

# Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield, Mountainside and Summit

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 70 NO. 25

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1999

TWO SECTIC

## THIS WEEK

### NEWS

**More incentive**  
The state will offer municipalities two programs in the upcoming budget as incentives to study and/or implement shared services. A representative of the Department of Community Affairs explained two typical programs gained at slated services within Union last week.  
See Page B1

### Noise study

Congressman Bob Franks, who represents Union County, plans to introduce legislation that would require the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct a survey of noise levels at ocean routes for airplanes departing from Newark International Airport.  
See Page B1

### THE ARTS

**On display**  
Landscape paintings will be on display at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts.  
See Page B3



### Tap dogs

"Tap Dog," a very different form of art, was the dominant player this weekend at the Paper Mill Playhouse.  
See Page B1

### NEWS MEDIA

**News updates**  
Get local updates throughout the week. Call our Infocourse line at (908) 666-9898. For a menu of items, see Page B3.

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

### WEATHER

Friday: Mostly cloudy  
Saturday: Rain and windy  
Sunday: Partly cloudy  
Monday: Partly cloudy

**For the most up to date reports, call (908) 666-9898. Ext. 1780.**

### INDEX

Community calendar	2
Editorial	4
We're asking	5
Obituaries	6
Sports	7
County news	B1
Entertainment	B3
Classified	B16
Real Estate	B18
Auctions	B20

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## Pedersen dismissal overturned on appeal

By Walter Elliott  
Staff Writer  
Springfield Police Capt. Vernon Pedersen may be getting his job back as early as today.  
During an appeals hearing yesterday, Superior Court Judge Edward Toy decided that Pedersen be reinstated with pay between 90 and 120 percent of his salary for the July 14 decision of the Township Township Committee to fire the officer. The suspension will take effect retroactively from April 8, the date Pedersen was originally suspended from the Springfield Police Department.

Toy also directed Pedersen's lawyer John Young and Springfield Township lawyer Mark Tabachnik to start negotiating the officer's back pay.  
Toy, from his bench in Elizabeth, ruled that independent disciplinary hearing officer Robert Czech's recommendation for the 90-day suspension be applied. The disciplinary action taken against Pedersen stems from a March 10 incident in which the police captain made anti-Semitic remarks to Sgt. Ivan Shapiro.  
This decision will be weighed with the evidence presented, the appeal. Toy's record and the March 10 telephone recording between him and Shapiro are in dispute.  
Toy said, "If

there is no evidence or approval of Pedersen's remarks, which can be attributable to any ethnic group, it sends a message to officers within and people without the police department, that such conduct is unacceptable."

Tabachnik said his next step in the lawsuit is to request Toy's decision to the Township Committee. "It is up to them to decide whether to go to State Appellate Court or not. I have no problem negotiating back pay with attorney Young," he said.  
"My client is ready to go to work today, but we want to do his return flight," Young said. "The suspension is between 90 and 120 days, depending on what his police schedule and holiday pay was." The Springfield Police, William Chisholm, is on vacation and he has Pedersen's badge and gun.

Pedersen expressed relief with the decision by the Union County Superior Court.

Pedersen was suspended by Chief Tom April 8 and was fired by the Township Committee July 14 because of a telephone call he made to police headquarters March 10, Shapiro, who was on the desk that night, took the call.

The call can be listened to on

audio, Toy said. Pedersen called to make a personnel roster change. There was a check, which I presume was along up, and Pedersen made his remarks about Shapiro."

Shapiro, who is Jewish, also faced departmental charges for recording the call and presenting the copy to his super. When the tape was made on April 4, several residents and cops, including the Springfield, City Council, called for Pedersen's resignation or dismissal. Shapiro's charges were reduced to a letter of reprimand by July.

There had been a previous relationship between Pedersen and Shapiro, Toy said. "When they were both sergeants, there was an opening for captain which Pedersen received. In my small police department, we have a small police department of about 20 officers, each of which people work side-by-side with each other, such things tends to build."

Toy said Pedersen officially applied for a position other than police and was hired by the township.

## Township school officials tackle budget increases

By Walter Elliott  
Staff Writer  
Springfield Board of Education board members are busy mulling over some \$1.12 million in line-item budget increases for the 1999-00 school budget. Some of the increases, which are projected to be as much as 20.7 percent, prompted the board to invite four department heads to explain at its Feb. 4 meeting.

Jonathan Dayton High School Principal Richard Seron outlined why he projected his budget's increase at \$2,485,150 for next year. The increase is \$36,806,301, or 5.32 percent over the 1998-99 budget.  
"The current budget has been one of transition," Seron said to the full board and 12 spectators. "There had been some projected savings over the current year by using the liquid asset savings, like some textbooks from the old region 4100 school systems. Other savings were found by spending \$5,484,000 on TV studio equipment and \$2,853,000 in purchases, textbooks this year at transferring \$5,558,000 in world language textbook purchases to the curriculum office."

Seron's concentrated more on the increases. They include spending \$4,000 in a self-study preparation for the Middle States School Association evaluation, about \$20,000 to complete the athletic coaching roster and \$1,104,000 replacing English program computer books.  
Seron was the only principal to face the board. He was followed by Director of Student Personnel Services Rosemary Kruse, Business Services Administrator Ellen Ball and Assistant Superintendent Judy Zimmerman. They were called by the board as they projected more than 5 percent over their current budget. The school district has been operating on a \$16.8 million budget which was approved by township voters April 21.

The board will follow with reading reports from the principals of the Caldwell, Gaudinier and Sander schools. While all principals reported no raises, they did not reach the 5-percent threshold.

The 20.7 percent increase is being proposed by the Office of Student Personnel Services. Kruse projected a \$155,640 hike over this year, \$742,219 out of \$3.6 million. The biggest single line item is for tuition, which is to rise from \$530,108 to \$698,957.

The next highest increase, at 19.95 percent by \$5.3 million, was projected in the business office budget. Ball said some of the hikes come from anticipated insurance, contract fire, employee medical, dental and prescription plans. Other areas include capital projects to revamp Dayton's windows, Gaudinier's science labs and steam tunnel repairs at both schools and Walton.  
"We also have to bear additional student transportation costs," Ball said. "Part of that increase comes from the State Department of Education, who mandates five-day-a-year school bus inspections at our parking lot. While we passed our inspection last week, we could've had to rent a bus if the state found us not meeting standards."

## Isaacson, Worrall net NJPA awards

The *Echo Leader* reporter Pamela Isaacson won a second place award in the Robert P. Kelly category of the 1998 New Jersey Press Association's annual Better Newspaper Contest. The result of the contest, judged by editors from the Virginia Press Association earlier this month, were released Sunday morning.  
Isaacson's story, "Beat goes on for township veterans," appeared in the Nov. 19 edition. The category was for journalists with less than 12 months of experience in the newspaper business.

Worrall Newspapers, which publishes 18 weekly newspapers in Essex and Union counties, including the *Echo Leader*, collected a total of 13 awards this year in the annual contest.

The other 12 awards were:  
• The *Summit Observer* won first place in the Editorial Writing category for its editorial called "Clean up your own mess" addressing the state's garbage incinerators. It appeared in the July 10 edition and was authored by Managing Editor Allison Benbowick.

• Union County Regional Editor Mark Bryson won a third place award in the Breaking News Writing category for a story he covered with the end of the *Irvington Herald*. The story involved the hit-and-run death of a teen-ager.

• The *Union Leader* captured third place in the Editorial Comment category with an editorial authored by Managing Editor Bill Van Sest.

• Staff Writer Tom Antonelli captured third place in



Mountainside resident Richard Fedecio tries out the go-cart he constructed for his grandchildren.

## Go-cart restores life's simple pleasures

By Pamela Isaacson  
Staff Writer  
When Natalie and Lawrence Rotiweider spend time with their grandchild, Mountainside resident Richard Fedecio, it usually means facing out on their custom-built go-cart. Fedecio built the children's go-cart last summer for their raving delight.

"I would like to see other people do things like this," said Fedecio, who owns a barber shop in Springfield. "It's more pleasurable to know your kids or grandkids are enjoying something you made."

Using materials stored in his garage and throughout his home, Fedecio spent virtually all money on the apparatus. An old hockey chair, made used by his daughter, now serves as the driver's seat. A milk carton is attached to the back of Lawrence's seat. A small, hand-screwed motor, 2 1/2-horsepower, sits in the front.  
Both items are fully equipped for a more luxurious ride. Fedecio installed additional cushioning at the bottom of the milk carton so Natalie's bumps would not become bruises. Seat belts ensure the security of both driver and passenger when they cruise along on their Scotch Plains raceway.

## Sparks fly over Borough Council salary ranges

By Pamela Isaacson  
Staff Writer  
Public outcry did not prevent the passing of Ordinance 100489, a measure increasing the annual salary for the mayor and members of Mountainside's Borough Council and eliminating the provision for reimbursement of unvouchered expenses, during Tuesday night's regular council meeting.

After more than an hour of public debate, with residents representing various political parties all stating their opposition to the ordinance, Mayor Robert Vigilante attempted to have the vote until next month's regular meeting, March 16.  
"I believe what council wants to do is fair and right," Vigilante said. "But it has not been proven to you. I am asking the council to put together additional documentation for next month."

While Vigilante made a motion for postponement, no member of the council would provide a second, forcing council members to vote on the ordinance. Only Ronald Romak, absent only when Septon could dispute the proposal and if passed 4-1 despite cries of "shame on you," from disappointed residents.

For the first time in the borough's history, this resolution sets salary ranges for the six council members at \$1,300 to \$4,000 and that of the mayor at \$5,000 to \$6,000 per year. The salary range allows council members to increase salaries for the coming year without the voting procedure.

In the past, there had been a criterion that provided for the reimbursement of expenses without vouchers. The current ordinance eliminates this previous designation of \$1,200.

According to Borough Attorney John P. DeLeo, the salary of \$1,300 per year will substitute for the unvouchered reimbursement. Reimbursement this year had been \$1,300. He said it has

become "a hurdlestone" to complete the paperwork for everyday expenses incurred by council members and also may

"I don't believe your body should be reimbursed without being responsible to the community," said resident Adele Magallona during the public hearing. "To be awarded a blanket stipend is not appropriate. When you all run for office, you did not run on a platform that said, 'I will vote myself a salary.' Passing this ordinance will damage what Mountainside is, was and will be," Magallona suggested.

Returning to the voucher system is to account for every expenditure.

Schon, who has served on the council for the past 12 years, said he is "unbiased about the issue."

"Although he voted against the ordinance, Schon said he believes the expense of serving on council prevents qualified candidates from running for election.

Other council members said the \$1,300 stipend because of the time commitment required by serving the community. "We deserve the \$1,300 just in the sacrifices we have to make to our families," said Councilman Paul Marshall. "We don't spend a dime unless we have justification for it. The title has come in Mountainside to recognize that if that's all it takes to bring good qualified people, the \$12,000 a year is worth it."

DeLeo said the \$1,500 was well above the average for council members in other municipalities. He said it has

### Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

**How to reach us:**  
The Echo Leader is published every Thursday. Newsprint and online editions are available. Our offices are located at 1251 Springfield Avenue, Union, NJ 07093. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below.

**Voice mail:**  
Our main phone number 908-686-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system to better serve our readers. During regular business hours, a receptionist will answer the call. During the evening or when the office is closed, your call will be answered by an automated receptionist.

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The Echo Leader provides an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed (double spaced), must be signed and should be accompanied by an address and day time phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 5 p.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

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The Echo Leader accepts opinion pieces by e-mail. Our address is: WCN2@localsource.com. E-mails must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

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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: P.O. Box 7100, Union, NJ 07093.

**Friday**  
• Eighth grade parents and guardians are invited to attend a Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment meeting at 7:45 pm in the (Guidance) School cafeteria in Springfield. Information will be presented related to the upcoming (GPA) test. The meeting will focus on an overview of the GPA test, sample test items and building preparation.

**Sunday**  
• An original handwritten letter by George Washington will be displayed by the Springfield Historical Society from 2:00-4 p.m. The event will take place at the Cannon Ball House, 126 Morris Ave., Springfield. Free guided tours also will be available at this time, and there will be no charge for admission.

• The Leadville Nature and Science Center in Mountaintop will conduct a program on maple sugaring at 2 p.m. The program will feature a film about the history of maple sugar production. The costs \$2 per person. The placemat also will host a show called "The Sky Ispuck" at 3:30 p.m. The show is intended for ages four through six and the cost is \$3 per person, \$2.55 for seniors. For more information, call 973-789-1670.

**Tuesday**  
• The Springfield Free Public Library, on Mountain Ave., will present the long-time video series with a celebration by Nancy Butler and the movie "Little Nikita" at 6:00 pm. Attendees should bring their lunch, and receive an appetizer will be provided. For more information, call 973-789-4930.

**Evening events**  
**Feb. 21**  
• The Fairfield Nature and Science Center in Mountaintop will conduct a Sunday planetarium show called "Orion's Winter Battle" at 8:30 p.m. The show will explore the evening constellations and Orion's battle with Taurus and his assistants, the dog Argus and Geminus "The Boy the Rocket" will be shown at 2:45 p.m. introducing preschoolers to the planets. Finally, "Laser Queen" will be played at 5:30 p.m. featuring old and new music of the band Queen. All programs have an admission price of \$3 per person, \$2.55 for seniors. For more information, call 908-789-3670.

**March 4**  
• The Frothing Club of Mountaintop will conduct a luncheon at 11:00 a.m. at BGI Foods. A program will be presented by the W&S Means (Gymnastics). Members are also reminded to bring donations for an Easter food basket to be given to a needy family. Games are welcome. For more information call Genevieve at 908-686-7700.

• The annual Invention Convention at Deerfield School in Mountaintop will be held in the Deerfield School Gymnasium. Students will display their projects during the school day and the public is invited to attend from 9:30 to 7:30 p.m.

• The Mountaintop Public Library will present the opening reception of an art exhibit called "Bridges of New Jersey" at 7 p.m. The exhibit will highlight photographs documenting treasured bridges throughout the state.

**March 23**  
• The African American Jewish Coalition will present its annual "Passover Freedom Seder" hosted by Temple Sha'arey Shalom, 78 S. Springfield Ave., Springfield. The event will be conducted from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and seating is limited. A kosher passover meal will be prepared and the program will be appropriate for all ages. RSVP to Kim Harris, 908-686-4800, ext. 117 no later than March 8.

**April 20**  
• The Guidantree School Curriculum Fair will be conducted from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Guidantree School classrooms.

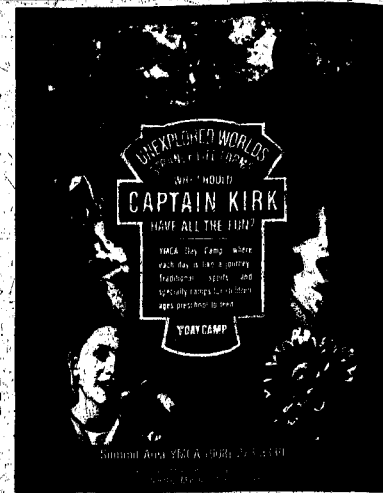
### Legislation prevents exposure to hazards

Assemblymen Joel M. Weingarten and Kevin J. O'Toole, R-Union, have introduced legislation to ensure that children are not present at school and day care centers when potentially dangerous construction and renovation projects are in effect.

The bill, A-2858, prohibits any activity resulting in the generation of dust, particles, smoke or fumes inside a public school, private school or day care center, when children are present unless first certified as safe by the local health authority. The measure is intended to prevent children's exposure to lead, asbestos and similar contaminants.

The bill stipulates that any project undertaken when children are not expected to be present must be completed prior to their return to the facility, and that a project is not deemed complete until both the progress and ventilation systems have been cleaned and deemed free of hazards.

Any violation of the bill's provisions would constitute a civil penalty punishable by a \$2,000 fine for each day the violation continues.



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Springfield Lions Club President Kenneth Mattfield presents the new Gaudineer Middle School sports announcement board with sixth-graders; from left, Brandon Baron, Allison Cancro, Jaime Rutkowski, Matt Wasserman and Caitlan Norkei.

### Lions Club aids Sharing Network

**By Walter Elliott**  
**Staff Writer**

The Springfield Lions Club held its annual Valentine's Night Feb. 10, but had more than roses and flowers for their friend.

The Lions were thinking about kids, dogs, things, heart and skin. Mike Mirabella and Pat Rush of the Sharing Network were invited to talk about the group's work with organ and tissue transplantation.

The Sharing Network, which is based in Springfield, recruits and matches donor organs and tissue with recipients. Mirabella said, "We also work to educate people about organ donation and distribute brochures. There are 62,000 people waiting to receive organs and tissue transplants, including 1,500 in New Jersey, but 1,000 die waiting."

When one of my eight children died in 1967, we were introduced to the sharing network through the Transplant Recipient Information Organization support group," Rush said. "They have been a source of comfort to us since, especially when I lost a grandson in October 1993."

"We're pretty much familiar with what The Sharing Network does," Lions Club President Kenneth Mattfield said. "The Lions Eye Bank of

New Jersey shares space in the network's headquarters and we are proud to be the host club for them. What we can do is help spread the word about the benefits of organ and tissue donation."

The Lions are perhaps best known for their dedication to the improvement of sight. They have brought their expertise to local events to give free eye exams and their eye care collecting bins are found around the township. Club members are found at Springfield streets collecting change each spring during their White Canes Days.

"When The Sharing Network was moving into their new headquarters, we wanted to move it from our old Network lab," eye bank Executive Director Marshall Klein said. "The location was closer to the highways and Newark Airport, a critical time can be critical. We can also coordinate organ harvest with the network as well."

Klein gives tours of the eye bank when conditions permit. "A walk-through shows how eyes and eye tissue are categorized, sterilized and otherwise prepared for transplant of medical school use. The Lions support is indicated by their logo in every room."

"You notice you have two lions in our logo," Leon Dumitrich, Seville said. "One lion is looking back on the past and the other is looking ahead to the future. Our name also means Loyalty and Integrity for Our Nation's Service."

"The Lions started as a social luncheon club for Chicago businessmen in the 1920s. They picked up the community service tradition in 1929," Helen Keller in 1929.

"We have grown to some 40,000 clubs in about 180 countries," Leon said. "We're the only service club recognized by the United Nations. Our international connections help us when disasters like Hurricane Mitch strike — a whole lot goes right to the brother clubs in Honduras."

The Lions also act on a local level. Some recent projects include building a sports and amusement sign for Gaudineer Middle School or raising a fence for a neighborhood. Other efforts include the annual State Visitation Awards.

The Springfield Lions hold dinners every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. Call 973-921-3222 for Lions and eye bank details.

### Township businessman honored as inventor

**By Craig Carrelson**  
**Staff Writer**

Just seven years after graduating from college, Morton Kreitchman had revolutionized the valve industry, founded his own company in Springfield and was developing sophisticated pumps which would eventually be used in thousands of biomedical and chemical applications.

Now his life is busy working out of his loft in Newark.

Kreitchman will be recognized posthumously for his innovation along with other New Jersey inventors by the New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame at a ceremony in the New Jersey Institute of Technology tonight. Kreitchman died in 1987.

Kreitchman will be inducted into the Hall of Fame for the invention of fluid control valves and pumps for use in aeronautical, nuclear, biomedical and chemical applications.

In 1951, Kreitchman developed the first solenoid-operated fluid control valves. His radically new designs laid the groundwork for Valco Engineering Corporation, still located off Route 22 in Springfield. Just seven years earlier he graduated NJIT then Newark College of Engineering with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.

His first major innovation, the solenoid-operated fluid control valve, could open and close quickly and reliably, even under extreme operating conditions. Solenoid valves were not only smaller, lighter, and cheaper than existing valves, but they also proved more reliable and more durable. Forty years after he patented the principle, over one million of Kreitchman's valves are still used in the aerospace, nuclear, biomedical and chemical industries.

He also patented an inexpensive low-maintenance valve that could be used in the beverage dispensing industry and a high-precision electromagnetic pump that could regulate the flow of very small amounts of fluid used in a variety of scientific and medical applications.

Also being inducted tonight are Arthur Schablow and Charles F. Jones, inventors for the Laser, Willis Haviland Carter and Carter Corporation, developers of the system air conditioner, Frank Bernheim, father of reinforced pressure sensitive paper, and Hugo Kaufmann and Cohen Corporation, inventors of computerized systems for the physical, simulated.

Other inventors being recognized are available inventors: "Strapmate" lingerie designers, William Thickerson and Curtis Wright Bright Systems for the Prover Hawk reactor tool and extraction kit, Ronald King for his pioneering efforts in ground water remediation and well stimulation, Robert Frisch, Andrew Chappley, and Kenneth Walker for optical fiber designs used in laser-capable communications systems, General Magnaplate Corporation for the development of a new alloy and other materials used in steel pipes and pipes in the New York, Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland's Bay Bridge, and Technology for the high efforts in the bridge invention in the state.

The New Jersey Inventors Hall of Fame, based at NJIT, has inducted 60 individuals and 11 corporations since it was established in 1987.



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### Open house set at township YMCA

The Springfield YMCA will hold a Spring Fever open house Sunday from 8 to 3 p.m.

Anyone who is curious or who wishes to try out the new YMCA facilities should attend. All should wear comfortable clothes and sneakers as the YMCA Health & Fitness staff will lead fitness center demonstrations and classes, including swimming, aerobics, strength training, yoga and basketball. In addition, a certified nutritionist will be on hand to answer any questions on nutrition and fitness.

For the kids there will be painting, child arts and crafts, preschool and youth sports instruction, face painting, games and Joe Fisher the Magician. For younger children, babysitting will be available while parents are exercising.

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# COMMUNITY FORUM

## One small voice made the difference

A pleasant surprise greeted members of the public who attended the Springfield Township Committee meeting Feb. 9. Additional printed copies of the evening's agenda were available to those who wanted them, and all copies were picked up and taken home.

This change in Township Committee meeting protocol probably reflects the actions of township resident Charles Jacquet, who asked for copies of the agenda at the Jan. 26 session. He stated that he was tired of attending meetings, where he felt as though the committee was talking about items in some special code, leaving attendees without an easy reference.

While most other towns regularly print copies of agendas or provide packets, the township previously made a practice of merely posting a solitary copy on the Committee Chamber bulletin board. Those who wanted to know about the evening's planned program had to visit the hall before the public session commenced and could not have the agenda handy during the meeting.

Maintaining good relations with the public has never been an easy task for the Springfield government. However, simple steps like those taken at the Feb. 9 committee meeting give us hope that someone is interested in aiding an informed citizenry and a more effective democracy.

According to Township Administrator Richard Sheola, the compliments should go to Deputy Clerk Kathleen Wisniewski, who was directly responsible for the printing.

"We hope that this increase in accessibility for Springfield township was not a mere fluke but a trend that will extend permanently into the future."

## Black history

February is Black History Month, and as such it is a time set aside and designed to highlight and recognize the varied and unique contributions of black Americans to this society and culture in which we all live.

During this time of year, we are reminded of the accomplishments of black scientists, inventors, scholars, performers, politicians, political and social activists and a host of others running the gamut of human fields of interest and endeavors.

For those who ask why we need to have a month set aside specifically to recognize the contributions and accomplishments of a single minority group, the answer is simple — for most of this country's history an effort was made to downplay the significance of those same individuals and their accomplishments. Why shouldn't we, as individuals and a society, make an effort to do highlight those accomplishments?

If we're talking about being fair and equitable and bringing forth what was once hidden and buried in darkness, it really makes sense to set aside time to do so.

In our minds at least, is what is the bottom line in terms of Black History Month? Is it educating black people about themselves or educating all Americans about little known but relevant individuals and accomplishments that have contributed to making this country what it is today as well as pointing the way to tomorrow?

We believe the answer to that question is educating all Americans regardless of race, color and creed and that it's going to be done — and done properly — it should be done for every ethnic, racial or religious minority in this country.

## Our policy on letters and columns

The Echo Leader welcomes submissions from its readers. Letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages.

This opportunity also is open to all officials and employees of the township and the County of Union.

The Echo Leader reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content and style. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification.

For publication, all letters and essays must be received by 9 a.m. on Monday at 1201 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, NJ 07083.

The Echo Leader also accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via e-mail. The address is WCN22@localcast.com.

Letters and guest columns must be received by 9 a.m. on Mondays to be considered for publication in Thursday's edition.

Letters received via e-mail must be on topics of interest, preferably in response to content that appeared in the newspaper. For purposes of verification, all letters must include a name, address and daytime telephone number.

Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

**"How absurd men breathe! They never use the liberties they have; they demand those they do not have. They have freedom of thought; they demand freedom of speech."**

**Soren Kierkegaard**  
Danish philosopher  
1843

<h3>Echo Leader</h3> <p>Published Weekly Since 1929 Incorporating the Springfield Leader and Mountaineer Echo</p> <p>Published By Worral Community Newspapers, Inc. 1201 Stuyvesant Avenue Union, N.J. 07083 908-686-7700</p>		<p>David Worral Publisher</p> <p>Tom Caserio Editor in Chief</p> <p>Mick Arjuna Regional Editor</p> <p>Editor: Bernadette Managing Editor:</p> <p>Forrest Lecker Advertising Manager</p> <p>George S. Gannon Occasional Director</p>
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**POINTING THE WAY** — Boy Scout Branden Leonard uses a compass during the annual Watching Council Patriot "Disco Klondike Derby" in the Watching Reservation in Mountaineer.

## Deregulation gives new power to consumers

All around the county a slow and steady change in electricity use, production and distribution by consumers is quietly taking place. With the favorable passage of landmark deregulation legislation, New Jersey's utility and monopolistic electric industry will see the transformation into a competitive marketplace.

Many consumers might ask, why change? The reason is simple: New Jersey has among the highest electric rates in the country, 50 percent higher than the national average.

This not only impacts the pocketbooks of residential consumers, but also the bottom line of businesses who have come under significant pressure. The Congressional search of alternative energy strategies states:

The Legislature knew the deregulation of electric utility services was a long-term effort to reduce the state's electric and natural gas utility rates to benefit New Jersey's interest in high technology and job creation. The deregulation bill will allow an immediate electric rate reduction of 15 percent beginning on Aug. 1, which would increase to 10 percent over a three-year period.

This does not include the additional 10 percent reduction of electric bills over five years made possible through Energy Tax Reform Legislation passed in 1997. This would result in an average monthly savings of \$10 to \$20, or the equivalent of receiving a \$100 cash dividend every five years.

The best news for customers is that they won't have to switch electric companies to receive a discount. We made a concerted effort to make the switch to a competing electric market as simple as possible for consumers. If a customer chooses a different utility, their traditional utility rate will still receive the immediate rate reduction.

However, beginning on Aug. 1, customers will also have the opportunity to reap even more savings by shopping around for an alternate electric supplier. To help consumers make informed decisions, the bill calls for a public education program designed to educate citizens about the benefits and pitfalls of shopping for an alternate residential gas supplier.

In a further effort to help ensure the greatest rate discounts possible, the New Jersey consumer protection pool formed the energy demand, their residents and negotiate more attractive energy contracts.

To avoid the unauthorized switching of customer's electric companies, the bill provides customers with two opportunities to compare the cost of the deregulation pool. The choices are solely with the customer.

With all of these changes happening so quickly in the electric industry, many citizens have asked what will happen to the high quality of service New Jersey has long been known for.

Consumers can anticipate no change in that regard. Traditional utilities will continue to deliver power to homes and will continue to be regulated by the state regardless of their electric supplier. As stated, the bill should also ensure that their traditional utility flow assistance.

The bill also makes a significant effort to maintain and improve New Jersey's commitment to clean air by reducing 500,000 lbs. of new energy efficiency programs in New Jersey, including grants to fund the development of technologies such as solar power, hydrogen, renewable energy consumption will grow from a half percent in 2001 to 4 percent by 2012.

In undertaking the task of deregulating New Jersey's energy marketplace, the Legislature recognized we had a responsibility to assist in the evolution of a competitive marketplace if a broad, substantial, tangible benefit to consumers.

We have lived up to that challenge by creating a bill that guarantees lower electric rates, provides for consumer choice, and protects the environmental.

A resident of Scotch Plains, state Senate President Donald T. Irfanese is a Republican representing the 22nd Legislative District, which includes Mountaineer.

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## Doing laundry used to be a complicated ritual

There is an old children's rhyme that reads: "This is the way we wash our clothes, this is the way we wash our clothes, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and then we wash our clothes."

As children, we used to sing about washing clothes, but as adults, we know that washing clothes is a much more complicated ritual than it once was.

When I was a child, washing clothes was a laborious task. We had a hand-cranked agitator in the tub, and we had to use a long-handled dipper to get the clothes in and out. It was a real pain.

As I grew older, I learned that there were easier ways to do laundry. I discovered that you could use a washing machine, and that you could use a dryer. It was a real relief.

But now, I have discovered that there are even easier ways to do laundry. I have discovered that you can use a laundry service, and that you can use a laundry app. It is a real convenience.

Another labor-saving device of that period was the hand-cranked wringer that was used to squeeze the water from the clothes before they were hung up to dry.

The typical hand-cranked wringer had two rollers, one with a rubber band around it, and a piece of wet clothing was rubbed up and down over the rollers in order to remove any dirt.

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Another labor-saving device of that period was the hand-cranked wringer that was used to squeeze the water from the clothes before they were hung up to dry.

After the newly-washed clothes had dried, either indoors or out, they were taken down from the clotheslines, folded neatly and placed in baskets, ready to be refolded, smoothed, and saved for the purpose.

William Frolich is a member of the Union County Historical Society.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Community's support is appreciated

To the Editor:

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Springfield from the bottom of our hearts for all of their efforts these past weeks regarding the loss of our daughter, Donna, and with respect to her support of both Megan and Ryan. Their kindness, compassion, concern, and understanding over a troubling and will not ever be forgotten.

It is never easy to lose a loved one, and to lose a daughter to one of the most difficult hardships we'll ever have to face is mind boggling. Some of the residents know Donna as the strong, bright, caring and generous friend she was. Others knew her best as a loving, compassionate, tireless and devoted mother. Some may not have known Donna at all, but still found themselves drawn to bestow good wishes and support. Whatever their memories her as: may they hold them close as if we all to be get her our best and move on toward the future.

The incredible response by all that has transpired over these past weeks has reinforced our faith within faith, ourselves, and we understand a little bit better why it was that Donna chose to raise her children amidst a community of such individuals. And it is a community we look forward to being an integral part of our lives, for many years to come. We as a spouse truly still appreciate that the thoughts and actions of the residents both help Donna's memory, as well as Megan and Ryan's future, and their graciousness has known a profound impact. If anything positive may be born of this sad event, we hope it is that we all be a little closer at life, family and friends, and realize what is truly important — the love that we have together. May we all take a few extra moments with our children, hug them a little more tightly, say "I love you" a little more often, and enjoy every single waking moment of our lives.

With so many words in our language to choose from, "Thank you" seems so inadequate. Yet, we hope that the residents will accept our utter thanks and appreciation, and that they will try to use our expressions of support with us as a reminder. The examples they have set for us to be received and respected, and we thank them again for all that they have done.

Walter and Dolores Battaglia  
The Family of Donna Maria Battaglia Weller

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 **InfoSource** 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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# We're asking Where is the worst traffic headache in town?



Bill Culp

"That's usually Route 22. My father taught me how to use the side roads to avoid the traffic on 22 Mountain Avenue can be a real headache."



Uluk Sismangola

"The intersection of South Springfield and Hillsdale is the worst. They put the new sign on it. You have drivers who try to go straight on the left-hand turn lanes and the light's timing is different. We have a lot of backups now and drivers can't get any of the service lanes."



Mary Ann Imbraccio

"The intersection of Springfield Avenue and Route 22 is hard but just coming home is a struggle. They changed the traffic signals at the intersection on South Springfield and Hillsdale Avenue. There are drivers who insist on driving straight through while in the left turn lane. That's what backs up South Springfield."



Stanley Gerondelli

"I'm right outside my door — Calkwell Place and Morris Avenue. In our 20-year home, I've seen many backs up every night here. Six or seven years ago, one driver ran over a police officer who was checking traffic there, nearly killing him."

# Mountainside police make spate of DWI arrests

Mountainside Police Department charged four individuals with driving while intoxicated this week. Clinton resident Richard Alley, 40, was stopped for weaving on Route 22 last Sunday at 3:15 p.m. Under further investigation, the iron worker was found to be DWI in addition to having several criminal warrants out for his arrest.

A 1996 vehicle accident led to the arrest and DWI charge of Paula Pearce, 40, of Morristown, N.J. Pearce was Mountainside resident Thomas Whipple, 30, was observed traveling Route 22 West and weaving across lanes' numerous times. He was arrested and charged with DWI and refusing to submit to a breathalyzer test last night at 12:35 a.m.

After failing sobriety tests and a breathalyzer, Ohio resident Steven Buckley, 49, was arrested and charged with DWI Feb. 10 at 2 a.m. He was found weaving at a high speed and failing to maintain his lane on New Providence Road.

An incident at an event at a Route 22 restaurant led to the arrest of two in attendance. Matthew Clancy, 33, was charged with assault Monday after allegedly making "verbalistic threats" to the same incident. Dwight about the arrest of Roselle Park resident William Barlow, 32. He also was charged with assault.

Blaine Vecchio, 49, was arrested Friday and charged with DWI and there has been a report of a bicyclist being hit by a car at another location, N.S. 30.

Mountainside resident Jeffrey Werley, 40, was arrested Feb. 11 at 1 p.m. and charged with writing bad checks. Werley passed a bad check at a Mountainside liquor store.

## POLICE BLOTTER

Springfield  
A two-car accident and a signal malfunction backed up traffic on Springfield Sunday Feb. 11.

Route 24 had suffered up to three minutes of delay from a two-car crash involving the interchange with Rte. 58 at 5 p.m. A Hyundai Elantra rear-ended a Mercury Sable at the split for express and local lanes.

A Springfield patrol car was on the scene until a State Police unit took over at 5:20 p.m. There were no injuries.

Springfield traffic also was affected by a New Jersey Department of Transportation improvement of the same City & NJDOT road crew installed new traffic lights at the intersection of Morris Avenue, Ballouet Avenue, Morris, Naropke, and Millburn Avenue between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The installation required shutting one lane of Morris Avenue, Morris Avenue traffic approaching the intersection, despite the assistance of Millburn officers, was backed up about 500 feet in either direction for most of the day.

A frost was cited as the cause for a two-car accident in the Villa Apartments parking lot Saturday. The driver of a Honda CRV said the wheel lock of the Mercury Sable she collided with was not cleared off first.

The police officer, who discovered the Sable missing from the scene at 8:42 a.m., found and questioned the Mercury motorist an hour later.

# Power outage leaves township in the dark

Springfield  
A power outage left Springfield residents without power Feb. 11. Beginning around 6 a.m., the loss of electricity lasted about 15 minutes and brought in eight calls to the Fire Department.

Although Summit public schools faced delayed openings for the evening outage, Springfield residents' outage within 30 minutes.

An activated fire alarm brought the squad to an Archbridge Road residence at 7:41 a.m. Saturday.

Investigators responded to Morris Avenue homes at 9:46 a.m. They detected a water condition. Later in the afternoon, at 1:23 p.m., they investigated an alarm on a Richland Drive house. An hour later, at 2:43 p.m., all units responded to a Mountain Avenue business for smoke in the

## FIRE BLOTTER

building. Another Mountain Avenue business required attention at 6:41 p.m. for an odor of burning.

Eight activated fire alarms responded to 6:14 a.m., 6:46-6:47 a.m. and 6:48 a.m. at the department's attention, Feb. 11. The next call did not come until nearly 12 hours later when fire fighters responded to Rte. 24 East for a motor vehicle accident at 6:03 p.m. A 2001 Mitsubishi minivan, registered in Morristown, N.J., was involved in a collision with a car in the intersection of Rte. 24 East and 10th Street in Springfield on Feb. 11.

The car, a 1997 Chevy, was involved in a collision with a car in the intersection of Rte. 24 East and 10th Street in Springfield on Feb. 11.

## ATTENTION CHURCHES, SOCIAL CLUBS

"Any organization should be getting the publicity it deserves and we would like to help. We have a publicity pamphlet, which explains how to help your story. We would like to publicize your club, church, sports, social news, etc. If you have an idea for a picture or story, please let us know. If you'd like a pamphlet, call us at (908) 686-7200."

Police and fire units from Springfield, Summit and Millburn and State Police units teamed up to check out the crash on Rte. 28 West Feb. 10. The vehicles which collided were a 1997 Ford Taurus and a 1997 Chevrolet. The loss was estimated at about \$3,000.

A New York driver, who parked his car in the Center Street parking lot, found himself stranded in Watchung Borough Police Headquarters instead on Feb. 9.

The man, identified as Gerardo Romulo, 31, was initially found to be driving while DWI, suspended license and about 9:20 a.m. A chimney search found his name contacted to the outstanding Watchung warrant and he was then extradited to Somerset County.

## ATTENTION CHURCHES, SOCIAL CLUBS

A car fire on Rte. 78 West required the squad to respond at 7:57 a.m. Feb. 10. They also responded to two medical service calls on the day.

All units responded to a Hillsdale Avenue residence for smoke on the roof at 1:45 p.m. Feb. 9.

Investigators also responded to a medical service call.

It was an early start for squad members on Feb. 8. A 54-44 a.m. they responded to a Hightstown Avenue residence for a boiler problem.

# STUDENT UPDATE

**Kay earns bachelor's degree from Delaware**  
Peter Adam Kay of Springfield was among the December 1998 graduates of the University of Delaware. He was awarded a bachelor of science degree.

To qualify for the honor roll, students must have a B+ plus average and a grade lower than C in their academic subjects.

**Students earn honors at Newark Academy**  
Six students from Springfield received academic honors for the fall term at Newark Academy in Livingston.

Springfield residents Andrew Tasson and Hyrabell Maltzman were named to the honor roll for the second inducting period at The Wardlaw Center, Amfield Gladsion and 3rd Hunterd Middle School in Fairton.

Receiving honors were Christina Pulcinella and Kevin Zhu, grade nine; Erica Horwitz, grade 10; and Andrea Cione, Allison Gladstone and 3rd Hunterd Middle School in Fairton, grade 12.

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James Sanford

James B. Sanford, 73, of Mountaineer died Feb. 9 in Overlook Hospital...

Constance Kuffer

Constance Kuffer, 64, of Mountaineer, where she had owned a sub shop...

Joseph Piccinini

Joseph Piccinini, 88, of Springfield died Feb. 10 in Overlook Hospital...

Angela Ferrone

Angela Ferrone, 88, of Lakewood Township died Feb. 11 in Kimball Medical Center...

Clarence Oberst

Clarence Oberst, 90, of Springfield died Jan. 30 in Overlook Hospital...

Galliano Di Cocco

Galliano Di Cocco, 85, of Rockaway Township died Feb. 12 in Dover General Hospital...

Jacob Burstin

Jacob Burstin, 78, of Springfield. Who founded many Jewish organizations in Bergen County...

Obituary policy

Obituary notices submitted by local funeral homes or families must be in writing...

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PUBLIC NOTICE

48 or less to the said site of the local Board of Health...

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PUBLIC NOTICE

As applications and papers pertaining to the application may be seen in the office of the Board of Adjustment...

WORSHIP CALENDAR

BAPTIST OYARK AND PEACE THEATRE - CHRISTIE RD. 7:30-9:00 AM...

METHODIST THE SPRINGFIELD-EMERALD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH...

LUTHERAN HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 15 MOUNTAIN AVENUE...

ROMAN CATHOLIC THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JAMES 2300 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE...

ST. TERESA'S OF AVILA 500 56th AVENUE...

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## Vigilante defeats top seed to win UCT wrestling title

By J.R. Parachini  
Sports Editor

You didn't have to be the top seed to win a championship at last weekend's 24th annual Union County Wrestling Tournament held at the Dunn Sport Center in Elizabeth.

Springfield resident and Dayton High School student Attila Vigilante became Breatley's first UCT champion since the school re-opened last year. He defeated top-seeded Justin Finnerty 14-13 in the 145-pound championship bout.

The Breatley team, consisting of students who attend Breatley in Kenilworth and Dayton in Springfield, has improved a great deal this year under second-year head coach Brian DeLuca, who was previously at Irvington. The Bears, only 3-16 last year, began the week with a 10-7 record as its dual meet portion of the season was about to come to a close.

As many as six No. 1 seeds were listed along the way, making for another highly competitive two days of tough wrestling.

Although top-seeded grapplers were not guaranteed of winning championships, there was no mystery as to which team was going to come out on top again.

Roselle Park, this time with five champions, won a third consecutive championship had closed out the 1998 by winning five of the 10 titles.

For the third consecutive year

Roselle Park outpointed second-place Railway the champion for the first two times in 1995 and 1996. Roselle Park outscored Railway 237-214.5 last weekend after finishing ahead of the Indians 232-178 last year and 247-5795 two years ago.

The other three champions in the 1996 have been Westfield in 1997 and Union in 1991 and 1994.

Roselle Park has won six championships since 1988.

The team scoring went like this: 1-Roselle Park 237, 2-Railway 214.5, 3-Union 140, 4-Scotch Plains 123, 5-Cranford 118.5, 6-Elizabeth 115.5, 7-Gov. Livingston 108, 8-Breatley 107, 9-New Providence 86.5, 10-Johnson 84.5, 11-Roselle Catholic 59, 12-Linden 53, 13-Westfield 36.5, 14-Plainfield 17.

History was made when Roselle Park senior Craig Frost became only the third grappler in the history of the tournament to win four championships. The others are Union's Larry Gualdoni (1985-88) and Dave Babynowski (1993-96).

After winning his first three UCT titles by winning the championship bout by decision, Frost this time won his title bout by pin as he stopped Lincoln's Pat Babynowski, the younger brother of Dave Babynowski, 2:48 at 136.

Frost won his first UCT title last year. Dave Babynowski was his last, in 1996. Frost defeated Railway's Shawn Stueber in the 103 final of 1996 by a 10-4 score, and then defeated Rich Sachler of New Providence 21-8 in the 112 final in 1997. Frost bested Stueber again last year by a 6-0 score in the 130 final.

Frost also became the tournament's first wrestler in 10 years to win consecutive Outstanding Wrestler awards. For the second straight year, he was named the Outstanding Wrestler for the lower weights (103-140).

Leo Peronetto of Summit was the last wrestler to win consecutive (1987) titles, claiming the recognition in 1988 and 1989. Without wrestling since 1992, Summit is presently working hard to bring the sport back to the Group 2 school, aided by efforts headed by athletic director Ed Gibbons.

Roselle Park, which had four champions last year, had champions in freshman Dan Appello at 103, sophomore Tony Paretta at 112, Frost, senior Kevin Kolbeck at 160 and senior Mike Muroz at heavyweight.

Appello, Paretta and Muroz won their first championships. Appello, son of Roselle Park head coach Dan Appello, defeated defending champion Dale Ajello of Union 8-3 in his 103-pound final.

Paretta edged Railway's Doug Corso 12-11 in the 142-pound final, one of three championship bouts that were extended to overtime. Muroz also won an overtime decision, edging James Tealy of Scotch Plains 6-4.

The other overtime decision was won by Kolbeck, a 6-4 win over Tim Marcantonio of Gov. Livingston. Kolbeck edged the Highlander grappler 9-8 three days before and began the week with a subwin at 190.

Kolbeck also finished his career with three UCT championships, having defeated Kenet Frazier of Rahway 7-1 in the 152 final two years ago and Mike Baly of Westfield 7-6 in last year's 160 final.

Johnson and Governor Livingston did not finish among the top six teams in the standings, but had two championships each.

Johnson had champions in Todd DeWitt at 132 and Mike Meggitt at 171, both first-time winners. DeWitt pinned Tom Petrusko in 3:07 as the top seed, Westfield's Omar Truica, did not make it to the final.

DeWitt was pinned in the 145 final by John Bury of Governor Livingston two years ago and last year lost to Roselle Park's Eric Swick 10-7 in the 152 final.

Mergott edged Craig Howlett of Roselle Catholic 6-4 in the 171 final. Howlett the only KC grappler to reach the final.

Brett Vanderveer won his third consecutive championship for the Highlanders, defeating Roselle Park junior Rory Adams for the second consecutive season. This time he stopped Adams 4-2 in the 119 final.

Last year Vanderveer defeated Adams 10-3 in the 112 final after winning at 103 two years ago, that season. Downing Joe Cicco of Cranford 12-4 in the final.

GL's other winner was Fred Wilhite at 189 as he pinned Mikki Larr of Linden in 2:50 to capture his first UCT championship.

Scotch Plains had a return champion in Tony Melendez at 130 as he won a 3-1 decision over Roselle Park's Bryan Garrison. Melendez won last year at 125 when he bested Garrison 11-5.

Other teams that had won champions each included Railway, New Providence, Breatley and Elizabeth.

Railway's lone champion was senior Louis Ott at 125 as he pinned Upton's Graham Martel, the top seed, in 2:30 of their championship bout to win his first UCT title.

Unbeaten Dianne DeFillippo of New Providence also won a fourth consecutive championship, capturing his second UCT title after winning two Essex County Tournament crowns as a Scotch Hill Prep student in 1990 and 1991.



Springfield Minutemen 8th-grader Sean Frank dribbles ahead of the pack during a game this year. The 8th grade team began last week with an impressive 14-5 overall record. Springfield is scheduled to host Westfield on Wednesday at 8 p.m.

## Dayton boys' hoops posts impressive win over R. Park

The Dayton High School boys' basketball team put together all outstanding performance in defeating Mountain Valley Conference Valley Division rival Roselle Park 67-50 in Springfield Feb. 10 in a makeup contest.

The game was a battle of the past two Valley Division champions as Dayton, last year's champion, received a 20-point, 14-rebound effort from senior Terrence Franklin.

Royal Fritchfield scored 15 points, Carune Spinaetta 11 and David Woodard nine.

Dayton was scheduled to play at Roselle Park on Tuesday in its second conference contest, but that game will have to be played on another day because both teams advanced to Tuesday's Union County Tournament first-round action. Dayton vs. top-seeded St. Patrick's and eighth-seeded Roselle Park vs. Hillside.

The Bulldogs, who began the week at 21-6 overall after beating Westfield in a UCT preliminary-round contest, now scheduled to host North Plainfield tonight at 7 and play at St. Mary's in Elizabeth tomorrow night at 7.

Dayton suffered its sixth loss of the season and second to Breatley last Friday as the Bulldogs were pounced 51-44 in Kenilworth, leaving them with an 8-5 Valley Division mark.

Dayton, the eighth seed, is scheduled to host ninth-seeded Kinross in a North Jersey Section 2, Group 1, first-round contest on Monday, March 1. A win will put Dayton up against top-seeded Roselle Park on Wednesday, March 3 in a quarterfinal-round contest in Roselle Park.

GL girls' hoops top R. Park, to now face Scotch Plains

The Governor Livingston High School girls' basketball team advanced to tonight's Union County Tournament quarterfinals by beating Roselle Park 42-20 in first-round action Monday in Rahway.

Senior Lauren Kugel of Mountaintops scored 10 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and blocked four shots for the Highlanders, who improved to 14-4 with the victory over Roselle Park, which fell to 10-8.

Jen Calabrese and Heather Kanter scored 11 points each for fourth-seeded GL, which will now play Scotch Plains, a team that upset fifth-seeded and defending champion Union Catholic Monday by a 40-29 score in Rahway.

GL seeded third, will host sixth-seeded Newark West Side in the North Jersey Section 2, Group 2 quarterfinals on Thursday, March 4.

Springfield Minutemen basketball teams continued excellent seasons by beating Union in games played at Goodwin School in Springfield last Saturday.

The 8th grade team improved to 16-5 with its victory, while the 7th grade team went back over the 500 mark again at 9-8.

Springfield was scheduled to host Bloomfield last night.

The Minutemen are scheduled to remain at home for games against Westfield next Wednesday night at 6:30 and 8.

The 8th grade team is scheduled to play in the Duellen Tournament on Friday, Feb. 26, while both squads are scheduled to play Chatham at home on Saturday night, Feb. 27 at 6 and 7:30.

Springfield's 9th grade team downed Union by a 63-51 score, as the Minutemen registered an undefeated at home with a perfect 13-0 mark.

Andre Callender, the team's leading scorer, paced the Minutemen again with a 28-point effort.

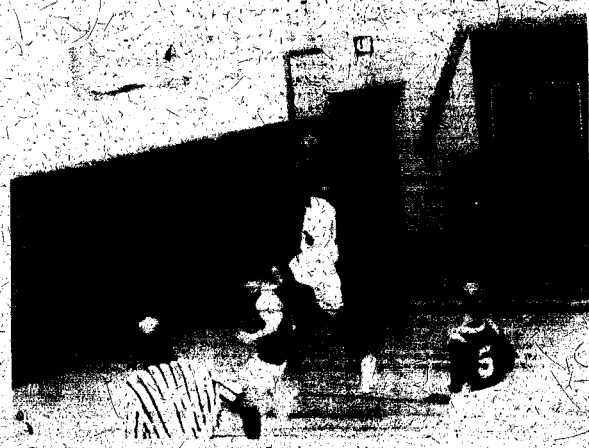
Nick Perrelli scored 10 points, Mike Nolen eight and Don Volcani had six. Kevin Dabb, Andre Bales, David Levine and Yuri Portogal combined for nine points. Doug Chencharuk helped by setting up the offense.

Springfield improved to 8-2 in league play with the victory, and did so from the free throw line, making 24-of-32 attempts.

The 7th grade team finished Union by a 42-41 score as five players had big games for the Minutemen.

Celebrating his 13th birthday, Harry Dickstein led his team performance of the season, playing one of his most aggressive games. He scored nine points and dished out three assists.

Antwan Green paced the Minutemen in scoring with 14 points. He also grabbed 11 rebounds and came to



Springfield Minutemen 7th-grader Leo Perrine goes up for two points during a contest earlier this season. The 7th grade team began last week with an 8-8 record overall record. Springfield is scheduled to host Chatham on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m.

## Springfield hoop squads post victories over Union 8th-graders remain undefeated at home

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with two steals.

Daniel Scott also had an excellent game, scoring 10 points, grabbing eight rebounds and coming up with seven steals.

### Youth Basketball

Hector Abbatucci scored six points and had one steal. Mike Lujano and Leo Perrine had two points each and Ferris also had one rebound.

Miceli, Suarez brothers excel in free throw shooting contest. The Minutemen were represented by three players in the Knighth of

umbus Free Throw Shooting Contest, held at St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church in Kenilworth on Feb. 6.

Frankie Miceli, 14, Kenneth Suarez, 11, and Stephen Suarez, 10, each advanced from the district competition to the regional, which will be held on Saturday, Feb. 27.

Stephen Suarez and Miceli, with their age brackets, making 19-of-25 attempts.

Hayley made 17-of-25, Kenneth Suarez had two with another contest. In sudden death, Suarez sank an additional 5-of-5 and clinched a spot in the regional for his age group.



Breatley grappler Attila Vigilante became the school's first Union County Tournament wrestling champion since the school re-opened last year. The Springfield resident and Dayton High School student defeated top-seeded Justin Finnerty of Union 13-14 in the 145-pound final. Here, Vigilante has a strong hold of Finnerty on his way to his first UCT championship.

## Mountainside Youth Baseball fundraiser set for April 17

Mountainside Youth Baseball, a non-profit organization, is holding its third annual silent auction fundraiser on Saturday, April 17.

There will be several donated items for the area attendees.

Proceeds from this event will be used for league expenses.

More information may be obtained by calling Gail Anigo at 908-272-5878 or Michael Fabian at 732-340-9321.

Soccer Club of Springfield offers league course for coaches

The Soccer Club of Springfield is pleased to announce that it will be a host site for an NYSA 47 league course. The 47 course is a five-hour program for all New Jersey soccer coaches. The course will be held on Saturday and pre-registration is required.

The fee for the course is \$30 and payable to the Soccer Club of Springfield. More information may be obtained by calling Marc Marshall at 908-272-5569.

Umpire training course offered for ages 16 and over

Interested in becoming a softball umpire and possibly officiating games for soccer and recreational leagues?

The Union County Board of Soccer Fundraisers, in conjunction with the Union County Amateur Softball Association, will offer a five-week training course which will include umpire position, 14 years of age and older, to become registered amateur umpires.

Courses will be held on five Monday nights — March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 7:00 in the Union County Administration Building, Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth. The registration fee of \$60 includes all course materials. Call 908-272-9500.

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