

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 72 NO. 27

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2001

TWO SECTION

Voters turn down athletic field referendum

One-third of registered voters go to polls

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

By a margin of 250 votes, Springfield voters defeated a \$3.4-million bond referendum Tuesday that would have funded improvements to school athletic fields and county-owned Meisel Avenue Park. Voter turnout was considered high with almost one-third of eligible registered voters going to the polls. Annual Board of Education elections in the spring routinely draw fewer than 10 percent of voters.

Superintendent of Schools Gary Friedland said the Board of Education will now have to evaluate the results of the referendum and assess the situation. The school board is currently concentrating on the 2001-02 budget "so this particular item will probably be put on the back shelf while the board works on the regular budget."

He described the failed public question "a lost opportunity" to improve facilities while at the same time saying

many good things came out of it, including the ability to provide more information to taxpayers, and a chance for the board, administration and community groups to reflect on the project. Friedland encouraged those who voted no to come forward with other options and help the school board develop alternatives.

The superintendent said there is still a lot of work to be done. He suggested a design team of parents and residents might work on the plan in the interim to come back with another proposal and "more information in helping us make a decision."

Hazel Hardgrove, co-chairman of the Springfield Improvement Association which opposed the referendum, was thankful that "many voters have supported our stand against a very poorly-conceived and very expensive proposal." The association, she added, will continue to work for safe and good playgrounds in Springfield and would like to

cooperate with local and county officials.

Spending money on county property probably was the main motivator behind residents voting no, Hardgrove said, as well as the costs within the proposal not being specific enough. The school board and Union County government also had not negotiated a new agreement for field usage in nearly two decades, she added.

"There are a lot of issues open that have been put in place," Friedland said, including the question of using township funds on county land and recent information about a former chemical dye plant on Meisel Field.

"One good thing is that it shows democracy works," school board President Jacqueline Shanes said. A committee will examine the situation and see what can be done, suggesting perhaps rehabilitating only school athletic fields for the time being.

"I'm disappointed," said George Pallis, a spokesman for the Springfield Committee on Recreation which favored the proposal. "It's a wasted opportunity for the town."

"It was a good turnout, but it didn't go the way we wanted." He thanked residents who "worked very hard" in support of the referendum.

Marc Marshall of SCORE declined to reveal how much money the committee spent on campaigning to get the referendum passed but said the appropriate documents will be available to the public once they are filed with the state Election Law Enforcement Commission. SCORE sent two townwide mailings — a flier and a postcard — within the past week urging residents to vote yes. The committee also posted lawn signs around town in recent weeks.

The \$3.4-million proposal would have included \$1 million in funds from the county and state. The average Springfield home would have paid approximately \$80 a year for the five-year bond to fund the project.

An identical referendum on Dec. 12 was turned down by a margin of 10 votes, with about 600 votes against and 590 in favor. On the day of that referendum, a power outage affected most of the town and caused all 12 voting districts to be consolidated at two polling stations.

Serenading Minnie

101-year-old gets treat for Mardi Gras

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

What is it like to be 101? There is a little woman who can answer that: Minnie Kaspar, living at the HRC Manor Care nursing home in Mountainside.

"I guess the good Lord wants me here, although I don't know why, but it is up to Him, you know," said Kaspar, who is frail but healthy, both mentally and physically. They love her at the Manor Care facility, and just before Lent, friends and staff decided to dress up in Mardi Gras costumes and serenade her. She swayed with the music and loved every minute of it.

Paula Gray, director of therapeutic recreation, arranged for the concert by the Caring Choir, a group of eight residents of the facility who play instruments and sing to their fellow residents in their rooms on special occasions. "Minnie was their choice for Mardi Gras, and they knew she would enjoy it; they chose 'When the Saints Go Marching In,'" said Gray.

Gray is devoted to Kaspar, who she said has been at the nursing home for about eight years. "She has good health, and only uses a walker. She never drank or smoked, and she eats very little. Very independent, she has a mind of her own," said Gray. This is true; when Kaspar was asked about her lifestyle, she said quickly, "Only like certain things; I hate cereal as my mother made me eat it; I'd rather have bacon and eggs, and I love my coffee. They know me here; if I don't like something I don't take it."

Kaspar was one of nine children



Photo By Jeff Granik

Singing to 101-year-old Minnie Kaspar for Mardi Gras on Monday at HRC Manor Care nursing home in Mountainside are, from left, Luther Robinson, Mary Pawlowski and Debbie Gray.

and came from a close-knit, supportive family. She never married. "Maybe that is why I lived so long!" she said, laughing. "I dated more than all my brothers and sisters, all of whom married, but I never found anyone who appealed enough to me to marry," she said.

Kaspar was born and grew up in Elizabeth, and worked for 45 years as a needle inspector for Singer Sewing Machine Company. Both her father and brother also worked at the company. She is the only surviving member of the family, although she has several grand nieces and nephews with whom she is close. In fact, she is expecting to attend one of her grand

niece's wedding come April. "I will be 102 on June 12, and I plan on being at that wedding in April," said Kaspar.

Gray, who has a doctorate in gerontology, is sure she will make it. "I have been in this field for many years and I have seen many 100-year-olds, both male and female, and Minnie is by far the most articulate and the most high-functioning independent person I have ever seen." In other words, Gray said, "She has all her mental capacity although her hearing and eyesight are starting to fade, she still functions. When I walk into her room, she knows me immediately."

Kaspar is not in the sub-acute area, a place for people chronically ill; she

is in the long-term care area, and just needs a little bit of help, according to Gray. "I am so glad she is happy here."

Members of the Caring Choir who serenaded their good friend were Luther Robinson who plays guitar; her roommate and closest friend Mary Pawlowski, Rita Laudati and Louise Ribar, all of whom sing; musicians Michael Hughes, Patsy Reilly, Jessie Brown and Maddy Cook. Since they couldn't all fit into her room, they extended into the hall, and when they broke into the lively tune, Kaspar joined in by swaying with the music.

"She has to practice for the wedding," said Gray.

Board president declines to run for fourth term

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

As of the 4 p.m. Monday deadline for seeking a term on Mountainside's Board of Education, there were a few surprises. Board President Patricia Taeschler has decided to bow out after serving for nine years. "I had personal reasons for not filing. As long as there are three candidates, I do not have to run again," she said, "but I am very happy that we do have three excellent candidates."

She was referring to Raymond Haggar, who has come forward to file. "Ray is going to be great; he volunteered to be on the citizen's ad hoc committee and he is a very hard worker. I will still be involved with other things," added Taeschler, who has three children. She also felt it was important that there be a turnover of people serving on the Board of Education.

Incumbent Richard Kress, an attorney, also filed to run for another term, his fifth. "I am filing again because of all the issues currently under way. I feel strongly that I am still in a position to offer my experience to the job."

Haggar, who has a daughter in first grade and a son about to enter kindergarten, said, "I guess you could say I am very much a concerned parent, and this is why I want to be on the board. It is a very important time now for the Board of Education and I feel I can bring my expertise as a manager in business and as a parent to the board."

"We are blessed here in Mountainside with some wonderful kids, teachers and the board as well. I want to be part of it." Haggar and his family have lived in Mountainside for the past nine years.

Incumbent Sally Rivieccio will seek re-election to a third term. "We are in the middle of so many things here. I believe in Deerfield School; my children all went here and for continuity's sake, I will stay on."

Six candidates file for Springfield school board

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

Six candidates filed for the April 17 Board of Education election in Springfield, including two incumbents and a one former Township Committeeman who lost in the 1998 school board race.

The incumbents are Linda Duke, who will go after a second term, and Ben Stravato, a four-term board member. The last time they ran they defeated former Township Committeeman Harry Pappas who will face

them again this year. Joining the field are Patricia Venezia, Irwin Sablosky and Benjamin Rulf.

The lone incumbent not seeking re-election is Richard Falkin who will complete his third, three-year term this spring. "Education is an ongoing process," Falkin said. "I was very glad to be able to direct it for nine years." He cited "other opportunities available to volunteer my time," as his reason not to run again.

A resident of Springfield for almost
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Reform temple welcomes all through 'gate of peace'

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

The large, beautiful Reform Temple Sha'arey Shalom sits back from the road, where Shunpike Road meets Mountain Avenue, where it has been since 1961. The name, "Sha'arey Shalom" is Hebrew for "gate of peace," an appropriate name for this community-oriented Jewish house of worship.

Rabbi Josh Goldstein has been the rabbi for the past 18 years, presiding over 400-plus families. "We are made up of a lot of different kinds of families with a lot of different strengths; we believe in being inclusive, egalitarian in every sense," he said. The synagogue welcomes with open doors everyone in the Jewish faith; people of any ethnic background, members of the gay community and interfaith families.

"We have a large focus on outreach and we are open for all people who are committed to Jewish life," said the rabbi. "Given all the variety of the people which we have as members, our strength is in the substance of our programs."

He was proud that their cantor, Amy Daniels, is about to celebrate her 13th year at the synagogue. She also is the director of the religious school. During the rabbi's recent sabbatical, she filled in for him until his return.

Goldstein believes some of the programs make the difference in their unique synagogue. One such program is a special relationship with the

Lubavitch Chasidic Community in Morristown, an Orthodox group of believers. "We share classes with them both here and at their synagogue. This came about because we feel here that we want to reach out to brothers and sisters within the Jewish faith," he said.

The synagogue also has a strong commitment to the African-American community, both in Springfield and in surrounding areas. "This goes back to the time when we hosted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. right here back in the mid-'60s. He spoke from our pulpit on two different occasions, although it was well before my time here," said Goldstein.

As for the rabbi, he personally does something quite special and different. He leads a discussion group at Barnes & Noble Booksellers on Route 22 in Springfield. "It is a Jewish book lovers' group and well-attended," he said, with usually about 50 or so people coming to enjoy the discussion. As a result of the endeavor, the synagogue received the Belin Outreach award for a synagogue which shows the most creativity in reaching out interested people.

The discussions take place at 7:15 p.m. on the third Monday of every month. The books are of his own choice. The last book he discussed was "Finding a Spiritual Home," by Sidney Schwartz. "This was about a synagogue transformation and growth," he said.

The sanctuary itself is of burnished

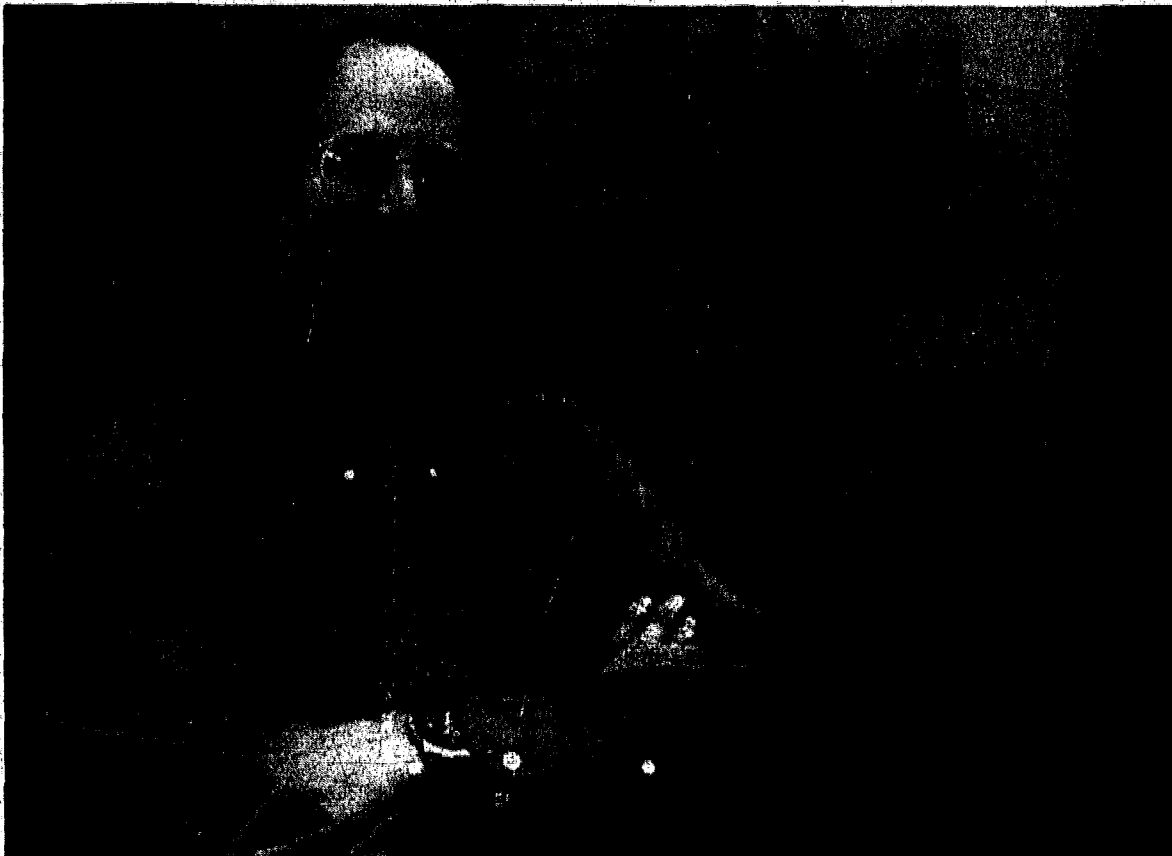


Photo By Jeff Granik

Rabbi Josh Goldstein has led the Reform Temple Sha'arey Shalom in Springfield for nearly two decades. He leads a monthly Jewish book lovers group that resulted in an award for the synagogue for its outreach efforts.

wood with its eternal light suspended from the ceiling at the altar. Behind it is a curtain and behind that is the Arc containing the sacred Torah scrolls. The sanctuary holds about 300 people, but the back wall opens to enlarge its space to hold up to 800 people, which is done every high holy day. All other times the large room is the synagogue's social hall which is a very busy place because of the many groups that make use of it.

"We are very proud of our social action," said Goldstein. "This is the Jewish value for those in need; we house the homeless right here every summer as part of our membership in the Interfaith Council for the Homeless."

The busy congregation has a growing preschool for ages 2 to 4 every day, and a religious school from kindergarten through 10th grade. The synagogue also has what the rabbi

describes as "an active and vibrant youth group, high school ages." To show support for the youth group, both the rabbi and the cantor make it a point to spend two weeks every summer at Camp Harlam, the regional Reform Jewish summer camp in the Poconos.

"We also have an incredible, active Renaissance Group, which is composed of all members 50 and above, who take many special trips together."

Boro ballot question pushed back

By Joan M. Devlin
Staff Writer

At the Mountainside Board of Education meeting at Deerfield School Tuesday night, Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller again had good news and bad news.

The bad news was that in spite of his many trips back and forth to Trenton to the State Board of Education in an effort to move along the referendum, it has not happened. "There will be no referendum by the March 27 date because we still have not heard from the state; April 17 is the next possible date."

However, both Schaller and Board of Education President Patricia Taeschler said they were confident they would hear shortly; it was just a matter of technicalities, but the waiting was hard.

The good news is the tentative budget figure has been arrived at and speaking very strongly, Schaller said, "I can tell you that there is no tax increase." The budget to be submitted to the county superintendent for the 2001-02 school year comes in at \$9,373,657, after much haggling by the board.

There will be a public hearing on the spending plan March 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Deerfield School Media Center, 302 Central Ave.

Schaller pointed out that the projected budget stayed exactly within
See NO, Page 5

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

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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 Echo Leader, Attn: managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

Today

- The Foothill Club 38th birthday luncheon takes place at noon at B.G. Fields Restaurant in Westfield, featuring a show and tell with members participating. Guests are welcome. For reservations call Genevieve Kaczka at (908) 232-3626.
- The Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, offers Preschool Storytime for 3- and 4-year-olds on Thursdays at 2 p.m. until March 8. For more information or to register call (908) 233-0115 to sign up.
- The Governor Livingston Hilltop Players present "Evita" at 7:30 p.m. at the high school, 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights. Tickets are \$7, \$4 for senior citizens on Saturday night only. For advanced tickets call the GL Hilltop Players Auxiliary.

Friday

- The Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, offers Toddler Time for 2-year-olds on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. until March 9. For more information or to register, call (908) 233-0115 to sign up.
- The Project Graduation committee of Governor Livingston High School sponsors a spaghetti dinner at the high school cafeteria from 5 to 8 p.m. The menu will include spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, 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 Karen at (908) 464-3006.
- The Governor Livingston Hilltop Players present "Evita" at 8 p.m. at the high school, 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights. Tickets are \$7, \$4 for senior citizens on Saturday night only. For advanced tickets call the GL Hilltop Players Auxiliary.

Saturday

- Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, seeks volunteers for trail work from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 14 and up. Bring a lunch, a mug for beverage, and shovel, pickaxe and gloves, if you have them. To preregister call (908) 789-3670.
- The Mountainside Newcomers Club sponsors Mommy & Me Bumper Bowling at Garwood Lanes. The cost is \$10 per child, which includes hot dog, chips, soda, two hours of bowling and shoes. Call Margaret DiPalma at (908) 518-0134 to RSVP.
- The Evening Group of the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield sponsors its annual pasta dinner at noon and from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Parish House on Church Mall. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Call the church office at (973) 379-4320 for more information and tickets.
- The Governor Livingston Hilltop Players present "Evita" at 8 p.m. at the high school, 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights. Tickets are \$7, \$4 for senior citizens on Saturday night only. For advanced tickets call the GL Hilltop Players Auxiliary.

Sunday

- Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, sponsors its Sunday family program, "Big Bird Hike," at 2 p.m., a 1 1/2-hour walk on the newest trail. Donation is requested.

Monday

- The Mountainside Recreation Department offers line dancing at Beechwood School Gym from 2:45 to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$16 for residents, \$20 for non-residents. For more information call the Recreation Department at (908) 232-0015.
- The Springfield Board of Education conducts a conference meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room at Jonathan Dayton High School.

Tuesday

- The Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its series in honor of African-American history with "A

Raisin in the Sun" at noon. Bring a brown bag lunch to the performance. Coffee and cookies will be provided. For information call (973) 376-4930.

- The Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, offers Storytime Theatre for Kindergarten from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. For more information or to register, call (908) 233-0115 to sign up.
- Anchee Min's "Red Azalea" is featured at the next book discussion at 7:30 p.m. in the library meeting room at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. To reserve your copies and for more information call (973) 376-4930, Ext. 28.

Wednesday

- The Springfield Planning Board conducts an executive meeting at 7 p.m. followed by a regular meeting at 8 p.m. in the committee room, Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave.

Upcoming

March 8

- The Westfield Regional Health Department will sponsor a pneumonia vaccination program from noon to 1 p.m. at the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield. Pre-registration is required. Medicare/Medicaid cards must be presented at the time of registration. The program is open exclusively to residents of Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Roselle Park, Springfield and Westfield. No exceptions will be made.
- The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will resume its international film festival with "Xiu Xiu: The Sent-Down Girl" at noon and 7 p.m. Admission is free for all films. Space is limited to 60 people at each showing. For information call (973) 376-4930.
- The Berkeley Heights Board of Education will conduct a regular conference meeting in the Clausen Administrative Complex at 8 p.m.
- The Mountainside Planning Board will meet at 8 p.m. in Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 East.

AT THE LIBRARY

'Red Azalea' to be topic of discussion group

Anchee Min's "Red Azalea" will be featured at the next book discussion on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the library meeting room at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave.

A coming-of-age autobiographical narrative, Red Azalea focuses on the repressive environment of Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution, 1966-76.

Min is Red Azalea, a Chinese heroine, who narrates in her own voice the intimately human story she lived in China's recent history. Author Amy Tan commented that Red Azalea is "not just another book about the Cultural Revolution...Min shows us how easily one can become inhuman, yet how difficult it is to extinguish the human spirit."

Future book discussion will feature "The Bluest Eyes" by Toni Morrison, "A Fine Balance" by Rohinton Mistry and "Daughter of Fortune" by Isabel Allende.

To reserve your copies and for more information call (973) 376-4930, Ext. 28.

'A Raisin in the Sun'

The Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its series in honor of African-American history with "A Raisin in the Sun" at noon on Tuesday, the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Dred Scott decision.

A \$10,000 insurance benefit creates dreams within a Chicago ghetto family. The son wants to start his own business while his mother wishes to spend her days in a little house of her own. The family's love is their bond and their tentative hold on dignity, their lifeline, as they are caught between the reality of their surroundings and a chance at a piece of the American Dream. Lorraine Hansberry's timeless story of black identity, beauty and pride stars Danny Glover and Emmy Award-winner Esther Rolle.

The series continues at noon on March 20 with "Solomon Northup's Odyssey."

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

For information call (973) 376-4930.

Chinese film featured

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will resume its international film festival with "Xiu Xiu: The Sent-Down Girl" on March 8 at noon and 7 p.m.

A quietly seething indictment of Mao's Cultural Revolution of 1966-1976, this emotionally riveting story of hopeless love and the corruption of innocence so incensed the government that it was banned in China. During that decade some 7.5 million urban Chinese teens were separated from their middle-class families and "sent down" for Communist indoctrination in remote rural areas with false assurances of return in six months.

Such is the fate of 15-year old Xiu Ziu, exiled to the lonely plains of Tibet to learn horse herding from Lao Jim, an important older man who develops true affection for her. He can only look on sadly as the desperate girl pins her hopes for escape on a succession of lascivious local bureaucrats and their empty promises.

First-time director Joan Chen, best known as Josie on the offbeat TV series "Twin Peaks," grew up in China during the period.

Other films in the series include "All About My Mother" on April 5 and "Black Cat, White Cat" on May 10.

Funding for the film festival has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and the Friends of the Spring-

field Free Public Library.

Admission is free for all films. Space is limited to 60 people at each showing. For information call (973) 376-4930.

Programs for children

The Mother Goose Group promotes the enjoyment of language through nursery rhymes, simple stories, songs, movement activities and puppets for toddlers ages 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 years old and their parent or caregiver. Plan to stay and play afterward. The program will be today from 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. at the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. No advance registration.

For information call (973) 376-4930 or stop by the Springfield Public Library. All children's event are in the children's room.

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High school kids in court

Dayton students second in mock trial

By Karen McDonald
Correspondent

Students from Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield came in second in the mock trial program presented at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth on Feb. 13. Their defense team lost to the plaintiff team from the Bruriah High School for girls in Elizabeth in an ongoing fictitious case sponsored by the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Under the supervision of Barbara Trueger and co-adviser Linda Axel-

rad, the afterschool club has met twice a week since November in preparation of the mock trial.

All students, from freshman through seniors, were encouraged to audition, with the objective to offer a broader range of experience and a higher level of thinking. Two teams from the school were established, consisting of two attorneys, and three witnesses for both sides — the plaintiff and the defense. The majority of students were from Trueger's Gifted and Talented program, while others

had expressed a desire to act or learn more about law.

Once registered, the school received a fictional case from the New Jersey Bar Association along with six testimonies. The students then prepare to take the case before a judge, who is a volunteer from the association, and compete against opposing teams from one of 10 other Union County High Schools.

The teams themselves develop the opening and closing statements including all questions with cross-examination. This involved extensive work and research, often demanding additional time in which the students met at each other's homes. The teams also had the advice of a lawyer, Yale Greenspoon, a parent in Springfield.

The made-up case was given to the school teams. It was an incident in which a student was "moshing" in the audience at a college concert who was trampled in the crowd and ultimately died. Her parents were suing the college for negligence. A number of other factors came into account; the student was on the drug Ecstasy and under the influence of alcohol.

"There were some in-depth controversial issues that the students had to research, which have enabled them to be more educated for later life experiences," said Trueger.

The school's feedback from the courthouse was that the teams held the mock trial with the professional ability of a real trial.

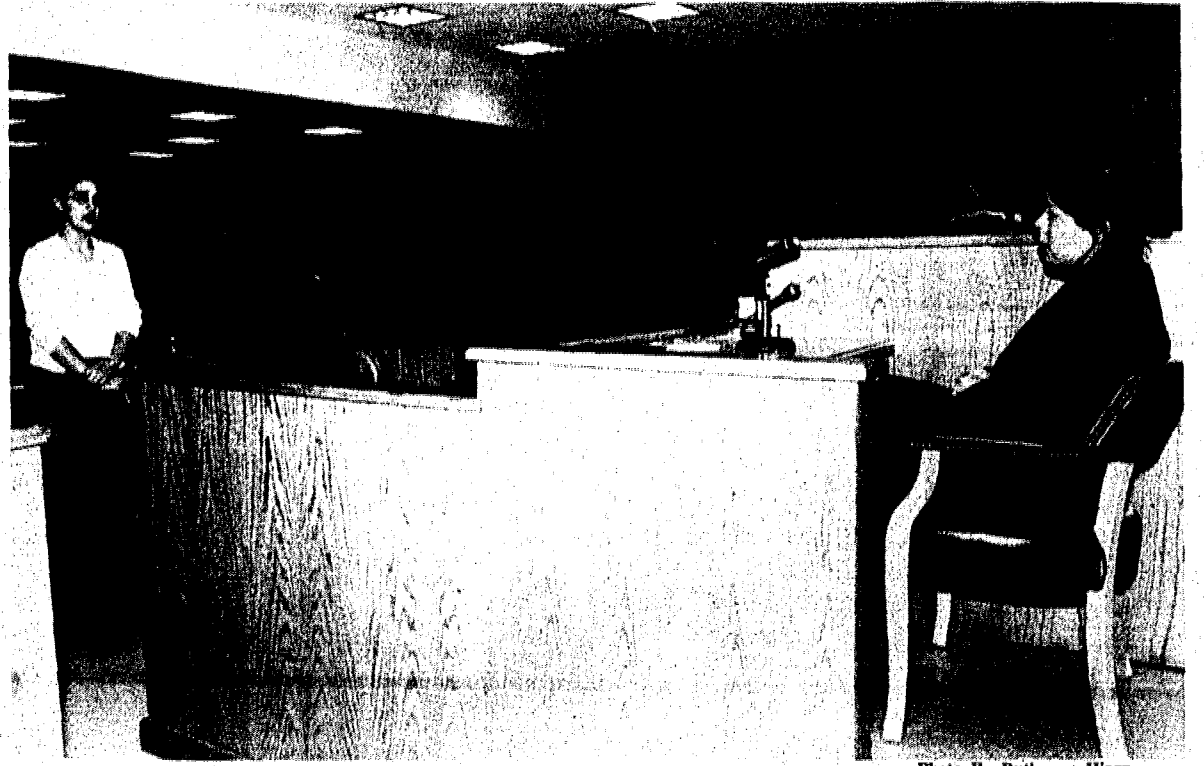


Photo By Ruthanne Wagner

In a mock trial at Union County Courthouse, Jonathan Dayton High School student 'lawyer' Rena Steinbach questions 'witness' Shira Hyman of Bruriah High School in Elizabeth as Judge Rudolph Hawkins Jr. looks on.



Photo By Ruthanne Wagner

Jessica Goldblat of Jonthan Dayton High School cross-examines a witness while Rena Steinbach takes notes as co-lawyer.

"The students' performance and events made the courtroom incredibly realistic," Trueger said. She said she believes hard work pays off. One of the actors actually broke down and cried on the witness stand.

The jury deciding the verdict consisted of six students from a third high school: whomever they find in favor of doesn't necessarily win the event. The judge makes the final decision, and scoring is based on the team's presentation of the case.

Both teams for Jonathan Dayton made it to the quarterfinals, but

through a lottery, it was the plaintiff team that made it to the finals: Rena Steinbach and Jessica Goldblat were the lawyers while Jared Weisman, Melissa LoSchiavo and Valerie Zlotsky were the witnesses.

The defense team for Jonathan Dayton included Pam Bookbinder, Jonathan Zipkin, Shira Zabludovsky, Manoh Finston and Brian Sperber. The defense team was chosen to advance to the second round where they defeated last year's county champion, Cranford.

Even though the high school lost in

the finals, Trueger said the students do not feel defeated. They have participated in the 18-year program for the last three years and this is the first time they have managed to make it this far. The team defeated squads from Kent Place School in Summit and Scotch Plains in the first round.

According to the coach, the club has challenged students and even given them insight into various careers. Trueger said she felt the students learned about working as a team in challenging "real life" environments.

Preliminary school budget includes two separate questions

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

The Springfield Board of Education Monday night unanimously approved a tentative 2001-02 budget to be submitted to the Union County superintendent which includes two separate questions in addition to the general budget. School districts have until Monday to submit their tentative budgets to the county.

The \$22.7-million budget is a 1.4-percent increase over this year and would have a tax impact of approximately \$147 for the average home, according to school officials. The two separate questions — one to fund the pre-kindergarten program at Walton School for \$269,702 and another to fund the fourth year of a

five-year computer software upgrade plan for \$240,737 — would impact the average home by a total of \$76.

Superintendent of Schools Gary Friedland said rising costs of health-care, energy, and state-mandated costs pushed the school budget to the state-imposed cap. Items above the cap must be submitted for voter approval under a second question.

The budget is "a very difficult job every year," Friedland said. "You're putting existing programs on a separate question and next year you'll be putting other programs on a separate question," he told the board.

Friedland said the board might be able to get one of the questions within the operating budget if the board

"works with the enrollment numbers and looks at other programs" with county school officials. The district's enrollment projections are conservative and the cap is adjustable based on enrollment increases.

"We're faced with decreasing state

aid and increasing healthcare costs every year," board President Jacqueline Shanes said. She was disappointed to see the pre-K program, an item mandated by the state for special needs districts, placed on a separate question.

"We're feeling the effects of the state's funding process."

"It's a difficult budget we've put together," Friedland said. "We're putting on the separate questions things we've enjoyed," he referring to the pre-kindergarten program which he

implemented during his tenure.

If a separate question is voted down, it cannot be negotiated, whereas if the operating budget fails, the school board can negotiate it with the Township Committee. Public hearings will be conducted on the budget before the final plan is presented.

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EDITORIALS

Read across America

March 2 is becoming an annual event that could eventually rival Halloween for children. The date is becoming popular as Read Across America, an annual event that promotes reading not just for kids but for everyone. Kids and adults don large, funny white-and-red-striped hats and read to each other, among other activities centered around books and authors. The date was not simply picked out of a hat; it is the birthday of Theodor Geisel, more popularly known as Dr. Seuss.

Many of us can remember reading Dr. Seuss' tales long before last year's overcommercialized hit film, "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," and based on Seuss' original book. There were "The Cat in the Hat," "Green Eggs and Ham," and a favorite during the high school and college graduations, "O' The Places You'll Go."

Seuss has always managed to be popular not only among the children who read his books growing up, but also among adults. One reason for such wide-ranging popularity could be that his intriguing yet simple stories strike a chord within all of us regardless of whether we're 8, 18 or 80 years old — either through the lessons they teach or just the silliness they can generate.

There may not be another author or storyteller who can better symbolize an annual event such as Read Across America. In recent years, it has continued to gain steam in its popularity and participation among students and adults alike. The activities promote reading in a positive light that excites those just getting started and can reignite those who have been reading for years.

Most importantly, Read Across America brings people in touch with two of our society's most valuable institutions: our schools and our libraries.

Locally, Deerfield School in Mountainside has planned an exciting evening tonight in the media center with a Character Cafe. Students will dress as their favorite characters, acting as the waiters, waitresses and tour guides. In addition, there will be plenty of craft activities relating to books. Featured will be a live video conference with the Ocean Institute in Dana, Calif., with students and parents participating in a live "Safari to a tidepool."

Tomorrow, students will have the pleasure of meeting Steven Kellog, a well-known author of picture books.

In Springfield, young students at Thelma L. Sandmeier School will be treated to a reading session with older students and other volunteers, including township officials, who will read to the children.

Reading can improve students' ability in school if started at an early age. Too often, the task of reading can be perceived by young children as a chore rather than a joy.

If students can be accustomed to reading and enjoying themselves, rather than dreading homework assignments and book reports, at an early age, it can help them become higher achievers in school.

Reserve some time out of your schedule to participate in Read Across America, be it spending time with your child at school or library functions or simply volunteering some time to read to youngsters. It will be time well spent.

Free advice

There is no question that Springfield officials or residents don't want a Super Stop & Shop to occupy the former Saks Fifth Avenue property on Millburn Avenue.

Last week during testimony before the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Royal Ahold's traffic expert presented the board with his report, which included several suggestions to address existing traffic issues in the neighborhood near the property. It was upon the request of the Zoning Board that Henry Ney conducted the report, and at the cost of Ahold, not the township. That means this is free advice for Springfield.

The suggestions include the construction of roundabouts and the installation of more signage and perhaps speed humps. Simply because these offerings come from someone whom residents and officials may not like, or at least do not see eye-to-eye with, who can turn down free expert advice? The traffic report looked at existing conditions, regardless of whether the supermarket ever comes to fruition. That means even if the Saks property remains vacant, the issues detailed in the report are still evident and will continue to affect the neighborhood.

These are recommendations that have been submitted to the township, and officials can do with them what they wish. We strongly encourage the Township Committee to, at the very least, take a long, hard look at the report and even consider implementing some of its suggestions.



DINO-MITE — Students from Deerfield School in Mountainside, from left, in front, Megan Campbell and Natalie Condrillo, and standing, Brendan DiLandro, Casey McGowan, Rachel Schrank, MacKenzie Liss and Allison Leow construct dino-ramas in Gail Anderson's second-grade class.

Should we really care what's on a stamp?

The woman behind the bullet-proof window at the Post Office seemed pleasant enough. As I waited next in line, I heard her providing some of the finest customer service I had ever seen to the gentleman at her window.

After his transaction was completed and the man began to leave the window, the woman glanced in my direction, smiled, and, invitingly, said, "Good morning, sir. How can I help you today?"

As I approached the window, I replied, "Good morning. May I please have a strip of 10 self-adhesive stamps?"

It was a simple enough request enunciated clearly, one I'm sure she had heard thousands of times from the tens of thousands of customers who visit the Post Office.

"I can give you a choice," she said, sliding two different strips of stamps closer to the window. "You can have these," she said, advancing a strip of stamps that contained flowers on them, "but these are non-adhesive. Or you can have these. These are self-

For The Record

By Tom Canavan
Editor in Chief

adhesive," she continued, this time advancing a strip of stamps that contained a black man on them.

I replied, "I asked for the self-adhesive."

"Then you want these," she said, indicating the stamps that contained the words "Black Heritage" and the name of the black man, Roy Wilkins.

When I buy stamps, I buy them with two objectives in mind — the first, to be sure to get the self-adhesive kind because it seems I'm incapable of offering the right amount of saliva to make a stamp stick to an envelope;

and second, to ensure I have the right amount of postage to get my letter, bill or other correspondence to the addressee. Other than that, the Aya-tollah could be on the stamp and it wouldn't make a difference to me — as long as it says 34 cents and my mail will reach its destination. I have too many important things to think about on a daily basis, and one of them is not the kind of stamp I prefer to put on an envelope, which will be out of my possession and into a mail slot less than five minutes later.

I was tempted to ask the woman, but chose not to because of the time, the number of people waiting in line and the fact that it really wasn't important to me, if she thought I, a white man, would be sensitive — or offended, for that matter — to be buying stamps with a black man on them.

It was the only logical explanation I could find to her response. My instructions were clear: "May I please have a strip of 10 self-adhesive stamps." Something, as I said earlier,

that she must have heard thousands of times.

As I slipped the two envelopes into the mail slot, I wondered, "Will PSE&G think I'm black because I have a black man on the stamp on my envelope? Will Comcast think the same thing? Or will they even care?" I certainly don't.

In all probability, someone in the business offices at both companies don't even look at the stamps because they're more concerned with turning the envelope to its other side to open it and begin processing the payment. I would hope they don't spend their days admiring the stamps.

February is Black History Month, and after this experience, it occurred to me that if some people can be so concerned about something as petty as what is depicted on a stamp, how can we as a nation grow to accept our neighbors for the people they are, rather than their ethnic or racial background?

Let state bear burden of funding education

Every year around April, we get the bad news of having to file our tax returns and learn just how much the municipal taxes will go up. The tendency is to look to the municipal government to blame or complain to, when the tax is really from the school board, the county and the smallest portion, the municipality.

The township government has endeavored over the past three years to stop the growth of local taxes with no municipal increases. But we can't control what the other two entities do to raise funds.

The problem is very simple. No one in the Legislature including the new governor, the old governor or the 2001 governor will take on the hard question of how to stop the overburdened municipalities and schools.

Smoke and mirrors is what we always get from Trenton, like the tax rebate program giving us \$500 a year. We are not fooled at that joke since the local taxes go up at least that much every year. So what is the answer? Clearly the income tax is the most equitable means to reduce property

By Roy Hirschfeld

taxes. Now that the state has a large surplus, give it back by legislation for the state to take over the main funding of equal education and buildings and infrastructure of the schools. The state also needs to take better control of these funds so that they are monitored to stop the corruption and waste of having some districts use building funds for swimming pools or to pad someone's pocket.

The key is to let the state bear the main burden of funding education. Next we need changes in municipal aid to send more to the local towns from tax revenues, especially funds the towns themselves bring in by sales tax revenue.

We also need to have the Legisla-

ture change laws such as arbitration which winds up requiring towns to give salary increases and other benefits even if a town can't afford the increases. When this happens, the only one to turn to is you and I to tax us more.

I have also been advocating for years increasing shared services within interlocal agreements. Springfield has done this with the county for garbage and leaf collection and salt for the winter. But we can do a lot more. Why can't the school boards, the county and the local towns join together in a consortium for sharing fire and public works materials and manpower?

Just think if Westfield, Summit and Millburn along with Springfield shared the costs of fire and street cleaning services. We could save a lot. Many schools have similar public works equipment and maintenance staff, why not share in these areas to cut on costs? In truth there is a lot we can do at the local and state level to stop the spiral of tax increases, but it

doesn't ever get done.

This year we know the schools need to fund the athletic fields and this will be a cost shared by the county and the board of ed. I support these efforts even though it will raise my taxes around \$100 a year. My concern is that the board needs more state aid to stop the spiral of costs as they will likely increase taxes further this year.

The local government is faced with an extreme increase in fees from the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority which we have to pay for. We also have salary issues which will result in increases in taxes and increased costs in municipal services.

Where is the state with the aid all towns need — you know where they are, spinning the same old junk about homestead rebates. Well, tell the Legislature and the governor you want real reform and a solution to the municipal tax burden.

A Democrat, Roy Hirschfeld is a member of the Springfield Township Committee.

Newspaper's guidelines in Board of Education elections

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 17 election: **Letters to the editor:** Political letters, and those of endorsement, will be accepted up to and including the issue of April 5 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.

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Former resident strikes plea bargain with police

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

A former Springfield resident who was arrested nearly two years ago in an FBI Internet sting operation struck a plea bargain with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office on Feb. 16.

Steven Elkin, 42, formerly of Chimney Ridge Drive, pled guilty in Morris County Superior Court to one third-degree count of endangering the welfare of a child, for being involved with sexual conduct with a child, and one third-degree count of endangering the welfare of a child, for possession of child pornography.

Elkin was arrested April 14, 1999 at Hedon Park in Randolph by FBI agents and Morris County detectives working with the Operation Innocent Images Task Force. The task force targets people using the Internet to arrange sexual meetings with children.

Authorities arrested Elkin after several weeks of communication over the Internet. Elkin believed he was communicating with, and expecting to meet, a 14-year-old girl when in fact it was a team of task force agents, police said. Elkin, who was a Springfield

resident at the time of his arrest, posted bail of \$50,000 cash.

Elkin, a mortgage banker at the time of his arrest, was charged with attempted sexual assault, endangering the welfare of a child, and attempting to entice a child into a motor vehicle. He was indicted on all four charges in July.

As part of the plea bargain, the attempted sexual assault and enticing charges were dropped while Elkin will receive probation with 364 days in the county jail, said Assistant Prosecutor Catherine Broderick, chief of the Megan's Law Unit and Internet Crimes against Children Unit for the Morris County Prosecutor's Office.

She said she believed Elkin moved out of Springfield since his arrest but was not sure where. Elkin's attorney, Timothy Donohue did not return phone messages by presstime.

Elkin will be sentenced May 4 before Morris County Superior Court Judge Theodore Bozonelis.

The assistant prosecutor said Elkin will have to register under Megan's Law, but what tier he will be determined upon his release to the community, after his jail term.

We're asking

Do you believe in fasting?



Rachelle Moorman

"Actually I never have, but I do believe in it; it's a personal decision."



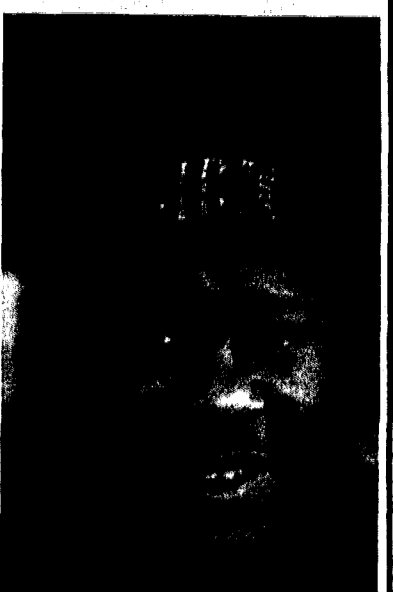
Gerald Raimo

"Yes, I do believe in fasting."



Jim Serrano

"I believe in fasting, but for a diet. I fast every Monday, and have lost weight that way."



Barry Moorman

"Yes, I do believe in it, and I probably will do it for Lent this year."

Expert suggests traffic-calming measures within neighborhood

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

Speed humps, roundabouts and more signage could reduce cut-through traffic and reduce the traffic situation in the area of a proposed Super Stop & Shop in Springfield at the Millburn border, according to a traffic expert for the supermarket.

Henry Ney, executive vice president of Schoor DePalma, offered his findings to the Springfield Zoning Board of Adjustment last week to address the existing traffic situation in the area. Ney is the traffic expert presented by attorneys for Royal Ahold to testify in Zoning Board meetings in November and again last week. Ney was cross-examined by attorneys for the objectors — Village Supermarkets Inc., the Colonial Neighborhood Association and Millburn — during a hearing in November. Testimony continued during last week's Zoning Board meeting with a noise expert and a traffic report by Ney which was requested by the board.

Ney presented three options: additional signage to deter vehicles from cutting through the local streets and avoiding the traffic light at Morris Avenue and Short Hills Avenue; speed humps along local streets in the area of

Morris and Short Hills avenues, and roundabouts, or small traffic circles, at the local street intersections which would require vehicles to move from "a straight-line path and slow to a comfortable speed."

"Any of the alternatives," Ney said, "can be effective measures to both reduce vehicle 'cut-through' as well as reduce speeds along the residential street system."

Origin and destination surveys were conducted during the "morning and evening peak street hours," 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m., along Severna Avenue, Molter Avenue, Tower Drive and Lewis Drive to identify the number of motorists avoiding the traffic signal at Morris and Short Hills avenues.

In the morning peak hours, 20 cars used Severna and Molter avenues without an origin or destination on those streets; about 20 percent of total vehicular traffic on each street. In the evening two hours, there were 14 motorists who cut through, about 10 percent of the total cars on the street.

On Tower and Lewis drives, there were 35 vehicles cutting through in the morning, about 35 percent of total vehicular traffic on those streets, and 36 cars in the evening, about 40 percent of all traffic. Ney noted that the

"remaining vehicles along Tower Drive all came from the area of Baltusrol Avenue and could also be possible cut-through vehicles."

Signage on the Molter Avenue approach to Morris Avenue, prohibiting left turns from 7 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m., would deter cars from using Molter and Severna avenues as a cut-through. The sign, Ney said, may have more effect than the sign currently along Short Hills Avenue, since the left turn onto Morris is "a more visible movement and may make for more likely and easier enforcement." The drawback, however, is that residents along Severna and Molter are required "to find more circuitous routes to and from their homes, or perform illegal turning movements during the peak street hours."

Signs can be installed at the intersections of Morris Avenue with Baltusrol Avenue, Morris Avenue with Lewis Drive, and Short Hills Avenue with Tower Drive to deter cut-through traffic during peak periods. The added signage would cost \$100 to \$150.

Speed humps could be used between Short Hills and Morris avenues along Molter, Severna, Tower, Lewis and Baltusrol. The 12- to 14-foot humps would have a design speed of 15 to 20 mph. The humps would cost

approximately \$1,000.

Roundabouts were suggested at the intersections of Molter Avenue with Severna, Lewis Drive with Tower, and Tower Drive with Baltusrol; all T-intersections. Typical roundabout installation costs approximately \$5,000.

"So you're suggesting to accommodate the market, the neighborhood should change," Severna Avenue resident Fred Hrinuk told the traffic expert during questioning last week.

"Right now, you have to face the fact that that could be occupied by a Target or other single-entity store with zero improvements to mitigate traffic," Ney said.

Ney said the former Saks property could be occupied by a major retailer, like Target or Wal-mart, which would not do a thing to mitigate additional traffic. Traffic from such a store would be significant and have a detrimental impact on the neighborhood. "The applicant has worked with the neighborhood," he said of Royal Ahold, to identify existing traffic issues and develop solutions. Ahold attorney James Segreto reminded the audience that Ney's study was completed at the request of the Zoning Board and at the cost to the applicant.

Upon questioning by a number of residents about pedestrian safety and the number schools in the area, Ney emphasized that there is no correlation between the number of vehicles using a road and the number of fatalities or accidents.

There is existing cut-through traffic, Ney said, and if the township is interested, his suggestions could be implemented to reduce existing problems.

"Tower Drive has been a cut-through for 41 years," resident Terry Smith said. Humps have proven to provide important traffic safety, Ney said. "You may not be able to control the volume of vehicles, but you certainly want to control the speed."

The applicant, he added, is prepared to address Tower Drive should the Stop & Shop consumers use the road as a cut-through. Hrinuk said schools in the area create traffic between the hours of 2 and 3 p.m. yet Ney did not study that time period.

"We didn't because by our accounts," he said, "the peak hours are those we studied."

Testimony is expected to continue at the Springfield Board of Adjustment's next meeting, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave.

Six to run for school board

(Continued from Page 1)

30 years. Pappas served one term on the Township Committee during the 1990s. He is director for planning and economic growth for Essex County. He attended Rutgers University and holds certifications in purchasing and municipal finance.

"I just thought it was time for me to put my ideas forth again perhaps maybe voters might elect for change," Pappas said.

Venezia has attended school board meetings for almost four years. She is a member of the PTA at James Caldwell and Florence M. Gaudineer schools, where her children attend, and served on the district's Long-Range Facilities Planning Committee.

Venezia is a teacher for a division of Sylvan Learning Systems. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and an elementary education certification from William Paterson University.

She hopes to bring "fresh insight into issues," especially with the board's challenge of finding a replacement for Superintendent of Schools Gary Friedland, who will be retiring later this year.

Sablosky is a partner with William S. Rich & Son, an accounting firm in Union which he started 15 years ago with his father and a partner. He was a member of the deregulation committee and the ad hoc plant and facility committee, among other projects involving the school district.

Sablosky, who holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Boston University, has three children in the school district.

Rulf served one full term on the Westfield Board of Education and part of another term several years ago. He holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and is an engineering scientist.

In honor of Abe



Deerfield School student Sam Greenberg of Mountainside shows off his pretzel log cabin he made in honor of Lincoln's Birthday.

No increase in school budget

(Continued from Page 1)

the state-imposed cap of \$9,327,732.

Schaller also noted that since the referendum date has been pushed back, the present tenants of Beechwood School, the Morris-Union Jointure Commission, are willing to stay on for the time being. "We are, therefore, anticipating funding in the form of revenue which we will collect from them; they are happy to remain with us since things are not in place yet."

One of the questions asked by several board members was where the budget was with respect to the anticipated purchase of technical equipment. Richard Kress, who is chairman of the Finance Committee, answered. "The prices this year for computers are way down; we will be able to buy new computers out of the current budget; therefore we will not have to spend any money on technical equipment."

Taeschler then asked Schaller, "Does this budget provide for everything we need?" He replied, "Yes. We have \$17,000 additional funds from the state because of our achievement. These were unanticipated funds, and it even covers the addition of new teachers. We are not taking anything out of the budget because we do not have to," he added.

When opened to the public, Louis Thomas, who is chairman of the Democratic Committee, said "If I were to ask a very simple question it would be, what is the cost for a high school student to go to Berkeley Heights?" Kress replied, "It is \$12,500 per pupil. We were told it was going to be a little less than that, but we are going with that number."

There were no other questions from the few people in attendance, and the board unanimously passed the tentative budget.

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Teen arrested for alcohol possession

Springfield
An 18-year-old Union resident was arrested on Feb. 10 at about 8:20 p.m. for alleged possession of alcohol by a minor, under 21 years of age. Kamil Demich was arrested by police at the corner of Morris Avenue and Center Street.

- A 27-year-old man was arrested for allegedly shoplifting at Bob's Stores on Route 22 West on Saturday at about 3:30 p.m. Police arrested Michael A. Rose of Union and charged him with shoplifting and receiving stolen property.

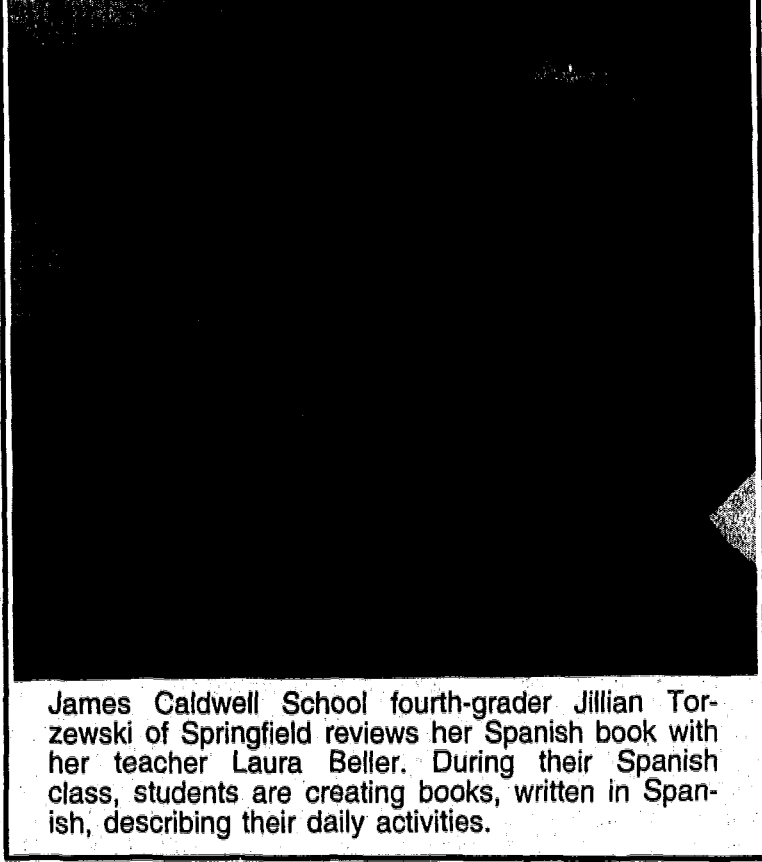
POLICE BLOTTER

- A Union resident reported items valued at nearly \$370 stolen from a locked locker at New York Sports Club in the General Greene Shopping Center on Morris Avenue. The incident was reported Feb. 18 at 5:50 p.m.
- A Union resident reported her car stereo stolen and damage to her driver's side door lock on Feb. 19 just after 8 p.m. The damage was estimated at \$150 and the stereo is valued at \$400.

Mountainside
On Saturday at 3:57 a.m., Luis E. Lascano, 34, of Plainfield, was arrested by Mountainside police on Route 22 East for allegedly operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicants. He is to report at 9 a.m. today in Municipal Court.

- Stephen Jones of Red Bank, 28, was arrested at 5:15 p.m. Saturday on Route 22 East for driving with a suspended license. He was involved in a six-car motor vehicle accident that day, and investigation revealed the suspended license and registration.

Habla Espanol?



James Caldwell School fourth-grader Jillian Torzewski of Springfield reviews her Spanish book with her teacher Laura Beller. During their Spanish class, students are creating books, written in Spanish, describing their daily activities.

Carbon monoxide detector alerts firefighters

Mountainside
The Mountainside Volunteer Fire Department responded to an Outlook Drive residence Feb. 14 at 4:26 p.m. on an activated carbon monoxide alarm. The homeowner used paint in the residence, which was the cause for the alarm.

FIRE BLOTTER

Springfield
The Fire Department responded to a Madison Terrace residence at 11:08 a.m. and a Morris Avenue business at 2:50 p.m. for medical service calls.

Feb. 22
At 3:42 a.m., firefighters responded to a Remer Avenue residence for an activated carbon monoxide detector. The department arrived at 8:49 a.m. to Sandmeier School for a report of a natural gas leak. Firefighters responded to a Tree Top Drive residence for an activated carbon monoxide detector at 11:33 a.m.

A medical service call was handled at 2:31 p.m. at a Route 22 East business before firefighters were dispatched to a Mountain Avenue business at 2:44 p.m. and a Kew Drive residence at 3:35 p.m. for water conditions. **Feb. 21**
At 12:36 p.m., the department

responded to a Mountain Avenue business for a brush fire. Firefighters received a medical service call at 2:47 p.m. at an Irwin Street residence.

- On Friday at 7:49 p.m., the Fire Department responded to a Route 22 business on a report of a burning odor in a vehicle. The battery was disconnected.
- On Saturday at 11:57 a.m., firefighters responded to Children's Specialized Hospital on an activated alarm. An investigation revealed a person smoking set off the alarm. No fire was reported.
- Firefighters arrived on Route 22 West on a report of a car fire on Saturday at 6:40 p.m. An investigation revealed a burst radiator hose which caused the smoke.

Feb. 20
At 9:46 a.m. firefighters responded to a Skylark Road residence to assist an injured person downstairs. At 12:12 p.m. and 12:21 p.m., the department was called to a Troy Drive apartment complex and a Leslie Court residence for activated fire alarms. Firefighters arrived at 2:09 p.m. at a Mountain Avenue business for a medical service call.

Feb. 19
Firefighters responded to a Milltown Road residence at 6:43 a.m. for a medical service call.

Feb. 18
The Fire Department responded to Florence Gaudineer School on South Springfield Avenue for an activated fire alarm at 2:38 p.m.

CLUBS IN THE NEWS

Bumper bowling planned
The Mountainside Newcomers Club announces the following membership activities for the near future:

- Mommy & Me Bumper Bowling on Saturday at Garwood Lanes, noon to 2 p.m. The cost is \$10 per child, which includes hot dog, chips, soda, two hours of bowling and shoes. Space is limited, reserve early. Call Jean Marie Morgan at (908) 518-9409 to RSVP.

- Reserve March 10 for the "Spring Has Sprung" annual gala at Sheffield's Catering, from 7 to 11 p.m. The cost is \$56 per couple, which includes dinner, wine and beer. Call Kim Moriak at (908) 232-5608 by Saturday to RSVP.
- Mommy & Me is anticipating spring with its annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the Loop Playground, Watching Reservation. The cost is \$5 per child. RSVP to Margaret DiPalma by April 1. Rain date will be April 14.

GL Hilltop Players put on 'Evita'

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's extraordinary opera "Evita" comes to life on the Governor Livingston High School stage. The GL Hilltop Players, featuring 34 cast members, at least 25 crew members, and the theatre production class at the high school have been working since January to bring this 1979 Tony Award-winning musical to life.

"Evita" is an opera based on the life of Eva Peron, the wife of Argentine President Juan Peron. Although she started life in humble surroundings, she became the most powerful woman her country had ever known. Still controversial, Eva Peron's life is one of great contrasts. She has been called everything from sinner to saint. Webber and Rice have drawn their own conclusions about Evita; the audience is invited to draw theirs.

Director Judith Mulder, Musical Director James Campodonico, Assistant Musical Director James Mussachio, Choreographer Patricia Limandri and Technical Director Ken Stiefel are proud of how the students have been handling this difficult musical. They all agree that this is not typical high school musical fare. The students are being challenged both artistically and intellectually as they prepare this show for an audience.

Likewise, Irene O'Grady's AP Spanish class is using the musical as an opportunity to study the literature and history of Argentina. The class is also helping by translating Spanish dialogue and completing research that will bring a sense of reality to the production.

Columbia Middle School students will appear as a children's choir in the musical and two members of GL's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program are cast members.



Cast members of 'Evita', presented by the Governor Livingston Hilltop Players today through Saturday, prepare for their performances.

Friday and Saturday's performances will be interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Performances are tonight at 7:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7, \$4 for senior citizens on Saturday night only. For advanced tickets call the GL Hilltop Players Auxiliary.

The Mountainside Newcomers Club Inc. is a social organization whose purpose is to extend a friendly greeting to its new members, to help them meet others, and to make them feel welcome and a part of the community.

Membership is open to new residents of Mountainside or established residents who have experienced a change in lifestyle, such as the birth of a baby, or a change in employment or marital status.

For membership information call Monica Boening at (908) 928-0321.

Borough seniors meet
The Mountainside Senior Citizens Club meets the second and fourth Fridays of the month at the Community Presbyterian Church, Deer Path and Meeting House Lane. The meetings begin at noon with light refreshments served.

On March 9, Bill Connary, a speaker from the State Department of Law, will speak on elder fraud.

On March 23, a program for young and old will be a talk on diabetes.

NEWS CLIPS

Historical society gets donation at open house
The Springfield Historical Society had reason to celebrate last month during the annual open house commemorating President's Day.

After touring the Historic Cannon Ball House with his wife and daughters, Commerce Bank Customer Service Manager and Springfield native Howard Becker presented society President Margaret Bandrowski with a check for \$250. Like many who visit the house, Becker knew the site from a long ago school tour but had not been back as an adult.

"He called at a lucky time," said Bandrowski, "the week before the open house, so we had an opportunity to invite the family to visit on the one day a year when the Washington letter is on display. And we were of course delighted to receive the donation."

Pneumonia vaccinations
The Westfield Regional Health Department will sponsor a pneumonia vaccination program on March 8 and 22 from noon to 1 p.m. at the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield. Pre-registration is required.

The pneumonia vaccine will be available to those individuals that have not been vaccinated for pneumonia within the past 10 years. The inoculations are specifically geared to the senior population, age 65 and over, and those individuals with chronic illnesses. Anyone interested in obtaining the pneumonia vaccine must pre-register in person, without exception, at the Health Department.

Medicare/Medicaid cards must be presented at the time of registration. The programs will be open exclusively to residents of Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Roselle Park, Springfield and Westfield. No exceptions will be made.

Pneumonia vaccination is recommended for the following individuals: acquired or congenital heart disease; chronic kidney disease; chronic anemia or diabetes; any chronic disorder or conditions affecting respiratory function; conditions or therapy, which would lower an individual's resistance to infection; and senior citizens, age 65 or over, who are at increase risk of medical problems as a result of flu infection.

Pasta dinner Saturday
The Evening Group of the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield will sponsor its annual pasta dinner on Saturday at noon and 5 to 7 p.m. at the Parish House on Church Mall.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. The menu consists of salad, baked ziti, with or without meat sauce, bread, dessert, and beverage.

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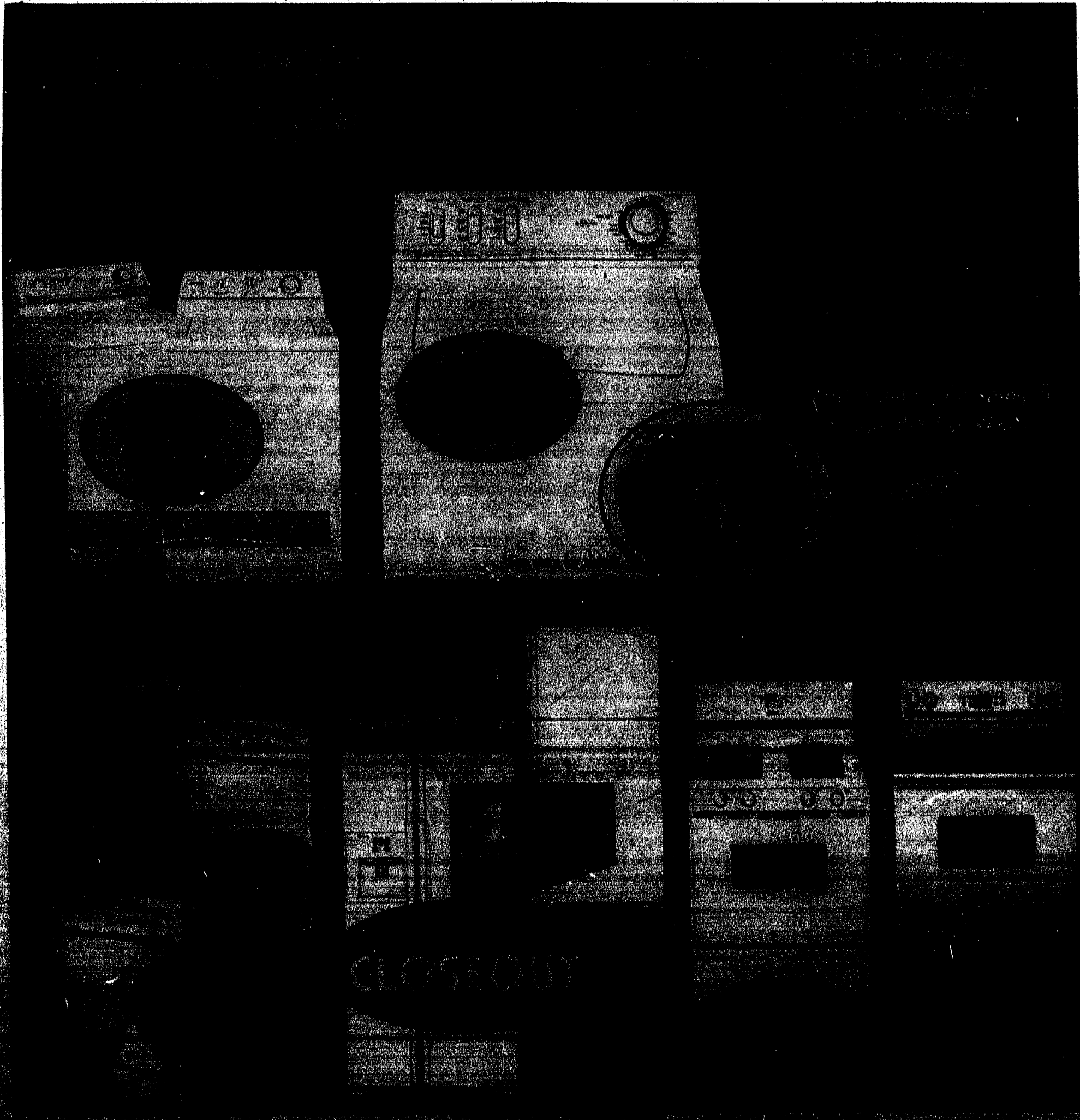
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LIFESTYLE



Joseph Roessner and Carroll Falconer

Roessner, Falconer to wed

Ronald Falconer Sr. and Marlene Falconer of Sarasota, Fla., announce the engagement of their daughter Carroll Falconer to Joseph Roessner, son of the late Edward Roessner and Dorothy Roessner of Springfield. The bride-to-be is a graduate of Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla., where she received her bachelor's degree, and the University of South Florida where she received her master's degree. She is employed by the Sarasota Board of Education as a fifth-grade teacher. The future groom is a graduate of Florida State University, Tallahassee, Fla., and is employed by Ocadian Health Care of San Francisco, Calif., as corporate director of marketing. A May 2001 wedding is planned.

EDUCATION

Dinner raises money for 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, bread, 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 Karen at (908) 464-3006. Proceeds will be used to fund this year's all-night drug and alcohol-free graduation celebration for the GL Class of 2001. The committee invites residents to dine and then to attend the high school spring musical production of "Evita" that evening. Senior citizens who attend the spaghetti dinner on Friday will receive a \$3 discount on play tickets for that night.

Deerfield registration

Deerfield School announces its registration for 2001-02 kindergarten classes. Registration and screening will be conducted by appointment Monday through March 9. 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's guidance counselor, will assist with screening. Parents should call Deerfield School at (908) 232-8828, Ext. 213, to receive forms that should be completed and returned at registration. Children being registered should be 5 years of age by Oct. 1, 2001. A birth

certificate and proof of residency must be presented at the time of the appointment.

Pasta for Pennies

Students at Deerfield School in Mountainside will be bringing in their spare change from their home, their family, their friends and relatives to their classroom during February to donate to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The campaign, Pasta for Pennies, is sponsored by Olive Garden Italian restaurants to raise funds for families with leukemia in the northern New Jersey area. Did you know that leukemia claims the lives of more children than any other disease? It is estimated that leukemia and related cancers will strike over 100,000 adults and children this year and take the lives of approximately 57,500. Monies raised through Pasta for Pennies will be used to support the society's programs of research, patient services and education. For more information call the chapter at (973) 376-9559.

First aid, CPR classes

The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, has released its winter schedule for first aid and CPR classes. On March 10, the Red Cross will offer Standard First Aid & Safety — adult CPR and first aid — from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. CPR courses teach how to recognize and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies. First Aid classes teach how to care for life-threatening injuries and illnesses. Participants who pass the course will receive a certification card at the end of the class. The training will be at the Red Cross Chapter House, 321 Elm St., Westfield. Advance registration is required and space is limited. Interested individuals should call Linda Johnson at (908) 232-7090, or e-mail johnsonl@crossnet.org or stop by the chapter house.

One Visit At A Time... One Individual At A Time... Project Connect volunteer friendly visitors are making a difference in people's lives!

Project Connect: a friendly home visitation program is holding a Training Session Wednesday, March 7, 2001 • 7:00pm promptly

Saint Barnabas Senior Health Services, 101 Old Short Hills Rd, Ste 106, West Orange Future training sessions available: June 13, 2001, September 12, 2001 & January 9, 2002

- Learn how you can: • be part of a team approach to older adult services • sharpen your communication and listening skills • offer the gift of friendship to an isolated older adult • give of yourself and get so much more in return!

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For more information and to register for training, please call Anita Millman, JFS Director of Volunteers & Special Projects at:



973-765-9050 ext. 231

SAINT BARNABAS MEDICAL CENTER

Project Connect is a cooperative venture of Jewish Family Service of MetroWest and Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

Congratulations Robbi!

Robbi Usdin has had a great start to the year as our Millburn/Short Hills January Sales Associate of the Month. A longtime resident of Springfield, Robbi is a former neonatal intensive care nurse, and she brings the same empathy and compassion to her present career that she gave to her young patients. Clients consistently say that they appreciate her familiarity with local schools, her creative marketing strategies, and her willingness to work tirelessly on their behalf. In fact, one of the keys to Robbi's success has been that she sells many of her own listings. For a complimentary market analysis of your home, or for other up-to-the-minute information about this fast-paced real estate market, Robbi is available at 973-467-3883 ext. 234.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PASSED ORDINANCE BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following ordinance was passed and adopted on second and final reading at a Regular Meeting held by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union, New Jersey in the Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, New Jersey on the 20th day of February, 2001. Judith E. Osty, RMC Municipal Clerk

ORDINANCE 1032-01 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER X, SECTION 1.14 AND SECTION 1.17 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE, NEW JERSEY REGARDING MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR USE OF THE MOUNTAINSIDE COMMUNITY POOL U3945 ECL March 1, 2001 (\$8.75)

PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD REVISED TIME CHANGE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Regular Monthly Meetings of the Board of Adjustment of the Township of Springfield for the year 2001 will be held the third (3rd) Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted. Meetings will be held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey at 7:30 P.M. prevailing time. Executive meetings will precede the regular meetings and will start at 7:00 P.M. prevailing time.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following are the dates of the meeting nights for the year 2001. Tuesday, March 20, 2001 Tuesday, April 17, 2001 Tuesday, May 15, 2001 Tuesday, June 19, 2001 Tuesday, July 17, 2001 Tuesday, August 21, 2001 Thursday, September 13, 2001*** Tuesday, October 16, 2001 Tuesday, November 20, 2001 Tuesday, December 18, 2001

***The September meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2001 due to a Holiday. All Special Meetings of the Board of Adjustment will be advertised separately. Robert C. Kirkpatrick Board of Adjustment Secretary U3946 ECL March 1, 2001 (\$15.75)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT Take notice that the following decision was made at the regular meeting of the Board of Adjustment held on Tuesday, February 20, 2001. Application # 2001-1 Applicant: Arthur Haliczar Site Location: 389 Rolling Rock Road Block 3305 Lot 14 U3945 ECL March 1, 2001 (\$9.50)

PUBLIC NOTICE

For: a Variance for Lot Coverage Was Approved The Resolution memorializing the decision will be adopted at the regular Board of Adjustment meeting on Tuesday, February 20, 2001 and will be available for public inspection in the office of the Board of Adjustment. Robert C. Kirkpatrick Board Secretary U3947 ECL March 1, 2001 (\$9.75)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF: MARILYN E. BLUMHARD, Deceased Pursuant to the order of James S. LaCor, Surrogate of the County of Union, made on the 23rd day of FEBRUARY, A.D., 2001, upon the application of the undersigned, as Executors of the estate of said deceased, notice is hereby given to the creditors of said deceased to exhibit to the subscriber under oath or affirmation their claims and demands against the estate of said deceased within six months from the date of said order, or they will be forever barred from prosecuting or recovering the same against the subscriber. Christopher W. Blumhard and Cheryl Bozth Executors U3945 ECL March 1, 2001 (\$9.50)

Lindabury McCormick & Estabrook Attorneys 83 Cardinal Dr. Westfield, NJ 07091 U3945 ECL March 1, 2001 (\$9.50)

2001 Municipal Budget BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE, COUNTY OF UNION FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001 Revenue and Appropriation Summaries

Summary of Revenues table with columns for 2001 and 2000. Items include Surplus, Total Miscellaneous Revenues, Receipts from Delinquent Taxes, and Local Tax for Municipal Purposes.

Summary of Appropriations table with columns for 2001 Budget and 2000 Budget. Items include Operating Expenses (Salaries and Wages, Other Expenses), Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations, Capital Improvements, Debt Service, and Reserve for Uncollected Taxes.

2001 Dedicated Swimming Pool Utility Budget Summary of Revenues table with columns for 2001 and 2000. Items include Surplus and Miscellaneous Revenues.

2001 Dedicated Swimming Pool Utility Budget Summary of Appropriations table with columns for 2001 Budget and 2000 Budget. Items include Operating Expenses (Salaries & Wages, Other Expenses), Capital Improvements, Debt Service, and Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations.

Balance of Outstanding Debt table with columns for General and Swimming Pool Utility. Items include Interest, Principal, and Outstanding Balance.

Notice is hereby given that the budget and tax resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountainside, County of Union on February 20, 2001. A hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held at the Municipal Building, on March 20, 2001 at 8:00 o'clock PM at which time and place objections to the Budget and Tax Resolution for the year 2001 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons. Copies of the budget are available in the office of Judith E. Osty, Borough Clerk, at the Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, New Jersey 07092, (908) 232-2400, during the hours of 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. U3945 ECL, March 1, 2001 (\$399.00)

NOTICE On March 27th, 2001 there will be a special school Board Election in the Borough of Mountainside for the purpose of a Bond Proposal. Requests must be made no later than March 13th, 2001. The requests must include the names addresses and assigned Districts of the CHALLENGERS. Permits are non-transferable. CHALLENGERS must be registered voters in Union County.

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