

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield, Mountainside and Summit

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 65 NO. 37

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1998

TWO SECTIONS

THIS WEEK

NEWS

Pastor driving

Beginning Saturday, some of New Jersey's roads will permit motorists to drive 65 miles per hour during an 18-month experiment. Two highways in Union County, Route 78 and the New Jersey Turnpike, are part of that experiment. See Page B1.

Rain, rain go away

Did you get sick of the weather these last couple weeks? Did you know that it had rained every day from May 1 to May 12? While no major incidents occurred in Union County because of the weather, the rain dampened the spirits of many residents and public safety officials. See Page B1.

THE ARTS

A new theater

The New Jersey Shakespeare Festival announces the opening of its new theater. See Page B3.



On their toes

Dance Innovations of Summit will take their act and accompany the Summit Chorale in concert on Sunday. See Page B6.

NEW MEDIA

News updates

Get local updates throughout the week. Call our Infocourse hot line at (908) 686-9898, Selection 7510.

Web site

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WEATHER

Friday: Mostly sunny, 83°

Saturday: Partly sunny, 84°

Sunday: Partly cloudy, 82°

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Learning about the Earth



Students in Kathie Cannel's kindergarten and first grade classes at Walton School in Springfield ate dirt last week in honor of Earth Day. Actually, the dirt was made out of putty, cookies and gummy worms. The entire day's lessons revolved around the Earth.

Improvement plan presented to board

By Jim Foglio
Staff Writer

Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller released his Professional Improvement Plan to the Board of Education last week.

The plan, which consists of seven primary goals for the Mountainside School District, will be evaluated by the Board of Education. The board will give Schaller feedback in a written report during next Tuesday's meeting.

The plan basically consists of what I've been trying to do educationally for the district since I arrived last November, and what we hope to accomplish in the future," Schaller said.

Schaller listed his goals for the district as follows:

- To provide leadership for the instructional program development of the district.
- To foster support for the district's instructional programs from all angles.
- To help develop and improve the staff at Deerfield School.

- To ensure the compliance with state and federal regulations when mandated reports are submitted to the respective Departments of Education.
- To provide leadership and direction on the development of the district's budget.
- To develop, supervise and preserve the district's guidance department and child-study team, which deals with special education students.
- To promote school and community relations.

Schaller said he was pleased with the way things have gone in his inaugural year at Deerfield School.

"I've had an enjoyable first year, and I'm pleased with the way things have gone, but we have to continue to push for these goals," Schaller said. "We have to maintain focus and continue to work together," he said.

"The budget passed last month by a very favorable margin and that was a vote of confidence for the administration from the community," he said. "We have also made sure that we follow the guidelines for the reports that we send to the state and federal boards of education to a 'T,'" he said.

Clergy set stage for police rally

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

The latest developments regarding Springfield Police Department officers Vernon Pedersen and Irva Shapow involve hearings and a rally.

Captain Pedersen, according to Springfield Township labor attorney Mark Ruderman, has had his administrative hearing conclude Monday. A similar hearing for Lt. Shapow, however, has been postponed from its original 9 a.m. Friday starting time.

The Springfield Clergy Council, meanwhile, has called for a community interfaith gathering at the Veterans Memorial Park tonight at 7 p.m.

"The administrative hearing for Capt. Pedersen started last week and concluded Monday," said Ruderman. "It was the officer's option to have the hearing as a closed session. The officer now waits for a decision from hearing administrator Robert Czach."

Pedersen faces disciplinary charges related to a telephone conversation he supposedly had with Shapow March 10 in which he allegedly made anti-Semitic remarks against Shapow.

Police Springfield Chief William Chisholm, after conducting an internal investigation, has recommended terminating Pedersen.

Czach has been hired by the Township Committee last month to preside over the Pedersen and Shapow hearings. As an independent administrator, Czach will determine the validity of the charges and the appropriateness of the recommended penalties.

"The Shapow hearing will not start Friday," said Ruderman. "It has been postponed to a later date which has yet to be set. I understand that the administrator, who is also an attorney, had a scheduling problem."

"The hearing administrator and the department's attorney had asked for a 9 a.m. start, which was too soon for us to assemble our case," said Shapow attorney Theodore Romankow. "We

'The Springfield Clergy Council supports the rally. As the flier said, we stand with those who expose bigotry.'

— Rev. Jeff Markay

thought about a 3 p.m. start, but that means only two hours of testimony would be heard before the weekend begins."

Romankow and Ruderman said Shapow requested that his hearing be in public. Czach had presided over a similar hearing regarding Police Officer Walter Brooks last year.

Shapow, after a similar internal investigation by Chisholm, faces five disciplinary charges. The charges are in relation to supposed duplication of the phone call recording and not fully informing Chisholm of the action. Shapow faces a demotion to patrolman and a 90-day suspension without pay.

Members of the clergy council, between the hearings, circulated fliers for a "Gathering of Justice." The assembly is billed as an interfaith meeting for those disapproving of anti-Semitism, racism and bigotry.

According to one flier, the gathering will "join in brotherhood and sisterhood" and "stand in solidarity with those who have the courage to expose bigotry no matter what the cost."

A second flier read, "Springfield will not stand for any form of bigotry, nor will we let the fine reputation of this town and our police be sullied by a handful of hateful individuals."

The flier list lists Rabbi Perry Rank and Joshua Goldstein as information contacts. Temple Sha'ary Sham, of which Goldstein presides, was

See POLICE, Page 3

Police step up efforts for better seatbelt use

By Jim Foglio
Staff Writer

The Mountainside Police Department, with the support of Gov. Christine Whitman, will be stepping up their efforts to protect children, save lives and taxpayers' money by strengthening enforcement of seat belt and child passenger safety seat laws.

The campaign for greater seatbelt use is called "Buckle Up, America," and will run from May 18 to May 25.

"Buckle Up, America" recognizes that seat belts are the most effective means of reducing fatalities and serious injuries when a crash occurs," said Acting Chief of Police Lt. James Debbie Jr.

"It's the law in New Jersey that people buckle up because seat belts save lives," said Whitman. "By stepping up enforcement, we not only will save lives, we will reduce serious injuries, save medical costs and help hold down insurance rate increases," she said. "And we will be protecting the safety of our children."

Debbie said officers on patrol will be handing out information pamphlets prior to the start of the enforcement program. Reminders to residents will

also air on local Channel 35. "Our goal is to get the message to 'buckle up' to as many people as possible," Debbie said.

"Adults who don't buckle up are sending children the wrong message," said Corporal Allan Attanasio of Mountainside. "Children model adult behavior, and research shows that when a driver is unbuckled, 70 percent of the time the children riding in that vehicle will not be buckled either. For a child, a 30 mile-per-hour crash is like dropping him or her from a third story window," he said.

"Seat belt use in New Jersey stands at 68 percent," said Attanasio. "However, states that have used strong enforcement of seatbelt laws have pushed use rates to as high as 85 percent," he said.

"Buckle Up, America" is a national effort to save lives on America's roadways. Joining this effort, President Bill Clinton has made it a priority for the federal government to support these efforts, and has set national goals for seatbelt use to reach 90 percent by the year 2005.

Planning their strategy



Jillian Marks of Springfield, left, and Abby Park, pictured with their coach, Trish Yurochko, recently competed in the Children's Specialized Hospital-sanctioned Junior Swim Meet at the Sonny Werblin Recreation Center at Rutgers University. Marks and Park are members of CSH Lightning Wheels, the hospital's junior wheelchair athletic program team. The team attained national championship status and many of its team members hold national records in swimming and track and field.

Highlander Band mixes tunes with KLM Harmonie Band

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

The Governor Livingston High School Highlander Band ended its indoor concert season by hosting the KLM Harmonie Band May 6.

The two bands took turns playing popular and classic selections before an audience of 400 in the Governor Livingston High School auditorium. Both groups combined for a 90-piece orchestra, however, to complete the two-hour performance.

"The performance was fantastic," said Highlander Band Director Daniel Kopcha. "It isn't often our groups get to hold a joint concert. I think our members learned a few things from the KLM Harmonie."

"This is the first time Harmonie has played with a high school band in the states," said visiting conductor Jan Schut. "It took a bit of time for our pace to match, but we enjoyed playing together."

If one had the foresight to sell Kopcha and Schut they would play together two weeks ago, however they would not have believed it. The KLM Harmonie band was scheduled to play at some other Royal Dutch Airlines functions while the Highlanders were tuning for an outdoor meet in early June.

"KLM opened a Philadelphia-to-Amsterdam service last month and we played at the Philadelphia International Airport and at JFK," said Schut. "We had a layover in New York and we were asked if we'd be interested in playing with the Highlanders."

The KLM Harmonie, founded in 1953, travels worldwide on behalf of their employer. The 55-member award-winning band is made up of KLM employee-volunteers.

The Highlanders are no strangers to travel and award winning themselves. Formed in 1961, the 35-member band and 15-member col-

or guard captured their eighth Atlantic Coast Championship last year and toured the United Kingdom three times.

"You have to thank Hans Van Doorne in having Harmonie over here," said Kopcha. "His local travel agency has connections with KLM."

"I'm familiar with the high school and have customers from Mountainside and Berkeley Heights," said Van Doorne. "KLM and North American parent Northwest Airlines had some spare travel tickets and asked me if I knew anyone who can use them. I thought about Harmonie and, while they are nearby, have them meet the Highlanders."

The impromptu nature of the production included a single 90-minute rehearsal the day of the concert. Kopcha and Schut went through three selections, including "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina," and basically got both bands to play at the same speed.

"There are about 17 selections chosen for the concert," said Kopcha. "Both groups are familiar with them and they rehearsed those pieces in advance by themselves."

Working with each other proved to be a learning experience for members of the Highlanders and Harmonie. Mountainside resident Katie Poreh and Hollister Anja Mastran traded thoughts about each other's group during a pre-concert lunch break.

"As a senior, this is my final indoor concert," said Highlander meliophone player Katie Poreh. "It is something to go out with about 60 more band members. I don't remember the Highlanders holding a joint concert in my time here."

"We usually go from airport to airport," said Harmonie alto saxophonist Mastran. "This is the first time we got to see real Americans in a real American setting."

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Towns still awaiting word on bus challenge grants

By Walter Elliott Staff Writer Springfield and Summit, in awaiting New Jersey Transit's award of feeder bus challenge grants, are beginning to feel like they are waiting for Godot.

They are among 11 municipalities along the NJ Transit Morris and Essex commuter rail line who filed grant applications by March 1. The proposed bus systems would transport local commuters to nearby Morris and Essex stations.

NJ Transit was to originally award five \$50,000 matching grants on April 1. The authority has postponed word to a later announced date.

"We're coming to the home stretch in reviewing the applications," said NJ Transit spokesman Ken Miller.

"We postponed an announcement so we can thoroughly go over them. This is the first time we have started a feeder bus challenge grant program."

NJ Transit opened the application period in December as a means to help towns with their station parking woes.

About 19,500 daily riders used the Morris and Essex Line, including about 7,500 who started riding the Midtown Direct service to Manhattan since June 1996. The additional ridership has caused a parking shortage in

Summit and other commuter towns. "We were supposed to get word from NJ Transit April 1 and we're a month after the date," said Springfield Township Committee Roy Hirschfeld. "I ask residents to write NJ Transit and support our application."

Hirschfeld has a penny a year trying to establish a jitney service for the township's Morris and Essex riders. Springfield commuters have faced shrinking non-resident parking space at stations in Millburn and Summit.

"I haven't heard word from NJ Transit about their challenge grant," said Suburban Chambers of Commerce President Joe Steiner. "Until I do, there's nothing to say."

Steiner, with the blessing of the Summit Common Council, seeks to revive a minibus program which ran between 1974 and 1977. Buses would feed the NJ Transit downtown and New Providence stations, alleviating the city's immediate parking shortage.

Steiner, whose chamber also represents Berkeley Heights, clarified that town's feeder bus bid. "Berkeley Heights went on their own with a bid," said Steiner. "We did approach them about sponsoring an application, but we didn't hear from them."

AT THE LIBRARY

Chinese film presented

The 1991 Chinese film "Life on a String" will be shown at the Springfield Free Public Library today at noon and 7 p.m. This emotionally charged, pictorially magnificent work takes the audience to the harsh but breathtaking central Chinese plains as an ideal backdrop for this elegant fable by one of China's leading directors, Chen Kaige.

"In 'Life on a String,' a young blind apprentice is promised by an aged minstrel-saint that he will eventually regain his sight if he devotes his life to music. Years later, the boy has grown into a blind old man who regards music as a path to higher truth. But for his disciple, music is a sensual pleasure, a celebration of the here and now. Both men are torn between the desire for wisdom and their eagerness to see.

noon. The second part will be shown June 9 at noon.

"Titanic" is a haunting documentary of history's greatest maritime disaster. James Cameron's documentary was first aired on A&E in 1994. Narrated by John McCallum, it chronicles the Titanic from their first rivet to watery entombment to rediscovery by scientist Robert Ballard. Included are interviews by three survivors, two of whom have died since the documentary was made.

Bring a brown bag lunch to the performance. Coffee and cookies will be provided. The Springfield Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave. For information call (973) 376-4930.

Donations sought

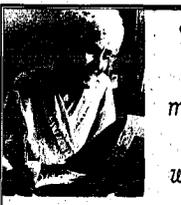
The Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library would like donations of magazines within a year's date.

The Springfield Public Library is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. On Sundays until summer, the library is open from 1 to 4 p.m. For information, call (973) 376-4930.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

The Mountainside Board of Education will meet its regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the Deerfield School Media Center, Central Avenue and School Drive.

Wednesday The Evening Group of the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Parish House on Church Mall for a work project for Church World Service. The ladies will be making health care kits. There will be a short business meeting following devotions. Final plans will be made for the annual June dinner to be held June 17 at Steak 'n Ale Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Monday The Springfield chapter of Hadassah will hold its donor dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Ahm. Dorcas Schwartz and Irene Chotiner are co-chairmen. The evening will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel. The committee consists of Iris Sagal, Journal; Esther Kriss, Reservations; Cecily Bloomfield, Donor Credits; and Eleanor Kuperstein, President. Entertainment will be by Peter Lieberman.

Monday The Summit YMCA is holding its annual Spring Seniors Day from 10:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Summit YMCA, 67 Maple St. in Summit. All area older adults are invited to attend this free event, which is sponsored by the Summit Area YMCA, SAGE, Overlook Hospital, Atlantic Health Systems and the Municipal Alliance of Summit, New Providence and Berkeley Heights. The morning of activities will include a health- or one-mile spring stride where seniors can walk at their own pace or join in a half-hour water exercise in the pool. The morning ends with a complimentary lunch and a presentation by registered nurse Dorothea Dunn on "Ethical Issues: Protecting your Health Care Choices." Space is limited. Register by calling the Summit Y at (908) 273-3330 by May 11.

Saturday The Springfield Volunteer First Aid Squad is holding an open house for residents to see its ambulance and experience a talking external defibrillator. Kids are welcome. Refreshments will be served. The event will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at squad headquarters, 10 North Trivet St.

Sunday The Sunday Planetarium Show at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside will feature "Space Disasters." The group will explore some space disasters after taking a look at the current evening sky. The show begins at 2 p.m. Admission is \$3 per person; \$2.50 for senior citizens. The program is not for children younger than 6 years old.

Monday "Who Gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate?" Pat Brennan of Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Morris County will discuss what we can do to ensure that family heirlooms and valuables are distributed to the next generation. Election of new officers will also be on the agenda. The meeting will be at St. John's Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Ave., Summit.

Tuesday The Springfield Historical Society will hold its next meeting at 8 p.m. in the Parish House, 37 Church Mall, Springfield. The program will be "The History of American Newspapers" by Jean-Rae Turner, noted journalist and author of several books who is an authority on Union County history and women's issues. The general public is invited, and there is no admission charge. Free parking is available. For more information, call (973) 376-4784.

Wednesday The Sunday Planetarium Show at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside will feature "Family of the Sun." Join the group as it tours the solar system and learns new and exciting facts about the planets. Find out where to locate Venus and Jupiter in the night sky. The show begins at 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 per person; \$2.50 for senior citizens. The program is not for children younger than 6 years old.

Monday A dinner for Leonard J. Bozorg, retiring superintendent/board secretary of the Mountainside Board of Education, has been planned. Richard Kress, chairman of the retirement committee, announced the dinner to be held on May 21, at the Primavera, 1080 Valley Road, Stirling. Actors will retire from a career spanning 40 years in the education field on June 30. He served in Mountainside for 13 years, where he was the superintendent of schools. For additional information, contact Betty at Kress' office, 472 Westfield Ave., Clark, 07066 or telephone (732) 381-3666.

Monday The Sunday Planetarium Show at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside will feature "Family of the Sun." Join the group as it tours the solar system and learns new and exciting facts about the planets. Find out where to locate Venus and Jupiter in the night sky. The show begins at 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 per person; \$2.50 for senior citizens. The program is not for children younger than 6 years old.

Monday The Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church at 40 Church Mall, Springfield will be sponsoring a Spring Flea Market on May 30 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Flea market vendors are being sought for this event. A double car width space is \$20. Limited tables and chairs are also available. Reserve your space now. Various civic groups will also be on hand to provide information. For more information, call Tom Ernst at (908) 587-0779, Esther Reimlinger at (908) 276-4968 or call the church office at (973) 376-1695.

Ongoing The Springfield Garden Club is sponsoring a contest to find the tree in town with the largest circumference (measured 3 feet off the ground). Send entries to Springfield Garden Club, P.O. Box 970, Springfield, 07081. In case of duplicate entries, the earliest postmark will win the floral prize.

A Pool membership registration is being accepted for all previous members and new members. Registration is taken from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall. Special registration dates are also available May 17 from noon to 3 p.m. and May 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. If anyone did not receive a form for pool membership or day camp, they may call (973) 912-2227 or pick one up at the office.

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Mountainside Chapel inspired by songs of Dylan

By Jim Foglio
Staff Writer

Bob Dylan came to the Mountainside Chapel on Friday, Well, at least his music and lyrics were there.

Mountainside residents filled the chapel Friday night for the "Bob Dylan Gospel Review," and in the second of three discussions led by Pastor Greg Hagg, they tried to find the spiritual meaning behind some of his songs.

The third workshop, designed to analyze and discuss the spirituality of Bob Dylan's lyrics, will be held at the Mountainside Chapel this Friday night at 7:30 p.m.

Hagg lectured and disc-jockeyed Dylan compositions to a chapel filled with people of all faiths. The lecture dealt with a phase of Dylan's work, his spirituality, one that is often overlooked and overshadowed by his so-called "protest" songs of the 1960s.

Analyzed were songs from Dylan's 1978 "Slow Train Coming" album, including "Gotta Serve Somebody," "Property of Jesus," and "I Believe in You." Included in the congregation

was Mountainside Board of Education member Frank Geiger.

"I have been a Dylan fan for years, and I was taken by the power of some of the songs and the direct references to a higher power," Geiger said. "I didn't have much of a background on some of these songs."

But historians and religious leaders alike have debated the actuality of Dylan's religious beliefs for years. Bob Robert Zimmerman, into the Jewish faith, the acoustic poet's spirituality seems to have fluctuated and has been, at the very least, inconsistent. Actually, in 1979 in San Francisco, Dylan played for the first time a complete set of religious songs to a disappointed, even threatening crowd.

With songs like "In the Garden," "In the Summertime," and "What Can I Do For You," his belief in a higher power is apparent, as he speaks clearly about God and consistently makes biblical references. He even captioned his and Him in his lyric book. But in other pieces, like "Cases of Elm" and "The Lonesome Death of Hattie Carroll," his pessimism seems to be

less directed at the government, and more aimed at the heavens, as he seems to be directly offering his disavowal with society to the powers that be.

But Hagg said he still believes Dylan never lost faith in God. "In 'Slow Train Coming,' Dylan clearly is expressing his faith in God," Hagg said. "There are times when people have argued that Dylan had abandoned his faith, but I see no direct loss of faith in any of his lyrics," he said.

Hagg, who came up with the idea for these programs himself, said it is very important to see spirituality in music.

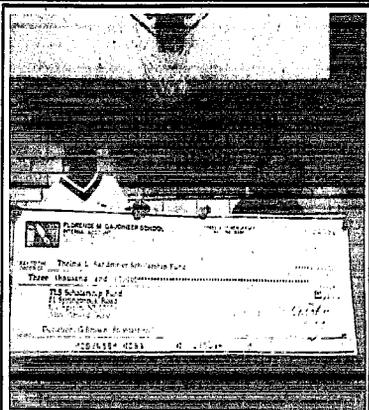
"No matter what age you are, or what religion you believe in, this is something to which many people can relate," Hagg said. "Something very unusual happened to Dylan, and this type of awakening often happens to us all. This is not about organized religion. His type of religion was not defined. This is about learning God's grace through the communication of a musician and a poet." "This is why I think this is important."

But Hagg, who at times seemed like he was teaching a college lecture hall, using an overhead projector and condescending his audience, also hit some gray areas. Throughout the program, without even offering time for audience discussion, Hagg tried to find the spirituality in one or two songs that were clearly romantic, rather than religious.

"I think it almost ruins the point of discussing poetry," said one resident who wished to remain anonymous, "since the concept of poetry should be, 'What do I get out of this?' rather than 'What does it actually mean?'" he said.

But be careful not to overanalyze because no matter how sharp you think you are, Dylan is always one step ahead in his unique ingenious way.

"Many times, all of us, myself included, try to be subjective and make his songs out to say something that even he isn't trying to say," Hagg said. "I think sometimes he's just writing songs and watching people interpret them wrongly," he said.



Nick Peretti, with Student Council President Grace Alfano, has been setting records as the top fund raiser for the past two years for the Thelma L. Sandmeier Scholarship Fund.

Students to raise funds for Sandmeier scholarship

It is a fitting tribute to retired Principal Thelma L. Sandmeier that students primarily raise the funding for the scholarship which bears her name. After all, the Thelma L. Sandmeier Scholarship Fund was created to honor the legendary principal for her dedication to the children of Springfield.

It is again that time of year when students at Florence M. Gaudinier Middle School participate in a Shoot-a-Thon to raise the money for this worthy cause. The annual scholarship is then awarded to a needy student going on to higher education, though not necessarily college. The recipient must have attended Gaudinier School and be a graduating senior of Jonathan Dayton High School.

Although much of the funding is raised by the students of Gaudinier, additional donations are received from Gaudinier alumni wishing to honor the former principal with private contributions.

Anyone interested in contributing to this cause can send donations to Arnold Genz, 51 Springbrook Road, Livingston, 07039 or to Glen Brown at Florence M. Gaudinier Middle School.

CVS plans returned for more drawings

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

Progress on the J.D. Mack/CVS Pharmacy public hearing before the Springfield Planning Board took a step forward — and a half-step back — May 6.

Mack's bid for site plan approval for a CVS, after 15 months of delays and legal rulings, was given its first hearing. Difficulties in reading a reduced copy of the site plan, however, prompted Planning Board Chairman Richard Colandro to halt the proceedings after 90 minutes.

"I'm asking the applicant's engineer to come back with more detail drawings," said Colandro to Mack estate Vincent I. D'Elia. "We're having a hard time distinguishing

where traffic signs go and what space a tractor trailer truck would take up by the loading dock."

Mack brought a drawing showing the detail changes of the site plan to the meeting. They also distributed placemat-sized copies of the drawing for the 11-member board.

"This drawing incorporates the changes recommended by the township's engineer, planner, traffic engineer and police traffic officer," said D'Elia. "We are doing everything we can to comply with your request and move this matter forward."

The changes include:

- A reversed traffic flow plan in the parking lot. Auto traffic is to enter the back lot from Oakland Avenue and exit onto Waverly Avenue. Tractor

trailer truck traffic, however, is to enter and exit at Waverly.

- The drive-through would be torn down and replaced with a truck parking area by the loading dock. D'Elia and Mack engineer John Hoffman said the drive-through would be eliminated without affecting the building's square-foot area.
- The public would access the store from a door facing the parking lot. A second door is for employees unloading trucks and a third, exiting out to Mountain Avenue, would be for emergencies only.

The proposed tenancy of CVS at 225 Mountain Ave. has been a controversial issue since Mack's application to the Zoning Board of Adjustment in January 1997. The Five Corners Association and other neighbors

have opposed the plan on safety and quality of life grounds.

Board members originally objected to the newly revised plan at the meeting. They said not enough time was given to study the drawing and the lack of a signature and seal. Board Attorney Kathleen Estabrook allowed the hearing to proceed so long as the applicant gets the seal and signature before a board vote.

As Hoffman described the changes, however, some panelists strained to read the trailer location. It was uncertain if the truck, for example, would overhang into the Waverly sidewalk.

Colandro eventually halted the proceedings and asked for new drawings. The hearing is to resume in the Municipal Building, June 3 at 8 p.m.

Council to seek Berkeley Heights on cable

By Jim Foglio
Staff Writer

The Mountainside Borough Council met Tuesday in work session and local television was the primary topic discussed.

The council passed a resolution that will be directed at Comcast cable company in regards to changing one of the current areas that residents can view. Comcast currently offers Mountainsiders access to both the Westfield and Scotch Plains stations.

But Mayor Robert Vigilanti said that because of the number of students at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights, it would be in the best interest of borough residents if the cable provider allowed them access to Berkeley Heights.

"Several times, I have approached executives at Comcast with this idea, but I have been met with some run around," Vigilanti said. "I think that if an ordinance was officially sent to them from the Borough Council, something might get done."

"Due to the number of Mountainside students that we have who parti-

cipate in sports and other activities at Governor Livingston, we will that they substitute Berkeley Heights for either Westfield or Scotch Plains, preferably Scotch Plains," said Vigilanti.

Vigilanti also introduced a new program that will air on local Channel 35 beginning in June. The program will offer in-depth looks once a month at some of the personalities and officers in town.

"Due to the increasing number of new residents in the borough, we think it would be a good idea to offer a program that would allow them to get to know a bit more about some of the administrative people here," Vigilanti said.

"The first program, which will air in June, will start with Acting Chief of Police Lt. James Debbie Jr., and the rest of the Police Department," Vigilanti said. "The following programs will be done on the pool administrator for July, and the new borough administrator for the month of August," he said.

The program will be funded in part by a token of generosity by Corporal

Ken Capobianco of the Mountainside Police Department. Capobianco, coordinator of the cable programs for the borough, has offered to use part of his \$2,000 annual stipend to help pay for cameramen and other related costs.

Police rally scheduled

(Continued from Page 1)

listed as a rain location sent in a third fler sent by the local Anti-Dofamation League office in West Orange.

"The congregation of Temple Beth Ahm has been upset by the recent incidents of anti-Semitism and bigotry," said Rank. "They are concerned that the acts of a few people will reflect badly on our town and police.

Rabbi Goldstein talked about the matter last week and we came up with this gathering."

"The Springfield Clergy Council

The council announced that the borough has been awarded a \$25,000 grant in conjunction with the Board of Education's participation in the national "Project Pocket Parks" program. The grant will be used to renovate the park at Deerfield School.

supports the rally," said group president Rev. Jeff Markay. "As the fiercer said, we stand with those who expose bigotry."

"Any event which will lead to exposing anti-Semitism and prejudice," said Shorntin Society of New Jersey President Michael Krantz, "is something I endorse."

The Springfield Clergy Council has supported Shapow and Brooks while recommending Pedersen's termination. The Springfield Human Rights Commission, ADL, Jewish police officer group Shorntin, and Black Cops Against Police Brutality have also appeared in Springfield to speak on the Pedersen/Shapow matter.

Woman's Club to play host to local singer

The NJSWFC Mountainside Woman's Club will hold its monthly luncheon meeting on Wednesday at L'Affaire restaurant.

The program, "A Little Bit of Broadway," will feature singer Kassy Clausuli of Mountainside.

Clausuli, recently named best Featured Actress of a musical for "Fiddler on the Roof" by the Union County TEAM Awards, will perform Broadway hits along with some of today's favorite pop tunes.

A student at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights, she has performed at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn and traveled to Italy



Kassy Clausuli this past year with the Rome Festival where she performed in the opera, "Hansel and Gretel."

Service offers help for cancer patients

The New Jersey Division of the American Cancer Society has a toll-free 800 number.

The service provides information for patients, families and the general public on all aspects related to cancer, including causes, prevention, detection, treatment and patient services.

To reach this service, call 800-ACS-2345, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

Not a good move

On the heels of not renewing 13 supervisory teacher contracts, the Springfield Board of Education may, however, give hefty raises to top level administrators, including Superintendent of Schools Gary Friedland, during its meeting Monday night.

We urge residents to attend the meeting and voice their displeasure with this action, which could increase Friedland's salary above the \$135,000 he already collects from taxpayers.

As we begin a comparative study of superintendents' salaries from all school districts in Union County, we have confidence that we will be hard-pressed to find many that either equal or surpass Friedland's salary as it currently stands.

The Springfield Board of Education went into executive session last week to discuss the contracts of the 13 supervisory teachers. We understand that during those proceedings, some discussion occurred regarding increasing administrators' salaries during the upcoming meeting on Monday. The argument, perhaps initiated by Friedland, was that he had not received any bonuses since 1996.

We'd hate to burst any bubbles, but employers are not obligated to dole out bonuses to any employee under any circumstances. This should hold especially true in the public sector, where taxpayers have to dig deeper into their pockets to pay the bonuses, not to mention the high salaries given to some district officials.

If we were to ask any taxpayer if they would be willing to give up more of their hard-earned dollars so the high salaries of administrators can be raised even higher, the majority most likely would laugh in our faces. Paying for the hefty increase would mean they would have to sacrifice something of their own — perhaps food on the table for their family, or even dinner at a restaurant, which could become a luxury — and that probably wouldn't sit right with too many people.

Many senior citizens, who don't get to claim their age for a reduction in the amount of taxes they pay to the school district, are on fixed incomes and cannot afford to pay any more money to subsidize raises and bonuses for district officials. It's time these officials had some concern for our elderly and voted against the raises if they are on the agenda for Monday's meeting.

We urge Springfield residents to seriously consider attending the meeting at Gaudiner Middle School and expressing their opinion about these possible raises. Perhaps the Board of Education thinks that with little attendance at regular meetings, residents are giving them free rein to do whatever they please. If enough residents are in attendance and voice their opinion, the board should have no choice but to stop and listen to its constituency.

Trees are vital

Being named a Tree City may not seem like much of an honor, but think again.

Trees are a vital part of any community, and the more there are, the more oxygen they generate. For the fourth consecutive year, Mountainside has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. To be given such a designation, a community must meet four standards: have a tree board or department; have a tree care ordinance; have a comprehensive community forestry program, and have an Arbor Day observance.

Most people in Mountainside may take for granted the importance of trees. After all, when we have something in abundance, we don't necessarily pay attention to it. But if there is any doubt about the importance of trees, we ask residents to drive through a town like Irvington, where many streets that were once lined with trees are now bare. You notice the absence of trees almost immediately.

According to a representative of the National Arbor Day Foundation, "An effective community forestry program is an ongoing process of renewal and improvement — a program of tree planting and care that continues through the years. The Tree City USA award is an excellent indication that there is a solid foundation for that process of improvement."

In addition to taking care of their trees, we ask residents to take equal care of their lawns, bushes, shrubs and vegetation. It makes for a healthy community.

Our policy on letters and columns

The Echo Leader welcomes submissions from its readers. Either letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages.

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

The Echo Leader reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content and style.

"A free press can of course be good or bad, but most certainly, without freedom it will never be anything but bad."

Albert Camus
French philosopher, author
1960

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REVOLVING — Students in Kathie Cannell's Kindergarten and first grade classes at Walton School in Springfield made special shirts for Earth Day. The students used stencils and fabric paint to design the earth design on the shirt. The entire day's lessons revolved around the Earth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What is Recreation's plan?

To the Editor:

In the past few years, the Recreation Department has run a wonderful program for the children of this town at Chisholm School. This year, however, we have been told that due to the "construction" at the school, the program can be run only in sunny weather. Our concerns are for those days that it's sunny at 8:30 a.m. and pouring rain at 9:30. Will calls be made to all the parents for "pick-up"? Will counselors stay in the rain for more than an hour or two or three until each child is picked up? What exactly is the plan? Will the Recreation Department be able to respond to approximately 40 or more incoming calls by parents asking for an update on those "iffy days"?

Obviously, the plans for this construction have been known for quite some time but no alternative action has been given for this program. We have been informed that all the other schools have been rented to other day care centers, including some programs from other towns.

We realize that this is a free program run by Springfield and we are very grateful that we do have this opportunity for our children. The program, however, must be run with specific guidelines as we all know that the weather is unpredictable and we must know, without a doubt, who will be with our children, for how long will counselors stay in a storm/rain, and when will our children be safe in a sudden thunderstorm until we pick them up. Where will our children be during an overhanging next to the building. This would imply possibly 30 or 40 children plus counselors standing under a roof ledge near the construction equipment, an excellent target for a lightning bolt.

Last year, lightning did strike and hit a tree 10 feet from the school, so this is not an exaggerated point.

The other evening the mayor spoke on cable TV promoting the Recreation Department program. Our question to the mayor and Recreation Department is, "How can an enrichment program be made safe and successful for our children with the above questions in mind?"

Loretta and Stephen Martin
Springfield

Action is another slap in the face

To the Editor:

What's another slap in the face among friends?
Next Monday evening, May 18, the Springfield Board of Education is set to dole out unimaginable and reprehensible raises to Superintendent Gary Friedland, Assistant Superintendent Judith Zimmerman and Board Secretary Ellen Ball. Currently, these three individuals make a total of \$332,000 — Friedland, \$136,000, Zimmerman, \$106,000, and Ball, \$90,000.

The raises will represent another slap in the face to the residents of Springfield. It was ever a time to freeze salaries to show the residents that our Board of Education really cares. It is now.

However, observing how Mr. Friedland directs the board's every move, I would not put it past him to direct a salary in excess of \$165,000 by the end of next week's board meeting.

Let's also keep in mind that the superintendent of the City of New York receives a salary of about \$165,000 and is responsible for some 2 million students. Springfield's superintendent, Gary Friedland, makes more than \$136,000 and represents fewer than 1,800 students.

It is time to freeze these salaries and think consolidation, elimination or recall those voting for any increase in 1998. It is also time for Ben Stravata and Larry Levee to keep their campaign promises and their word and to work on behalf of Springfield's taxpayers.

Harry Pappas
Springfield

Rescind the right turn on red

To the Editor:

It's time to rescind the right-turn-on-red light. Red still means stop, but the right turn license has been dangerously abused. The right turn privilege is extended only when traffic permits it without the right to pull out onto oncoming traffic.

Joseph C. Chieppa
Mountainside

Value of water is priceless

To the Editor:

Every year, the first full week of May is designated as National Drinking Water Week. Many readers are probably struggling and saying, "So what?" at this revelation. That attitude isn't unusual, though. In the United States, we've grown accustomed to turning on the tap and using as much water as we need, any time we need it.

We're fortunate. In many third world and developing nations, prosperity and health are hindered by the lack of water resources or the lack of expertise needed to pump and treat it appropriately.

The convenience and availability of our modern water service doesn't begin to reflect the problems, issues and costs affecting water suppliers. The fact is,

water is an essential part of life, but it is becoming more difficult daily to provide a plentiful supply of high quality drinking water.

The average person uses almost 30,000 gallons of water every year — and that's just for residential use. It takes 300 million gallons of water to produce one day's worth of newspaper for the United States, and 100,000 gallons to make one car. Water is also necessary for fire fighting, sanitation, medical procedures and agricultural use.

But the world's supply of water is finite. It cannot be grown or manufactured. We have all the water we'll ever be able to use. In fact, the same water is used now as when the dinosaurs roamed the earth. It's all we've ever had available to us. And even though two-thirds of the earth's surface is water, a scant 1 percent is usable for drinking water. Unfortunately, much of that is polluted or contaminated.

In order to provide U.S. water consumers with instant gratification, suppliers put forth a tremendous effort to find and manage quality sources, pump and treat the water, build storage facilities and pipelines, install fire hydrants and continuously monitor the quality of the water, adjusting treatment as necessary. All of this takes expertise, effort, diligence and tremendous investment. But you get to use it for a dollar or so a day.

During National Drinking Water Week, we at New Jersey-American Water Company salute our employees who keep the water flowing 24 hours a day and offer a quality product that our customers can have confidence in.

We also look at our customers to think about the true value — priceless, really — of the water they use. That next tall, cool glass of water will be even more refreshing.

Elaine J. Shapiro
New Jersey-American Water Co.

America has waited long enough

To the Editor:

The American Heart Association and its more than 4 million volunteers believe it would be a national shame to begin the new century without resolving the tobacco issue, which is one of the major public health battles of the past 100 years.

The McCain bill, currently making its way toward the floor in the U.S. Senate, presents an unprecedented opportunity for America to get on the road to effective and meaningful tobacco control legislation. The version that finally comes up for a vote must be strong enough to permanently alter the way the tobacco industry does business.

The industry had a place at the negotiating table, but it has chosen to walk away. Let's accept that decision and carry on without the tobacco industry. Since tobacco has abdicated its responsibility, we can instruct our legislators to move forward without any further consideration of immunity and limited liability.

Although it is still early in the calendar year, the legislative session for the 105th Congress is down to its last days. There is no time to delay. Each day that America waits for Congress to act, 1,000 more people die from tobacco-related illnesses, 3,000 more children start using tobacco products. If current trends continue, more than 620,000 of our loved ones, friends and acquaintances will die from tobacco-related illnesses before Jan. 1, 2006, and nearly 1.9 million children will become smokers. The American Heart Association believes America has waited long enough. Waiting is not just a matter of lost days, it's a matter of lost lives.

We cannot allow the tobacco industry to sidetrack or dilute tobacco control legislation with other issues. The stakes, in terms of loss of life and loss of good health, are too high. Since the early 1900s, the American tobacco industry has claimed that its products are non-addictive and harmless. And yet the industry's own documents show it has known for years about the dangers of tobacco.

The time remaining in the current legislative session presents an extraordinary opportunity. We must encourage our elected representatives to strengthen the McCain bill in the U.S. Senate and then we must deliver the word to Congress that a large majority of Americans want strong, effective and meaningful tobacco control laws. Please join the American Heart Association in telling Congress that the American public will not stand for a retreat from this issue or surrender to the tobacco industry.

Bernadette Courtneyman, President
Union County Division
American Heart Association

It's many things to many people

To the Editor:

Every year, The Salvation Army takes one week in May to say "thank you" to the people who have generously given their friendship and support throughout the year. The week of May 11-17 is National Salvation Army Week. In the spirit of this occasion, I want to thank all our caring friends in New Jersey who have shared their time, talent and resources so far as The Salvation Army may best meet the needs of people in this state. I encourage everyone to learn more about The Salvation Army, so feel free to call any of our 31 New Jersey facilities to arrange a visit.

Major William LaMarr, State Commander
The Salvation Army

Concerned about an issue facing the governing body or Board of Education in your town? Is your street in disrepair? Our readers can use our InfoSource hot line to speak out about any issue whether it is a question, comment, suggestion or opinion. That way, by telling us, you can tell everyone in town.

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We're asking Put away the cell phones while driving

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

If you are reading this while driving a car, pull over — what you are doing is like this "We're Asking" is about.

The State Police are considering a crackdown on inattentive driving. The program, modeled after those for drunk and aggressive driving, would ticket and possibly arrest motorists who are engaging in activities which is distracting from driving.

Driving an automobile is, for most of us, the most demanding of everyday activities in terms of concentration. It is a coordination of acceleration, braking and steering based on sight, feel and sound. Medical studies on drivers' eye patterns show they are taking in six visual views per second while at 60 miles an hour.

Driving at 60 mph translates to about eight feet per second. You do not have to be stoked car champion Dale Earnhardt to realize that, even at that highway speed, a second's inattention can lead to an accident. The automobile, on the other

hand, has become a mobile office, dining hall and bedroom of late. Telephone companies say they are getting 10,000 new cellular phone subscribers daily and food industry surveys find more people eating while driving. Some people, seeing the same sort of behavior on public transit, see this as part of our accelerating pace of life.

One can look into Earnhardt's race car and see a radio headset and a drink bottle. Earnhardt's secured bottle has a long suction straw, however, and his radio is a simple two-button model.

Earnhardt approaches 200 mph, or about 300 feet per second, on some tracks. He shares the course with 42 similarly skilled drivers in similar cars — and all are going the same direction.

Highway authorities theorize that, if they can spot distracted drivers like they can drunk or aggressive ones, they then can reduce the vehicular accident rate. Of particular concern are cell phone users. A recent study published in a recent American Medical Association journal found that a driver's atten-

tion rate declines 21 percent while using a car phone. It is about the same reduction found with drunken drivers.

Will DWI also mean "driving while inattentive"? The Echo Leader asked motorists and roadside merchants along Route 22 whether they see more distracted drivers and welcome a crackdown.

"It's getting bad out here," said Wilbur Helm as he waited for a bus at the Cornerstone bank on Route 22 West. "There are people doing their nails and drinking coffee. But I don't know how the police can crack down on them."

"I see a lot of people driving while using a cell phone in one hand," said Karen Jones at the Genovese Drug store. "If a call's that important, go to the side of the road."

"I had a Mercedes-Benz driver cut me off on the Garden State Parkway while talking on a cell phone," said Max Lapone. "The police should pull people over."

"When you use a cell phone, you have one hand holding a phone and one on the wheel," said Lido Diner

manager Judy Smith. "It should be a law that you can't use a cell phone one while at the same time."

"I see people drinking coffee, reading a paper, talking on a cell phone while driving," said Jeff Kohler. "Sometimes I wonder how they drive, have coffee and use a cell phone at the same time. But how will the police decide who's a distracted driver? By following them?"

"The type of driving which I find are drivers who cut across lots for U-turns," said Louis Weinstein of Lemercrafters. "If there were more police patrols — and if the grass is cut on the Hillside Avenue traffic island — maybe there will be fewer accidents."

"I can see people reading a map," said New York Golf Center manager Greg Pfundsheller, "but if they are reading consistently, perhaps the police should stop them."

"I don't see other drivers being inattentive," said Kae Lah. "But do see more accidents here lately. I'm not sure, however, how the police can determine what is distracting driving."



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Fight against drugs is a war we must win

Historically, statistics generally deal with bad news, and the story we came across in a newspaper the other day was indeed grim. The headline said, "Heroin use rising all across state."

According to Capt. Jeffrey Gracyn of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, "There's not a county from Cape May to Warren that has not reported a rise in heroin use."

With all the programs in use throughout the state, we still seem to be fighting a losing cause. Organizations such as Municipal Alliances to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse have been among the leaders locally to come up with programs to abate the use and spread of drug and alcohol abuse. Results have been mixed and there is still no absolute answer in sight. This is frustrating since these Alliances are comprised of residents who give of their time and talents for a worthy cause.

The horrible bi-product of this increase in heroin use is the fact that a new strain is so pure and virulent that it's easy to overdose, and therein lies the main problem. They say this new

strain, that can be replaced in a matter of hours by suppliers.

In the newspaper report on the increasing use of heroin, overdoses are becoming all too common. Since the beginning of April of this year, towns throughout Morris County have reported at least four deaths from overdose.

The near 100 percent purity plays a big role in those starting to use heroin. Highs come fast and furious and before the victim realizes it, he or she is hooked and then holds on for dear life ever-conscious that using too much at one time or taking it too frequently is a sure walk to the oblivion of the big sleep.

What is even more unsettling is that in 1996, 5,500 or 22 percent, more people were sent to hospitals in Union, Morris, Somerset and Sussex counties than two years earlier.

What is wrong with us? Nancy Reagan had a simple but naive solution to the problem; "Just say no." Quaint and to the point but it didn't cut the mustard. Stronger measures were needed such as longer jail terms for pushers, longer rehabilitation time

for users and a program to keep supplies at a minimum through raids and destruction of crops.

Unfortunately, there is loss and loss of money in the drug trade and we can imagine that drug lords in South America are making so much money they make Bill Gates of Microsoft look like a pauper.

If the profit from drug dealing could be drastically cut, perhaps the price of a fix would go so low that it would not be worth the risk of getting mixed up with this kind of murderous endeavor.

The time has come for this country to take a stand against the nations supplying us. We know who they are. Those nations should be told in no uncertain terms that if they continue to be a supplier, all foreign aid will be cut off and every man, woman and child will suffer. Sounds brutal, but this is a war we must win — and we are losing.

Norman Rauscher is a former newspaper publisher and a frequent columnist for this newspaper.

As I See It

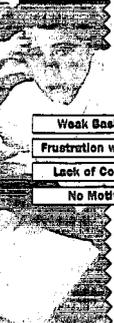
By Norman Rauscher
Correspondent

and stronger heroin is easy to go down, and it can be smoked or snorted. As a result, its popularity has increased and people who sampled the drug as part of a fad now find themselves addicted.

Those who realize they are flirting with death and decide to quit find out quickly it's not that easy to stop. Some who kicked the habit say the craving becomes so acute, hard-core users say they would kill to get the stuff. It gets that bad.

Why someone would permit a foreign substance to get an upper hand on controlling your body is a mystery to me. And what is even worse is the fact that the supply of heroin seems to be infinite and if authorities make a bust and confiscate a couple of tons of her-

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Protests should be for worthwhile things

Last week while on vacation, I took a pilgrimage to East Lansing, Michigan, home of my alma mater, Michigan State University. While I was there, I experienced a bit of what my parents had experienced more than 30 years ago when I witnessed college students protesting against their school's administration.

After my enlightening 12-hour drive one-third of the way across this great country, I arrived at what resembled more of a pit of police brutality than the tranquil springtime college campus that I remembered.

The riots were reported on the local and national news, as police and students staged conflict for days in the same streets that students have stumbled upon for years, after endless nights of partying and being kicked out of the bars.

The controversy started back in the fall, as MSU administration had threatened to ban alcohol from the parking lots at football games, argu-

ing that things had gotten out of control. Thus, they threatened to put an end to the classic "tailgating" that had made college football games so popular for everyone from students to parents to professors.

Last week, when MSU administration passed legislation that will squash the beer cans at the five Saturday afternoon home football games next fall, students reacted as if it was still the 1960s.

When I finally managed to park my rental car, amid the roaring crowds of protest and tear-gas in the air, I saw that as usual, on a Friday night in East Lansing, the streets were on fire.

But not the kind of street fire metaphor that Bruce Springsteen described in his passionate tale of New Jersey youth in the epic song "Jungleland," but an actual conflagration that took three fire departments to control.

The nation's first land-grant institution that had been historically known for its undisturbed beauty since 1855 will now be scarred as a result of that same sign of student protest that reached Kent State University back in the 1960s.

And although no one was killed this time, and this time they were protesting over beer, not the Vietnam War, the atmosphere was intense. But something was still wrong.

Let's be realistic. College students are going to drink alcohol. And now that you've told them they can't, they'll indulge even more. But to burn the streets, the trees, and the buildings because of beer is an embarrassment. It's not like the administration was threatening to ban food on campus.

Although movies like "Dazed and Confused" have intoxicated high school and college students and emulated the trends of the '60s and '70s, again, let's be realistic. Belittlements may be "in" once again, but this protest junk has to go.

Believe me, I'm the biggest Bob Dylan fan in the world. I've been kicked out of too many bars in my day. But even Dylan, the voice of the generation, has become realistic in his old age. If you're going to protest, he recently said, at least do it for something worthwhile. To protest simply to protest defeats the entire purpose. It lacks that passion that my parents told me made the '60s so special.

This is 1998, and no matter how liberals people want to try to be, they should grow up. Even if they take away your beer mugs on Saturday mornings, if you find it necessary to set the town on fire, you deserve to get kicked out of the bar.

Meet and greet



Shown at a recent brunch for Congressman Bob Franks are, from left, Mountaineer Councilman Warner C. Schon, candidate for Council Glenn W. Mortimer and Franks.

Haimi-Cohen places first in national French match

Vardit Haimi-Cohen, a student at Florence M. Gaudinier School in Springfield, has placed first in the State of New Jersey in the National French Contest, Level 1.

Two other students tied for first place. Haimi-Cohen ranks second in the nation, having competed against approximately 15,000 Level 1 French students.

The National French Contest is an hour long exam taken by middle school and high school students. It assesses a student's listening and reading proficiency as well as his or her mastery of French structure. There is also a cultural component.

Haimi-Cohen was born in Jerusalem and moved to the United States when she was three. She grew up in a bilingual home in which both English and Hebrew were spoken.

As a result of her outstanding performance in the middle school Commencement Arts Program, she has been recommended for placement in the 10th grade English program when she enters Jonathan Dayton High School in September 1998.

Haimi-Cohen studies voice and dance and has had the lead in several school productions. She is in the Discovery Program at Gaudinier, has played the violin in the Jointure Orchestra of Union/Morris County in 1997 and 1998, and, in the summer of 1996 was a member of the cast of the Super Theater Conservatory of the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn.

Haimi-Cohen is a voracious reader who also enjoys writing. She has participated in the Expository Writing Tutorial Program under the auspices of the Johns Hopkins University.

Service offers help

The New Jersey Division of the American Cancer Society has a toll-free 800 number.

The service provides information for patients, families and the general public on all aspects related to cancer, including causes, prevention, detection, treatment and patient services.

To reach this service, call 800-ACS-2345, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.



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Resource Center welcomes new program coordinator

The Resource Center for Women has welcomed Joanne Layne as coordinator of its Career Assistance Program. Layne received a master's degree in Human Resources Management at the New School for Social Research and has been in the field of career development since 1980. She has extensive experience in the private, public and non-profit sectors, and knows that work is such an integral part of who we are that if our work isn't going well, everything else suffers. Her enthusiasm for the work she does comes from her desire to help people "chase their dreams," and from the sense of gratification she receives from making a difference in the lives of other women.

Layne is passionate about helping women maximize their potential and takes a holistic approach to careers, paying particular attention to the way work fits into the larger context of a woman's life. This passion, creativity and flexibility are reflected in the following new programs she has designed for the Resource Center's spring schedule.

- Ask the Career Doctor, Monday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. This workshop will address problematic situations and answer individual questions about the things that are making you unhappy at work or causing problems in your career. Participants can present their particular troublesome situations in class, or send it in ahead of time for presentation and discussion by Layne. The fee is \$12 for center members, \$15 for non-members.
- Success Coaching, June 9 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Registration deadline is June 5. If you need help strategizing about personal and professional goals, this workshop will help break down the steps of the process and begin to create an action plan for getting where you want to go. The fee is \$12 for center members; \$15 for non-members.

In addition to coordinating the Career Assistance Program and designing and facilitating workshops, Layne and her Resource Center colleague, Judy Kroll, are available for one-on-one career counseling. Individual sessions run about one hour and are tailored to meet a client's specific needs. They include general career direction, resume help, interviewing tips, and networking suggestions. Whether entering, re-entering or shifting gears along their career path, women consistently find that this personal attention adds energy and momentum to their journey. The fee for each appointment is \$35 for center members, \$45 for non-members. Day, evening and weekend appointments are available, but the schedule for this popular service fills quickly, so call the center well before an interview or job transition.

The Resource Center for Women is a regional, non-profit, non-sectarian organization entering its 15th year of providing programs and services to all area women. For an individual career counseling appointment with Layne or Kroll, to register for career workshops or to receive additional information and a complete spring program guide, call the Resource Center offices at (908) 273-7253. Partial scholarships are available for these and all other programs and services.

Storytime program set at library

The Summit Public Library is holding registration for its Tiny Tot Storytime program, which is a program for children 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 years old accompanied by a caregiver.

The sessions are Thursdays from 9:30 to 9:50 a.m. and 10:45 to 11:05 a.m. and include short books, fingerplays, songs and flannel board. The sessions are held in the Children's Trailer. The next session runs from May 21 to June 4.

Because of the limited space in the Children's Trailer, these programs are limited to the registered child and the caregiver. The library does not have room for siblings to sit in on these sessions.

The Summit Free Public Library is located at the corner of Morris Avenue and Maple Street and is open Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

'Art in Summit' scheduled for Saturday

If you're looking for a way to brighten your spring, plan on visiting the city of Summit as it blooms into a day of art, crafts, music, food and fun.

"Art in Summit," the annual outdoor art show and sale will be held Saturday on The Green in Summit. The Green is located on the south side of Broad Street, between Summit Avenue and Maple Street. "Art in Summit" is sponsored by the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts and will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event will take place rain or shine.

Approximately 150 exhibitors are

expected to participate in this year's art show and sale. Original crafts and arts in various mediums will be displayed, vying for the more than \$1,000 in prize money that has been supplied by local businesses.

The Summit Area Chambers of Commerce is providing a Best in Show Award of \$500. There will also be 10 \$100 prizes awarded. All local businesses and services are invited to participate by sponsoring an award.

Many familiar and cherished artists will once again take part in "Art in Summit." The event will also welcome many new exhibitors displaying

beautiful paintings, sculpture, jewelry, pottery and wearables. In response to popular demand, a new feature has been added to the show this year. The art show and sale will devote a separate section designated exclusively for crafters.

"Art in Summit" is a family affair and will offer many exciting activities for youngsters. The popular Children's Paint-In will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., free to all children. Face Painting and Finger Nail Decorating will be available for a small fee.

In addition to the visual arts, crafts and activities planned, patrons will

enjoy a full day of music programming as they parade through the exhibits strewn with color, textures and patterns. Food will also be available from booths set up by local establishments and can be enjoyed at tables on The Green.

"Art in Summit" will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., rain or shine. For those still wishing to participate, entry forms for artists and crafters are available at the Arts Center. NCVA is located at 65 Elm St. in Summit. For more information, call the NCVA office during business hours at (908) 273-9121.

First Aid Squad practices skills in drill

The continual effort to be prepared to handle a variety of emergencies brought members of the Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad to a wooded hillside on Oak Ridge Avenue last Wednesday night.

The area, commonly known as "elephant's grave," was the site of a training exercise sponsored by the squad to practice skills in search and rescue as well as patient handling techniques in rough terrain. Participants in the exercise met at the squad's headquarters for a review of search and rescue techniques taught by Eric

Marin, chief of Team Tech-Central Jersey Technical Rescue team.

After the class, the crews moved to Oak Ridge Avenue, where volunteer "victims" had been carefully hidden in the brush covered hillside. The scenario simulated an accident involving two cyclists who collided and fell down the hill. The first challenge was to locate the victims in the dark wooded area. After assigning rescuers to four search teams, Training Lt. Alex Balish led the group into the woods. Once each victim was located, teams were assigned to treat, stabilize and transport their patients through

the woods and up the hill to a waiting ambulance.

The Emergency Medical Technicians from the Summit squad were joined by two members of the Summit Fire Department, a paramedic from Overlook Hospital and members of the Millburn-Trent Hills and West Orange First Aid Squads who also participated in the drill. Area residents were notified of the event before hand. At one point, a group of about 20 people gathered to watch the exercise.

As summer approaches and people become more involved in outdoor

recreation, the likelihood of such an accident rises. May is National Bicycle Safety Month. The Summit First Aid Squad urges all those who enjoy cycling to practice safety at all times. Although the law only requires helmets for those 14 and younger, the First Aid Squad recommends that all riders wear a helmet and obey all traffic laws while riding.

The First Aid Squad is looking for new members, particularly during weekday shifts. For more information, call 277-9479 or visit the Internet Site at www.geocities.com/HotSprings/4151

Freeholders to hear plan for light rail connection

Concerned about the need for better road and rail service in Union County, the Board of Chosen Freeholders will hear a resolution pledging its support for a light rail or monorail connection to the Elizabeth Seaport through the county, and will request that the county's Council of Economic Advisors work with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to address the transportation project and other economic issues.

"The Port Authority has supported a number of important projects in this region," said Union County Freeholder Donald Gonçalves, of Elizabeth. "We now need to start working more closely with the City of New York to ensure that the authority supports infrastructure improvements throughout the region." Freeholder Gonçalves urged the authority to consider three important issues:

- A monorail connection to the Union County Light Rail Transit System;
- A more equitable payment system for the City of Elizabeth's property used by the Port Authority;
- Improved communication between Union County and New York City officials.

"Improving our transportation infrastructure is a crucial part of the economic development of the county and the surrounding region," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan, of Elizabeth. "It's time for all of the 'players' in this region to come together to address our transportation needs."

Union County's proposed 11-mile light-rail system could be connected to the Newark Airport monorail system to provide rapid access to Newark International Airport, the Elizabeth

Seaport and the Jersey Gardens Mall from points south of Elizabeth and from Manhattan, Connelias said. Improving the rail system would, in turn, cut down on traffic congestion and accelerate economic growth. Each year, 30.8 million people use Newark International Airport, most arriving and departing by auto.

"People will have the convenience of taking these valley-like cars to where they need to go in Union County and ultimately to Newark Airport," said Gonçalves.

He explained that Union County needs a safe, convenient and inexpensive means of public transportation for residents who need to catch a flight or want to spend a day of shopping; people who work at the airport or mall; or for airline passengers with enough layover time to shop at Jersey Gardens or at local businesses.

"The Port Authority has proposed a \$1 billion connection to Kennedy Airport and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is still not satisfied," Gonçalves said. "While we were supportive of that proposal, maybe it's time to sit down with the Giuliani administration to discuss regional issues."

"The system is many far-reaching benefits," he said, noting that transportation systems such as this have been boons to the economies of Baltimore and Portland, Oregon.

In addition to petitioning the Port Authority for support for the monorail connection, Gonçalves wants the Council of Economic Advisors, a consortium of 22 business, education and government officials who advise the Freeholder Board, to ask the authority to increase payments to Elizabeth in lieu of taxes for land the city sold the agency more than 30 years ago.

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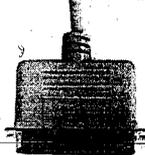
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Sachs installed

Dr. R. Gregory Sachs was installed as the 206th president of the Medical Society of New Jersey during its 232nd annual meeting in Atlantic City May 1. A member of the Union County Medical Society, Sachs has been a practicing cardiologist in Summit for 25 years.

"The Medical Society of New Jersey has a longstanding history as the leading medical voice in the state," said Sachs. "It's an honor and a privilege to represent our 9,500 members, as well as state residents on the health care issues that affect all of us. As physicians who have dedicated our lives to medicine, we are ideal advocates for patient rights and public health. Our efforts this past year include releasing out-of-hospital Do Not Resuscitate protocols, leading the call for increased tobacco taxes and supporting the Health Care Quality Act," he continued. "We will continue to seek expansion of patient rights and higher quality care. MSNJ will remain active in numerous pressing issues, including tobacco control and the roll-out of managed care regulations."

Along with his cardiology practice in Summit, Sachs acts in several other capacities, including Chairman of LAB 3 Advisory Committee for Health Planning for the New Jersey Department of Health, and serving on the board of trustees at Overlook Hospital and the New Jersey Hospital Association. He is a clinical instructor of Internal Medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Board-certified in internal medicine, Sachs is a member of the National Board of Medical Examiners and

Poetry series to end with three readings

On June 7 at 7:30 p.m., "Poetry of Home and Heritage: Readings by Three Poets" will be the final spring offering in the Resource Center for Women's ongoing poetry series, "Giving Voice."

Susan Jackson, Barbara Wind Morcheles and Wanda Praetner will read from their recent works addressing the many ways we define ourselves through our sense of home and heritage. If home is a place, where is "it"? If it is an interior quality, rather than a house or a geographic location, what does it mean to be "at home" or "away from home"? How is "heritage" different from "home"? Do we simply inherit a heritage like a lamp, or do we acquire it slowly, interacting with it over time? And to what degree are home and heritage "sacred"? These and other related themes will be explored by the following area poets:

Susan Jackson, currently at work on a new book of poetry, Indigo Sky, New Moon, is the recipient of a New Jersey State Council on the Arts fellowship, and has won prizes from the Allen Ginsberg Poetry Contest and the Chester H. Jones National Poetry Competition. She has made her home in France, Portugal, Belgium and the United States.

Barbara Wind Morcheles, novelist, playwright and author of "Jacobus and the collection of poems, has won awards for her fiction as well as her poetry. A child of Holocaust survivors, she was a featured speaker at the 28th anniversary conference of the Holocaust and the Church, held in Tampa, Fla.

Wanda Praetner, whose first collection "A Fine and Bitter Snow" was selected for publication this spring, is a winner of the Newark Library's "Coming Home" contest and a recipient of a poetry fellowship from the New Jersey Council on the Arts.

Following the featured poets' readings, a brief open reading will provide an opportunity for a limited number of women from the audience to share one of their own poems. Poems should be no longer than 50 lines and follow the theme "Poetry of Home and Heritage." Those who would like to participate in the open reading must sign up for the limited number of slots at the beginning of the evening.

Funding for this series has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. The event is free of charge and open to all area residents, however, donations to support the center's poetry series will be gratefully accepted.

The Resource Center for Women is a regional non-profit, non-sectarian organization offering a wide variety of programs and services to all area women and is located in the Episcopal Church at the corner of Woodland and DeForest avenues in downtown Summit. Those interested in further information about this and other programs may call the center's office at (908) 273-7253.



Dr. R. Gregory Sachs

the American Board of Internal Medicine. He is a past president of the Union County Medical Society and a 12-year member of the MSNJ Board of Trustees.

Sachs has been actively involved in many medical organizations during his years of medical service. For the past two years, Sachs has served on the MSNJ delegation to the American Medical Association, and was appointed this year by the American College of Cardiology to be its national representative to the AMA. He also was active in the founding of the Atlantic Health System, serving as first president of the combined Atlantic medical staffs, and continuing as a member of the AHS Board's Finance and Budget Committee.

After graduating as class valedictorian from Georgetown University, Sachs obtained his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He interned and completed his residency at Georgetown University before spending two years of training at Emory University Hos-

Top volunteers



Sage Special Recognition awards were presented to volunteers Joann Stefan, left, who works in the SAGE Resale Shop, and Jack Clemence, right, who works with the Meals-on-Wheels program. The two were honored at a volunteer luncheon catered by Outback Steakhouse in Summit on April 28. SAGE is a not-for-profit eldercare agency at 50 DeForest Ave.

pital. While an undergraduate student at Georgetown, he was editor in chief of *The Hoye*, the university newspaper.

Aside from his medical interests, Sachs is an avid basketball enthusiast and writer. He and his wife, Barbara, are the parents of five children.

Founded in 1766, the Medical Society of New Jersey is a voluntary association of 9,500 physicians statewide whose mission is improving the health of New Jerseyans and acting on behalf of its members in legislative and regulatory matters.

Betty finishes 31st

Neil Baty of Summit finished 31st overall and fourth in the male age 25-29 category in the 20th annual Maple Leaf 10K Run held May 2 in Maplewood.

Davies to speak

On May 17 at a 10 a.m. service, the Unitarian Church in Summit will welcome Marjell Davies, a former resident of Summit, as a guest speaker to talk about her experiences with various community building organizations in her 93 years.

Like many women of her generation, it was with the death of her husband that Davies came into her own: She co-founded the League of Women Voters, Summit chapter; became a nationally recognized religious educator; helped to found Unitarian Universalist churches in Bethesda-Chevy Chase and Germantown, Maryland; was on the board of trustees when the Unitarian Universalist Association formed in 1961; was the national Religious Education Consultant for the American Ethical Union.

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Choosing the shopping cart, woman discovers car rolling

Springfield
A shopper's visit to a Springfield supermarket became momentarily harrowing thanks to a runaway cart May 1.

The Summit consumer was about to leave a parking spot at the Morris Avenue ShopRite at about 10:30 a.m. when she saw an unattended shopping cart rolling toward her car. She left her Dodge Caravan without putting on the parking brake, however, while stopping the cart.

The driver, realizing the wagon was rolling backward, attempted to drive back into the vehicle. The Dodge went into a U-turn onto Morris Avenue and back onto the lot, dragging its half-board driver along. She suffered a cut knee but declined medical assistance.

A police patrol car returned to the supermarket at about 11:30 a.m. May 6 to arrest a shopping suspect. The suspect, identified as Marie S. Pailler, 48, of East Orange, and the name-

er had an apparent scuffle and received additional charges of simple assault, resisting arrest and hindering apprehension. He later posted \$1,000 bail from the Union County Jail.

An unemployed Elizabeth man turned himself in on a pair of theft charges May 6. The man, identified as Blard Holloman, 40, arrived at police headquarters about 5 p.m. to respond to charges made by an industrial firm that his sole office equipment. Holloman was charged with two counts of stealing movable property and was released on his own recognizance.

A Route 22 automobile dealership reported that a pair of license plates were removed from one of their vehicles between April 29 and May 5. The Pennsylvania plate number match was not made during a computer check.

Unknown vehicles played a part in insulating two multi-car accidents on an Interstate 78 East exit ramp May 5. A Ford Taurus ran into the back of a Honda Civic, which ran into

the back of a third car on Exit 49 B to Main Street at about 5:14 p.m. The crash left two injured occupants while the third car left the scene.

A Ford Escort driver said he had to avoid running into the car ahead of him on the same ramp about 15 minutes later. The Escort was in turn rear-ended by a Honda Accord. There were no injuries recorded, although the rain-slicked ramp surface was taken into account.

A resident, after taking in a basketball game at Gaudinier Middle School, discovered one of his car's tires punctured in the parking lot May 4. The resident said he suspected a neighbor, who he said had twice spread nails in his driveway one recent weekend. In an unrelated incident, workers at Walton School reported that one of their window air conditioning units was damaged in suspected criminal mischief May 4.

A Toyota Supra driver, who was driving east on Morris Avenue,

decided to make a left turn into the 7-Eleven parking lot at about 10:30 a.m. May 3. The Supra right rear bumper got snagged, however, by a west-bound Ford.

Mountainside
Mountainside police arrested several people this week for driving while suspended.

On March 7, while driving west on Route 22, Officer Michael Jackson stopped a Middlesex man for having an improper display of license plates on his vehicle. The driver, later identified as Dornell Keene, 24, was found to have been driving while suspended. Keene awaits a court date of May 21.

On March 5, at approximately noon, while traveling west on Route 22, Officer Michael Jackson stopped a motorist for having a broken front windshield. The driver, identified as

Earl Price, 32, of East Orange, was found to be driving while suspended, as well as having warrants out of Newark and Harrison. Price was released on \$2,302 bail and awaits a court date of May 21.

On March 5, a Newark woman was arrested for driving while suspended. While traveling eastbound on Route 22 at approximately 4 a.m., Officer Michael Jackson stopped a motorist for a motor vehicle violation. The driver, later identified as Kimberly Hogue, 34, was found to be driving while suspended. Hogue also was found to have several warrants out of Newark and Irvington. She was released on \$2,257 bail and awaits a May 21 court date.

On March 5, at approximately 11:30 p.m., Officer Rich Lattariga arrested a Springfield woman for

driving while suspended. Lattariga stopped the motorist, later identified as Patricia Boffa, 36, for a motor vehicle violation. It was later found that Boffa had been driving while suspended. Boffa was released on her own recognizance and awaits a May 28 court date.

On May 2, an East Orange woman was arrested for driving while suspended. At approximately 8:30 a.m., while traveling eastbound on Route 22, Officer Andrew Sullivan stopped a driver who was later identified as Vicki Smith, 28, for a motor vehicle violation. Smith was found to have been driving while suspended, as well as in possession of tampered public documents, including a Social Security card and birth certificate. At press time, she was being detained in the Mountainside district jail cell.

Autoland named Business of the Year

Autoland, a landmark business in Springfield since 1968, has recently been named by the Springfield Chapter of the Union County Chamber of Commerce as "1998 Business of the Year." A dinner honoring the high-achieving men and women of Autoland will be held June 30 at Balmoral Country Club.

The Springfield chapter of the Union County Chamber of Commerce was established in March 1997. Then Mayor Roy Hirsfield and a group of local business people agreed it was necessary for business and government to unite to provide a better environment for the Commerce district.

Autoland has played a constant and enthusiastic role in supporting Union County community activities. Among the exciting events planned in the coming months is the annual Fourth of July fireworks "Spectacular" sponsored in part by Autoland. The Springfield chapter in a cooperative effort with Autoland, the Drug

Alliance, PTA and Rotary will host the Chrysler "Drunk Driving" simulator on Sept. 11 and 12.

Autoland also plays a continual supporting role in community organizations such as Junior Achievement of Union, Middlesex and Somerset Counties, Good News Home for Women, DARE, Toys for Tots, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Through its involvement in charitable causes such as the Walk for Multiple Sclerosis, Susan B. Komen "Race for the Cure" Breast Cancer Foundation, and semi-annual blood drives for the New York Blood Center, the dealership has been noted as a model for Union County businesses to replicate.

Donald Torsocco is founder and chairman of Torsocco Enterprises Inc. Autoland is the largest of the automobile dealerships owned by Donald Torsocco. Autoland is located on Route 22 and sells Toyota, Ford, Chrysler/Plymouth, Dodge, Jeep and Kia vehicles.

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SPORTS

Fax and mail deadline
 Monday morning at 9
 for sports copy to be
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LOCAL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Kean University will run its first Summer Baseball Camp during the weeks of June 29-July 2 and July 6-July 9.

The camp will be hosted by head coach and former professional player Neil Ioviero, assistant head coach and former professional player Jorge Perez and Union County Hall of Fame coach Tony Piccolo.

Special guest speakers will also be on hand from the collegium and Major League ranks.

The two weekly sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and rain dates include July 3 and July 10.

More information may be obtained by calling the Kean University baseball office at 908-527-2002.

The Watching Mountain Girls' Basketball Camp, directed by Union Catholic girls' head coach Kathy Mathews, will take place the week of July 6-10 at Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains. Players entering grades 9 through 12 will be instructed. The time of the camp will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the five days and the cost is \$145.

Union Catholic Regional High School is located on 1600 Martins Ave. in Scotch Plains.

Mathews is the most successful girls' basketball in Union County, with over 400 wins in 20 years. Mathews guided the Vikings to this year's Union County Tournament championship, the school's seventh.

Enrollment will be limited and the application deadline is May 20. A \$50 non-refundable deposit must accompany the camp application and the balance is due June 15.

Applications may be obtained at Union Catholic or from coach Mathews.

Camp objectives include:
 1. To teach the fundamental basketball skills needed to be a successful player.

2. To improve each girls' skills through individual instruction.
 3. To provide competition to enable each player to practice the skills and technique learned.

4. To help each players' attitude and philosophy about basketball and life through good sportsmanship and fair play.

Mathews' staff includes successful, experienced high school coaches, college players with previous camp experience and guest clinicians.

Special camp features include: ability groups, two fullcourt games per day, 3-on-3 games, 1-on-1 games, hot shot contests and other special contests, written evaluations, camp prizes and awards and video taping and evaluation with your coach.

Camp articles needed include: makeup, shorts, shirts and towels. Lockers will be provided and campers should bring their own lockers.

Campers should be covered by their parent's policy and parents should provide transportation to and from the camp.

Campers should bring a snack for snack time and camp T-shirts will be provided by the camp. Campers will receive a free basketball if they register by tomorrow (May 15).

Additional information about the Watching Mountain Girls' Basketball Camp may be obtained by calling Mathews at Union Catholic at 908-889-1600.

UCC to expand tennis in summer

This summer, Union County College will expand its tennis course offerings to four sections each for beginners and intermediate-level players.

Classes will be conducted on the outdoor tennis courts on the College's Cranford Campus.

Through the tennis courses, students will learn and practice basic grips, forward and backhand strokes, service and volley.

Beginners can choose from time slots of 5-6 p.m. or 6:10-7:10 p.m. on Mondays, either June 15 through August 17. Intermediate players can select from the same times on Tuesdays, either June 16 through July 14, or July 21 through August 18.

More information may be obtained by calling the college's Division of Continuing Education and Community Services at 908-709-7600.

Add Miller's name to elite list

3-sport standout makes Springfield proud

By Andrew McGinn
 Assistant Sports Editor

The list of the best three-sport athletes the state of New Jersey has seen in recent times, a list that includes names like Bloomfield's Kelly Tripucca, Summit's Willie Wilson and Elizabeth's Al Hawkins, has recently grown to include one more name.

This name is Jeff Miller. Miller, a Springfield resident and an accomplished football, basketball and baseball player at Seton Hall Prep in West Orange, is currently wrapping up a brilliant athletic career for the Pirates as a member of the baseball team.

A potential impact player on the college level in all three of his chosen sports, the decision on where to go to school and dedicate the next four years of his athletic and academic life was a tough one for Miller, who knew competing collegiately would mean no longer being able to play at least one, if not two sports, competitively.

Despite strong interest from big-name Division 1 football programs such as Notre Dame, Syracuse and Ohio State, Miller was not offered a Division 1 football scholarship despite his fantastic passing and catching abilities. He was considered by some coaches to be a step too slow.

Disappointed by his inability to latch on with a Division 1 football program, Miller turned his sights toward playing basketball and/or baseball in college.

Fairfield, Monmouth, Wagner, Vermont, St. John's and Seton Hall were among the finalists to land Miller, and after narrowing his decision down to Fairfield and Seton Hall, Miller made probably the biggest decision of his life official on May 1 when he signed a national letter of intent to attend Seton Hall University in South Orange on a baseball scholarship.

"It was pretty difficult at times for me," Miller said of his months of decision making. "At the end of football season, on the baseball court and even at the plate I would think about it sometimes. I'm glad it's over now because I'm free to focus on baseball."

Miller's decision to head for the Hall to play under the direction of the highly successful Mike Sheppard Sr. means that his organized football and baseball days are in all likelihood behind him.

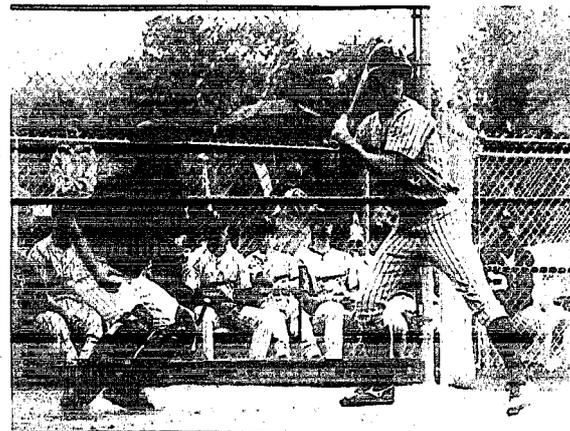


Photo by Jeff Grault

Springfield's Jeff Miller, a three-sport standout at Seton Hall Prep, will continue his baseball career on scholarship at Seton Hall University, going from currently playing for Mike Sheppard Jr. at the Prep to playing for his father Mike Sr. at the Hall. Miller's outstanding play in right field and as a relief pitcher has helped the Seton Hall Prep baseball team post a 16-1 record as of Tuesday.

Seton Hall does not have a football team and although NCAA rules permit players who receive basketball scholarships to try out for the baseball team, the reverse is prohibited.

"I'd give it a shot if I could," Miller said of attempting to make the basketball team at Seton Hall as a walk-on. "But, this way I am able to put all of my time into baseball."

Seton Hall Prep head baseball coach Mike Sheppard Jr. knows that Miller will be in good hands for the next four seasons playing for his father at Seton Hall and is glad that the 6-4, 195-pound Miller was able to reach the decision on his own.

"I never tried to coerce or push Jeff (towards attending Seton Hall) because I didn't want to put any pressure on him at all," Sheppard Jr. said. "I'm happy for Jeff and for my father because he's getting a class kid. Jeff is a real trophy player. He doesn't seek any personal glory, he just wants to suc-

ceed. His work ethic is second to none. He's the best athlete in the state of New Jersey, if not the entire tri-state area and he has tremendous potential to hone his skills even further and become a real fine baseball player. He has God-given skills to build upon, good power at the plate and a strong throwing arm."

Miller's career accomplishments are staggering, as are the number of awards and acknowledgments he has received over the years. A first-team All-State wide receiver, Miller helped the Seton Hall Prep football team to a 10-1 record and an Iron Hills Conference-Iron Division championship this past season by hauling in 69 passes for 1,260 yards and holds the school career record for receptions (141), yards (2,217) and touchdowns (33).

A second-team All-State selection by the Associated Press as a forward

on the basketball team during the recently completed 1997-98 campaign, Miller averaged 15 points and 5.5 rebounds a game over his three-year career. His 1,324 career points place him third on the Pirates' all-time list.

With Miller, who played under the tutelage of one of the state's best head coaches in Bob Farrell, the Pirates amassed an 88-8 record, won three Iron Hills Conference-Iron Division titles, three Essex County Tournament titles, three North Jersey, Pascackial A championships and made two straight trips to the Tournament of Champions final, the second of which came on March 24 at the RAC against Al Harrington-led St. Patrick's of Elizabeth.

After posting impressive numbers as a rightfielder and relief pitcher on the baseball team last year, Miller has taken his game up yet another notch this year. He is batting a lofty .512

(.22-for-43) with five home runs, 19 RBI, 17 run scored, three doubles and eight stolen bases in 10 attempts.

Maybe most impressive of all of Miller's numbers this season, though, is his strikeout total, a mere one. He has also drawn five walks contributing to a .571 on-base percentage.

In five appearances on the mound, all in relief, Miller has gone 1-0 with one save while striking eight, walking five and allowing four hits in 7.0/3 innings. He has given up just one earned run this season, as evidenced by his minuscule 0.92 ERA.

Through Monday, Seton Hall Prep had won 16 games this season, 13 of which Miller took part in. The Pirates' only loss came against Livingston 5-4.

Last year, Miller garnered first-team honors after batting .451 (.41-for-91) in 29 games. He smacked two home runs, drove in 35 runs, scored 22 runs, drilled 11 doubles and one triple and stole five bases in eight attempts for the Pirates, who ended the campaign at 21-10. It was Miller's two-year single in the Greater Newark Tournament final that proved to be the difference in Seton Hall Prep's 5-2 win.

Miller was equally successful on the mound, where he made three starts and three relief appearances, going 2-2 in 22.2/3 innings and registering a 1.55 ERA.

Not just a standout athlete, Miller excels in the classroom as well. He was named the 1997-98 Essex County Scholar Athlete of the Year as chosen by the Essex County athletic directors. He was also chosen as the N.J. Nassif/Henry Union Bank Athlete of the Month for April and will be honored as a luncheon at the Winners Club at Continental Airlines Arena on May 20.

Named to the prestigious New York Daily News, M.S.G. Network and New York Downtown Athletic Club-Chase/Heisman Trophy High School All-Star Team, Miller is also a finalist for the New York Daily News/M.S.G. Network Tri-State Athlete of the Year Award, which should be announced in the coming weeks.

Although Miller will not be playing football in college, he was selected to play in this year's 20th annual North-South All-Star Game, scheduled to take place at Rutgers Stadium in New Brunswick on Saturday night, June 27. Miller played in the North-South Basketball Game.

Mountainside residents spark GL baseball team

The Governor Livingston High School baseball team improved to 11-5 as a result of blanking host New Providence 2-0 last Thursday in the last of the eight first-round Union County Tournament contests.

GL, the 10th seed, was scheduled to play at second-seeded Elizabeth this week in the quarterfinals.

Junior righthander Bobby Phillips limited the seventh-seeded Pioneers to just two hits and threw just 60 pitches in his seven-inning stint. Although the Highlanders were limited to just two hits as well, they were patient enough to draw two bases-loaded walks in the top of the fifth inning.

Dan Lillis and Mountainside resident Mark Casarallo scoring the RBI. Other Mountainside residents on the team include Eric Casarallo, Hank Hansen, Mark Leyser, Rob Giannotti, Anthony Hopkins and Jason Guidicciastro.

OL also qualified for the upcoming North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 state playoffs and Tuesday were ranked No. 7 in the Union County Top 10.

State playoff games for baseball and softball are to commence around the state beginning tomorrow.

Springfield Junior Baseball Association
 Red Sox post impressive victory

The following are Springfield Junior Baseball Association results of games played last week:
 Dobb's Auto Body Red Sox 10, Yankees 1; Pitchers Frank Miceli and Harris Tuchman pitched well, Tuchman striking out five and Miceli four in a five-inning game played at Rossmer Field.

It was reported that the Red Sox scored one run in the first inning, nine in the second and six in the fifth, which means they scored 16 runs, a different total than what was previously reported.

Catcher Sara Steinman scored three runs, outfielder Anthony Sivalo, Miceli, outfielder Lindsey Stems, Tuchman and second baseman Mike Tias two and outfielders David Sklar, Mike Luciano and Larry Fish one.

Steinman drove in six runs, Anthony DeNicolo and Stems three, Miceli two and Lisa Clark and Tuchman one.

Traveling tryouts Saturday morning; Tryouts for the ages 11-12 Springfield Minutemen traveling baseball team will be held Saturday morning at Sandmeier Field at 9.

Any child trying out must come to the field with a copy of their birth certificate. Anyone who turns 13 prior to Aug. 1 is not eligible. Games and practices will be held throughout the months of June and July. The rain date is Sunday morning at 10.

Springfield Tornados soccer team boots Sparta Revolution
 Springfield's 9-and-under Tornados youth soccer team had an outstanding game in blanking the host Sparta Revolution 7-0 to move into sixth place in the league standings.

Zack Marshall, Adam Moss and Doug Singer scored twice and Ryan O'Reilly once as Springfield peppered the Sparta goalkeeper with 43 shots. Dan Shabat, Evan Ring and David Sauerhoff were credited with assists.
 A combination of outstanding defensive and offensive efforts were displayed by Michael Dubiel, Kyle Seoley and Jason Capps.
 Sauerhoff continued to demonstrate why he is considered one of the best goalkeepers in the league, recording his first shutout of the spring campaign.
 The contest marked the first time that every team member recorded at least one significant shot on goal.



SPRINGFIELD MINUTEMEN BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS HONORED — Above, Coach Whiskey shows off the championship jackets the Springfield Minutemen Basketball team was given for winning this year's Dunellen Tournament. Below, St. Anthony of Jersey City boys' basketball coach Bob Hurley, the guest speaker at the Minutemen's annual post-season dinner, poses with Springfield Minutemen players.



