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30 CENTS



Superintendent says "gambling" not widespread in high school

In keeping with traditions and obligations of remembering our men and women of the Armed Services, the borough of Fanwood and the township of Scotch Plains is holding its annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25, beginning in Scotch Plains with a memorial service at the War Monument on Front Street at 9:30 am. Following the laying of wreaths, the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Police Departments will lead the parade participants past the reviewing stand where the High School DECA students will introduce the marchers.

a veteran of WWII has been selected to serve as the Grand Marshal for '1992.

Joining the parade will be visitors from Montazzoli, Italy. The Mayor from Montazzoli and his town council will lead the Italian-American Club float officially solidifying the Sister-City bonds between the town of Montazzoli and Scotch Plains.

More than 45 presenters will participate in the 1992 parade. The parade committee, Mayor Irene Schmidt and Mayor Linda Stender are looking forward to welcoming residents to this annual event.

An article which appeared in the Star Ledger this past Tuesday indicated that "gambling" or "placing sports bets" is quite an easy thing to do at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Several students, including an 18-year-old who now attends Anonymous, stated that "gambling is extensive". The students went on to say that bets range from \$2 to a maximum of \$1,500. Football, basketball, golf, hockey and tennis were the sports mentioned in the article.

According to these students, bets are placed through students who have contacts with bookies in New York and Newark. To obtain betting cash, some students have

sold their stereos and radios, stated the students. Those described in the article as "truly desperate" have resorted to stealing their mother's jewelry.

Scotch Plains Police Captain Biaggio Mineo confirmed that "an active investigation is being conducted" and was initiated "within the last 10 days". Mineo stated that no additional information could be given regarding an active investigation. The Star Ledger article said that the Union County Prosecutor's Office does not comment on on-going investigations.

Scotch Plains Juvenile Detective Carl Sicola could not be reached for comment. When asked if he knew whether any Fan-

wood students were involved in the investigation, Police Chief Anthony Parenti stated "not that I am aware of".

The article also quoted a 15-year-old sophomore as saying that he has played cards in the classroom for money and the teacher knew it. Another 15-year-old said he and another student were caught throwing dice in the lunchroom and were suspended for three days. This student who is black and other black students said the school was "not consistent in its administration of discipline". He mentioned students who are white and are "involved with much more serious gambling", according to the article.

Schools Superintendent Robert Howlett took serious issue with some of the information appearing in the article. Howlett acknowledged that "some youngsters are involved with gambling but it is not as widespread" as the students said. The Superintendent indicated that the police department informed the school district last week that an investigation was underway. Since some of the students are under 18 years of age, the police are not at liberty to discuss the matter in its entirety with the school district. Howlett also admitted that "a few youngsters have been suspended".

Superintendent Howlett stated that High School Principal Terry Riegel has contacted the Council on Compulsive Gambling located in Trenton. "Hopefully they can assist us in augmenting our educational and prevention programs," said Howlett. The Superintendent did not give much validity to the student's statement that card playing and betting took place in front of a teacher. However, he did say that all staff have been asked to participate in "more aggressive supervision".

Howlett went on to say that the school "wants to give support to those students in need of

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REMEMBER OUR LOVED ONES IN THE SERVICE THIS MEMORIAL DAY
 Send in a picture, the branch of military, present location and a check for \$5.00 to THE TIMES, 1600 East Second Street, Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076.

Spring Choral Concert planned for May 21st

The Scotch Plains Fanwood High School Music Department will host a spring choral concert under the direction of Mrs. Wellman on May 21 at 7:30 pm at the high school. Many award winning choral groups including the show chorus will perform. All proceeds will be used to benefit the music program at the high school. The public is invited to attend this annual event.

Music Department hosts Bandtasia

The Scotch Plains Fanwood High School Music Department will host Bandtasia on May 14 at 7:30 at the high school. Many award winning bands including the Moonglowers will perform and all proceeds will go to the SPFHS Music Department. The public is invited to attend an evening of easy listening music.

Wedding Showcase

See Pages 2 and 3

COAH issues Fanwood decision

A dispute between Fanwood and the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH), which began in 1988 and was heard before a state administrative law judge, was settled last Wednesday by the COAH. On May 6, the COAH accepted, modified and rejected Administrative Law Judge Ralph Tolomeo's Oct. 9, 1991 decision. The judge's decision stated that four developers' sites were acceptable for low and moderate income housing at 12 units per acre. The Borough disagreed and the matter came before the COAH to be resolved. COAH is the state agency empowered to implement provisions of the Fair Housing Act. COAH decided that three of the four sites proposed were suitable at varying densities per acre.

The second major decision issued by the COAH concerned Fanwood's fair share number. This is the number of actual units or dwellings the Borough must include in its housing plan. Fanwood's preccredited number was 87. Although the Borough vigorously fought for a zero number, the COAH

established Fanwood's fair share number to be eight (8).

COAH re-evaluates each municipalities fair share number every six years. It is expected that these new numbers will be assigned in late 1992 or early 1993. As the COAH rules stand now, Fanwood may indeed be given another Mt. Laurel fair share low-moderate in-

come housing number with which they must comply or fight COAH once again. The recently decided number of eight was arrived upon after the COAH received Fanwood's crediting documentation for rehabilitating nine (9) substandard housing units.

COAH agreed with

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Township municipal budget sees increase of 2.8%

If the 1992 Scotch Plains municipal budget is approved and adopted, the increase will be \$359,000 which is the equivalent of a 2.8% increase over 1991. The major items which account for the increase include an additional \$32,000 for spring clean-up, \$50,000 in health insurance, \$75,000 for police salaries, \$80,000 for sewer treatment, \$100,000 in debt service and \$40,000 in capital improvement. This totals more than the \$359,000 but savings were effected in other areas to make up the difference. The largest budget item is for

municipal salaries and wages.

In an interview with Tom Atkins, Municipal Manager, he stated that a municipal budget is a "reflection of goals" of the community. This

budget, he explained, as is every Scotch Plains budget, is a zero-based affair. He said that those who put the budget together "never go by the status quo but look at

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It isn't over till it's over

According to Joseph Murray, the attorney representing Michael McCabe, owner of Site #2-Terrill Road, a notice of motion for clarification of opinion is being filed with the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH). The purpose of the motion filed by Mur-

ray on behalf of McCabe is to obtain confirmation that the granting of six units per acre refers to six duplex units and not six single family units. Mr. Murray is with the Murray, MacNeill and Tafaro Law Firm of Basking Ridge.