

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield, Mountainside and Summit

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 70 NO. 17

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1998

TWO SECT

9

THIS WEEK

NEWS

Altered deadlines

You're receiving your newspaper today because of a change in our holiday schedule. The office of this newspaper will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and we will reopen Monday, Dec. 28.

This will be just in time for our final publication of the year, our regular Thursday edition, Dec. 31. Deadlines for this edition will remain the same. Our office will be closed Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day and will reopen Jan. 4.

Look for our annual Year in Review in our Dec. 31 edition.

We wish all our readers and advertisers the happiest holiday season and a healthy new year, and look forward to continuing being your best source for community information in 1999.

THE ARTS

Step out

Wondering what to do during the next couple weeks? Check out our Steppin' Out calendar.

See Page B4.



Christmas concert

The Rev. Alphonse Stevenson conducted the Christmas concert performed by the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea at St. Theresa's Church.

See Page B5.

NEW MEDIA

News updates

Get local updates throughout the week. Call our InfoSource hot line at: (908) 686-9498. For a menu of items, see Page B1.

Web site

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

WEATHER

Thursday: Partly sunny and cold 34°

Friday: Snow flurries 30°

Saturday: Partly sunny 32°

For this week up to date reports, call (908) 686-9498, Ext. 1720.

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Attorney Yale L. Greenspoon helps JDHS students Jonathan Zipkin, Pamela Bookbinder and Shira Zabudarsky prepare for their upcoming mock trial competition.

Mock trial gives JDHS students opportunity for their day in court

By Pamia Ladson

Staff Writer

Although the only courtroom experience current students Jonathan Dayton High School may have is by watching "LA Law" reruns, they are preparing to argue Brennan's New Jersey State High School Interscholastic Athletic Association. The case has been invented for their first-time participation in the Vincent J. Apruzzese Mock Trial Competition, co-sponsored with New Jersey's County Bar Associations.

"I'm in for the experience," said ninth grader Shira Zabudarsky. "I wanted to see what it is like to be in a courtroom and how to prepare for it."

Students and advisors received a workbook describing details of the case and general guidelines. The fictional plaintiff is the family of Sam Brennan, a

senior at Metropolitan High School in Metrolincoln, New Jersey. During August 1993, the summer between his sophomore and junior year, Brennan suffered an injury that destroyed his left eye.

While it appeared that nothing would improve Brennan's vision, Dr. Lee Sturlovas performed experimental surgery to implant a working eye. During the following baseball season, Brennan led the team to a state championship after he beat longtime friend Pat Power for the catcher's position. Because of his sudden success, Brennan was reported to the Athletic Association and, consequently, found in violation of the Association's Rule 20, which prohibits the use of performance-enhancing devices. He was banned from playing baseball during his senior year.

See ATTORNEY, Page 5.

Borough police m their way in academy

By Walter Elliott

Staff Writer

The Mountainside Borough Council focused toward its procedural path into a shelter placement at its latest meeting. The public works the council's support of state bills making the alternate route for police academy candidates permanent while the shelter placement is being considered for two bus stops along Route 22 West.

The council unanimously approved its support of Assembly Bill 119 and Senate Bill S-892 at their Dec. 15 meeting. The twin state bills would allow local police departments to consider candidates who have paid their own way through an academy.

Departments had traditionally looked candidates' academy bills, before the alternate route was first applied on a trial basis in 1994.

Mayor Robert Vigilanti added the resolution to the agenda at the last minute, with apologies.

"I don't like to add something late for consideration, but I can't wait to allow for the resolution's inclusion on next month's agenda," Vigilanti said. "I'm urging support of this bill because 63 percent of academy candidates were selected through the alternate route. It takes some of the risk away from selecting a candidate who later washes out."

Vigilanti indicated that borough resident Richard Antonacci, whose alternate route was first applied on a trial basis in 1994, is the latest academy recruit coming from the alternate route.

"When we had our meeting for police recruitment, Police Chief James Debbie said, 'we selected one from a field of seven alternate route candidates. The borough has saved about \$100,000 over the last four years through this process.' We're getting candidates who are motivated to serve and protect."

The council also considered plac-

'Sixty-three percent of academy candidates were selected through the alternate route. It takes some of the risk away from selecting a candidate who later washes out.'

Robert Vigilanti Mayor

ing at least one bus shelter at either New Providence Road along Route 22 West and possibly another by the Central Avenue stop. The former site is near a proposed park and ride lot while the latter was advocated by resident Rich Grenzel.

"I take the bus to Plainfield daily and the service is prompt," Grenzel said. "I have to have time dropping off my child at Deerfield and being at that stop, however, of the bus will pass me by. Having a shelter would be used for senior citizens waiting 30 minutes for the next bus in bad weather."

"I had an experience in which one driver insisted there was no stop at Central Avenue and dropped me off at New Providence Road," Vigilanti said. "My concern is that once a shelter is put up, it would get stuck with the maintenance bill."

Vigilanti cited the high maintenance brick shelter by the Municipal Building and the crash-scared metal and clear plastic shelter by Lawrence Avenue along Route 22 East as cause for worries. Borough attorney John Post said New Jersey Transit is inclined to erect the latter type shelters and have the localities upkeep them.

Tardy documents stall bid for RVSA membership

By Walter Elliott

Staff Writer

The Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority did not have Mountainside's bid to become a full member Thursday night. While most of the borough's attempt to rejoin from Cranford unofficially reached the Board of Commissioners' ears, the borough's documentation did not reach the RVSA's Rahway offices in time for the monthly agenda.

"I read in the paper that the Moun-

tainside Borough Council voted a resolution intending to become a member, Tuesday," RVSA South Plains Commissioner John Papp said. "Do we know anything more about it?"

"We would have considered Mountainside's request tonight," RVSA Board Chairman and Cranford Commissioner Edward Robinson said, "but they did not send any notices to us yet. That's why they're not on the agenda."

"It was a matter of timing," Mountainside Borough Administrator Greg Bonin said. "Borough Clerk Judith Ouy put the council's resolution in the mail Wednesday."

The Borough Council voted unanimously to pay \$300,000 in membership fees Dec. 15. Mountainside, pending RVSA agreement, would have a voting seat on the Board of Commissioners. It would become a part owner of the authority and have flow rights of three million gallons per day.

RVSA's acceptance of Mountainside would mean the borough's break with Cranford. Mountainside has a two-year-old agreement to buy flow rights from Cranford, a RVSA member.

"This resolution takes us from being a renter to a partial owner," Mayor Robert Vigilanti said. "It gives

us our own representation without having to go through Cranford."

Other full members are Clark, Garwood, Kenilworth, Rahway, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains, Springfield and Woodbridge. Each member pays a membership fee in proportion to the mgd flow they are allocated.

"The members are allowed to buy and trade flow allocation rights among themselves," RVSA Executive Director Richard Tokarski said. "The total amount of flow allocation is determined by the capacity of our sewer main in Rahway."

Tokarski cites Clark's purchase of 30,000 gallons per day peak flow rights from Garwood for \$50,000 as an example. That inter-local agreement was approved during the Thursday meeting.

"The RVSA board reviews and monitors any hookups or other conditions which may affect overall capacity

A pending agreement among Kenilworth, Roselle Park and Schermer Plough, for example, is being evaluated.

What the board cannot do, according to Authority Engineer Mike Bookler, is give other capacity credits for overflow conditions.

Springfield's one of several RVSA members that are facing penalties for having more than 10 overflow incidents over the last year. The authority has held off penalizing the town while it corrects its interconnection and inflow problems. A letter by Township Attorney Bruce Bergen acknowledging a meeting of Dec. 19 was read into the board records.

The next opportunity for Mountainside to bring up its membership application may come in the RVSA's Jan. 21 meeting.

New tenants may end CVS bid for building

By Walter Elliott

Staff Writer

A development occurred in an unexpected direction Friday in the matter of the proposed Johnson Valley Services, Pharmacy in Springfield. Jeffrey Realty, according to real estate sources, may have found a tenant for 225-241 Mountain Ave. The address had been the proposed site for a CVS Pharmacy by J.D. Mack and Montgomery Associates for almost two years. The source, who did not want to be quoted, said an application for tenancy may be made in one of the current building's scores of offices within the next month.

Jeffrey Realty took over the property from Montgomery Associates by early November, the source said. "It has been seeking tenant leases since," 225 Mountain Ave. was built in 1976 by house original builder United Counties Savings Bank and four other tenants. It has been vacant since Ballroom Magic Dance Studio moved to Union last year. United Counties, which became CoreStates, moved by a few years earlier.

Developer J.D. Mack allowed the leases to expire while pursuing an application to convert the building to a 40,000-square-foot CVS Pharmacy. Neighbors and some township officials opposed the conversion, citing potential increases in traffic and a general decline in the Five Points area's quality of life.

A two-year struggle before Springfield's property boards and in state Superior Court ensued. That battle, though, the property site and new tenancy focus would end CVS's bid. The council staff of Springfield's Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment and Development Review Commission said they have received no applications for tenancy or occupation.

The Court House was to have witnessed Springfield Township Attorney Bruce Bergen's motion before Superior Court Judge John T. Piansky Friday. That motion, where Bergen would have asked Piansky to reconsider a ruling on the Mountain Avenue building, was postponed to Jan. 22.

The party filing the motion asked to put off the hearing one month. "A law clerk at Piansky's," the clerk said Thursday. "The petitioner has the permission to do so without showing cause."

Bergen was to have asked Piansky to reverse his ruling to split zone use restrictions he made March 13. Piansky had said that the variance allowing the rear parking lot at 225 Mountain Ave. to exist on residentially-zoned property is transferable to the building's new owner.

Bergen was to argue that the ruling contradicts the Appellate Court decision on a similar application before Oct. 23. The three-judge panel ruled the variance on the Sales Plaza Avenue store at 90 Millburn Ave. is not grandfathered in. The decision ended new owner Royal Albeck's bid to build an Edwards supermarket there.

Filed with a new conflict with another matter Friday, Bergen was to argue that the rear lot was to be used as a parking lot.

No grinchins allowed



Sara and Thomas Feld talk to Santa about their gift lists during Springfield's holiday festivities in front of Town Hall.

Photo by Walter Elliott

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

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NEWS CLIPS

Sponsors sought for summer campers

The Washington Rock Girl Scout Council has many girls throughout Union, Middlesex and Somerset counties who will need financial aid to attend either the resident camp Camp Lou Henry Hoover, or one of the five local day camps this year. WRGSC is requesting that individuals, local businesses and others contribute during this holiday season to help with the cost of camp.

For more information, contact the resident and day camps at 10444 4th Junction, call Debra Lambert-Rudman at (908) 232-2536, ext. 209 or send your donation to WRGSC Camp Donations, 6709 Gracie Rd., Westfield, 07091, attn: Debra Lambert-Rudman. Individual and public relations director.

Parents and children play together in Funible, Tots and Toddle Tots Arts, Dances and Arts. Kids explore the fun and messy world of arts and crafts. Precchool Dance for ages 3 and 4 will introduce children to a variety of dance steps including ballet, jazz and tap.

Mothers' Day Out is a new program for children ages 2 through 4. For more information or to register, contact the Springfield YMCA at 100 S. Springfield Ave. in the Caribohn Community Center or call 609-734-6678. Classes for youth and teens are also available.

Seidel named to honor roll

Herbert Seidel of Mountainside has been named to the State University of New York's 1998 Alumni Honor Roll.

Seidel is a 1947 graduate of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Seidel is the co-founder of Resen-Seidel Hardware Co., a nationally recognized processor, distributor and exporter of fine hardwoods. He retired as president of the company.

Seidel was director of the national Hardwood Lumber Association and chair of the association's annual international convention. He has served as president of the Hardwood Institute, trustee of the Forest Products Research Society and as a lecturer and educator.

Seidel has maintained close ties to ESF, where he studied wood product engineering. He serves on the board of the ESF Alumni Association and the ESF College Foundation and helps organize college reunions in the New York City area. He received the college's distinguished Alumni Award in 1995.

The Alumni honor roll salutes SUNY graduates who are leaders in their field and who demonstrate a commitment to higher education.

Kindergarten, Pre-K registration set

Registration for the 1999-2000 Pre-Kindergarten Program in the Springfield Public Schools, as well as those children eligible for kindergarten, will begin on September 19, 1998 and are currently enrolled in the Walnut School Early Childhood Center. The kindergarten program will be held on the following days:

- Last names beginning with A: Jan. 14, 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.
- Last names beginning with B: Jan. 15, 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.
- Last names beginning with C: Jan. 19, 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.
- Last names beginning with D: Jan. 20, 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.

Registration will be held at Edward V. Walton School Early Childhood Center. Parents are requested to call the school at (973) 376-1304 to confirm date and time of scheduled alternate registration session.

To be eligible for prekindergarten, a child must be a resident of Springfield and be four years old on or before Dec. 1, 1999. Children entering kindergarten must reach their fifth birthday on or before Dec. 1, 1999. Parents are requested to bring the following materials to the registration:

- Child's birth certificate
- Current immunization records
- Two proofs of residency, such as a New Jersey driver's license, utility bill or lease

YMCA announces winter registration

The Springfield YMCA is now registering for January classes for children ages 1 through 4.

Editorial deadlines

General news — Monday 5 p.m.
Letters to the editor — Monday 9 a.m.
Sports — Monday noon
Church, club and social — Friday noon

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader for the residents of various community activities and governmental meetings. To give your community events the publicity they deserve, mail your schedule to: PO Box 3106, Union, NJ 07083.

On going:
The Springfield Registration Department has announced that blood pressure screening will be taken at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall, on the second Wednesday of every month at 1 p.m. The screening is open to all residents of Springfield and are done by visiting nurses. For more information, call 973-312-2277.

The Kingdom of Columbus, Springfield Council #5566, is conducting a program to collect glasses for "Eyes of the Need." Glasses will be sent to Las Vegas, Reno, Puerto Rico, Guatemala and Israel as well as the United States. Glasses are picked up on a weekly basis and may be dropped off in any post office in the Springfield and Summit area. Large quantities may be picked up by calling 973-373-3477.

Senior groups celebrate holiday season

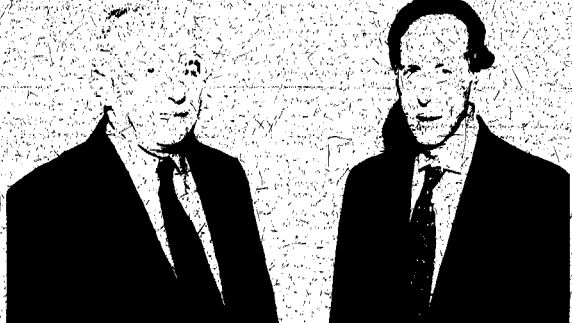
The Springfield senior citizens groups celebrated the holiday season with a luncheon at the Gallop Hill Caterers in Union. About 130 members were in attendance enjoying lunch and dancing to the music of the Joe Sumbler's Orchestra. Santa Claus made a surprise visit, greeting everyone and handing out candy canes.

The senior citizen women have spent time since October sewing, knitting, crocheting quilts for dolls and teddy bears. The dolls and teddy bears were given to the 5th of June Army, and after they were blessed, they were distributed to The Veterans Center, Chelsea Hospital, The Barn-

Unit of St. Barnabas Hospital, University Institute for Children's Health in Newark, St. Joseph's in Elizabeth and the "Be an Angel" Program. The kids helped make the holiday happy for many sick and needy children.

The seniors will do the year-end holiday parties in their individual groups. An Springfield Seniors Council for Christmas party will be held at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center. For more information, call Theresa Hild at 973-312-2222. Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Supporting Alzheimer's research



Springfield resident Philip Hurnan, right, a certified public accountant with Zeller, Weiss & Kahn in Mountainside and Treasurer of the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, joins Stephen LaMont of Union at the Chapter's annual meeting held recently at Warner Lambert, Morris Plains. Featured speaker Murray A. Raskin, vice chair of the national Alzheimer's Association's Medical and Scientific Advisory Council, discussed "Research Developments in Alzheimer's Disease."

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Orange Transcript	Nutley Journal	News Record

Holiday tree-lighting



Kelly Goense, 4, counts down to the annual holiday tree-lighting with Mountainside Mayor Robert Vighanti.

Broken tail light leads to arrest in borough

Mountainside
Officer Thomas Murphy of the Mountainside Police Department arrested Raimon Sables, 22, Dec. 18 at 9:20 a.m. Sables was charged with the possession of lost or misplaced property.

Murphy pulled Sables over at the corner of Sheffield and Bristol Road. When the officer noticed a broken right tail light on the 1984 Toyota computer, check revealed that the plates came back to a 1984 Toyota Buick.

When Sables was asked for the vehicle's documentation, he was unable to produce the papers, although he promised to use them. According to Murphy, Sables said that he had the title that related to the car. The car's identification number produced was a Division of Motor Vehicles car. The Division of Motor Vehicles was then contacted and the Division of Motor Vehicles

police headquarters for being an unlicensed driver.

While at headquarters, Sables was unable to tell the officers where he obtained the license plates, saying that his girlfriend got them from a friend. He told the officers that he preferred not to elaborate on the origin of the plates.

Liamu O'haner, 27, was arrested and charged with conspiracy of a court Dec. 15 at 3:33 p.m. He was arrested by Fairfield officers and found to have warrants out of Mountainside for \$640 and East Orange for \$55.

Claris Vargas-Gomez, 48, was arrested Dec. 12. She was stopped at 12:38 a.m. on Byrne 27 West for failure to maintain one lane. Two cars later located, along the driver's lane was unlicensed.

Union resident John Spitzer, 32, was stopped at the intersection of Mountainside Avenue and Park Drive

Dec. 12 at 8:57 a.m. for a moving violation. He was arrested and charged with driving with suspended license.

Springfield
The report of missing property by the Route 22 restaurant patron led to the arrest of another on Dec. 16. One Benjamin's diner noticed that her pager was missing and called the police at about 11 a.m.

A subsequent search found the \$100 device on a man identified as Robert Shaules, 31, of Union. He was arrested and charged for the possession of stolen property by 2:30 a.m. The pager was returned to its owner.

A Mountain Avenue resident called police headquarters about a large pink parking ticket parked at about 1:18 p.m. Dec. 15. A station car and driving while on a stolen car license on Route 22 was found to be a theater and called Newark and Union residents of Newark for pickup.

The driver of a Buick was

Township student accepted into Harvard

By Pamela Isaacson
Staff Writer

Jonathan Dayton High School senior Scott Sambur found out Dec. 14 that dreams really do come true. Especially when you have the highest grade point average in your class. It was on that date Sambur received word that he will join Harvard University's Class of 2003 next fall.

"I was sobbing," he said. "I was crying. I was so lumpy."

His early acceptance to Harvard, the only one guidance counselors at the school can remember, is the culmination of Sambur's self-motivation.

He is a brilliant student, he self-invited, he really wanted to go to the League school," said Sambur's guidance counselor Joseph Cozza. "We didn't get him into Harvard. He got himself into Harvard."

For the past two years, Sambur has been the president of the Future Business Leaders of America Club. He also serves as president of the National Honor Society. In addition, Sambur works on the yearbook, holds a position as assistant photography editor on "The Daily Print," the school newspaper, and is a member of the peer leadership French and Key Clubs.

"I originally wanted to go for business," he said. "Now I'm more sure that Harvard would be better figured it is more well-rounded."

Last summer, Sambur traveled to

France to study at the Sorbonne. To help fund his return trip to live in Paris next summer, Sambur has been working at Barnes and Noble on Route 22 for the past four years.

Sambur upon receiving his acceptance, pulled his applications to the Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania, Crumell, Yale, Dartmouth, Princeton and Tufts. "I considered still applying to Wharton, but not anymore. I would never turn down Harvard," he said.

With his acceptance in December, one would imagine that Sambur has lost his motivation for the rest of the school year, but Sambur is preparing to take the Advanced Placement exams which could exempt him from introductory courses at the university. He also needs to maintain his grades in order to receive exemption from his final exams in the spring.

Sambur is unsure which career path he will follow, but thinks he will still might pursue business. "There



Scott Sambur is preparing to take the Advanced Placement exams which could exempt him from introductory courses at the university.

Township firefighters respond to 4-car accident on Route 22

Springfield
A four-car accident brought the Springfield Fire Department to Route 22 at 7:19 a.m. Dec. 15.

All vehicles were traveling westbound in the left lane attempting to make a U-turn near the Lady Diner when they struck the tail of a Ford pickup truck which had stopped by Riverside Drive and South Maple Avenue for an overturned vehicle. At 10:18 p.m. all units responded to a Morris Avenue business for smoke in the building.

There were four auto medical calls, two calls throughout the day.

Firefighters went back to school Dec. 16 at 9:48 a.m. when all units responded to Jonathan Dayton High School for an activated fire alarm. The rest of the day was spent handling four medical service calls.

After a busy early morning, the department responded to a South Springfield Avenue business at 9:20 a.m. for an activated fire alarm. At 12:48 p.m., firefighters visited a Mountain Avenue residence for a water condition.

This also responded to two medical service calls.

Dec. 17 began with a medical fer-

vice call at 7:46. At 10:36 a.m., firefighters responded to a Blvd Mills Circle residence for a smoke detector problem. Lunenburg found the squad responding to Riverside Drive and South Maple Avenue for an overturned vehicle. At 10:18 p.m. all units responded to a Morris Avenue business for smoke in the building.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

For unto us a Child is born

This week, Christians throughout the world will celebrate Christmas.

The annual commemoration of the birth of Christ some two millennia ago brings with it a wealth of experiences, be they sacred or secular. Sadly, though, in today's world, it seems the secular wins hands down.

However, without Christ's birth in that stable, there would be no reason to send all those cards, give — and receive — all those gifts, attend all those parties, and generally make merry for a solid week.

For two thousand years, we have been marking this event with festivity and rejoicing. Imagine, all for a little baby whose parents couldn't even manage to find a room at an inn.

And it is in these very lean circumstances of His birth that we find one of the most important messages of this blessed holiday — humility.

Christ was born in a stable, amid the dirt and the smells of animals' sweat and manure. Though He is a King, His was not a king's birth in resplendent surroundings. God chose not to have His King born among kings, but among peasants. His attendants were shepherds, though only common tenders of the flocks. God chose to send heavenly angels to them with the good news that the Messiah had been born. The only nobility present were the three kings whose steadfast faith in the prophecies led them to trust that this infant in the hay was indeed God incarnate.

Why would God plan Christ's birth in this fashion? Theologians tell us that the humble nature of the event was in keeping with Christ's ministry, one not exclusive to the powerful and mighty, but to all people of all times and all means. Furthermore, it would not be very hard to hail Him king if He were born in a palace. This is where faith — like that of the Wise Men — comes in.

This tale, told since His birth, has acquired a mysticism through time. But what if God had chosen to send Christ today? Where would He be born? Were we to translate the story of the nativity to modern terms, we would probably find Mary Joseph and the Christ Child at a homeless shelter, a free clinic or some other place that a lot of us may very well walk right past without another thought. We might see some street people congregated outside, we might overhear that something amazing was happening; and then we might think that nothing truly amazing could occur in such a place and keep on walking.

However, this humble Child was born to all of us — weak and strong, humble and powerful, rich and poor. He was born to bring a peace to this world through each of us.

As we look at the traditional depictions of the manger scene, we should remember that such humble places still exist and in each of them, so does Christ.

We wish a blessed Christmas to all our readers, one filled with the humble wonder of the miracles of this season.



Photo by Milton Mills

CAROLING KIDS — Springfield youth join in the fun at the township's holiday festivities by singing a round of holiday carols.

Defending Christmas trees is going too far

It's that time of year again as residents gather and you scramble to get everything done all time for the holidays. Whether you're to do "list" is dictated by a trip to the mall, justing all the decorations or facing from a school papers to the next or a dull night a busy time of year.

Vantage Point

By Bill Von Schm Staff Writer

I prefer branches. Yes, there are few needles on them, but well-inspiring and we have to be diligent about keeping the heat down and the tree's lights checked, but there's something magical about the smell of a live tree in the living room at Christmas, and that's a magic I want my children to grow up remembering.

down of trees for our personal gratification is, basically, a practice tantamount to raising cute little animals or some woman cat, playing a few coats.

As with any crop, new seedlings are planted each year as the mature trees are cut down to be shipped to local vendors. This constant turnover enriches the soil since a free left to grow indefinitely — as the environmental activists would seem to endorse — still eventually depletes the ground's nutrients for future growth.

which enables us to return the tree to helping the earth do what it does best: grow things.

Now, I'm not ignorant of the needs of the environment. Although I'm not a vegetarian, I do hold certain beliefs which insure the folks at the Sierra Club, PETA and their ilk would endorse. I don't personally believe in the wearing of fur, but I also don't deny anyone else their right to do so, and at our house, we recycle, make efforts to cut down on our garbage volume, and don't run our air conditioners unless necessary. I, too, want to leave the next generation — of which my two children are members — a planet which is as healthy and as clean as possible.

But to denounce the use of Christmas trees for the sole reason that it's inhuman to say them down for our family is not much different than saying that the lettuce in your sandwich has feelings, you "Alder" all, who should've, please, the rights of one crop and forget all about the rest of things. What about the rights of each, and every living being or human you grow old in peace. Where's their activist group?

Efforts merit recognition

A Certificate of Merit was given to Boy Scout Troop 73 last week for the group's work at preserving the Watching Reservation in Mountaineer. The recognition from the Springfield Environmental Commission was a thoughtful and well-placed as the scouts' outstanding efforts did much to improve a local treasure.

The group undertook a survey of the reservation's plan life and worked to remove non-native vegetation from hiking trails. Native plants were restored and protected from herbivores by surrounding the vegetation with small wire cages. The scouts also protected the area's fauna by constructing shelters for animals, like hollowing out logs.

The group cited its use of the reservation for Eagle Scout projects and other activities as a reason for their interest in preserving the area.

Aesthetically, the work paid off immediately with cleaner trails. In addition, there has already been a noted increase in the number of hawks and falcons sighted in the reservation.

We thank Troop 73 for their efforts and also the Environmental Commission for continuing to recognize excellence in those who give a little something back to their community.

Commentators invariably mar sporting events

Once upon a time, there was football, basketball and baseball. And there was radio.

Problem Solver

By Robert Lapidus

What he should do next to attend, but it is not enough that every step is analyzed and dissected. It is not longer sufficient merely to describe the action. The people up in the booth have assumed the mantle of the ultimate arbiter. They freely criticize the players, for assumed errors of judgment. Coaches and managers are subject to evaluation. And the officials, who are most invariably correct, are severely judged.

most level tip; but for the most part, audiences at even the most trivial match combat themselves well.

This is especially true when the sports is about to push the boundaries. It is not possible to understand why, but it is imperative that there must not be every a whisper, my point.

Television is a lot of concentration. You see a 100 mph serve. But a ball in baseball games, one would think has to do a lot of concentrating when a curve ball is leading this way. And a quarterback has to do a lot of mental gymnastics when facing a third and long on the last quarter of a crucial game. But somehow the roar of 20,000 fans is not supposed to distract them.

might unlikely that any comment they might make could even be heard by the players.

Then came John McEnroe, McEnroe, during his tenure as an announcer for the U.S. Open, has proven a point. He can be just as obnoxious as a commentator as he was a player.

He babbles on relentlessly. He pontificates. He criticizes the players. The officials. Just about everyone except the ball boys.

Fortunately there is a cure for all this: the mute button. But at reality should not be necessary to resort to this. A good announcer can certainly hold an extra dimension to our televised enjoyment of any sport. All we need is a few more good announcers.

Oh, well! That's the way it is. What can we do? Except... bring back Russ Hodges.

Robert Lapidus is a frequent columnist for this newspaper.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thanks computer program support

To the Editor: The Deerfield School Technology Committee shows how thinking globally and acting locally can make a difference. The transformation of our elementary school into a Learning Center for Adults on Dec. 22 at our Computers 101 session was a prime example of how grassroots organizations such as ours can impact the entire community.

Much deserved thanks are extended to our school administrator, Gerald Schaller; our school's head computer teacher and technical guru, Ray Palmer; and his assistant, Vicky Arpino; our guest speakers, Darryl Walker from Comcast, Barry Salow, PC consultant of Springfield, Ray Jozanjan of Computer Experts Inc.; and all our Tech Committee members for donating their time, talent and support to bring this program possible.

Linda Conditillo Deerfield Technology Committee

'A civilization that is not informed cannot be free, and a world that is not free cannot endure.'

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We're asking What should replace the former Saks store?



Bob Kennedy

"Anything which brings business in is better than what's there now. When it was open as a clothing store, people would stop from the access road before and shop for plants and decorations."



Melissa Flizack

"As a person who lives in town, perhaps additional housing. There is not enough now."



Connie Dupras

"There has been talk of a water market. If that fails, then maybe site for housing."



"How about a convenience store? It is close to a residential area and people will need things."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Don't take credit for squad's efforts

To the Editor:
The recent article about autistic external defibrillators, we noted that a Township Committee member intimated that the township had purchased and supplied two of these multi-thousand-dollar units to the Springfield First Aid Squad.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The squad recognized the importance of such units years ago. In fact, it purchased two units with the combination of grants, generous specified donations, and fund drive money more than five years ago, and has been the only organization in town to utilize them for the protection of township residents.

The SEAS wholly supports the outfitting of all first-responder vehicles with affordable external defibrillators.

It is most disturbing to note, however, the total disregard by the Township Committee of the only local organization with operating experience with these devices during the planning stages of their need to be met. Does or make sense to reimburse the SEAS? In addition, it is difficult to understand why the committee has used as its individual guide a physician associated with a hospital far outside our local medical resource area.

It is this advertisement "slap in the face" to the volunteers of the SEAS, not just a conglomeration of the general "we don't care" attitude of the Township Committee that the squad has inherited for the past few years.

—Martin Gronstein

Springfield First Aid Squad



Springfield resident and Center for Hospice Care volunteer Harvey Ritter joins executive director Lorraine Sciarra in caring for terminally ill patients.

Hospice care volunteers

A new class of 10 graduates has joined the ranks of Center for Hospice Care volunteers already helping the organization's professional staff and family members in providing at-home care for patients who are terminally ill. Among them is Springfield resident Harvey Ritter.

The new volunteers were congratulated by volunteer coordinator Terry Plunk on the successful completion of a nine-week training course at graduation ceremonies held at Hospice headquarters in Clinton Ridge.

The Center for Hospice Care, an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, currently caring for more than 185 patients per day in Northern New Jersey, and has expanded its services to 30 area nursing homes.

According to Lorraine Sciarra, executive director of Hospice and Hospice services are rendered to the many volunteers engaged in patient services. To qualify as a Hospice provider, she noted, Hospice must demonstrate that a minimum of five percent of total value of patient services is provided by volunteers. In fact, she said, "Volunteers working with us are providing an excess of 10 percent of the value of services."

Training programs are held year-round throughout the year so that Hospice can meet the challenge of the constantly increasing patient census. The next class begins Jan. 6. If you think about volunteering, call the volunteer department at (973) 429-1200.

Attorney aids students in preparing statements

(Continued from Page 1)
Laudubrosky plays the role of Terry Zabludovsky's baseball coach who will argue that it was Beeman's own determination not to chemicals that enhanced his athletic abilities.

"I am thinking about becoming a lawyer," Zabludovsky said. "It's just overwhelming right now."

Pain Bookbinder, 14, plays defense. Witness Jim Dillmeyer, coach of runner-up Northvale High School. "This was my first time doing this," she said. "It's challenging because a com-

pete stranger will be coming up and asking questions about a person I'm pretending to be."

Serving as an advisor for the group of over 20 students is Yale L. Grossmann, a Springfield resident with a general practice, Greenspoon, in Union. "It can't be said that I'm not confident and the importance of being prepared," he said.

Last Wednesday was Grossmann's second session with the students. "I hope they've been working," he said, but it's work," he added.

Grossmann has been assisting participants in writing opening and closing remarks, formulating questions, preparing testimony, presenting witnesses, cross-examining and how to address a judge and jury. "It's like being a baseball coach," he said. "You don't get the performance you want unless you push the team a little."

For eighth grader Melissa Loschivo, participating in the competition is practice for the future. "I want to be a lawyer. Now I'm learning the basics. What everything means, the different people in the courtroom and how to present a case," she explained.

"I'm also learning how to work with other people to make sure we get certain things done."

Loschivo said her professional ambitions stem from her passion for debate. "My parents say that when I have a point, I keep arguing it," she said. "I like to follow different cases on TV and see different ideas to see which is more believable."

The team will compete statewide in January, although they have not yet been informed of the exact date or location. Last year Cherry Hill High School East won both the state and national championships. Past cases have dealt with child custody, falsification of the power of attorney and sexual harassment in the workplace.

O'Toole appointed to committee assessing New Jersey schools

Assemblyman Keith P. O'Toole has been appointed to the legislative subcommittee on the Public Schools and New Jersey Intergovernmental Relations Commission by Speaker Jack Ciattarelli. O'Toole, who serves as assistant majority leader in the General Assembly, said he was looking forward to the challenges presented by both appointments.

The Joint Commission on the Public Schools is composed of Assembly members and Senators. It is charged with reviewing and analyzing important legislative policies and priorities that impact New Jersey's public schools.

"Providing our children with a first-class education has always been, and remains, a top priority of mine," said O'Toole. R-Essex Union. "New Jersey cannot expect its young people to compete in a global marketplace if they do not receive a quality education."

"I look forward to serving on the important legislative committee and playing an active role in helping to advance educational policies that will benefit New Jersey school children," O'Toole added. "We

have a very good public school system in New Jersey, but there are areas that we can't make it even better and more successful."

The New Jersey Intergovernmental Relations Commission represents New Jersey's interests on the Council of State Government, a national association that meets on a regional and national level to promote quality-of-life issues.

"This commission helps formulate public policies among state, local and regional and national levels," O'Toole said. "It provides New Jersey with access to important information, up-to-date, relevant, by economic, social and other government-related issues. It is an honor to serve with my peers from other state legislatures throughout the country and exchange ideas on a myriad of public concerns."

Ottens said O'Toole's local government experience as a former Mayor of Cedar Grove and his knowledge of the state legislative process would be a great asset to both the Joint Committee on the Public Schools.

Lighting the menorah



Linda Zabludovsky helps Sandmeier School students Sandi Wilkerson, Michael Schwartz and Nani Zabludovsky light a menorah during the school's holiday celebrations.

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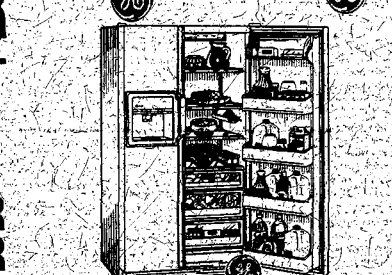
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CHRISTMAS DAY
 Friday, December 25th
 9:00 AM 10:30 AM and 12:00 Noon

NEW YEAR'S MASSES
 Thursday, December 31st 5:30 PM Friday, January 1st 11:00 AM

Come Home for Christmas

**Join Holy Cross Church
 for a Christmas Eve
 Celebration!**

December 24th, 7:00pm
**Jonathan Dayton
 High School
 101 Mountain Avenue
 Springfield**

**Call 973-378-4525
 for more information
 or directions.**

Home is where your heart is!

Chestnut Street Community Church
 303 Chestnut St., Roselle • 908-241-6470

Join us for a
Christmas Eve Celebration
 Thursday, 24th • 7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

Enjoy a relaxing holiday
 evening with your family

Special Candlelight Evening Service
 featuring
 Christmas Carol Singing, Candlelight Service,
 Blessing of the Christmas Trees,
 Christmas Story Service

Family Service 7:00 am
 Family Mass, Prayers, Blessings, Family Programs

**Christmas Eve
 Candlelight
 Service of
 Fundraising & Carols**

The First Baptist Church of Westfield
 170 Elm Street, 2 blocks north of train station
 908-233-2278; www.westfieldnj.com/fbc

Sunday morning worship at 10:30 a.m., plus
 Sunday School, adult classes and fellowship groups,
 Bible Study, youth group, children's programs,
 45+ singles meeting, and 5 clubs.

49th ANNIVERSARY COUPON SALE



JACOBSON'S

WE MAKE THE WORLD'S BEST MATTRESS™

Truckload mattress event

SPECTACULAR SAVINGS ON SERTA! 

Savings on Premium Quality Serta Mattresses

HURRY IN! LIMITED TIME EVENT...

BUY ONE SET GET "ONE" SET FREE!

*No Substitutes. No Mix or Match. Expires 12/15/98

CLIP THIS COUPON



TWIN SIZE SET \$369

RECEIVE FREE TWIN SIZE SET With Purchase

Present Coupon Time Sale - Exp. 12/30/98
JACOBSON'S 725 Railway Ave. Elizabeth

CLIP THIS COUPON



FULL SIZE SET \$498

RECEIVE FREE TWIN SIZE SET With Purchase

Present Coupon Time Sale - Exp. 12/30/98
JACOBSON'S 725 Railway Ave. Elizabeth

CLIP THIS COUPON



QUEEN SIZE SET \$598

RECEIVE FREE TWIN SIZE SET With Purchase

Present Coupon Time Sale - Exp. 12/30/98
JACOBSON'S 725 Railway Ave. Elizabeth

CLIP THIS COUPON



KING SIZE SET \$795

RECEIVE FREE TWIN SIZE SET With Purchase

Present Coupon Time Sale - Exp. 12/30/98
JACOBSON'S 725 Railway Ave. Elizabeth

OUR 49th YEAR

JACOBSON'S

HOOVER Holiday SPECIALS

HOOVER® Conquest COMMERCIAL VACUUM CLEANER



- Heavy Object Trap
- Top-Fill Dirt Collection System
- Dual Brushed Edge-Cleaning
- Auger-Action Agitation
- Full Furniture Guard
- Toe-Operated On/Off Switch
- 6-Position Height Adjustment
- V-Belt Drive

Conquest 18'
Model #U7071-080

REGULAR \$397

\$100 OFF

NOW ONLY \$297

REG. \$449 *** SAVE \$100 *** \$349

Conquest 14'
Model #W7069-060 (not shown)

DIRT OR BAG CUPS SOLD SEPARATELY
One-Year Commercial Warranty

A PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

WE HONOR MAJOR CHARGES



PERSONAL CHECKS ACCEPTED

STORE HOURS

- MONDAY AND THURSDAYS 10:00 AM-8:00 PM
- TUES., WEDS., AND FRIDAYS 10:00 AM-6:00 PM
- SATURDAY 10:00 AM-6:00 PM
- CLOSED SUNDAYS

BIG SAVINGS IN OUR BEDDING DEPT.

AN ELIZABETH TRADITION

BIG SAVINGS IN OUR BEDDING DEPT.

OUR 49th YEAR

JACOBSON'S

DISTRIBUTING Company

725 RAILWAY AVENUE, ELIZABETH • 354-8533
APPLIANCES • BEDDING • ELECTRONICS • AUDIO & VISUAL
OPEN MON. & THURS. 10 AM - 8:00 PM, TUES., WED. & FRI. 10 AM - 6:00 PM
OPEN SATURDAY 10 AM - 5:00 PM, CLOSED SUNDAYS

With Your Purchase...

FREE DELIVERY SETUP REMOVAL