

# Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield, Mountainside and Summit

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 70, NO. 13

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1998

TWO SECTION

## THIS WEEK



We Wish Our Readers A Bountiful Thanksgiving Day

### Offices closed

The offices of this newspaper will be closed Nov. 26 and Nov. 27 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We will reopen Monday, Nov. 30.

The deadlines for the DEC edition remain the same.

Letters to the editor: Monday, 9 a.m.

Display ads: Monday noon for Section B and 5 p.m. for Section A.

## THE ARTS

### Fusionism

The founder of Fusionism returns to his hometown of Union.

See Page B3.



### Classic drama

The Elizabeth Playhouse takes on a classic courtroom drama in the production of *Enter Rice*.

See Page B3.

## NEW MEDIA

### News updates

Get local updates throughout the week. Call our Information line at (908) 686-9898. For a menu of items, see Page B3.

### Web site

Visit our site on the World Wide Web, which can be accessed at <http://www.localsource.com/>

## WEATHER

Thursday: Showers and breezy, 53°  
Friday: Periods of clouds and sun, 49°  
Saturday: Partly cloudy, 52°

For the most up to date reports, call (908) 686-9898, Ext. 1700.

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- Worral Community Newspapers  
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## They're banding together



Above: Micah Thau plays the thunder drum while below, Eric Dann, drum major, conducts the Governor Livingston Marching Band during a recent band competition. Photos by Jeff Grant.



## Man arrested in assault of borough woman

By Craig Garretson, Staff Writer

A 48-year-old former food operator of a Union-based pool maintenance service was arrested in Mountainside on a charge of criminal sexual contact, criminal restraint and simple assault on a 69-year-old borough woman. She claimed to be traumatized but not injured in the incident, according to police reports.

Earl Steinberger, an East Brunswick resident, was arrested Nov. 16 after meeting with borough detectives. He admitted to some elements of the incident. Police said which he claimed was a life to a misinterpreted signal. He was processed and released pending his court appearance.

The woman called borough police at 12:46 p.m. on Nov. 10 to report the incident just after it occurred, according to Sgt. Richard Weigle. The woman said she was groped and kissed by Steinberger in her Mountainside home and that he left after she broke away from him twice and yelled at him at bay.

Steinberger, the owner and operator of L&S Pool Services, admitted to borough detectives that he embraced the woman and that he "may have kissed her neck," but the details between the two accounts are widely different.

Detective Lieutenant Richard Oseja said he taped a phone conversation between Steinberger and the woman Nov. 13 in which he apologized for the incident. Steinberger also told the woman that he didn't want her husband or his wife to find out about the incident, which she said was "wrong."

Oseja said he obtained permission to tape the conversation from Assistant Prosecutor Henry Jaeger of the Union County Prosecutor's Sexual Crimes Unit.

According to the woman, Steinberger visited her home Nov. 10 to inquire about a payment for his pool maintenance services. She was wearing a bathrobe and nightgown and spoke to him through the slightly opened back

door, police said. She told him to come back another time, she told police.

Steinberger began to leave, she said, but returned and asked permission to use her phone. "Against her better judgment," she told detectives, she let him in to make the phone call.

According to the woman, after the phone call, Steinberger moved closer to her, and she moved away. Then Steinberger grabbed her and started to kiss and lick her face, placing his tongue in her ear while stating that he has been wanting to do this since the first time he saw her, according to his report.

The woman told police that Steinberger had tried to remove her clothing as he groped her body. She broke away, but Steinberger grabbed her again from behind, she said. She broke free a second time and ordered him to get out of the house, which he did, she said.

Steinberger told Oseja that he entered the house to make a phone call. Oseja said, "I then asked if he had made any advances to her and he paused, his eyes darted away from mine, he looked around the room, water built up in his eyes and he replied, 'She put her hands on my shoulders and I got upset, we embraced, she didn't want to embrace, I then stopped and left.'"

The woman then called her husband, son or the land a friend, Oseja said, who told her to call the police. She was interviewed at her home and at a police headquarters following the incident.

Steinberger said the woman was "snuggling up to me" and that he mistook her actions as part of a wrong signal.

"Sexual contact means an intentional touching, by the victim or actor, either directly or through clothing, of the victim's or actor's intimate parts, for the purpose of degrading or humiliating the victim or sexually arousing or sexually gratifying the actor," said Jaeger.

The crime is punishable by a maximum of 18 months in prison, and/or a \$7,500 fine, he said.

## Tax bill to provide f for emergency services

By Craig Garretson, Staff Writer

Assemblymen Joel M. Weingarten and Kevin J. O'Toole have introduced legislation in the Assembly that would mean additional funds for Mountainside, Springfield and Summit emergency services.

The proposed measure would allow municipalities to purchase and use of the cost of personnel and equipment needed for reacting to emergency, highway, aviation or state of federal, highway and toll roads.

Should the bill pass, the municipalities could submit requests to the Department of Community Affairs for up to \$300 per incident at a maximum of \$1,500 per year.

State and federal roads that are serviced by Summit emergency services include Route 24, 78 and 124, according to Police Chief William Scheller.

Route 22 and J. Smith streets of Route 78 wind through the Borough of Mountainside. Police Chief James DeBussche said the borough's police and emergency services are heavily counted on to patrol and respond to incidents on Route 22.

Springfield also responds to incidents on Route 22, 24, 78 and 124.

Weingarten said the bill's intention is to help municipalities keep their property taxes low by deferring the costs of emergency services that are not covered by insurance.

"Communities around our state host a variety of state and federal roadways within their boundaries," Weingarten said. "At times, accidents,

or other emergencies occur requiring having to increase state taxes, he said. Weingarten said the bill was introduced in response to residents from the 21st district and its representatives, from the townships of Millburn and Springfield.

*'It provides just compensation to municipalities that are trying to do the right thing by responding to accidents on arteries which are not their own.'*

— Kevin O'Toole, Assemblyman

## Placing the states



From left, Jonathan Craft and Daniel DuBeau play a geography game during Sandmeier Schools' Gynnasium Geography program.

## Computer classes scheduled for adults in Mountainside

By Pamela Isaacson, Staff Writer

For some, computers are a mystery seemingly too complex to unravel. The Deerfield Technology Committee in Mountainside plans to help eradicate this confusion by providing computer classes Dec. 2.

"The biggest problem for some people is getting over the fear in using a computer," said Linda Cendric, a technology committee member. "We finally want to put the fears about the Internet and computers to bed." At 7 p.m., a course titled "Untangle the Web - Introduction to the Internet" will contain information concerning Internet providers. It is organized for those considering going on-line to receive current information about several Internet providers in order to decide which is the right match in terms of accessories and budget.

For those who want to take the first step in purchasing a computer, they are invited to participate in "Before You Buy a Computer" at 8 p.m. The class is designed to explain how to read a computer ad, understand and how to assess individual needs before actually making the purchase.

Also at 8 p.m., a class providing hands-on training with "Computers for Nurses" will be available. It is designed for those who have recently purchased a computer but have yet discovered its full potential.

The program, for adults only, are free for the entire community. They will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at Deerfield Elementary School. To register, call (908) 322-1496.

## Support needed for local charity drive

By Craig Garretson, Staff Writer

The Springfield Annapolis is sponsoring a Toys for Tots charity drive this month and Mayor Sy Mullman is urging members of the community to support the program.

Annapolis's large car dealership Boys 22 has undertaken a substantial fund-raising effort, to support the Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots program.

Toys for Tots provides new toys to children who would otherwise be getting presents this holiday season. Annapolis has participated in the program for 13 consecutive years.

"Our employees, inside families and suppliers wanted to do something for the children," said Andrea Korman of Annapolis. "Our goal is to help the Marine Corps reach their goal."

Appointed to serving as a collection center for toys. Those who feel the holiday spirit can bring a new, unwrapped toy or a donation for the form of a check to the car dealership, which is on Route 32 East in Springfield.

At the Nov. 10 Springfield Township Committee Meeting,

ing, Mullman urged members of the community to donate to the drive. "You can participate by sending a new toy or a check," Mullman said. "I'm encouraging people to try to contribute to this drive."

Korman said all the donated toys collected will be sent directly to the Marine Corps program. The Marines then distribute the toys throughout southern New Jersey, with priority given to needy children in the county the toys were collected from.

The Toys for Tots drive is on going at Annapolis through Dec. 10.

In addition to the Toys for Tots program last year, several "collector parties" were donated by Annapolis employees to the Valetre Center at Overlook Hospital.

Sgt. Tim Slanger of Marine Toys for Tots Foundation said the program started 51 years ago as a way to distribute toys to needy children.

The Toys for Tots program is always looking for new businesses and organizations to serve as collection centers. Interested groups can register as a sponsor by calling Toys for Tots at (773) 724-2700.

### Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

**How to reach us:**  
The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by World Community Newspapers, an independent, non-profit newspaper company. Our offices are located at 7291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, NJ 07083. We are accessible from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below.

**Voice mail:**  
Our main phone number 908-666-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system for after-hours customer responses. During regular business hours, a receptionist will answer your call. During the evenings when the children's editor is on call, you can be contacted at an editorial receptionist.

**To subscribe:**  
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The Echo Leader has an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be typed double-spaced, must be signed and should be accompanied by an address and daytime phone number for verification. Letters and photos must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication the next week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

**e-mail:**  
The Echo Leader accepts opinion pieces by e-mail. Our address is: [nlc22@worldnet.att.net](mailto:nlc22@worldnet.att.net). E-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication the next week. Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

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Display advertising for placement in the Echo Leader must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m. for publication that week. Advertising for placement in the Echo Leader must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please stop by our office during regular business hours, call 908-666-7700, or e-mail us at [nlc22@worldnet.att.net](mailto:nlc22@worldnet.att.net).

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## NEWS CLIPS

### Library launches Books for Kids

The Mountainside Public Library launched the "Books for Kids" book donation drive Nov. 9. Last year, thousands of children from across New Jersey were given the chance to own a book of their own through this program. Give a child the gift of reading by bringing a new book or books to the library's collection from both books for children and preschoolers through age-length are needed.

Started in 1991, "Books for Kids" is a statewide program sponsored by the New Jersey Library Association's Children's Services Section. This program is nonpartisan, with the hope that all children will be able to experience the joys of reading from their very first year with the help of more than 100 libraries. More than 40,000 books were distributed to children across the state.

Book donations will be accepted through Dec. 1 and will be distributed throughout Union County by the Elizabeth Public Library. For more information, contact Linda Colonna at Mountainside Public Library.

### Kalen to speak on Medicare

Dan Kalen, Union County Coordinator for the Medicare (HIM) Program, will discuss the changes in the Medicare program as well as new options in 1999 available to Medicare beneficiaries. Kalen will speak on Medicare enrollment, a recent Medicare enrollment

has spoken to many senior organizations on Medicare and other health insurance topics. Seniors covered by Medicare will be able to choose new managed-care or other options of terms with the current program. They may have had more benefits are now available for some disease screening tests. All Medicare enrollees may be affected by these new changes.

The meeting will be held at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center in Church Hill in Springfield at 9:30 a.m. Nov. 25.

### Students receive academic honor

The State of New Jersey College of Student Assistance has announced the list of students to receive merit scholarships for the 1998-1999 academic year. Two Springfield students from Union High School District were named.

The students included Joseph Patrick and Michael Quick.

In the Graduate State Scholarship Program, the highest achieving students were selected as Edward C. Houston Distinguished Scholars. These are students who placed in the top 10 percent of their classes and have a minimum combined SAT score of 2200 or are ranked first in their field in their class at the end of junior year. Nearly 3,000 Distinguished Scholars received awards for the 1998-1999 academic year. Distinguished Scholars are offered an annual stipend of \$1,000 without regard to financial need.



### Soldiers on parade

From left, Mountainside Newcomers Club members Carol Goggin, Donna Pinto and Doreen Lana display a wooden soldier centerpiece which will be used during the organization's Holiday Banquet Fundraiser. The banquet will be at Pantages Renaissance in Scotch Plains Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m. For information, call Martha Perasso at (908) 654-7789.

### Film festival continues at Springfield library

The 1998 Dutch film "Character" will be shown at the Springfield Free Public Library Dec. 10, noon and 8 p.m. "Character," a psychological drama, won't director Mike Van Diem the 1998 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. The setting is 1925. Rotterdam, a city filled with hatred and greed. The town banish Dreyer from their homes is apparently murdered in cold blood. His illegitimate son, Jacob, is arrested as the prime suspect.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader in form of a directory of various community and civic and governmental meetings. For more information, call 908-666-7700 or visit our website at [www.localsource.com](http://www.localsource.com).

**Friday**  
The Summit Joint Dance Society will meet at the Summit W.C.A., Morris Avenue, and Maple Street, to learn dances from other countries such as Greece, Iceland and Romania. No partner are needed. Beginners start at 7:30 p.m. with the regular group starting at 8 p.m. The fee is \$2; for more information, call 973-584-1694.

**Sunday**  
The Trailside Nature and Science Center will present a family program at 2 p.m. called "Pond: an adventure into about the pond." The program is an adventure into the pond. The program is presented at 3:30 p.m. The program will introduce preschool children to the pond. The fee is \$5 per person and an admission will cost \$5 per person. \$2.50 for seniors. For more information, call 789-3670.

**Coming events**  
Dec. 4-6, 11-13  
The Int'l of the Holiday Code Boutique will hold its sixth annual boutique at the historic Heald House in Mountainside. The boutique will feature gifts from more than 35 artisans and will be located in Constitution Plaza near the library. Hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Dec. 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free.

**Dec. 6**  
The Trailside Nature and Science Center will host a planetarium show called "Festival of Light" at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The show is free and will feature a journey back thousands of years to find out about a celestial event that likely led to many holiday ceremonies today. Admission is \$5 per person. \$2.50 for seniors.

**Dec. 6**  
The Trailside Nature and Science Center will host a Nature Boutique from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hand-crafted jewelry from natural materials or with a nature theme, if available for purchase. A Kid's Craft show, where

items will be priced at \$3 or less, will also be available. Dec. 7  
Springfield will celebrate the holiday season at 6 p.m. on the Town Hall. Live with decorations, singing and a special visit by the elves. Everyone is welcome to live and quarters' smoochies. Following the celebration for hot chocolate, cider and doughnuts. For more information, call the Springfield Recreation Department at (973) 467-4666.

Dec. 10  
The Mountainside Recreation Department is sponsoring a bus trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The bus will leave from the Mountainside Chapel at 9 a.m. and will leave the museum at 3 p.m. for the return. Registration is \$15 per person, including admission to the museum and bus transportation. The fee for senior citizens is \$12 per person and museum members will be charged \$9 per person. Call the Mountainside Recreation Department at (908) 232-0915 to register or for more information.

Dec. 17  
The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will conduct a Great Books Discussion Group at 10 a.m. in the library meeting room. James "Beast in the Jungle" will be discussed and new members are welcome. For more information, call 973-376-0930.

Ongoing  
The Springfield Recreation Department has announced that blood pressure screening will be taken at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Hill, on the second Wednesday of every month at 10 p.m. The screening is open to all residents of Springfield and are done by visiting nurses. For more information, call 973-391-2227.

The Knights of Columbus, Springfield Council 5500, is conducting a program to collect glasses for "Eyes for the Needy." Glasses will be sent as far as Kenya, Zaire, Puerto Rico, Guatemala and Israel as well as the United States. Glasses are picked up at a bi-weekly basis and may be dropped off at any post office in the Springfield and Summit area. Large quantities may be picked up by calling 973-273-2477.

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

## Lodge calls Charity Night a success

On Oct. 16, Atlas Pythagoras Lodge 10 held its annual Charity Night in Westfield. Invitations were extended to numerous community organizations to attend the program for the purpose of receiving donations to assist them in continuing their respective charitable efforts.

Continuing a tradition of many years, the lodge distributed checks to representatives of 16 groups to recognize their charitable endeavors and to illustrate that charity is one of the principles upon which the Masonic fraternity is founded.

Included among the recipients were the Union County Sheriff's Office Breakfast Program, Railway Hospital Foundation, Contact We Care, KeyStone Community Residence, Mobile Meals of Westfield, Masonic Service Association of North America, Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, Garwood Rescue Squad, Westfield Rescue Squad, Fairview Rescue Squad, Mulhenny Medical Center, Bill

District Scholarship Program, Children's Learning Centers, Inter American Conductive Education Association, Occupational Center of Union County and Present Child Abuse.

Following the distribution of the checks, all of the recipients gave a brief synopsis of the type of work that their organization is performing.

To conclude the evening, refreshments were served, which afforded an opportunity for those present to exchange thoughts and ideas as to obtain a better understanding of their respective organizations.

The Charity Fund was established by the lodge in 1920 and is administered by a five-member committee which is chaired by R.W. Nicholas L. Pageant. R.W. Clarence E. Brunner serves as the treasurer. The founder of the Charity Fund, R.W. Harold Smith, currently serves as secretary.

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# Driver's sneezes cause four-car accident

**Springfield**

Three were injured when a four-car accident led to the ejection of one driver from her vehicle on 11-11 p.m. Nov. 17.

The driver of a white Chevy Cavalier said she was stopped at the stop sign on Stern Avenue while waiting for traffic to clear before entering Route 22 West. She said she then sneezed three times, causing her foot to accidentally slip on the gas, placing her car in the right lane of Route 22 West. A silver Honda Accord had been traveling in the lane and struck the Chevy, forcing it into the left lane.

Route 22 West. Unable to avoid collision, the driver of a Ford, who had been traveling in the left lane, braked and the Cavalier forcing the driver out of her car and into the road.

At the same time a tractor which had been traveling in the right lane behind the Accord, watched the Chevy spin into the left lane. The driver of the tractor was unable to stop and struck the Accord in the rear. He then steered the tractor off the road in order to avoid further damage or injury.

The driver of a silver BMW returned to his vehicle in the Alford parking lot on Route 22 Nov. 16 at 6:23 p.m. and discovered that it had been struck. The right rear portion was damaged, but the motorists who struck the vehicle had left the scene.

While approaching a curve, a motorist slid out of her lane Nov. 17 and struck another vehicle traveling on Commerce Avenue. The accident occurred at 8:55 a.m.

Slightly over an hour later, at 10 a.m. Nov. 17, a black Honda Accord was struck while driving south on Meisel Avenue. A brown Ford Thunderbird was attempting to turn left into South Springfield Avenue. The Thunderbird driver said the other motorist looked as if he was going to turn right onto South Springfield Avenue rather than continue straight on Meisel.

Two arrests were made at the Springfield Division of Motor Vehicles at 1:35 p.m. Nov. 17. Antonio Ramirez, i.k.a. Horacio Estrada, 40, was charged with tampering with records, forgery and wrongful impoundment. Elizabeth D. Zaccaria, 21, is also charged with presenting false records.

The JMK Auto Dealership on Route 22 East left grey vans parked around midnight Nov. 17. These vehicles parked in the lot were damaged. The first vehicle had the driver's side lock pried off, but there was no apparent attempt of vehicle theft. Vandalism attempted to enter the second car through the right passenger door. The lock was pried out but there was no entry into the vehicle. The third car had been entered by the right door lock and the ignition had been punched out in an attempt to steal the car.

Three or four slurs were damaged by a crayon blazer in the General Greene Shopping Center Nov. 17.

A driver attempting to park a Saturn made contact with a Mazda in an 859 Mountain Ave. parking lot Nov. 18. Damage was sustained to both vehicles.

A black Toyota Tercel began to merge into Springfield Avenue Nov.

**POLICE BLOTTER**

19 at 9 a.m. but struck the vehicle directly in front. The driver felt he thought the first vehicle had already merged into traffic.

After a relatively quiet morning Nov. 19, a silver Saturn and a green Infiniti met at 7:30 p.m. while traveling west on Morris Avenue. The driver of the Infiniti attempted to merge into the right lane from the left and struck the Saturn which was already traveling in the right lane.

The driver of a Toyota said she accidentally hit the accelerator while attempting to apply the brakes. This reaction caused her to strike a silver Dodge at 2:31 p.m. Nov. 19 on Mountain Avenue.

Two vehicles collided Nov. 19 in the parking lot of 7-IT at 9:40 p.m. The driver of a red Chevy said she had just pulled into the lot when a black Dodge backed out of a parking space and jostled the front of her car.

A pedestrian was injured in front of a Garden Oval Residence Nov. 20 at 2:28 p.m. The driver of a white Cadillac Deville backed out of the garage and started rolling down the driveway when the driver saw the pedestrian on the ground. The pedestrian said he had been on the sidewalk when the car struck him, backing up, but thought he had enough time to pass the driveway.

A domain affect took place at 5:15 p.m. Nov. 20 when a black Dodge struck a beige Mercedes that

was stopped in traffic on Morris Avenue. The Mercedes then struck the vehicle in front, a Laidlaw Transit bus. The driver of the Dodge said the car slid on wet pavement as brakes were applied.

A similar incident occurred at 5:43 p.m. Nov. 20 on Meisel Avenue. The driver of a red Toyota Camry attempted to stop but struck a green Ford, which then rear-ended an Acura Integra which then hit the back of a red Jeep.

An accident took place in front of the Amoco station Nov. 20 at 11:48 p.m. The driver of a black Mazda pulling out of the Amoco lot collided with a red Nissan traveling south on Meisel Avenue.

A motorist in a black Pontiac struck the rear of a white Chevy Lumina Nov. 21 at 1:43 p.m. The two vehicles had been waiting on Hillside Avenue to enter Route 22 West.

The driver of a green Pontiac struck a black Nissan Maxima while attempting to pass the Maxima. The Maxima had been attempting to make a right turn from Dunder Road onto Farm Road Nov. 21 at 2:37 p.m.

The West to East turn on Route 22 saw bumpers collide when a brown Chevy resident driving a white Toyota was struck by a local driver in a black Lincoln.

At 11 a.m. Nov. 22, a grey Mercedes struck the rear of a red Honda Civic when the vehicle was stopped from traffic on Route 22 East.

Mountainside

An out-of-date stop sign struck

the attention of Sgt. Scott Workwick while on patrol on Route 22. His investigation of the vehicle revealed that the driver, Sultan Woodward of Prange, had been arrested on two previous occasions for driving with a suspended driver's license. The 23-year-old security guard faces the count for the third time on this charge following his arrest Nov. 22.

A 25-year-old Morrisville resident was stopped on Route 22 for an inoperative brake light, but computer checks revealed she was sought on failure-to-appear charges from Dunellen. Stephanie Cotler was arrested Nov. 22 at 10:28 a.m. on the charge of driving with a suspended driver's license.

Dave L. Clark, 24, of Irvington was pulled over on Route 22 Nov. 19 for motor vehicle violations, and arrested at 10:06 a.m. for driving with a suspended driver's license.

Felix Cruz, a 19-year-old Elizabethtown resident, was pulled over on Route 22 Nov. 18 for speeding and subsequently arrested when a computer check revealed he was wanted on a warrant out of Seaside Heights.

Borough police observed Henry Maguira driving on Route 22, but due to the obstructed view caused by a broken window he may not have seen the 22-year-old Paterson resident who was pulled over at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 17 and could not produce valid identification or vehicle insurance, said police. He was arrested on charges of possession of altered documents.

## Poster honors



Sandmeier School Principal Betty White and students Charles Telipusky and Nicholas Florenza display a Veterans Day poster drawn by Vice Commander Elnel Smith and Chaplain Commander Bill Smith of American Legion Post 228. The poster was displayed in the lobby of the school.

## Reptilian friends



Borough resident Rebecca Witt, 7, enjoys the skin of a baby crocodile at a program hosted by the Mountainside Public Library.

## Firefighters urge safety during holidays

**Springfield**

The holiday season is a time of celebration but, unfortunately, also is a time when many house fires begin.

"Unattended cooking is the cause of the majority of all fires, not just in our township but in the nation," said Fire Official Dave Maas.

And if you didn't replace the batteries in your smoke detector during the change for daylight savings time, this holiday weekend is another opportunity for you to do so, he said.

Unattended furnaces and fireplaces are another source of many house fires, Maas said. A qualified inspector should check your furnace for maintenance every year, and a qualified chimney sweep should inspect your chimney and fireplace before you light that first fire of the year.

Christmas trees should be kept fresh with water checked on a daily basis to make sure that moisture is retained in the needles. Artificial trees should be labeled as fire-resistant. Any lights that go on the tree or your house should be UL-approved, and plugged into an approved electrical strip. And never leave Christmas or Chanukah candles unattended.

The first call of Nov. 15 came at 7:06 p.m. when all units responded to a Morris Avenue residence for an activated fire alarm.

Nov. 16 began early for the department when they responded to a Morris Avenue business for an activated alarm. Much later in the day, at 10:02 p.m., all units responded to a

## FIRE BLOTTER

Madison Terrace residence for smoke in the house.

The squad that responded to a medical service call Nov. 16.

At 10:04 a.m. Nov. 17 the department was dispatched to Meisel Avenue for a motor vehicle accident with a spill. They bookedend the day at 10:22 p.m. when firefighters were sent to Route 22 West and Stern Avenue for another spill caused by a motor vehicle accident.

This squad responded to seven medical service calls Nov. 17.

A spill from a motor vehicle accident Nov. 18 at 8:31 a.m. sent firefighters to Springfield Avenue. At 9:21 p.m., they were dispatched to a Briar Hills Circle residence for a theft.

They also responded to two medical service calls.

Nov. 19 began early for the Springfield Fire Department. Firefighters were dispatched at 4:47 a.m. to Route 78 West for a motor vehicle accident with injuries. At 1:35 p.m. the squad responded to Morris Avenue for a motor vehicle accident with a spill.

The squad responded to two medical service calls on the day.

At 9:57 a.m. Nov. 20, firefighters responded to a Morris Avenue business for an activated fire alarm. At 10:04 p.m., they were dispatched to South Springfield Avenue and Independence Way for a motor vehicle accident with injuries.

The department also responded to three medical service calls.

Nov. 21 began at 1:27 p.m. when the squad responded to a Route 22 East business for a car fire. At 8:57 p.m., firefighters arrived at a Lynn Drive residence to investigate an odor of something burning in the area.

## Offices closed

The offices of this newspaper will be closed Thursday and Friday in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. We will reopen Monday, Nov. 30.

The deadlines for the Dec. 3 column are as follows:

- Lifestyle, including church and club news, etc. — Friday, noon.
- Letters to the editor — Monday, 9 a.m.
- What's Going On — Monday, 4 p.m.
- Monday ads — Monday noon for Section B and 5 p.m. for Section A.
- Sports news — Friday, 9 a.m.
- General news — Tuesday, 9 a.m.
- Classified advertising — Tuesday, 3 p.m.
- Legal advertising — Tuesday, noon.

## Correction policy

In the policy of this newspaper to correct all significant errors that are brought to the editor's attention, if you believe that we have made such an error, please write Tom Canavan, editor in chief, 1291 Struyversdrive Ave., Union, 07883, or call him at 686-7700 Ext. 329 on weekdays before 5 p.m.

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# COMMUNITY FORUM

## Be thankful

Across the country tomorrow, Americans will gather for the annual observance of Thanksgiving.

Some three centuries ago, our nation's settlers were not consumed with football games, holiday shopping, or even the wonderful opportunity to join with those we hold most dear and see all too infrequently.

There was a different reason, one of celebration, of fellowship, of triumph and of appreciation. Facing an untamed wilderness across the ocean from civilization, these men and women ventured forth to make new lives in a new land. With little else but their determination, their will and strength and, most importantly, their steadfast faith in God, they created in what is now Massachusetts a "new world," rich with hope and promise, but fraught with hardship, illness and pain.

Despite these obstacles, the settlers prevailed and, with the allegiance of the Native Americans, brought forth a bounty in harvest. To celebrate this victory, to mark their fellowship with their new neighbors, to partake of the fruits of their labors and to offer their undying appreciation to God, they gathered for the first Thanksgivings.

Three hundred years has slowly had its effect on this holiday. With the accessibility of nearly anything we might need, it is often all too easy to forget to be thankful. We need not harvest a crop when there is the local supermarket; we need not shoulder to shoulder with our neighbors in no longer a precariousness of achieving the common good, and good health is all but guaranteed by the wonders of modern medicine.

Yes, there is still hardship and disease, where the settlers feared the wild beasts, we fear crime and, for many, asking for change on the street has replaced the uphill battle of tending an uncultivated land.

For those of us who will be blessed tomorrow with the company of the ones we love and a table filled with succulent food, the reasons to be thankful do therein. There will be those who, if lucky, will eat at a shelter before heading back out onto the streets; there will be those whose homes will not be filled with tempting drama, but the sound of anger and sadness; yet there are those who will simply be alone searching for a reason to be thankful.

However, it is incumbent upon all of us to remember that, in spite of the fact that all people of every age must face strife, each day is a gift and each triumph over adversity a small miracle to itself. Though our tables tomorrow will not be laden with food we have grown and fowl we have hunted, it is still a blessing to join together, to break bread and to be able to greet a new day.

And perhaps the greatest blessing of all is that we will gather in a time when our very sustenance does not require the back-breaking labor, put forth by our forebears, whose work laid the foundation on which our horse now rests.

## School evaluation demands more

A recent assessment of Springfield's public schools was presented during last week's Board of Education meeting. The findings of the evaluation, conducted by William Lebra of Educational Nexus, point out several areas where the school district merits praise but also brings to light issues which call for changes. We urge the Board of Education to consider these issues with care.

One conclusion of the evaluation was that while the level of guidance counselor support at Jonathan Dayton High School is exceptionally high, guidance services at the middle school compares at a significantly lower level. This should be corrected — while middle school students do not have the immediate pressures of college applications common to those in high school, middle school students' developmental concerns warrant equal or more attention than that needed by older teens. Emotional problems begin before students reach high school.

Lebra's evaluation also concluded that more advanced technology should be implemented in classrooms. In an era when computer illiteracy equals unemployment in most career fields, the Board of Education should consider that failing to provide a technologically modern curriculum could end up being a serious disservice to township students. We hope school officials consider these points in their upcoming discussions of the recent assessment.

**"The First Amendment directs us to be especially skeptical of regulations that seek to keep people in the dark for what the government perceives to be their own good."**

**John Paul Stevens  
Supreme Court Justice  
1996**

**Echo Leader**  
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**EXOTIC FEAST** — A fictional hero from Bora Bora inspired this real Polynesian feast at Florence M. Gaudiner Middle School in Springfield. From left: Koula-Louros, Zachery McDougal, Melissa Guida, Pranoyji Banerjee, Jamie Sauns, Raquel Domatzky, Anna D' Achille and Adam Hirst from the fifth grade communication arts class sample the treats.

## Photography evolved through sweat, tears

These days everybody has a camera. And some of them, and many of those cameras are sometimes referred to as "digital cameras," as if they've got little intelligence to take good pictures with them. That little black box does all the focusing and calculates the proper exposure of the film and winds the film frame into position all in a matter of seconds.

### The Way It Was

By William Frolich

It wasn't always this easy. The art of photography started back in 1839 when it was noticed that a solution of silver bromide darkened as it was exposed to light, and experimenters realized that this fact had possibilities. Well-known to them was an interesting device called in Latin a "camera obscura" or "black box."

Today it's called a pinhole camera and is typically a small box, black on the inside, with a pinhole in the center of one end and a translucent screen at the other end. A piece of ground glass or even a piece of glass paper can be used. When pointed at a lighted area, the pinhole acts as a lens and an image is visible on the screen.

By substituting a plate covered with a silver bromide solution, the experimenters found that they could produce a negative image and that the negative image could be made to become a positive image of the subject. This ability to make a photograph did not happen overnight, and indeed, the work of improving the photographic process is still continuing.

Most of the early pictures were produced using glass plates coated with the light-sensitive emulsion, but small sheets of metal were also used, and by etching the image, "tin types" were made. Some of them are still found in old family albums. As late as the mid-1920s, street photographers were still using an type camera and setting the finished photos in the subject, who had to wait only a few minutes for the results.

Some of the most famous photos were taken by Matthew Brady, who photographed Abraham Lincoln ever before he became president and made a career of photography during the Civil War. It is hard to imagine the difficulties "under" which Brady labored to produce his record of that war.

He traveled with a box-like horse-drawn wagon that was his darkroom, and equipment carrier. His bulky camera had to be mounted on a tripod for use and he composed his pictures on a ground-glass screen on the back of the camera. A large cloth blown over his head and the camera enabled

him to see the image during daylight. Once the camera was aimed and focused, Brady had to go into his flapping darkroom and wait a glass plate with the light-sensitive emulsion. He had to coat the plate within five minutes of exposure and then develop the image within the next five minutes of the image would deteriorate.

When the plate was ready for use, he had to slip into a light-tight plate holder and then into the camera. After withdrawing the protective cover from the plate holder, the exposure could be made and the proper time of that exposure depended upon the experience of the photographer.

The emulsion that was used in those days was very slow to respond to the light that fell upon it, so that "normal" exposure was measured in minutes. Some cameras did not even have shutters, but instead the photographer removed the lens cap to take the picture and replaced it to stop the exposure. If the subject was a person in a studio, a clamp was placed to that it would not be seen, but would hold the person's head so that it could not move and blur the photo. This technique was used for many years.

The "cameraman's" life became much simpler after glass plates were invented and manufactured, for they were easier to use and did not have to be exposed immediately. Amateur vision found photography an interest-

ing hobby and recorded their families and friends as well as scenes of their neighborhood. Many of these glass negatives were used to print transparent positives and lantern slides were made. In early Roseville, John Warner presented slide shows of pictures he had taken around town over a 20-year period.

When George Eastman invented a flexible film that could be rolled around a spool and manufactured a simple camera to use a picture-taking grew by leaps and bounds. His slogan was "You push the button, we do the rest." The users of his cameras did not have to load them; they were purchased loaded. When the film was used up, the camera was returned to the maker for processing.

There was a slight difficulty with these first point-and-shoot cameras, for they were loaded with enough film to take one hundred pictures, which for some people caused a long delay before they saw the results of their efforts. This difficulty was easily overcome by placing a much shorter length of film in the camera. One advantage of this camera was that there was no need to turn the camera sideways for an oblong picture, as this camera took only round photos.

William Frolich is a member of the Union County Historical Society and a frequent columnist for this newspaper.

## Count your blessings at Thanksgiving meal

Well, my friends, the time of anticipation is just about over. The turkey is purchased, the "thimble" is looking for a festive dinner for next year. All the rest of the ingredients for your year's "leave your mark at the door" and "eat, drink and be merry" are ready and waiting to be incorporated into their various dishes.

All that's left is to make my annual "list" every year, a list of all the various good fortunes that I have enjoyed in the past year. At our Thanksgiving meal, each of us tells of one item from his or her list for which they are especially grateful and give thanks.

Rather than torture you all with my personal list, I've generalized it so that perhaps you too can begin to realize just how special your life truly is and join the rest of us in counting our blessings on this day. If it brings that we remember them on such occasions, both that September and at a plentiful summer and the company of good friends and family.

We should be thankful that, as a nation, we are still strong enough to be the ever-present beacon of life, liberty and freedom.

We should be happy that as a state, a county and a town, in general, we have survived the type of mass destruction and horrors of the hurricane season that Mother Nature chose to throw at other provinces and countries less lucky. As a town, at least the labor Day romances did not result in jobs of life — the most grateful outcome of this. Although I've got to say this, a plague of geese, a plague of rats and now a plague of incredibly

### Give Us A Smile

By John Shackley

uncharacteristic weather, one more strange phenomenon and I'm out of here.

The temporary loss of our creature comforts should only make us appreciate the fact that they exist at all. I would personally not be too thrilled at the prospect of preparing our dinner completely from scratch instead of buying things from the grocery freezer and refrigerator. As a matter of fact, a note to my family and friends — if the power goes out and leaves us with no oven, no stove, no microwave and — gasp — no television, I'm home.

I don't want you all at my home, bored, hungry and God forbid, trying to have conversations with each other instead of the football coaches. Most importantly, if you think I'll be making the team outside in the cold on our small little grill, you are sorely mistaken — seek the nearest fast food joint with hot food.

Speaking of family and friends, to the new additions of the winter circles through marriage, friendships and births, welcome one and all. We are delighted at your additions to our tables.

Add to those of you who have lost the light of any loved ones who, take comfort in the time we had

together with them and the memories we've all created together. Our lives are much richer, but having been laughed by their antics, may we continue to share brightly in our hearts.

For those who have an aversion any type of addictions, be it drugs, alcohol or like itself, nicotine. Congratulations and let it all be thankful that we found the strength to win the battle. May we all now truly taste the food of this special day for the first time and find it to be as delicious as we dreamed.

I know I promised not to bore you with my list, but I want to share one of the important items with all of you in the hopes that the "lightbulb" will go off in someone else's head too. I am especially grateful for that whatever cosmic reason, I finally realized this year that life and the joy and sorrow of living is a privilege to be savoring each and every day. It is not a thing to be squandered in around work and making

money as if it were a burden to be tolerated.

I want to apologize to my family and friends for not understanding this sooner. I want to thank them for their indulgence all these years and I also want to thank my new boss Barry and his general manager, Steve for showing me that you can work hard during the day. But your off-time after your eight hours are served is supposed to be yours to live. I am now learning, how to live as I am grateful for that factor they have shown me called respect.

Finally, I want to convey my heart, feel with (for all of you) to have a year 50 full of great things. Accomplishments and personal growth that when the next Thanksgiving Day comes around — your own list of blessings is so long it touches the sky. Now smile, everybody — it's time to eat!

John Shackley is a frequent columnist for this newspaper.

## 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 is also open to all officials and employees of the borough and the County of Union.

The Echo Leader reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content and style. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification.

For publication, all letters and essays must be received before 9 a.m. Monday at 1201 Sylvan Ave. Union, NJ 07083.

The Echo Leader also accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via e-mail. The address is: WCN22@localsource.com.

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 Infocourse 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**

**What are you thankful for this Thanksgiving?**



Ann Ehrhardt

"I'm thankful for my four healthy children."



Linda Corona

"For my family and my friends, and for the opportunity to work with children."



Denise Ciraso

"I'm most thankful for my health. I believe without that nothing else matters."



Mary Maresca

"I'm thankful for everything that I have — my family, my crazy children and my health!"

**Fantini awarded highest honor in scouting**

On Nov. 8 at an Eagle Court of Honor in his name, Springfield resident Jeff Fantini was awarded the highest honor in scouting — the award of Eagle Scout.

Guests of the ceremony included Roy Hirschfeld of the Springfield Township Committee, Assemblyman Joel Weingarten, who presented a resolution from the State Legislature, members of the American Legion, VFW, Jewish War Veterans, and the Springfield Lion Club and the Rotary Club. Other dignitaries and citizens were presented from Senator Bassano, Gerald R. Irgal, Vice President Al Gore, Senator Frank R. Lautenberg, Senator Robert Torricelli, Congressman Bob Franks, Governor Christine Todd Whitman, King John Paul II, The Knights of Columbus, The U.S. Navy, and The Spirit and Steel Association.

Springfield Boy Scout Troop 73 and Scoutmaster Gerry Gebauer are no strangers to this prestigious award. Four other young men have attained Eagle status in the past two years.

Attaining the Eagle rank is a small task as a scout has to move up the ranks of scouting from Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and be active in the troop for six months as a Life Scout. Scouts must also demonstrate good spirit, earn a total of 21 merit badges and be actively in a troop leadership position and plan, organize and complete a community service project. It is easy to see why only about two percent nationally of the young men in scouting, ever attain this level.

Under the direction of Holly Hoffman, director of Wildlife Museum at Watchung Reservation, Fantini contributed his love of the outdoors and nature by returning approximately an acre of land in Watchung Reservation back to its natural state for the Eagle



Jeff Fantini displays his numerous scouting badges and awards next to a Springfield Township display in his honor.

Project. This involved many hours of vision, fiscal oversight and business-like planning. Fantini's project included the installation of new native plants and trees, wire fencing that would be used to make wire cages and protecting the new plantings and wood to build bird houses throughout the area.

This was accomplished in no small part to the generous donations of area nurseries and garden shops.

Then Fantini spent many hours on his own leading fellow scouts and adults in the actual removal of the invasive plants and trees and the planting of all new native trees and plants. This is where the leadership and managerial skills learned in scouting were tested and further passed with flying colors.

Watchung Reservation is particularly special to Jeff, and to all of his

troop as they frequently camp there along with others from the local council. The countless people that walk, hike, horseback ride and ping in this area will reap the benefits from this project.

Fantini is a resident of Springfield and the son of Ronald and Kathleen Fantini. He is a junior at St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen.

**Katz appointed to research**

Spacey P. Katz of Springfield, a senior at Syracuse University's College of Arts and Sciences, has been appointed the first undergraduate research associate at the Center for Environmental Policy and Administration.

Established within the prestigious Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse, CEPA encourages research, teaching and outreach in the field of environmental policy. The Maxwell School is the nation's preeminent learning establishment in the field of public policy and policy administration.

According to Professor W. Harry Lambright, CEPA's director, "For some time, we have thought it might be useful to have an outstanding senior at CEPA, which has always been restricted to professors and graduate students in the masters and doctoral programs. Last year, I taught an undergraduate course in environmental policy and recognized Ms. Katz as a truly outstanding student — definitely the best in that course. I knew that she would be the ideal candidate for our pilot project and to become the first undergraduate senior integrated into CEPA."

"Ms. Katz has been working diligently on a proposed CEPA project called 'WASA and the National Jobs Act' helping us to identify scholars who might contribute to this project," said Lambright. "Because we cannot pay her for her work, Ms. Katz will earn experience credits within her undergraduate program in environmental policy. Her dedication to the task and the quality of her work have justified our choice in selecting Ms. Katz as our very first undergraduate CEPA associate. Because of her success, others will follow."



Angelo Ungro, front, joins volunteers and staff of WRGSC to beautify the front of the building. From left, other gardeners Barbara DiBisce, Melissa Arredondo, Terri Bondaroff and Aura Brilo plant mums in front of the Council Service Center.

**Scouts support Americans with Disabilities**

A group of Watchung Rock Girl Scout Council staff and volunteers recently planted flowers generously donated by Cary's Florists of Watchung and Williams Nursery of Westfield along the front of their building at 201 Grove St. East. The plantings help illustrate the need for funding to maintain the building to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations.

WRGSC has 11,000 members throughout Union County and hopes that this beautification project will draw public attention and donations for the ADA compliance renovation. Donations may be sent to WRGSC, 201 Grove St. East, Westfield, 07090. Also, Diane Lampert-Badatta, fund development/public relations director.

**ADVERTISMENT**

**NEW GT BICYCLES DEALERSHIP OPENS IN SUMMIT**

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"With many forms of bicycles having been sold and sold over the years, selecting quality bicycles is a real challenge. Every year we expect to see many new models and styles. As the market evolves, we want to be sure that we have the best selection of bicycles available to increase activity and enjoyment of cycling around town, including a safe country mile on a mountain bike or providing a ride with the latest and best equipment of the two-wheeled industry. We want to thank all segments of our society."

Showing our formal appreciation of a great business we have established in New Jersey with the opening of GT Bicycles' newest dealership, Cycle Palace located at 201 Industrial Place. The staff of Cycle Palace is ready to assist customers in finding the right bicycle for their needs. "We have expanded our product line to include all types of bikes from the casual to expert and everything in between," said John Maresca, owner of Cycle Palace. "We are also proud to be sponsoring GT Bicycles' national events, State and County Championships. To find out more about the latest news in cycling and Cycle Palace, please contact us at: Washington, D.C. at 202-273-0002."

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# OBITUARIES

## Salvatore Picciuto

Salvatore Sam D. Picciuto, 65, of Summit, died Nov. 12 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Mrs. Morrison was active with the Golf Stream Club and Tennis Club of Del Ray Beach, the Ballou's Golf Club of Springfield, the Golf Stream Club of Gulf Stream, Fla., and St. Andrew's Club of Del Ray Beach.

Surviving are two sons, Douglas and Bruce H., a stepson, James C. Morrison Jr., four grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

## Eleanor Bruck

Eleanor Bruck, 84, of Springfield, died Nov. 15 in the Berkeley Heights Convalescent Center.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Bruck lived in Irvington before moving to Springfield 34 years ago. She was a member of the Granddads, a volunteer music group that plays at area nursing homes and at the Runnelle Specialized Hospital, Berkeley Heights. She also was a member of the Springfield Senior Citizens Group.

Surviving are a daughter, Marlene, of Orange, and Ann E., a sister, Margaret Latrine, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

## Dave Chaiken

Dave Chaiken, 64, of Springfield, formerly of Hillside, died Nov. 13 at home.

Born in Newark, Mr. Chaiken lived in Hillside before moving to Springfield 12 years ago. He owned the Dave Chaiken Co., Newark, for 50 years and retired 20 years ago.

Surviving are his wife, Rose Ann, Richard, 3 daughters, Dolores, Zuber, 13, grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

## Mary Morrison

Mary Morrison, 86, of Del Ray Beach, Fla., formerly of Summit, died Nov. 10 at home.

Born in Minneapolis, Minn., Mrs. Morrison lived in Summit, Short Hills and back to Summit before moving to Del Ray Beach. She attended Smith College many years ago. Mrs. Morrison was a town activist and a member of the Short Hills Town Church Guild of Christ Church, Short Hills, the Short Hills Club and the Junior League of Short Hills and the Oranges. She also served on the board

## Dr. Lewis Brandwein

Dr. Lewis Brandwein, 82, of Springfield, formerly of Kenilworth, died Nov. 10 at home.

Born in Newark, Dr. Brandwein lived in Irvington, Cranford and Kenilworth before moving to Springfield in 1990. He had a medical practice in Kenilworth for the past 35 years. For 35 years, Dr. Brandwein served on the staff of the Elizabeth General Medical Center, Elizabeth, and Union Hospital, where he was one of the founding physicians. He retired this year.

Dr. Brandwein received a bachelor's degree in pharmacology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1958 and a doctorate of osteopathic medicine from the Winess-City School of

Osteopathic Medicine in 1962. He was a member of the YMCA, Elizabeth.

Surviving are two sons, David and Dr. Daniel Brandwein, a sister, Barbara Brown, and a grandchild.

## Marie Mason

Marie Mason, 84, of Summit, died Nov. 10 at home.

Born in Calkins, N.Y., Mrs. Mason lived in Summit for 41 years. She was a 1943 graduate of the Katherine Gibbs School, Boston, Mass. Mrs. Mason was a member of the vestry and the interclass director of the Altar Guild, a head of women, a lay reader and chalice bearer, all of the Calvary Episcopal Church, Summit. She also was a member of the Philanthropic Educational Organization Club, Chapter 6, of New Jersey.

Surviving are three sons, David H., Robert H. and William C., six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

## Jean O. Storey

Jean O. Storey, 77, a lifelong resident of Summit, died Nov. 9 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Mrs. Storey was a secretary to the general manager of Ballou's Golf Club, Springfield, for 29 years and retired in 1971.

Surviving are two sons, John D. and James G., a brother, John D. O'Leary, and four grandchildren.

## Lewis Sheps

Lewis Sheps, 88, of Old Bridge, formerly of Springfield, a retired attorney, died Nov. 12 in Ramapo Bay Medical Center, Old Bridge Division.

Born in New York City, Mr. Sheps lived in Newark and Springfield before moving to the Old Bridge Manor Nursing Home in Newark and Highlands for many years and retired in 1985. Mr. Sheps was a 1931

graduate of Columbia University, New York City, and a 1933 graduate of Dana College, now Rutgers Law School. He was a member of the Lambda Alpha Phi Fraternity, New York City.

Mr. Sheps had been the campaign manager for the former Mayor John A. Brady in Newark. He was a superior chief ranger with the Foresters of America, Court 98, Springfield. Mr. Sheps was a former president and chairman of the board of trustees of Abrahams' Israel Synagogue in Newark. He was a former president of the Yacht Club in the Highlands.

Surviving are a daughter, Sheila Nebel, a son, Marjio, a sister, Ida Joseph, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

## Gertrude Lissner

Gertrude Lissner, 84, of Springfield, died Nov. 12 at home.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Lissner lived in Irvington before moving to Springfield in 1964. She was a bookkeeper for Parlux TRW Mountaintops for 25 years and retired in 1978. Mrs. Lissner was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the First Ukrainian Presbyterian Church, Irvington.

Surviving are a daughter, Susan Rogers, a son, Robert, three grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

## Obituary policy

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



Margarieta Paslaru-Sencovici, artistic director of "M Soul Productions, presents Jacqueline Vogelmann, Executive Director of SAGE, with the video "Gratitude," which she filmed and directed for broadcast on TV-36.

## Resident uses SAGE as focus of recent film

For three years, Summit resident and world-famous Romanian pop star, Margarieta Paslaru-Sencovici, has been delivering SAGE's Meals-on-Wheels. She is moved by the experience as well as the work the organization does. Her enthusiasm for SAGE was the catalyst for "Gratitude," a film Paslaru-Sencovici made about SAGE's day-to-day services.

"When I see the joyful faces of these people who get the Meals-on-Wheels, I'm thinking of my grandparents. I am happy to be part of helping any old and needy person, and I would love to introduce the idea in Romania," she said.

What she has done is chronicle the many activities and services that SAGE offers the elderly and their families in the community. The film depicts the workings of Home Care, Spend-a-Day, In-Home Care and Meals-on-Wheels.

Paslaru-Sencovici is a multi-faceted artist who recently completed her 40th anniversary tour of North America and was awarded the 1998 Humanitarian Award in Los Angeles for helping orphanages. As an actress, songwriter, TV host, pop and folk singer, she is happy to use her talents to help community programs like SAGE, the Child Life Program at Overlook Hospital and Make a Difference, Inc. Romania.

"When we are young, we struggle to make a name for ourselves," Paslaru-Sencovici said. "Becoming mature, we must use this 'name' in helping others. Confiding on 'Gratitude,' she said. "People have such great power. They notice something isn't quite right and they take action to remedy it. 'We the people' is a very powerful thing. I'm learning this all the time. I hope viewers will be equally inspired and moved, as I am, to become a volunteer with SAGE."

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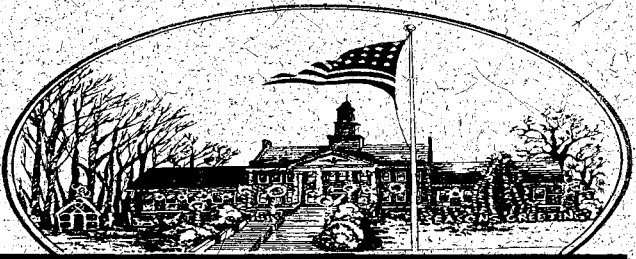
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# 15th Annual Holiday Celebration

# HOME

For The Holiday



## TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1998

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES - 10 AM - 3 PM - "FREE" Kiddie Rides

In Front Of The Municipal Building

3 PM - 5 PM - D.J. JOEY "T" playing Holiday Music

5 PM - Holiday Music - Union Township Municipal Band

John Bunnell, Director

Holiday Songs - Kassy Ciasulli

6 PM - HOLIDAY PARADE - Connecticut Farms School to Town Hall

6:30 PM TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

SANTA'S ARRIVAL

Children can visit with Santa in the main meeting room of the Municipal Building.

HORSE & BUGGY RIDES - Every Friday, starting November 27th thru December 15th 6 PM - 9 PM

GUESS??? How many Candy Kisses in the jar? Located in the Union Library. 1st Prize \$200 Bond, 2nd Prize \$100 Bond, 3rd Prize \$50 Bond. Winners will be notified by phone and/or mail on December 22, 1998.

TOYS will be collected all day at the Showmobile in front of the Municipal Building. Residents are encouraged to drop off new, unwrapped toys that will be distributed to the less fortunate children of the community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE RECREATION DEPT. AT 686-4200

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**NEWS CLIPS**

**Library to host literacy day**

Literary Volunteers of Union County will be holding a Literacy Library Day at the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This is for all interested potential or current students and tutors. Tutors will be able to find out what materials are available to use and how to solve problems. Potential tutors can find out about the program. Interested students can be assessed if they call the LVA office at (908) 490-0333 to make an appointment for that day.

**Grassie participates in cooperative**

Marine Chief Warrant Officer Kevin T. Grassie, son of Richard and Marie Grassie of Springfield, recently participated in Exercise Cooperative Best Effort '98 in the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit.

**Clothing drive boasts Frosty the Snowman**

Springfield elementary school children are invited to participate in Frosty's Hats, Mittens and Scarves Drive for Needy Children sponsored by Maplecrest Lincoln Mercury Inc. Children are invited to enjoy refreshments with Frosty the Snowman at 2800 Springfield Ave., Union on Dec. 12, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Participants are asked to bring new hats, mittens and gloves to the event, which will be donated to needy children through The Salvation Army, East Orange.

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Jolie Schachter and Alex Tarantino

**Schachter to wed Tarantino**

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Schachter of Springfield have announced the engagement of their daughter, Jolie Hene Schachter, to Alex Robert Tarantino, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carmine Tarantino of Mountaineer.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of the University of Florida and Fairleigh Dickinson University. She is employed by Lum. Darrat, Drasco, Poirian & Kleinberg, LLC of Roseland as a paralegal.

The future groom is employed by PSE&G of Newark as a product support specialist.

An August 1999 wedding is planned.

**Hockstein to wed Chotiner**

Donald Hockstein of Springfield has announced the engagement of his daughter, Alisha Jane Hockstein, to Martin Chotiner, son of Esther Chotiner and the late William Chotiner of Delray Beach, Fla.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Jonathan Dayton Regional High School, the University of Maryland and Kean University. She is employed by the Board of Education of Scotch Plains-Fanwood as a special education teacher.

The future groom is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts and Harvard University. He is employed by The Prudential in Newark as a vice president tax administrator.

A March 1999 wedding is planned.

**Kupisk achieves academic honor**

Michael Kupisk, the son of Alla Shore of Springfield, has achieved academic honors for the first marking period at the New York Military Academy, Cornwall-on-Hudson. Kupisk, a tenth grade student, was

**Budding scientists**



From left, fourth grade Caldwell School students Andrew Garcia, Alyssa Slocki, Janine Kalfoniet, and Julie Palermo observe and record data about chicken eggs. Students inferred what the functions of the parts were in order to better understand how the shell, yolk, twisted strands, lining and egg white help a developing chick.

**Weingarten, O'Toole sponsor tax bill**

Legislation sponsored by Assemblyman Joel M. Weingarten and Kevin J. O'Toole that would allow municipalities to recoup expenses incurred when responding to accidents on state highway was recently introduced.

The measure, A-2577, would allow municipalities to recoup the cost of personnel and equipment used in reacting to emergency highway situa-

tions on state or federal highways and toll roads. The municipalities would be able to submit requests to the Department of Community Affairs for payment of up to \$1,500 per incident and up to \$1,500 per year. The obligations would be paid by funds appropriated to the Highway Accident Property Tax Relief Fund. Payment would be made in the state fiscal year following the fiscal year in which a claim was made, thereby ensuring more accurate reimbursement appropriations.

"Communities around our state host a variety of state and federal roadways within their boundaries," said Weingarten, R-Union, Essex. "At times, accidents or other emergencies occur requiring the host communities to respond. Such costs should not be paid for by local taxpayers, as the accident happened on state or federal roadways, not local streets."

"My bill would give relief to property taxpayers for providing police and other municipal emergency assistance at accidents along state or federal roads within their community," Weingarten said. "The state pays for maintenance and improvements along those roadways. It should pay also for the cost of emergency services."

"I join my colleague in this legislation for I believe it provides just compensation to municipalities that are trying to do the right thing by responding to accidents on arteries which are not their own," said O'Toole.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINEER  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that public hearings will be held by the Planning Board on the following agenda: Monday, November 23, 1998, 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 1305 Mountain Road, Mountaineer, NJ on December 10, 1998, 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 207 Sheffield Street, Rock 7 D, L.R. Ground sign application. Various issues may be discussed and action may be taken.  
Ruth M. Raess  
Secretary

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SPORTS

High School Football
Tonight: Summit at Weequahic, 7:00
Tomorrow: Dayton at Brearley, 10:30
Tomorrow: New Providence at GL, 10:30

THIS IS H.S. FOOTBALL

By J.R. Parachini
Sports Editor
All 12 area teams will wrap up their 1998 seasons with games scheduled to be played tonight and tomorrow.

Roselle and Elizabeth were defeated in NISIAA sectional semifinal contests last weekend. Fourth-seeded Roselle, which was seeking to reach the North Jersey Section 2 Group 2 final for the first time since 1990, played well but was eventually felled by top-seeded Caldwell 34-7 Saturday in a game played at Bonded Field in West Caldwell. The Rams led 2-0 at the half before the following championship Caldwell (10-0) rolled to its 11th consecutive victory.

Elizabeth was defeated by Plainfield for a second time this year as the Mounties best a 20-12 North Jersey Section 2 Group 4 decision Sunday at Rutgers Stadium in Piscataway. Fourth-seeded Elizabeth still led the last play to defeat Plainfield (10-0) as it downed the Cardinals 14-7 in last year's state game at High Point Field.

Union, Hillsdale and Ramsey were scheduled to play regional semifinal games Wednesday.

WEEK EVENTS
Wednesday, Nov. 25, 7:00
Summit vs. Weequahic at Newark's Cherriman Field.
Thursday, Nov. 26
Seaside Plains at Union, 10:30
Elizabeth at Cranford, 10:30
East Side at Linden, 10:30
Roselle at Roselle Park, 10:30
Newark Cent at Hillsdale, 10:30
Ridge at Johnson, 10:30
Dayton at Digby, 10:30
New Providence at GL, 10:30
Rahway at Kearny, 11:00

WEEK-END
NISIAA Semifinals
Saturday, Nov. 21
North 2 Group 2
Elizabeth 34, Roselle 27
Sunday, Nov. 22
North 2 Group 3
Plainfield 20, Elizabeth 12

J.R.'s picks
Summit over Weequahic
Union over Scotch Plains
Elizabeth over Cranford
Linden over East Side
Roselle over Roselle Park
Hillsdale over Newark Central
Johson over Ridge
Brearley over Dayton
New Providence over GL
Rahway over Kearny
Last week: 2-1
Season: 64-21 (.753)
Andrew's picks
Summit over Weequahic
Union over Scotch Plains
Elizabeth over Cranford
Linden over East Side
Roselle over Roselle Park
Hillsdale over Newark Central
Digby over Brearley
New Providence over GL
Rahway over Kearny
Last week: 0-2
Season: 54-31 (.635)

Summit Lacrosse Club
Reg. meeting Dec. 8
The Summit Lacrosse Club will be holding its registration meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 8, in the Summit Middle School cafeteria at 7:30 p.m. The Summit Lacrosse Club is open to Summit resident boys in grades 2-8. Membership fees for the spring are \$100 for grades 5-8 and \$50 for grade 2-4. Scholarships and equipment are available.



Summit Middle School 8th-grader Dave Robinson crossed the finish line first at last month's Summit Invitational. Keeping an eye on the right are athletic director Tom Washburn and Kenny Kegbler.

Summit Middle School teams extend their winning streaks
Both place first in Summit Invitational

The Summit Middle School cross country teams have gone 149-0 since 1994 and once again flexed their muscles as both boys' and girls' teams won first place honors in last month's Summit Invitational.

Both teams also extended their long winning streaks by finishing undefeated this year.

Teams from Plainfield, North Plainfield, Siring, Parsippany, Somerville, Basking Ridge, Middlesex, Union, Cranford, Montclair, Kimberley, Denville, Mount Olive and Spinnock participated. In the girls' A race, consisting of the top eight runners from each team, Summit had all eight of its runners finish among the top 15 as Summitt did well to earn the lowest 45-minute 20 points at 28:00. Elizabeth Hankinson, a 7th-grader, led the way as she finished the race in first. Laura Simpson and Katie Goulet, 8th-graders, finished second and fourth, respectively, with excellent performances.

The girls' team finished with an 18-0 record this year and currently hold 70 consecutive wins. In the boys' B race, Summit finished second, 1-1, and 2 runners to top spot Mount Olive 24-70. Dave Robinson, an 8th-grader, stand out with finished 10th in this year, fair wire-to-wire to edge Davaine Reed for first-place honors.

Cross Country

In the Girls' B race, Julieta Buzarel won for Summit while Jessica Nova and Amy DeSantis were close behind. In the Boys' B race, Ross Canell and Matt Clark fought and second to win the race for Summit. The boys' team also finished 18-0 and extended its winning streak to 70. In the Summit Invitational, Summit runners did extremely well in taking home 30 medals, including team trophies.

Summit Middle School cross country teams were unbeatable again this year. Each squad posted perfect 18-0 records as the girls' winning streak reached 70 and the boys' 79. The combined record of the two clubs since 1994 is 149-0.



Summit Middle School 7th-grader Elizabeth Hankinson leads the pack in a meet held at Wainancio Park against Union and Elizabeth. She also placed first in the Summit Invitational.

Summit volleyball served up an outstanding season

By Andrew McGinn
Assistant Sports Editor

When the NISIAA decided last year to make the sport of girls' volleyball a fall season, whereas it had previously been played in both the spring and fall, it caused some scrambling in the Summit High School program. As a result, with the season switch, Summit was forced to look for a new level of play because Sheila Dionne, who led the Hilltoppers to a 15-8 mark last season, found the varsity field hockey team in the fall.

The Hilltoppers did not have to look far for a new mentor, however, as Dave Fahs, an assistant last season, was promoted to head man status. Another obstacle the boys, which sparked a lot of controversy around the state, presented for Summit was having to prepare itself quickly for the opening season despite the fact that the coaching staff did not have the opportunity to properly gauge and groom its younger players on the program.

Through it all, though, Summit was untazed with the adversity it faced and advanced all the way to the Group 2 semifinals this season in its first-ever appearance in the state tournament on route to an impressive 20th January. The Hilltoppers' season finally came to a close last Thursday as Summit fell 15-10, 15-9 to seventh-seeded Westwood at home despite rallying from an 8-2 deficit in the first game. In fairness, the gap in 8-2.

Just as senior Odette Nemes' serving last sparked Summit to a comeback attempt in the first game, Summit jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the second game behind the strong serving of junior Darla Proper.

Westwood, however, closed out the first game with 7-2 run and took 15 of the final 16 points in the second game to advance to the tournament. Summit was left for the second game, one it was ultimately unable to overcome, as the Hilltoppers, trailing 9-5, lost Proper to a knee injury.

The sixth-seeded Hilltoppers had advanced to the Group 3 status by defeating Hawthorne, the third seed, 15-13, 4-15, 15-70, Nov. 17 in a quarterfinal match at the school. Senior Anna Strickland propelled Summit to victory over Hawthorne by registering 10 kills and four blocks while junior Meghan Hatfield added five kills and two aces to the win.

In the opening round of the tourney on Nov. 16, Summit defeated Pennsauken, 15-7, 15-11 to advance. The Hilltoppers finished the match by winning six of seven games in the second set.

"We had an incredible season," Fahs said. "The girls did much better than I anticipated. They continued to improve and peak at just the right times. I was just looking to finish with a record comparable to the one we had last year and I thought second or third place in the conference would have been a nice achievement."

Second or third place in the Iron Hills Conference would have been nice, but the Hilltoppers set their sights even higher as they reeled off a 15-1 mark in the 111- and 100- and 100- conference title with Livingston.

For the season, Nemes, the starting setter and one of the bestballers with her keen eye towards improving her education and athletic career at an Ivy League school, led Summit with 61 aces and 187 assists, while the 5-10 Strickland, currently being recruited by the College of St. Elizabeth, racked up 156 kills to lead the club in that category.

In addition to Nemes, Proper, Strickland and Hatfield, the Summit roster this season also included senior Stephanie Maltan, senior Latonia Hall, senior Lisa Cadden, junior Tainny Wood and sophomore Cristina Tchuany.

Although Summit turned in a fine season, Fahs, whose team was one of approximately 60 that previously played in the spring to join the nearly 400 who play in the fall, is not a proponent of the NISIAA's move.

"Even though our record wasn't indicative of it because we had a senior here, I would say that was carried by Odette and Anna, the move hurt our program," Fahs said. "I think we're going to be down a bit for the next couple of seasons while we try and rebuild."

Dayton, GL seeking third win tomorrow
Summit out for another victory

The Dayton and Governor Livingston high school football teams will have their hands full tomorrow as they close out their 1998 seasons on Thanksgiving with seeking win No. 3. Summit (1-8) will look to win again and enter 1999 with a two-game winning streak as it closes out its season tonight at 7 against Weequahic at Untermyer Field in Newark. This is Weequahic's first year in the Hills Division of the Iron Hills Conference after spending its first 10 years in the conference as a member of the larger schools' Iron Division.

Summit is coming off a 27-0 win at Whippany Park in its consolation game.

High School Football

Dayton is coming off its second win, a 33-12 victory at home over Brearley in its North Jersey Section 2, Group 1 consolation matchup two weeks ago. Junior running back B.J. Jones had a career day, rushing for 254 yards and three touchdowns and passing for one.

The Bulldogs run into a Brearley (3-6) team tomorrow at Ward Field in Kentworth at 10:30 a.m. One that has won again a run and three of four after starting 0-5 this year, Brearley defeated Dayton 48-0 last year at Ward Field.

GL (1-7) is coming off a close 16-14 loss to Weequahic at Schools Stadium in Newark two weeks ago in its North Jersey Section 2, Group 2 consolation contest. The Highlanders are sparked by the play of several Mountaineer residents, including Bill Stojung.

GL hosts New Providence at 10:30 as the Promers just advanced to the North Jersey Section 2, Group 1 final with a dramatic 20-14 double overtime victory over visiting Mountain Lakes last Saturday.

New Providence, the Mountain Valley Conference Valley Division winner, is 9-1 and its only loss was to Mountain Division winner Immaculata.

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