

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

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TWO SECT

5

Mountainside School District scraps idea of uniforms

Half of parents in favor; others opposed, undecided

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

Students and parents in Mountainside can forget the idea of being uniformly dressed.

The borough examined the idea of "uniformly dressed" as a special forum at Deerfield School in the fall. As a result of that forum and a follow-up survey, a decision was made to drop the concept.

According to Deerfield Assistant Principal Elizabeth Keshish, the follow-up survey resulted in a 50 percent response, with half in favor and half opposed. Keshish described the 50-percent return as "a high response for most situations."

The concept received its first boost last spring, when the Board of Education had a forum on school safety. Union County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan, a participant in the

forum, communicated his support for uniform dress at the time; the topic was acknowledged by a number of parents in attendance, who expressed their desire to hear more about the subject.

The "Uniformly Dressed Committee," consisting of both Board of Education members and students, was then established. A preliminary survey was sent to district parents prior to the November forum. Of the parents who responded, 52 percent were in favor of uniforms, with 24 percent opposed and another 24 percent undecided.

The results of the recent survey reflect a significant drop-off in interest from the preliminary survey. Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller attributes the change, in part, to the numerous safety precautions taken at Deerfield since the safety forum. He said he

also believed that parents listened to their children, taking to heart their discomfort with the idea of wearing uniform dress.

"The kids got concerned with the idea of being uniformly dressed and approached their parents about it," Schaller said. "They listened to their children and we listened to the community."

The November forum was introduced by Board of Education President Patricia Taeschler, who described it as a "dialogue," explaining to the parents in attendance that no decision regarding uniforms had yet been made.

Results of the preliminary survey were then reported by Keshish. But despite the favorable percentages in favor of uniforms, the forum proved to be contentious in several ways. A

number of parents were critical of the survey, calling it "flawed," "too personal," and "a lot of opinion," after which the committee's guest, John Clegghorn, director of support services for Pennsylvania's Ridley School District, discussed the particulars of his own district's uniform dress code. Many parents, suddenly and seemingly uncomfortable with the subject, attacked Ridley's policy mercilessly.

"The clothing doesn't make the person; the person makes themselves," Schaller said of the now-deceased topic. "I thought the idea of being uniformly dressed would cause less distraction — the issue of who was wearing what label would be gone." He said the board is currently looking to modify the current dress code.

With the warmer weather coming, Schaller has issued an updated copy of the school's

existing dress code to all Deerfield parents. According to Schaller's memo, students wearing inappropriate articles of clothing will be asked to change into their gym uniform. If the student does not have an acceptable gym uniform available, parents will be notified and expected to provide appropriate clothing.

The code prohibits untied shoes and backless sandals or shoes, along with undergarments, tank tops, halter tops, muscle shirts, midriff tops and fish or mesh tops "worn by themselves." It also prohibits articles of clothing displaying "obscenity, vulgarity, violence, sexually suggestive, drug, alcohol or cigarette advertisements." The trend concerning loose-fitting garments also is addressed. Both hats and sunglasses must be removed upon entering the school building.

Final decisions regarding the suitability of dress rest with the school administration.

Workshop to teach teachers about technology, Internet

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

A mid-year review of technology, curriculum and staff development was presented by the district's department heads during a conference meeting of the Springfield Board of Education last week.

Pamela Gray, the district's Supervisor of Staff Development, gave the board some background on the district's day-long workshop "Teaming Teachers and Technology," scheduled for Monday.

"We've provided staff development for every level of our learning community," Gray said. "I've worked closely with all our department chairs in putting this together, and all our technology people are jumping in to help any way they can."

The workshop is divided into three sessions and includes topics such as software for pre-K to grade two students in session one, software for grade three to grade six students in session two and "Hands-On with the Best Software Programs" for pre-K to grade six in session three.

"Teachers have told us that they want to learn about the Internet, and about what the best software is," Gray said, pointing out that in addition to the software programs, the workshop will offer the experience of keynote speaker Warren Buckleimer, editor of "Children's Software Review" and an expert in early childhood software programs.

According to Gray, a number of teachers also have expressed an interest in being trained in the use of technology for teaching students with learning disabilities. To that end, the workshop will provide two strategies for attacking disabilities with technology.

Other offerings include effective conflict resolution

strategies, the incorporation of the Internet into the classroom and a double session called "Create Your Own Web Page."

Grade seven to 12 staff members will receive training in various disciplines, among them: the use of Power Point and Geometry Sketchpad, web page design, and GEP and HSPT preparatory work. Members of the secretarial staff will learn the professional value of e-mail use and the Windows version of budgeting. Custodial and maintenance staff will receive instruction in machine maintenance. Gray invited all board members "to come and visit and learn with our staff members."

The workshop is part of the district's Five-Year Technology Plan. Established in 1998, the plan includes five goals, one of the most important of which ensures the "seamless connectivity between voice, video and data retrieval" to help students "become more active learners."

Goals also are specifically set for students at various levels: computer skills for the end of second grade, fourth grade, eighth grade and 12th grade are clearly outlined.

In the area of curriculum, the Math Department will add two new courses for next year. Geometry Foundations is designed to accommodate students with weaker abilities in mathematics; the other addition, Advanced Placement Computer Science, will address the needs of stronger math students who desire an additional course in computer programming.

Monday's workshop will include a morning session with the graphing calculator, the afternoon session, conducted by technological consultant Susan Gleason, will focus on the use of the Geometer's Sketchpad, a software program.

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'Children of Eden' at Dayton



Photo by Mikeo Mills

Jonathan Dayton High School students in Springfield are preparing for their production of "Children of Eden" March 23 through March 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Halsey Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for students and seniors. Rehearsing for the musical are, Dan Kazemi, center, and from left, first row, Manohar Finston, Sarah Goldberg, Rachel Nehmer, Tamar Raviv and Jessica Goldblatt; second row, Colby Tiss, Jonathan Zipkin, Adam Slater and Dan Poltroick; and back row, Karen Bibbo, Stephanie Shack, Ryan Dubiel, Josh Fraenkel, Joe Iellimo, Jordan Levy, Chris Phillips, Eula Kozma and Matt Davis.

Pederson suit dropped at federal level

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

Attorneys for Springfield Police Capt. Vernon Pedersen last week withdrew his lawsuit against the township at the federal level.

"What will come from this from this point forward, no one knows," said Mayor Clara Harelik during Tuesday night's Township Committee meeting.

Pedersen was fired by the Township Committee in July 1998 after allegedly making anti-Semitic comments in a recorded telephone conversation to Lt. Ivan Shapow. A judge later reversed the committee's decision and reinstated Pedersen.

The suit, which was brought earlier this year, named Township Committee members Roy Hirschfeld and Sy Mullman, Township Attorney Bruce Bergen, former committeewoman Judith Blitzer, Police Chief William Chisholm and the township's labor attorney Mark S. Ruderman as defendants. Pedersen claimed that his firing was a violation of his civil rights in limiting his freedom of speech and affording him due process.

In the public portion of Tuesday night's meeting, a continuing parking concern involving a number of Short Hills Avenue residents was discussed for the third time in as many meetings.

Residents Sean Slattery and Dan Kirk approached the committee for an update on the situation, which involves employees from a nearby dentist's office parking in front of their homes for the better part of the day while narrowing passage on the street.

Harelik, Township Administrator Richard Sheola and other committee members



Mountainside resident Timothy Benford has written nonfiction and quiz books about World War II and recently launched a website dedicated to the subject.

Borough resident starts up website compiling WWII photos, memorabilia

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

Question: What was Eisenhower's "Circus Wagon"?

Timothy Benford's view of the second World War is detailed, to say the least. In fact, he expresses no shame in using the word "minutiae" to describe his knowledge.

Benford, of Mountainside, is the author of four nonfiction books on the war, including a pair of meticulous quiz books, and is now the architect of a website dedicated to the subject.

After two weeks, the site already has more than 50 interested visitors, some of whom have been contributing rare

images from their own family archives to Benford's "vault."

"I started the site for fun," Benford said. "I already have 39 pictures and they're all separated by subject — Normandy, Pearl Harbor, 'All Air,' 'All Ships,' etcetera."

"I haven't seen more than five pictures at a time on any of the other WW II websites. The vault here keeps expanding; we keep picking up other people's history. I have people of all ages interested — a lot of grandchildren of the vets."

A history major in school, Benford is not a veteran himself, although he did have "an appointment to West

Point." The death of his father, however, derailed any military plans and Benford ended up a journalist, working for both the *Bayonne Times* and the *Jersey Journal*.

As a travel editor, he has taken a number of his own photos, some of which also appear on the site. "Journalism," he said simply, "has taken me all over the world." Now the owner of a public relations agency, Benford still has ample opportunity for travel, and to add to his growing file of images of historical locations.

The photos alone make Benford's site a memorable experience. Personal

See RESIDENTS', Page 3

Library, Cannonball House seek grants

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

Two Springfield institutions, one 30 years old and one about 250 years old, are looking for a little help from the Union County Community Development Revenue Sharing Committee.

The public library and the Hutchings Homestead — better known as the Cannonball House — have different individual concerns, but both ultimately share the same goal: to expand their ability to serve the township's residents.

The library, which covers 17,000-plus square feet on its main level, has recently received improvements to its heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems. Some roofing has been done, and the carpet, damaged by Tropical Storm Floyd, was replaced earlier this year. Communications technology has resulted in the computerization of the card catalog and book checkout systems, with most periodicals put online.

But in a town of 13,400, the library brings in approximately 350 visitors a day. With the needs of the library's users constantly changing, the institution believes a need to analyze its current conditions and future needs.

According to Director Susan Permahos, the library received \$10,000 last fall for a study to be compiled by a consultant, expected to be completed this August.

"Our building is 30 years old, but it's aged well," Permahos said. "The township has put significant money into it recently. But we've still identified a number of problems, especially with computers taking over the library business."

Videos, compact discs and books on tape have had enormous influence on the physical structure of libraries; Permahos pointed out horror author Stephen King's recent decision to publish his new book solely in an electronic format as another example of the demand for library technology.

"The more we've had to add in the way of electronics and computers is more we've had to take away in terms of quiet study space," Permahos said. "We have a lot of demand for quiet study space for literacy and English as a Second Language tutoring. But we've had to do a lot of instruction, showing people how to use the Internet, so there's a real issue here."

Permahos stressed the fact that the consultant selected by the Board of Trustees is a library consultant, not an architect. "Our consultant does have some architecture experience and can provide some basic sketches and give us a ballpark figure as to what kind of money we'll need for the project."

The existing building, which has no basement as a preventive measure against flooding, includes only one small storage room. Permahos said the consultant will be in to look at the facility again this week.

The Cannonball House, built around 1741, continues to play host to the township's residents with an occasional open house. A revolutionary war landmark, the structure survived burning by the British on June 23, 1780, during the Battle of Springfield, and has been in the hands of the Springfield Historical Society since 1955.

In 1994, the architectural firm of David V. Abramson and Associates of Newark performed a close examination of the house. One of the items deemed as being badly in need of work are the floors, along with the wood-framed post-and-beam structure.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

How to reach us:

The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Worrall Community Newspapers, an independent, family-owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below.

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To place a display ad:

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.

To place a classified ad:

The Echo Leader has a large, well read classified advertising section. Advertisements must be in our office by Tuesday at 5 p.m. for publication that week. All classified ads are payable in advance. We accept VISA and MasterCard. A classified advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please stop by our office during regular business hours or call 1-800-564-8911, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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NEWS CLIPS

Historical society set to meet on Tuesday

The Springfield Historical Society will have a regular meeting Tuesday 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. All are invited to his free event.

For information call (973) 376-3348.

First Aid Squad responds to 1,193 calls in 1999

The final statistics for 1999 are in. The Springfield Volunteer First Aid Squad responded to 1,193 requests for emergency medical services, providing medical attention to 1,385 patients.

Special acknowledgement is due to 1st Lt./EMT Don Mackinson, who responded to 324 calls, EMT Bob Genster with 298 responses, 2nd Lt. Apa Mulyuk with 218 responses, EMT Dino D'Angelo with 161 responses, EMT Paul Dorman with 158 responses, Preston/EMT Glen Simpson with 147 responses, EMT trainee Eric Ellison with 117 responses and EMT Keith Costello with 101 responses.

January 2000 continued to keep the squad hopping with a total of 118 calls, providing medical assistance to 125 patients. These calls included 24 injuries resulting from falls, 20 motor vehicle accidents, 15 patients with general illnesses, 10 patients with difficulty breathing, five patients with chest pain, five patients with abdominal pain, five patients struck by motor vehicles, and many other assorted injuries and illnesses.

The Springfield Volunteer First Aid Squad is an independently operated, not-for-profit organization that is funded primarily by donations. New members are always needed, especially during daytime hours.

For information on joining, stop by the squad house at 10 North Trivet St. across from town hall, or call (973) 376-0400.

Congregation Israel hosts regional conference

Congregation Israel, 339 Mountain Ave., Springfield will host the First East New Jersey Regional Conference on Issues in Orthodoxy titled "Creating an Inclusive Community, a Modern Orthodox Perspective" on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$25, which includes lunch.

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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.

Saturday
• Restoration Family Church's "Will Thou Be Made Whole?" women's brunch will be at the Holiday Inn of Springfield, 304 Route 22 West. Admission is \$15.
• Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, has its inaugural Tot Shabbat Program with Julie Bernstein from 11 a.m. to noon. The program is open to all and there is no requirement to be affiliated with the temple or pre-school.

Sunday
• The Donald B. Palmer Museum in the Springfield Free Public Library, 60 Mountain Ave., presents "The Sound of Musicals—Rodgers and Hammerstein," a lecture with taped music by Robert Williams, B.U.S. Admission is free by ticket only. For information call (973) 376-3930.
• The Triad Chamber Vocal Ensemble presents its fourth annual concert in the sanctuary at Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall, at 4 p.m. The 18-member mixed choir will be conducted by Ginny Johnston, with piano accompaniment by her husband, Dan Crisk.

• Naturalist/writer Kitty Cove shares 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, Mountaineer. Admission is free. For information call (908) 789-3670.
• "The History and Future of Astronomy" is presented at 2 p.m. at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountaineer today and March 26. For ages 6 and up. Admission is \$3 per person, \$2.55 for seniors. 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, Mountaineer. Admission is \$5 per person, \$2.55 for seniors. For information call (908) 789-3670.

Monday
• Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, presents the Megillah reading at 6:30 p.m. featuring a special guest appearance by The Bluestein Brothers 2000, 4760, featuring Brother HaRav Menachem Mendel and Brother HeLazar Zevun, 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.

Tuesday
• Deerfield School in Mountaineer has registration and screening for 2000-01 kindergarten classes by appointment beginning at 8:45 a.m. Parents should call Deerfield School at (908) 232-8828, ext. 213 to receive forms. Eligible students should be 5 years of age by Oct. 1. A birth certificate and proof of residency need to be presented at the time of the appointment.

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

• The Springfield Historical Society has 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.

Upcoming events

March 23
• Deerfield School in Mountaineer will have registration and screening for 2000-01 kindergarten classes by appointment beginning at 8:45 a.m. Parents should call Deerfield School at (908) 232-8828, ext. 213 to receive forms. Eligible students should be 5 years of age by Oct. 1. A birth certificate and proof of residency need to be presented at the time of the appointment.
• Rabbi Mark Malachuk, the new spiritual leader at Temple Beth Ahim.

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 Ahim.
• Jonathan Dayton High School will present "Children of Eden" in Halsey Hall Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students.

• The Berkeley Heights Board of Education will meet for a regular meeting and budget hearing in the Clausen Administration Complex at 8 p.m.

March 24

• Deerfield School in Mountaineer will have registration and screening for 2000-01 kindergarten classes by appointment beginning at 8:45 a.m. Parents should call Deerfield School at (908) 232-8828, ext. 213 to receive forms. Eligible students should be 5 years of age by Oct. 1. A birth certificate and proof of residency need to be presented at the time of the appointment.

• Jonathan Dayton High School will present "Children of Eden" in Halsey Hall Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students.

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.
• Jonathan Dayton High School will present "Children of Eden" in Halsey Hall Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for seniors and students.

March 26

• Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountaineer, presents "Six Stones" at 3:30 p.m. For ages 4 to 6 with an adult. Admission is \$5 per person, \$2.55 for seniors. For information call (908) 789-3670.

• "What's there to eat?," a program at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountaineer, at 2 p.m. explores what wildlife are eating as winter ends and spring begins during a walk in the Halsey Hall Reservation. For information call (908) 789-3670.

March 27

• The Springfield Rotary Club 6929, in conjunction with the Springfield PTA and PTO will sponsor its first Table of the Towns event at 6 p.m. at the Springfield School District. Ticket donations are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. To purchase tickets call (973) 467-6186.

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

March 28

• The Springfield Township Committee will meet 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.

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 - PLAINFIELD: 120 Washington Avenue
 - LIVINGSTON: 225 South Livingston Avenue
 - ROXBURY TWP.: 8000 Main Road 15 East
 - SCOTCH PLAINS: 477 Park Avenue
 - SPRINGFIELD: 113 Mountain Avenue
 - STIRLING: 153 Valley Road
 - UNION: 9730 Stuyvesant Avenue

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Borough Council will introduce budget Tuesday

Average homeowner could face \$75 to \$78 tax hike

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

The Mountainside Borough Council plans to introduce a \$7.6-million budget Tuesday for 2000, which at this point would include a municipal tax increase of approximately \$75 on the average assessed home of \$150,000. It would be the first municipal tax increase in five years. A public hearing on the budget is expected in April before the council gives its final approval.

Borough officials attribute the increase of approximately \$238,000 over last year's \$7.4-million spending plan to increased support for the library, rescue squad, police and fire departments.

Mayor Robert Vigilanti cited salary increases in the areas of Police, Public Works and the Municipal Court. There is an additional employee in the Municipal Court and currently a secondary judge. The borough last year settled a new three-year contract with the union representing Mountainside police officers.

The budget for the library, Vigilanti said, has been reduced the past several years and he wanted to raise it to a level it had at before, approximately \$350,000. Last year's appropriation for the library was approximately \$322,000.

Salaries and wages for the Police

Department totalled \$1.53 million last year compared to \$1.54 million this year. However, Vigilanti said, the state has mandated that municipalities this year separate dispatcher salaries on a different line item. The \$170,000 for dispatchers in Mountainside's budget last year are not part of the salaries and wages for the Police Department in the 2000 budget.

The budget calls for using \$1.55 million of the \$1.6-million borough surplus as revenue, with the surplus being regenerated with the collection of property taxes. The figure is consistent with last year, according to the mayor, who recalls surpluses of \$1.8 million in the past and as high as \$2.7 million "many years ago."

Council members must ask themselves whether they are satisfied with a \$238,000 increase, the mayor said. If they are not, "we will have to decrease some line items."

"I certainly don't think anyone is happy with a tax increase," said Councilman Paul Mirabelli. "The last few years we have taken a no-tax-increase vow and I don't think we can continue to do that."

"Taking into account the added support" in areas such as the library and emergency services," Mirabelli said, the increase is modest.

The budget does not yet take into account the borough's plans to

upgrade infrastructure, such as roads and intersections, and sewers. The borough has approximately \$600,000 it can use for capital improvements left over from other capital projects that have been completed, the mayor said. The figure represents nearly 10 percent of the \$7-million plan to overhaul the borough's infrastructure.

The council must next meet with the auditors, the borough attorney and engineer to get the "three experts involved as to where we're going," said Vigilanti.

Currently, 13 cents for every dollar in the budget goes to pay off the borough's debt, according to the mayor. Based on a 5.2-percent interest rate, a \$7-million bond to complete the pro-

ject in three years would increase that figure several cents per year, as high as 21 cents for every dollar five years from now. According to the mayor, every two cents equals approximately \$30 per household.

Councilman Warner Schon warned that the cost of the Fire Department budget has not been finalized yet and there may or may not be additional increases as a result.

The mayor was not pleased with that news, saying the Fire Department had been asked several months ago, along with the rest of the borough's departments, to have its budget prepared.

"All the budgets are in but we're waiting for the Fire Department."

A carrot cake delight



Florence M. Gaudineer students Jonathan Rego and David Sklar display a carrot cake they made in their Advanced Foods class taught by Carolyn Roberti. The cake was given to the Board of Education to be enjoyed at a meeting last month.

Consensus sought on street parking situation

(Continued from Page 1)

sue is taken within the neighborhood. Jones was not present at the meeting. Kirk, a new face to the committee but familiar with the problem, suggested issuing placards to the affected neighbors.

"We've been bouncing some alternatives around," Harelilik said. "In terms of resident parking, we were thinking of a decal, which is non-transferable, but we can look into a placard. But we still don't know the consensus of the street."

"If we restrict parking, then all the other people who live further down the block will be here too, saying, 'Why did you restrict parking in front of my house?'"

Resident's new website documents World War II

(Continued from Page 1)

photos, shot from aircraft, put the onlooker directly in the pilot's seat: in one of the most dramatic, a B-24 is captured as an explosion of anti-aircraft guns light up the sky behind it. The flak burst is enormous and terrifying — if the plane were absent, the explosion could easily be mistaken for a supernova.

Two other rare photos from a family collection show the bludgeoned body of Mussolini laid out on a mortuary slab. According to Benford, the images were downloaded by a woman whose relative had taken them. Both have been authenticated by England's Imperial War Museum, where the negatives now reside.

On a lighter note, a U.S. government photo of what appears to be a full-size Seattle suburb is actually the roof of an aircraft plant. The camou-

lage was constructed with lightweight materials on chicken-wire beneath the bogus houses, grass and shrubbery. Boeing workers are constructing B-29s.

The deception was designed for the benefit of Japanese bombers. According to Benford's caption, Germany pulled a little visual trickery itself, building five false copies of Berlin in order to fool Allied bombers.

"Everyone's seen the pictures of Pearl Harbor and the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima," Benford said. "I've got over 500 World War II pictures, and a lot that haven't been published before — plus the ones I've taken traveling."

In addition to historical photos, Benford has "off-the-beaten-path stuff" from his own personal collection he has used, and plans on using, on the site, including a plastic penny

— plastic being an experimental currency material which never made it into circulation — and "shot; snorters," paper currency autographed by those brave enough to take commercial flights during wartime.

Benford's own "short snorter" is a five franc North African note signed by a number of gussy travelers, including, most notably, Al Jolson.

Another quirky item from Benford's collection is a 1940 personal Christmas card from Adolf Hitler, given to Benford by an OSS veteran living in Maplewood. According to Benford, the card was taken as the OSS stormed the Nazi bunker in Berchtesgaden.

Along with all the visual sources, visitors to the site are invited to ask questions, from the simple to the sophisticated, the obvious to the esoteric. The esoteric, as might be

expected with Benford, is always especially welcome.

The site is yet another vindication for its creator, whose first book proposal for the "World War II Quiz and Fact Book" was unceremoniously rejected by a publisher who just about called it terrible.

For those interested in visiting the site, Benford recommends sending him an email at BENFORD4PR@aol.com, which, he described as "the easiest and simplest way." For the "long way," visitors can go to www.egroups.com/list/worldwarIIa.

Answer: Eisenhower's "Circus Wagon" was the trailer used in England by the general during the planning of D-Day.

County superintendent approves school budget without changes

(Continued from Page 1)

The science curriculum will be reorganized with the elimination of the Field Biology course, which will be replaced by the new and improved Science, Man and Society elective course. From a technological perspective, both the biology and physics classes have made use of computer software as part of their interactive laboratory activities.

In social studies, a new course "is just about ready to go," according to supervisor Barry Baehenheimer. The Institute for Political and Legal Education, designed by Baehenheimer himself, is an interactive course involving "action-based learning." As with all the departments, social studies includes support and training for its staff in computers and other technology.

School budget

Prior to the presentation, Board Secretary Ellen Ball announced that the school budget of \$213.3 million, presented at the board's Feb. 28 meeting, has been approved "without changes" by the county superintendent.

The new budget represents an approximate difference of \$371,809 between the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 budgets, an increase of 2.76 percent. The budget will come up for vote April 18.

Fish and chips dinner at methodist church

A fish and chips dinner — cooked in canola oil for the health conscious — will be at the Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall on March 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. Takeout dinners also are available. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Chicken nuggets and fries are available for children.

For tickets or more information, call the church at (973) 376-1695 or Randy Maurer at (201) 364-8030.

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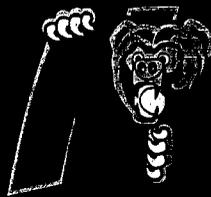
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EDITORIALS

Hunt allows time for permanent solution

When one thinks of deer, one might think of the Disney film "Bambi" about an adorable doe and her huggable forest friends. Movies are sometimes mistaken for real life. What one might not think of are the thousands upon thousands of dollars of damage deer can cause, whether it's ravaging local gardens and yards or colliding with automobiles.

Union County's Deer Management Program has been described as a slaughter of defenseless creatures. However, there has not yet been a more feasible option available for the Board of Freeholders to pursue.

The Deer Management Subcommittee several years ago recommended a five-year plan to reduce the deer herd within the Watchung Reservation. As recently as 1993, the population within the 2,000-acre reservation was more than 500.

The program has reduced the population considerably, to much more tolerant levels. The overpopulation of deer was slowly destroying the prized reservation. The five-year hunt has allowed Union County to deal with the situation for the short term while officials develop a long-term solution for the reservation. In the meantime, researching other non-lethal methods of controlling the herd might progress.

Part of the problem also can be attributed to humans. Our overdevelopment of the area has forced deer to share an ever decreasing area.

Immunoneutralization and other forms of birth control for animals is still in its infancy. It is expensive and very difficult to implement given current technology. A non-lethal method of maintaining the reservation's deer population would be ideal, however, at the present time one does not exist. Deer reproduce at an astronomical rate, which makes it so difficult to maintain population.

The cost of the hunt to the county is approximately \$60 per deer. It is probably the least expensive method of dealing with the deer population.

Essex County is in the process of constructing a 22-acre paddock within the 2,000-acre South Mountain Reservation. The Essex freeholders are spending literally thousands of dollars to build a really big fence.

Deer will be lured to the paddock, captured and then transported to New York State, where there is certainly no guarantee they will live. Once captured, deer will either be sold to zoos, slaughtered or simply taken elsewhere for someone else to worry about. A form of birth control might have better odds of working in a controlled environment such as Essex's paddock, but would certainly be more difficult in the Watchung Reservation where the animals roam freely.

A hunt may seem barbaric and primitive, but at the present time it has been the only reasonable method of controlling the exploding deer population.

What's your opinion about this subject? Call us at (908) 686-6868, and enter Selection 9000. Use our Infosphere hotline to express your opinions about this and other local issues. Responses will be published next week.



Register to vote

During the past few weeks, we have reminded residents how vital it is to participate in school elections, whether it's voting or actually running for a seat on the board.

Voters will either reject or approve the district budget as well as elect citizens to represent them on the boards of education in Springfield and Mountainside.

With more than 90 percent of the 602 school districts in the state being elected, school board members are the largest group of elected and appointed officials in the entire state.

But residents must remember to register if they are not already registered voters. The deadline to register for the April 18 election is Monday. If you have changed your address since the last time you voted, you must register again. Residents can register with either the Borough Clerk in Mountainside, the Township Clerk in Springfield or the Union County Board of Elections.

Should you not be able to make it to the polls April 18, absentee ballots are available at the Union County Clerk's Office. Mail applications must be into that office by April 11 or in person to the County Clerk's Office by 3 p.m. April 17.

"A free press is the organ through which democracy breathes."

—George F. Booth
editor, publisher
1943

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ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS — Fifth-graders at St. James The Apostle School in Springfield, from left, Nicole Castelluccio, Corinne Lawlor, Aixa Navia, Michelle Campos, Brandon Cheery and Justin Bryant, represent action words they learned in Spanish with diaramas.

It is important to stand up and be counted

Freeholder Forum

By Daniel P. Sullivan

Shortly before April 1 this year, hundreds of millions of census forms will be sent to Americans in their homes, in every part of the nation. This year the United States will conduct its year 2000 census, the first enumeration of the people living in this country in the 21st century, and the stakes for Union County and New Jersey are high.

The United States Constitution requires the federal government to conduct the census every 10 years. Figures from the census help determine this region's funding for many public and private services. No less important, the census also determines how we will be represented in Congress and in the New Jersey Statehouse.

With all this at stake, it is important for our sake and for the sake of our children and grandchildren that we participate in the census; that we stand up and be counted. Unfortunately, many people may not be counted.

In 1990, the last time the census

was conducted, an estimated 8.4 million people across the country went uncounted. Most of them lived in urban areas, most were minorities or people who did not speak English.

Our failure to get an accurate count resulted in at least \$100 billion in lost revenues to communities, according to federal statistics.

The census helps government agencies determine funding for schools and day care services, hospitals and health care facilities, senior citizen programs and nursing homes, community assistance and housing programs and services for people with disabilities.

They also determine the amount of

funding communities or regions receive for road and highway repairs and improvements and for larger mass transportation projects. These projects also bring jobs and economic prosperity to our communities, particularly in Union County, with its crucial links to the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area.

Many of these services are figured by the size and type of population of the areas they serve. When individuals refuse to be counted, they can hurt their communities. But this is not the only way communities can be affected.

It's not just government agencies that use the census data. Businesses, industries, banks and investors use census data to determine the best places to build, expand and place new resources. Of course, this new investment means jobs and continued employment. So completing the census form also helps bring jobs to our community as well as to protect the jobs and services already there.

The census also determines how communities will be represented in Congress and in the statehouse in Trenton. Data from the census will be used to redraw the election districts for the House of Representatives and for the New Jersey Senate and Assembly.

Communities that are not fully counted can thereby lose their voices; as their state and federal representatives are moved to represent larger areas.

Completing the census is the right thing to do to ensure that our communities will retain jobs, enjoy safe, efficient transportation, retain good schools, have a strong voice in Trenton and Washington and receive the assistance they deserve.

It takes only a few seconds to fill out the census forms, but the benefits last a long time.

A resident of Elizabeth, Democrat Daniel P. Sullivan is chairman of the Board of Freeholders.

America doesn't need guns; it needs therapy

Joe's Place

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

There was a time in this nation, many calendar pages ago, when the gun was a necessary tool. But we're not settlers anymore. The relevance of the handgun to daily life is history book stuff.

Despite all the publicity, America doesn't seem to have noticed that we're in the 21st century. In fact, as the nation grows older, it also seems to grow dumber. Our national stupidities — racism, lying, arrogance, rampant substance abuse, rampant litigation, petty theft, petty jealousies, selfishness, road rage, casual physical and psychological cruelty, to name a few of the more refined ones — can be found in everything that's ever been achieved or attempted in this country, from Edison's effort to discredit AC current by electrocuting cats and dogs to the construction of the Empire State Building to the O.J.

Christmas lights.

Add to all this the handgun, and we're looking at our death as a nation.

Our stupidities haven't changed terribly much, but we're dumber now than we ever were because we seem to have arrived at the notion, somewhere along the way, that the uninhibited expression of our stupidities is a worthwhile quality. We don't try to write our wars. We display them with Christmas lights.

Add to all this the handgun, and we're looking at our death as a nation.

Holocaust. We're killing our own. Why don't we have a cappuccino and watch?

The popular image of America — the John Wayne thing, so carefully baked by Hollywood and so eagerly internalized by people too damn stupid to recognize it as fiction — stands as just another excuse to do some murder. If it steps on your foot, or if you just plain don't like it for whatever reason, "Kill it, Pilgrim." Charlton Heston, whose brain seems to have been deprived of oxygen at some point, would also agree. Of course he's Moses, so he knows what's best.

The nation is literally and figuratively looking down the barrel of a gun. Would you ever have imagined, growing up, that going to school that could possibly mean your death? When I was in school — and I ain't that old — the worst you had to face

up to was a fistfight. Guns were unimaginable. Laughable. If I had to send my child to school in the year 2000, I wouldn't be so sure I'd ever see them again outside a funeral parlor. Even now, as a reporter, I don't like going into the schools. I feel safer on the Bronx-bound D. I'm not kidding.

I urge anyone who hasn't seen the Sports Illustrated issue in which John Rucker raved his hate to find themselves a copy. Right next to the paragraph where he practically wishes everyone dead, there's a large photo of him hunting. Comfortable with that?

America doesn't need guns; it needs therapy. We've been a little too busy pointing fingers at other nations and calling them depraved to admit that what we have going right now, on our own turf, bullet by bullet, is as depraved in its own way as the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reasons for not running again

To the Editor:

I would like to thank all the Mountainside residents who have supported me for the past 10 years on the Mountainside Board of Education. I have enjoyed every minute that I served the children and citizens of this town.

I did not file a petition this year to run again for the Board of Education because of a family situation that needed my undivided attention. 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.

I discussed my circumstances with a good friend who felt that after a "good night's sleep" everything would work out and I would feel better. Unfortunately circumstances got worse on Monday and a decision had to be made by me — family or Board of Education. Family had to come first.

It was too late to find another candidate for the Board of Education and since I truly believe that approximately 70 percent of the citizens without children in

the Mountainside school system should have representation, I suggested to Mrs. Patricia Knodel that she return to the board. So instead of her being my petitioner, I became hers.

Life situations do not always play out when it is convenient for one to make a timely decision, unfortunately, and this is why my decision was not reached until Feb. 28.

I wish the members of the Mountainside Board of Education continued foresight and success.

Linda Esmerline
Mountainside

Voters should stick to own party

To the Editor:

Primary voters should not be able to convoke election results by their ability to vote across party lines as is not permitted in New Jersey. Registered Democrats and Independents should not be able to vote in Republican primaries.

Joseph C. Cheppia
Mountainside

SPEAK OUT

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

Call anytime, day or night. Please speak clearly into the phone when leaving your message. Callers can remain anonymous.

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"Chocolate ice cream because it tastes good and I love chocolate."



Nicole Wagner

"I like salad because there is no meat and I'm a vegetarian. It also tastes good."



Valerie Genise

"Pizza. It's a comfort food. I'm Italian and it brings back good childhood memories."



Jackie Muse

"I like to drink coffee. I'm a student so I drink it for the energy."

Truck takes out Shunpike Road bridge

Springfield

In less than a week, two tractor trailers caused damage in Springfield.

According to police reports, on Monday, Kenneth Coles, 56, of New Brunswick, was driving a tractor trailer owned by Estes Express Lines of North Carolina. Coles was pulling into a parking lot on Hillside Avenue when the top of the tractor trailer he was driving caught a telephone wire. The wire, which was attached to a nearby telephone booth was pulled off.

On March 7, Michael Pope, 29, of North Carolina was reportedly driving a tractor trailer owned by Penske Truck Leasing east on Shunpike Road near Stone Hill Road.

According to police reports, Pope drove the vehicle under a railroad bridge and struck the bridge with the exhaust stack on the cab. Then, the bridge was struck by the roof of the trailer, at which point the roof of the trailer was completely torn off and the bridge was moved 15 to 20 feet from its support. The bridge was reportedly stopped by trees.

An Elmwood Road resident reported two Dyno bicycles stolen from their residence on March 10. One of the bicycles was red and the other one was silver. Also missing were two bicycle locks and one helmet.

On March 8, an employee at a

Martinizing Dry Cleaning opens in Springfield

Deborah and Michael Sena, long-time residents of New Jersey, embarked on their dream of owning their own business with the opening of the new Martinizing Dry Cleaning at 721 Mountaineer Ave., Springfield. The store is now open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to service all garment care needs.

Both Deborah and Michael have extensive backgrounds in building customer relationships and helping to solve problems. They wanted a business that would provide a service with focus on excellence in quality and customer service.

After careful research, and conversations with many franchisees, the Senas decided on Martinizing Dry Cleaning, the world's largest dry cleaning franchise. They look forward to the opportunity of putting their years of service experience to work in their own business.

Michael appreciates the value of Martinizing's VIP Program, which is an excellent way for busy individuals to save time and money. Members receive two garment bags, identification tags, a \$5 gift certificate and 10 percent off all dry-cleaning orders for life, all for the one-time membership fee of \$10.

All Martinizing Dry Cleaning stores operate as on-premise dry cleaning plants and pride themselves on their quality and professional services. Martinizing began in 1949 when Henry Martin pioneered the system for one-hour service. With the increasing need for professional garment care specialists, Martinizing has grown to a total of more than 750 stores worldwide.

Grand opening savings and discounts on the VIP program membership and dry cleaning will be featured. Martinizing guarantees 100 percent satisfaction and is committed to providing the customer with excellent and convenient customer service.

Your abilities can earn extra income. Advertise them with a classified ad by calling 1-800-564-8911.

POLICE BLOTTER

Morris Avenue business reported a laptop computer and a leather case for the computer stolen from their office. The items reportedly had an estimated value of \$1,475.

According to police reports, on March 7 the owner of Scotty's Restaurant on Morris Avenue reported damage to their vehicle, a 1990 Cadillac.

Earlier, the owner said, they had asked an unruly patron leave the establishment. The patron reportedly left and was seen outside by witnesses damaging the owner's vehicle. The patron was said to have damaged the passenger window, the passenger door and the passenger door mirror. Immediately after damaging the vehicle, the patron left the premises.

Also on March 7, Samantha Parisien, 19, of Livingston was arrested by members of the Springfield Police at Limes & Things on Route 22 West. Parisien was charged with theft by deception and forgery.

On March 6, a Flushing, N.Y.

resident reported their vehicle, a 1989 Ford Probe, stolen while it was parked in the rear lot of 799 Mountain Ave.

Mountaineer Mountainside Police make many traffic stops along Route 22. Sometimes, the stop produces someone who is wanted for more than driving with a suspended license. Such was the case on Saturday when Police Officer Thomas Murphy pulled over James Brown of Mountaineer.

When asked to produce his license, insurance, and registration, Brown's papers showed that not only was his license suspended, but his vehicle registration had expired in October. Further investigation at headquarters revealed that Brown also faces outstanding warrants in Newark, Woodbridge, and Metuchen, according to police. Total bail has been set at \$2965.

On March 7, as Jesse Miller Jr. drove on Route 22, police stopped him for driving with only one license plate on his vehicle. Police also discovered that Mr. Miller also had a suspended license. Miller, of East Orange, was issued a summons and

awards his March 29 court date:

- Mountaineer Police Officer Kevin Benjamen arrested Frederick Fraley of Mount Pleasant Avenue, Newark, on March 7. Fraley had an outstanding warrant for contempt of court and has now been formally.

- When Police Officer Jeffrey Sinner saw a red 1995 Ford Mustang driving along Route 22 that had both a cracked windshield and a burn-out brake light during the afternoon of March 5, he decided to check the vehicle's status with headquarters.

Sinner then discovered the car's registration had been suspended. When he pulled the car over, Sinner discovered the car's driver, Alex Lortice of Palisades Park, was driving with a suspended license. Lortice was issued various traffic summonses.

- Very early the next morning, Union County Police pulled over Gregory Jarosz of at the intersection of Route 22 East and Glen Road only to discover that he had had a number of traffic warrants issued for various offenses. Mountaineer Police were notified. The Union man's bail from these warrants was \$204.

AT THE LIBRARY

'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" today at noon and 7 p.m.

"Western" is a 1998 release of a French film directed by Manuel Poitren. Two unlikely buddies carjacking victim Paco and Nimo, the affable thief who nipped him off, hit the roads of Brittany, the ruggedly beautiful western region of France. In search of wine, women and adventure.

Lingered long shots and quick cuts give the film a light-hearted, off-the-cuff 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. Admission is free to all films. Space is limited to 60 people at each showing. For information call (973) 376-4930.

'Sound of Musicals' scheduled for Sunday

On Sunday at 2 p.m., the Donald B. Palmer Museum of 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 Burt.

Admission is free by ticket only. Tickets may be picked up at the Circulation Desk prior to the program. For information call (973) 376-4930.

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YMCA to recognize Mohr at annual dinner

The Summit Area YMCA has announced that Michelle Mohr of Springfield is the 2000 recipient of the John P. Bennett Award, which recognizes an outstanding YMCA youth member working with youth. The presentation of the award will be made at the Y's annual meeting and awards dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday at The Grand Summit Hotel, 570 Springfield Ave.

Mohr, a senior at Kent Place School in Summit, has been tutoring in the Summit YMCA's "More Than Homework" tutoring program since 1996. More Than Homework, an enrichment educational program, is part of the Y's Outreach Services Department. It is designed to help children overcome educational barriers by providing supplemental instruction in the areas of improving homework study habits, encouraging a schedule homework-time each day and providing children the extra attention needed in subject areas.

"At first, I was concerned that I wouldn't be able to help the kids with

their homework. I quickly realized that their homework needs were basic and that I could be more than a tutor," Mohr said. "Not knowing how to speak English or how to socialize are real problems. My role as a tutor has been to help the children learn these skills."

Mohr's commitment to the YMCA, and to volunteerism goes into the community. She has been extremely active on Kent Place School's Community Service Committee, where as president she coordinates volunteer members and places them in off-campus community service projects.

She is a general aide and tutor at her class projects, and tutors third-graders in Hebrew and sixth-graders preparing for their Bar Mitzvahs. She is devoted to saving the beach and ocean, and to educating people through her affiliation with the Alliance for a Living Ocean/Coastal Clean up.

"When I graduate, I will be leaving many of the kids who started in the program when I did," Mohr said. "They have made a significant impact on my life because I have seen them improve their skills and have watched them mature. I hope that I have made

as much an impact on their lives as they have made on mine."

Beside Mohr, the evening also will recognize volunteers and staff including Roger Meher of Summit who will be presented with the Stuart Reed Memorial Award, given to an individual for their outstanding work in the community.

For information about the YMCA's 114th annual meeting and awards dinner, call Lucinda Mercer, Director of Development at (908) 273-3330, ext. 139.

Tickets are \$35 per person.

OWL workshop deals with parent/adult children relationships

On Saturday, at 10 a.m., the Older Women's League sponsors a workshop, "Parent Adult, Children Relationships Making Them Work." Featured speaker Jacqueline Vogelmann, executive director of SAGE Inc. of Summit, will explore with the audience the issues that can create unnecessary family misunderstand-

ings at a time when aging members of the family need more support services.

SAGE has been a pioneer in providing community-based services for the elderly, and their caring families to keep loved ones independent as long as possible in their communities.

OWL is a national advocacy organization for the concerns and needs of midlife and older women. The meeting will be at The Connection for Women and Families, formerly YWCA, Prospect and Morris avenues in Summit.

For more information call (908) 272-5671.

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RELIGION

Special worship services at First Presbyterian

Special worship and renewal opportunities are every Sunday and Wednesday through April 23 at the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, 210 Morris Ave., on the corner of Morris and Church Mall.

On Sunday, following the 10:15 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Darlene Kline an ordained candidate for ministry, will speak about empowering the lay person for care giving in all of its aspects from small encouraging contacts to the larger picture.

Kline is a lay leader in the "Stephen's Ministry" program at the Metuchen Presbyterian Church and is highly qualified in the care giving ministry. Her presentation will be in the chapel as part of the special Sunday "brunch" fellowship hour.

On Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, the Rev. John Luyben will preach on "Forgiving One Another." Luyben comes to this series from the Middlesex Presbyterian Church.

All are invited and welcome to these opportunities to reconnect and deepen relationship with God and church.

Bluestein Brothers to appear at Beth Ahm

Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, will present the Megillah reading Monday at 6:30 p.m. featuring a special guest appearance by The Bluestein Brothers 2000 — 2700 — featuring Brother HaRay Menachem Mendel and Brother HeHazan Ruvien, with back up vocalists.

als from Gospel Singers, Sisters Gloria and Miriam, and the debut performance of the Temple Beth Ahm Rockers and Shloekers Youth Band. The Family Life Programming Committee will be hosting a Costume Judging Contest, with prizes to be awarded in multiple categories. Best Child by Age Groups, Best Teen, Best Adult, Best Couple, Best Family, The Megillah Reading, Noisemakers, Hamantaschen and more. Remember to come in costume. For more information call (973) 376-0659.

First Presbyterian Church offers numerous services

Special opportunities for Worship and Renewal are offered on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings 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, refresh and deepen one's relationship with God. The Wednesday evening 7:30 to 8:30 schedule includes:

- Wednesday, the Rev. John Luyben, pastor, Middlesex Presbyterian Church, preaching.
- March 29, Bill McConnell, PhD student at Drew University, preaching.

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

- Sunday, 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."

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.

New facilitator at Temple Beth Ahm's Tot Shabbat

Julie Bernstein is the new facilitator to run a Tot Shabbat program at Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield.

Miriam Sussman — although this is not a Pre-School sponsored program — was instrumental in recruiting Bernstein and has been working with her on the program.

The inaugural date is Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon. Tot Shabbat will continue on a twice monthly basis; if demand is there, that could be increased. The first of each two will be Tot Birthday Shabbat with a birthday cake for that month's birthdays.

This program is open to all. There is no requirement to be affiliated either with the temple or pre-school.

Mallach to speak at Springfield Hadassah

Rabbi Mark Mallach, the new spiritual leader of Temple Beth Ahm, Springfield and the first registered

pharmacist ever to be ordained as a Conservative Rabbi, will speak before the Springfield Hadassah on March 23, at 12:30 p.m., at Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive.

His topic will be "A New Look At The Passover Seder By Making The Seder Come Alive." The rabbi, an avid cyclist, comes to this area with his wife and two daughters from West Palm Beach, Fla., where he was senior rabbi of Temple Beth El.

Emanuel United features taize prayer services

The Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall, Springfield is offering Taize Prayer Services every Wednesday in Lent. A simple dinner of soup and bread will be offered from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, to be followed by a Taize Prayer Service from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. A free will offering will be requested.

Taize is a small town in France, where hundreds of thousands of people visit each year so that they can worship, grow in their relationship with God and enjoy Christian fellowship with people from all over the world. Worship at Taize includes singing and more singing.

- Wednesday — Taize Prayer Service.
 - March 29 — Taize Prayer Service.
 - April 5 — Special Taize Prayer Service for healing and wholeness.
 - April 12 — Taize Prayer Service.
- For more information or directions call the church's office at (973) 376-1695.

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Firefighters respond to smoke at county building

The Springfield Fire Department responded to a county park building on Shannick Road on a report of smoke March 5.

The smoke, which was white, was actually a discharge of steam from a pipe on the front of the building. Firefighters advised headquarters to contact County Police to help them gain access to the building.

According to the Fire Department, the steam resulted from a boiler malfunction caused by a pre-existing

valve problem. A county foreman was contacted and the furnace was shut down. No damage was reported.

- Two calls for activated alarms and one medical service call were answered by the department March 9.
- The department responded to Morris and Maple avenues for a motor vehicle accident with a spill March 5. Two medical service calls, an alarm problem and an elevator rescue at a Morris Avenue business also were handled.

- A minor motor vehicle accident on Route 22 East, a lookout at a Warwick, Circle residence, an activated alarm, one water leak and four medical service calls kept the department busy March 7.
- A smoking light fixture sent the department to a Morris Avenue business at 7:46 a.m. March 6. A discarded cigarette touched off a small brush fire on Route 22 West. A 1971 Lincoln parked at a Route 22 East business developed a fire in its engine

compartment at 7:53 p.m.; the fire was put out by a store employee with a portable extinguisher. An odor of gas at a Commerce Street business closed out an active day for the department at 8:49 p.m. Three medical service calls were answered in between.

The department responded to Route 78 West on a report of smoke coming from a vehicle March 5. An electrical problem at a Christy Lane residence was answered at 9:14 p.m.

Kindergarten registration scheduled at Deerfield School next week

Mountainside's Deerfield School announced its registration for 2000-01 kindergarten classes. Registration and screening will be by appointment Tuesday, and March 23 and March 24. Appointments for registration and screening will begin at 8:45 a.m.

Parents are requested to call Susan Nugent to make an appointment for the screening that will be conducted by kindergarten teachers, a speech therapist

and an occupational therapist, Barbara Komoroski. Deerfield School's guidance counselor, will assist with screening. Parents should call Deerfield School at (908) 232-8838, ext. 213 to receive forms. Eligible students should be 5 years of age by Oct. 1. A birth certificate and proof of residency need to be presented to Nugent at the time of the appointment.

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1 Pet 4:11

Jesus Said "Have You Not Read?"

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Thus being saved, the Lord will add you to His church (Matt. 16:18) and you will be called just a Christian ONLY (1Pet.4:16).

Of course SATAN and his servants have distorted the word of God, changed God's Divine Pattern and Teachings from the beginning until now. Therefore the important question is who do you believe, God or man (Gen. 3:1-15, 2 Cor. 11:13-15)? Please be honest with yourself. Can you read about your church in the Bible? Was your church Planted by God (Matt 15:13-14 7:13-23)? The bible clearly teaches God is NOT mocked; failure to discern the TRUTH from error is fatal.

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OBITUARIES

Horace R. Cardoni

Horace R. "Russ" Cardoni, 83, of Mountaineer died March 9 at home. Born in Jessup, Pa., Mr. Cardoni lived in Mountaineer since 1957. He was the assistant secretary and the assistant counsel for Salsberger Ltd., New York City, for 29 years and retired in 1981. Mr. Cardoni graduated from The University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1941. He was a member of the American Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Lackawanna Bar Association. Mr. Cardoni was the municipal chairman of the Union County Democratic Committee from 1972 to 1973. He also was active in the Democratic party in Mountaineer. Mr. Cardoni was a member of the Union County Child Placement Advisory Board and was a counselor with the Volunteers in Probation of Union County. He was a member of several organizations with the Borough of Mountaineer, the Planning Board, the Annual Cancer Drive and the Ethics Committee. Mr. Cardoni was past president of the New Jersey Society of Engineers and Land Surveyors and of the UNICO International.

Springfield-Mountaineer Chapter and the United Way of Mountaineer. He also was a member of Community Access Unlimited, formerly the Association for the Advancement of Mentally Handicapped in Roselle. Mr. Cardoni was a Eucharistic minister at Overlook Hospital, Summit and was a member of Mountaineer Memorial Post VFW 1036. He was active with numerous organizations within his church, Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, Mountaineer. Mr. Cardoni was a founding parishioner, a founding trustee, an usher, a member of the Parish Council, Nocesdale Adoration and was awarded the Jubilee Medal Pro Meritis by the Archdiocese of Newark for Extraordinary Service to the Diocese and his Parish. He also actively participated in many other charitable and civic organizations. Mr. Cardoni was a Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean War with the rank of Lieutenant commander. During World War II, he was stationed on the USS Coral Sea in the Pacific Theater. Mr. Cardoni fought in the battles of the Gilbert Islands and the Marshall

Islands. During the Korean War, he was stationed at the Willow Grove Naval Air Station in Philadelphia. Surviving are his wife of 53 years, Florence; three daughters, Mary Clare Cardoni-Khordi, Ann Cardoni and Louise Cardoni; three sons, Robert, Joseph and John; a brother, John Cardoni; and six grandchildren.

Joseph B. Mills Sr.

Joseph B. Mills Sr., 90, of Mountaineer died March 3 in the Manor Care Nursing Home, Mountaineer. Born in Plainfield, Mr. Mills lived in the Plainfield area before moving to Mountaineer 12 years ago. He was a machinist with Mack Motors, Plainfield, for 40 years and retired in 1970. Mr. Mills served in the National Guard for two years. Surviving are two sons, Joseph B. Jr. and David Bruce; a sister, Beverly Emmons; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

George DeSantis

George DeSantis, 69, of Springfield died March 6 in the Department of Veterans Affairs, New Jersey Health Care Center at East Orange.

Born in Bayonne, Mr. DeSantis moved to Springfield 42 years ago. He served in the Navy as a second class petty officer during the Korean War aboard the USS Wisconsin. Mr. DeSantis was a member of the AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 51, Union, where he was treasurer, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7683, Springfield. He was a member of the Eastern Paralyzed Veterans Association of New York, where he received a plaque for his accomplishments as a disabled veteran. Mr. DeSantis also was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 5560, Springfield. Surviving are his wife, Helen J., and a sister, Anna Pelliccio.

Eugene M. Mascot

Eugene M. Mascot, 89, of Springfield, formerly of Roselle Park and Kenilworth, died March 9 in Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth. Born in Elizabeth, Mr. Mascot lived in Roselle Park and in Kenilworth for 44 years before moving to Springfield in 1998. He was a foreman of the heat treating department of

Singer Manufacturing Co., Elizabeth, where he worked for 40 years and retired in 1970. Surviving are a daughter, Jeannette Williams; a son, Robert; a brother, Anton, and a grandchild.

Kathryn B. Stevens

Kathryn B. Stevens, 96, of Chatham Township, formerly of

Springfield, died March 13 at home. Born in New York City, Mrs. Stevens lived in Springfield for many years before moving to Chatham Township more than three years ago. She was an office supervisor with Wellington Sears, New York City, for 30 years before retiring. Surviving is a sister, Alice B. Boden Sarscini.

Elin-Unger Post will install officers on April 2

April 2 will be the 55th installation of the Springfield Elin-Unger Post 273 and the Ladies Auxiliary, Jewish War Veterans at the Sarah Batley Civic Center with breakfast at 9:30 a.m. prior to the ceremony. The auxiliary officers will be installed by state department president Bianca Egna of Irvington, Junior Vice President Bernice Richter of Union, Financial Secretary Marri Kohn of Lakewood, Treasurer Selma Fein of Kenilworth, Recording Secretary Ann Somstein of Elizabeth and Guard Mary Strulson of Union. State Department Commander Henry Epstein of West Allenhurst will install the following officers for the post commander: Fred Cooper of West Orange, Senior Vice Commander Sol Kaplan Jr. and Vice Commander Richard Shipman, both of Springfield, Quartermaster Murray Mintz of Hackensack, Chief Editor of The Bulletin George Vice of Manalapan.

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JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE

TEMPLE BETH-AMM-40 Temple Drive, Springfield. 973-376-0539. Mark Malach, Rabbi. Richard Nadel, Cantor. Paul M. Peyer, President. Beth Am is an egalitarian, Conservative temple, with programming for all ages. Weekday services: Mon-Fri, 7:00 AM Sun-Thurs, 7:45 PM Shabbat (Friday) 6:00 PM & 8:30 PM Shabbat day 9:30 AM & sunset. Sundays, 8:30 AM Festival & Holiday services. 9:00 AM Family and children services are conducted regularly. Our Religious School (third-seventh grade) meets on Sunday and Tuesday. There are Seminars for both High School and pre-Religious School aged children. The synagogue also sponsors a Preschool Women's League and Children's groups for fifth through twelfth grades, and a busy Adult Education program. A Seniors' League meets regularly on a monthly basis. Please contact our office during office hours.

JEWISH - REFORM

TEMPLE SHARAY SHALOM 76 S. Springfield Avenue, Springfield. (201) 379-5387. Joshua Goldstein, Rabbi; Amy Daniels, Cantor/Education Director; Greenman, Pre-School Director; Bruce Pines, President. Temple Sharay Shalom is a Reform congregation affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC). Shabbat worship, enhanced by volunteer choir, begins on Friday evenings at 8:30 PM, with monthly Family Services at 7:30 PM.

Sunday morning Torah study class begins at 9:15 AM followed by worship at 10:30 AM. Religious school classes meet on Sunday mornings for grades K-5 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for 4-7; and Tuesday evenings for post-Bar/Mitzvah students. Preschool classes are available for children ages 2 1/2 through 4. The Temple has the support of an active Sisterhood, Brotherhood, and Youth Group. A wide range of programs include Adult Education, Senior Action, Intersession Outreach, Singles and Seniors. For more information, call the Temple office. (201) 379-5387.

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HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 630 Woodlawn, Trenton, Springfield 07091. 201-379-4252. Fax: 201-379-8887. Joel R. Yost, Pastor. Our Sunday Worship Service takes place at 10 AM. at JONATHAN DAYTON REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information about our mixed children, teen, and adult programs, contact the Church Office Monday through Thursday, 8:30-4:00 pm.

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THE SPRINGFIELD EMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, located at 40 Chatham Mall in Springfield, NJ invites ALL people of all ages and backgrounds to join in their spiritual journey. Sunday Worship Services start at 10:30 AM, with childcare available for babies and toddlers. Christian education opportunities for children begin during the worship service with a special time for children led by the Pastor before they depart for classes. Service of Prayer and Healing held the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM. Please call and ask about our Adult Christian Education, Young Adult Ministries, Bible Studies, Small Group Ministries, Prayer Chain, Music Ministry and other

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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Summit is located in the heart of town on the corner of Kent Place Boulevard and DeForest Avenue. Church Offices: a sister, Beverly Emmons; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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Dayton athletes earn varsity letters

A total of 110 varsity letters were presented to Dayton High School winter sports athletes at its awards program held March 8 at Halsey Hall.

The following athletes earned varsity letters for the 1999-2000 winter sports season:

Boys' Basketball: Ryan Freundlich, third year; Mickey Weatherston, second; David Woodruff, second; Lorenzo Williams, second; Richard Shanley, first; Carmine Santarella, third; Jeff Stapler, second; Dario Ruggiero, second; James Cariello, second; Chad Freundlich, second; Chris Revelo, second; Dan Bak, first; Matt Paz, first; Chase Freundlich, first; Rebecca Friedman, fourth; Lisa Max, fourth.

Girls' Basketball: Rachel Tiss, second; Sara Abraham, third; Linda Agostinelli, third; Maria Gonnella, second; Tara Listowski, third; Dana Rutkowski, third; Christina Tomasi, third; Esther Aizenberg, second; Iyehsa Gordon, first; Jessica Falkin, third; Tahira Clarke, third.

Wrestling: Justin Katz, second; Anita Vigilante, fourth; Michael Panno, third; Stefano Sammino, second; Marc Yospin, second; Ryan Yospin, first; Jaime Yospin, first; Amanda Adler, first; Maggie Zambolla, second.

Boys' Indoor Track: Alex Kramers, third; Mike Lyubavin, first; Jonathan Zipkin, third; Sean Cordoni, first; Ben Maslow, first; Kevin Schumann, second; Adam Bensimon, first; Erich Buttmann, first; Adam Gilson, first; Robby Moiseev, first; Ted Young, first; Greg Zinberg, first; Raghav Sharma, first.

Girls' Indoor Track: Christina Florio, second; Rachel Mandel, third; Olga Oksov, second; Lauren Belliveau, first; Marsha Handeli, first; Julie Marx, second; Samantha Pellet, first; Agata Jackiewicz, first.

Swimming: Nate Denner, fourth; Ryan Dubiel, first; Matt Drogon, first; Zach Goldberg, first; Eula Kozma, second; Jaime Ravaioli, third; Tamar Raviv, third; Michelle Santoro, third; Russ Hayward, third; Mitch Hollander, third; Drew Decagna, second; Bryan Demberger, second; Gary Goldman, second; John Cottage, first; Matt Stigliano, first; Manuel Gantes, second.

Ice Hockey: Brian Berger, second; Eric Cohen, third; Brian Hollander, second; Jonathan Kovacs, third; Gerardo Roman, third; Kevin Tighe, third; Todd Walters, second; Brian Young, third; John Laurencelle, third; Clay Boeninghaus, first; Billy Chambers, second; Adam Cohen, second; Dean Kakounis, second; Brett Berger, first; Eric Decker, first; A.J. Gardiano, first; Ross Kravetz, first; Andrzej Moczydlowski, first; Michael Rodriguez, first.

Cheerleading: Luciano Cincio, third; Melissa Fernandez, third; Valerie Jules, second; Janelah Simms, first; Michelle Barone, first; Jamie Falkin, first; Vangie Guilas, second; Jennifer Lewis, first; Monica Schwartz, first; Heather Shanley, second; Laurie Sherman, second; Stephanie Weiss, second; Jessica Friedman, first.

Summit Junior Baseball to have 3-day fundraiser

Summit Junior Baseball will have a three-day pizza fundraiser for its members on April 4-6 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Summit Middle School.

Families of children in the T-Ball League, for kindergarten and first-graders, will have their pizza night April 4. Second- and third-graders in the Transition League are scheduled for April 5, while fourth- through eighth-graders are planned for April 6.

League officials said this is to accommodate as many families and other residents as possible, as more than 800 children were registered for the spring season, which opens Monday, April 10.

Summit YMCA is seeking hoop players

The Summit YMCA is looking for players to join its new Men's Basketball League.

Games will be played on Sunday nights beginning April 9. A 10-game season with playoffs is scheduled.

Membership in the YMCA is not required to join. A maximum of eight teams will be accepted.

The registration deadline is Wednesday, March 29. The Summit YMCA is located at 67 Maple St. in Summit.

More information may be obtained by calling sports director Lorrie Zuchowski at 908-273-3330.



Here Frankie Miceli takes a shot against New Providence in a Springfield Minutemen 8th grade basketball game earlier this year. The Minutemen traveled to Wayne to face Hopatcong last week. Dan Scott scored 17 points and grabbed seven rebounds and Miceli poured in 12 points.



From left, Mike Tiss, Kenneth Suarez, Robble Shabat and Jesse Weatherston, with the ball, run down court in a Springfield Minutemen 7th grade game. The Minutemen were defeated by Chatham in the level B playoffs and by Wayne in the Springfield Tournament.



Springfield Minutemen 8th grade basketball player Jordan Gerber, middle, is about to take a shot over the outstretched arms of a South Orange defender during a game that took place last month. The season is coming to a conclusion as the Springfield Tournaments are set to wrap up this weekend.

Springfield Minutemen hoop teams attempt to best foes

The Springfield Minutemen 8th grade basketball team traveled to Wayne to face Hopatcong last Thursday and played well despite being defeated.

Dan Scott had 17 points and seven rebounds, Frankie Miceli 12 points, Jordan Gerber nine points and four rebounds, Leo Ferrino eight points, Helmi Abdelaziz seven, Mike Luciano four and Robert Kleyzian and Kevin Johnson two points each.

Stephen King, Bryan Sitt, Anthony DeNicolo and Malcolm Gordon also played well.

The 7th grade team traveled to Chatham last Thursday to participate in the level B playoffs, falling to Chatham by a 56-42 score.

Kevin Johnson scored 18 points, and grabbed 11 rebounds, while Matt Farley had six points and six rebounds. Mike Tiss had four points, Robble Shabat three

and seven boards and Kenneth Suarez, Kevin Kleyman and Greg Stiefanelli had two points each. Stephen Suarez, Adam Hirst, Jesse Galinkin, Jake Floyd and Alan Steinberg also played well.

Springfield was defeated by aye 73-36 in the Springfield Tournament last Sunday. Johnson had 11 points and Tiss eight.

Shabat had six points and six rebounds, Jesse Weatherston had six points and Kenneth Suarez three.

Also playing well were Jake Floyd, who scored two points, Matt Farley, Stephen Suarez, Kevin Kleyman, Jesse Galinkin; Adam Hirst; Alan Steinberg and Kyle Sealey.

Springfield was scheduled to play Wayne last night and is also scheduled to play again this weekend.

Summit faces Bayonne in public school final Hilltoppers surprise Brick to gain first semifinal win

By John Zucal
 Staff Writer

While discussing his hockey team Monday, Summit High School head coach Keith Nixon received a telephone call. It was another newspaper.

Things like that happen after playing a giant-killer, as the Hilltoppers did Saturday at Mennen Arena in Morris Township when they slew mighty Brick Township 3-2 in an NISAA public school tournament semifinal.

Dana Henderson stopped 32 shots to help Summit, which improved to 17-9-2, reach the public school final for the first time. The Hilltoppers will face Bayonne, a 6-0 winner over Ridgewood, in Saturday's 9 p.m. final at the Conunental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford. The winner will meet the Parochial school champion, either Hudson Catholic or Seton Hall Prep, on the same rink Monday at 7 p.m.

High School Ice Hockey

Matt Tsang gave Summit a 1-0 lead after the first period when he scored on the Hilltoppers' only shot in the 15 minutes. It was Tsang's second goal of the season and Henderson stopped all 11 Brick attempts.

Jeff Garibaldi then tallied on Summit's next two shots. His goals, off feeds from David Haire, gave the Hilltoppers a lead they would not relinquish. Brad Sorrentino cut the Brick deficit to 3-1 with a goal one minute after Garibaldi's second score and then Bobby Acropolis scored 4:26 into the third period.

Garibaldi has increased his scoring as Summit has traveled through the 35-team tournament, which required the Hilltoppers to win five games to reach the state championship contest. The senior center is third on the team with 17 goals, seven coming in the four tournament games.

After that, Henderson became the star as he repelled every attempt to tie the game. Brick, which was seeking its fifth consecutive public school crown, finished 18-5-2.

"Dana played a very strong game," said Nixon, who coached the Hilltoppers to the tournament's quarterfinal round last season. "He didn't give up any weak goals and he was there when we needed him the most."

Nixon said a trio of players did an outstanding job of containing Acropolis, an All-State center.

"We had a game plan to shadow Acropolis and used three players — Mike Nelson, Matt Tsang and Chris Johnson — because he goes in and out of the shadow often," Nixon said. "We needed to keep him covered."

"Then we went in a very conservative forecheck plan. I told them to ice the puck, take a lot of faceoffs and slow the pace down because Brick is, physically, much bigger than us."

Nixon said the result was probably shocking to some fans because of Summit's record with Brick, whom the Hilltoppers last defeated February 2, 1994. Brick last lost to a public school team in New Jersey back on March 11, 1995, falling that day to Chatham.

"The first two times we played them this season, both games were the second games of back-to-back sets," Nixon said. "We were a little worn down in both. This time I figured if we went through the first five minutes without being on our heels, that would help us a lot."

Against Bayonne, which is 20-7-1, Nixon said there are two major items the Hilltoppers need to concern themselves with.

"We need to play at our top level and we have to take care of Dave Bodson," Nixon said. Bodson has worn a brace on his right knee through the tournament after tearing the medial collateral ligament in February, but that did not stop him from tallying a career-high five goals against Ridgewood.

"We will do the same thing to him — shadowing — as we did to Acropolis."

Offensive leaders for Summit include:

- Matt Sturker: 20 goals, 29 assists for 49 points.
- Keith Schroeder: 25 goals, 16 assists for 41 points.
- David Haire: 13 goals, 22 assists for 35 points.
- Aron Bell: 12 goals, 22 assists for 34 points.
- Jeff Garibaldi: 17 goals, 8 assists for 25 points.

Summit had a fine season

By John Zucal
 Staff Writer

While Summit High School's girls' basketball team was turned away in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 final by Mendham again — this time by a 54-41 score March 7 at Rahway — a message can be sent for next year: almost everyone's coming back.

Mendham has been the Achilles' heel for the Summit program. The Hilltoppers lost seven games in the past two seasons, six of them to Mendham. In the final, three consecutive field goals in 94 seconds to open the second half from junior All-Stater Kelley Suminski, who finished with 29 points, vaulted Mendham to a 33-24 lead. Suminski scored 13 points in the third quarter as the champions led 43-30 with eight minutes remaining.

High School Girls' Basketball

Mendham's bid for a third consecutive Group 2 state championship and a second undefeated season in three years was denied Sunday at the Dunn Sport Center in Elizabeth as the Minutemen were defeated by Sterling 65-64 in triple overtime. Mendham, No. 2 in the state the entire season, finished at 28-1.

Stephanie Bruce led Summit, which finished its season at 21-4, with 14 points before fouling out with 5:16 remaining in the game. Dana Proper added 10 points, while her twin, Danielle, finished with six.

They are the only three players who will graduate in June. While it means a young, but experienced, squad will return, head coach Dana Fariella admits it may be difficult to fully fill their shoes, especially Bruce's.

Bruce led the Hilltoppers by averaging about 16 points, nine rebounds and four steals a game.

"From an offensive standpoint, Stephanie's position will be hard to fill with one person," Fariella said. "However, a combination of players — one getting a few more points, another a few more rebounds — should get the job done."

Fariella has plenty of reasons to smile when she looks back at the 1999-2000 season — and they're all young.

"Ashley Holmes is just a freshman, but she improved tremendously," Fariella said of the forward. "She matured not only as a basketball player, but as a leader."

"Then there's Karen Jann, who stepped in and started on the varsity this season, and Shanie Coffield, who contributed off the bench," Fariella continued. "Add in sophomores Liz Sheridan and Katie Tully and others — so many players contributed."

When the season began, Fariella took a realistic approach toward looking ahead. The Hilltoppers lost six players from the previous season and were looking at a number of players with little or no varsity experience.

"If you had asked me if we were going to be in the sectional final and go 21-4, I would not have been too confident," Fariella said. "After the first five games, seeing the way we played, those expectations increased. They were showing me and other teams they could play."

Now, with a roster loaded with juniors and sophomores with varsity experience, one goal for 2000-2001 will be different.

"As a coach, our plan is to build a program and take it to the next level," Fariella said. "With the girls we have next year, we want to win. The last game showed we can play with anybody, but I don't think the kids will want to settle for this. We want to beat those teams."

Summit finished second in the Hills Division of the Iron Hills Conference, again, to Mendham and reached the Union County Tournament semifinals after winning the UCT for the first time last year.

