christine Whiteman — although she declined the invitation," she said.

"This has been a great year. We are excited with the results and this is a celebration of the year's success, as well as the future of our community," Ramella said.

"Making the decision to move to an assisted living community is challenging for the individual and the family," said Bob Love, general manager of Brighton Gardens. "The Brighton Gardens community offers the balance of maintaining independence while providing the right amount of personal assistance for individuals to live life to the fullest. We have a vital role to play in the community and believe this is the perfect opportunity to introduce ourselves to our neighbors," he said.

As for future plans, Brighton Gar-

dens does not feel the need to expand their facilities. "We like to keep it small so it's a family-type environment," Ramella said. "We have close to 100 units and at this point we have about 98 occupied," she said. "We see no reason to expand right now."

Residents of the community include people from Mountainside and other area towns. "Many of our residents are from scattered areas," Ramella said. "Many used to live in the area and have returned in order to be closer to their families."

Brighton Gardens, located at 1350 Route 22 West, opened its doors in January 1997 and offers a individualized care in private suites and apartments. In addition, it offers a Special Care Center for residents with Alzheimer's and related memory disorders.

Trashing pollution



Springfield Environmental Commission Chairperson Clara Harelik, third from right, presents an award to Joe Barato, ShopRite's store manager, for the store's recycling efforts. To his right is Timothy Vogel, manager of environmental affairs at Vigilant Food Corp. Also pictured are Marcia Foman, Margorie Halpin, and Ellie Gural, members of the Environmental Commission. For Story, see Page 3.

Town donates surplus equipment to Linden

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

What was decided as being a surplus by Springfield will apparently be Linden's gain as the Township Committee voted to turn over exercise equipment to the City Police Department Feb. 10.

"I wasn't around at the time the equipment was donated to the Springfield Police Department," Committee member William Ruocco said. "There was a move last year to donate them to the high school weight room but it died out."

"Our Police Department wasn't using it," said Committeewoman Judith Blitzer. "I guess they put the word out about the available equipment and the Linden police responded."

The equipment that is headed southeast are two presses and three Nautilus extension machines. They were donated to the Springfield police for off-duty physical training at the Chisholm School on South Springfield Avenue.

Use of the equipment dwindled over time and they were stored in the school. When the school's plans for conversion to a recreation center was finalized two years ago, however, a search for a new home began.

The resolution to turn ownership

over to Linden was unanimously passed.

Not all resolutions that might pass as smoothly. Blitzer objected to two measures appropriating compensation to representatives of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority and to attorneys representing Planning and Zoning boards.

"I'm not objecting to the job our commissioner, Rosalie Berger, has done and is doing for us," said Blitzer. "What I object to is the idea of paying people who are volunteers. I had no idea that RVSA commissioners are paid, never mind having their pay raised to \$100, until this bill came up."

Berger represents Springfield on the 11-town sewerage board. She succeeded Ralph DeVino, who served as commissioner for 10 years.

Blitzer objected to paying board attorneys but voted with the other five committeemen.

"It was a catch-22 situation for me," said Blitzer. "The attorneys say they work for free but they have to pay their staff. This bill, however, added school crossing guards, who deserve compensation."

The Township Committee reconvenes in the Municipal Building Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Dept. of Recreation formed in borough

By Jim Foglio
Staff Writer

At the Mountainside Borough Council meeting Tuesday, an ordinance was passed that will abolish the borough's current Board of Recreation Commissioners, giving way to a full-scale Department of Recreation.

Mayor Bob Vigilanti said the action will result in more recreation programs being offered to residents.

"There will be more advisors with five-year terms," Vigilanti said. "This will allow us to be more flexible, specialized, and expand our activities for all ages. It will also make sure we get people who can fully commit to the department."

He said a "Teen Night" and a bridge tournament are among the new recreation programs being planned.

The meeting began with a special resolution commending sergeants Richard Osjeja and Todd Turner of the Mountainside Police Department for their part in the recent arrest of Eusebio Mendoza in one of the largest fraud cases in Union County history.

Vigilanti said the ordinance was the first of its kind issued during his almost thirty years in the borough.

"I wanted to correct something that has been wrong in the past. We have never to my knowledge commended any of the people of our

police department officially in any type of council ordinance. We are very proud of these men," he said.

Oveja and Turner, with the help of the FBI and the U.S. Postal Service, made the Jan. 30 arrests. The investigation found that Mendoza created false identities and stole more than a million dollars from local banks and residents.

"Todd and I just kind of went on a hunch to where we believed the suspect was living — and it all worked out," Oveja said. "We appreciate the recognition from the town and wish to also thank the rest of the police department for their efforts."

The council also approved the sum of \$470,000 to make improvements to the library fire department, and the community room in Borough Hall, and to build an additional parking lot near Borough Hall.

Vigilanti said the renovations will be done in several stages, with the work expected to be completed by October 1998.

"Improvements will be done to the air, lighting and heating systems of the library. There will be some insular work done in the fire department, including plumbing and electrical work," he said.

The council also officially recognized February as American Heart Month, March as Youth Art Month, and April as Tissue and Organ Donor Awareness Month.

Pianist and students to give free concerts

By Jim Foglio
Staff Writer

Local pianist and her students will be performing two free concerts for local senior citizens and hospitalized children.

Emma Mamayava, owner of "Emma's Piano Studio," and 11 of her students will be performing at the Children's Specialized Hospital, which is the state's largest hospital specializing in treating youth Sunday at 1 p.m. They will also perform at Brighton Gardens, an assisted-living community for senior citizens in March.

The group will be playing ballads written by Tchaikovsky and duets that are a part of the world famous "Nutcracker."

Mamayava has taught in her Mountainside studio on Route 22 for three years, but has more than 25 years' teaching experience, much of which

she acquired in her native Russia. Her students range in age from 10 to 44, but most of the performers will be between 12 and 14.

"My students are mostly from Mountainside, Westfield and Linden. They have worked very hard for the concerts and are looking forward to performing," Mamayava said.

The group performed last month at Mount Saint Mary's Private High School, as well as an assisted-living community in Westfield. As a result of the success of those concerts, both Brighton Gardens and the Children's Specialized Hospital asked them to give encore performances.

The program will begin with the students' playing and culminate with Mamayava's solo "Playing in front of senior citizens and sick children gives us much satisfaction," Mamayava said. "It also gives my students some much needed experience."

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

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NEWS CLIPS

Softball league

The Springfield Recreation Department is looking for people ages 21 and older to participate in a Summer Women's Softball League. If any individuals or full teams are interested, contact the Recreation Department at (973) 912-2227.

Red Cross anniversary

On March 21, supporters of the American Red Cross will return to an age of '50s-style innocence at the Plainfield Country Club in Edison to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Westfield-Mountainside Chapter. The original Drifters, the popular rock-and-roll group, will headline at the black-tie birthday gala. The Drifters, whose hit songs include "There Goes My Baby," "This Magic Moment," "Save the Last Dance for Me," "Up On The Roof," "On Broadway," "Under the Boardwalk," "Dance With Me," and "I Count The Tears," will perform two shows at the event.

Westfield resident, George Gatesy, gala chairman, announced recently that Mohammed Ali's boxing gloves and a golf school trip to Scottsdale, Arizona, top the list of items for purchase. In addition, after a tribute to the past chairpersons, Ernest S. Winter, the chapter's oldest active volunteer will receive the inaugural "Angel on Earth Award" just days after his 96th birthday. Tickets are limited to the first 250 guests at \$175 per person. For 115 years, the American Red Cross has responded to communities at people in need, keeping people safe across the nation and throughout the world during war and peace, when disaster strikes, and every day. The chapter's guiding theme is "Help is There." A motto they have lived every day for the people and the communities of Westfield and Mountainside over the past 80 years.

The chapter is offering an 80th anniversary commemorative pin for a \$5 donation. For more information on how to celebrate the anniversary during March, which is American Red Cross Month, contact the chapter office at (908) 232-7090. The chapter's e-mail address is redcross@westfieldnj.com. The Website address is: <http://westfieldnj.com/redcross>.

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DAY & EVENING HOURS

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To give your community events the publicity they deserve, mail your schedule to P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

Today
• Doerflinger School will hold its annual Science Fair/Invention Convention Thursday in the school gymnasium. Students in Grades K-8 will display their projects for the school population from 12:30 to 1:40 p.m., after the judging is completed. Members of the community, family and friends are invited to attend from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

• Two Springfield residents are helping the Jewish Cultural Society & Society present a five-part series of Thursday evening adult minicourses on "Jews of Poland" beginning today from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Salo Enis, a longtime member of the BCCS faculty, will lead the course. He is fluent in seven languages and uses many sources for his scholarly work. Milt Zisman is coordinator of the course, which will be held at the Ethical Culture building in Maplewood. Interested non-members may register for the series for \$35, or pay \$8 for individual sessions; members pay \$30 for the series or \$7 per session.

• Salo's sources for the course include "History of the Jews in Krakow and Kazimierz," written in Polish by Dr. Major Balaban, and "The Jews of Ukraine," a work in Russian by J. C. Honigman and A. Y. Naiman. The course also draws upon books in English published by academic and specialized presses in the U.S., Britain and Poland. For information or to register contact Milt Zisman at (973) 376-5639.

Sunday
• An original handwritten letter by George Washington will be displayed by the Springfield Historical Society from 2 to 4 p.m. The event will take place at the Historic Cannon Ball House, 126 Morris Ave., Springfield. Free guided tour also will be available at this time. Admission is free.

• The Trailside Nature and Science Center planetarium is presenting "A Collection of Cold Constellations," Sunday at 2 p.m. The chilly winter season is the time of the year to see many beautiful constellations. We will explore Orion and his dogs, Taurus, and Gemini, and find out when and where planets are visible. Each family will get a winter star map to take home. Admission is \$3 per person, \$2.55 for seniors. For children 6 and up. Also on Sunday, the center is presenting "Beavers," a slide show about the natural history of the beaver by John Blackmore, naturalist, at 2 p.m. You'll find out what good parents beavers are and discover how their engineering skills benefit other wildlife.

Monday
• The Trailside Nature and Science Center is presenting the following programs on Monday:

• "Sensory Scavenger Hunt," from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.: Join us in a search for trees that have bark like the skin of an alligator or an elephant. We'll sniff out other things that smell like peanut butter or gum. In the event of bad weather, we'll move indoors to the museum. Pre-registration required. For children 4 and older; babies in backpacks okay. Fee: \$3.50 per person.

• "Lotion & Potions," from 12:45 to 2:15: Join us for a fun, hands-on program as we make a yummy balm for winter-chapped lips and some soothing skin cream. Create high-quality, all-natural products for yourself and your family. Take home recipes and samples. Pre-registration is required. For grades

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

four and up. Fee: \$12 per person. "Sugaring Off!" from 1 to 2 p.m.: Come see a film that traces the process of turning sap into syrup. Take a look at the equipment you'd need to collect sap. Learn to identify a sugar maple tree and take part in a taste test. For all ages. Fee: \$2 per person.

Tuesday
• The Leukemia Society of America's monthly support group is scheduled to meet at 7 p.m. at the Northern New Jersey Chapter office, 45 Springfield Avenue, Springfield.

The group is designed to meet the needs of patients, their families, and friends affected by Leukemia and its related cancers — Lymphoma, Multiple Myeloma, and Hodgkin's Disease. Discussions focus upon the emotional, psychological, and experiential aspects of these diseases. While offering both support and specific education, the support group does not offer medical care, advice, or psychotherapy. It is led by facilitators Kathleen Crowley, MSW, and Donna Rossi, RN, who invite all members of the general public, affected by Leukemia and related diseases to take advantage of this free Leukemia Society service.

Individuals interested in attending are urged to contact the Leukemia Society of America at (973) 376-9559, or by fax at (973)-70722.

Coming events

Feb. 26
• The Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library presents Freehold High School's dramatic arts club in a reading of works by playwright Tennessee Williams at 7 p.m. The club, in existence since 1960, has produced over 100 dramas and musicals. Two major productions and a series of one-act plays

are produced by the club each year at various festivals, where students have won many acting awards. The Dramatic Arts Club tries to expose its members to a variety of dramatic styles of theater in the four years they attend Freehold High School.

The plays chosen for this presentation are early works of Tennessee Williams, and have as much relevance now as when they were written. The program will include the following readings:

"The Yellow Bird," "This Property Condemned," "Talk To Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen," "Portrait of a Girl in Glass." Funding for this program has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and through a grant administered by the Union County Offices of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

February
• Explore the artistic expression of the people of Kenya, Africa, and of local students, with a visit to the exhibitions sponsored by Haynes Leathers at the Westfield public schools at Children's Specialized Hospital, 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside, throughout the month of February.

In celebration of Black History Month and cultural diversity, Children's Specialized Hospital will present African artwork from Kenya in a show produced by Haynes Imports.

Specialties such as banana leaf art and bulk exemplified artwork created with natural materials by the people of Kenya. Artwork from the African exhibit will be offered for sale. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the hospital.

Students from the middle school and high school will be exhibiting varied work, from weaving to drawing to painting, at Children's Specialized Hospital. The student art work will not be for sale.

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Shoprite awarded by Environmental Commission

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer
The Springfield of ShopRite, as of Feb. 6, has something in common with the township's Garden Club and a middle school teacher. The Morris Avenue supermarket received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Springfield Environmental Commission.

"The Commission started the certificate program as a way of recognizing people or groups who promote environmental awareness in Springfield," said Commission Chairperson Clara Harelik. "We first honored the Springfield Garden Club in December, 1996 and Gaudinero Middle School teacher Joseph Toye last April."

Harelik presented the certificate to ShopRite's Springfield Store Manager Joe Barabato and Environmental Affairs Director Tim Vogel in a brief ceremony Feb. 6.

"Our members look out for those who are improving the local environment or promoting environmental education," Harelik said. "Some noticed ShopRite's shopping bag reuse program and their adoption of a traffic island on Morris Turnpike. That led us to learn about the supermarket's other environmental programs."

"When we see people returning to our store with a shopping bag, we deduct two cents from their grocery bill," Barabato said. "If they double

bag, it's four cents, triple bag, four cents, and so on. It doesn't matter to us if the bag's made of paper or plastic."

"While some shoppers may consider cents off for reusing bags somewhat common, the Springfield ShopRite's plastic intake program isn't. The store welcomes any grade plastic container for recycling, without the restrictions other programs place."

"What we do is sort them by the triangular one through six grade code stamped on most plastic," Barabato said. "They then go to the proper processor. The plastic is usually picked up with our cardboard, which is also compacted and recycled."

"ShopRite created the Office of Environmental Affairs during the sol-

id waste crunch of the early 1990s," said Vogel. "By recycling our cardboard, we save an average 70,000 pounds each of our 190 stores generate from going to a landfill."

Speaking of streams, Barabato donates gloves, shovels, rakes and bags for any school group which holds a cleanup campaign. The store also adopted, landscaped and maintains a traffic island in Morris Turnpike nearby.

Harelik said the next Commission Certificate of Appreciation will come not on a timetable but on a candidate's merit. While most residents will have to wait and see for the next awardee, they may look at ShopRite's certificate in the store for the time being.

Springfield Adult School offering new courses

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer
New and varied courses with local flavor are being offered by the Springfield Adult School for its spring semester. The Board of Education recently approved the school's instructors and are accepting mail registration until Monday.

"We listened to requests made by those who took our first courses last semester and from other residents," said Pat Darcy, director of Adult and Continuing Education. "As a result we're introducing courses in public speaking and how to get free publicity."

The public speaking course, concentrating on constructing and delivering an effective speech, is being

taught by Larry A. Biren. Biren is an adjunct professor at Rutgers University. While the speaking course is six weeks long, the free publicity for business is a one-night course taught by noted New York City tour guide Howard Goldberg.

"We have a change in driver training instruction from the fall semester," Darcy said. "This time, we have behind-the-wheel classes conducted by the Springfield-based Kess Driving School. There's also a tour March 7 of the Philadelphia Flower Show."

Darcy has 44 offerings scheduled ranging from beginning acting to weight loss with hypnosis. Some classes are taught by faces familiar to Springfielders. The introduction to television studio production, for

example, is taught by Jonathan Dayton High School media instructor Frank Addevinsky. The two-class cardiology certification course is taught by township first aid squad member Kevin Paul.

"The computer instruction classes were the most popular," Darcy said. "They were the first to fill up. Our offerings include Microsoft Excel and Word 6.0 for Windows and an introduction to the Internet."

The Springfield Adult School debuted last fall in Dayton, the former keystone of the Union County Regional High School System's adult classes. A late course catalog mailing, however, hampered exposure.

"I understand the mailing got out

late," said Dayton Principal Charles Serson. "It cut into the number of scheduled courses. This is a new venture and, with the mailing out a month early, there should be more students."

The spring semester catalog has been mailed out to every residence and are available at Dayton, the Municipal Building and the Free Public Library. Courses, which range from free to \$150, average around \$45.

Mailed registrations must be sent to Dayton on Mountain Avenue and have Monday's postmark. In person registration is set for Tuesday between 6 and 8 p.m.

For catalogs and other details, call Darcy at (973) 376-1025 ext. 5175.

AT THE LIBRARY

Friends seek donations

The Friends of the Springfield Public Library would like donations of used paperback novels. Also welcome would be magazines of within a year's date.

The Springfield library is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 to 5 p.m. For information, call (973) 376-4930.

Streisand film festival

The Springfield Free Public Library continues with its 'Luncheon Theater - a Barbra Streisand Film Festival' on Tuesday Feb. 24 at noon, with "The Owl and the Pussycat," a comedy classic also starring George Segal. Bring a brown bag lunch to the performance. Coffee and dessert will be served.

The festival continues on the following Tuesdays at noon: March 10, "The Way We Were"; March 24, "For Pete's Sake"; April 7, "Funny Lady"; April 21, "The Prince of Tides"; May 5, "The Mirror Has Two Faces."

Bring a bag lunch to the performances. Coffee and dessert will be supplied. The Springfield Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave.

Springfield trustees

The Springfield Free Public Library Board of Trustees advises that the meeting dates for 1998 are as follows: March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, Sept. 10, Oct. 18, Nov. 12, Dec. 10, Jan. 14, 1999. No regular meetings are held in July and August unless necessary.

Classes full

The free Internet classes offered by the Mountaineer Public Library have been so popular that all the classes are full and have waiting lists. The library plans to offer more classes, as yet unscheduled, in 1998. In the meantime, if patrons are interested in learning Internet searching skills, the reference staff will show them the self-instructing interactive Internet tutorials available on the World Wide Web. Some familiarity with using a "mouse" is required to use these tutorials. If you have Internet access at home, the library staff can give you the web addresses for these lessons.

The library also has videos, magazines, and books about the Internet which can be checked out. Please call or stop by the reference desk for details. (908) 233-0115.

Mountainside trustees

The Mountainside Public Library will be holding meetings of its Board of Trustees on the following dates: March 16, April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20. No meeting in August, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 10, Dec. 21. All meetings are held in the library meeting room at 7:30 p.m.

Investment seminar

The Mountainside Rotary Club is sponsoring its fourth in a series of estate planning seminars to be offered at the Mountaineer Public Library on Feb. 28 at 3 p.m.

The topic of this 45-minute seminar will be "Investing for Retirement" and will be given by William J. Diunno, a financial consultant with more than 39 years of experience in the financial sector.

The seminar is free and open to the public. All are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served. Any question may be directed to Dan Falco, President of the Mountaineer Rotary Club at 789-1010, or William J. Diunno at 232-3618.

Literacy volunteers

Literacy Volunteers of America, Union County Affiliate, has released its new 1998 winter schedule for training tutors. English as a Second Language workshops are being offered at Mountaineer Library, Constitution Plaza, March 3 and 10 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., and at Elmora Library, 36 Grand Street, Elizabeth, March 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There is a workshop fee of \$15 to cover supplies. For additional information or to register for any of the above workshops, call (908) 925-7755.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

New toll free number provided for seniors

Eligible seniors and disabled persons will have the opportunity to call toll free to get answers to their questions concerning the state's new homestead property tax freeze, according to Assemblymen Alan Augustine and Richard Bagger. The toll free is 1-800-882-6597. Under the new law sponsored by Assembly Speaker Jack Collins, the state will reimburse those eligible for the program the difference between the amount of property taxes on their

primary residence that were due and paid for in 1997 and the amount of property taxes due and paid in subsequent years.

"The state has recognized the difficulty property tax hikes have on our lower income senior citizens and disabled persons and enacted legislation that will, in reality, freeze their property taxes for the base year of 1997," Augustine said.

"And the state realized also that the same seniors that are eligible for the

program probably can't expensive phone calls to Trenton, so it acquired a toll free phone number to use for this purpose," added Bagger.

"The 1-800 number provides the caller with the convenience of being able to talk to a person who will explain the rules and procedures for obtaining the tax freeze on an eligible

Call your editor to tell your story

If you have a news tip or need information on how to get your story in the newspaper, call Donald Kelly, managing editor, at 686-7700, ext. 345.

person's home," Augustine said. Bagger noted that while helping needy senior citizens, "the tax freeze will not shift the cost for the program to the municipalities and won't put a strain on the state budget. It is responsible and affordable," he said.

The toll free number is operated by the Department of Treasury.

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260 Union Avenue</p> <p>LIVINGSTON: 492 South Livingston Avenue
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Mountain and Valley Avenues</p> <p>SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS: Highway 71 and North Avenue</p> <p>TOWNS RIVER: 2145 State Blvd. Bay Plaza
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COMMUNITY FORUM

Whose agenda?

The man third in line for our nation's highest office recently graced the GOP loyal with his presence at a breakfast campaign fundraiser in Mountaintop. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich's visit was intended mainly to fill the campaign accounts of Congressman Bob Franks, but, as these events will, also presented the opportunity for Gingrich to forward his own ideas.

Approximately three years after the "Republican Revolution" whimpered to its ill-fated conclusion, Gingrich is again a hot-sell, having risen from the ashes of unpopularity and party ostracizing. He is back on attack, though perhaps not so glibly.

His new clarion call, dubbed "Four Goals for a Generation," outlines the Speaker's ideas on reducing and simplifying taxation, saving Social Security, improving education, and fighting drugs.

While some of his ideas sounded stale and rhetorical, particularly his retroactive reference to the "Just say no" drug policies of Nancy Reagan, he presented a good plan with his others.

Education was a strong point. Gingrich envisions an America where every pupil can read and write English by the first grade, a goal far stricter than Clinton's non-issue of achieving literacy by third grade. He also advocated devoting part of the school week to studying the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Now that is a good idea. How many of you, for example, know all 20 amendments to the Constitution? If you do, congratulations! Except there are 21. Gingrich would also replace tenure with five-year, merit-based contracts, an excellent idea.

As for protecting Social Security benefits, almost any plan at this point is a good one. While Republicans have been accused of wanting to do away with entitlements, Gingrich rather proposed a bipartisan retirement commission comprised in equal parts of senior citizens, baby boomers, and young people. The idea is that each age group would prevent the others from furthering their own special interests, a simple and fair system.

Gingrich said the commission could consider moving benefits to personal retirement accounts in order to give beneficiaries greater financial control over their retirement money. Further evidence that the speaker is on the right track.

Gingrich echoed the traditional Republican call for tax cuts, calling for a reduction in taxes at the local, state and federal levels by 25 percent. While this is nothing new, an actual tax cut of that magnitude would be. The speaker said such cuts could be made by trimming the fat from our bloated bureaucracy through privatization and eliminating wasteful government. Privatization is a consistently successful way of retaining excellence of service, forcing previously noncompetitive services to shed their sloth on the open market. As long as ridding the government of wasteful bureaucracy is not a euphemism for butchering needed social services, we are in agreement.

It is important when considering a politician's ideas not to fall prey to their images as manipulated by the media. To do so is to sell yourself short, because if you do not know the whole argument, you do not know your own. Gingrich's ideas were fair ones, despite his recent disfavor among members of his own party and the media. As Rahway Councilman Francis Janusz said, "Seeing Newt Gingrich in person leaves me with an impression different from the clips I see on television." It is about time politicians traded in opinions based on political expediency for some good ideas.



AFRICAN RHYTHMS — Preschool and kindergarten students from Edward Walton School in Springfield eagerly participate in the Harvest Dance led by the Okra African Dance Troupe. The troupe gave a performance of some traditional dances from different countries in Africa.

Washington, Lincoln and Presidents Day

Reporter's Notebook

By Paul O'Keefe
Staff Writer

Abraham Lincoln's birthday was Feb. 12. George Washington's is Feb. 22. In one of the sadder circumstances of holidays, the two were recognized Monday with the insipidly named Presidents Day.

New Dealers and Reaganites will argue, no doubt, but the two single most influential presidents were Washington and Lincoln. Their lives are studies in overcoming failure while keeping an eye on goals centered around the common, not personal, good.

A review of Lincoln's life turns up so many setbacks and failures, not to mention the brutality of the Civil War's carnage, that his assassination might seem an act of mercy.

Lincoln lived with electoral losses, a wife whose sanity was questionable, a series of inept generals, vilification of his character on an ongoing basis and a congress that would not listen to his wisdom when he favored reconciliation after the war.

Washington was remarkable for his mediocrity. His skills as a general were marginal, and the length of the Revolutionary War was a direct consequence of this. Even his victory in Yorktown was the result of luck, as he chose to go South rather than North on little more than a whim.

So what is to admire about these men above every other president we have elected?

Washington set the character of the

presidency and the definitions of the executive's parameters. He approached the office in a way similar to General Ford: moderate, fair and without any cult of personality.

His farewell address contains all the wisdom we need to govern America, and every rule violated by the greedy and partisan since then.

He advised against political parties and cautioned us about avoiding foreign entanglements.

Today we see the two major parties crippling our country and our state. Government to them is a means by which to gain advantage over the other party. Washington likely saw nothing wrong with party politics on the state level, but he wisely foresaw the federal government's potential for abuse if it became the playground of politics.

Americans of every stripe today adore certain foreign entanglements, yet we tend to forget caution when it comes to policing the world for our personal favorites. We stand on the

brink of more military action in a faraway country in the Middle East, while our sons and daughters are being used to police the Balkans.

I cannot help but observe that America had few problems in the Middle East when the only people representing us were the oil companies. Business is a very good ambassador. The more we have entangled ourselves in solving problems over there, the more our blood is put in the way of bullets.

Had Woodrow Wilson stayed out of World War I, as Washington doubtlessly would have advised, we might not have lost so many men to World War II.

Lincoln, an attorney by profession and, unfortunately, outlook on life, also displayed an unworthy wisdom in governing.

People are not taught well enough the difference between American government before Lincoln and what we see afterwar.

Before the war, each state was a country unto itself that was under a Constitution with the others. Many of the rights guaranteed under that Constitution were not guaranteed under state governments. As a consequence of the Civil War, the Constitution was amended to force states to guarantee the same rights the federal government did.

By force of wartime necessity, the federal government became a differ-

ent entity under Lincoln. The results would not be seen for many decades, but we live with them today. Before the Civil War, our federal government was a weak central body. Lincoln himself had an office staff the size of a small business during the war. After Lincoln, the federal government became the big Kahuna we have seen grow since.

I personally believe Lincoln did not believe his own doctrine. The idea he put forth that states could not withdraw from the Union, for example, flies in the face of what those same states did to King George. Lincoln stated a willingness to throw his own ideas to the side when the good of the country was at risk, however, and our country is united today because of that.

More leaders should practice that approach.

Today we see two political parties and one very lacking president debating issues a step above polite jokes in Washington. This is not a time of war like the Revolution or Lincoln's time, but no one can deny we lack a great leader today.

Maybe if we did away with Presidents Day and reverted to celebrating our two great presidents, we would find ourselves contemplating what great leadership means, and why it is to be valued. America awaits such a blessing.

Hold the tongue before speaking ignorantly

As I See It

By Norman Rauscher
Correspondent

A day doesn't seem to go by when we aren't frightened out of our wits by a new report stating this or that food can make you either ill or kill you.

Naturally, this gets your attention. After a few weeks waiting to see if we live or die, another report tells us to forget the first report, that there's nothing wrong with the food we've been eating. We emit a sigh of relief, only to wait for the next threat to our well-being. For decades, eggs, bacon and toast was the all-American breakfast. But then someone said such a daily diet contained too much fat and cholesterol and your life span would be dangerously decreased if you continued on this reckless path to illness.

A week won't go by without some other grim report making the headlines, predicting horrible consequences if you ate too much butter, or hamburgers or french fries. People were warned against eating beef and so now food that was as devoid of it. We are caught up in facts that say it's not proper or healthy to eat this or that. We must, they say, take the advice of nutritionists if we want to live to a ripe old age. Whatangers me is that most of these dire surveys are repeated within a matter of weeks or months. Eggs in again. It's no longer just broccoli, but broccoli buds that are the magic for longer life.

If you take to heart these warnings that your heart, liver, colon, kidneys, etc. are in mortal danger if you don't eat enough bran, fruit and vegetables, it might be wise to make a date with the undertaker.

I personally think these frightening and dire findings are based primarily on a code word.

If the warnings contain the word cancer, that's the end of the party. Hands are wrung. Sweat breaks out. The so-called experts have had their 15 minutes and have succeeded in causing dismay and alarm. Shortly, however, other so-called experts pool-pool the dire report and the authors of the first surveys are forced to return to studying why Brussels sprouts are the healthiest things around.

The secret for a ground-breaking study is to latch onto something ominous-sounding such as "cancer causing." That way the roof caves in on the ignorant if only temporarily.

Take Oprah Winfrey, who's being sued by the Texas cattlemen because, under state law, you cannot malign Texas beef and not expect to get sued. I've never heard of anything so absurd.

We wonder what the egg producers of America did when eggs were placed on the unhealthy food list. I don't remember them screaming about it, though I'm sure many egg

producers lost vast amounts of money. But if you wait long enough, things change to the way they were before. Today, eggs are back in favor as is bacon. It's difficult for people to change their eating habits if eggs and bacon are part of their daily menu. I'm not saying it is good to gobble up a dozen eggs and several slices of bacon every day. First of all, I'd get sick of such a menu day-in and day-out. But, I realize that quaffing down a half-dozen eggs and 10 slices of bacon is not the healthiest thing one can do.

Moderation in all things as they say. People are living longer and longer, and I guess that is due to gains in the knowledge of life-expanding foods. And that's good. What annoys me,

though, are the periodic warnings from nutritionists who are convinced they hold all the answers. Obviously none of us would make it a habit of eating pounds of lead each day or two bottles of horseshit every morning. Not only is such a prospect nauseating, but it is a real attempt at suicide.

These brighteners, later found to be wrong, put people on the spot manipulating their lives by predicting all kinds of horrible things, only to be forced later to renounce their findings. Better to hold one's tongue than to speak ignorantly.

Norman Rauscher, a former newspaper publisher, is an active member of the Summit community.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Buckle up

To the Editor:

I would like to applaud the *Echo Leader* for a story they placed on the front page of the Feb. 5 edition about the woman who was facing motor vehicle violations charges related to the injury of herself and her children and the lack of proper seatbelt restraints. It is so unfortunate that an accident must happen to raise awareness of the necessity of using seatbelts. This person is very fortunate that more serious injury did not occur. I hope it was a wake-up call for not only her but everyone who does not use a seatbelt. So many lives could be saved and injuries prevented if people buckled up. There is no excuse not to protect the lives of our children.

Kelly Gardner
PTA President
Edward Walton School
Springfield

Legislative contacts

President

Bill Clinton, Democrat: 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington D.C. 20500.

Congress

U.S. Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg, Democrat, Gateway I, Gateway Center, Newark 07102, (201) 645-3030.
U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli: 1 Riverfront Plaza, Newark, 07102, (201) 639-2860, Democrat.

U.S. Rep. Robert Franks, 7th Congressional District, Republican: 2333 Morris Ave., Suite B-17, Union 07083, (908) 686-5576.

Governor

Christine Whitman, Republican: State House, Trenton 08625, (609) 292-6000.

N.J. Senate

Sen. C. Louis Basano, 21st District, Republican: 324 Chesnut St., Union 07083, (908) 964-7233.

N.J. General Assembly

Assemblyman Joel Weingarten, 21st District, Republican: 56 Main St., 2nd fl., Millburn 07041, (973) 379-3003.

Assemblyman Kevin J. O'Toole, 21st District, Republican: 25 Pompton Ave., Suite 309, Verona 07044, (973) 857-6520.

"Journalists and politicians in developing democracies soon discover the difference between an unfettered press and a press that is both free and fair."

Chris Wells
senior vice president,
The Freedom Forum
1993

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We're asking

How did your Friday, the 13th go this year?

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

Friday the 13th is supposedly a day of bad luck, a superstition in the order of walking under ladders. While the other superstitions have a grain of common sense to them, most researchers consider Friday the 13th to have a nearly 2,000-year-old tradition.

The connection is supposedly with Easter and the 12 Apostles. A 13th Apostle, Judas Iscariot, is to have handed Jesus Christ over to the Romans for execution on what became Good Friday.

We are not the only culture which assigns good or bad fortune to numbers. The ancient Japanese, for example, considered the number 31 as an integer of death.

Numerologists worldwide prefer odd numbers over even. A classical assessment has resided with the advances of science and rationality. It didn't apparently bother the founding fathers. Shortly after they declared the 13 colonies' independence from Great Britain, they approved the Great Seal of the United States. The number 13, from feathers to arrows, is found throughout the seal's design.

A classical assessment has resided with the advances of science and rationality. It didn't apparently bother the founding fathers. Shortly after they declared the 13 colonies' independence from Great Britain, they approved the Great Seal of the United States. The number 13, from feathers to arrows, is found throughout the seal's design.



Maria Ladington

"Two-hundred is a number," said the Summit native son at the time. "It's the value you put on it that makes it important."

There are apparently some who still put a value on Friday the 13th. The design of some buildings avoid labeling the 13th floor. Tri-Steakstop's, the fear of the number 13, is listed in some medical reference books.

The *Echo Leader* asked people along Springfield's Morris and Mountain avenues how their Friday the 13th was going by midmorning.

"I'd say my day's going very well," said Brian Bailey in front of the state Motor Vehicle Agency. "I just passed my drivers test and got my license. I didn't realize today's Friday the 13th."

"Today's a good day," said Sheldon Berger as he looked for his car keys. "I dropped off my car to the



Paul Anderson

mechanic, had a good walk back and got to the barber's before a line formed."

While Berger discounted the superstition of Friday the 13th, he was surprised that his keys had somehow migrated to the opposite end of the chain.

"Everything's fine so far," said NJ Transit bus driver Darius Fuller. "My self-confidence is up and the passengers have a positive attitude as well. The Friday the 13th thing I put out of my mind."

As Fuller ended his No. 52 Route run, Arlene Del Mauro walked past. Del Mauro was delivering a "Happy Valentines Day" flower arrangement to a nearby store.

"I'm running flowers for my daughter Donna," said Del Mauro. "Valentines Day is one of our busier times of the year for us florists." "Look around," said fellow

pederian Gloria Guriz. "It's a lovely day out here. The sun is shining. It's a little warm and few clouds are out."

"Today's O.K. so far," said Maria Ladington as she waited at a Mountain Avenue bus stop. "I have to go to work and I missed the first bus. I don't believe in Friday the 13th, but my roommate does and she plans to watch horror movies tonight."

"It's Friday the 13th today — that's no good," said Octavio Sobeiro at the Springfield Post Office. "I don't like the number 13. But, so far, I have a lot of work today."

As Sobeiro headed south on Mountain Avenue, Springfield Engine and Rescue Company Number One arrived at the corner of Hawthorn Avenue. Fire Captain Paul Anderson and three fellow firefighters proceeded to spread absorbent on some fluid on the street.

"We got a call that there was some fluid spilled from a two-car accident which happened here a few minutes ago," said Anderson. "It's been otherwise a quiet shift for us. I'm not the superstitious type, so coming on Friday the 13th wouldn't mean much from me."

Friday the 13th reappears twice more, in March and November, this year.

Resident arrested for drug possession

Springfield

A township resident who was snared Feb. 7 for speeding also faces charges of drug possession. The driver, identified as Jeffrey E. Shectman, 21, was originally pulled over for excessive speed along Milltown Road at 3:38 p.m.

The investigating officer discovered under 50 grams of marijuana, paraphernalia and evidence of use, according to reports. Shectman was subsequently charged with the three drug counts.

An apparent directional misunderstanding led to a window van and car accident in a Morris Avenue parking lot Thursday.

The Ford window van was asked by the driver of a Toyota Corolla to move his vehicle for access at about 11:42 a.m. While both vehicles attempted to move away simultaneously, however, the van snagged the Toyota's right rear bumper.

The Morris Avenue accident was

POLICE BLOTTER

preceded by another two-car tango in the Echo Plaza lot the day before. The driver of a Cadillac four-door had backed into a parked and unoccupied Lincoln two-door at about 6:55 p.m.

The driver of a Toyota four-door was motoring along in the right lane of Route 22 West when she did a car ahead of her made a sudden stop for the Barnes and Noble parking lot Feb. 11. She braked, went into a spin and "limbed over the right shoulder curb at about 9:06 p.m. The Toyota's ride ended by snapping a utility pole guide wire near Bennigan's.

The driver of a dump truck said he was paying attention to traffic behind him and to his right while traveling along Springfield Avenue Feb. 11. He did not, however, see an Eagle Tahoe with two occupants turning into a driveway from the avenue.

The resulting minor accident occurred at about 12:12 p.m.

A Lincoln Town Car driver said he stopped on south bound South Springfield Avenue by the Meisel Avenue merge for an approaching ambulance Feb. 10. The Toyota Tercel motorist behind him later said he stopped suddenly, causing a rear-end accident at about 6:23 p.m.

A Union man was arrested on charges of motor vehicle charges Feb. 9. The driver, identified as Rory Salzman, 42, was picked up for driving an unlicensed, uninsured car and driving with a revoked driver's license at about 9:40 a.m. on Morris Avenue.

The driver of a Mitsubishi Mirage said he and his passenger were about to leave an automotive maintenance place on Mountain Avenue Feb. 9 when the car suddenly accelerated. The Mirage climbed a curb and took down a fence at about 10:38 a.m., prompting a tow away.

The driver of a Ford Tempo

parked in the General Greene Shopping Center lot Feb. 8 discovered an unknown vehicle had run into its rear end at about 11:21 a.m.

A Wabeno Avenue resident said she was visited by a suspicious person Feb. 5 and 7. Each time, a man with a badge and wearing a pullover hooded jacket would ring the doorbell, call someone else on a cell phone and leave.

A diner returning from a Springfield Plaza restaurant on Route 22 East discovered he was the victim of an attempted auto theft Feb. 7. He found the driver and passenger side door locks and frame pillars damaged and the hood scratched.

Sometimes a two-car accident is simply one vehicle stopping and the other not. Such was the case of a Lexus 250 and a Volvo 940 on eastbound Morris Avenue at about 11:21 a.m. Both cars required towing.

House fire claims life of elderly woman

By Jim Foglio
Staff Writer

FIRE BLOTTER

The Mountaineer Volunteer Fire Department responded to only one call last week, but it was for a major fire, that took a life and destroyed a Scotch Plains home.

Chief Marc Franciosa said several Mountaineer members arrived at a Juniper Lane home at about 5 a.m. Saturday. Franciosa said five fire departments took about an hour to extinguish the fire, which completely destroyed the colonial-style home and killed an elderly woman. Police would not release the name of the woman, but neighbors reported the victim was 66-year-old Eleanor Hoffman, who lived in the home with seven other people for the past two years. Police said a

badly burned body was found at about 8:37 a.m., nearly 10 hours after the fire started.

Police said seven other household members, consisting of three adults and four children, escaped and were treated for smoke inhalation at the Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Police said the fire began in the kitchen and spread quickly through the home. Mountaineer firefighters were called because the home was directly on the border of Scotch Plains and Mountaineer, located near Bowcraft Amusement Park. The fire's cause is under investigation as of press time.

Ex-employee busted for stealing co-worker's car

By Jim Foglio
Staff Writer

POLICE BLOTTER

A former Loew's employee was arrested for allegedly stealing a fellow employee's car in November.

Police received a call from authorities in Miami, Florida after they arrested a man identified as Gary Williams, 21, formerly of Orange. It was found that several warrants were out for Williams' arrest in Mountaineer.

On Nov. 8, at about 1 p.m., Williams allegedly broke into the female locker room at Loew's Theaters on Route 22 West, and stole a more valuable keys to a fellow employee's vehicle.

Mountaineer police said Williams, now in custody in Miami, faces charges of burglary and theft in Mountaineer.

Police arrested an Elizabeth man for possession of marijuana, while

driving on Route 22 East. Officer Donald Amberg stopped a driver, later identified as Luis Rosario, 20, for a routine motor vehicle check. It was later found that Rosario was in possession of a few small bags of marijuana. He was charged with possession of less than 50 grams of drugs and released on \$100 bail. He awaits a court date of March 12.

On Feb. 10, at about 8 p.m., Officer Stephen DeVito arrested an East Orange woman for driving with a suspended license. After stopping a vehicle on Route 22 West for a routine motor vehicle violation, the driver, identified as Sheron Evans, 42, was found to have been driving while suspended.

Springfield firemen help with Union house fire

FIRE BLOTTER

Mount aid came calling on the Springfield Fire Department twice in as many weeks thanks to a house fire in Union Township Feb. 8. Union's firefighters were so involved with their blaze that Springfield put a ladder truck on standby for them at about 1:02 p.m.

Union returned Springfield's favor by sending an engine to the firehouse last week. Springfield also sent a pumper truck to Rahway during a truck fire there Feb. 5.

Springfield's bravest had an alarming time Thursday. An activated fire alarm sent a squad to the Municipal Building at about 6:57 a.m. A similar call sent an unit to a business on Mountain Avenue at about 1:15 p.m.

Carbon monoxide detectors sounded twice in as many days. One detector in a Lyons Plaza residence sounded twice at 1:22 p.m. Feb. 11. Most of the devices went off at a

Morris Avenue apartment complex at about 8:37 a.m. Feb. 9.

Three more alarm calls rang on Feb. 9 and 10. Another carbon monoxide detector sounded at another Morris Avenue complex at about 8:10 a.m. Feb. 9, followed by an alarm call from a business on the same avenue at about 2:34 p.m. An alarm from a school on South Springfield Avenue went off at about 1:19 p.m. Feb. 10.

County school group selling book to raise funds

The Entertainment Book contains coupon discounts for fine dining, family dining, fast food, movies, sports events, activities, special attractions and hotels.

The book for 1988 also contains an AT&T phone card for 30 free minutes of long distance calling, with New York Yankee tickets.

The Union County School Councilor Association is selling the Entertainment Book '88 as a fundraiser for the We Care Awards, given to high school students.

The purchase price is \$30. Call Carmine Venos during the day at (732) 396-1077 or evenings at (908) 233-1086 purchase books.

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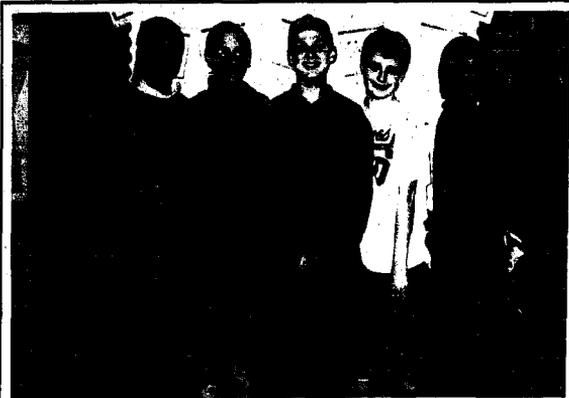
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AT THE SCHOOLS — The 1998 Deerfield Explorations Team pose in front of the project they presented to the Board of Education Feb. 3. The team will find out if their project makes it to the Regionals of the National Science Teacher's Association Explorations Competition sometime in March. Pictured above are seventh grade teacher Mrs. Ward and students Jessica Nichols, Frank Palumbo, Jude Faella and Kristen Manzo. Below, James Caldwell teacher Barbara Fried held a program entitled "Dolls for Democracy," at James Caldwell School to celebrate Black History Month and President's Day. The dolls represented famous personalities. Pictured from left to right are Caitlyn Wade, Mrs. Fried, Manny Diaz, Samantha Steinberg, and Mark Byk.

EDUCATION

'Birdie' in the wings

Summit Middle School students have begun rehearsing for an energetic and unforgettable production of "Give 'Em Birds," which will be presented April 2.

Starting in this lively musical are seventh-grader Ben Saleckus as Albert, the teenager from Sweet Apple, Ohio, who is selected to receive the "good-bye kiss" from the Elvis-like singing idol, Conrad Birdie, before he joins the Army. Eighth-grader Roshan Varma plays Birdie.

A cast of 50 is gearing up to present this fun family musical, which features such memorable songs as "Kids" and "Put on a Happy Face." The play is being directed by parents Karen Simon and Anne Poyner. Poyner directed last summer's town-wide

hit, Meredith Willson's "The Music Man," which helped raise funds for the Summit Free Public Library. The assistant director is eighth-grader Tricia Fairweather. Also helping the students put on a great show are Kelly Sacks, choreographer, and Lillian Wilkins, musical director.

Team, or would like more information to Deerfield School, Central Avenue and School Drive, Mountaineer, 07092-1998.

Oratory Prep

The following Springfield students have been named to the Headmaster's Honor Roll for the First Semester of the 1997/98 school year:
 First Honors: Stephen Malcolm, grade 9; Andrew Eiekas, grade 7.
 Second Honors: Mark Jorgensen, grade 10.

The following Springfield students have been named to the Headmaster's Honor Roll for the Second Quarter of the 1997/98 school year:
 First Honors: Stephen Malcolm, grade 9; Andrew Eiekas, grade 7.
 Second Honors: Mark Jorgensen, grade 10.

Bayley-Ellard High School

Second Quarter: The following students have been cited for first honors for achieving a grade point average of 3.7 or above and no grade lower than 85: Farnell Guarnascio and Jon Patrick Bareford, both of Springfield.

Volunteers Wanted.

The Mountaineer School District is about to embark on a venture to develop the district's Strategic Plan. A committee will be formed to assist with identifying the district's make-up, direction, and plans for the next three to five years, as well as the specific goals and plans of action needed to ensure the successful implementation of the district's Mission Statement.

If you are an individual who enjoy a challenge and believes in the educational process, call Gerard Schaller for details at 232-8828 or send a letter with your name, address, and telephone number identifying whether you would prefer to be a member of the Planning Committee, Action



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TRUE GOURMANDS — Students at Florence M. Gaudineer School in Springfield taking International Foods, above, are busy preparing Antipasto platters during their study of Italian cuisine. Below, seventh graders recently celebrated the end of their meal planning unit with a gourmet luncheon.



OBITUARIES

W. Thornton Read

W. Thornton Read, 77, of Summit, a research scientist with Bell Labs, died Feb. 7 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in New Haven, Conn., Mr. Read lived in New Brunswick before moving to Summit in 1947. He started working at Bell Labs in Murray Hill in 1947 on areas analysis problems and received a patent on an innovative glass-iono-metal seal used in submarine cable repeaters. With William Shockley, a Nobel Prize recipient in 1956, Mr. Read pioneered theoretical studies in the field of crystalline defects called dislocations. His results were published in the book, "Dislocations in Crystals." He retired from Bell Labs in 1976.

Mr. Read was employed from 1943 through 1946 by the National Research Defense Council in Princeton and engaged in air blast and earth shock tests and measurements of air blast at the Bikini Island atomic bomb tests. He then worked on the mathematics of anti-missile defense and with R.C. Prim, the general theory of defense for the Nike Zeus ABM system. Mr. Read also was a consultant to the Defense Department and the President's Office of Science and Technology.

He wrote "A Proposal to Neutralize Nuclear Weapons" about the benefits of non-proliferation. Mr. Read introduced the concept of a synthesis of solutions to the nuclear dilemma, which incorporates arms control, military strategy and foreign policy. He consulted from 1957 to 1968 with the Nixon campaign. Mr. Read helped to shape Nixon's position on arms control and funding priorities for education and scientific research. He received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, and a master's degree in applied mathematics from Brown University.

Edward J. Quinn Jr.

Edward J. Quinn Jr., 82, of Summit died Jan. 22 in Parkview Community Hospital, Riverside, Calif.

Born in Brooklyn, Mr. Quinn lived in Bloomfield before moving to Summit more than 40 years ago. He was a regional manager for Gold Seal Co. based in Wisconsin, for 27 years before retiring. Mr. Quinn was a graduate of St. Benedict's Preparatory School, where he was captain of the baseball team and a member of the football team. Mr. Quinn was inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1984.

He received an athletic scholarship to Bucknell University and following graduation, he was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds baseball organization. Mr. Quinn played minor league ball, including a stint with the Trenton Senators. He served in the Navy on a sub-chaser during World War II. Mr. Quinn was head of the chain officials of the New York Giants football organization, where he worked for more than 45 years.

Surviving are three sons, Richard R., Michael A. and Thomas C.; two daughters, Kathleen Q. Macel and Patricia Quinn-Munson, and nine grandchildren.

Ella Larson

Ella Larson, 87, of Summit died Feb. 14 in the Ashbrook Nursing Home, South Plainfield, N.J.

Born in Worcester, Mass., Mrs. Larson lived in Montclair before moving to Summit 21 years ago. She was a 50-year member of the Viking Lodge Troistig in Summit and a member of the order of the Eastern Star, Verona.

Surviving are a daughter, Blanche Engstrom; a son, William; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Helen S. Freed

Helen S. Freed, 96, of Springfield died Feb. 13 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Plainfield, Mrs. Freed lived in Newark and Irvington before moving to Springfield in 1953. She was a taxpayer service representative for the Internal Revenue Service, Newark, for 26 years and retired in 1972. Mrs. Freed was a life member and former president of the Business and Professional Chapter of B'nai B'rith of Northern New Jersey.

She also was a member of the Springfield Chapter of Hadassah, the Senior League of Temple Beth Ahm of Springfield and the Friendship Group of Temple Emanuel of Westfield. Mrs. Freed was the vice president of the Golden Group of Temple Beth El of Cranford.

Surviving are a son, Arnold W.; a daughter, Thelma Ottensien; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

George E. Ball

George E. Ball of Springfield died Feb. 9 in Rannels Specialized Hospital, Berkeley Heights. He had been a Holocaust survivor of the Mudchautser and Dachau camps.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, Mr. Ball came to Hillside before moving to Springfield 20 years ago. He was

self-employed in office sales for many years.

Surviving are his wife, Margaret; three daughters, Suzi McMillon, Eva Ball and Juka Balazs; two sons, Attila and Peter Balazs, and three grandchildren.

Mildred M. Nitello

Mildred M. Nitello, 94, of Springfield died Feb. 11 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Millburn, Mrs. Nitello lived in Springfield for 75 years. She was a member of the Senior Citizen Group 3 in Springfield.

Surviving are a daughter, Mildred M. Rogers; three sisters, Hazel Ford, Florence Sones and Esther Cadmus; a brother, Lawrence Smith; three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Mary Almeida

Mary Almeida, 75, of Springfield died Feb. 13 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in New York City, Mrs. Almeida lived in Springfield for many years. She was a sales person at Macy's Department Store, Newark, for 22 years and retired 12 years ago.

Surviving are her husband, John; two sons, Roy and James; a sister, Vera Menda, and four grandchildren.

Mary Jane Williams

Mary Jane Williams, 80, of Bethlehem, Pa., formerly of Springfield, died Feb. 12 in Muhlenberg Hospital, Bethlehem.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Williams lived in Springfield before moving to Bethlehem several years ago. She was a member of the Autumn Club and the St. Anne's Widowed and Single Adults, both of Bethlehem.

Surviving are a son, Douglas J.; three daughters, Judy Alcamo, Donna Jacques and Patricia; a brother, Charles Mataro, and six grandchildren.

Frank Pisar

Frank Pisar, 73, of Springfield died Feb. 15 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Newark, Mr. Pisar lived in Maplewood and Irvington before moving to Springfield four years ago. He was a machinist for Continental Can Co., Paterson, before retiring 20 years ago. Mr. Pisar was a lieutenant in the Newark Auxiliary Police, serving for 11 years and was in the Irvington Police Reserves for eight years.

Surviving are his wife, Connetta; a stepson, Charles Daniele Jr.; a stepdaughter, Juliet DiLubato; a brother, Michael; three sisters, Lucille Varella, Liz Greco and Marion Zimmerman; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

BAPTIST

EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH—"CHRIST OUR HOPE AND PEACE," 242 Summit Rd., Springfield. Rev. Frederick Mackay, Sr. Pastor. Services 9:30 AM Bible School for all ages • Nursery through Senior: 10:30 AM Worship Service and Nursery care • 5:30-7:00 PM AA/ASA Club Program for Children ages 4-11 • 6:00 PM Evening Service • Nursery care, Wednesday: 7:15 PM Prayer, Praise and Bible Study. Junior/High Ministry, Active Youth Ministry, Walk-Range Music Program. Super Service 3rd Thursday at 11 AM followed by lunch. Ample Parking. Church Led provided with assistance. All are invited and encouraged to participate in worship with us. For further information contact church office (973) 376-4151.

EPISCOPAL

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, 119 Main Street, Springfield. (973) 376-0884. A block from Springfield Center. The Episcopal Church in Springfield since 1824. St. Stephen's is a welcoming community committed to education, music, and worship for all who are spiritually hungry. The Rev. Judy Turpin, Rector. The Rev. Judy Baldwin, Associate. Karen Eberhardt, Sacristan. Dennis M. DeMott, Music Director. WEEKLY ACTIVITIES: Sunday 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion in traditional language. The Rector preaching. 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum. 9:30 a.m. Interdependent Event. First Sunday of every month. 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion in contemporary language. Music by the choir. Church School for children. 7:30 and nursery care also at 10:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m. Youth Group for grades 5-12. Tuesday: 5:30 p.m. Education for Adults, a adult Bible study including faith and everyday life. Monthly book discussions. Many opportunities for service. FOR NO-STYRIES INFORMATION PACKET CALL (973) 376-0884.

JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE

TEMPLE BETH AYM 60 Temple Drive, Springfield. 376-5739. Perry Raphael Rake, Rosh. Richard Spies, Cantor. Simon Rosenbach, President. Beth AYM is an egalitarian, Conservative temple, with programming for all ages. Weekly services including Sunday evening and Friday morning are conducted at 7:10 AM & 7:45 PM. Shabbat (Friday) 7:30 AM & 7:55 PM. Shabbat (Saturday) 9:30 AM & 10:00 AM. Family and children services are conducted regularly. Our Religious School (child-seventh) grades from Sunday and Tuesdays. There are formal classes for both High School and pre-Religious School aged

SUMMIT JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

67 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, 275-8120. William E. Hon, Rabbi. Igan Roth-Kovitch, Cantor. Janice Wilton, President. The Summit Jewish Community Center (SJCC) is an egalitarian, Conservative synagogue, serving families from Summit and nearby 25 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 Service, for families with children ages 2-7, is held every third Saturday from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. The second and fourth Saturdays from 10:15-11:30 AM, there is a service for preschool children. The SJCC also offers a complete pre-school program including a morning and afternoon program. The SJCC also offers a complete pre-school program including a morning and afternoon program. The SJCC also offers a complete pre-school program including a morning and afternoon program.

JEWISH - REFORM

TEMPLE SHALOM 78 S. Temple Avenue, Springfield, (201) 376-5387. Joshua Goldstein, Rabbi; Avi Dvoretzky, Cantor/Education Director; Nina Greenman, Pre-School Director; Bruce Piman, President. Temple Shalom is a Reform congregation affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC). Shabbat worship, moderated by volunteer Shabbat leaders 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-5, on Tuesdays and Thursdays for grades 6-12. Regular evening services for post-bar mitzvah students. Pre-school, classes are available for children ages

LUTHERAN

HILLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 659 Mountain Avenue - Springfield, (714) 201-374-4235. Fax 201-378-8887. Joel R. You, 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, 9:30-4:00 p.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

227 Cooperville Pl., Westfield. Rev. Paul E. Krueger, Pastor. (908) 232-1517. Beginning Sunday, July 6, Summer Worship Services are at 10:00 AM. Sunday Morning Services, 8:30 and 10:00 AM. Sunday morning Nursery available. Wednesday Evening Worship Service, 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion is celebrated at all worship services. The church and all rooms are handicapped accessible.

METHODIST

THE SPRINGFIELD EMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, located on 40 Church Mill in Springfield, NJ invites people of all ages and backgrounds to join us in Sunday morning services. Our church activities and fellowship. Communion First Sunday of each month. Ladies Benevolent Society - 1st Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m.; Ladies Evening Group - 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Kaffeklatch - 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.; Choir - every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. The Rev. Daniel J. Russell, Jr., Pastor

ROMAN CATHOLIC

THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. TERESA'S 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey 07081. 201-376-3044. SUNDAY EUCHARIST: Sat. 5:30 p.m. Sun. 7:30, 9:30, 10:30 a.m., 12:30 Noon, Reconciliation: Sat. 10:15-10:30 p.m. Weekly Masses: 7:00 & 8:00 a.m.

ST. TERESA'S OF AVILA, 306 Morris Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901. 908-277-3700.

Sunday Masses: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, 1:15 (Spanish), 5:00 PM in the Church; Children's Mass - 9:30 AM Memorial Hall will be held on September 14th; Weekly Masses: 7:00, 8:30 AM, 12:10 PM; Saturday Masses: 8:30 AM; Holy Days: Same as weekday Masses with a 2:30 PM anticipated Mass and a 7:30 PM evening Mass. Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:30 - 5:00 PM.

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Are your kids running circles around you? Haven't you mastered "surfing the net"? Do you need to upgrade your job skills? New classes begin week of March 2nd. Call TODAY to register!

PC Education Software Training 973-685-2202 Adults and Kids 10 Fairmount Avenue, Cranford, NJ

Animal examination

Four-grade science students Jacob Janowski and Dana Melitoni are studying the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. They are using journals to record their observations of different stages. Coverage at James Caldwell School in Springfield.

Sports Editor J.R. Parachini
 Union: 908-686-7700, ext. 319
 Maplewood (Tuesdays): 973-762-0303
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SPORTS

Fax and mail deadline
 Monday morning at 9
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To the basket they go



Photo by Milton Mills

Dayton players Maria Stravato, No. 11, and Tracey Saladino, No. 23, chase down Roselle Park's Darla Fowler during Mountain Valley Conference-Valley Division contest held Feb. 10 in Springfield and won by Roselle Park 42-27.

Mountainside twin Kobels spark GL to state playoffs

Lauren leads in scoring, Alison excellent on defense

By Joe Ragazzino
 Staff Writer
 Lauren and Alison Kobel rule the courts — tennis and basketball, that is.

After guiding the Governor Livingston High School girls' tennis team to the North Jersey Section 2, Group 2 state playoffs this past fall, the twin sisters from Mountainside helped the girls' basketball squad achieve the same goal.

The juniors, who sparked as second and third singles, respectively for the 13-4 tennis team, have been stellar at the courts for the hoops club, rising to the occasion at the right time.

For the Highlanders, it was deja vu. Last season, the Highlanders missed the state tournament by one game and found themselves in the same position this season. Teams needed a .500 record by Feb. 7 in order to qualify for the state tournament and the Highlanders had a 6-7 mark heading into its match-up with Mountainside Valley Conference-Mountain Division rival Johnson on Feb. 6.

The Highlanders needed a big game from forward/center Lauren Kobel and their leading scorer didn't disappoint. Kobel's 16 points, 14 rebounds and four blocked shots sparked Governor Livingston to an emotional 50-27 victory that sealed a state playoff berth.

"She just stepped it up," veteran GL head coach Dan Kopcha said of Lauren, who overruns a team-high 15 points and nine rebounds. "She knew what her responsibility was. She knew she had to be focused. She knew she needed to do the things we needed her to do to get to that level and to help the rest of her teammates and their scoring abilities."

While Johnson was preoccupied with stopping Lauren inside, GL guard Kori Hines took advantage of her opportunities from beyond the arc, scoring 12 points on four three-pointers.

"We felt that if we were able to get the ball down to Lauren, she could do damage inside and that would free up the outside people to do the damage outside," Kopcha said. "And it worked out nicely."

Alison Kobel, a forward who is better known for her tough defense, contributed five points.

Girls' Basketball

Two days later, the Highlanders beat Johnson again 54-39 as Lauren Kobel scored 16 points. GL downed Roselle 59-31 at home on Feb. 10 behind Kobel's season-high 27 points. Alison netted five and six points in those two respective games.

GL improved to 10-7 with an impressive 42-39 Mountain Division victory at Roselle Catholic last Friday. Lauren Kobel scored nine points, Alison Kobel four and freshman guard Jen Calabrese 11.

The run at a Union County Tournament title, however, ended Monday when GL fell to Cranford 37-32 in a first-round game played in Roselle at Roselle Catholic.

GL's record was 10-8 as of Tuesday.

Still, the Highlanders can take solace in the fact that they will see their season extended in the state tournament. And this achievement can be attributed to their unrelenting perseverance.

The NISIAA boys' and girls' state tournaments will commence the week of Monday, March 2. GL, seeded eighth, will play at top-seeded and defending champion Mendham in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 quarterfinals. An even eight teams made the section: 1-Mendham, 2-Caldwell, 3-Summit, 4-Hackettstown, 5-Morris Hills, 6-Essex County, 7-Chatham, 8-GL.

"I feel good for the kids because they worked hard and making the states was one of the goals they set out

to achieve at the beginning of the season," Kopcha said. "They didn't want to miss it again by one game."

"Last season, we had a lot of close games that could have gone either way and we ended up on the short end sometimes. That could be disheartening to a team, but they fought back through the trials and tribulations."

The Highlanders were on the proverbial bubble for a state playoff bid when they had a team meeting, which worked wonders.

"We just sat down one day and said that we've got to kick it in," Kopcha recalled. "There was no reason why we couldn't pull it off. We just had to work hard, do the right things and focus. The kids did an outstanding job."

Especially Lauren Kobel, who has emerged as one of the top players in the conference.

"She is a very mature player who has grown a lot from the first time she came up," Kopcha said. "She has great jumps and bounds. She is a very studious person and is always looking to improve her game."

Meanwhile, Alison Kobel has shown tremendous potential and could develop into an offensive force, Kopcha commented.

"She has the tools to be a real scoring threat and I think she is just playing a little tight right now," Kopcha said. "I think when she does loosen up, she'll get better. She's contributing a lot and helping her sister. She's playing good defense and getting rebounds. She has a great outside shot."

Now that the pressure is off, the Highlanders are looking forward to an enjoyable experience in the state playoffs.

"Anything we do from now on is gravy," Kopcha said.

Going up against Mendham, one of the state's best Group 2 teams, will be a tough task, but one that the Highlanders are looking forward to.

Dayton closes initial season with an impressive triumph

Bulldogs best East Side for first victory

By Joe Ragazzino
 Staff Writer
 It was the last game of the season. A final chance to win one game in the program's first year of existence.

But no matter what the final outcome, head coach Dave Grischke knew his Dayton High School ice hockey team was a special unit, one that made a dramatic improvement since last year.

And sure enough, the Bulldogs rose to the occasion in their first season finale — especially in the pivotal third period — as they posted a 4-2 triumph over Newark East Side Feb. 10 at Chimney Rock Arena in Bridgewater.

There was certainly cause for celebration as the Bulldogs finally tasted the thrill of victory.

"It was a great feeling," said Grischke, whose team was led by Dan Brede's two goals and an assist. "If you watched them at the end of the game, you would have thought they had just won the Stanley Cup."

It was also sweet for Dayton to notch the win against East Side. The two teams battled the previous week in which Dayton, a co-op team of players from Springfield and Brearley in Kenilworth, squandered a 4-3 lead en route to dropping a 7-4 decision.

"We ran out of gas and we took a lot of penalties," Grischke said about his team's loss to East Side.

As he and his players were in the locker room getting ready for the second meeting, Grischke had a good feeling about his team's chances.

"I didn't want to sound too confident, but I had a feeling we were going to win because of the way we played against them in the first game," Grischke recalled. "I knew we were going to stay out of the penalty box, which we did."

The teams played to a 1-1 deadlock through two periods before Dayton came alive with three unanswered

goals in the third. Sophomore left-winger Brian Berger re-directed senior Brede's slap shot from the blue line to give Dayton a 2-1 lead.

One minute later, Brede took a pass from sophomore Jared Cohen from behind the East Side net and scored on a wrap-around to give Dayton a two-goal advantage.

H.S. Ice Hockey.

Brede, playing his final high school game, capped the rally with his second goal of the game to give Dayton an insurmountable 4-1 lead.

Sophomore forward Jon Kovacs gave Dayton a 1-0 lead in the first period, off an assist from junior forward Peter Meier.

Cohen finished with two assists. Meanwhile, Dayton goaltender Anthony Chango was solid. The senior recorded a whopping 34 saves, coming up with critical stops in a tight second period.

"Anthony played a super game in goal," Grischke said.

The game also featured a turn of the tables as East Side was the team suffering from crucial breakdowns.

"We let them take stupid penalties," Grischke said. "They started getting frustrated and we kept our cool. We capitalized on our opportunities."

Nearly everyone involved in supporting the team deserved kudos for the win, from the players all the way down to the vast community which provided strong support throughout the season, Grischke said.

"It was a credit to the way the program was started, from the parents' organization and all the way up," Grischke said.

The Bulldogs took their lumps during season No. 1, particularly against superior teams such as Chatham and Morrisstown. Some of Dayton's

defeats were of the variety of the Merwyn Rule, which automatically stops a game when the winning team is ahead by 10 goals.

While the exposure to such quality opponents was helpful in some respects, a schedule featuring teams more on Dayton's level would have been more beneficial, Grischke said.

"You have to see your players get discouraged when they really don't belong on the ice with some of these teams," Grischke said.

The Bulldogs, with a good core of returning players, are hoping to maintain momentum heading into next season. Grischke, a private instructor at South Mountain Arena in West Orange, plans to work with his players for the next few months, as well as in the summer.

"They improved 100 percent from beginning to end," Grischke said. "They improved their skating skills, shooting skills, position play and defensive zone coverage. If they can improve their individual skills even more throughout the off-season, it will make my job much easier come November."

"It was a progression for them. They made incredible strides all year long. You have to remember, a lot of these kids never had any youth hockey background and were just playground players. They ended up playing well, all of them."

An orientation meeting for some of the 7th- and 8th-grade players is being planned by the parents' organization, giving Grischke a glimpse of his team in the future. One of his priorities for next year is finding someone to succeed Chango in goal.

"It was long, but it was a goal-tender and add a body here or there, we'll be okay for next year," Grischke said. "This year was a starting point and now it's time to start developing the program even more."

Summit boys' out for a title tonight

Going for Anthony B crown

By Andrew McGann
 Assistant Sports Editor

The top-seeded Summit High School boys' swimming team will be looking for a North Jersey B championship tonight when it matches up against second-seeded Sparta at 7 in North Brunswick.

A win will send the Hilltoppers, who recently entered the state's Top 20 rankings at No. 20, into the Group Championships against the top teams from Central and South Jersey. They advanced to the finals with a 1:11.59 rout over Kinnelon last Thursday after receiving a first-round bye.

Head coach Dave Closs, in his seventh year at Summit, is confident his team can capture its first sectional championship since the Billy Spindel-led squad of 1975-76.

High School Swimming

"I'm very excited about our chances," Closs said. "This team has put in a lot of hard work and I think we have a great opportunity."

Summit, 12-1-1, is led by star swimmer Ian Bowman and boasts one of its deepest teams in years.

"We've done quite well in the past four years, but this is definitely the best team I've had in terms of overall depth," Closs said. "Ian is the only star in the group, but he has a lot of real solid guys backing him up. We've had four or five standouts on some other teams, but this season we have anywhere between 10 and 12."

Bowman flashed his talents at the Union County Swimming Championships held Feb. 7 at the Dunn Sport Center in Elizabeth by finishing first in two events.

Bowman repeated as the 200-yard freestyle champion with a time of 1:48.77 and took first in the 500-yard freestyle by completing the event in 4:58.47. With the victories, Bowman set a new Summit career record with five county titles.

Nick Nagle, Cooper Kramer, Russ Bernstein and Jamie Sample also placed among the top six for Summit. Nagle finished second in 100-yard breaststroke and fourth in the 200-yard individual medley. Kramer finished fourth in the 100-yard freestyle. Bernstein took second in the one-meter springboard and Sample captured fifth in the same event.

Summit finished third overall behind Westfield and Scotch Plains. Westfield won the event with 304 points, followed by 290 for Scotch Plains and 197.5 from Summit.

"I was very happy with our performance in the counties," Closs said. "Our goal was to play spoiler and swim as well as we could. I thought we swam great."

Bowman, Nagle, Kramer, Adam Allagrantero and Bryan Eckhardt will also be competing in the NISIAA Meet of Champions, scheduled for March 7-8.

Summit resident Slanaker stars for Oak Knoll

Kate Slanaker, a Summit resident who attends Oak Knoll High School, took home two first-place finishes in the Union County Championships. Slanaker won the 50-yard freestyle in just 24.47 seconds and broke her own record in the 100-yard freestyle set at last year's championships by completing this year's event in 53.04.

Behind Slanaker's strong swimming, Oak Knoll managed a third-place finish behind Westfield and Scotch Plains. The Blue Devils racked up 286 points, followed by 253 from the Raiders and 125 for the Royals.

UCT top-seed Oak Knoll advances

Oak Knoll received the top seed in this year's 23rd annual Union County Girls' Basketball Tournament, which commenced with preliminary round games last weekend and continued with first-round games Monday.

Oak Knoll won its 18th consecutive game Monday to improve to 19-1 overall when it defeated Johnson 61-43 in first-round UCT action in Cranford. Melissa Lopez scored 17 points and Brenna Sample 13.

Second-seed Elizabeth has won the last three UCT titles.

The quarterfinals are scheduled to be played tomorrow and Saturday nights at the Dunn Sport Center in Elizabeth and the semifinals Tuesday and Wednesday nights at Dunn.

The title games are Feb. 28 at Dunn at 1 and 7 p.m.

Springfield Minutemen Basketball teams excel

The Springfield Minutemen Senior (8th grade) basketball team bounced back to defeat Long Hill 66-28 Feb. 11 after falling at Bloomfield 62-39 Feb. 9. Springfield began the week at 10-10.

In the win against Long Hill, Billy Chambers had an outstanding game. He scored 12 points, grabbed six rebounds and blocked four shots. Alex DeBusca capped off the bench and got some big rebounds and scored two points. Ross Rahman continued to play well at the point guard position and scored five points.

Others who scored were Andre Callender with 12 points, Matt Pat (10), Joe Abiez, six, Mike Jaffe four and Joe Abdelaziz, Chris Saracino and Carl Nazare 10.

Pat scored 15 points against Bloomfield and Abiez had four points, four rebounds and seven assists. Abdelaziz scored seven points. Woody Woodruff made his first three-point basket of the season and Chambers, Jaffe, Saracino, Pat Zawczuk and Callender had two points.

The Springfield Minutemen Junior (7th grade) basketball team defeated Bloomfield 59-50 and Long Hill 60-45. Callender scored 19 points against Bloomfield and Mike Witek and Yun Portugal had 12. Nick Perrelli scored seven points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Frank Micali sparked the team in the third quarter with five points.

Perrelli scored 16 and grabbed 11 rebounds against Long Hill.

Dayton boys' can win Valley tonight

All the Dayton High School boys' basketball team has to do is win today at Manville (7 p.m. start) and its goal of winning the Mountain Valley Conference-Valley Division championship will be achieved.

Dayton, seeded eighth, took a 15-5 record and four-game winning streak into Tuesday night's scheduled first-round Union County Tournament game vs. St. Mary's.

The Bulldogs are 13-2 in the Valley, one half-game ahead of St. Mary's, which finished at 13-3.

Dayton earned the fifth seed for next month's North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1 playoffs. On Wednesday, March 4 the Bulldogs will play at fourth-seeded Bloomfield Tech, with the winner most likely playing at top-seeded Glen Ridge in the semifinals.

