

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield, Mountainside and Summit

SPRINGFIELD, N.J., VOL. 69 NO. 49

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1998

TWO SECTION

THIS WEEK

NEWS

Forgiven?

The Union County Utilities Authority could be forgiven its \$11.9 million loan of Gov. Christine Whitman signs and voters approve bill that would allow the state to pay the money. See Page B1

Fugitives wanted

Rep. Bob Franks, using the Union police headquarters as a forum, is asking Fidel Castro to return all American fugitives hiding in Cuba, especially Joanne Chesnard, Giv. Christine Whitman joined him for the conference. See Page B1

Taxes due

Quarterly taxes are due Aug. 10 in the municipality's Tax Collector's office.

THE ARTS

Awards show

The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit will host the Malta Biennale awards show. See Page B4



Fine feathered friends



Photo by Miles Miller
Joe Gaydos of Mountainside spends a lazy summer afternoon feeding the waterfowl at Echo Lake Park.

Pedersen talks appeal in dismissal decision

By Walter Elliott

Staff Writer

John Young Jr., attorney for Springfield's former Police Capt. Vernon Pedersen, said his client intends to appeal his dismissal by the Springfield Township Committee.

Young said the committee ignored the recommendation of independent hearing officer Robert Czech. "I don't see why they wasted everybody's time if their intention was to fire Pedersen," Young stated. Czech, after presiding over Pedersen's disciplinary hearing May 1, and 11 days later, submitted a five-page recommendation to the committee June 24. His recommendation did not include dismissal for the police captain, but the committee voted 3-1 to fire Pedersen on July 28.

"The Township Committee hired Czech to hear that matter," said Young in the *Star-Ledger*. "That day, I apparently they aren't happy with the recommendation. They were not looking to accept it, which angers me."

Czech, in his report, found Pedersen guilty of four infractions of Police rules and recommendations. The violations included showing preference and for using profanity while on duty. He recommended Pedersen be placed on unpaid leave for 90 working days.

"They should have fired Pedersen in April," said Young, and not waste the expense of a hearing officer the last three months." Czech was hired by the Township Committee to conduct separate disciplinary hearings against Pedersen and Lt. Ivan Sharpen, the other officer involved in the case. While Pedersen chose to have his hearing behind closed doors, Sharpen requested a public hearing.

Pedersen is charged with conduct unbecoming an officer, among other factors, after an internal investigation. Police Chief William Chisholm Chisholm recommended a penalty of dismissal if Pedersen was found guilty.

Sharpen faced five disciplinary counts, including making an unauthorized recording, duping a police activity to a third party and unbecoming conduct. Chisholm recommended a demotion of two ranks to plainman after serving a 90-day unpaid suspension. Both hearings resulted from a tele-

phone conversation between Pedersen and Sharpen on March 10. Pedersen, believing Sharpen had hung up at the end of the conversation, made an Sémantic slurs against Sharpen. Sharpen then had the call recorded and did not tell Chisholm.

Controversy ensued when the tape and a lawsuit filed against the township by Sharpen became public in early April. Some groups called for Pedersen's dismissal, while others called for due process. The Township Committee announced that Pedersen was placed on unpaid unpaid leave near a public school in Vauxhall.

"We have employee concerns and we're addressing them," said Daniel Chalian of Chalian Equipment Company Inc. Chalian's office is directly across the street from where the shop is expected to prevent the relocation.

They encouraging protests objecting to the relocation were posted anonymously throughout the area.

Progress Street business owners worry that clinic and illegal activity that goes on outside the clinic's current location will create an unsafe environment for them. Union Township Police have made numerous drug arrests in the clinic area, which is also near a public school in Vauxhall.

"We have employee concerns and we're addressing them," said Daniel Chalian of Chalian Equipment Company Inc. Chalian's office is directly across the street from where the shop is expected to prevent the relocation.

And while acknowledging the well-documented problems Vauxhall residents face daily, the Springfield resolution contends that the negative impact previously experienced in Union will not be eliminated but will only be transferred to the residents of Springfield.

But the discussions could become moot if a measure sponsored jointly by Assemblymen Joel Weintraub and Kevin J. O'Toole becomes law. When the Union Zoning Board of Adjustment meets to decide whether to grant the clinic a-use variance, Mullman said Springfield will likely send a representative to address the concerns which the resolution outlines.

But the discussions could become moot if a measure sponsored jointly by Assemblymen Joel Weintraub and Kevin J. O'Toole becomes law. The measure, which lawmakers are scheduled to vote on sometime later this year, would create tough zoning restrictions to prevent a narcotic or drug treatment clinic from getting a license from the state department of health. Each year, clinics must get a license to operate.

According to the measure's language, a clinic operator can get a license if he or she "certifies that there

Schools scramble for food services

By Mark Goldwater

Staff Writer

The Ja-Ce Co. of Bound Brook has closed its division serving 38 school districts, including Summit and Springfield, to find new food service providers by September. Executives from the 41-year-old family-run company have given no reason for the sudden closing. With Ja-Ce's doors closed forever, school officials and parents alike are left to find other ways to feed children during school in September.

"We're hopeful that we've caught the [time] to find a new food service provider," said Summit Business Manager Harold Kessler. He does not expect that the Summit Board of Education has faced any difficulties in finding a new food service contract for the beginning of the school year in September.

Kessler reported that the board of education has reached an agreement with Chartwells Inc., a division of the Compass Group. Chartwells provides food service for a number of school systems and colleges in the New Jersey area. "I think they'll do a good job," commented Kessler.

According to Kessler, Chartwells will offer employment to the staff currently under the employ of the Summit school system. "We've had several meetings with Chartwells, and Chartwells is going to hire our personnel to remain on board."

What about the sudden decision by the Ja-Ce Co. to

long-time food service provider for Summit schools to shut its doors? "I talked to the owner because I was concerned," explained Kessler. "I thought it might have been a health issue or something financial. But it seems it was some kind of personal decision on the owner's part."

The closing of the Ja-Ce Co. also left the Springfield public schools without a food service, but Board of Education President Robert Fisher said the district was prepared to handle the situation. "We've been in discussion with several different vendors," explained Fisher. "A board committee was set up to handle the process and will present their recommendation to the board on Aug. 17. At that time the board will either vote on approving the chosen vendor or send the issue back to committee."

School Business Administrator and Board Secretary Eliza Ball explained that even though Springfield would normally explore their options in the food service industry every three years, the district had begun looking for a formal proposal since May. "Explained Ball. "We wanted some new ideas."

On July 13, Springfield appointed a major school lunch service to handle the elementary and middle schools. Whiter food service the Springfield Board of Education approved on August 17 will manage lunches at Jonathan Dayton High School.

Committee focuses on affordable housing

By Walter Elliott

Staff Writer

The Springfield Township Committee approved a small but potentially important technical changes to its affordable housing zones July 22.

"What the Township Committee is about to rule on," said Township Attorney Bruce Berger, "is to make some refinements to our proposed zoning master plan. They will bring the affordable housing zones more in line with the thinking of Superior Court Judge John T. Pisarsky."

Berger said that Springfield faces a low and moderate income obligation from Superior Court of 150 units. To meet the obligation, the township has proposed overzoning affordable housing zones on specified areas. Two of those areas include the Springfield Valley on Mountain Avenue and Big Rock Stone along Route 22 West. Ramsey and the court agreed

Springfield's affordable housing plan

was during 1995 legal dispute over the former Houghdale Quarry by developer Jerry Pecar. The judge with the advice of plan master George Raymond, is to accept or reject the overzoning parts of the town's master zoning plan."

About five of Springfield's 11 acres have been subdivided for the Edge at Springfield's estates. The first of 12 houses is under construction — something which was not lost on the committee meeting audience.

About 20 percent of any zoning development has to be allocated for low and moderate income housing, said Berger. "The Edge paid Springfield field money under a Regional Commuter Agreement. Springfield then sent the money to the City of Linden who will build a few of our allotted units on their land."

An RCA allows a town to bind them to their long-term obligations until another town is bound for a place. "That has to be paid by a developer who would

be responsible for the property."

We're asking

How do you cope with the summer heat?



Fred Berman



William Leake



Lisa Wieczerek



Kyle Schmidt

"I go to work in an air-conditioned office from an air-conditioned car. I may shop in an air-conditioned store or buy a movie ticket."

"I drink water and try to stay indoors."

"I try to stay indoors and keep the air conditioning on."

"I'm on a beverage and snack machine delivery run. I try to drink a lot of water."

Postage stamp will promote organ donation

The New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network of Springfield and the Newark Post Office unveiled the first Organ and Tissue Donation postage stamp in a local dedication ceremony yesterday in the post office main lobby at 2 Federal Square in Newark.

Joseph S. Roth, executive director of the Sharing Network, and Thomas Utzinger, Newark postmaster, spoke about the significance of the stamp in promoting awareness about organ donation.

"We are very thankful that the U.S. Postal Service has supported the

transplant community by creating an organ donation stamp," said Roth. "The stamp will be a wonderful catalyst for getting people to discuss organ and tissue donation."

The postage stamp, which was released today, features a modern illustration of a donor and recipient embracing with the caption "Organ and Tissue Donation: Share Your Life." The official national ceremony for the stamp was held yesterday in Columbus, Ohio, in conjunction with the National Transplant Games, an Olympic Style athletic

event for the donor and transplant community.

Prior to the unveiling of the stamp, Newark Deputy Mayor Dolores Metz read a special proclamation for the stamp as organ transplant recipients and donor family members looked in. Transplant Center representatives from local hospitals also voiced their appreciation of the stamp.

Yesterday's event at the Newark Post Office was the final focus of a larger awareness campaign involving the Postal Service in New Jersey. Sharing Network volunteers from various parts of the state were also at

their local post office branches handing out information. In addition, informational brochures for the New Jersey Organ Donor Registry were distributed to each post office in New Jersey for display on their counters.

Currently, there are more than 60,000 people nationwide waiting for life-saving transplants, including 1,500 New Jersey residents.

The Sharing Network is a non-profit, federally certified and state approved procurement organization responsible for recovering organs and tissue for New Jersey residents.

These are funds well spent, for flood control is a true public safety issue for Millburn, Springfield and Union, Weingarten concluded.

"We must ensure that our residents are able to live in their homes without the threat of being flooded out," said O'Toole. "This initiative will bring us one step closer to the day when all Rahway River residents can live without fear of flood," concluded O'Toole.

Upon completion of this effort — in conjunction with bridge replacement and embankment efforts previously initiated by Weingarten and O'Toole to residents of Millburn, Springfield and Union — should experience a significant improvement in river flow, with no adverse effect upon downstream residents

Weingarten and O'Toole announce start of river desilting

Assemblymen Joel M. Weingarten and Kevin O'Toole announced that they were able to command the State Department of Transportation to commence a desilting and culvert restoration project at Route 28 in Springfield Township. This initiative, which will use approximately \$500,000 of the Department's budget, will remove years of accumulated silt at the Route 28 bridges. The accumulation of silt and other debris have prevented the steady flow in river water for over 25 years.

"We are pleased that we were able to prevail upon the Department to undertake this most important flood remediation initiative," said Weingarten. "\$500,000 is a significant amount to spend on desilting efforts but given the years of silt and debris built up and the magnitude of the flood threat, we believe

it is well worth the investment."

Weingarten and O'Toole have

been working closely with the

Department of Transportation

and the Millburn, Springfield and

Union townships to develop a

comprehensive plan to address

the flooding problem along the

Rahway River. The project will

begin this fall and will be com-

pleted by the end of next year.

"We are grateful to the State

for its support of this ini-

tiative," said O'Toole. "We

are looking forward to a

safely improved river for all

residents in the area."

For further information, contact

Weingarten's office at 201-232-1000.

O'Toole's office at 201-232-1000.

Both offices are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Assemblyman Weingarten is a

member of the Assembly Com-

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Assemblyman O'Toole is a

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Both Assemblymen Weingarten

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RELIGION

OBITUARIES

Richard L. Hopkins

Richard Lewis Hopkins, 87, of Summit, who led a team of allied intelligence officers on a mission to gather documents from Adolf Hitler's bunker during World War II, died July 26 in Newark Hospital.

Mr. Hopkins was a resident of Summit for more than half a century. He graduated from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Before the war, Mr. Hopkins was employed by the U.S. Army Signal Corps and the Pacific Weather Forecasting Service. Upon his retirement after 30 years, he moved to Vero Beach, Fla., where he remained until his death.

In 1946, Mr. Hopkins founded Paulson & Hopkins, a New York City-based educational toy company. Children learned chemistry from these toys. He sold the company four years later.

Surviving are six daughters, Wilma McKenna, Joan Howard, Susan Woodruff, Catherine Cesten, Barbara Gludette and Deborah Korravas; brother, Julian Herbert Hopkins; 12 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Gerald Kane

Gerald Kane, 63, of Springfield, died July 29 in St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston.

It was reported that death came due to heart disease at the Pentecostal church.

Mr. Kane brought back

enough papers to fill a walk-in closet. The paperwork included the diary of one of Hitler's confidants, describing Hitler's final hours and his last complete with his signature. Some of the documents were used as evidence in the Nuremberg war crimes trials. He ended his active service as a colonel in September 1946 and served as a reserve officer for 20 years.

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Born in Newark, Mr. Kane lived in Springfield for 25 years. He was the founder and president of East Coast Truck Parts and Sales in Newark for the last 45 years. Mr. Kane was a member of the International Truck Parts Association in Washington, D.C., the Men's Club of Temple Beth Ahim in Springfield and the Knights of Pythias' Rose Lodge in Elizabeth.

Surviving are his wife, Susan; a daughter, Ellen Soppe; two sons, Michael and Alan; two sisters, Dorothy Lavender and Betty Thielin; and four grandchildren.

Frances S. Sokol

Frances S. Sokol, 75, of Mountainside died July 27 in the Center for Hope-Hospice, Elizabeth.

Born in Brooklyn, Mrs. Sokol moved to Mountainside in 1956. She was a reservation clerk for Amtrak Corp. for more than 35 years before retiring in 1983. Mrs. Sokol was a member of the Cause for Padre Pio.

Surviving is a son, Ron.

Temple installs new officers



On June 26, 1998 Temple Beth Ahim of Springfield held the installation of incoming officers and trustees of Temple Men's Club and Women's League. From left: Paul Schachman, continuing president of Men's Club; Paul Peiser, the new president of Temple Beth Ahim; and Patricia Adams, continuing president of Women's League.

Cohen urges boycott of Swiss products

Calling for a boycott of Swiss products and services, Assembly Deputy Minority Leader Neil M. Cohen recently said the time clearly has come to take off the gloves and deliver an economic blow to the businesses, banks and government leaders in Switzerland.

Cohen was the first state lawmaker nationwide to introduce legislation that would require a state government to sever all financial and commercial ties with the Swiss government and Switzerland's banking business communities. His legislation has been duplicated in other states, saving competing, weakened versions of his original bill had significant progress through Legislature.

Cohen's measure would require the state to divest any assets currently held in Swiss banks, stocks or securities, and disallow New Jersey from purchasing goods and services from companies owned in whole or in part by Swiss entities. It also would prohibit New Jersey from investing pension or annuity funds in banks, stocks or securities of any company conducting business in or with the Swiss Corporation.

The Cohen/Singer measure has been sent to lawmakers in 49 other states as part of a national crusade to put pressure on the Swiss. Cohen said he and other government officials would continue to apply pressure.

The crusade to secure compensation for Holocaust victims and their heirs has been mounted by the World Jewish Congress and its political allies in New York and Washington. At issue is an estimated \$7 billion in assets that Nazi Jews placed in Swiss bank accounts before and during World War II.

The assets also contain money and gold that Nazis had seized from Jewish detainees and then placed into Swiss banks.

Cohen said the unredressed status of the Jewish assets, as well as the reluctance of Swiss banks to settle outstanding claims by Holocaust victims and their heirs, has caused an international furor. He said the controversy has brought light-abundant evidence that Switzerland had considerable wartime dealings with Nazi Germany.

The tide of negotiations is over, said Cohen. But now, "the moment for boycotts and sanctions has arrived: Stop buying Nestle's chocolate, Stop buying Radio Watch, Stop buying whatever madly safe stop buying products produced by Swiss pharmaceutical firms, Emplore people to tell Swiss businesses and banks in the rockerbox to their hearts and minds will follow."

Cohen said New Jersey should get into it. Through financial ties to Switzerland, it's now clear a commission representing 800 U.S. finance officials has lifted its moratorium on government-imposed sanctions against

Swiss banks. The commission recently demanded its members ban in full a series of woefully inadequate settlement offers by Swiss banks.

The special commission, which was formed by New York City comptroller Alan Hevesi and the World Jewish Congress, had sought to negotiate settlement of the Swiss assets taken from Jewish families and placed in Swiss banks. Despite ample evidence supporting the claims of Holocaust survivors and their heirs, the negotiations with Swiss banks have reached what Hevesi describes as a "total stone wall impasse."

It now, dear that Switzerland's government officials, bankers and business are deaf to the voice of reason and blind to their country's past, said Cohen, who urged New Jersey businesses and residents -- particularly its Jewish community -- to boycott all Swiss products.

Cohen said he held back on pushing his legislation because he wanted to abide by the spirit of the moratorium that had been agreed to by the coalition of 800 U.S. financial officials and business representatives.

Cohen announced that he will now dedicate himself to the mission of securing passage of his legislation. A.D.A. Hevesi said the measure enjoys bipartisan support, with Republican Senator Robert Singer, cosponsoring the Senate companion version.

"We proudly threatened a boycott and diversion as a legislative sword of Damocles" to ensure the Swiss fulfill their financial commitments to Holocaust victims and their families," Cohen said. "Now the time has come to let the sword fall upon us, larger. The Swiss must be shown that they can't escape accountability for the role their country played in the harboring of Nazis during World War II."

For nearly a decade, the Swiss banks engaged in an unscrupulous policy of disclosure and secrecy about the whereabouts of Nazis' era assets, said Cohen. "The world never heard anything but denials until mounting pressure was placed upon the Swiss financial community over the past two years. Now the Swiss banks and the Swiss government must be given a message that justice must be served or they will suffer the consequences."

Obituary policy

Obituary notices submitted by local funeral homes or families must be in writing. This newspaper cannot accept obituaries by telephone. Obituary notices must be typed and include a telephone number where writer may be reached 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For additional information, call 860-7200.

Indian church executive to speak at local church

Rev. Florida Sangama, general secretary of the Co-operative Baptist Church of the North East India Association, will speak at the interdenominational Service of Christ Church at 10 a.m. on Sunday. The church is located at 160 Summit Ave.

Rev. Sangama represents the CBCI, an ecumenical, national and international Christian organization as well as the state and central government. In addition to ecumenical, educational and spiritual works, Sangama spearheads various projects primarily designed to assist the poor, disadvantaged and minority groups.

Rev. Sangama and his wife, Lila, a school teacher, have five daughters.

For information, call 201-736-3538.

Temple hosts rummage sale

The Springfield Jewish Synagogue of Springfield will conduct a rummage sale on Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Temple, 100 Main Street, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is \$2 per person. Shirts, pants, hats, towels, linens, towels, etc. will be sold.

For information, call 201-736-3538.

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New York Times

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Interior - Exterior

Residential - Commercial

Painting - Drywall - Vinyl Siding

Interior - Exterior

Residential - Commercial

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Interior - Exterior

Residential - Commercial

Painting - Drywall - Vinyl Siding

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2 TWIN SETS NO CHARGE!
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Extra Large Capacity
GAS DRYER
\$297
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REFRIGERATOR**
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Social service provider sponsors conference

More than 150 individuals from public and private human services housing and juvenile justice agencies came together at a conference on July 25 to share ideas on how to meet the pressing needs of older adolescents in New Jersey.

The conference was part of a continuing series of institutes sponsored by Community Access Unlimited Inc., a non-profit social service provider CAU seeks to help children, adolescent and vulnerable adults achieve self-esteem, self-determination and self-sufficiency in their lives.

Two groups of eight panelists offered their views on what's currently being done and what remains to be done to enable older teenagers without a family support system to make a successful transition to adulthood and independent living.

The panelists included Judge Thomas P. Zampino, presiding judge, Essex County Family Court; Ann McConville, executive director, Translational Adulthood Task Force NJ Children's Coordinating Committee; Paul Bonelli, executive director, NJ Juvenile Justice Commission; Diane J. Johnson, State Coordinator, New Jersey Office of Urban Development, US Department of Housing and Urban Development; and Isala Renee Walker, an active participant in an independent living program.

The remaining panelists represented the NJ Division of Mental Health Services, NJ Division of Development Disabilities, Division of Youth and Family Services, the Statewide Council of Independent Living Services, the NJ Association of Children's Residential Facilities, the Devore Teaching Family Program, the Union County Youth Initiative Program, and the Union County Department of Human Services.

Each panelist responded to recommendations on the topic of "Transitions to Adulthood/Independent Living" made by the Services Subcom-

mittee of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Child Protection Services. The blue ribbon panel, in a report issued in February 1998, made numerous recommendations aimed at strengthening New Jersey's capacity to protect children from harm. Its Services Subcommittee offered eight recommendations regarding older adolescents:

In an opening analysis on this subject, the subcommittee noted: "Few children are able to live independently at the age of 18 without the financial, emotional and medical support that is provided by a family structure. Research shows that children who have grown up in foster care or residential settings are especially vulnerable to a life of further dependence on government systems and a significant proportion of these youngsters comprise the homeless population."

The panelists addressed those subcommittee recommendations related to their areas of work and expertise and offered additional comments as well. In a concluding wrap-up session, participants and panelists engaged in an open dialogue about what needs to be accomplished in the future.

Among the issues identified in the discussion were the following:

• A more comprehensive communication network between provider agencies and funding sources to adequately support children with multiple needs.

• An increase in early intervention that meets the emotional and social needs of these children.

• Role models are greatly needed to influence the future of a child in need.

Sidney Blackard, executive director of CAU, hailed the half-day conference as "a significant forum for focusing increased public attention to the overwhelming needs of older adolescents who lack a family structure." Blackard said the conference ini-

tially planned to accommodate up to 80 participants had to be expanded due to the huge demand.

"The outpouring of concern and interest by all segments of the service community that interact with older adolescents demonstrates the importance they place on devising a more coordinated, responsive and supportive transition to adulthood in New Jersey," Blackard added. "It is obvious that this issue deserves a greater amount of attention from public policy makers if we are to provide older teenagers with the assistance and support needed to live independent and productive lives as young adults."

Children's hospital provides needed care

Children's Specialized Hospital treats children and adolescents from birth to 21 years and is New Jersey's only hospital dedicated exclusively to pediatric rehabilitation.

Founded in 1891, the hospital provides a continuum of care for children and families faced with chronic illness, traumatic injury, and disabilities. Children's Hospital provides inpatient rehabilitation medical and therapy services on an outpatient basis, day hospital, as well as early intervention and physical and cognitive rehabilitation. Specialized services include physical, occupational, speech and recreation therapy, rehabilitation technology, bionic injury, respiratory, ventilator dependent and spinal cord dysfunction programs, and psychological and neuropsychological evaluation and counseling.

Children's Specialized Hospital provides services at five locations: the hospital's 55-bed hospital facility in Mountainside; CSII-Lancaster, the 30-bed CSH in Toms River; and pediatric practices in Newark and Union.

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State officials visit county



Photo By Jeff Crail

Congressman Bob Franks, Republican for the Seventh District, and Governor Christine Whitman look on during a speech by Carl A. Williams, superintendent of the New Jersey State Police, during a visit to the county on Saturday. See Page B1.

Women's club announces new officers

The NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs in Moundside is proud to announce the installation of newly elected officers.

The new officers for the 1998-99 year are President, Pal

Kinsel; First Vice President, Cynthia West; Second Vice President, Sue Clement; Recording Secretary, Linda Esmplaire; Corresponding Secretary, Georgeette Bengue; Treasurer, Kathleen Capodanno; Trustees, Violet Rogers and Joan Shomo.

The Mountainside Women's Club is in its 41st year. The

Club's objective is to bring together women from the area for educational and charitable purposes. The club is made up of Executive Officers as well as three departments, creative arts, performing arts and crafts, and 21 committees. At present the club has 104 members and welcomes new members from the community and the surrounding area.

The club meets the third Wednesday of the month at L'Affaire in Mountainside. For more information on membership, call Nancy Spadaccini at (908) 654-7359.

Area officials work to clean up litter

What began as a simple request to clean up litter has turned into a very effective and successful program throughout the county this summer by all 21 Union County municipalities.

Freeholder Linda Stender, frustrated by litter seen in many areas of the county, created a solution. "I knew something had to be done to clean up the roadways and public areas of the county," Freeholder Stender said.

That "something" was the creation of the operation: Clean and Green Program. Started in June and running through the summer months, the program combats litter in Union County's 21 municipalities and is making a world of difference to residents and visitors alike.

Union County Freeholder Tom Rausch and Westfield Mayor Tom Marinello participated in the program this week in their home towns.

"Litter impacts every part of a community site including quality of life, property values and even the safety of the downtown shopping areas," Stender said. "We encourage residents and visitors to have a clean urban place to live and work."

The county uses Clean and Green in targeted locations including parks, county roads, areas designated by local officials, and county gateways roads that lead into downtown and suburban areas. Officials in each municipality helped identify areas to be cleaned up by the labor crews. The crews consist of supervised inmate crews working on the gateway roads, public works youth crews cleaning up county roads, building services crews responding to requests from municipal officials, and a crew of 15 seasonal workers who target county parks.

Jordan said he is pleased with the

impact the program has had in Westfield and emphasizes the importance of shared services in the county. "This Clean and Green Program will help make Westfield a cleaner better place to live and work," the mayor said.

Retofolo said she is pleased that in addition to the county becoming a cleaner place to live, the program provides jobs for residents. "So far, more than 200 years of debris have been picked up, but there are still many areas that need to be targeted."

The club meets the third Wednesday of the month at L'Affaire in Mountainside. For more information on membership, call Nancy Spadaccini at (908) 654-7359.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

MOUNTAINSIDE

NEW ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township of MountainSide, located in the Township of Springfield, Union County, New Jersey, will award contracts for the construction of new roads in the Township of MountainSide.

The contracts will consist of granite rock, earth, asphalt, crushed stone, drainage, culverts, concrete, steel, rebar, aggregate, asphalt, and placement thereof; all in accordance with plans and specifications furnished by the engineer preparing the drawings.

The contracts will be awarded in the office of the Clerk of the Township of Springfield, located at the Office of the Clerk, 100 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey 07081.

The contracts will be awarded in the office of the Clerk of the Township of MountainSide, located at the Office of the Clerk, 100 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey 07081.

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Sports Editor J.R. Parachini
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SPORTS

LOCAL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

The Crescent Bating Cage A's of Union defeated Pine Turf of Middletown, N.Y., 7-6 last Sunday in the championship game of the American Softball Association men's fast-pitch Mid-Atlantic Regional held at Warrantee Park in Elizabeth.

The A's, who captured the ASA state championship on July 26 will now advance to the ASA nationals which will be held in College Station, Texas from Sept. 3-7.

The A's received a grand slam home run from third baseman Rick Binner in the sixth inning against Pine Turf. The A's scored five runs in the inning.

The A's have now won 19 championships in 22 years, with two state titles, seven playoff championships, and nine pennants.

High school baseball and softball players can earn college scholarships or pro contracts by demonstrating their skills in front of top scouts at an upcoming Metro Showcases.

"Many boys and girls dream all their lives of playing college ball, only to be stunned when they reach their senior year of high school and the offers never come," said Rich Santagata, director of the fifth annual event. The Metro Showcases gives talented players the exposure they need to reach the next level.

Here are the dates of the sporting events:

BASEBALL

Aug. 22 at St. John's University, in Queens, N.Y.

Aug. 23 at South Shore Babe Ruth Complex, in Staten Island, N.Y.

Aug. 29 at Salomon High School, in New Rochelle, N.Y.

SOFTBALL

Aug. 23 at the College of Staten Island, in New York.

High school sophomores, juniors and seniors interested in obtaining registration information should call toll-free 888-818-0242. Space is limited, and spots are being awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

"What many players and parents don't realize is that college coaches usually don't have the time and resources to attend high school games," Santagata said. "A player might be talented enough to play college ball, but coaches won't even know his or her name." The showcase gives players an opportunity to get more exposure in one day than all of their high school and summer league games combined.

Players who come to the showcase also have a chance to earn a roster spot on the prestigious Metro Stars, a traveling All-Star team featuring the top players from the event.

The Metro Stars will compete in three of the nation's most highly regarded tournaments for top college prospects — the Fall Classic in Virginia, the Sunshine Classic in Florida, and the Lehigh Valley Showcases in Pennsylvania.

Together, these events attracted over 230 college coaches and 68 major league scouts last year.

The New Jersey State Intercollegiate Athletic Association (NJISIAA) and the New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association (NJSCA) has announced the scheduling of a Men's and Women's Volleyball Coaches Clinic to be held Sunday, Aug. 30 at St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen.

The clinic will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with registration commencing at 8:30.

The clinic is designed to meet the needs of Varsity coaches, Assistant coaches and recreational coaches.

NJISIAA volleyball coach Dave Devere will be one of the clinic speakers.

Pre-registration fees range from \$25-\$35 and on-site from \$35-\$65 depending on NJSCA membership status.

More information about the Men's and Women's Volleyball Coaches Clinic may be obtained by calling the NJISAA office in Robbinsville at 609-259-2770.

The 1998 high school football season will kick off five weeks from tomorrow around the state on Friday, Sept. 4. Area teams will be involved in game-schreiber that weekend and then open their seasons the following weekend Sept. 18-19.

This is how to hold the bat



Photo by Barbara K. Aspinwall

SportSmarts Baseball director Paul Reddick instructs youngsters Jesse Winter of Mountaintop, Scott Kinney of Piscataway and Ryan O'Grady of Union on how to get a good grip on the bat at his camp held at Sandmeier School in Springfield last month.

Summit American Legion has one of best seasons

Baseball team thrived despite many injuries

By Andrew McGann
 Assistant Sports Editor

After recording one of its best-ever seasons in recent years, the Summit Senior American Legion baseball team's 1998 campaign came to an unfortunate end in the State Quarterfinals over the weekend because of what Sumner deemed some questionable officiating combined with a lack of production from its bats.

Sumner, 16-6 in games played from June 8 to July 18, played a tough game against Riverdale in the opening round of the double-elimination state tournament but was eventually edged by the home team 10-9 in the ninth inning.

That, combined with the loss of

starters centerfielder and leadoff man Fred Luberto, who suffered a broken wrist on a freak play at first base in mid-season, might have been enough to convince Sumner to pack it in, but the team chose to do the exact opposite, using its diversity as a main asset.

"This was the furthest a Sumner team has gone in quite a while and, considering all the injuries we had, I think we did very well for ourselves," Fenka said.

Following a third-place finish in the 17-and-under regular season play, Sumner reached the states by advancing out of the round play-offs between Westfield, Englewood Park and Berkeley Heights, the four finalists in each-needed teams respectively, that qualified for the post-season.

After bursting on to the scene as a first-year varsity player his past year as a senior, Duane Fantes made an even greater strike this summer for the Legion squad. Dantes led the team in hitting average (.482), had .351 runs scored (20) and stolen bases (32). He also knocked in 12 runs on his team.

Sumner was joined from the states in its next game, after a heart-breaking fashion, losing to Sparta 6-1 in 11 innings despite a brilliant pitching performance by Jeff Ace (1-0).

Sumner's woes continued from the states, Fenka was proud of all his team accomplished this season, especially considering the things he saw.

Joining Dantes among the team leaders was first catcher Joe Morano, who led the club in RBI with 17 while showing a selective eye at the plate with 17 walks; also a team high for the season. Mortman batted .348 with four doubles, one triple, 15 runs scored and 14 stolen bases; an unusually high total for a catcher.

Another player who made major contributions, both on the mound and at the plate, was third baseman/pitcher Brian Kelly. Kelly batted .385 (21-for-55) with four doubles, one triple, 20 runs scored, 10 stolen bases and 11 RBIs.

On the hill, Reilly, though helped

pick up some of the slack left by the absence of Luberto and Fantes, recorded a perfect 3-0 mark with a 3.33 ERA and 43 strikeouts in 47 innings.

Several other players started over 30% of Sumner, which had a 4-10-1 record, including Jason DeRosa (28.2), Ben Wheeler (24.5) and Lipsey (34). Mike Roberts (24.5), Matt DeAngelis (16.5), Eddie Pappalardo (23.5), Luberto (24.2) and Ben Philpot (23.5).

Total Sumner's 3.5 record taken a jump right off the page, but a further look at his numbers shows just how dominating he was for Sumner during the season. The New Province resident struck out 10 batters and walked just 13 in 43 1/3 innings while compiling a 2.10 ERA.

Since, who Sumner assistant Paul Pappalardo earlier this season called the best pitcher in Union County on the strength of his fastball, will be senior at New Providence this fall and is highly sought after, notably one that St. John's University is trying to land.

Aude, whose .345 batting average, while it was a dominant figure as well, he was 3-0 with a 2.67 ERA and rang up 21 batters in 21 innings of work. Teammate Phillips also led the rubber for Sumner and did a superb job in doing so as he went 3-7 with a 3.33 ERA and 28 strikeouts in 47 innnings.

The following is a recap of Sumner's outstanding season:

June 9 Sumner 4, Berkeley Heights 1; June 11 Sumner 11, Elizabeth 3.

June 18 Sumner 6, Clark 3.

June 20 Sumner 5, Springfield 3.

June 22 Sumner 2, R. Park 1; (Sinh)

June 27 Sumner 14, Roselle Park 4.

June 28 Sumner 10, Springfield 0.

June 29 Elizabeth 7, Sumner 3.

July 2 Summ 11, Linden 3.

July 7 Linden 7, Sumner 6; (Sum)

July 3 Berkely Heights 1, Sumner 2.

July 6 Cranford 7, Sumner 10.

July 9 Sumner 1, Roselle Park 2; (Sum)

July 11 Sumner 9, Union 0.

July 13 Sumner 3, Union 0.

July 14 Sumner 6, Kenilworth 1.

Men's softball team has quite a summer Qualifies for ASA nationals

The Crescent Bating Cage A's of Union defeated Pine Turf of Middletown, N.Y., 7-6 last Sunday in the championship game of the American Softball Association men's fast-pitch Mid-Atlantic Regional held at Warrantee Park in Elizabeth.

The A's, who captured the ASA state championship on July 26, will now advance to the ASA nationals which will be held in College Station, Texas from Sept. 3-7.

The A's received a grand slam home run from third baseman Rick Binner in the sixth inning against Pine Turf. The A's scored five runs in the inning.

The A's have now won 19 championships in 22 years, with two state titles, seven playoff championships and nine pennants.

The state tournament was also held at Warrantee Park in Elizabeth and pitcher Alberto Pope was the tournament's MVP, winning all four games he pitched, hurling 28 innings over two days.

The first game on July 25 was a 6-1 win over the Ringwood Black Sox team by a 3-2 score. Joe Mauro was a hitting standout for the A's going 3-for-3 at the plate.

Pope threw a one-hitter for the mound victory.

The A's lost the second game to the defending state champion Camp Auto from Elizabeth 9-7. Pete Lima was tagged with the defeat while Chris Setzer and Kurt Ruppel belted home runs for Crescent.

The third game on the 25th saw the A's defeat the Ringwood Black Sox team by a 3-2 score. Joe Mauro was a hitting standout for the A's going 3-for-3 at the plate.

Binner threw a four-hitter for the mound victory.

The A's already qualified in the double-elimination tournament, needed to win twice on the 26th for the state championship.

First game a decisive win over Camp Auto. The A's jumped out to a 6-1 lead after the first two innings, scoring three runs in the first and three more in the second.

Setzer, Mike Romeo and Ruppel belted two-hits each and Binner had the game in the seventh inning with a twelfth home run.

Binner hit a six-hitter and struck out 11 to earn his third tournament triumph.

The final game saw the A's jump out to a three-run lead after two innings on solo home runs blasted by Romeo and Ruppel.

Camp Auto, trying to win another state championship, responded by going ahead 6-3 in the third inning.

The A's had the game at 6-6 in the fifth, but Romeo's second homer of the contest.

The A's then scored five runs in the top of the sixth and managed to hold off Camp Auto the rest of the way in an 11-inning victory for the state title.

A big hit for the A's in their five-inning 11-inning was a bases-clearing triple smashed by Setzer.

Romeo and Setzer had outstanding championship-game performances. Romeo going 4-for-4 with five RBI and Setzer 3-for-4 with three RBIs on the triple he connected with on the bases loaded.

Pope had his fourth game of the tournament by hurling a seven-hitter.

The A's took a 13-10 record into the Mid-Atlantic Regionals in which they captured and finished the regular season in second place with an overall mark.

Pope's pitching record improved on 10-5 with the four wins he picked up in the state tournament.

Springfield age 9-10 ball team excelled Did well to qualify for playoffs

The Springfield Minutemen age 9-10 baseball team had an outstanding summer season, one that came to a conclusion last Monday in an 11-4 defeat to Millburn in first-round playoff competition.

The squad played well in league play, finishing its regular season with a respectable 77 mark.

In tournament play, Springfield sporadically showed signs of life, winning a second seed for its own tournament and going on to reach the semifinal stage, falling one run shy of the championship game.

This was a rebuilding year for coach Scott Steimann. His squad consisted of only two returning players, those being Steven Tolisman and shortstop Kenneth Suarez, who was sidelined for most of the campaign with a broken arm.

The remainder of the team, consisting of 14 players, included 8 year-old David Steimann.

Springfield began the season by facing tough competition in the likes of Millburn and Westfield. The team worked hard and its play together improved throughout the season.

Springfield earned the eighth seed for the league playoffs and ended up facing top-seeded Millburn.

Playing as the top seed, Millburn jumped out to a 7-0 lead after the first two innings.

Springfield did not give up easily and came back to score the game's first four runs to cut Millburn's advantage to 7-4.

Springfield began the season by facing tough competition in the likes of Millburn and Westfield. The team worked hard and its play together improved throughout the season. Sponsored by 6th Avenue Electronics, Springfield had a wonderful season and many players are already looking forward to the 1999 summer campaign.

Springfield's first three runs came made up of the third as Jason Grimes reached on a walk and was moved to second when Ryan O'Reilly belted a single.

Stephen Suarez drove in Galinlin with Springfield's first run, Kenneth Steimann, who many times could be counted on to come up with a hit with players on base, drove in Stephen Suarez to give Springfield three runs.

Stephen Suarez backed by solid defense, pitched well and shut down Millburn in the third and fourth innings.

Springfield's fourth run came in the top of the fifth when Randy Hering drove in Kenneth Suarez.

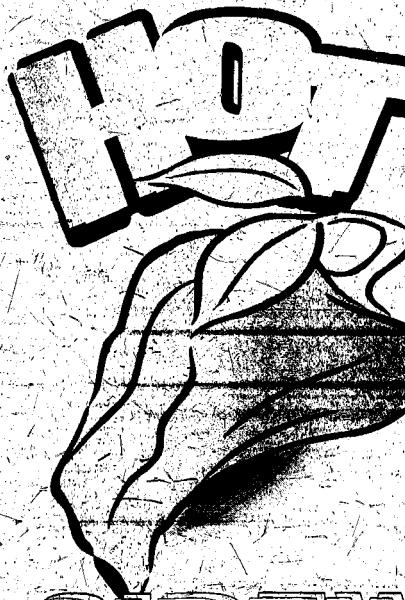
The inning began with Suarez reached on a walk. He was sacrificed to second on a sacrifice by Tolisman.

Millburn's coach, Springfield's Bob Vogt, was uncharacteristically of his fast as Millburn's lead was cut from seven to three runs.

However, Millburn would score four more times in the bottom of the fifth and then hold Springfield scoreless in the top of the sixth to clinch the 11-4 triumph.

Springfield, sponsored by 6th Avenue Electronics, had a wonderful season and many players are already looking forward to the 1999 summer campaign.

Coach Steimann was only assisted this season by John O'Reilly, Mike Steimann and Mark Galinlin.



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