

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 1989

TWO

CENTS

Township firefighter brings suit to clear name, receive back pay

By Cheryl Hehl

Staff Writer

According to Springfield Deputy Mayor Sy Multman there are three sides to every story: "theirs, ours and the truth."

Springfield firefighter Joseph Pepe III always believed a man is innocent until proven guilty — until last November. Since then, he has wondered what it will take to make people, especially his superiors, believe he was not there when two of his fellow firefighters decided to make a phone prank-call to headquarters. He believes so strongly about the wrong that has been done to him, he has filed a lawsuit to clear his name and receive the pay he was docked, according to his attorney, Robert Renaud of Cranford.

For the township, this is de ja vu all over again. As far as it were concerned, everything that happened the night of Nov. 9 and afterward was a dead issue. But Pepe will not let them forget, not until his name is cleared and he gets the back pay he believes he is owed.

Pepe's story begins last year when he became chairman of the Springfield FMBBA's annual golf outing. The charity event, at Balsamor Golf Club, benefited the St. Barnabas Burn Center. After a day of playing golf, the firefighters attended an awards banquet and then headed out to Scotty's Restaurant on Springfield's Morris Avenue to continue the festivities.

According to Renaud, Pepe stayed around for a while and then left. There were conflicting stories about what happened next, but as far as Renaud is concerned, there is only one true version — his client's.

After drinking for a while, Renaud said; firefighter Christopher Lalevee paid \$10 for an off-duty waitress at Scotty's to make a prank phone call to the Springfield Fire Department saying there was a leaf fire on Kipling Avenue. Donald Voorhees, according to court transcripts, admitted he dialed the phone, but the waitress placed the call.

Super Mario brother



Photo by Miles Mills

Springfield resident Caltum Higgins, 10, plays Gameboy intently as he takes a break from swimming and splashing at the Springfield community pool.

Officer receives money owed, criminal complaint still pending

By John Ceolock

Staff Writer

Sgt. Steven Stockl of the Springfield Police Department has been paid the money he was owed.

Stockl filed a criminal complaint against Township Administrator Richard Shultz allegedly for not paying the officer \$100 for working at the Dayton High School graduation June 24. Stockl said the money should have been paid to him in early July.

Township Attorney Bruce Bergen said Stockl could not be paid until the money was received from the Spring-

field Board of Education. He said this was based on state law and the police contract.

According to district Business Administrator Ellen Ball, her office received an invoice from the police June 28 for the work Stockl and two other officers performed June 24. Ball said after the invoice was received and paperwork processed, the payment was included with other bills the school board paid in July.

Bergen said the money needed to be approved by the board, a vote that could not take place until the July

meeting. After the money was approved, the check was written to the Police Department July 27.

Bergen said the check was received by the township Aug. 2 and the \$100 was included in Stockl's last paycheck, Aug. 19. He said Stockl should not have filed a complaint.

"To file a criminal complaint which has no basis is a ridiculous way to handle it," said Bergen, who added Stockl should have either filed a grievance with the union or inquired about the money.

"There still has not been a criminal

New official in shared meet borough board, parents

By Joe Lugarra

Staff Writer

Members of Mountainside's Board of Education, along with a handful of parents, were introduced to the new Superintendent of the Berkley Heights School district at Tuesday's regular meeting.

Richard Bozza took it upon himself to be present at the meeting. A former superintendent of the Montville school district, where he resides, Bozza stepped into his new position in the township July 19.

"I wanted to come down here so you'd be able to put a face to the name," he told the audience. "I want you to know that I value your kids. They're an important part of our high school. You can be sure we'll work together, in the best interest of the students."

A second introduction was made by Laurie Kaplan and Laura Alpert of the Mountainside Education Foundation. The organization, which became official in June, was "one-and-a-half-to-two-years-in-the-making," according to Alpert. "We're not linked to the Board of Education or the PTA. We're a third party, nonprofit organization incorporated and operated for the benefit of local public school children."

Alpert cited the foundation's objective as a simple one: to give money.

"We want to help promote and sponsor imaginative approaches to educate students," Alpert said, listing specific ways in which the funds will be used.

"We want to stimulate community interest and confidence in the schools, and help them secure funds



Richard Bozza

for educational programs through mini-grants; for items beyond the school budget.

"The schools are experiencing a tightening of spending," Alpert continued. "The mission of the foundation is to help students and staff, and to get the school system to be as good as it can be."

Alpert described the foundation's primary award categories as:

- Academic enrichment;
- Arts and education;
- Multicultural programs;
- Community outreach;
- Professional development for programs outside of what the board can provide in the way of extra training for teachers;

• Technology and learning.

The foundation expects to number first fund-raiser Oct. 15 at Diefendorf School. Alpert described the event as "desert and coffee, with a band

called Mad Jazz providing the entertainment."

Prizes, including a used car, dinner for two at the Gramercy Tavern in Manhattan and two prints donated by illustrator Wende Devlin also will be awarded. Devlin, a Mountainside resident, is the illustrator of the children's books authored by her husband Harry.

"We want to bring in money right away, so we can start awarding it as soon as possible," Alpert said. She said she expects the foundation to eventually make financial awards two times a year.

"We'd like the initial proposals to come from the staff," Alpert added. "Later on, anyone, including students, will be able to write a grant proposal."

In response to board president Pat Taschler's inquiry about Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller's involvement in the grants process, Alpert said, "Nothing is going to happen without the approval of Dr. Schaller and the board."

The foundation has 11 voting members on its board, in what Alpert described as a mix. "We have people who have children right here in Diefendorf, people who have children who haven't started school yet, people with children in private schools. We even have one senior citizen."

Now math books

The big item in Schaller's chief school administrator's report is the adoption of mathematics textbooks for Kindergarten through eighth-grade.

Township votes to purchase senior bus

By Pamela Isaacson

Managing Editor

With Mayor Gregory Clarke's call for adjournment, the regular meeting of the Springfield Township Committee Tuesday ended what must have been one of the shortest on record: a total of 12 minutes.

With two members of the governing body, Steven Goldstein and Roy

Hirschfeld, absent and all five audience members remaining silent during the public comments portion of the agenda, the meeting reflected the typically slow days of August.

Unlike meetings in the beginning

of the summer, with several township board positions left vacant due to resignations, this meeting instead saw Township Committeewoman Clara Harelirk urge residents to volunteer in their community.

"It is important to volunteer in your town," she said. "Much of what gets done is done by volunteers. Take an active role because you can only make it a better place to live."

Springfield has the largest senior citizen population in Union County, said Deputy Mayor Sy Multman after the meeting in Town Hall. To help accommodate these seniors, the

current vehicle being used by the township is approaching a state of disrepair. The bus makes it possible for senior citizens to attend township-organized events in and around Springfield.

Patrons of the Springfield Free Public Library will find a difference when parking on Mountain Avenue to utilize the library or the Palmer Museum. The time limit will be three hours, Monday through Friday,

between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. Harelirk made a motion to approve the adjustment of the zoning map of the township. The committee agreed the price of this re-draft would not exceed \$500.

Gateway Computers was awarded a contract for upgrades to the computer system at Town Hall. The Police Department already had acquired a new system.

Storm and sanitary sewer repairs will take place throughout the township. After an introduction from Multman, the committee unanimously approved the award of a bid to JOMED.

Storm and sanitary sewer repairs

Borough sergeant doubles as arson investigator

By John Ceolock

Staff Writer

Officers on the Mountainside Police Department do not just patrol the borough. They also have the opportunity to serve on various task forces for the Union County Prosecutor.

Police Chief interim Borough Administrator James Debbie said the borough has provided the county with several officers in the past and several currently are serving.

Sgt. Alan Attanasio is a member of the county's arson task force. He said the task force had existed for some time and was disbanded. When Prosecutor Thomas Manahan established it, Attanasio decided to try and join.

"The prosecutor appealed the

police and fire chiefs in the county to assign people to it," said Attanasio, who also is a volunteer firefighter.

After being appointed to the task force, Attanasio said he was assigned to a special training program run by State Attorney General John Farmer. He said each of the state's 21 counties send up to three people.

Attanasio said the program was composed of three weeks of classroom, and practical experience in arson investigation. In addition, he spent three days in Camden working with members of that arson unit.

Attanasio said he does not spend his entire time with the arson task force; rather, he works on arson every six weeks. All members of the task force work in four- and five-person teams to develop ideas.

"The prosecutor appealed the

police and fire in town can request for us to help out," said Attanasio.

He added in his work he has discovered that arson is a unique crime. "Most crimes, the longer the suspect stays the more evidence he leaves. With arson, the longer the fire burns, the more evidence is destroyed," he said.

Attanasio said because of the uniqueness of the crime, the arrest rate is not as high as other crimes. He said statistics show a 2 percent arrest rate.

"It is one of the toughest crimes to investigate."

Attanasio did say that if an accelerant is used in the fire it is detectable to investigators.

"One of the most interesting things about arson is that most suspects don't realize what a fire will do."

He said his most interesting experience was one in which burglars decided to burn the house down to hide their work. The burglars put plastic on the burners of the stove. The fire melted the plastic and the microwave caused the burners to fill and the fire to extinguish.

Attanasio said this case was referred to him and currently is under investigation.

"It is something that I really enjoy. It is something that interests me," said Attanasio.

Debbie praised Attanasio's work on the arson task force as beneficial to the public and the Mountainside Police Department.

"I know that the arson squad has been called out in the last five months. His work is outstanding," said Debbie.

not gotten paid and not have filed the complaint.

"I am glad it all worked out. We have diffused another situation, and I hope everyone is happy. If he drops the charges, I am glad. I hope that this does not happen again," said Township Committeewoman Steven Goldstein.

Goldstein's complaint was sent to the New Providence Municipal Court to avoid a conflict. No court date has been determined, but Stockl's complaint is still set to go to court as of press time.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

How to reach us:
The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by The Echo Leader, Inc., a newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below.

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

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The Echo Leader has a large, well read classified advertising section. Advertisements must be in our office by Tuesday at 3 p.m. for publication that week. All classified ads are payable in advance. We accept VISA and Mastercard. A classified representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please stop by our office during regular business hours and call 1-800-554-8911, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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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 3109, Union 07083.

Today

Visitors can learn what causes the daily changes from daylight to darkness, what causes the phases of the moon and about the composition of stars at the Trallside Nature and Science Center at 1:30 p.m. Admission is \$3 for each person. The program is for children ages 4 to 6 with an adult.

Saturday

The legislative office of Assemblyman Richard H. Bagger will be open to residents of the 22nd Legislative District from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. In addition to regular business hours on weekdays and one Saturday a month, Bagger's office at 201 Elm St., Westfield, is open from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays. Pre-registration is required. Call (908) 789-3670.

Sunday

Members of the Trallside center will teach what is visible in the summer's night sky at 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$3 for each person and \$2.55 for senior citizens. Each family member will get a map of the summer sky to take home.

Monday

The Children's Aid Society and Andersen Consulting will sponsor a golf clinic for children ages 10 to 13 at the Balsorus Golf Club in Springfield from 10 to 11 a.m. The clinic will raise funds for programs run by The Children's Aid Society. For information, call Freeman Miller at (212) 614-4216.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 5

Visitors ages 6 and up can learn where to find the planets among the stars and which constellations will be visible in the fall sky at the Trallside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside at 3 and 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$3 for each person and \$2.55 for senior citizens. For more information, call (908) 789-3670.

Sept. 9

Members of the Foothill Club of Mountainside will have their regular monthly meeting in the borough's historical Heifield House. Lunch will be served at noon. Attending as a guest and speaker will be Mountainside's Mayor Robert Vigilanti. A sing-a-long also is on the agenda.

Sept. 10

The first meeting of the Mountainside Senior Citizens Club will be held at noon at the Community Prec-

byterian Church on Deer Path and Meeting House Lane. It will be a Welcome Back social with refreshments being served. For more information, call (908) 233-6280.

Sept. 11

Volunteers are needed to assist with trail maintenance projects in the Watchung Reservation from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Anyone ages 14 and up is invited, if possible, to bring a lunch, mug for a beverage, shovel, pickaxe and gloves to the Trallside Nature and Science Center at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside. Pre-registration is required. Call (908) 789-3670.

Sept. 18

At 2:30 p.m., Mary Wislocki, director of The Writing Center at New York University, will present some practical do's and don'ts for creating a solid college application essay at the Springfield Free Public Library. For information, call (973) 376-4930.

Sept. 22

A representative from The Princeton Review will provide strategies for students taking the PSAT and SAT examinations at the Springfield Free Public Library at 7 p.m. For information and to pre-register, call (973) 376-4930.

Sept. 23

The Newcomers of Mountainside will sponsor a new member coffee for anyone interested in joining. For more information, call Terri Schmedel at (908) 301-0417.

Sept. 28

At 7 p.m. the Springfield Free Public Library will feature Monique Gilbert, assistant director of financial aid at Fairleigh Dickinson University. She will discuss high school students and parents the often-complicated process of applying for financial aid. For details and registration, call (973) 376-4930.

Oct. 2

Members of the Mountainside Newcomers Club are invited to the club's annual progressive dinner. For more information, call Janine Cardone at (908) 232-6411.

Ongoing

The Friends of the Springfield Public Library would like donations of used paperback novels. Also welcome are magazines with one year's date.

The library is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday hours are from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call (973) 376-4930.

NEWS CLIPS

Bagger opens office to district residents

ing a three-part series titled, "Getting Ready for College."

On Sept. 18 at 2 p.m., Mary Wislocki, director of The Writing Center at New York University, will present some practical do's and don'ts for creating a good application essay.

On Sept. 22 at 7 p.m., a representative from The Princeton Review will provide strategies for taking the PSAT and SAT examinations.

The third program, scheduled for Sept. 28 at 7 p.m., will feature Monique Gilbert, assistant director of financial aid at Fairleigh Dickinson University. She will discuss the often-complicated process of applying for financial aid.

All programs are free, but advanced registration is requested. Refreshments will be served.

Call (973) 376-4930 to reserve a space, or register in person at the library, located at 66 Mountain Ave. in Springfield.

Library seeks donations

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For more information, call (973) 376-4930.

Local artist reflects suburban township life

"Reflections of Suburban Life," an exhibit by artist Helen Frank of Springfield will be shown at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library from Monday through Oct. 7. An opening reception will be held Sept. 26 at 4:30 p.m.

"Reflections," a nostalgic view of life in the suburbs during the last half of this century, is the theme of this exhibition of paintings, watercolors, etchings and monotypes. It encompasses a wide range of diverse subjects such as Route 22, Olympic Park, the fitting room at Loehmann's, sleigh riding at Balsorus, the Patmark parking lot at midnight, Atlantic City casino, the July 4 celebration, Little League games, a Brownie troop and blueberry pickers.

AT THE LIBRARY

'City Without Walls' selected for township public library exhibit

The Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library presents "City Without Walls," the 17th annual metro show until tomorrow.

This year's metro show was selected from 505 entries in a wide range of styles, subjects and media, as is typical of this annual art exhibition. The three jurors chose 73 works, 14 percent, which is one of the largest metro shows to date. All works receiving one or more votes by the jurors were included, and the awards

were decided by consensus of all three.

The "City Without Walls," an artist advocacy organization, is on a year-long tour throughout the region, taking the exhibit to venues not only of museums and libraries, but also to spaces that bring this challenging work into the everyday lives of people who may have few opportunities to visit art exhibitions or may not yet have developed an inclination to do so.

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The Donald B. Palmer Museum is located in the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. The hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Springfield contributor shared time, goodness

By Pamela Isaacson
Managing Editor

"If you knew him, you couldn't help but like him," said Joe Tenbaum about Leonard A. Golden.

A Springfield resident since 1954, Mr. Golden died Aug. 19 in the Ingmoor Nursing Home, Livingston. He was 80.

Mr. Golden was the co-owner and operator of the Golden and Golden Fish Company, a wholesale seafood dealer in Newark. After 25 years with the family-based company, Mr. Golden retired in 1987.

Although he ran a successful business, Springfield residents, especially members of Temple Beth Ahm and B'nai Brith, will remember Mr. Golden's devotion to the township.

"He contributed to the town as a whole," Tenbaum said. "He loved Springfield, anything for the betterment of the township. When he got on a committee, he usually became the chairman because of his expertise and willingness to work hard."

As a founding member of Temple Beth Ahm, Mr. Golden helped acquire the synagogue's land from the Balusro Chateau. The temple currently rests on this acquisition.

As an active member of the congregation, Mr. Golden served as a member of the board of directors, the first chairperson of the temple's Religious Affairs Committee and helped to arrange the first High Holy Day services to be held in Springfield.

In June, Mr. Golden was honored by the Springfield chapter of B'nai Brith, a national organization, for his 50 years of membership. Mr. Golden was past president.

Tenbaum said he always will remember Mr. Golden's generous spirit and desire to correct something he did not like. When national B'nai Brith dues increased to an annual fee of \$75, Mr. Golden wrote a letter to Washington, D.C., to prevent it.

Tenbaum explained 50-year members of the organization no longer have to pay dues. "Even though it

'He was a man with a huge heart who was generous. He gave of himself to the community.'

— Rabbi Mark Mallach

didn't affect him, he didn't like it," Tenbaum said. "He was a loving person. If he saw something he didn't like, sat down and wrote a letter."

Mr. Golden also devoted much of his energy to township committees. For 10 years, he served as chairman of the Springfield 4th of July Committee, a group with which he was affiliated for 25 years. He also was active in the Cub Scouts of Springfield and a member of the Fund Raising Committee for the Palmer Museum at the Springfield Free Public Library. His interests extended to the town's Feed the Homeless and Bicentennial committees.

When his wife, Helen, was diagnosed with myasthenia gravis in 1980, Mr. Golden became involved in the Garden State chapter of the Myasthenia Gravis National Foundation. He served as its chairman for the past 12 years and was on the board eight times.

"He was a man with a huge heart who was generous. He gave of himself to the community," said Mark

Leonard A. Golden

Mallach, rabbi at Temple Beth Ahm. When Mr. Golden still owned the fish business, Mallach said he would give supplies to churches, the Boy Scouts and other organizations.

"He made sure he taught values to his children and also to his community," Mallach said. "He had a willingness to take care of anyone in need."

Born in Newark, Mr. Golden attended the University of Georgia and Rutgers University in Newark and received a bachelor of arts degree in labor law and relations in 1953 from Seton Hall University in South Orange.

Mr. Golden received a Purple Heart while serving as a captain in the Army during World War II, serving in England, Belgium and France.

Surviving are his wife, Helen, a daughter, Laynie; a son, Sam Gershwin; a brother, Lance; a sister, Mrs. Ruth Russ and three grandchildren.

The Mountainside Newcomers Club has announced the following member activities for the near future. The first is a "Mommy and Me" lunch at the Mountainside pool Tuesday, starting at 11 a.m.

For more information, call Mary Doyle at (908) 654-7056.

Sept. 23: New Member Coffee — For new members and for anyone interested in Newcomers, gather for an evening of fun and relaxation to learn what Newcomers is all about.

For more information, contact Teri Schmedei at (908) 301-0147.

Newcomers to sponsor lunch

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Out-of-control truck causes brush fire

FIRE BLOTTER

An overturned tractor trailer on eastbound Route 24 at the Route 78 split caused a small brush fire Monday — the result of the truck sliding approximately 50 yards on its side.

No hazardous materials were discovered and the truck's load, consisting of bagged gravel, remained intact. The area was secured, with the Springfield Fire Department's Engine One standing by until the vehicle was uprighted. One pair of Speedy-dri was applied to the roadway to absorb some leaking transmission fluid. No injuries were reported.

• Two activated fire alarms sent the department out Saturday.

• Three medical service calls were answered Friday.

• A gas grill on Linda Lane caught fire Aug. 19 when its regulator malfunctioned. There was no shut-off for the gas outdoors, and the department discovered the shut-off to be buried in

the ground.

the resident's basement-ceiling, which was closed when the basement was finished.

The gas was turned off at the meter on the "B" side of the structure. The fire went out when the fuel was removed from the grill.

One medical service call was placed on the day.

The department responded to a Bryant Avenue residence to investigate the condition of some wood behind the wall of a second-story bathroom Aug. 18. The wall, which had been opened previously by a plumber, revealed what appeared to be two charred two-by-fours. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the wood actually suffered from severe dry rot.

• Early-morning medical service call was answered at a Mountain Avenue business.

• Two medical-service-calls were placed Aug. 16.

• Engine One responded to Bryant and Tooker avenues Aug. 15 on a report of a burning utility pole.

A blown transformer had set the telephone wires on fire.

Four medical service calls, one activated fire alarm and a call for a fuel spill at Morris and Caldwell avenues also handled.

• Two cigarette burns in a front porch planter sent the department to a Norwood Road residence Aug. 17. One cigarette butt began to burn the plant and the plastic flower pot, which the owner extinguished prior to the department's arrival. Firefighters assisted the resident in completing the task.

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Borough library outlines fall programs

By Joe Lugaras
Staff Writer

The Mountainside Public Library's fall schedule includes storytime programs, marionettes and rocking children's tunes.

Among the story programs, "Toddler Time" offers two year olds 30 minutes of stories and nursery rhymes. The program will be held on Fridays, from Sept. 17 to Oct. 15, at 10:30 a.m.

Three and four year olds are invited to "Preschool Storytime." Held Thursdays at 2 p.m., from Sept. 16 to Oct. 14, "Preschool" offers stories combined with activities and simple crafts.

"The crafts and activities tie in to the stories we're reading," said Public Service Librarian Linda Corona. "We read two stories during the session. In between, we'll do a dance or make puppets, something that relates directly to the story."

The program lasts a half-hour, and parents or caregivers are asked to remain for the duration.

Kindergarten children are offered "Storytime Theatre." Stories are combined with acting, movement, props and costumes. "It's more interactive than the programs for the younger kids," Corona said. "The kids are encouraged to act out the stories and become the characters. Jan Elby, who runs the program, brings her own collection of costumes — shawls, hats and such — along with props."

The program, which lasts about 45 minutes, is scheduled for Tuesdays at 2:15 p.m., and runs from Sept. 9 to Nov. 30.

Registration is required for all programs, and is open to Mountainside library card holders only.

Two additional programs, "The Cradle Will Rock" and "Music, Marionettes and More" also will be presented. "Cradle," performed by children's entertainer Dave Birro, will sound off with "intelligent tunes for tots" Oct. 2 at 2 p.m. Birro, an amateur comic performer, also writes jingles and radio ads. "Cradle Will Rock" is the title of his current album.

"Marionettes," with puppeteer Dale Friedman, will be performed Nov. 13, also at 2 p.m. Friedman, an educator-entertainer, has been performing his musical-oriented shows since 1974.

For adults, Charles Granata, author of "Sessions with Sinatra," talks about the vocal artist's role in the production of his own albums Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. "Mr. Granata is a part-time archivist for Sony Records," said Corona. "He's worked on a Sinatra discography, transferring works to compact disc and preserving them."

Granata, who described Sinatra as "The first vocal artist to function as producer of his own recordings," will play actual session tapes, allowing him to hear Sinatra talking and giving direction during the sessions.

Another author, Arlene Zatz, will give a book talk and slide show in connection with her work, "New Jersey's Special Places" Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Zatz is a well-regarded travel writer whose work has appeared in the *New York Times* and



Young Mountainside resident Kelly Goense celebrates her summer book reading with a doughnut as the borough's public library prepares for its fall children's programs.

The Daily News. Her books include "Best Hikes with Children in New Jersey" and "New Jersey's Great Gardens." Her talk will include information on the state's historical museums, Liberty State Park, Watchung Reservation, the Great Swamp and the New Jersey State Aquarium.

The library closed out its summer program on Aug. 12 with a party for the participants of the "Summer

POLICE BLOTTER

south on Caldwell Place. The Nissan sustained damage to its front, the Dodge to its rear.

• A vehicle owned by Infinity Financial Services of Dallas, Texas reportedly was the victim of a hit-and-run accident Friday as it sat in the parking lot at 222 Mountain Ave. A Springfield resident who happened to witness the accident reported the plate number to Springfield police.

Springfield resident Carlos Chacon, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Chacon, a native of Costa Rica, has not yet had his court date.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Tolls and jams need regulation

Elections, public television, school groups — raising money is a part of life. It is this part of life that the Springfield Board of Education has been trying to regulate during the past few months.

At meetings during the last school year, board members raised concerns about traffic jams and tolls in the hallways of Jonathan Dayton High School. Board members said, at certain times, they could not walk down the school's hallways without reaching into their wallets several times to donate to a crowd of soliciting students. It was not just at the high school where students would try to raise money, but also on residential blocks and inside local shops, as some groups walked door-to-door, ringing doorbells and hoping for donations.

During the September meeting, board members will try to regulate these fund drives for student groups, sports teams and the Parent Teacher Organization to prevent a simultaneous bombardment of "Give \$5 for new uniforms" or "Give \$10 for a club trip."

Currently, they are debating who gives permission for fund-raisers. A new policy, one that recently passed its first reading, requires students or organizations that plan to solicit the general community or local businesses to receive permission from the Board of Education. The same policy states fund-raisers—that target students, the students' immediate family and school staff only require approval from the school's principal and the superintendent.

In the beginning and middle of each school year, students, clubs and parent-teacher organizations should submit a list to the Board of Education, telling what type of fund drive they want, what the money will provide and when they would like to conduct it. Then, board members can alternate fund drives for different sports groups, social organizations or parent-teacher groups. With two rounds, one in September and one in February, organizations can assess what they require for both halves of the year and what funds are necessary.

The principals of each building need guidance from the Board of Education, the body charged with setting policy throughout the district. They need a way to communicate with one another and with the parent-teacher organizations at each school so students are not constantly ringing the same doorbells and asking for the same wallets of parents or merchants.

The 400 deserve more representation

More than 400 Mountainside residents signed a petition a few months ago against setting salary ranges for the mayor and members of the Borough Council. More than 400 people felt the issue belongs on the November ballot.

The question will not find its way to the public in November. Now the mayor has taken careful pains to make sure that no more than one of these 400 will serve on a committee charged with the responsibility of recommending either salaries or a system of vouchered expenses.

Mayor Robert Viglianti originally said he would appoint three Democrats, three Republicans and three Independents to serve on this committee. The mayor has since appointed two Democrats, three Republicans and four Independents. He initially said the imbalance was because there was not enough interest among borough Democrats. Then he said the committee's composition reflected the demographics of the borough. During last week's regular meeting of the Borough Council, he admitted he would not appoint a third Democrat who wanted to join the committee because the individual had signed the petition a few months ago.

Regarding criteria for the committee, the mayor said, "One was that I would not name anyone who signed the petition." Using simple mathematics, this eliminates more than 400 residents.

The committee was formed because residents were not convinced that salary ranges for elected officials were necessary. In February, when the issue was first raised at a council meeting, residents affiliated with various political parties expressed their opposition to setting salaries. The mayor said they had not been convinced.

So, convince them. Convince all of them, especially those who signed the petition. If the mayor and members of the council truly believe they can prove the necessity of salary ranges, they should be able to convince even those who went a step further than verbalizing their opposition.

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Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

READING QUEST — Mountainside's best readers receive awards from the public library at the end of 'Dragon Tales and Reading Quests,' this summer's reading program. Seventy kids were encouraged to read and keep a list of their books throughout the summer.

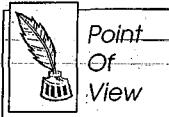
Springfield family develops with neighbors

At various times, the question is asked, "Why is Springfield such a great town to live in?"

An interesting example of just why many people really want to move here happened the other day on my street. A few neighbors asked about creating a neighborhood watch program.

We contacted the Springfield Police Department's Crime Prevention Bureau which is headed by one officer, John Rowley. He arranged for a meeting on our block to discuss the neighborhood's concerns. He took the time to canvas the block, handing out fliers about a meeting and had a resident on the block allow his home for the meeting.

We talked among ourselves about getting the block together for this event and Officer Rowley stopped by to talk to residents to come to the meeting. On the night of the meeting, almost every single resident on the block was present. Officer Rowley



By Roy Hirschfeld

focused on two important issues of getting to know each other: talking to one another and watching and becoming more aware of our block's activities.

It was a successful meeting with the Police Department working together with the local residents like me. A lot came out of the meeting and we all got to know who lives on the street.

What does this all mean? Simply, that Springfield has a real sense of sharing, of community and has that small-town cohesion often not found in other areas. We can

get to know our neighbors. We can actually know the local pharmacist or food vendor because of our community.

We take care of our family, the family of Springfield. We have a personal relationship with the Police Department and an officer who really cares and is committed to crime prevention and helping the residents.

Living in Springfield means the residents can get things done, like we talked about that night, such as more street lights or Officer Rowley going to each home and completing a security survey to help improve home security. That's really a service from our police and well worth the time.

We have a community where our children's safety on our streets is most important. Springfield is growing and changing day to day for the better. The community spirit can remain and continue to grow like on our block.

Local residents know that Springfield is a desirable community with good schools, a jitney for commuters, a great pool, safe neighborhoods, clean streets, safe streets and a full-time fire service and volunteer ambulance squad with paramedics available quickly when needed. Property values, if you haven't noticed, have soared here, possibly because of these facts.

Form a block association on your street and get to know your neighbors. Contact Officer Rowley at the Police Department and take advantage of his program and services. It is not too often you find someone who is like gold, but that's Officer Rowley: caring, committed and dedicated to his job and the community he serves.

Roy Hirschfeld is a member of the Springfield Township Committee.

Enjoy today rather than wish for tomorrow

We've all met people who seem to wish their lives away.

Come summer, they can't wait for winter when they can go to Vail to ski. Come winter, they can't wait for spring for a cruising jaunt to Bermuda. Come spring, they can't wait for summer for a season at the Jersey Shore.

At the same time, even as children, we often wish for the special occasion days to arrive. We can't wait for Christmas for the shiny aura of the season. We can't wait for Thanksgiving for the family to get together. And, certainly children can't wait for their birthdays to get one year older and to receive those wanted gifts.

We seem to forget that while attitudes may often seem true at a time when they talk, taking one day at a time may not be so bad.

Each anticipation in the future, whether it be a jaunt to France or a trip to the Meadowlands for a concert, involves the passage of time. And with that passage comes the passage of years, and we look around and wonder how did we get to the autumn of our lives.

Such a realization should give us pause. Why are we rushing our lives? Without a doubt, just within days, we shall be receiving Christmas catalogues. It's not even Labor Day.

Shortly after school starts in the early part of September, the decorations will go up in the stores for Halloween. These days, Halloween has become a national event. In the days in my youth, Halloween was a fun day for kids. In my neighborhood, the wildest thing that went on was chalking up the sidewalks. Only the worst-behaved kids had the audacity to break milk bottles.

Of course, there were masks and costumes, if anyone thought to have a party, but for the most part it was one-day event. Doorbell ringing was limited to a quick ring and then running as the houseowner came to the door

As I See It

By Norman Rauscher
Correspondent

and an empty doortop. There was no trick or treat.

Shortly after Halloween comes the whole Christmas hoopla. Somehow between the Halloween explosion and the Christmas extravaganza, Thanksgiving seems to have lost the glow of yesterday when extended families get together to eat and laugh and enjoy each other's food.

So, Thanksgiving is glossed over as store shelves are packed with every kind of trendy toy that any child worth his salt would absolutely need. By the time of the year, the youngest has been so saturated with Christmas offerings that he knows exactly what he absolutely must have. And, there is no doubt that each child is dying with anticipation for the latest gizmo as advertised on television or today, probably, even on the Internet.

Then Christmas arrives. Actually, how long does that anticipation last before the joy of the new toy gives way to the boredom of overexposure. After all, that child has been "playing" with the toy for months, at least in his mind.

So, soon after the Christmas season is over, there's a need for some other expectation. And it's St. Valentine's Day, also an event which has become overblown. Then it's on to the rest of the year — the Easter Bunny, the spring jaunt to Paris, the awaiting of the next birthday, the expectation of the end of another school year, and then the expectation of another advancement in school. And so it goes.

Careful examination might reveal that much of the joy of the events lay

in the expectation, rather than in the events themselves. How many people standing in the airport for nine hours for a planned jaunt south or west or east, find the joy is fast evaporating with the trip?

Yet the joy of the expectation of that trip was enormous. When reality sets in, the joy tends to dissipate and the hoped-for wonderful experience is sadly diminished.

Right now we are in the maelstrom of plans for the millennium. For more than a year, hotels in New York and cruise ships have been sold out, as everyone begins hoping for joy in anticipation of some great event. Some people are even taking expensive trips around the world to see the year 2000 arrive in as many places as possible.

How much of the celebration is in the anticipation and how much will

actually be real? That remains to be seen. But there is sure to be a good chance something will go wrong and one turn of the year will not be seen on time. Then the anticipation becomes discouragement and because of a large amount of money spent, real disappointment might set in.

Anticipation is fine. It is the hope of the void. Without hope, life would be desolate.

But too much anticipation without appreciation of the present can diminish our day-to-day lives. Looking at what we have and appreciating what we are doing in the present, will not dull the anticipation of the future happy events, but it certainly will perk up possibility.

Norman Rauscher is a former newspaper publisher and frequent columnist for this newspaper.

E - MAIL

Committee should reflect intelligence

To the Editor:

It's bad enough we had the introduction of the reimbursed, undocumented expense voucher. Then, the attempted quick passage of salaries to replace that, but now composing a committee to work on this issue has stumbled.

It would seem that the main membership requirement might be intelligence and perspective first and then, maybe, party affiliation. But if this group has to be so finely balanced that it never gets composed, where's the value? Is that how the public is best served? It is hoped that sooner, rather than later, common sense will make a rare guest appearance and visit all involved.

It's enough of an irritating issue without this spectacle and unproductive war of words.

Frank Marchese
Mountainside

"Freedom is like gas. It has a natural tendency to expand." —Monsignor Diarmuid Martin
Vatican official

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Reading images crucial for viewer's awareness

Many moons ago, during the O.J. Simpson — remember him? — pre-trial hearing, I saw a well-dressed gentleman being asked by a television reporter what he thought of the proceedings. He was surprised, he said, by how long it was taking. He complained about there being so many pauses. It was moving way too slowly, he said.

Another talking meatball.

Like me, the man was plainly a member of the television generation; unlike me, he was on a Perry Mason schedule, unable to distinguish between the time it takes to achieve things in the actual world and the 30 minutes or so it takes to solve all of humanity's problems, past and present, in the television world. The dialogue of everyday life was apparently a disappointment to him. I suppose he always believed that people spoke snappier, like they do on M*A*S*H.

Here we are now, in the last moments of the 20th century, touched on all sides, every day, by images of every sort. Not to be able to interpret an image is, at this particular point in history, a dangerous, dangerous deficiency.

Images are tricky. They deceive.

I'm not talking about losing out on the finer points, on aspects such as irony.

I'm talking about getting a straight understanding of what's being presented; what it means, why it's there, who it's tailored to.

Everything represented in a televised or computerized image, or an image of any kind, including a painting, has a bent, a point of view. It has to. The purpose is to put the point across.

Joe's Place

By Joe Lugaro

But everyday life isn't that orderly — it's messy, rambling. We don't speak with perfect grammatical correctness. Ideas don't follow one another in precise logical order. If they did, Simpson's pre-trial hearing would have indeed been over in 30 minutes, and our man-on-the-street would have been pleased.

Hitchcock said it nicely when he described film as life with the boring parts cut out. I almost agree with him. I'd just change the word "life" to "experience." Like life, images are experiences. Good, bad or confusing, that's exactly what they are. The difference is, life is the real thing. It has no writer, no editor.

For adults who have never learned how to interpret images, I'll be frank: I don't think there's any hope. I don't think it's possible for an adult to do something the right way — especially something that requires, after young adulthood, only a drop of common sense to get a handle on — after doing it the wrong way for a lifetime.

As for adults who do know how to read images, and who have children who are growing up not only with television but computers, I'd say to instruct without cynicism. Keeping cynicism out of it is the most difficult; nothing ever necessitates suspicion. But awareness is very necessary, and awareness and suspicion just are not part of the same picture.

Springfield readers can receive McDonald's coupons

Young summer readers are invited to stop by the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., to claim a coupon for a free fast-food meal from McDonald's.

Any child is eligible who has enrolled in the library's summer reading club, "Dragon Tales and Reading Quests," and has read at least five books during the summer.

Children are requested to bring in their reading tally to receive the coupon. All coupons expire Sept. 30.

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Township makes appeal for committee volunteers

By John Celock
Staff Writer

The township has slots open on several boards and committees for residents who are interested in serving their community.

Township Administrator Richard Shepa said residents who are interested in serving Springfield in this manner should contact officials at Town Hall. He said the Township Committee is the appointing body for all boards in town.

Mayor Gregory Clarke said the appointment process in Springfield is political in nature. Shepa said the party in control of the Township Committee makes the majority of the appointments. Currently, Democrats control all five seats on the governing body.

Clarke said while the majority party makes the appointments, all of the posts do not always go to Democrats. Clarke said the current Planning

Board has four Republicans, including the chairman.

"The appointments are made by the party in power. It is not something that you can just volunteer for. Our party tends to appoint people who are qualified," said Clarke.

The mayor said, he and his colleagues examine a person's record of volunteerism to see if they would make positive contributions. Clarke said any person who is interested in serving on a board should be willing to do more than attend meetings.

"If they are known to be hard-working, we appoint them," said Clarke, who noted that for the last major Planning Board decision, all of the board members inspected the site themselves before voting.

As mayor, Clarke holds an ex-officio seat on the Planning Board. Clarke said the governing body receives recommendations for potential appointments and all are analyzed.

He said there is no figure on which panels receive more requests than others. Clarke did say when vacancies occur mid-year, they are looked at when the board needs to fill the seat.

He said the Rent Leveling Board currently has an open seat, but it will not be filled until a need arises.

The recent resignation of Tom Farrell from seats on the planning board, the recreation committee and as Springfield's representative to the Union County Community Development Block Grant Revenue Sharing Committee, has left several township volunteer positions open.

Farrell resigned his several volunteer posts after he said he became disgruntled with the conditions at the municipal pool. His daughter had not been rehired as the head lifeguard after a series of disputes with Pool Manager

Pat Farley. Farrell's resignation spurred an onslaught of debate concerning the coming of the new mayor.

On the issue of the seats open from the resignation of Farrell, Clarke said he is studying the situation. He did say the Planning Board has two alternate members who are filling in for Farrell and the recreation committee can make due with one less member for now.

Deputy Mayor Sy Mullman disagreed with Clarke on the basis of the appointments. He said none are political in nature and are based only on experience.

"They are not political appointments as far as I am concerned. Our boards do an exceptional job. We reach out to people who want to volunteer," said Mullman.

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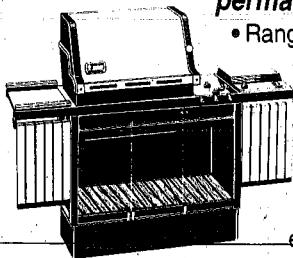
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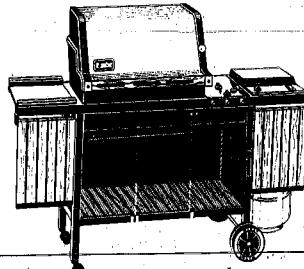
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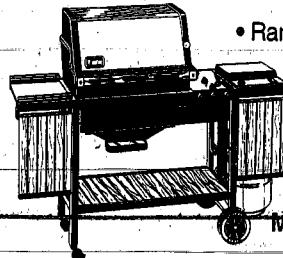
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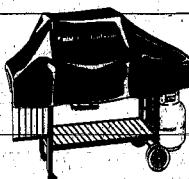
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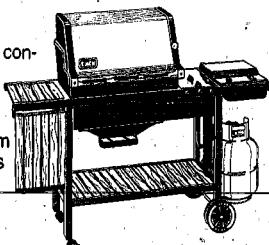


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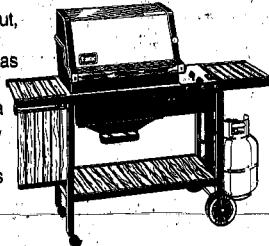


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- 10-Year limited warranty
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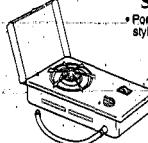
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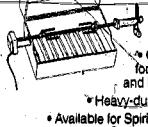
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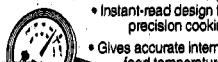
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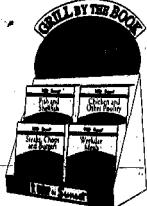
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Editor: J.R. Parachini
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SPORTS

LOCAL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Muhlenberg sophomore Randi Schur of Springfield was named to the Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll for her excellence in the classroom and on the courts.

A psychology major who will be entering her junior year, the Pingry School graduate finished the 1998-99 school year with an impressive 3.680 grade-point average. She has a minor in English studies.

Schur had a combined singles and doubles record of 6-11 in her first year at Muhlenberg after transferring from Miami.

Schur played mostly No. 3 doubles and represented the Mules at the Centennial Conference Tournament.

Registration for Springfield's Minutemen Football Program is still being accepted at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall, Springfield.

Registration flyers are available for Minutemen Football, grades 4-8.

Any adults or college students that wish to coach this season may call the Springfield Recreation Department office at 973-912-2227.

The fall 1999 high school sports season commences in two weeks for area schools Dayton, Governor Livingston and Summit.

Dayton and Governor Livingston compete in the Mountain Valley Conference, Dayton in the Valley Division and Governor Livingston in the Mountain Division.

Summit will be competing in the Hills Division of the Iron Hills Conference for a fourth consecutive year, the only Union County school in the IHCC.

There have been only a few changes regarding schools changing group size in North Jersey, Section 2 for the upcoming 1999-2000 school year.

Just two schools dropped in group size, those being Montville from Group 3 to Group 2 and 13th St. Tech from Group 2 to Group 1. Schools moving up in group size include Westfield back up to Group 4 after one year in Group 3. Schools that are moving up to Group 3 from Group 2 include Hackettstown, Rahway and Newark West Side.

Rahway is also making the move from the National Division of the Watchung Conference to the Mountain Division of the Mountain Valley Conference.

The following is a look at the schools in North Jersey, Section 2 for the 1999-2000 academic year:

Group 4 (18): Barringer, Bellville, Bloomfield, Columbia, Newark East Side, Elizabeth, Irvington, Linden, Livingston, Montclair, Morris Knolls, Phillipsburg, Plainfield, Randolph, Roxbury, Union, West Orange, Westfield.

Group 3 (18): Cranford, East Orange, Hackettstown, Millburn, Morris Hills, Morristown, Mount Olive, Nutley, Orange, Parsippany, Parsippany Hills, Rahway, Scotch Plains, Cliffwood, Scott, Shabazz, Warren Hills, West Morris, Newark West Side.

Group 2 (17): Caldwell, Newark Central, Chatham, Dover, Newark Tech, Governor Livingston, Hanover Park, Hillsdale, Jefferson, Johnson, Montville, Pequannock, Roselle, Summit, Weequahic, West Essex, Mendham.

Group 1 (21): Newark Arts, Belleville, Boonton, Brearley, Butler, Cedar Grove, Dayton, Bloomfield Tech, 13th St. Tech, Glen Ridge, Kinnelon, Madison, Mountain Lakes, New Providence, North Warren, Roselle Park, Newark Science, Newark Technology, Newark University, Verona, Whippoorwill Park.

Area schools that increased in enrollment include Linden (1045 from 1029), Union (1606 from 1562), Cranford (666 from 638), Rahway (650 from 516), Roselle (526 from 497), Dayton (326 from 232).

Area schools that dropped in enrollment include Elizabeth (3184 to 3046), Governor Livingston (570 to 559), Hillsdale (614 to 582), Johnson (379 to 491), Summit (508 to 506) and Brearley (231 to 211). Roselle Park stayed the same at 403.



The Springfield Chicks successfully completed their first season of competition in the highly talented and competitive Parkway Invitational League. Front row, from left, are Samantha Pellet, Dana Rutkowski, Miri Rosen, manager Howard Tiss and coach John Weiss. Middle row, from left, are Stephanie Weiss, Katie Wagner, Jamie Falkin, Christina Florio and Linda Agostinelli. Back row, from left, are Alexis Frank, Rachel Tiss, Justine Grady, Jamie Yospin and coach Joe Rutkowski.

Squad is successful in first year of competition

Softball team full of talented players

The Springfield Chicks successfully completed their first season of competition in the highly talented and competitive Parkway Invitational League.

Players included Samantha Pellet, Dana Rutkowski, Miri Rosen, Stephanie Weiss, Katie Wagner, Jamie Falkin, Christina Florio, Linda Agostinelli, Alexis Frank, Rachel Tiss, Justine Grady and Jamie Yospin.

The team was coached by manager Howard Tiss and coaches Jason Weiss and Joe Rutkowski.

Pellet is a speedy leftfielder, and Rutkowski is a hard-throwing right-handed pitcher, who paced the team in victories.

Rosie played right field and was a designated hitter and was the team's most improved player.

Weiss was a great leadoff batter and played exceptionally well defensively at second base.

Wagner did an excellent job on the mound as the hard-throwing pitcher displayed a great changeup.

Falkin was a much-improved rightfielder, who had the best attitude on the team.

Florio was a great utility player for the squad and came up to the plate and delivered many clutch hits.

Agostinelli's play behind the plate was brilliant as she was considered to be among the top catchers in the league.

Frank earned All-Star status for her outstanding play at first base and paced the team in home runs.

Tiss was an All-Star as well as she was one of the top fielding shortstops in the league. Tiss could also swing the stick as evidenced by her leading the team in batting average.

Grady was the team's sure-handed third baseman and Yospin did not commit an error the entire season in center field.

The team, which will have tryouts next May or June for the 2000 season, was sponsored by Springfield Drug & Alliance and Dr. Ronald B. Rozan.

This is how you kick the ball



Adam Savage of the Skyhawks tries to guide Caldwell School student Peter Sandler, 9, on how to kick the ball properly as campers look on during last week's Mini-Hawk Sports Camp held for youngsters at Chisholm Park in Springfield.

Springfield hockey team scores

Dayton High School senior Todd Walters scored his first hat-trick for Springfield to lead the Bulldogs to a 12-4 win over Mount Olive last Saturday.

Springfield improved to 4-3 with the triumph.

With a season-ending victory over the Bridgewater-Raritan Panthers this Sunday, Springfield would finish the Year High School Challenge Cup season with a 5-3 mark, good enough for a second-place showing.

Springfield is scheduled to face Bridgewater-Raritan this Sunday at 4:15 p.m. at the Bridgewater Sports Arena.

The Bulldogs fell behind early as Mount Olive opened up a 3-1 lead at the first period on two goals by Rich Gillman and one by Vinny Roselli.

As soon as 35 seconds into the second period, Walters flipped in a rebound past the Mount Olive goalie to pull Springfield to within one at 3-2. Senior Jared Cohen and freshman Eric Dauer earned assists on the goal.

After falling behind 4-2, Walters came right back to score again with 42.2 remaining in the period. Walters slipped a backhand shot into the net after receiving an excellent pass from freshman Brett Berger.

The score warred 4-4 with just 32 seconds remaining in the second as Brearley senior defenseman Gerardo Roman of Kentwood skated in from the Mount Olive goalhead and fired a shot from behind the net which hit the goalie and rebounded out to Berger, who was posted to the right of the

Berger fired the puck in to give Springfield the lead for good at 5-4 heading into the third and final period.

Springfield proceeded to score the next seven goals to pull away with an eight-goal win. Cohen scored twice, Jonathan Kovacs once and Walter scored his third goal of the game on a breakaway to give him his hat-trick.

Although Mount Olive outshot Springfield by a 29-28 margin, Springfield scored 11 of the game's final 12 goals.

Dayton freshman AJ Garuccio played extremely well in the net as Springfield's goaltender for the first half of the contest.

Senior Brian "Pudge" Hollander also played well in goal for the Bulldogs. The goaltender shut down Mount Olive by not allowing a goal for the final 22:50 of the contest.

Roman collected three assists and Berger had two assists to add to his team-leading total of eight.

Cohen totaled four points, with two goals and two assists, and continued to lead the team in both goals and point totals.

Springfield avenged its brawled 11-9 loss to Mount Olive four weeks ago with the lopsided 12-4 victory.

The leading scorers for Dayton heading into Sunday's season-finale are: Jared Cohen (12 goals, six assists for 18 points), Brett Berger (3-8-13), Gerardo Roman (6-5-11), Jonathan Kovacs (6-3-9).

Swim team gears for stellar season

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County's Tidal Wave Swim Team is gearing up for an outstanding 1999-2000 season.

Russell Triolo, Chief Executive Officer states, "We are all anticipating a very exciting and educational experience for the children."

"This year, we look to make our team unique in the sense that we will provide a number of activities incorporated within the swim team which will provide an opportunity for the children to experience programs which promote leadership, team building, character development and a sense of making a positive difference in the community."

"All members of the swim team ages 10-18 will participate in Torch and Keystone Club which promote leadership, citizenship and teamwork. They will also participate in 'Smart Moves,' The Boys and Girls Clubs of America's nationally recognized primary prevention program, concentrating in the areas of drug, alcohol and early teen pregnancy prevention."

Triolo continued, "It is our goal to provide the children with a well-rounded Boys and Girls Club experience, one that they will remember far into adulthood. What is important to me is that today's child who enters our doors, when they become an adult, not only remember the specific times that they swam, but more importantly attribute their success in life and the workplace to lessons learned at the Boys and Girls Club."

Why this changing philosophy?

For more than a century, the youth development mission of the Boys & Girls Club movement has enabled millions of young people to choose a positive path. Its unique philosophy and method of working with youth has evolved during this time, based on the experiences of thousands of dedicated professionals.

After more than two years of in-depth dialog, reflection and hard work by club professionals and volunteers around the country, the Boys & Girls Club's youth development philosophy has been revitalized to reflect recent innovations and today's realities.

This new approach honors and builds on the traditions of the past and lays the foundation for achieving our mission in the next millennium. As a result of this work, the Club has developed a statement of core beliefs for Boys & Girls Clubs, which says a Boys & Girls Club provides a safe place to learn and develop, ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals, life enhancing programs and character development experiences, hope and opportunity.

Also, now clearly defined youth development outcomes that complement the Club's existing youth development strategy have been established. They include positive self-identity, educational competence, employment competence, social competence and cultural competence, community and civic involvement, health and well-being, technology competence and a moral compass.

Along with Boys & Girls Clubs around the country, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County has adopted the following new core program areas: character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts and sports fitness and recreation.

Anchoring this new approach is the movement's long-standing Youth Development Strategy, which states that Club programs and services promote and enhance the development of boys and girls by instilling a sense of competence, a sense of usefulness, a sense of belonging and a sense of power or influence.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County is truly the positive place for kids. The Club is there every day to provide quality youth development services and programs to the youth that desperately need our services in order to make a smooth transition from school to career.

The job of the Boys and Girls Club is to prepare children for the road ahead, to assist the school system in preparing children to be employable in both physical and "virtual" space.

The Boys and Girls Club provides services that significantly enhance children's lives and enable youth to develop skills to become employable, to build knowledge to engage in positive behaviors and safe health practices and to become responsible citizens.

The Club's primary focus is to provide programs and services to the youth of Union County. The Club sets out to meet the needs of these youth by providing programs, which can demonstrate significant positive and lasting outcomes.

The Club is committed to the long-term development of every child who comes through our doors by providing guidance and support.

Every child will experience a series of rich relationships with adults and peers. The Club provides programs that are meaningful and delivered at "world-class" standards.

More information about joining the Tidal Wave Swim Team or other club programs may be obtained by calling 908-687-2697 (Union) or 908-351-3344 (Elizabeth).

Softball playoffs heat up

The following are Union County Senior Softball League playoff results:

AGE 50-PLUS DIVISION

Antone's Pub & Grill 17, Cheetoes 16: Gary Wiese had three hits including the game-winner in the bottom of the seventh with one out.

Bob Nardelli and Rich Hyer had three hits, Al Daddio and Gerry Faruolo had two and Bob Matten homered to send Antone's to the semifinal round against Comcast Cablevision.

Tom McNulty had four hits, while Gerry Halfpenny, Howard Smith and Leroy Rebek had three for Cheetoes. Rehak belted a triple and double.

Chip Weis, Ralph Eisenberger, Howard Jones, Art Wesley and Leo Fernandes had two hits each for Cheetoes.

Comcast Cablevision 22, Legg Mason 11: Ron Torrisello had three hits and three RBI, while Fred DiMartino, Charles Rasmussen and Wayne Ronklewicz had two hits each for Comcast Cablevision. Bill Reiche, Matt Spanier, Norm Stumpf and Ron Virgilio had two hits each to help send Comcast Cablevision to the semifinals.

Henry Barnes blasted a home run and Dan Cox belted a triple for Legg Mason.

Bottoms Up 23, Union Center National Bank 13: Jim D'Arcy and Carl Greenman blasted home runs. Bill Hamilton banged out four hits and Jerry Arkus had three hits for Union Center National Bank.

Antone's Pub & Grill 7, Comcast Cablevision 6 (semifinal): Rich Hyer belted out three hits and Gary Wiese had two. Bob Matten belted a key triple in the seventh inning. Defensively, Antone's made some nice plays, including a sixth-inning, kill-ring killing play that included the efforts of pitcher Al Daddio, third baseman Bob Nardelli and second baseman Jerry Faruolo.

Nilsen Detective Agency 16, Bottoms Up 4 (semifinal): Jerry Barrett belted two home runs and Bruce Biliotti and Ron Cerina each for Nilsen Detective Agency.

Butch Ernst, Brian McDermott and Mike Volpe had multiple-hits games, while winning pitcher Lenny Vennish captured his 19th victory of the season.

The best-of-3 final-round series between Antone's Pub & Grill and Nilsen Detective Agency was scheduled to be played last week (Aug. 17, 19 and 20) at Kawanshi Field in Union.

AGE 60-PLUS DIVISION

L.A. Law 12, Marion Rooting 5 (semifinal): Jake Wood belted three hits, including a three-run homer, for L.A. Law. Teammate Don Auer also belted out three hits, one of them a home run.

Fred Ziitzer, John Scanlon, Bob Oxner and Rich Ryan had two hits each to help advance L.A. Law to the final round against Pioneer Transport.

Pioneer Transport 13, Mangels' Realtors 2 (semifinal): Bill Reiche had two hits and made a fine defensive play to spark Pioneer Transport. Teammates Don Robertson, Jim Steiner, Charlie Brown, George Merlo, Ed Mallo and Joe Mauro had two hits each as Pioneer advanced to the best-of-3 finals against L.A. Law.

Pioneer Transport 11, L.A. Law 2 (Game One): Bill Reiche belted three hits, one of them a home run, as Pioneer Transport took Game One. The best-of-3 final-round series.

Winning pitcher Dom Deo buried a six-hitter.

Bob Oxner, Lou Vespaiano and Ron Cerina had two hits each for L.A. Law.

