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SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 71 NO. 28

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2000

TWO SECT

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Planning Board hears case for new condo complex

Developer seeks buildings at former swim club site

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

The Springfield Planning Board took its first look at a new potential neighbor March 1.

Pinnacle Communities Ltd., a Millburn-based company, stepped up before the board with a site plan proposal for a four-building, 96-unit condominium complex. The chosen location—a little over eight acres on a hilltop site formerly occupied by the Balmoral Swim Club—is meeting the challenge of a township zoning regulation that limits the height of residential constructions to 2 1/2 stories.

Pinnacle's design proposes three stories, at a height of 38 feet, 5 inches, which would require the issuance of a variance. The current height limitation is approximately 35 feet. The building's proposed height, coupled with its hill-top location, is causing displeasure among local residents, who turned out in better-than-average numbers to listen to the Planning Board hear the case.

Richard Schkolnick, representing the developer,

brought in Paul Schmeier, vice president of operations for Pinnacle, as his first witness. Board member and Township Committeeman Gregory Clarke, who in the beginning of the meeting proclaimed the height issue "a crucial problem," greeted Schmeier with the simple question: "Why three stories?"

"We think going up an extra story would result in less blasting," Schmeier answered. Due to the high level of ground, and the limited physical area, a certain amount of blasting is already planned, some of which will be necessary to accommodate underground parking spaces.

The developers anticipate 187 parking spaces, 120 of which would be situated underground. A blasting expert will testify separately at a future meeting.

Residents are concerned about the additional traffic the proposed complex would bring, plus the possible unsightliness of a large structure on a hill.

"It's against the code for them to build high," said Schmeier.

See PROPOSED, Page 10

Second-graders read across Deerfield



Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

Author/illustrator Trinka Hakes Noble, center, reads her book, 'The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash,' with second-graders, from left, Michael Caudo, Michael Miller, Dorsey Allen and Katarina Kingston, during Read Across America at Deerfield School in Mountainside.

Write-in candidate emerges in Board of Education race

By Mark Hryniak
Regional Editor

A last-minute move by Board of Education incumbents has not only raised the ire of one Mountainside resident, it has prompted her begin a write-in campaign for one of two seats on the board.

Lifelong Mountainside resident MaryBeth Schaumburg said she was not comfortable with the actions of board member Linda Esmerale and former board member Patricia Knodel prior to the Feb. 28 filing deadline for the Board of Education election.

"Up until last week, the community as a whole thought we would be looking at the two incumbents running," Esmerale and Frank Geiger. "That changed and the circumstances which made that change made me feel compelled to run."

"Voters of this town deserve to have a choice and I think in a certain sense, that was taken away from them," said Schaumburg, a 1980 gra-

duate of Jonathan Dayton Regional High School.

Schaumburg is entitled to her opinion, Knodel said, but she's "all wrong."

"I did not file a petition to run again because of a family situation that needed my undivided attention," Esmerale said in a letter sent to this newspaper Tuesday night.

"I have always been able to handle it all but unfortunately, I became increasingly stressed over this situation and the amount of time needed to continue my active involvement and commitment to the many upcoming important issues facing the Board of Education during the coming years."

"It was not until the weekend of Feb. 26 that I began to realize that I was not able to give the board my complete attention and began to contemplate what I should do," she said.

Due to circumstances, Esmerale said she was forced to make a decision between family and Board of

Education, "family had to come first." "It was too late to find another candidate and since I believe approximately 70 percent of the citizens without children in the Mountainside school system have representation, I suggested to Mrs. Knodel that she return to the board."

"I think the voters respect" Knodel's years of service, but over-whelmingly sent a message that they want new faces," based on last year's election results, Schaumburg said.

Knodel was defeated in the 1999 Board of Education election by John Perrin and Peter Goggi. Goggi tallied 884 votes and Perrin 868 votes, followed by Knodel who received 516 votes. She had served on the board for 26 years prior to year's defeat. Knodel said plenty of candidates have lost borough school elections and have come back to win in future years.

Schaumburg, a 1976 graduate of Deerfield School, lives on Darby



MaryBeth Schaumburg

Lane with her husband Andy and three children, ages 10, 8 and 2. She has been active in the Deerfield School PTA as a new parent liaison and co-chair of the Spring Festival Committee.

A former real estate agent, Schaumburg was involved in all three phases of the Mountainside School District's strategic planning process.

Township continues in fight with supermarket

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

Springfield has no plans on giving up and letting Royal Ahold have its 70,000-square-foot-plus way.

An ordinance that would have resulted in the rezoning of the region of Ahold's proposed Edwards Food Store at 90 Millburn Ave. was held up at the Springfield Township Committee's last February meeting, resulting in frustration on the part of some township residents, as well as Short Hills residents.

Mayor Clara Harelik and Deputy Mayor Steven Goldstein voted no and abstained, respectively, to the ordinance, which would limit the size of a new establishment in the area to 7,000 square feet.

Springfield came out on the short end of a state Supreme Court decision last month when it was ruled that two variances, issued to Saks Fifth Avenue, the previous owner of the Millburn Avenue facility, were

deemed transferable to Royal Ahold, the Netherlands-based company that owns Edwards.

A Springfield zoning official ruled last year that the variances, issued in 1956 and again in 1968, were not transferable. A back-and-forth battle ensued, with the issue finally finding its way to the state's highest court.

The decision opened the door for Ahold to present its site plan to the township's Board of Adjustment, but at the board's first meeting after the decision, on Feb. 15, Ahold was a no-show. The company's lawyer, James Segreto of Haledon, wrote to the board asking to have the application heard at a later meeting.

The ordinance in question would amend Chapter 35, "Scheduling of Zoning Limitations." Harelik, for one, was uncomfortable with the timing of the ordinance, coming as it did on the heels of the state Supreme Court decision.

See ORDINANCE, Page 10

Mountainside First Aid Squad in search of more volunteers

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

Mountainside's 6,000-plus residents are covered by 25 active First Aid Squad volunteers, and more are needed.

"We actually have 35 members, of which 25 are active," said Kit Carson, the squad's president and a 22-year veteran. "The other 10 are college students or people on leave for some reason or another—sick leave, business leave or college leave."

According to Carson, the squad has picked up around seven new members during the past

year. "That's a good number for us," he said, referring to the fact that the majority hail from the borough as a result of the organization's promotional efforts via TV-35, the CPR training given at the squad's headquarters and the production of three videotapes illustrating life-saving techniques and emergency call reenactments.

"But we're still critically short of members," Carson said. "There are still some tough times, when some of our members aren't working. The Police Department has helped, hiring its last five officers all with

Emergency Medical Technician training and providing us with help when we need it. But we have a population of almost 7,000 in Mountainside, and that doesn't include the people we have out from out town working here."

The squad's financing comes from three sources: the borough itself, the United Way and donations from the general public. According to Carson, the borough, by law, is allowed to give the squad \$35,000, although more may be provided in the event of an emergency situation. Carson described the

present donations as being "even—about a third of the way all around."

Squad members, however, incur no out-of-pocket expenses. Uniforms, training and even pagers are all paid for, with each prospective member serving a six-month probationary period.

"The CPR course is given immediately to any new member," Carson pointed out. "Our own members administer that training. Then there's the EMT course, which covers a total of 120 hours, including 10 in a hospital emergency room. The EMT course runs four

months, two nights per week." EMT courses are given at both the Plainfield and Scotch Plains campuses of Union County College.

Members are required to put in one 12-hour shift per week, either in one shot, or broken down into different shifts. "We try to fit the hours to satisfy the member's availability," Carson said.

Pagers make it unnecessary for members to spend their shift in the squad building; those who prefer can answer their calls from home. Carson said the squad also offers "observer

See FIRST, Page 10

High school teacher puts Dayton on map

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

James Lassi gave C-SPAN a little lesson on Jonathan Dayton.

Lassi, a history teacher at Dayton High School in Springfield, appeared on C-SPAN Dec. 28, identifying the school's namesake — and youngest signer of the U.S. Constitution — for the benefit of the station's on-air host during a live broadcast on the presidents.

The segment concluded C-SPAN's 41-week, 41 president series. Lassi, a history buff and collector as well as a C-SPAN fan, was asked to appear on C-SPAN after a number of his students took his challenge to call in and ask questions about Franklin Roosevelt, who was the subject of the series back in October.

"It was something of a running joke with us," said Lassi, a fan of the program, and of C-SPAN. "Every week I'd write on the board what president C-SPAN would be profiling. They didn't watch, but I'd keep telling them what president would be on."

"Finally, just before Columbus Day, I told them if they'd watch the segment on FDR, they'd get 10 points of extra credit."

The offer worked. It worked so

well that in minutes, Dayton, Lassi and Springfield had become familiar names to the show's hosts, with Lassi eventually being invited to speak for himself on the air.

A full-time teacher at Dayton since the 1992-93 school year, Lassi, a Flemington resident, was recently honored with the New Jersey Educator of Distinction Award. Assemblyman Joel Weingarten, another apparent fan of C-SPAN, was watching the program at the time of Lassi's appearance, and eventually decided to sponsor a joint resolution honoring the history teacher for his work with the township's students. The award was presented last month during an assembly at Dayton.

"I've always loved American history," Lassi said. His classroom reflects his affection: filled with vintage, framed images of presidents from Taft to Wilson to Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower and Nixon, genuine John Kennedy-for-President bumper stickers and scores of images of his idol, FDR — all from Lassi's own personal collection — the room represents a veritable spill-over of his enthusiasm.

Lassi grew up in Roselle. He said See LASSI, Page 3



Photo By Milton Mills

Left, Sandmeier students, from left, Jen Bleiwise, Brinley Kaston and Amy Shafman lead the Mardi Gras parade through the halls of the Springfield elementary school on Tuesday. At right, showing off their Mardi Gras flag are, from left, Ryan Nunley,

Dotti Shafman and Alexa Perlestein. Second-graders in Mrs. Ginsberg's class decorated masks and paraded through the school throwing beads as if they were on the streets of New Orleans.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

How to reach us:
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Display advertising for placement in the general news section of the Echo Leader must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m. for publication that week. Advertising for placement in the B section must be in our office by Monday at noon. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Call 908-686-7700 for an appointment. Ask for the display advertising department.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Today
• The Mountianside PTA sponsors its 14th annual fashion show-auction fund-raiser, including a dinner, at 6 p.m. at L'Affaire Restaurant in Mountainside. Tickets are \$27 per person and may be obtained by calling Toni at 235-6796. Proceeds will go toward Deerfield School's Cultural Enrichment Program.

• The Union County Chapter of the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners features Patricia Nunno Roque, president of Business Boomers in Wayne, at its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. at L'Affaire, Route 22 East, Mountainside. Tickets are \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members and guests. For reservations call (908) 688-0707.

• The Governor Livingston Hilltop Players presents "The Pirates of Penzance" at 7:30 p.m. and March 10 and 11 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7, \$4 for seniors on March 11. Tickets are available at the box office or in advance at Berkeley Print and Copy Center on Springfield Avenue in Berkeleys Heights or by calls (908) 464-9038.

• The Mountainside Planning Board meets at 8 p.m. in Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East.

• The Berkeley Heights Board of Education meets for a regular conference meeting in the Clausen Administration Complex at 8 p.m.

Friday
• The Project Graduation committee of Governor Livingston High School will sponsor a spaghetti dinner at the high school cafeteria from 5 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and children under 12. For reservations call Ginni at (908) 444-5070 or Karen at 464-3006. The Governor Livingston High School spring musical, "Pirates of Penzance" will be presented later that evening. Seniors who attend the dinner will receive a \$3 discount on theatre tickets.

Saturday
• The Garwood Board of Health conducts a Health Day from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Garwood Municipal Building, 403 South Avenue. The program is subject to cancellation unless a minimum participation of 25 is achieved. The event is open to residents of Mountainside and Springfield.

• The Mountainside Public Library, Convention Plaza, presents "Car, Boat, Train & Plane," a musical sing-along for families and children ages 3 and up presented by entertainer

educator Jeanne DePodwin, at 2 p.m. For information call (908) 232-0115. Admission is free.

Sunday
• Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, presents a program at 2 p.m. to assemble and custom decorate a traditional diamond kite. Cost is \$3 per kite. For information call (908) 789-3670.

• Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, presents "Spaceship Earth" at 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 per person, \$2.55 for seniors. Sing a song and learn the names of all the planets in the solar system. For ages 4 to 6 with an adult. For information call (908) 789-3670.

Monday
• The Springfield Township Committee meets for an executive session meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave.

Tuesday
• The Mountainside Board of Education meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Deerfield School, Central Avenue.

• The Springfield Township Committee meets for an executive session meeting at 7:30 p.m. and a regular meeting at 8 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave.

• The Mountainside Borough Council meets at 8 p.m. for a work session meeting in Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East.

Ash Wednesday
Upcoming events

March 19
• The Donald B. Palmer Museum in the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will present, "The Sound of Musicals — Rodgers and Hammerstein," a lecture with taped music by Robert William Butts. Admission is free by ticket only. For information call (973) 376-4930.

• The Trad Chamber Vocal Ensemble will present its fourth annual concert in the sanctuary at Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 408 Church Mall, at 4 p.m. The 18-member mixed choir will be conducted by Gino Johnson, with piano accompaniment by her husband, Don Crise.

• A Naturalist/Whaler writer Tivy Cove will share her love and knowledge of whales and the effect litter has on marine animals during a program at 2 p.m. at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. Admission is free. For information call (908) 789-3670.

• "The Reason for the Season," a program explaining the motions of the Earth, will be presented at 3:30 p.m. at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. Admission is \$3 per person, \$2.55 for seniors. For ages 6 and up. For information call (908) 789-3670.

March 20
• Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive E, Springfield, will present the Megillah reading at 6:30 p.m. featuring a special guest appearance by The Bluestein Brothers 2000, 5760, featuring Brother Ha'Ray, Moshe Mendel and Brother Heizhan Rueven, with back up vocals from the Gospel singers.

• The Springfield Board of Education meets at 7:30 p.m. for a regular meeting in the board conference room at Jonathan Dayton High School.

March 21
• The Mountainside Borough Council will meet at 8 p.m. for a regular meeting in Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East.

• The Springfield Historical Society will have a regular meeting at 8 p.m. in the Presbyterian Parish House 37 Church Mall. The program will feature a realistic guided tour via colored slides and commentary of the famous Ballantine House of Newark during the Victorian period. Admission is free. For information call (973) 376-3348.

March 23
• Rabbi Mark Malach, the new spiritual leader at Temple Beth Ahm, Springfield, will be the first registered pharmacist ever to be ordained as a conservative rabbi, will speak before the Springfield Hadassah at 12:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Ahm.

March 25
• Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall, will sponsor a fish and chips dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 12. For information call (973) 376-1695.

March 27
• The Springfield Rotary Club 6929, in conjunction with the Springfield PTA and PTO will sponsor its First Taste of the Towns event at L'Affaire, Route 22 East, Mountainside, at 6 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Springfield School District. Ticket donations are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. To purchase tickets call (973) 467-6186.

March 30
• St. James Church, 45 S. Springfield Ave., Springfield, will sponsor a winter shopping trip to Vanity Fair Reading, Pa. outlets. Tickets are \$10 per person. For reservations call Tony Graziano at (973) 376-5612.

April 2
• Temple Beth Ahm in Springfield will conduct its first meeting of Haazak, an organization for people 55 and over in the temple ballroom at 10 a.m. All are invited. The meeting will be an overview of Haazak, part of United Synagogue RSVV in the temple office by March 27 at (973) 376-6556.

EVENTS

Residents are invited to attend Health Day

The Garwood Board of Health will conduct a Health Day on Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Garwood Municipal Building, 403 South Avenue. The program is subject to cancellation unless a minimum participation of 25 is achieved. The Health Day is open to residents of Garwood, Fanwood, Mountainside, Westfield, Roselle Park and Springfield, exclusively.

The health program will offer an extensive blood screening, consisting of a SMAC 26, CBC and HDL. Medical Laboratory of West Orange will conduct the blood testing.

The SMAC 26 is an elaborate blood analysis monitoring several bodily functions. The CBC test is a test including a red blood cell count, a white blood cell count and differential count.

The CBC test may indicate the presence of infection, anemia, allergies, lung disease, etc. The HDL test measures factors protective against coronary heart disease. The SMAC 26 is used in assessing total cholesterol results, to determine possible coronary risk factors.

Roben Sherr, director of health, has noted that anyone taking the blood test must fast 12 hours prior, with the exception of water. Pre-registration for the blood test is mandatory and will be conducted by the Westfield Health Department, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield, until today from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The cost of the SMAC-26 test is \$16. Additional tests can be performed at the following specified cost: T4, thyroxine test, \$5; TSH, thyroid stimulating hormone, \$10; PSA, prostate test, \$30; Blood Group/Rh Factor, \$10; Iron, \$5; Sed Rate, \$10; Hepatitis C, \$25; Hepatitis B, \$25; Urine analysis, \$5. All fees must be paid upon registration.

The Health Day will offer a blood pressure program. Hemocult test kits will be available to test for occult blood in the gastrointestinal tract. Test packets/dietary restrictions will be distributed at the health program.

Dinner will benefit Project Graduation

The Project Graduation committee of Governor Livingston High School will sponsor a spaghetti dinner at the high school cafeteria on Friday from 5 to 8 p.m.

The menu will include spaghetti and meatballs, salad, beverage, cake and coffee at a cost of \$7 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and children under 12.

Reservations are recommended and can be arranged by calling Ginni at (908) 464-5070 or Karen at (908) 464-3006. Proceeds will be used to fund this year's all-night drug- and alcohol-free graduation celebration for the entire senior class in June.

The high school spring musical production of "Pirates of Penzance" will be presented on March 10. Senior citizens who attend the spaghetti dinner on Friday will receive a \$3 discount on their theater tickets that evening.

Business Boomers president to speak

The Union County Chapter of the New Jersey Association of Women

Business Owners will feature Patricia Nunno Roque, president of Business Boomers in Wayne, who has built a national reputation as "the diva of online and offline marketing," at its monthly meeting today at 6 p.m. at L'Affaire Restaurant, in Mountainside.

NJAWBO is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide tools for women business owners to compete in any marketplace, enabling them to operate a financially successful business.

To make reservations for the dinner meeting, or for more information about NJAWBO, call the Union County Hotline at (908) 688-0707.

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Directed by Sherrie Ahlin Cleary
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Officials testify on emergency access

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

All the usual suspects, plus a few new ones, found their way to Summit City Hall March 2 for a special Planning Board meeting on the Bryant Park Commons Condominium complex.

Summit Police Chief William Schneller, Fire Chief Christopher Conner and Springfield Police Chief William Chisholm were among the new faces in attendance. All three testified on issues of emergency access to the proposed site.

Another new face, brought in to testify by the city, was engineer Richard B. Schommer. Schommer, who twice visited the site — the former location of the Carter-Bell Manufacturing Company — testified to the viability of finding a second access point. But a more simple fact pointed out by Schommer could ultimately prove the project's undoing.

According to Schommer, Park Drive, the location's current lone access point, is approximately 130 feet from the adjacent Middle Avenue Residential Site Improvement Standards require a distance of at least 150 feet between closely intersecting streets.

The complex, proposed by the Short Hills-based K&K Developers Inc., consists of 138 units. Traffic flow and volume to and from the complex have been a concern of the board since day one.

Bruce Pitman, lawyer for the developer, previously presented his own traffic expert, Harold Matz, who described the traffic flow conditions as "excellent," and the sight lines for drivers exiting Park Drive as "sound." Board members, however, continue to be skeptical of Matz's judgement.

Matz himself measured the distance between Park Drive and Middle Avenue as 160 feet. Schommer challenged that figure, but admitted under Pitman's cross-examination that his own figure did not represent "a major difference." However, Summit's city solicitor, Barry Osman, said any distance less than the RSI standard of 150 feet can result in the board voting against the project.

Pitman recommended having the distance measured by a professional land surveyor, or with further discussion on the matter being saved for the Planning Board's next regular meeting on March 27. The board agreed.

On the issue of a second access point, Schommer said he had contacted the Department of Environmental Protection regarding the crossing of the stream that borders the property on the Summit side.

"It appears the only other access is over the stream," he said, identifying the "15- to 25-foot" body of water as the site's only certifiable wetlands. "Because the wetlands are confined to the stream, the crossing would basically only cover the width of the stream."

Schommer pointed out that a Stream Encroachment Permit would be necessary, and that no potential prohibitions exist. However, at the first hearing in November, Pitman's witness, engineer Kevin Page, testified differently. Page told the board that the DEP would never permit the crossing of a stream when an access point already exists.

On the subject of emergency response, Chisholm identified the site as being approximately two miles from the township's Municipal Building, in which its Police Department is housed.

"Our response time could range anywhere from two minutes to five seconds," he said. "You have to remember, we always have patrol cars assigned to that district."

William Gras, Springfield's fire chief, was not in attendance. "I assume their response time would be around three or four minutes, but I really can't speak for them," Chisholm said to the Fire Department.

When asked, Chisholm said that not having a left turn out of Park Drive "would help." He also supported the idea of not having any parking on either side of Park Drive, although he admitted that enforcement remains an open question, to be determined through the issue of jurisdiction. Pitman suggested that the no parking enforcement situation be permanently settled before any approval is issued.

"I wouldn't object to enforcing the no parking because it's a safety issue," Schneller said. "Unenforced, we'd have a problem with people entering and exiting."

Developers recently expanded their dimensions for Park Drive — to a pair of 14-foot lanes with a 4-foot island with 6-foot sidewalks on either side — to satisfy the board and also to meet RSI standards.

The previous dimensions, at 12 feet with a 4-foot island and no parking or sidewalks, left board members uneasy, with the lack of sidewalks failing to meet RSI standards. The developers presented their alterations at the board's Feb. 16 meeting.

Schneller expressed his discomfort at the previous dimensions and said he had not yet seen the new dimensions. He did say, however, that he would be "absolutely comfortable with a secondary access." He described the region as a low-incident area in regard to traffic accidents, but reminded the board that "we can't predict what the traffic volume will really be."

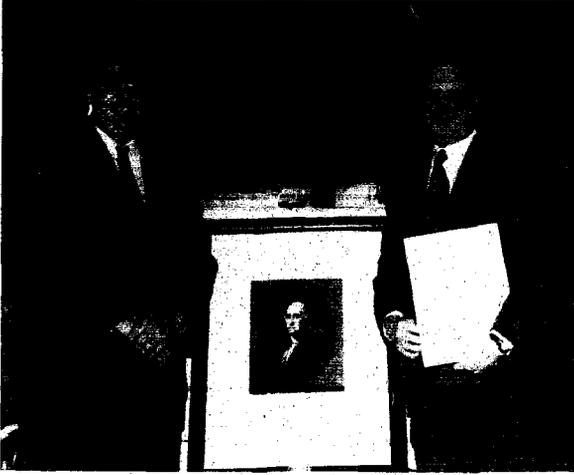
"With a catastrophic incident, like a fire, you have onlookers and people panicking," Schneller continued. "I'd like to see it wider — I'd like to see it at 20 feet — but even then it could still get clogged. Something like that could bottleneck this whole project, especially with only one in and out. In the event of an emergency, an evacuation could take anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour." Pitman said his client would foot the cross for Police Department activity involving evacuation and handling of traffic in emergency situations.

Conner also expressed a desire to see a wider access roadway, and said he believed the Springfield Fire Department shared his concern.

"I'd feel better if there were a wider access road," Conner said. He described the width of fire department vehicles as "slightly over 10 feet."

"It's always wise to have more than one access point," he continued. "A single access could be blocked. There are examples, even within this community, where a second access exists and remains closed until emergency personnel opens it. The nature of how we handle a particular fire depends on the circumstance, although having only one means of access limits us."

Board member William Callahan, who ran the meeting in the absence of Phyllis Banks, closed the meeting with a bit of a curveball when he suggested sharing tax revenues resulting from the construction of the proposed condos. Callahan asked Osman to contact Springfield Township Attorney Bruce Bergen regarding the issue.



James Lassi, right, who was named Educator of the Year, is presented with a resolution from the state Assembly by Assemblyman Joel Weingarten.

Lassi named Educator of Distinction

(Continued from Page 1)

he always had an idea to become a congressional aide, and actually moved to Washington, D.C. in 1981 with that goal in mind. But the death of his mother the following year brought him back to New Jersey.

Still, Lassi made frequent trips to the nation's capital, especially during the time he was studying at Kean College in Union Township. "Back then, Washington was more open than it is now," he said, as he described a ride he had taken on the "Capitol Subway," a special system designed for and used only by senators. "They used it to speed the commute from their offices to the Capitol so they could register their votes quickly."

In 1980, Lassi wrote a letter to former President Richard Nixon and was invited to meet with the 37th president at his New York office as a result.

"His office was square, and about as big as this classroom," Lassi recalled. "The furniture was arranged to make it look like the Oval Office. I guess he dyed his hair when he appeared in public, because when I met him his hair was white." Lassi spoke with the ex-president for about an hour. "I told him how I worked for his campaign in 1968 and that I was a teacher, and he talked about how his wife Pat was a teacher."

"He had laid out a plan showing how the three 1980 presidential candi-

dates, Carter, Reagan and Anderson, would fare in all the states, and he was almost exactly right in his predictions."

Nixon was also frank in telling Lassi that he felt he actually won the 1960 election against John Kennedy, and that voter irregularity had hampered his chances. "He said he didn't want to contest it because he didn't want to divide the country," Lassi said.

Lassi feeds his students presidential, and vice-presidential, stories. "I'm constantly reading them anecdotes, tidbits, to flesh these people out," he said. "I'm not trying to ruin anyone's position in history, to break down the icons, but I'm just trying to show the kids that these are real people, that almost anyone could become president."

The artifacts in his classroom also help keep the notion of American history fresh. Lassi has a collection of original Harper's Weeklys, detailing the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, and several copies of the Nov. 23, 1963 Daily News reporting the assassination of President Kennedy.

On the wall between windows is a framed poster, "Scenes and Incidents in the Life of James A. Garfield," issued by a New York publisher after Garfield's murder in 1881. Less

familiar figures are also recalled: on a back wall, hanging above a bulletin board, is a poster of presidential candidate Thomas E. Dewey and his running mate, John William Bricker.

Of his own history within the nuts and bolts educational body, Lassi has been part of the Union County Regional School District, dealing with the somewhat challenging task of having to switch schools, sometimes within the same day.

"With the regional system, if they were down one history teacher, they'd send you to another school. A lot of teachers would split their day, with three classes in one school and two in another — something nobody really wants to do. You have to live out of a trunk. And it makes it hard to do things like meet with the kids after school."

But Lassi survived regionalization and has thrived at Dayton, teaching U.S. History, including the extra pressure of Advanced Placement History, to Springfield's students.

"AP is about a chapter a week, or more," Lassi pointed out. "The AP exam is taken every May, so the entire course has to be done before then." But, he added, "it's Advanced Placement, so more is expected."

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Fine balance

Boards of education were created to allow local residents to help direct the path their school district chooses to take. Decisions regarding the educational system in their hometown is ultimately made by members of the board of education.

District staff and administrators, meanwhile, are the professionals hired by the board of education to operate the school district on a daily basis and bring their professional expertise to the table.

Sometimes there can be confusion as to who runs the school district. Is it the superintendent, the professional educator, or is it the board of education that hired the superintendent? In a successful school district, the relationship between the superintendent and board of education is symbiotic: the two entities work together to get what they believe to be the best possible solution or strategy.

In Mountainside, school officials have presented a plan that would create a full-day kindergarten program for the school district. The program would extend the day for 5-year-olds, ending at 3 p.m. versus the current 1:30 p.m.

While most board members and school officials seemed to be in support of the proposal during a public hearing, several parents had concerns about keeping children so young in school all day.

The growing trend throughout the state is to create a full-day kindergarten program within school districts to meet the state's Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Special needs districts, such as Plainfield and Elizabeth, examined full-day kindergarten as a major priority. Many of these special needs districts are aiming to begin their full-day kindergarten or pre-kindergarten programs by September.

Mountainside is vastly different from these types of districts, not only in terms of the educational system but also the social system, which has a bearing on a child's education. It is not only about how much money can be spent by a district to educate a child but the type of income and social environment and the background education plays in their early years.

School administrators and teachers are the professional educators hired by the school district. Residents serving on the Board of Education are not required to have a background in education. That's the great part about a board of education: members can come from a variety of professional areas and diverse backgrounds.

It is a fine balance that must be met between the professional educational opinion and how much say Board of Education members have.

What's your opinion about this subject? Call us at (908) 686-9898, or enter Selection 8000. Use our Infocourse hotline to express your opinions about this and other local issues. Responses will be published next week.



Small field can bring complacency

It is disappointing to see another school board race uncontested. Although in Mountainside a write-in candidate has emerged, in Springfield only the three incumbents whose terms expire filed for election.

This is not meant to disparage the candidates who have decided to make a commitment to their schools, or say they are not qualified. They likely would agree that more candidates would make for a better campaign and election season, not to mention a higher voter turnout for the school budget. Only a scant few voters usually turn out for school board and budget elections, in the area of 20 percent — in a good year.

The low turnout and scarcity of candidates cannot mean that residents are completely happy and satisfied with their school system to the extent that no one participates in elections. Or perhaps they are. But we doubt it.

In Springfield and Mountainside, rare is it that more than a handful of people run for the board. Last year, there was only one more candidate than there were board seats available in both local elections.

The more candidates in a school election, the better chance of bringing to the fore the various issues that residents want addressed, whether it's the school budget, uniforms, technology or curriculum.

Competition generally breeds excellence, no matter what subject you're talking about. School elections are no different. More competition for school board seats can only make candidates more focused on their messages and what they would like to accomplish.

Uncontested races have the potential of generating complacency not only among voters but also candidates and board members.



APPRECIATION BREAKFAST — The faculty and staff at St. James The Apostle School in Springfield enjoy an "Appreciation breakfast" given and hosted by the Home and School Association, one of the events during the school's observance of Catholic Schools Week, a national celebration of Catholic education.

Hopefuls scour Union County for big money

On The Campaign Trail

By Mark Hywna, Regional Editor

When presidential candidates spin New Jersey's "Wheel of Fortune" of campaign fund-raising, Union County is usually right in the middle of things.

All four front-running presidential candidates have gotten their fair share in New Jersey, and specifically Union County. Towns like Summit and Westfield not only lead the county in contributions but have among the highest (total) contributions in the state.

Finance reports on the Federal Election Commission's website — www.fec.gov — sons contributors by the zip code given on the campaign contribution form. Contributions, although I've noticed usually are filed by home address, are sometimes only listed by business or professional addresses, probably a result of incomplete forms. Contributions of more than \$200 must be reported.

The good people of Summit led the way in Union County contributors to all four presidential candidates in 1999: Bill Bradley, Al Gore, John McCain and George W. Bush, but in varying degrees. According to the 1999 year-end filings, residents of Summit delved out \$109,700 to Bradley; \$28,750 to Bush; \$17,850 to Gore, and \$10,450 to McCain for a grand total of \$166,700.

Summit residents were the top contributors to each candidate, except Bush where Summit was a close second to Westfield; \$29,530 to \$28,750. Bradley raised more in Summit than all other Union County towns combined, and city residents accounted for 60 percent of his overall contributions in the county.

Summit — and Westfield at

\$36,400 — was far ahead of the pack for Bradley in Union County as the third-highest figure came from Scotch Plains at \$9,850, followed by New Providence, \$7,325; Springfield, \$6,125; Cranford, \$5,500; Union, \$4,200; Clark, \$3,250; and Hillside and Linden, \$3,000 each.

As for Bush, after Summit and Westfield came Springfield at \$10,250 and Scotch Plains at \$7,000. Murray Hill, \$5,000; Mountainside, \$4,650; New Providence, \$4,500; Plainfield, \$4,000; Union, Kenilworth and Roselle Park, \$1,000 each; Berkeley Heights, \$750; Elizabeth, \$500, and Cranford, \$250.

While Gore may have been third in the county, he received contributions from the most municipalities: 15, one more than Bush.

Residents of the Democratic stronghold of Elizabeth did not appear on Bradley's reports but were second on Gore's. Bush received \$500 while McCain collected \$1,175 from Elizabeth constituents. Contributions to Gore totaled \$14,750 in Elizabeth, of which \$3,000 came from State Sen. Raymond Lesniak.

Lesniak and other Union County leaders are backing Jon Corzine of Summit for U.S. Senate. Corzine and his wife accounted for \$6,000 of

Gore's \$17,850 raised in Summit. Gore's other contributions in Union County came from Westfield, \$12,400, followed by Cranford, \$6,500; Clark, \$5,000; Berkeley Heights, \$4,000; Mountainside, \$3,000; Scotch Plains and Union, \$2,500; Murray Hill, \$2,000; Roselle Park, \$1,250; Kenilworth, Fanwood and Roselle, \$1,000; and Springfield, \$400.

Contributions so far for 2000 can be found on the March 1 filing which already has been posted at www.fec.gov. Another good website for campaign junkies is the Center for Responsive Politics, www.opensecrets.org.

7th District race
In the 7th Congressional District race, Republican Michael Ferguson, who moved to Warren to run, was leading all candidates with \$392,831 at the end of 1999. He is followed by two Democrats, former Fanwood mayor Maryanne Connelly with \$189,049 and Warren Township Committeeman Jeff Golkin with \$125,951.

Republican Patrick Morrissey of Westfield had \$106,407, just ahead of Assemblyman Joel Weingarten of Millburn with \$104,547 and Tom Keen Jr. of Westfield who had \$87,666 as of his Dec. 31 filing. The next contribution filers are not due until March 31.

Ferguson's fund-raising lead is thanks in part to \$200,000 from his 1998 campaign in the 6th District. At least one GOP opponent, Morrissey, has a problem with that. While the practice is not prohibited by federal

law, Morrissey said, it is inappropriate. "Clearly all of the monies raised during the past year, are now being kept under false premises and should be returned."

Ronayne said Ferguson should do the same thing Whitman did when she abandoned her run for U.S. Senate and give contributors the option to getting their donations back.

According to Ferguson's campaign manager, Daniel Quinones, letters were sent to all of Ferguson's supporters offering them an opportunity to return donations, and only one took them up on the offer. Quinones said Morrissey is only trying to deflect attention from the fact that many of his contributions came from the Washington, D.C. area and from outside the 7th District.

Morrissey said Ferguson's letter merely said he was switching districts and did not explicitly offer supporters their contributions back. Morrissey, who is renting an apartment in Westfield, said he is using his life savings to run for public office.

Unlike Ferguson who can run a self-financed campaign, Morrissey said he has taken contributions from many clients he had while working for a national law firm the past five years in Washington, D.C.

Morrissey and Kenneth Gardner are the only GOP candidates not to sign Ferguson's clean campaign pledge. Morrissey has come up with his own pledge which he says goes further and refuses to sign Ferguson's until he furnishes the letter which was sent to contributors allowing them to have their donations refunded.

If we avoid hustlers, then we're doing okay

Joe's Place

By Joe Lugano, Staff Writer

Through its tears, America has done extraordinarily well in helping turn its citizenry into basically two things: cynics and suckers.

Public weeping has evolved into a big thing on this side of the Atlantic. People from all walks of life are bawling for the TV cameras at the drop of a hat. I'd love to be able to trace the origin of this phenomena, although I'm almost certain it's buried forever, like man's first steps.

But I do have a best guess. It might hark back to the retirement of Mike Schmidt, major league baseball's quintessential self-seeking employee, and his drippy antics when he finally called it quits. Schmidt, who by many accounts was likeable in the way a prison trustee is likeable, suddenly and without warning became Mr. John Q. Tenderheart in front of millions.

I remember the response. Nearly everyone I talked to who witnessed

his performance was disgusted and embarrassed. And I defended him. I said something like, "Look, the guy has spent a lifetime working at being a ballplayer, more than the day he could walk and now it's over. His whole identity's tied up with being a ballplayer. What's he going to do now?" Something like that.

Well, maybe Schmitt's tears were genuine, maybe they weren't. No one will ever know. No one cares. But one thing appears to be certain — tears seem to have been falling like rain across the country ever since.

I'm not denying anyone's feelings here, but there has to be a cap. We baffle feeling when we abuse it, and abuse of feeling, in my handbook of bad behavior, is one of the world's few genuinely immoral acts. It's easy to react to the obvious emotional response. Greek tragedy has made big box office out of that.

This is a cynic talking. This is the fellow who sneered when Darryl Strawberry got up on the dais at City Hall last October and blubbered to his Yankee teammates about how he loved them and appreciated their support. My father has a simple and perfect word to describe Straw: hustler. Straw has a record of hustling. He can't be believed, and his recent flunked drug test will just end up adding another chapter to his hustling history.

Hustlers exist, like leeches. If we can avoid them on a personal basis, we're doing okay. But they sneak into our homes anyway, pouring out tears through our televisions.

Again, maybe Straw's tears were real. Maybe, however briefly, he meant what he said. But his reputation is working overtime against him. The cynics might pity him, but they won't believe him. The suckers do both. Prying someone for their proven weaknesses is the humane thing to do, but there's a limit, a point at which pity skips into suckerdom.

Cynics recognize that hustlers exist. They also recognize human frailty, and when they see a hustler, they temper their sympathy accordingly. That's good cynicism. But abuse of sensitivity by hustlers is what turns otherwise completely sympathetic people into hardcore cynics who say things like this: Cry in your own beer, not mine.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We should reward good service

To the Editor:

I am writing to you in response to Frank Capace's "Left Out" column in the Feb. 17 edition of your paper. I read the column with enthusiasm and felt compelled to write to you, as the subject of customer service is one of great interest to me.

I would like to support the motion of having a service review section in the newspaper. We should be rewarding companies who make their customers happy, and go out of their way to be helpful. I am sure that the population of Union

County would like to be heard on these matters, and if we leave out the negative — which might fill your paper — and only report on the positive experiences, it would be a great referral service.

Thanks for your enjoyable newspaper!

Ellen Wilson
Springfield

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"I would go to Ireland for the scenery. It's picturesque."



Robert Blount

"I'd go to Brazil. It's pretty and there is a dance I like that I've seen them do."



Carol Verducci

"Australia. I've always wanted to see it."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Only one day for all the presidents?

To the Editor:
How is it that we have a day to commemorate all presidents and have just one single day exclusively memorializing Martin Luther King Jr.

Joseph C. Chieppa
Mountainside

Actions don't seem a coincidence

To the Editor:
On Feb. 28 — just minutes before the filing deadline — a current Mountainside Board of Education member, Linda Esemplare, withdrew her application to run for re-election on April 18. At the same time, a former Mountainside Board of Education member, Pat Knodel, filed her application to run for election to the board.

I find it implausible that these actions were a coincidence. Instead, it looks like a calculated scheme to place the former board member back on the board under a democratic challenge.

It would have been more forthright had these decisions been made public sooner, leaving time for other potential candidates to formally declare for Mrs. Esemplare's board seat. Until the last minute, the public thought they were re-electing Frank Geiger and Mrs. Esemplare to their incumbent positions.

Apparently, no one wanted to contest Mr. Geiger or Mrs. Esemplare — a commitment to both. If it were known sooner that Mrs. Knodel was replacing Mrs. Esemplare for the board seat, suitable candidates would have presented themselves earlier.

Is this the kind of integrity we want shaping the future of our school system? The children, and the residents, of Mountainside deserve better than this apparent behind-the-scenes plotting. Mrs. Knodel, didn't you just accept the 26-year recognition plaque upon your "retirement" from the Board of Education after your defeat in last year's election? Step aside and let us move forward.

I understand that a candidate has since come forward to run as a write-in candidate to challenge Mrs. Knodel. Bravo to MaryBeth Schamburg! I wish MaryBeth much luck and success in this election and I thank her for giving us a choice and an opportunity to maintain integrity on the Mountainside Board of Education.

Theresa Hanbicki
Mountainside

Come back with a real issue

To the Editor:
I am writing in response to the letter dated March 3, from Lou Thomas, president of the Mountainside Democratic Club. Usually I am able to keep my reactions to his self-serving distortions to myself, but can be silent no longer. Mr. Thomas is the classic "naysayer," despite his protests. He offers gratuitous criticisms, but no ideas of his own. For example, his version of "exposing the extravagant spending by our elected officials" was to attack our Borough Council for considering an ordinance which would pay them \$1,500 for their service — approximately an additional \$4 per household.

This is hardly extravagant given the hours they spend serving their town. These "extravagant" officials actually take less from the taxpayers than they are entitled. Under the State Health Benefits Plan, each council member is entitled to health insurance coverage paid for by the Borough of Mountainside, however no council member takes advantage of this benefit.

Of course, each year when the county freeholders of Mr. Thomas' Democratic Party vote themselves a raise which exceeds the sum sought by our council members — each freeholder makes in excess of \$20,000 per year — Mr. Thomas is quite silent. I do not begrudge any elected official just compensation, and in the interest of fairness neither should Mr. Thomas.

Mountainside is a wonderful place to live. Give credit where credit is due Mr. Thomas, to the people who govern us, and come back when you have a real issue to discuss.

Patricia S. Gagliardi
Mountainside

First Presbyterian Church offers numerous services

Special opportunities for Worship and Renewal are offered on Wednesday evenings and Sunday morning in March and April by the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield. All services will be in the Sanctuary of the historic church at 201 Morris Ave., at the corner of Church Mall.

The Wednesday evening programs are from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. On Sundays following the 10:15 a.m. Morning Worship, the special programs will begin at 11:15 in the Chapel with coffee and goodies served during this Fellowship Hour.

All are welcome and invited to come to reconnect, renew and deepen ones relationship with God. The Wednesday evening 7:30 to 8:30 schedule includes:

- March 15, the Rev. Karl Warrington, youth minister of Plainfield congregations, preaching.
- March 22, the Rev. John Luyber, pastor, Middlesex Presbyterian Church, preaching.
- March 29, Bill McConnell, PhD student at Drew University, preaching.
- April 5, the Rev. Gary Wetzel, pastor, Garwood Presbyterian Church, preaching.

• April 12, the Rev. Tim Pretz, pastor, Osceola Presbyterian Church, Clark, preaching.

Sunday morning opportunities begin with 10:15 Worship followed by the "Bruch Series."

• Sunday, Marc Caldwell, sculptor, on "James Caldwell, Pastor, Patriot, Hero."

• March 19, Darlene Kline, candidate for Ministry on "Stephen's Ministry," empowering lay leaders.

• March 26, the Rev. Gary Smalley, author on "The Joy of Committed Love."

• April 2, the Rev. Robert Morris, Episcopalian priest on "The Pilgrimage of Life."

• April 9, the Rev. Edward Danks, Volunteer in Mission East Africa, Kenya, on the growing church in Kenya.

• April 16, Palm Sunday Service.

• April 23, Easter Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m. and Morning Worship at 10:15 a.m.

All are encouraged and welcome at regular 9 a.m. Sunday School in the Parish House at 37 Church Mall and the regular Morning Worship at 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary each week.

Rotary sponsors 'Taste of the Towns'

The Springfield Rotary Club 6929 in conjunction with the Springfield PTA and PTO will sponsor its first "Taste of the Towns" event on March 27 at L'Affaire, Route 22 East in Mountainside at 6 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Springfield School District. Ticket donations are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

Local residents are invited to sample some of the finest eateries in

the area. Among the restaurants and vendors participating in the inaugural affair are: The Grand Summit Hotel, Baja Grill, Brochetta, Chen's Cinque-Cafe, Eccoqua, Emerald, Hilltop Cafe, Honey Baked Ham Co., L'Affaire, LeRendez-Vous, LeJardin, Olive Garden, Raagini along with DeKuyper Cordials, Otter Beer Co., Gallo and Sutter Home Wines.

If you are interested in purchasing a ticket donation, call (973) 467-6186.

Deerfield PTA sponsors fashion show tonight

The Mountainside PTA will sponsor its 14th annual fashion show, auction fund-raiser, including a dinner at L'Affaire Restaurant in Mountainside, today at 6 p.m.

Proceeds from the event go toward Deerfield School's Cultural Enrichment Program. Fashions, this year, will again be provided by Chico's of Westfield. Tickets are \$27 per person and may be obtained by calling Toni at 233-6796. The PTA is seeking donations for auction items. Gift certificates, services, new gift items, new children's items, or non-perishable food treats are always appreciated.

If you would like to donate or for more information, call Donna at 654-8757.

Police seek witnesses in assault

The Springfield Police Department is continuing an investigation into the serious physical assault upon two customers of Seamy's Restaurant located on Morris Avenue which occurred that date. Springfield Police officers arrested Charles R. Pierson Jr., 22, of Union, and charged him with two counts of aggravated assault and two counts of possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose. Pierson, who was released on bail from the Union County Jail in Elizabeth on Feb. 18, is awaiting action by the Union County Grand Jury.

Two male victims, one age 20 of Short Hills, and one age 25 of Summit, were allegedly struck in the head by Pierson. Both were taken to Overlook Hospital in Summit, where the first victim was released after having surgery on his left ear and receiving sutures for scalp lacerations.

The second victim was admitted to the hospital having sustained a skull fracture that resulted in surgery on Feb. 17. He was released from the hospital on Feb. 23.

The cause of these assaults is still under investigation and the Springfield Police Department requests that anyone who may have witnessed these assaults or has any information should call Detective Judd Levenson at (973) 912-2249.

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Election coverage guidelines

In fairness to all Board of Education candidates and to provide the best service to our readers, this newspaper has established guidelines and a schedule for coverage of Board of Education elections.

Under the guidelines, this newspaper is committed to specific elements of coverage. It will give background information about all known candidates, including stories on basic positions taken by each, and it will write news stories on the issues raised during the campaign.

We also will list important political events such as candidates nights and fund-raisers in news stories. We will aim to stimulate discussion of the issues during election campaigns through independent research and initiative stories.

If appropriate, editorial endorsements will be made.

News releases and campaign position statements from candidates are welcome. They will be used at the editor's discretion and they will not necessarily be printed as such but may be used as material to develop news stories if the issues raised in them merit such treatment.

Story use, timing and treatment are entirely at the discretion of the editor.

We will strive to avoid the initial raising of controversial or sensational issues in the final edition before election.

We aim to focus on what the voter needs to know and not on what the candidates want to say.

Our guidelines reflect the reader service objectives of this newspaper in Board of Education elections. However, we will review our guidelines from time to time and revise them if necessary to benefit our readers.

Following is the schedule we will adhere to in the April 20 elections:

Letters to the editor: Political letters, and those of endorsement, will be accepted up to and including the issue of April 6 for Board of Education candidates. Letters may be printed or appear as excerpts at the editor's discretion.

Endorsement letters: containing more than 250 words will be edited for length, regardless of how many candidates they endorse. Letters without telephone numbers will not be considered for publication.

Candidate's Corner: Candidates running for Board of Education will be given the opportunity to speak to the readers on these pages as they present their backgrounds, platforms and goals. Their columns will appear April 6.

Our endorsements: Endorsement editorials will appear April 13.

Staff-written round-up stories: A final look at the candidates, their platforms and goals, etc., will appear April 13.

Election results: Election results will be announced on this newspaper's Infocourse hotline. Look for the telephone number and extension in the April 20 edition and listen to the results as they come in on April 18. Follow up with complete election result coverage in the April 20 edition.

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Newark councilman speaks at forum

On Saturday, the Summit YMCA Outreach Services Department will sponsor its second Kujichagulia Youth Forum: Setting and Achieving Goals. The youth forum is open to all students ages 12 to 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will present a series of goal setting and learning workshops.

This year's keynote speaker will be the dynamic Cory Booker, a Newark City Councilman from the Central Ward. Booker, a native of Bergen County, is a graduate of Stanford University and Yale University School of Law, and is a Rhodes Scholar.

Though the beneficiary of a privileged childhood, he and his family have experienced discrimination first hand. He has volunteered in impoverished East Palo Alto and New Haven while in school, and has drawn attention to the plight of the children in

Newark who have not reaped the benefits from the "Newark Renaissance."

The day of activities is structured around the Y's commitment to spirit, mind and body. Workshops throughout the morning and afternoon will focus on three aspects essential to setting and achieving one's goals. The forum is targeted at middle and high school students, in the area and the surrounding communities.

Kujichagulia means "self-determination" in Swahili, and is expanded to mean "To believe in myself, to be strong in spirit, mind and body, and to do things that will not destroy me but will strengthen me in life." The purpose of the forum is to help students determine the course their lives are going to take, thus the theme of this year, "Setting and Achieving Goals."

The YMCA Outreach Services

Program was born out of a shared responsibility between community leaders, civic organizations, business leaders, clergy, the public schools and individuals who are committed to fostering the high academic achievements among all minority students.

Call the YMCA at 273-3330 to register. The YMCA is located at 67 Maple St. in Summit. The fee is \$5 per person. This fee includes workshops, a continental breakfast and lunch. At the conclusion of the forum, teens can enjoy open gym and swim, the exercise facilities, snacks and a DJ. There will be time for teens and all of the speakers.

If you have questions about the YMCA Outreach Program or to sign up for the forum, call Tytesha Cromwell, Outreach Services director at 273-3330.

A K-9 visit



The Mountainside/Summit K-9 Unit paid a visit to Springfield's St. James The Apostle School as part of the Home School Association's Parent Education program. The officers, along with their K-9 partners Leon and Max educated students on the importance of always staying close to their parent or guardian and never to walk away without telling them.

Old Guard to hear about travels around world

"Sailing 'Round the World — Slowly" — on a 31-foot Sloopboat" will be the subject of a talk by George Smith and Janet Murray to Old Guard members and their guests on Tuesday. The Old Guard is an organization of retired men which meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. and usually ends by 11:30. Coffee is available at 9:30.

The retired couple left Barnegate Inlet in June 1986 to circumnavigate

the world in the Apogee. What started out as a three- or four-year project is still in progress as they resume their westerly trip this spring from the Mediterranean. They will provide their audience with the flavor of what life is like and the problems they have encountered both on the sea and on land.

Following the meeting, members who wish will go to the Summit Recreation Center for a buffet luncheon after which Old Guard members

Satt Oishi and Harry Sanfilippo will co-chair a roundtable discussion on the subject "Living Longer and Healthier — What should the roles and responsibilities of senior citizens be in this 21st century?" Luncheon-discussion meetings such as this follow the regular Old Guard meetings every second Tuesday of the month. They are usually well-attended and very lively.

The Summit Area Old Guard invites retired men who are not members to call 464-5329 for information or write to P.O. Box 286, Summit 07902-0286 for a descriptive folder.

Information is also available on their web site at <http://summitoldguard.homestead.com/>

Brown Bag Concert series features Kaminiski March 17

Michael Kaminiski will give an organ recital on March 17 at the second of six Brown Bag Concerts at Central Presbyterian Church, Summit. All concerts in this annual Legion Series begin at 12:15 in the church sanctuary.

An instructor of organ at Brooklyn College and the Brooklyn Conservatory, Director of music ministries at St. Francis Xavier Church, and associate organist at Our Lady of Angels Church, Brooklyn, Kaminiski will present Organ Symphony No. 2.

Kaminiski has performed at the Rayson II Convention of the American Guild of Organists in July and has played for national conventions of the Organ Historical Society and the Music Teachers' National Association.

In 1990, he performed the six organ symphonies of Louis Vierne in a series of recitals in Washington D.C. He has also won prizes in New York, New Jersey and Washington D.C. His career has taken him 37 states, Canada and Mexico as well.

Kaminiski has been heard on the National Public Radio program, Pipe Dreams, Radio Mexico, as well as numerous regional radio broadcasts.

The Brown Bag Concert is free.

For questions or directions, call (908) 273-0441 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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Police make three arrests for underage drinking

Springfield
Three men were arrested by members of the Springfield police on Ashwood Road Sunday for possession of marijuana and possession of alcohol underage, according to police reports.
William Lugo Jr., 18, of Springfield, a student at Jonathan Dayton High School, was arrested along with Michael Seaman, 19, and Rafael Rodriguez, also 19, both of Linden. Seaman is a student at Union County College and Rodriguez is a stockperson at K-Mart.
On Friday, a Florida resident reported a robbery to his car which was parked in the Holiday Inn parking lot on Route 22 in Springfield. The vehicle was reportedly broken into during the overnight hours. Stolen items included a laptop computer, a socket set, two Livingston 96 port data panels and miscellaneous data parts.
The passenger side window of the vehicle was reported smashed. The

POLICE BLOTTER
estimated value of the stolen items and damage was about \$2,000.
On Feb. 28, a South Springfield Avenue resident reported two mountain bikers stolen from their residence.
Also on Feb. 28, Transier Intermodal Inc. on Padem Road reported a burglary. According to police reports, a Hewlett Packard copier, valued at \$500, and a Brother fax machine, valued at \$200, were missing.
On Feb. 27, a Millburn resident reported a burglary to her vehicle while it was parked at the Bally's Total Fitness parking lot on Route 22 East. Stolen items included, a woman's purse, \$300 worth of American Express gift checks, \$200 worth of Nordstrom's gift certificates, one \$50 Macy's gift card, one wallet with credentials, and a check book.
A Merck Avenue resident

reported a statue stolen from their lawn. It was reportedly stolen sometime between Feb. 20 and Feb. 27. The white statue is approximately 30 inches tall and was described as a boy in a sitting position reading a book. The estimated value of the statue is \$150.
A Springfield Avenue resident reported damage to their living room window's screen on Feb. 26. According to police reports, the damage occurred during a possible robbery attempt.
A Boonin resident reported a burglary to their 1999 Mercedes while the vehicle was parked in a rear parking lot on Morris Avenue.
The burglar reportedly smashed the passenger side window to gain entry into the vehicle. Stolen items included a Nokia cellular phone, a pair of Revo sunglasses, a Kenneth Cole briefcase, and registration and insurance cards.
A West Orange resident reported a robbery on Feb. 26 from their locker at Bally's Total Fitness on Route 22 in Springfield. According to police reports, \$125, two credit cards, a Green Card and a Social Security card were missing.
The New Jersey Department of Motor Vehicles reported two exam booklets stolen from their Center Street address some time between Feb. 18 and Feb. 25.
An Elizabeth resident reported damage to their vehicle while it was parked at a parking lot on the corner of Brown and Commerce avenues on Feb. 24.

According to reports, the damage occurred when an unknown person attempted to steal the vehicle. There was damage to the trunk, right rear window, the ignition and one of the tires.
A rear New Jersey license plate, lug nuts from the right rear tire and a car jack were missing from the car.
Mountainside
Police visited Diego Andrade-Brito at his North 7th Street home in Newark where he was served with Mountainside warrants for contempt of court. Andrade-Brito paid the bail for the warrants the day they were served, Feb. 1.
George Rappert, 59, of Old Matawan Road, Old Bridge was arrested by Detective Sgt. Todd Turner on charges of submitting false reports to law enforcement authorities.
The Feb. 29 arrest stemmed from an incident in which Rappert took money from the truck he drives for a vending machine company to pay some gambling debts and then reported the money stolen, according to authorities. He now awaits a March 9 court date at Mountainside Municipal Court.
Officer Kevin Betyeman arrested a Piscataway woman on last week. Michele Jones, 32, had an outstanding warrant for contempt of court.
Police pulled motorist Eduardo Cardenas over for speeding on Route 22. When police stopped him for traveling at 65 mph in a 45-mph zone, they discovered the 42-year-old Edison resident also was driving with a suspended license.
Officer Richard Huber issued the driver three summonses and released him from the scene. Mr. Cardenas is expected in Municipal Court on March 29.
On March 2, Mountainside police received a call from Scotch Plains Police that reported that Curtis Porter of Scotch Plains had been arrested for contempt of court on a Mountainside warrant. Mountainside police retrieved Porter from Scotch Plains and bail was set at \$802.

Brush fire extinguished

A safe week in Springfield was punctuated only by a small brush fire at the Sports Authority on Route 22 East, Feb. 29.
Store employees put out most of the fire with a dry chemical extinguisher. Firefighters used several water extinguishers and a garden hose from Engine One to complete the job. There were no injuries or damage.
Calls for two activated alarms were answered Saturday.
The department responded to Morris Avenue and Center Street for a motor vehicle accident at 9:26 a.m. Friday. One medical service call and one police assist at Surrey Lane residence completed the business of the day.
Two activated alarms and two

FIRE BLOTTER
medical service calls were handled March 2.
One activated alarm at a Bensenville Court residence and two medical service calls were answered March 1. A reported gas leak at a Morris Avenue address turned up no positive gas readings, although PSE&G was notified to respond for safety reasons.
The department responded to four medical service calls Feb. 29.
An activated alarm sent the department to a Route 22 West business at 2:02 a.m. Feb. 28. One lock-out and one medical service call were also answered.



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Cars, Boats, Trains & Planes' planned Saturday

On Saturday at 2 p.m., the Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, presents "Cars, Boats, Trains & Planes" a musical sing-along for families and children ages 3 and up...

Mountainside offers new collection of audiobooks

Fresh for the new year, the Mountainside Public Library has added a new collection of audiobooks on compact disc. Books on tape have long been one of the most popular offerings at the library and new technology has now made many books available on CD.

With combined support from the Friends of the Mountainside Public Library and a grant from the New Jersey State Library, the library has established a core collection of 28 titles and will double this number in the near future.

Recorded Books, a company that sets the industry standard for audiobooks, is rapidly expanding its list of CD books. While most of the titles are geared toward adult listeners, several are just for younger readers.

New titles for adults include: Jeffrey Archer, "The eleventh commandment"; Nevada Barr, "Blind desert"; Edna Buchanan, "Margin of error"; Michael Crichton, "The Lost World"; Diane Davidson, "Prime cut"; Pete Dexter, "The paperboy"; Clyde Edgerton, "Walking across Egypt"; Janet Evanovich, "One for the money"; Janet Evanovich, "Two for the dough"; Dick Francis, "Break in"; Dick Francis, "Bolt"; Tess Gerritsen, "Harvest"; Dorothy Gilman, "Mrs. Pollifax, innocent tourist"; James W. Hall, "Buzz cut"; Ernest Hemingway, "The old man and the sea"; Carl Hiaasen, "Stormy weather"; Tony Hillerman, "The first eagle"; Barbara Kingsolver, "Pigs in heaven"; Arthur Koestler, "Darkness at noon"; Tim LaHaye, "Left behind: a novel of the Earth's last days"; Elmore Leonard, "The hunted"; Sharyn McCrumb, "The ballad of Frankie Silver"; Patrick Robinson, "Nimitz class"; Laurence Sanders, "Scavenger reef"; Nicholas Sparks, "The notebook"; John Steinbeck, "Of mice and men"; and Mary Wilshire, "Under the beetle's cellar."

New titles for youngsters include: Beverly Cleary, "Dear Mr. Henshaw"; Jean Craighead George, "Julie"; Marguerite Henry, "Misty of Chincoteague"; Norton Juster, "The phantom tollbooth"; Harold Keith,

"Rifles for Watie"; Marie McGSwigan, "Snow sure"; and Barbara Robinson, "The best Christmas pageant ever."

The library also has an extensive collection of books on tape and large print books. Membership in the Central Jersey Large Print Circuit provides approximately 175 new titles four times a year, featuring bestsellers, popular fiction, mysteries and biographies.

For more information on library materials or loan policies, call the Reference Desk at (908) 233-0115.

'Western' continues foreign film festival

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., is resuming its Foreign Film Festival with movies from around the world with "Western" on March 16 at noon and 7 p.m.

"Western" is a 1995 release of a French film directed by Manuel Poirier. Two unlikely buddies carjacking victim Paul and Nino, the affable thief who rapped him off, hit the roads of Brittany, the ruggedly beautiful western region of France, in search of

wine, women and adventure. Linger long shots and quick cuts give the film a lighthearted, off-beat feeling, as though wholly improvised. In the road picture tradition of "Hope Crosby" and "Easy Rider," this often funny, tender exploration of the spontaneous life won the Special Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

Other films in the spring are "The Eel," Japanese 1998, on April 13, and "Cinema Paradiso," Italian 1988, on May 11.

Funding for this program has been made possible by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. Also funded in part by the Friends of the Springfield Public Library.

Admission is free to all films. Space is limited to 60 people at each showing.

For information call (973) 376-4930.

'Philadelphia' will be screened at library

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its Luncheon Video series "Hollywood Classics: Old And New" with "Philadelphia," on Tuesday at noon.

Bring a brown bag lunch to the performance. Coffee and cookies will be provided.

For information call (973) 376-4930.

'Sound of Musicals' scheduled for March 19

On March 19 at 2 p.m., the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield

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

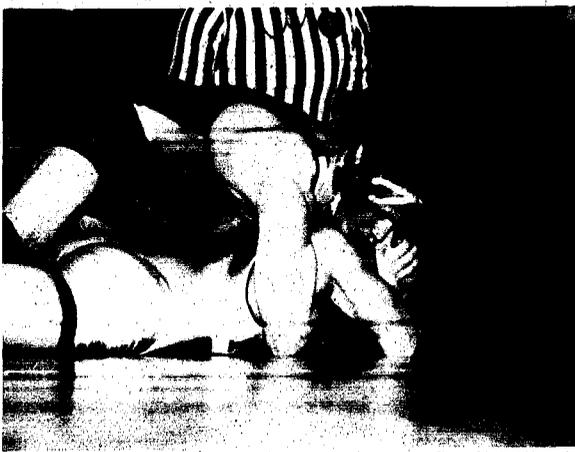
Region 3 Wrestling: Union High School

Undefeated GL senior Marcantonio wins 160

Governor Livingston High School standout senior grappler Tim Marcantonio won his first Region 3 championship last weekend as he defeated Greg Donofrio of Cranford 3-1 in the 160-pound final Saturday at Union. Marcantonio, who improved to 33-0, lost to Roselle Park senior Kevin Kolbeck 9-8 in last year's 160 final.

FINALS

- 103: Matt Anderson, South Plain, dec. Dan Appello, Par. Hills, 4-0.
- 112: Dan Appello, Roselle Park, dec. Rich Gebauer, South Plainfield, 3-2.
- 119: John Cholith, Delbarton, dec. Roberto Ramos, South Plainfield, 4-2.
- 135: Anthony Politi, Pars. dec. Dave Butrico, S. Plain, 4-4 2OT ridoout.
- 130: Antonio Mangione, Delbarton, dec. Graham Markel, Union, 12-2.
- 135: Jason Bone, Columbia, dec. Andres Leron, Irvington, 14-12.
- 140: Brandon Kaufman, Delbarton, dec. Bob Verhoeven, Cranford, 17-7.
- 145: Anthony Politi, Han. Park, dec. Mike Vioello, Watch, Hills, 3-1.
- 152: John Donofrio, Cranford, dec. Evan Galpezu, Par. Hills, 10-2.
- 160: Tim Marcantonio, Gov. Liv., dec. Greg Donofrio, Cranford, 3-1.
- 171: Chris Francis, South Plainfield, dec. Barry Stein, Union, 15-8.
- 189: Dan Kunst, S. Plain, pinned Gary Cousar, S. Plains, 3-54.
- 195: Ishmal Medley, Elizabeth, dec. Dan Gary, Rahway, 3-1.
- HWT: Roger Attieh, Bayley-E., pins Tomas Redick, Barninger, 1-24.



Governor Livingston High School standout senior wrestler Tim Marcantonio won his first Region 3 championship last Saturday at Union, pinning Vinnie DeNicola of Parsippany in 2:38 in the semifinals before topping Greg Donofrio of Cranford 3-1 in the final.

Photo by Bill Allen NJSportsAction

GL's Marcantonio does well to win first Region 3 crown Brearley grapplers reach quarterfinals

By John Zuehl

UNION — After winning the 160-pound title at the Union County Tournament, Tim Marcantonio of Governor Livingston High School reflected about his brother, Dennis, whom he credits with making him a strong wrestler.

He again noted his brother Saturday after the senior, who as a freshman when Dennis lost in a 1997 regional consolation bout, continued his undefeated season at 33-0 with a 3-1 decision over Cranford's Greg Donofrio in the 160 final.

It was Marcantonio's first Region 3 championship. Last year he was defeated by Roselle Park senior Kevin Kolbeck 9-8 in the 160 final.

Marcantonio won District 12 again this year, while Donofrio captured District 11. Brearley's squad, which includes wrestlers from Dayton in a cooperative program, had five wrestlers eliminated in Friday's quarterfinals.

Marcantonio, who entered the tournament as possibly the strongest top seed, gained second-period pins over Corey Thomas of Columbia and Vinnie DeNicola of Parsippany to reach the final.

Against Donofrio, Marcantonio earned the only take-down midway through the second period when he taked a leg hold into a takedown near the boundary. Donofrio conceded an escape to open the third period, but was unable to work a tangle takedown.

"My family comes first," Marcantonio said. "Especially my brother. He's helped me a lot through the mistakes he made. The hard work he put in and the inspiration he's provided has helped me."

Yet while earning a Region 3 crown and a first-round bye in Tuesday's Super Regions at Union, Marcantonio

said he has to do better to earn a state championship. The NJSLA Tournament continues tomorrow night at The Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford with the quarterfinals. The semifinals are Saturday morning and the finals Saturday afternoon.

"I wasn't satisfied with my performance — I was tentative on my foot," Marcantonio said. "But my goal is to make it to the Meadowlands and I didn't want to make any silly mistakes."

Ryan Yospin (103), Alay Vigilante (119), Stefano Sarcinello (125), Mike Pucero (140) and Atilia Vigilante (145) all fell in the quarterfinals for Brearley.

Atilia Vigilante had the toughest loss, as a takedown in overtime gave Joe Majocho of Johnson a 3-1 victory, ending the Dayton High senior's season at 27-5. Yospin and Sarcinello both had first-round pins to advance to Friday's session. Sean Cunningham, at 112, and Joe Ruggiero at 130 were defeated in the first round for Brearley.

Saturday afternoon's most exciting bout came in the 125-pound final between top-seeded Anthony Curcio of Parsippany and third-seeded Dave Butrico of South Plainfield. The wrestlers battled to a 4-4 score and then through a scoreless overtime. In the second, 30-second "ride-out" overtime, Butrico failed to escape before the buzzer and that allowed Curcio to claim the region crown.

Dan Appello of Roselle Park and Dan Kunst of South Plainfield repeated as regional titlists. Appello, an undefeated sophomore at 31-0, held off a challenge by Rich Gebauer of South Plainfield 3-2 in a tight, even 112-pound bout stopped seven times for stalemates in the final two periods. Appello won the 103-pound class last season. Kunst won all four of his bouts by pin to defend his 189-pound title.

Card show will feature former stars

By J.R. Parachini
Sports Editor

Baseball trivia buffs may know that Boston Red Sox pitcher Tracy Stallard gave up Roger Maris's record-breaking 61st home run during the 1961 season.

They may not know that Detroit Tigers hurler Paul Foytack gave up Maris's first home run that season.

Both Stallard and Foytack will be among the former star baseball players who will be featured at this year's annual baseball card show at Roselle Catholic.

The Roselle Catholic High School Men's Association proudly presents, "Spring Spectacular," scheduled to take place at Roselle Catholic on Saturday, April 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The show will be held in the school's gymnasium, which is located on Raritan Road in Roselle.

Appearing in person will be former New York Yankees and New York Mets along with other sports stars of the past.

The 12th annual Comic, Baseball Card and Sports Collectible Show, arranged by former New York Yankees farmhand and Linden High School baseball standout Joe Miller, has another spectacular lineup this year.

Former baseball players include Randy Gumpert of the Yankees; Jim Lonborg of the Red Sox; Foytack, Jack Fisher of the Orioles; Stallard, Jim Coates of the Yankees; Vern Law and Bob Friend of the Pirates and Mickey McDermott of the Red Sox.

Gumpert gave up Mickey Mantle's first home run and Lonborg his last. Fisher gave up Maris's 60th home run and Ted Williams last and was the opening day pitcher for the Mets in 1964 in the first game played at Shea Stadium.

Coates was a member of the 1961 and 1962 Yankee teams that won the World Series, while Law and Friend were members of the Pirates team that beat the Yankees in the 1960 World Series.

McDermott, a graduate of St. Patrick's High School in Elizabeth, began his major League career with the Boston Red Sox in 1948 and played for the Yankees in 1956 when they won the World Series.

Former football players include Chuck Bednarick of the Philadelphia Eagles and Heisman Trophy winner Joe Balino of Navy (1960) and Glenn Davis of Army (1946).

Foytack, Stallard, Fisher, McDermott, Coates, Law, Friend, Bednarick, Bellino and Davis will be making their first appearances at the "Spring Spectacular."

"This is the first time that Foytack, Stallard and Fisher

will be appearing together — anywhere in the country," Miller, a Roselle resident, said.

Miller attempted to get Hall of Fame pitcher Robin Roberts of the Phillies for this year's show. Roberts' agent told Miller that he was not doing any shows in 2000 after doing numerous ones in 1999.

"Roberts' agent then gave me Foytack's number, I contacted him and was able to get him for this year," Miller said. "I've been trying to get him for the past four or five years."

Foytack, who lives in the Detroit area, does charity work there according to Miller.

"He's also going to bring with him a ball signed by Mark McGuire and might even bring one signed by Sammy Sosa," Miller said.

Miller also said that he's received a lot of calls about the former football players who will be in attendance.

"I'm really excited about the Mantle and Maris guys coming," Miller said. "We wanted to make this a special show this year because of the millennium and those guys are just great."

The show will feature dealers from five states selling baseball memorabilia and sports collectibles — also bearing babies and pokemon cards.

There will be, as usual, refreshments and hourly door prizes.

Dealer information may be obtained by calling Miller at 908-245-3279 or Rod at 908-241-5377.

Donations are \$3 and 99¢ cents for children under 12. Proceeds benefit the Roselle Catholic High School baseball team and sports program.

Here's a list of when some of the former players will be signing autographs:

Randy Gumpert: Pletcher, New York Yankees 1946-48, gave up Mickey Mantle's first home run on 5-13; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Jim Lonborg: Pletcher, Boston Red Sox 1965-71, Philadelphia Phillies 1973-78, American League Cy Young winner 1967; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Paul Foytack: Pletcher, Detroit Tigers 1953-63; Los Angeles Angels 1963-64, gave up Roger Maris's first home run in 1961 on 4-26-61; Noon to 3 p.m.

Dayton boys' hoops makes section semis

By J.R. Parachini
Sports Editor

Although the Dayton High School boys' basketball team fell one game short of its goal of getting back to the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1 final, the Bulldogs can still look back on a wonderful season.

Dayton's 1999-2000 season came to an end Saturday night in Springfield as the second-seeded Bulldogs were defeated by third-seeded North Jersey University 74-54 in the section semifinals.

Dayton finished at 17-5, while University moved on to the sectional final Tuesday against fifth-seeded Verona. Ironically, the Bulldogs last year went to Newark as the section's eighth seed and upended fifth-seeded University 59-57 in the semifinals.

Junior point guard Carmine Santarella, who will lead a group of four starters that will return next year in addition to several reserves, paced Dayton with a 13-point effort against University. Standout senior forward Ryan Puggenillo closed an outstanding career with nine points.

Dario Ruggiero also had 15 points for Dayton. Jeff Stapler seven and Matt Paz six.

Stapler poured in a team-high 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds in Dayton's 50-41 quarterfinal-round win last Thursday at home over 10th-seeded New Providence. Friendly scored 14, Ruggiero six and Santarella two.

Dayton defeated New Providence all three times this year after New Providence did the same to Dayton last year.

This year's top seed, Newark Sci-

Bulldogs conclude with 17-5 mark

Dayton had an outstanding season in 1999-2000, finishing 17-5 overall and 13-3 in the Valley Division of the Mountain Valley Conference.

The Bulldogs finished second in the Valley to St. Mary's of Elizabeth and reached the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 1 semifinals.

Here's a look at this year's results:

- 1999-2000
- 12-17 Dayton 77, Manville 37 (A)
- 12-21 Dayton 40, New Prov. 22 (H)
- 12-29 Dayton 53, Union Cath. 26 (A)
- 12-30 Dayton 49, Rahway 45 (A)
- 1-4 Dayton 62, Bound Brook 31 (A)
- 1-7 Dayton 66, Oratory 33 (H)
- 1-11 Dayton 47, Brearley 31 (A)
- 1-13 Dayton 51, R. Park 35 (A)
- 1-14 North Plain. 64, Dayton 54 (H)
- 1-21 Dayton 32, New Prov. 25 (A)
- 1-27 St. Mary's 49, Dayton 44 (H)
- 1-28 Dayton 71, Bound Brook 50 (H)
- 2-1 Dayton 71, Oratory 52 (A)
- 2-3 Dayton 57, Manville 50 (H)
- 2-4 Dayton 68, Brearley 46 (H)
- 2-8 Dayton 70, R. Park 49 (H)
- 2-11 Dayton 48, North Plain. 43 (A)
- 2-16 Dayton 53, Roselle 47 (A)
- 2-19 Union 55, Dayton 46 (A)
- 2-25 St. Mary's 55, Dayton 51 (H)
- 3-2 Dayton 50, New Prov. 51 (H)
- 3-4 University 74, Dayton 54 (H)
- Record: 17-5
- MVC-Valley: 13-3, second
- Home: 7-3
- Road: 10-2
- UCTI sixth seed: 1-1, quarters
- North 2, Group 1 second seed: 1-1, semis

Springfield squad bounces 2 teams 8th grade Minutemen impress

The Springfield Minutemen 8th grade basketball team concluded its regular season with victories over Berkeley Heights and Summit.

Dan Scott scored 18 points and Frankie Miceli 10 in the win over Berkeley Heights. The two combined for four three-point baskets.

Holmi Abdelaziz scored 11 points, Robert Kleyman eight and Leo Ferrine and Brian Stitt combined for 21 rebounds against Summit. Malcolm Gordon, Kevin Johnson and Michael Tass also played well.

Springfield dropped a 54-53 double overtime decision to Millburn in its first Springfield Minutemen Tournament contest last Sunday.

Ferrine scored 19 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, Scott had 17 points, three of the baskets of the three-point variety. Also playing well were Mike Luciano, Abdelaziz, Miceli and Kleyman.

Youth Basketball

Springfield previously defeated Mountainside 58-29 after bolting out to a commanding 32-11 halftime advantage.

Ferrine scored 18 points, Miceli 14, Scott nine and Jordan Gerber had a season-high 15 rebounds. Abdelaziz had 10 boards, while Anthony DeNicola, Billy Fisher and Stephen King also played well.

Springfield also fell to North Plainfield 57-54 in the Dunellen Tournament. Abdelaziz scored 16 points, Ferrine 13 and Miceli 12. Also playing well were Gerber, Johnson, Luciano and Scott.

Springfield defeated Madison 37-33 as Gerber scored 13 points and grabbed five rebounds. Miceli and Scott had 10 points each.

Springfield defeated Caldwell 52-47 as Ferrine had 16 points and 12 rebounds, his first double-double of the season. Abdelaziz had 12 points, Scott nine, Cerber eight, Miceli seven and Luciano two.

Springfield was then downed by Warren 46-41 despite a 13-point performance from Scott. Cerber scored nine, Miceli seven, Abdelaziz five, Luciano four and Ferrine three.

7th grade team excels

The 7th grade team was defeated by South Orange 68-34 two weeks ago. Coach Bob Fusco gave his bench playing time in order to prepare the 5th and 6th graders for their 2000-2001 season.

Stephen Suarez scored eight points and was 6-for-6 from the free throw line. Kevin Johnson had seven points and seven rebounds.

Jesse Weatherston had five points and Kyle Sealey four. Robbie Shabat had three points and Jesse Galinkin three, hitting a three-point shot at the buzzer. Kenneth Suarez and Alan Steinberg had two points each.

Also playing well were Michael Tass, Greg Stefaneli, Jake Floyd and Adam Hirst.

On March 1 the Minutemen were defeated by Berkeley Heights 53-38. Johnson scored 18 points and had nine rebounds, Mike Tass scored six points, Robbie Shabat had five points and seven rebounds and Kenneth Suarez had four points and Jesse Weatherston a bucket. Fifth grader Kyle Sealey made a foul shot in the fourth quarter. Matt Parley, Stephen Suarez, Jesse Galinkin, Greg Stefaneli, Alan Steinberg and Adam Hirst also played well for the Minutemen.

Summit topped Springfield 50-40 on March 4 at the Summit Middle School. Johnson had 13 points and 12 boards, Weatherston 12 points, Stephen Suarez six and Shabat three and eight boards. Parley scored three points and Kenneth Suarez had two. Tass also played well.

Springfield defeated Union 75-60 last Sunday in the Springfield Tournament. Johnson scored a season-high 25 points and grabbed 13 rebounds. Weatherston scored 14, Kenneth Suarez 13, Shabat 10 and five boards, Stephen Suarez five, Tass four and Parley four.

The Minutemen were scheduled to play a B level league playoff game this week. The Springfield Tournament continues Sunday against Wayne, a very tough opponent.

Also in March, the Minutemen will travel to Wayne to play in Wayne's Tournament.

Springfield Tournament dates include Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and the championship games on Sunday, March 19.

Springfield was defeated by host Madison on Feb. 15, falling by a shot at the buzzer. Kenneth Suarez scored 16 points and had six rebounds. Johnson had 12 points and eight boards and Shabat had eight points and Tass six.

Springfield was then downed by Maplewood 53-41. Shabat had 11 points and five rebounds Johnson nine and Kyle Sealey eight, Kenneth Suarez six and Tass five.

Springfield was defeated by host Warren Middle School 60-19. Johnson scored 11 points and Shabat four.

