

Record-Press

WESTFIELD · SCOTCH PLAINS · FANWOOD

Vol. 16, No. 31

Friday, August 3, 2001

50 cents

Around Town

Teddy B. and Weeds to perform at Gazebo

WESTFIELD— Teddy B. and the Weeds will perform original songs 8 p.m. Aug. 9, at the Gazebo at Municipal Park on Broad Street.

Teddy B. is Ted Brancato, a fine local jazz pianist and also a Master Gardener.

At the Springfield Garden Club, Brancato met 85-year-old Arthur Thieberger, a poet and lyricist. Together they wrote songs ranging from ballads to country to gospel to novelty tunes. The result of their collaboration is a recently produced CD titled *Grandma's Garden*.

One song, "Marge's Dodge," was played on WNYC radio on the CarTalk program. Other songs have been played on WOR by Joey Reynolds.

Town may create more permit spaces

WESTFIELD — The town council will consider creating an additional 32 permit parking spaces on the Southside for Westfield resident permit holders.

Over two-thirds of the new spaces will be created by converting existing meter spots to permit parking. The plan calls for the removal of 11 Watterson Street meters; the allocation of 12 existing horseshoe meters to permits at the Southside Station; and the allocation of nine newly created horseshoe spaces to permits.

A total of 32 of permit spaces would result in 15 new Watterson permits and 25-30 new South Avenue permits, according to Councilman Neil Sullivan.

Elks donate fountain to park

WESTFIELD — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced that a donation has been received from the East Central Jersey Elks to pay for a new water fountain at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside and Westfield.

The donation is the second large contribution made by the Elks in recent years to improve facilities for handicapped individuals at Echo Lake Park. "The Elks have been long-time sponsors of our fishing derbies for people with disabilities at Echo Lake Park in May of each year," said Freeholder Mary Ruotolo of Westfield. "We're happy to work with such a public-spirited group and we thank the Elks for their donations to improve this popular park."

George Helock of Scotch Plains, the district chairman for the East Central Jersey Elks, presented the \$2,200 donation to the County of Union. The gift is earmarked for the purchase and installation of a handicapped accessible water fountain and a new stair railing near the dock area of lower Echo Lake.

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GEORGE PACCIELLO/RECORD-PRESS

Going for the glory

Dylan Clark of the Westfield 10-year-old baseball team takes a rip during a recent practice. The team, which has won 15 straight games, capturing the district, North Jersey, State and Middle Atlantic championships, will play in the Cal Ripken World series in Indiana this weekend. For more, see page B-1.

Appointment is nearing of parking chief

By THOMAS SCOTT
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD—The town council will introduce two ordinances next week to pave the way for the appointment of an interim parking director. Town officials are ready to recommend the appointment of Walt Gardiner as interim parking director.

Town Administrator James H. Gildea met with Mayor Gregory McDermott and the council on Tuesday night to recommend engaging the part-time services of Gardiner a Westfield resident and retired traffic engineer with experience in traffic, parking, and lighting engineering.

"If the appointment does happen," said Gildea, "the two ordinances create the position."

Gardiner a retired traffic engineer for Union County, is presently a volunteer member of the mayor's advisory committee. It is anticipated his term will last from three to six months depend-

ing on the hiring process, said Councilman and Transportation, Parking and Traffic Committee Chairman Neil Sullivan.

When the full time post is filled Gardiner will revert to his former volunteer status. Sullivan also noted that Gardiner needs to be engaged professionally either directly or indirectly to ensure proper liability coverage.

While the position is only part-time until a permanent director can be recruited and hired, the council seemed receptive to the possibility of keeping the position active after the hiring of the permanent director. The council was in agreement that experience of someone like Gardiner would be invaluable to a new parking director.

Gardiner will work with Gildea and town engineer Ken Marsh and combine their resources and expertise to address traffic and parking issues while a job search is conducted for a full time director. (Continued on page A-2)

More dead crows found with virus

By THOMAS SCOTT
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Three dead crows found in Clark, Cranford and Westfield have tested positive for the West Nile Virus, according area health officials.

The confirmation of positive test results for the virus came late last week from the State Mosquito Control. The latest birds, plus two reported positive in Scotch Plains last week, brings the Union County total to five for the season.

In Westfield, the dead crow that tested positive for the virus was found on Harrow Road, according to Westfield Director of Health, Robert M. Sherr.

This was the first report of a bird found in town that tested positive for the virus. Immediate measures have been taken to control mosquitoes, said Sherr.

"County mosquito traps have been placed in the area," said Sherr. "We'll increase our control activity."

Residents should continue to take precautions against mosquitoes, advised Scherr.

"Just because a bird tests pos-

itive now doesn't mean they weren't here before," said Scherr.

Westfield, among other Union County towns, relies on the Union County Mosquito Control Bureau, a division of the Union County Department of Public Works, to maintain surveillance and control of mosquito breeding in areas of low lying water, throughout the county. The bureau has a regular program of mosquito surveillance and responds to the calls of concerned residents.

The health department advises residents to take precautions to reduce their risk of mosquito bites. This includes spraying insect repellent containing DEET on clothing, exposed skin, as well as wearing long sleeved shirts and pants when outdoors and curbing outdoor activities at dawn, dusk and during the evening.

"Older people are more susceptible to the virus," noted Chief Inspector Carolyn Voller.

For further information contact the Bureau of Mosquito Control at (908) 654-9834 or the Westfield Department of Health at (908) 789-4070.

Council wants more input before traffic light is installed

By THOMAS SCOTT
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The town council is looking to deter the county from proceeding with the installation of a light at the intersection of East Broad and North Chestnut streets until council approval is granted.

At Tuesday night's meeting, the council discussed passing a resolution to prohibit the county from putting in the light until council approval is given. It was

the desire of the council to take a proactive position with the county until certain traffic calming and impact studies could be reviewed.

The council decided to acknowledge in a letter receipt of the most recent county reports on the issue and ask the county not move forward until hearing from the town.

The purpose of the light is to purportedly to calm traffic along East Broad Street. But concerns that the county is more con-

cerned with traffic flow gives weight to the council contention for a light at East Broad.

A light at the intersection of North Avenue and Chestnut Street is being installed in the proximity of the Shop Rite being constructed on North Avenue in Garwood.

Residents are concerned that the county proposal to install a stoplight at Chestnut and Broad streets will turn their local residential streets into a driveway (Continued on page A-2)

Collision with a police car nets a ticket

By THOMAS SCOTT
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — A police car traveling south on Rahway Avenue collided with a car coming out of a stop on Shackamaxon Drive last Thursday night sending four people to the hospital, according to Lt. John Parizeau on Tuesday.

Two police units were traveling south on Rahway Avenue with overhead lights on to respond to a disturbance call on New England Drive around 6:27 p.m., police said.

Robin Smuckler, 45, of Canton, Ohio, while traveling west on Shackamaxon Drive had come to a stop as the first police unit went by, but moved out and collided with the second patrol car driven by officer Francisco Moya.

Moya, Smuckler and her two daughters, ages 17 and 13, were taken to Overlook Hospital in Summit and treated for complaints of pain, said Parizeau.

Smuckler was issued a ticket for failure to yield to a stop, said Parizeau.



GEORGE PACCIELLO/RECORD-PRESS

Construction progressing at School One

Second floor construction and renovation is moving forward at School One in Scotch Plains with the creation of permanent classrooms, corridors and a new media center.

Elderly lady is struck in crosswalk

By THOMAS SCOTT
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — An elderly woman was struck by a vehicle while crossing Elm Street Tuesday night, according to police.

Calliope Skambas, 84, of Springfield, was not hurt in the mishap.

Mary Jane Franks, 40, of Clarke Street was driving south on Elm Street in a 2000 Ford Winstar, according to Lt. John Parizeau and had stopped at a red light at East Broad and Elm streets.

When the light changed, Franks turned left on Elm Street and struck Skambas, who was in the crosswalk.

No charges were filed, police said.

It was the second accident in the downtown area in two weeks involving a pedestrian.

The earlier incident took place in a crosswalk at Quimby and Elm streets on Thursday, July 19.

(Continued on page A-2)

Council wants more input

(Continued from page A-1)

for the Shop Rite.

A citizens group from the "Shop Rite Grid" formed a year ago has been active and conducting its own traffic study of Chestnut Street. The council has also put up funds for its own study conducted by RBA to explore methods of reducing speed on East Broad Street and the impact of the Shop Rite.

There car counts show that 70 percent of the traffic flowing from East Broad and North Chesnut to Fourth Street and South Chestnut just passed through the count zone, according to Councilman Matt Albano.

A compilation of all plan studies — those generated from the Westfield Planning Board review of Shop Rite's earlier application, the council studies, and the citizens — will be reviewed to determine solutions for how best to calm the traffic.

In the interim, Town Engineer Ken Marsh has recommended a meeting with key county staff to see how philosophies of road use may differ between the county and the town.



Paving the way for play

Franklin School in Westfield recently underwent a drainage project in front of the school to prepare the ground for adjacent blacktop paving. The blacktop surface, located on the side of the elementary school, will be repaved this summer to prepare the recreation area for more than 560 students anticipated this fall.

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Appointment

(Continued from page A-1)

tor. "He truly loves his vocation," noted McDermott of Gardiner.

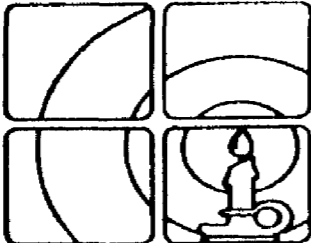
Meanwhile Jersey Professional Management is ready to commence a new search for the parking director, according to Gildea. Gildea reported that recruiter Dan Moran had submitted three more applications on Tuesday for the \$65,000 to \$85,000 a year position.

McDermott noted that the scope parking director position might be expanded to include applicants with planning, as well as parking, experience in their background.

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Elderly lady is struck

(Continued from page A-1)

Kathleen Szymona of Cranford was driving northbound on Elm Street at about 5:09 p.m. and was attempting to make a right turn on Quimby Street, according to Lt. John Parizeau. Szymona observed a man, identified as Brent Barnes, attempting to cross Quimby Street but was unable to stop and

struck Barnes while he was in the crosswalk. Barnes suffered slight injuries.

There have been approximately 17 incidents this year reported in Westfield involving motor vehicles and either a pedestrian or a bicyclist, according to Parizeau. The number of incidents is split fairly evenly between pedestrians and cyclists.

New wellness classes at Westfield Y

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Y, located at 220 Clark St., has announced many new wellness classes scheduled for fall 2001.

Added to the fall roster are yoga classes including a Basic Yoga on Thursdays from 10:15-11:10 a.m. and a Lunchtime Yoga on Mondays from 12:20-1:30 p.m. Also, Yoga for Kids will be offered to those aged 8-12 on Fridays from 4:30-5:15 p.m. A You and Me Yoga for children aged 4-7, with their favorite adult will also be scheduled for Fridays between 3:30-4:15 p.m.

Some new dance classes offered include a Belly Dance For Teens Class, which will be held 4-

5 p.m. on Mondays as well as a Jazz Dance Workout on Sundays from 11:15 a.m.-12:10 p.m. and a Swing Class held on Wednesday evenings 8-8:55. No experience is necessary for any of these classes.

In addition, there are new or additional times added to some of the old favorites offered at the Y, including Pilates, Ballet Workout, Fitness for New Moms, Power Yoga, Tai Chi, levels one and two, Ballroom Dance and Belly Dance.

Registration for any of these classes begins on Aug. 18 for current members and Aug. 22 for new members.

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Let's Ask Jill

by Jill Guzman

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Terrill honor students listed for fourth marking period

SCOTCH PLAINS — Terrill Middle School has issued its honor roll for the fourth marking period of the 2000-01 school year.

Named to the distinguished honor roll with As in all subjects:

Grade 8 — Carlene Bronikowski, Aliza Burns, Jocelyn Chang, Celina Chaves, Elise DeVries, Karina Gotliboy, Laura Henderson, Nora Isack, Stephanie King, Hillary Klimowicz, Rebecca Koransky, Jason Krueger, Michael Leighton, Marissa Mastroianni, Christopher Mattern, Vanessa Okoro, Jamie Quale, Sean Robinson, Sarah Schwartz, Alyssa Shea, Brittany Speer, Chloe Sundstrom and Michelle Swick.

Grade 7 — James Alfano, Christopher Barry, Cheryl Beqaj, Michael Bonacum, Carolyn DiProspero, Kelly Dougher, Victoria Fosdal, David Ginsberg, Christian Hambleton, Kristen Henkels, Daniel Ingram, Kelli Kaskiw, Alexander Kontur, Caroline Lazar, Joanne Schurtz, Joshua Shvartsman, Gabrielle Steep, Emily Wallden and Katerina Wong.

Grade 6 — Anne Arasin, Margaret Bernhard, Meghan Cadigan, Jeremy Cole, Grant Darwin, Megan Dyckman, Morgan Finkel, Jennifer Gaglioti, Genevieve Gilroy, Casey Griffin, Helen Han, Allison Hoynes-O'Connor, Magda Isack, Austin Jefferson, Eric Kaufman, Sindhu Kilakkathi, David Kopylov, Colleen LaForge, Brittany Larkin, Jessica Lieberman, Melissa Loewinger, Jaclyn Lopez, Jillian Lusk, Simone March, Julie Meurer, Kimberly Molnar, Pojaben Patel, Nicklas

Ryskasen, James Sacca, Timothy Salisbury, Amanda Shukla, Brittany Skwirut, Lauren Spirko, Eric Wasserman, Kenneth Wasserman, Lauren Weissbrod and Nina Williams.

Named to the honor roll:

Grade 8 — Brittany Adisano, Jonathan Altman, Daniel Aronds, Michael Baumwoll, Jessica Binkiewicz, Katherine Breuninger, Jenny Burke, Krystina Byron, Jennifer Calvo, Jonathan Caraballo, Kaitlin Carman, Rachel Charm-Baum, Amanda Cohen, Dori D'Aloisio, Christopher D'Annunzio, Nicole D'Annunzio, Brent Davis, Tiffany Davis, Elizabeth DeCastaldo, Christine DeLuca, Janee Easley, Elizabeth Elko, Marc Fabiano, Thomas Ferro, Christopher Finan, Corey Fineman, Alexander Gerveshi, Octavia Gomes, Rachel Goor, Jennifer Grana, Nicole Hagerty, Eddie Han, Abraham Hiatt, Justin Hlagyaw, Steven Kazmierkiewicz, Aaron Klemow, Kristina Krudys, Nora Lacko, Daniel LaForge, Robert Lasher, Jessica Leide, Gregory Leischner, Yuneq Lao, Jason Livingston, Jonathan Lorenzini, John Mangan, Kelly McManus, John Monti, Laura Mortkowitz, Katherine Newcomer, Manish Pandya, Sara Parisi, Lauren Perrotta, Sarah Quale, Stephanie Reed, Michael Ross, Christina Roth, James Scalfano, Amber Sizemore, Samuel Slough, Michael Sprung, Erica Stuppler, William Swenson, Sean Varsolona, Benjamin Vogel, Kelly Zajac, Katie Zaleski and Kristin Zyla.

Grade 7 — Allison Abbott, Daniel Bodenstern, Kara Brass, Daniel Bugg, Michele Calvo,

Maxwell Carow, Elise Coker, Meryl Coker, Neil Dalal, Nicole Desiato, Joseph Fullon, Samantha Feldman, Dennis Fitzpatrick, Staci Goldberg, Shannon Gomes, Maggie Gousman, Jonathan Grana, Sarah Halpern, Gary Herzberg, Krista Kazmierkiewicz, Richard Kickenweitz, Maria Kolakowska, Matthew Linsenber, Andrew Lipstein, Ricardo Lisojo, Brian Plagge, Edward Ragan, Allison Rosi, Chelsea Rowe, Katherine Schriber, Jennifer Seemann, Amira Selim, Leah Siegal, Sam Tepper, Arthur Thomas III, Christina Timoni and Andrew Wong.

Grade 6 — Nora Ali, Jane Baker, Samantha Bendik, Courtney Berger, Shyam Bhojani, Lisa Bloom, Samantha Carow, Elizabeth Casserly, Diana Chaves, Erin Daly, Elizabeth Day, Ariel DiGiorgio, Natalie Diken, Nicholas Duke, Matthew Flynn, Molly Forman, Bailey Fowler, Brittany Fusillo, Kaye Garcia, Michael Goland, Evan Goldsmith, Alana Hassan, Cristin Joy, James Kavinski, James Khalil, Melissa Kliesch, Christopher Lacko, Ryan Lemence, Emily Mankoff, Sarah Marable, Matthew Miller, Michael Miller, Nikki Moses, Colin Moynihan, Talia Nudell, Anthony Osterman, Christopher Rau, Lianna Rivera, Allyson Rome, Adda Roshansky, Kyle Rowbotham, Alisa Schink, Bari Schwarz, Alexandra Sebolao, Danielle Sepe, Matthew Shuster, David Solomon, Tovi Spero, Ian Starker, Kiara Thomas, Stephen Wallden, Arianna Williams and Allison Zazzali.



Grad honored for attendance

James Drew, a 2001 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, accepts a certificate of "Perfect High School Attendance" from attendance officer Carl Sicola and principal Dr. David Heisey. Drew will study fire science technology in the fall at Middlesex County College.

Send us your news

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If you have any questions about this newspaper, call Executive Editor Michael Deak at (908) 575-6685.



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Students honored in writing contest

SCOTCH PLAINS — Four students of Grade 6 teacher Stacey Tighelaar at Terrill Middle School have been recognized in the 20th annual writing contest sponsored by the New Jersey Council of Teachers of English.

Morgan Finkel and Helen Han tied for third place in poetry. Laurie Aylward earned third place in script writing. Natalie Diken tied for honorable mention in prose fiction.

Nearly 1,000 entries were received from students in kindergarten-Grade 12 across the state. Winners were honored at a program sponsored by the NJCTE.

Also at Terrill Middle School, several students of English

teachers Cathy Mattfield, Paul Larsen and Karen Moran had their work published in the national High School Writer monthly classroom teaching magazine.

Receiving certificates of literary merit from the magazine were Sara Woods, Rebecca Koransky, Jessica Neuringer, Liz Elko, Nora Isack, Mike Leighton, Christopher

Jennifer Marcketta, Michelle Swick, Amanda Cohen, Vanessa Okoro, Carlene Bronikowski and Erin Gallagher.

High School Writer was developed to provide a real audience for students and foster the desire among young people to learn good reading and writing skills. Fiction and nonfiction from student writers is prominent in the magazine.

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750 TOTTS Brut + Dry 5.99	1.75L T.G. F. Madras and other Flavors 13.99	750 SUTTER HOME Cabernet + Chard + Merlot 4.99	750 MOUTON CADET Red + White 6.99
750 NANO Aeti Spumante + Fragolino 6.99	750 JAGEMEISTER Leibar 14.99	1.5L B. OSGOOD HILL White Zinfandel 4.99	1.5L CONCHA Y TORO Cab Merlot + Chard Blend 7.99
750 KORBEL Brut + Dry + Brut Rose 9.99	750 BUMBLE BEE Popcorn + Schiappa 14.99	1.5L AHHOR MIST White Zinfandel 5.99	1.5L FOLONARI Barolo + Valpolicella + Soave + Merlot + Pinot Grigio 7.99
750 MOET & CHANDON White Star 24.99	1.75L MOJAVE (1.5L) 15.99	1.5L GORRHIE T. CALVIN Cabernet + Chard + Merlot 5.99	BRISTOL CREAM 7.99
750 MUMM Cordon Rouge Brut NV 25.99	750 AMARE TTD DI SANROSA 16.99	1.5L FOLIGNO Cabernet + Chard + Merlot 5.99	750 LOUIS JADOT Beaujolais Villages + Pinot Grigio 7.99
	750 FRENCH LEO Heurbin 16.99	1.5L HATHORN CREEK Cabernet + Merlot 5.99	1.5L LANGRIS Rose + White 7.99
		1.5L HATHORN CREEK Cabernet + Merlot 5.99	1.5L CAVI Pinot Grigio + Merlot 7.99
		750 FOREST GLEN Merlot + Chardonnay + Cabernet + Shiraz 6.99	750 MARGUES Rioja DE CACERES Rioja 7.99
		750 VILAMT EDEN Chardonnay 7.99	1.5L CAVI Pinot Grigio + Merlot 8.99
		1.5L BEFINGER White Zinfandel 8.99	1.5L B.A.O. Cabernet + Chard + Merlot 8.99
		750 COLOMBIA CREST Grand Estate Cabernet + Chard + Merlot 8.99	750 B & G Pouilly Fuisse 12.99
		750 BEFINGER Chardonnay 10.99	750 SANTA MARHERITA Pinot Grigio 15.99
		1.5L R. MONDAVI Woodbridge Cabernet + Chardonnay 11.99	750 RUFFINO Ducale Rosso 26.99
		750 R. MONDAVI Napa Chardonnay 14.99	

Commentary

What should be done about taxes

It should come as no surprise to anyone living in the state that New Jersey residents are among the highest taxed in the country.

According to a Census study released last week, New Jersey ranks 12th among the 50 states in the amount of state taxes, fees and licenses. That's relatively good news because New Jersey has one of the highest per capita incomes in the nation. But New Jersey still has the highest property tax bills in the country, a tax that unfairly imposes a burden on the working middle class and elderly no matter how many confusing rebate schemes are passed in Trenton.

In this year's races for governor and the state legislature there will be plenty of talk about taxes; it's normal for politicians to campaign on promises to lower taxes, cut fat from the budget, etc. However, it's unlikely that many candidates will speak of genuine reform in the way government, at all levels, is financed. Just as Social Security is the cliched "third rail" in national politics, reform of the state's convoluted and unjust tax system is a taboo subject. As governors and legislators have demonstrated repeatedly, they prefer to tinker with the system, rather than tackle the structural tax problems.

For example, while there was much ballyhoo a few years ago when a special state commission delivered a set of recommendations on cutting property taxes, not much has been done except to reward municipalities for sharing services and treating another round of rebates.

Whatever happened to all the talk about regionalization? Whatever happened to the criticism of the absurd fact that New Jersey has 566 municipalities and even more school districts? Whatever happened to the intent of the original income tax legislation that said the state was going to fund 40 percent of the public school funding? Why should a widow living in her family's \$150,000 house in Somerville pay more property taxes than a corporate executive living in a \$350,000 townhouse in Bedminster? Whatever happened to the outrage?

When the state has been swimming in money, like it has during the unprecedented prosperity of the 1990s, no one really cares about the amount of taxes or how much money government is spending. But the economy is slowing and the state may be facing a major deficit for the new fiscal year which begins in July 2001. Whoever is the new governor is will be faced with the same sort of challenge that Jim Florio had to confront in 1990. And, just like in 1990, it may not be pretty.

Residents should demand that the candidates for governor and the legislature address tax reform in New Jersey. Tinkering with the system is no longer good enough. It's time that New Jersey residents deserve a tax system that is fair and based on the ability to pay. If that means a complete overhaul of how government and public education works in New Jersey, then it's time to do it.



"Christmas" in July

Letters to the editor

Work together for a new contract

To the Record-Press:
The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education (BOE) and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association (SPEA) have not reached a contract settlement. The previous contract expired on June 30, 2001. The negotiating parties will resume negotiations, for one day only, on August 22, 2001. We have sent the following letter to the BOE and the SPEA.

Dear Sir or Madam:
The PTA successfully helped mobilize the community when it came time to support the bond and the 2001-2002 school budget. PTA stood with the board, administrators and teachers to support a significant tax increase for all residents.

It can't all go one way. The SPEA and BOE have an obligation to justify the faith exhibited by the PTA membership and the community through their ratification of both bond and budget by settling this contract prior to the start of school. If the parents and the public don't get the sense that this team is willing to work together, how can they trust that same team to

successfully implement the plans outlined in the bond referendum and budget during the coming school years?

We ask that the BOE and the SPEA work together at the next negotiations meeting on August 22, 2001 to bring an end to this protracted process. It is undeniable that a return to school without a contract will sour the relationships between home and school. The prospect of yet another job action is not healthy for anyone associated with the schools, and certainly not conducive to the productive, energized learning environment parent's want for their children.

We urge all parents and community members to call or write to the BOE (Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street, Scotch Plains, 322-6161) and the SPEA (Terrill Middle School, Terrill Road, Scotch Plains, 322-5215) immediately. Let them know we expect a contract NOW.

CAREN GOLDBERG
Corresponding Secretary
PTA President's Committee

Eliminate tolls on the Parkway

To The Record-Press:
I strongly disagree with your editorial on Parkway tolls.

My grandmother was in the parade of vehicles at the opening of the Holland Tunnel and the tunnel tolls were to be removed when the bonds were paid off 10 years later. Guess what? Politicians figured out that tolls are an easy way to collect taxes without opposition.

As a Cape Cod homeowner, I traveled the Connecticut roads for nearly 50 years. When the Connecticut Turnpike abolished the tolls, the miles and miles of traffic jams disappeared. Eliminating parkway tolls will eliminate bottlenecks, speed traffic, save gas, eliminate accidents and stop road rage. The Department of Transportation can easily

assume highway maintenance tasks while eliminating duplicate administrative functions. An addition to state gasoline taxes could cover all added costs.

The Parkway is an essential element of the state's second largest industry, tourism. Paying for parkway maintenance costs by increasing the gasoline tax is a small price to pay and as a corridor state a large part of the tax is paid by non-residents.

Our entrenched political hierarchy will do everything they can to prevent the elimination of tolls. Parkway tolls provide politicians with jobs with pensions to dispense to political cronies.

GEORGE COSMOGLOS
Cranford

Don't forget Libertarian candidates

To The Record-Press:
While the press in New Jersey has been focusing its attention to Republican and Democratic candidates running in the Assembly and state Senate races, not that much mention has been made of the Libertarian candidates running for those same offices.

This has been very sad indeed. The Libertarian candidates are Tom Abrams, running for Senate in Mercer County; John Taylor and Robert Hull, running for the Assembly in the 11th District; Diane Hittner, running for Assembly in the 13th District; and Chris Toto, running for Assembly in the 15th District.

These candidates are true outsiders. Their positions on issues of concern to the citizens of New Jersey have been grabbing the attention of many.

On education, most of the candidates running are in favor of universal tax credits which would have corporations issue grants to parents so that they can decide how and where their children will be educated, whether it be in private, parochial or homeschooled.

On consent searches, Libertarian candidates favor eliminating them for they violate the U.S. and New Jersey constitutions. They all believe that this is an issue of right and wrong.

On tolls, the candidates favor eliminating them from the Garden State Parkway and the New

Jersey Turnpike. They have all said that the tolls are costly and intrusive.

On auto insurance, Tom Abrams, John Taylor, Robert Hull, Diane Hittner and Chris Toto agree that excessive regulations have been strangling companies and causing premiums to rise in the Garden State. They all believe that the chains be loosened so that they can find ways to provide better products.

On the drug war, there is universal agreement that it has been a failure. Tom Abrams, John Taylor, Robert Hull, Diane Hittner and Chris Toto all believe that marijuana should be decriminalized.

On property taxes, the candidates favor lowering them by using ad valorem taxation (an assessment based on the estimated value of the property).

Finally, Tom Abrams, John Taylor, Robert Hull, Diane Hittner and Chris Toto want to eliminate the state income tax which has been a burden to the people of New Jersey and which is nothing more than an instrument to finance bigger state government and bigger state bureaucracy.

Tom Abrams, John Taylor, Robert Hull, Diane Hittner and Chris Toto are candidates who should be listened to. Their ideas are astounding and prophetic. If these candidates are in your area, look them up and talk to them. You'll be glad you did.

ALEX PUGLIESE
Kenilworth

Visit Cannonball Museum on Sunday

To The Record-Press:
For those of you who were away from the area on July 1, you missed a chance to step into the past to the Victorian era and see a magnificent display of Victorian period afternoon dresses. In every room the mannequins were dressed in white afternoon dresses, and dated, along with a display of accessories.

It is truly a rare opportunity to observe a partial display of the many costumes owned by our local

museum. Since we are showing this wonderful display and our mannequins don't mind continuing to wear them, we will be open from 2 to 4 p.m. on Aug. 5. So please don't miss this opportunity to visit the Cannonball Museum at 1840 Front St. in Scotch Plains. Our docents will be happy to give you a guided tour. You can even view our garden and walk through our grape arbor.

BETTY LINDNER
Scotch Plains

Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

You know you've been working too hard too long

Because I do not want to be suspended or fired, I freely acknowledge the items in this column were given to me via email from my friend Mark.

Email is the way long-distance friends communicate these days. Cheaper than a telephone call, email has revived the ancient and honorable art of the epistle, which many feared was killed by the telephone. Email has been responsible for reviving old friendships and sustaining new friendships; because of the frantic schedule most of my friends and I have, it's easier to send email than to play telephone tag or leave vague messages on answering machines. You can also save email messages if they're special just by printing them; I don't know anyone who has saved the answering machine cassette that contained an endearing message. You can think and contemplate by writing sending email; there are no hesitant uhs and you knows that punctuate voice messages.

Mark and I have been good friends since college 20 years ago. Though we may see each other only about once a year (when he inevitably has the best golf round of his life), we communicate by email at least two or three times a month. Most of the time we just exchange small talk about our golf games, baseball etc. — the usual guy stuff. But Mark also sends me lots of jokes, which is one of the most popular email subjects. Where Mark gets his jokes I do not know, but I suspect he pulls them from the Internet. And then he sends them out to about a dozen friends in an electronic mass memo.

This is the latest email from Mark:

Signs of working too hard
20. Cleaning up the dining area means getting the food bags out of the back seat of your car.

19. Your reason for not staying in touch with family is that they do not have email addresses.

18. Keeping up with sports entails adding ESPN's homepage to your Internet bookmarks.

17. You have a "to do list" that includes entries for lunch and bathroom breaks and they are usually the ones that never get crossed off.

16. You have actually faxed your holiday gift list to your parents.

15. Pickup lines now include a reference to liquid assets and capital gains.

14. You consider second day delivery painfully slow.

13. You assume the question to valet park or not is rhetorical.

12. You refer to your dining room table as the flat filing cabinet.

11. Your idea of being organized is multiple-colored Post-It notes.

10. Your grocery list has been on the refrigerator so long some of the problems don't exist anymore.

9. You lecture the neighborhood kids selling lemonade on ways to improve their profits.

8. You get all excited when it's Saturday and you wear sweats to work.

7. You refer to the tomatoes grown in your garden as deliverables.

6. You find you really need Power Point to explain what you do for a living.

5. You normally eat out of vending machines and at the most expensive restaurant in town within the same week.

4. You think that "progressing an action plan," "socializing an issue" and "calendarizing a project" are acceptable English phrases.

3. You think Einstein would have been more effective had he put his ideas into a matrix.

2. You think a "half-day" means leaving at 5 p.m.

1. You get most of your jokes via email, instead of in person.

The Record-Press is here for you

The following information should help you get your ideas and community news into *The Record-Press*:

Call Executive Editor Michael Deak at (908) 575-6685 with story suggestions, questions or comments.

For sports, call Dan Murphy at (908) 575-6698.

Our address: *The Record-Press*, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876.

Our fax number is (908) 575-6683.

Our e-mail address is union@njnpublishing.com.

Correction policy

The Record-Press will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to Editor Michael Deak at (908) 575-6686.

Deadlines

The deadline for submitting articles and press releases to *The Record-Press* is 5 p.m. Friday. The letters deadline is noon Monday.

Letter policy

Letters should be no longer than 200 words and may be edited for content, brevity, good taste and libel. Letters should be typewritten and include the writer's daytime telephone number for verification.

Send letters to the above addresses or fax number.



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Homeless man reports an assault by bicyclist

Scotch Plains

A homeless man reported being punched in the face by a mustached man on a bicycle last Friday night.

A 40-year-old man, representing to police he was homeless, reported he was assaulted by an unknown individual at approximately 9:30 p.m. on Mountain Avenue at Park Avenue, according to police reports.

The victim reported receiving a fat lip from the incident, said police. The alleged assailant was described as a white male, about 5'10 with dark hair and a mustache. According to the victim the assailant rode up to him and, with no provocation, punched him in the face, said police.

The victim was treated for minor facial injuries at Muhlenberg Hospital and referred to social services, said police.

CVS Pharmacy reported that on July 24 that a man ran out of the store on Park Avenue at about 1 p.m. with four boxes of cigars, according to police reports.

There was an incident of shoplifting reported on July 27 at the CVS Pharmacy on Park Avenue at approximately 7 p.m., according to police reports.

Approximately \$86 worth of merchandise was received when the suspect fled the store without being identified, said police.

A patron at CVS Pharmacy on Park Avenue was detained for suspected shoplifting of \$1 worth of merchandise at approximately 8:30 p.m., according to police reports.

Complaints are pending, said police.

Police responded to a burglar alarm on July 25 at a Rahway Road residence and found a rear sliding glass door smashed and the second floor bedrooms ransacked at about 12:25 p.m., according to police reports.

It could not be determined if anything was missing, said police.

Tony Jordan, 24, of Newark, was charged on July 26 with possession of a stolen license plate after to a motor stop around midnight on Route 22, according to police reports.

The plate was stolen in Hillside in August 1999, said police. Jordan was issued a summons and released.

Nathan Peterson, 42, of Front Street in Plainfield was charged July 26 with shoplifting a bottle of liquor from Park Beverage on Park Avenue and another bottle from Brian's Liquors on East Second Street, according to police reports.

Peterson was observed about 9 p.m. taking a bottle from Park Beverage and followed by an employee to Brian's Liquors where he was observed taking another bottle, said police. Peterson was released on a summons, said police.

A Front Street resident reported on July 27 the theft of jewelry and personal effects over the course of the last month, according to police reports. There was no forced entry to the premises, said police.

Westfield

David Rozar, 37, of South Avenue West, in Fanwood was charged on July 25 with two counts each of burglary, theft and criminal mischief, according to police reports.

Rozar was charged in connection with a June 27 incident of breaking and entering of a motor vehicle and the theft of a purse, said police. He was charged with additional warrants out of Fanwood, police said.

Rozar was held on \$25,000 bail and is presently in the Union County Jail, said police.

Stephanie S. Bowles, 21, of Hunter Avenue in Scotch Plains was charged July 24 on a warrant out of the Municipal Court of Westfield, according to police reports.

Bowles posted bail of \$60 and was released, said police.

Five Star Auto, located on Central Avenue, reported on July 25 that a customer had removed a vehicle from the premises after having repairs done but failed to pay for the services, according to police reports.

A Cedar Terrace resident reported on July 25 a burglary and theft to a motor vehicle parked outside the residence, according to police reports.

The Exxon Station on Central Avenue reported July 26 that a

Obituaries

James A. Kocha

FANWOOD — James A. Kocha, 59, died July 27, 2001 in Rahway. He had been an electrician, real estate agent, limousine driver and amateur photographer.

A native of Plainfield, he lived in South Plainfield and Fanwood before moving to Linden.

Mr. Kocha began his career as an electrician with Waldren-Hardic of Somerset. He later was a realty agent with Crestview Realty in Scotch Plains and the former Richard Weaver Realty agency, then became a personal driver to Newark attorney Ralph

Del Deo. Most recently Mr. Kocha was a driver with Linda's Sunshine Limousine in Garwood.

Surviving are a son, James W. of Fanwood; a daughter, Terri Morrison of Kingwood; three brothers, John J. of Woodbridge, Jerome E. and Joseph, both of South Plainfield; two sisters, Sarajane Wymbs of South Plainfield and Estelle Arrants of Highland Park; and a grandchild.

Services were held Tuesday at the McCrisky Home for Funerals, in South Plainfield.

Lorraine Clark

SCOTCH PLAINS — Lorraine Clark, 81, died July 25, 2001 at Rumlens Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights. A native of Philadelphia, Pa., she lived in Springfield before moving to Scotch Plains in 1996.

Miss Clark is survived by three sisters, Phyllis Richardson, Bernese Richardson and Madeleine Gilmour; four brothers, James, Richard, Warren and

Frank; and many nieces and nephews.

Another sister, Barbara, died in 1956.

Services were held Monday at the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield. Donations may be sent to Rumlens Specialized Hospital, 40 Watchung Way, Berkeley Heights NJ 07922.

Police log

vehicle received \$10 in gas and left the station without paying for it, according to police reports.

Frank Carfaro, 31, of Colfax Avenue was charged on July 26 on a warrant issued out the Westfield Municipal Court, according to police reports. Carfaro posted bail of \$100 and was released said police.

Jonathan Singhaba, 18, and a juvenile, both of Westfield, were charged July 29 after a motor vehicle stop on Marlboro Street with possession of a controlled substance (believed to be cocaine); possession of a controlled substance under 50 grams (believed to be marijuana); and possession of alcohol while underage.

The subjects were transported to police headquarters and the juvenile was released to a parent. Singhaba was held in lieu of bail, said police.

Syara Magbool, 23, of Parlin was charged on July 30 with possession of a controlled substance under 50 grams (believed to be marijuana) and possession of paraphernalia, according to police reports. After processing Magbool was released on her own recognizance, said police.

A Scotch Plains resident reported on July 30 the theft of her 1996 Nissan while it was parked on Elm Street, according to police reports.

What's up Downtown?

~ theater times!

<http://westfieldnj.at.a.t.k.c.k.com>

Celebrating 5 years on the web!

Elizabeth M. Williams

WESTFIELD — Elizabeth M. Williams, 51, died July 30, 2001 at her home in East Stroudsburg, Pa. A native of Memphis, Tenn., she lived in Westfield before moving to East Stroudsburg.

Mrs. Williams was a member of the Quiet Valley Living Farm and the Stroudsburg Quilters Guild, both in Stroudsburg, Pa. She also was a member of the Saylorburg Quilters Guild in Saylorburg, Pa.

Her father, Robert C. Mehorter, is deceased.

Surviving are her husband, Norman H.; her mother, Carolyn Myers Mehorter of Westfield; two sons, Michael

and Peter, and a daughter, Kathryn, all at home; two brothers, Robert Mehorter of Westfield and John Mehorter of Scotch Plains; two sisters, Peggy Russell of Casselberry, Fla., and Mary Smith of Scotch Plains; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held yesterday at the First Baptist Church in East Stroudsburg. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the William H. Clark Funeral Home in Stroudsburg. Donations may be sent to VNA Hospice of Monroe County, 502 Independence Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301.

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Obituaries

Henry C. Friedrichs Jr.; Realtor, Rotary president

SCOTCH PLAINS — Henry Clay "Hank" Friedrichs Jr., 69, a Realtor in Union County and a past president of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club, died July 25.

He began his realty career under his late father, H. Clay, and became president of H. Clay Friedrichs Inc. on the father's retirement. The firm maintained its offices in Fanwood, Westfield and Warren.

The younger Mr. Friedrichs was involved in early plans for revitalization of Fanwood, a process that continues to this day. He was a past president of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Board of Realtors and in 1988 was honored by the Rotary Club as a Paul Harris Fellow.

As a member of the Plainfield Country Club in Edison he shot a hole-in-one on the third hole on Aug. 25, 1995. He was active in the Philathalians community theater troupe in Fanwood and the Habitat for Humanity. He also helped organize a community pool in Scotch Plains.

Mr. Friedrichs attended Fanwood public schools and graduated in 1949 from St. Bernard's

School in Gladstone. He attended Rutgers University before serving aboard a Navy minesweeper in the Korean War.

A native of Plainfield, Mr. Friedrichs lived in Fanwood and Scotch Plains for most of his life. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Edison.

Surviving are his wife of 30 years, Marilyn Combs Friedrichs; three sons, John (and wife Patricia) of Piney Flats, Tenn., James of Wilton Manors, Fla., and Scott (and wife Ana) of Wallington; a daughter, Suzanne of Scotch Plains; a brother, David (and wife Helen) of Lancaster, Pa.; a sister, Marcia Friedrichs Johannesen (and husband Richard) of Stowe, Vt.; and two grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Donations may be sent to Habitat for Humanity, 315 W. Seventh St., Plainfield, NJ 07060; American Red Cross, Tri-County Chapter, 332 W. Front St., Plainfield, NJ 07060; or Muhlenberg Foundation, c/o Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park Avenue and Randolph Road, Plainfield, NJ 07061.

Milton Levy; was first Parkway PR director

WESTFIELD — Milton Levy, 79, the first director of public relations for the agency that operates the Garden State Parkway, died Sunday at his home.

He oversaw publicity for the Parkway as public relations director of the New Jersey Highway Authority from 1954-72. Mr. Levy created the Stork Club, a state-sponsored group for new mothers who gave birth along the Parkway and were featured on national television. He helped promote the Garden State Arts Center (now PNC Bank Arts Center) in its early years and devised a panel on the Parkway's road maps that stranded motorists could use to "Send Help."

Mr. Levy began his career as an Army correspondent in Europe during World War II and a reporter with The Record of

Hackensack after the war. He joined the State House bureau of the Associated Press in 1947, filing stories and columns on state government as a reporter and editor until 1954.

After leaving the Highway Authority he became public relations director of Edwards & Kelcey, an engineering firm in Newark and Livingston. He retired from that firm in 1985.

A native of Mount Vernon, N.Y., Mr. Levy lived in Englewood and Trenton before moving to Westfield in 1962.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Florence Fuchs Levy; a son, Bruce Charles Levy; a brother, Bernard; and a sister, Jessie Coburn.

Services were held Tuesday at the Higgins & Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home. Burial was in Beth Israel Memorial Park, Woodbridge.

George Simpson

SCOTCH PLAINS — George W. Simpson, 78, died July 29, 2001 at his home. He served in the Army during World War II and for many years owned Alco Cleaners in Plainfield.

A native of Sneads, Fla., Mr. Simpson lived in Plainfield before moving to Scotch Plains in 1965. He also was self-employed as a building contractor in New Jersey and Florida.

Surviving are two daughters, LaPrelle Fleming of Connecticut and Karynn Simpson-Borom of Scotch Plains; two sons, Carl of Scotch Plains and Keith of Edison; four sisters, Bertha Williams, Wyvonia Simpson-Clawson, Adrian Clawson and Sonya; three brothers, Joel, Jerome and Marcus; six grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and many nieces and nephews.

Another son, Craig, died in

Arthur S. Grogg

SCOTCH PLAINS — Arthur S. Grogg, 75, died July 29, 2001 at his home. He had been vice president and controller of Universal Foods Corp. in South Plainfield prior to his 1988 retirement.

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and had lived for more than 40 years in Scotch Plains.

Mr. Grogg more recently worked for H&R Block at its Scotch Plains office. He was with the Albert Verely Co. in Linden and South Plainfield before joining Universal Foods.

He received a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Cincinnati in 1948. Mr. Grogg was a life member of Sigma Chi.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Anne Kleine Grogg; a daughter, Judy Hvizdak; three sons, Mark, Dan and Jerry; a sister, Margaret Pifer; and nine grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Wednesday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home. Entombment was in the Good Shepherd Chapel Mausoleum at St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Donations may be sent to Center for Hospice Care, 187 Millburn Ave., Millburn, NJ 07041.

Winifred Read

WESTFIELD — Winifred M. Read, 85, died July 5, 2001 at her home. She was born in Plainfield and lived in that city before moving to Westfield in 1976.

Mrs. Read is survived by her husband, Robert M.; a daughter, Pamela; two sons, Robert M. II and

David S.; and two grandchildren. A memorial service will be 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18 at the United Presbyterian Church, 525 E. Front St., Plainfield. Arrangements are by the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood.

Anne GaNun

WESTFIELD — Anne M. Behrmann GaNun, 81, died July 25, 2001 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. She had been a past president and the longtime historian of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of New Jersey.

Mrs. GaNun was born in Jersey City and lived in Weehawken before moving to Westfield in 1955. Her husband, Wilbur, died in 1987.

Surviving are two sons, Alan and David; a daughter, Janice A.;

five grandchildren, a niece and several nephews.

Services were held Saturday at Redeemer Lutheran Church, of which Mrs. GaNun was an active member.

Arrangements were by the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Donations may be sent to Redeemer Lutheran Church, 229 Cowperthwaite Place, Westfield, NJ 07090 or Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, 45 Springfield Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081.

Alexander Trapp

WESTFIELD — Alexander Trapp, 88, died July 26, 2001 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. A business owner and chauffeur, he opened a taxi company that was the first in New Jersey to install two-way radios.

He was born in Woodbine, Ga., and had lived in Westfield since 1940.

Mr. Trapp also owned a restaurant and a service station, along with a trucking company that hauled produce from Florida. After retiring from his businesses in 1968 he joined Johnson & Johnson as an executive chauffeur. He retired from J&J in 1978.

For 43 years Mr. Trapp was a member of St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church.

Surviving are his wife, Margaret; two sisters, Sarah Banks and Madgie Murphy, both of Jacksonville, Fla.; a brother-in-law, Walter Banks; a sister-in-law, Mildred of Miami, Fla.; two special friends, Douglass and Florence Brown of Plainfield; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Tuesday at St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church with Rev. Leon Randall, the pastor, officiating. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery. Arrangements were by the Plinton-Curry Funeral Home.

John G. Hruska

SCOTCH PLAINS — John G. Hruska, 82, died July 27, 2001 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. He had been with A&P supermarkets for 42 years before retiring in 1982 as a stock clerk in its Roselle Park store.

Mr. Hruska, who was born in Raritan, lived in Roselle and Roselle Park before moving to Scotch Plains. He served in the Army during World War II and was a member of the Knights of Columbus council in Kenilworth.

Surviving are his wife, Catherine Brunette Hruska; a son, John V.; a sister, Helen O'Brien; and two grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home. Entombment was in the Good Shepherd Chapel Mausoleum at St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Donations may be sent to Center for Hope Hospice, 176 Husa St., Linden, NJ 07036.

Merija Gravers

FANWOOD — Merija Gravers, 88, died July 22, 2001 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. A licensed practical nurse, she retired in 1978 after 28 years on the staff of St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, N.Y.

Mrs. Gravers was born in Ventspils, Latvia. She lived in Port Washington, N.Y., before moving to

Fanwood in 1981. Her husband, Andrejs, is deceased.

Surviving are a daughter-in-law, Renate of Scotch Plains; two granddaughters, Ilona (and husband Christopher Gillis) and Liana, all of Oakton, Va.

Services were held Sunday at the Memorial Funeral Home.

Shelby Lynn Sobala

WESTFIELD — Shelby Lynn Lepkosky Sobala, 46, died July 26, 2001 at Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth. She and her husband, Joseph B., owned the former Linden Park Drugs pharmacy in Linden.

She was born in Kingston, Pa., and lived in Elizabeth before moving to Westfield in 1987.

Mrs. Sobala also was a registered nurse on the staffs of Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch and the former Alexian Brothers Hospital in Elizabeth. She graduated from the nursing school at the former Elizabeth General Hospital.

She was a member of the Junior League and provided volunteer child care during Sunday services at the Presbyterian Church.

Also surviving are her parents, Thomas Lepkosky and Cora Jarrett Lepkosky; a son, Joseph J.; a daughter, Amy Lynn; and a sister, Tammy O'Farrell.

A memorial service was held Sunday at the Presbyterian Church with arrangements by the Gray Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to the Capital Campaign Fund of the Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090.

Send us your news!

The following information should help you get your ideas and community news into The Record-Press: Our address: The Record-Press, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876. Our fax number is (908) 575-6683. Our e-mail address is union@njnpublishing.com.

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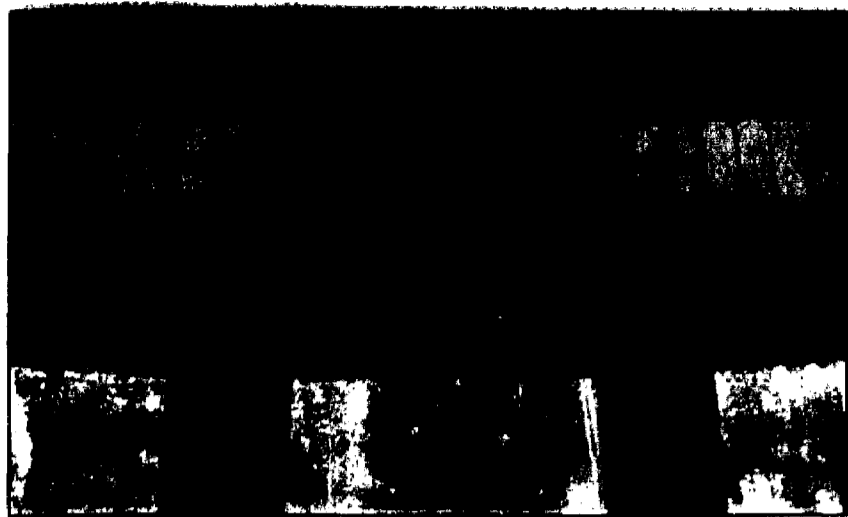
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Community Life

This old house will become a bed and breakfast



GEORGE PACIELLO/RECORD-PRESS

Even the house's stained glass is being restored.

Couple converting Fanwood three-family house into B&B

By THOMAS SCOTT
THE RECORD-PRESS

FANWOOD — When first trying to decide where to open up a bed and breakfast, Jim and Barbara Vierschilling envisioned a known destination such as Annapolis, Md. as the site of their future venture.

But the decision to locate at 225 North Ave. in a three-family Victorian house dating to 1892 was made "strictly by accident" according to Vierschillings.

"I was plowing snow for the man who owned (the house)," said Jim Vierschilling. "And he said 'why not turn this into a bed and breakfast.'"

Though the notion was made in jest, the Vierschillings took steps towards making it a reality when they acquired the property a year ago May, according to Barbara who works as the orchestra director at Summit High School. The project took all summer to clear Fanwood architectural review, with ground breaking for the porch renovation

and addition commencing last October.

"We're very excited," said Mayor Lou Jung. "The project seemed like a natural at the planning board and a win-win for the community."

The proximity of the site to the Fanwood Train Station, the fact that the only other hotel accommodation in Fanwood had moved and a strong desire to stay close to family still in the area, namely two sons in Cranford and a daughter living locally, were compelling personal and business grounds for the Vierschillings to trade Annapolis for an historic section of Fanwood.

The house was built in 1892 as the home of Walter S. Force, the first tax collector of the borough of Fanwood. The house is built in a Victorian Shingle style due to its strong roof lines attributable to the irregular hipped roof with a projecting gambrel roof, said Barbara. Other notable features include an ornate stone and brick chimney and an eyebrow window on the third floor.



GEORGE PACIELLO/RECORD-PRESS

Mayor Lou Jung says the conversion of this late 19th-century home is a win-win situation for Fanwood.

"Our first job was to find what alteration had been made to the house to make it a three family," said Barbara, "and then bring it back to its original intent."

Restoration of the house in its "true" Victorian style has been done using modern building techniques and materials. Opening up walls uncovered fireplaces, stairs and revealed the rooms' true shapes, according to the Vierschillings. They also tried to

keep old beautiful moldings and hardwood floors as well as fireplaces and the pocket door into the dining room.

"We could hardly wait to get the aluminum siding off of the house so this window and the beautiful stained glass window could be uncovered," said Barbara.

The old clapboard and shingle exterior was replaced with new hand mill clapboards. The

Vierschillings built a wrap around porch around the front and side of the house that was completely in keeping with the Shingle style house. An addition to the back of the house with a rear deck has also been added. A period carriage barn has been recently acquired from next door neighbor.

Considerable efforts have been taken to landscape and plant flower beds all around the prop-

erty, and to preserve old growth trees. A rose garden on the west side of the house will have a brick walk in the future.

While the exterior remodeling is close to complete in time for a family wedding on Aug. 11, the interior renovations are just being framed out and should keep the Vierschillings busy through the remainder of the year. The main floor calls for living quarters for the Vierschillings, who will reside at the property, and includes a kitchen/family room and a bedroom which opens up onto a spacious rear deck and the backyard. The living quarters open to a public dining room that will be also open to the side porch for guest dining.

To the front of the house is the "Music Room." It features an uncovered horizontal stain glass panel over the front window and a preserved window bench both original to house. Barbara is looking to put a piano in the room and add a new mantel to a refurbished brick fireplace.

The front hall of the house holds the original two-piece gated front door and a fire place that has been repaired and will get a new mantel piece. The front hall stairwell will feature a large stain glass window with violin centerpiece presently being created.

The second level will have a small common room and three bedrooms with bathrooms. Walking up to the third level, there are additional stain glass panels in excellent condition lighting the staircase.

The Vierschillings have been collecting antiques for the house, which will be known as the "Walter Gilbert House," in honor of their fathers — Jim's dad Walter and Barbara dad Gilbert. When the interiors are finished, the final phase will be to fill the house in period furnishings and prepare for a January 2002 opening.

Atomic bomb survivors speak at church Aug. 9

WESTFIELD — The Coalition for Peace and Justice is again sponsoring a stop of the Tour of the Hibakusha — Japanese A-Bomb Survivors — at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 East Broad St. at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 9.

The Hibakusha will give testimony about, and describe their personal memories of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The speakers will be Shigeyuki Yama and Hideo Tose.

Yama, 71, is married and has three children and three grandchildren. Yama speaks English. He is currently the Secretary of the Regional Division of Ibaraki Prefecture Hibakusha Association. He is a retired ore carrier captain and shipping agent. Yama was A-bombed in Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945 while he was a student at Hiroshima Military Preparatory School which was located about one kilometer from the bomb center.

Tose, 59, is married, with two children and one grandchild. He does not speak much English. He is the assistant secretary general of the Tokyo Federation of Hibakusha. Tose is retired from

the Japanese telephone company, where he worked more of his life. Tose was A-bombed in Nagasaki at age of 3. His grandmother died in the bombing, and his older sister died 10 years later.

Translating for the Hibakusha Tour this year will be Kumiko Tanaka, 21. Tanaka is a junior at American University studying international development and education. She translated for part of the tour last year.

Norm Cohen, executive director of the Coalition for Peace and Justice, will make some brief opening remarks at the tour stop. A graphic photo exhibit of the destruction of Hiroshima will be displayed. The event is free and open to the public.

The Coalition for Peace and Justice is a regional chapter of Peace Action, the country's largest grassroots peace and justice organization, a with over 80,000 members nationwide. One of the Coalition's and Peace Action's main goals is the abolition of nuclear weapons in the world to ensure that these weapons will never again be used in war.

Babysitter course is tomorrow

WESTFIELD — The Westfield-Mountinside Chapter of the American Red Cross sponsors a babysitters training course every month for boys and girls ages 11-15.

This month's course is 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Red Cross offices at 321 Elm St. Topics include making good decisions; supervising children of different ages; keeping everyone safe inside and outside; handling

emergencies; age-appropriate activities; feeding babies; changing diapers; and basic first aid.

Training is provided with dolls that actually simulate what an infant goes through. The dolls were purchased through a grant from the Westfield Foundation.

A handbook, a small first aid kit and lunch are provided. Seating is limited. For registration, phone (908) 232-7090.

Swenson is 'All-American' Scholar

SCOTCH PLAINS — Eric Swenson has been named an "All-American Scholar" by the United States Achievement Academy.

The son of Mr. & Mrs. Norm Swenson was nominated for the award by Diane McGovern, a teacher at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Eric will have his name published in the academy's annual yearbook.

The "All-American Scholar" program was established to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in academic disciplines, according to a press release from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education.

Students must earn a grade point average of 3.3 or higher to qualify for the award.

Eric is also the grandson of Mrs. Carl Swenson of Fanwood and Mrs. John Wilkinson of South Portland, Maine.



Students in the Primary Enrichment Program were treated to a lesson in local history through music thanks to a grant from the Westfield Historical Society and Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. Musical artists Cheryl Warfield and Jim Besch teach the children about the Lenape Indians.

These Westfield children still want to go to school during the summer

WESTFIELD — The Primary Enrichment Program is in its 12th summer under the direction of the Westfield school system.

"Parents tell me that the students look forward to attending the classes and eagerly discuss each day's activities," program coordinator Mylissa Bauman said.

"The program gives children an opportunity to build confidence and enthusiasm for the upcoming school year in a creative and enjoyable learning environment," she said.

PEP classes are held in half-day sessions at Jefferson School; the program began July 23 and runs through Friday, Aug. 10.

Participating are 60 pupils who will enter Grades 1-3 in the fall. All six public elementary schools in Westfield are represented.

Seven teachers in the program ensure a small class size of 7-10 pupils per teacher. Instructors are Lisa Thomas, Lauren Lessig, Mike Burgess, Melissa Greenwald, Stacey Stanzel, Lisa Kralkauskas and Karen Salter, assisted by nurse/health educator Jeanne Jensen.

"These are very creative teachers who make

learning interesting and productive," Bauman said. "They use theme-based activities to integrate learning in all subject areas with a special emphasis on language arts and math."

"Students' success are highlighted and positive learning experiences are reinforced in the PEP program to build confidence and enthusiasm for learning so students are excited to begin a new school year," she said.

Carol Wilson, a children's librarian with the Westfield Memorial Library, visits each class and encourage pupils to read.

The PEP program has invited Cheryl Warfield and Jim Besch to create hands-on musical activities that highlight Westfield history. Warfield and Besch are associated with the Englewood-based Arts Horizons organization.

Special presentations in math and science also are scheduled.

In addition, Dan and Kim Adlerman will visit the PEP classes on Friday, Aug. 10 to share the books the couple have written and illustrated. Each pupil will receive a copy of "Africa Calling" by the Adlermans.

Fletcher retires as hospital president

ELIZABETH — An outstanding 34-year career in healthcare administration came to an end on July 9 with the retirement of David A. Fletcher, Trinitas Hospital president and chief executive officer, and a resident of Scotch Plains.

Trinitas Hospital was established in January 2000 following the consolidation of Elizabeth General Medical Center and St. Elizabeth Hospital. Previously the president of Elizabeth General, Fletcher became the first president of Trinitas at the time of the consolidation.

The new president and CEO of Trinitas Hospital will be Gary S. Horan, who served previously as president and CEO of Our Lady of Mercy Healthcare System, Inc., Bronx, NY.

During the June meeting of the hospital's Board of Trustees, a resolution was passed honoring Fletcher's "life-long commitment" to the furtherance of quality healthcare in and around the City of Elizabeth, starting with his appointment in 1967 to the position of assistant director of Elizabeth General Medical Center.

"His managerial talents were widely recognized at Elizabeth General Medical Center where he advanced to senior vice president in 1973, chief operating officer in 1983 and ultimately president in 1991," stated Sister Barbara Conroy, chairman of the Trinitas Board. "It was truly his vision, foresight and deep understanding of the healthcare environment that led to the initiation of consolidation discussions with Sister Elizabeth Ann Maloney, then-President of St. Elizabeth Hospital. It was their steadfast belief in this cause that resulted in the successful establishment of Trinitas Hospital in January 2000."

According to Sister Barbara, "David Fletcher has served all of us with great distinction as the first president and chief executive officer of Trinitas Hospital, its parent corporation, Trinitas Health, and its subsidiaries. We wish him and his wife, Penny, many happy, healthy years ahead."

Sports

Westfield 10's shoot for title

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

The Westfield 10 year-old Babe Ruth League baseball squad has already gone farther than any other town team has, and now has a chance to do what no other 10 year-old Babe Ruth team has ever done.

After winning the Middle Atlantic Regional Tournament in Delaware Sunday, Westfield will compete for a national championship, playing in the inaugural Babe Ruth League, Cal Ripken Division 10-year old World Series this week in Vincennes, Indiana.

The squad left 7 a.m. yesterday, and will begin play in the 10-team double elimination tournament against tonight's Keenewick, Wa-Newburgh, In. winner 5 p.m. CST. Teams qualified from eight regional tournaments, with the host squad and its state champion also receiving bids. The championship game will be played Friday.

"We're going there to win it," said assistant coach Bob Saunders. "But we won't be losers, even if we don't come home with the trophy."

"We never really expected to make it past states," said Saunders. "This team plays very well together. All the kids like each other and every game is like a party. It's been a lot of fun. The kids have gelled real well. Head Coach Geoff Kent has really worked hard with them on the fundamentals and there are no weak spots on this team."

After dropping its first district tournament game to its Westfield counterparts, the squad has reeled off 15 straight tournament victories, relying on a heavy-hitting lineup that averages 10 runs a game and outstanding defensive play. A versatile pitching staff has limited opponents to a three-run per game average, throwing strikes and allowing the defense to take care of the rest.

The pitching staff is led by Brendan Burgdorf, Todd Saunders, David Pusar, Michael Kent and Dylan Clark. The entire 12-man roster has seen time on the mound, but it has been that quintet which has led Westfield on its tournament run.

"They throw fastballs and change-ups and the most important thing is they throw strikes," said Saunders. "They don't walk anybody and they let the defense take care of the rest. Our pitching is very deep."

One of the key assets for Westfield has been its defensive

play. Spencer Cassidy and Matt Reiss have split time behind the plate, and both yield dangerous bats. Cassidy has shown the ability to blast the long ball, while Reiss has been Mr. Clutch all season.

At first base, Matt Munizzi has been phenomenal all season, not committing an error and bailing his teammates out of a few with diving grabs and scoops of balls in the dirt. He has been the main cannon in an explosive offense, blasting a grand slam home run in the regional tournament, high and deep over the left field fence, a shot that cleared a creek beyond the fence and gave Westfield an 8-5 lead.

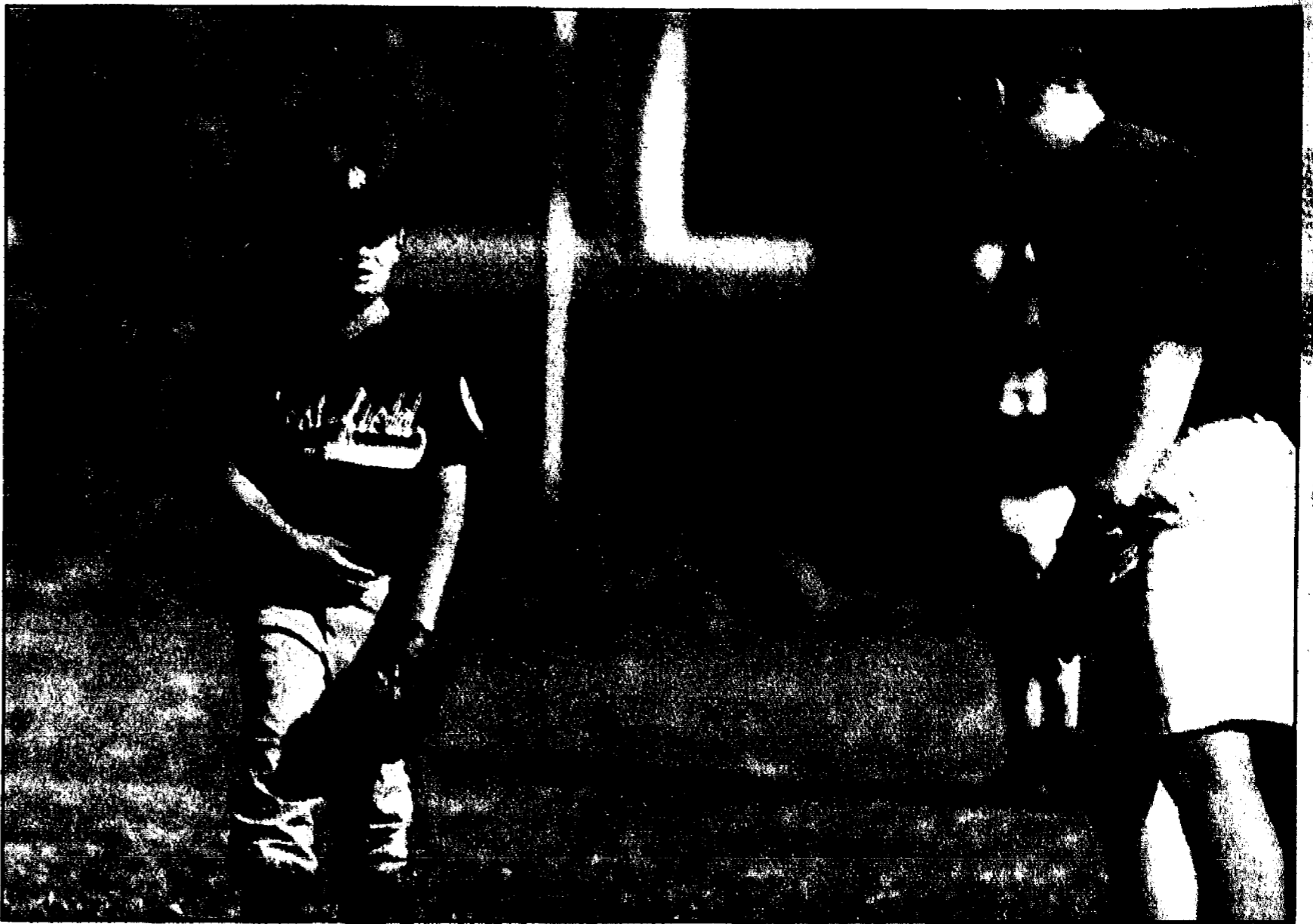
Kent, Pusar, Saunders, Michael Carpetto, and Burgdorf round out the infield. Carpetto splits time between the outfield and third base, and uses a lightning quick bat to spark the team from the leadoff position. Burgdorf, on the mound, is a hard thrower, plays third base and is the team leader. Saunders acts like a quarterback on the infield from his shortstop position, calling out plays and positioning. He is often brought into the games to pitch Westfield out of jams and is able to stop rallies cold. Kent has been wielding a hot bat, ripping six doubles in the regional tournament.

Joining Pusar and Carpetto in the outfield are Danny Sullivan in center, Michael Lesner, Dylan Clark and Michael Forgash. Forgash plays with a motor that never stops and has shown a propensity to throw runners out on force plays at first and second base. Sullivan is one of the best defensive and most intuitive players on the team. Lesner is a good athlete who gets good jumps on the ball and never lets anything get by him.

"Every kid on this team can hit and every kid can play defense," said Saunders. "Some teams have a few superstars and that's it. We don't have any weaknesses. We can hit the best pitching other teams have to offer. The harder a kid throws, the further we hit it."

The squad has been a big hit so far, and if the bats stay hot it could be a week away from winning the first Babe Ruth 10 year-old World Series.

Having traveled longer and further than expected, the club is seeking donations to help offset the costs. If you would like to support Westfield baseball, donations can be sent to Westfield Baseball League, P.O. Box 156, Westfield, NJ 07090, Ref: Babe Ruth 10's.



Head Coach Geoff Kent works with shortstop Todd Saunders as the Westfield 10-year-old baseball team prepared for its trip to the Cal Ripken World Series. Play begins tonight in Vincennes, Ind. and Westfield's first game will be tomorrow.

The long road to the Vincennes

After dropping its first game in the District Tournament, the Westfield 10-year old baseball team has reeled off 15 straight victories, and will begin play in the inaugural Babe Ruth 10-year old World Series tomorrow.

Westfield earned its berth in the national championship tournament by winning the District 12 tournament, the North Jersey State Championship and the Middle Atlantic Region Championship Friday, defeating the South Jersey champ Marlton 6-2 in the final.

Westfield won the District 12 Tournament by defeating Scotch Plains (11-0), Elizabeth (10-0), Cranford (11-6), and the other Westfield squad for the championship 8-1 and 12-2.

The squad went on to win the North Jersey State Championship in Elmwood Park. Westfield registered victories over Iselin (7-2), North Edision (9-4), Readington (14-4), and Iselin in the championship game 12-3.

The next stop was Brookside, Del. for the Middle Atlantic Regional tournament, where it competed against seven other teams from Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware and New Jersey.

Westfield defeated Brookside 9-2 and Western New York champ Amherst 5-4. After falling behind Amherst 4-1 Westfield rallied back and won when David Pusar drove home Todd Saunders with the winning run in the sixth.

Westfield met up with an old nemesis in the third game of the tournament July 23, taking on the South Jersey champ Marlton and registered a dramatic come-from-behind 10-5 win.

Marlton led 5-3 through the first five innings. Facing the top Marlton pitcher in the sixth, Danny Sullivan led off with a walk and eventually scored on a single by Dylan Clark. With the bases loaded, Matt Munizzi stroled to the plate. After falling behind in the count 0-2, Munizzi fouled off a tough change-up to stay alive. The next pitch was a fastball that Munizzi blasted 20 feet over the left field wall and beyond the creek behind the field for a dramatic grand slam, lifting Westfield into the lead 8-5.

Michael Kent singled home a run, and scored for the final outcome.

Westfield steam rolled into the championship game, blowing out Eastern New York champ Niskayuna 14-4.

After Niskayuna, the only other unbeaten team in the tournament, scored four times in the first inning, Westfield answered right back, scoring three runs in the first and six runs in the second to take control.

Westfield matched up again with its rival from South Jersey, and defeated Marlton 6-2 to win the Middle Atlantic championship.

Westfield took an early lead when Munizzi and Pusar delivered RBI singles and Kent doubled home a run in the first inning.

Marlton scored a run in the first inning, but was held scoreless by Burgdorf in the second and third.

Marlton threatened to take the lead in the fourth, loading the bases with no outs, but the stellar Westfield defense came through. Pusar caught a soft line drive at short, then threw to Kent at second, who threw to Munizzi at first to complete the triple play and preserve the lead.

In the sixth, Michael Carpetto laid down a perfect bunt, that brought home two runs when the Marlton third baseman over-threw first. Munizzi singled to score Carpetto, pushing the lead to 6-2.

With season barely over, Post 3 looks to bright future

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

Though the dust has barely settled on a tremendous season for the Westfield Post 3 Senior

American Legion squad, the team is already setting its sights on more success in the seasons to come.

The season came to a disappointing conclusion Monday, as

Westfield was eliminated by Union from the District 2 tournament.

Westfield defeated Musconetcong 15-13 in a slugfest Saturday, but dropped a

13-6 decision to J.F. Kennedy of Iselin Sunday and suffered a 5-2 loss to Union Monday to be knocked out of the double-elimination tournament.

"We finished 24-5 and won the county championship, which hasn't been done by a Westfield team in 18 years," said Head Coach Tony Picaro. "These guys want to come back and win this thing next year, and we're already planning on having a six-man pitching staff to be ready."

Westfield was able to score twice in the ninth inning to overcome Musconetcong, but after having to use two of its main four pitchers to survive the slugfest, needed Jay Cook to pitch deep into the nine-inning game Sunday. Cook pitched well, but sloppy Westfield defense and a high pitch count forced him out in the seventh inning. Picaro turned to some of his younger arms to save Brian Butts for Monday's game, and Kennedy pulled away late, scoring eight runs in the final four innings.

After defeating Union twice during the regular season, Butts and Union right-hander Jorge Vidal engaged in a pitching duel. Westfield had hit Vidal hard in the two previous encounters, but the college-sophomore-to-be threw almost entirely breaking pitches, after relying on mostly fastballs the first two times.

Union took a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the sixth on two runs,

one unearned and Westfield couldn't recover.

"I have to tip my hat to (Vidal)," said Picaro. "He pitched a great game. We didn't get good pitch counts and good balls to hit. Butts pitched a great game as well, he was outstanding."

Westfield finishes the summer campaign with a 24-5 record and the Union County championship.

"They seemed a little bit down because we lost to Union, who we had beaten twice," said Picaro. "But, to be realistic, it would have been a stretch to win because of the pitching."

Next summer's campaign is still a long way off, and most of the squad will be hard at work between now and the spring. After a couple days off, players will meet again to get ready for fall ball, where Picaro believes 12-15 players will compete. After fall ball, the team will workout on Sunday's with Picaro to get ready for the spring season.

The squad will make up most of the high school's varsity squad in the spring and took tremendous strides over the summer. After a strong spring campaign in 2000, they will enter the high school season as the team to beat in Union County.

But with their summer success and improvement, especially the Union County title, Westfield won't sneak up anybody and will have to be ready to play everyday. It is a marked

team now, and knows it can't let up.

"As a team I think one of the things I'm most pleased with, with the exception of the Summit game, is they were focused for every game and realized you have to show up ready to play everyday," said Picaro. "If you're going to step on the field, you might as well play to win. They really learned what it takes to win."

"Defensively, they learned to communicate better with each other. There base running improved immensely — getting reads on balls that bounce away from the catcher, taking aggressive leads.

"They're very confident, but they know when you're king of the hill, everybody is coming after you. They've worked hard to get here, and they know they have to work harder to stay here."

While most of the squad will be together to try to dethrone Cranford as county champs, two valuable contributors to the Post 3 squad will be moving on. Nick Geissler, who was not only one of Westfield's top hurlers in the spring and summer, but also provided the leadership that helped develop Butts and Andrew Garrison into future stars, will move on to play for Western New England College.

Mike Duels, whose game developed by leaps and bounds the past two years, will move and play at Union County College beginning in the fall.



NICOLE DIMELLA/RECORD-PRESS

John Leonardis was part of an explosive Westfield lineup that helped lead the Post 3 squad to a 24-5 season.

BEST BETS THIS WEEK

Suites available for ballpark concerts

BRIDGEWATER — The Somerset County Park Commission has announced that enclosed suites remain available for the two major concerts scheduled for the final weekend in September at the Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater.

On stage on Saturday evening, Sept. 29, will be Country Music star Randy Travis with special guest Patty Loveless.

The following evening, Sunday, Sept. 30, the Somerset County Park Commission will feature the classic Motown sounds of The Temptations with

special guests, The Spinners.

The enclosed suites feature heat or air conditioning and include 25 tickets to the performance. The cost for a suite for each evening is \$1,000.

"Suites are perfect for entertaining clients or just having a great party at a live concert with family and friends," stated Cindie Sullivan of the Somerset County Park Commission. Catering is available at an additional cost.

Individual tickets for each event range from \$15 to \$50 and are on sale at the Somerset Patriots Ticket Office, Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Telephone orders are accepted at (908) 252-0700 using MasterCard, Visa, or American Express.

Orioles coming to Duke Island

BRIDGEWATER — The Somerset County Park Commission Free Summer Concert series at Duke Island Park on Old York Road in Bridgewater will continue with the Orioles at Duke Island Park on Sunday, Aug. 5, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., as part of the Park Commission's Free Summer Concert Series.

The Orioles have been influencing music for over 40 years and were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1995.

Formed by Sonny Til in 1948 in Baltimore, the Orioles laid the groundwork for R&B and doo wop. Their first hit, "It's Too Soon to Know," was huge and crossed over both pop and R&B charts. Other hits continued with "Crying in the Chapel" and "What Are You Doing New Year's Eve." Their smooth sound continues today with new young talent and a desire to croon all the old hits.

The concert is sponsored by the DoubleTree Hotel.

Concert goers are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets for seating. Ample parking is available.

For more information, call the Somerset County Park Commission at (908) 722-1200, Ext. 221 or the Concert/Activity Hotline at Ext. 351.

Sax sensation in Watchung

WATCHUNG — Tenor sax sensation Harry Allen will join forces with piano talent Bill Charlap in a concert at the Watchung Arts Center on Aug. 10.

It is not their first time together, as a mutual CD will attest, but it is a rare live duet performance which should be a treat for their many fans. This Jazz Series event starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$12, and include intermission refreshments.

Advance reservations are suggested. Call (908) 753-0190, leaving a message on the tape if necessary. Tickets will be held for payment and pickup at the door.

The Watchung Arts Center is on the circle in Watchung.



Marvin Cline's "Xenophobia," will be on display at the Somerset Art Association.

Somerset Art Association will have color photography show

Somerset Art Association's Photography Showcase, Part Two, "The Color Image" is on view in the Johnson Gallery in Bedminster Aug. 9 to Sept. 13.

The opening reception is Aug. 9 from 6-8 p.m. Featured in the exhibit are seven artists by invitation from the tri-state area. The exhibition is tied together neither by theme nor subject matter, but by the beauty of the color medium as expressed through the creative lenses of these seven photographers.

Exhibiting artists include Stephanie Baker, an artist who recently began experimenting with photography. Currently she is working on the first of a series "To the dear woman I may become," spending much of her time documenting her own life as an ongoing diary. Her photos are enlarged and shown together in large groupings to form a narrative. She attempts to deal with the plight of temporary existence.

Light sources as it affects the colors of an image are the challenge that Nancy Bernhaut strives to depict in her work. Her most recent images are using the Polaroid transfer method which allows the transfer of an image on a slide onto watercolor paper via Polaroid film, giving the picture a painterly quality.

Norma Bernstock's interest and enthusiasm for other fine arts is reflected in her choice of images and the way she manipulates them, blurring the distinction between photography and other art forms. She strives to force the viewer to be in between reality and fantasy.

A professional free-lance photographer/writer for over thirty years, Walter Chaudoha specializes in flora and fauna of the world. His photographs have appeared on over 300 magazine

covers and in thousands of advertisements for prominent Fortune 500 companies, including the giant Kodak Colorama in New York City's Grand Central Station. In this exhibit his mouth-watering images of vegetables and flowers from his farm are tantalizing.

Lots of rich color and strong patterns and composition are evident in Marvin Cline's images. He focuses on getting closer and closer to his subjects, seeing what things are made of. His motivation and joy is sharing his photographic images with others.

Dave Hoffman escapes from being a professional corporate advertising and annual report photographer by photographing panoramic landscapes. Two photographs in the show are chosen

from one of these series. His prints are achieved by a process of archival watercolor digital output from original photographic film.

The majority of Francesca Leipzig Picon's works are eibachrome self portraits. She feels that by concentrating upon self-portraits, she can control every aspect of her work. By using daylight film with tungsten light, these portraits evoke an almost dreamlike existence.

Gallery Hours are Monday - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:40 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Admission is free. SAA is located at 2020 Burnt Mills Road, Bedminster.

For further information, contact the SAA office at (908)234-2345.

Sensational Soul Cruisers will rock park

The Sensational Soul Cruisers will rock Echo Lake Park in Mountainside with their top of the line Motown music on Wednesday, Aug. 15 at the seventh free evening concert of the Union County Summer Arts Festival.

"We are pleased to have this extremely popular group back for the eighth year in a row," said Union County Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella. "We can expect a full slate of Motown, disco, rhythm and blues, and classic soul tunes."

The 11-piece band is no stranger to the stage. Along with their consecutive performances in Union County, the Sensational Soul Cruisers have also performed across the country in the finest clubs, theaters and arenas.

Members of this dynamic band include Smokey Noble, Kiminey Thomas, Linwood Peel, Jerome "J.D." Dean, Joe "Nappy" Martin, Stan Tartas, Jimmy Bevan, Bill Winans, Gary McKeen, Mike Dalena, and "Screamin' Steve" Barlotta.

The Sensational Soul Cruisers perform the music of the top

singers and bands from the 1980s back to the 1960s. Songs may include such hits as "If You Don't Know Me By Now," "It's Your Thing," "Love Train," "Treat Her Like A Lady," "Could It Be I'm Falling In Love," and many more.

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders presents the concert free of charge. All the Summer Arts Festival concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Springfield Avenue end of Echo Lake Park in Mountainside. Lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets are encouraged. There is a refreshment stand available at approximately 6:30 p.m. The rain site for all concerts is Cranford High School on West End Place off Springfield Avenue in Cranford. For up-to-date concert/rain information call the Department of Parks and Recreation 24-hour hotline at (908) 352-8410 after 3 p.m. on the day of the concert.

For other concert information, or to find out more about Union County recreational activities, call the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation at (908) 527-4900.

Big band performs Wednesday at park

The big band Brass Tacks performs 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 8 in Echo Lake Park as the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Schering-Plough Corp. present the seventh concert of the Summer Arts Festival Concert Series.

"We are delighted to be welcoming back one of New Jersey's finest bands," Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella said. "The band was founded 11 years ago and has been entertaining throughout the state ever since."

The 17-piece ensemble has four trombones, four trumpets, four rhythm instruments and five saxophones. Brass Tacks includes the traditional big band repertoire

(Harry James, Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw) and more modern music (Brian Setzer among others).

Summer Arts Festival concerts are at the Springfield Avenue end of Echo Lake Park, near the Westfield-Springfield-Mountainside border. Admission is free; bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. Picnics are encouraged. A refreshment stand opens around 6:30 p.m.

In case of rain the concert moves indoors to Cranford High School. For rain updates, phone (908) 352-8410 after 3 p.m. Wednesday. For other concert information, phone (908) 527-4900.

Dealers are sought for flea market

ELIZABETH — The First Baptist Church of Cranford/Elizabeth, 402 Union Ave., Elizabeth, will hold an outdoor flea market on Aug. 11, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dealers are welcome. For reservations call (908) 352-0519 or (908) 289-2598.

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Automotive/Classified

Lincoln's pricey Blackwood goes for some classy plastic

BY JERRY GARRETT
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

What is the Lincoln Blackwood without black wood? The new Blackwood, due in dealer showrooms in August, is supposedly a manifestation of how faithful Lincoln stayed to its original four-door Concept Truck, introduced at the 1999 Detroit auto show.

The concept was to bring back the "woodie" in a classy way, with a cargo box made of exotic, black-grained wenge wood from Africa. More wood lined the cargo box.

"We're gonna build it!" Lincoln enthusiastically told the press. What happened?

Sun, salt, heat and cold proved insurmountable obstacles. "Show me a way to do real wood, and get it to last 10 years, and I'll still put it on there," says Dave Wotton, the chassis supervisor.

So, the Blackwood is little more than a Navigator-based take on the Ford Explorer Sport Trac, with fake-wood applique on a plastic pickup bed. Actually, it's a photograph of the real wenge wood - a process also used to generate the paste-on headlights on Rusty Wallace's NASCAR Ford Taurus.

Imagine. All this for just \$52,500.

Make no mistake about it, though: Lincoln will sell a lot of these.

The projected yearly sales goal of 10,000 units could easily be met in Texas alone, where newly minted oil-industry billionaires can't wait to turn that cargo box into a 26-cubic-foot beer cooler, golf cart and/or gun rack.

Like Henry Ford's original Model T, the Blackwood comes in any color you want - as long as it's black. Says Lincoln publicist Jim Trainor: "Look, if it was red, it would be a Redwood, wouldn't it?"

Seriously, other colors are



Yes, Lincoln does make a pick-up truck.

being considered for future years, like Silverwood, Hollywood (would that be a green?) and Mauvewood (just kidding).

"We can't find any other color that looks good with the wood," says Dave Reiche, vehicle development engineer.

The decision to scrap real wood and go with a photographic applique on molded plastic panels appears to have come pretty late in the game - because the whole truck seems to be built around the bed.

In anticipation of relatively weak wood side panels on the bed - rather than stamped steel panels - Lincoln designed a unique box-within-a-box that takes the stress off the exterior panels. All the exterior trim pieces are mounted to a square-

channel steel space frame. It is, in turn, cantilever-mounted to the chassis.

Inside the bed are stainless-steel bins with hatch covers, a carpeted load floor and LED track lighting - all reached by double Dutch doors and an industry-first motorized tonneau cover.

If the thought occurs to you this is not a true truck bed - no 4-

by-8 sheets of plywood here - you're right.

"Think of it as a 26-cubic-foot trunk," says Henry Brice, chief program engineer.

Actually, the Blackwood is more of a "tow truck," using four-wheel disc brakes and 18-inch tires and aluminum wheels. Its 8,700-pound trailering capacity is facilitated by a Blackwood-specific, load-leveling air/leaf

spring suspension system. An Explorer-type independent rear suspension, expected on the next Navigator redesign, was eschewed as "not truck-like enough" for the Blackwood.

Otherwise, the 300-horsepower, 5.4-liter V-8, four-speed automatic transmission and most other running gear, as well as most interior appointments, are straight from the Navigator.

Expect fuel mileage of 12 miles per gallon around town and 17 on the highway, using 91-octane gas - the same as any two-wheel-drive Navigator.

The only available option is the \$1,995 navigation system. Features that are optional on the Navigator, such as the Alpine stereo with CD changer, 18-inch alloy wheels, and front seats that huff and puff climate-controlled air, are standard on the Blackwood.

"We didn't want to nickel-and-dime customers to death with options," Brice says. "We wanted the package to be 'the package.' We even debated making the 'nav' system standard. But there are some people who just don't want or need it."

There also are some people who don't like its low, upward-facing mounting position between the front seats.

Lincoln spinmeisters proclaim that in its production version, the Blackwood "remains true to its visual promise." Maybe. Purists will still mourn the lost woodie.

A truck, though, in any flavor is expected to fill an important hole in the expanding Lincoln lineup. Lincoln believes the Blackwood is, like the Navigator and the LS, "found money." That is to say, nearly 70 percent of the people buying those models are new customers; they'd never owned a Lincoln before.

Jerry Garrett is a free-lance auto writer based in San Diego and a contributing editor to Car and Driver magazine.

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