

INSIDE



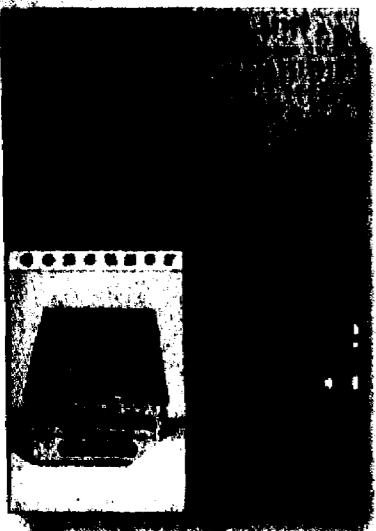
Hoy, that hurts!

Westfield wrestler Rob Mench defeated Chris Trapani of Howell on his way to the 103-pound title at the Blue Devil Invitational Friday. For the wrap-up, see Page B-1.



Gingerbread kids

Children in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Pre-K classes recently made gingerbread cookies for homeless people in the area. See the full photo on Page A-3.



Consumer reports

A new art exhibit at Union County College's Tomasulo Gallery will explore the ways in which consumerism influences contemporary culture. For the story, see Prime Time on Page B-4.

REMINDER

Happy New Year

The staff of the Record-Press wishes you and your family a happy and safe New Year. Please remember, if you plan on drinking, designate a driver.

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Communities look ahead to 2003

Scotch Plains mayor says focus will be on tax reform, improving athletic fields

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — As 2002 comes to an end, the Township Council is preparing for a new year and a new era of sorts with an all-Republican membership.

Councilwoman-elect Carolyn Sorge will join council members Frank Rossi and Nancy Malool in their swearing-in ceremony at the township's reorganization meeting 1 p.m. Jan. 1. Councilwoman Paulette Coronato will be named deputy mayor at the meeting.

Mayor Martin Marks says he expects 2003 to be a busy and challenging year for the council. He said budget discussions will begin in February, adding that it will be a difficult year with the state of the economy and revenue down. The council must balance those realities against the con-

stant pressure to keep taxes down, he said.

The council has been an advocate for property tax reform through a state constitutional convention. It voted to place a non-binding question on the November ballot asking residents if they would support such a convention; voters supported the idea by a nearly 4-1 margin.

"I want to be an ambassador for a constitutional convention to put property tax reform on the table to debated and voted on," Marks said. "Ultimately, it will take some guts from someone in Trenton for it to get done."

Bills for a constitutional convention have been introduced in the state Senate, with one sponsored by Sens. John Alder and Bob Martin passing 6-4 in the Senate Judiciary Committee last

(Continued on page A-2)

McDermott: Pedestrian safety, parking and improved fields are top priorities

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Town Council looks ahead to 2003 with several pairs of new eyes. In the closing months of 2002 Republicans took back control of the governing body in the November election, and then Councilman Kevin Walsh resigned, effective at the end of January, to become a United States assistant attorney.

"One-third of our members are new," Mayor Gregory McDermott said. "There's a lot of education we have to do. We have to keep them up to speed with the budget and improvements. It puts pressure on the town administrator and the council to keep them up to speed."

Newly elected members include Sal Caruana in the First Ward and Andy Skibitsky in the Third Ward, who will be sworn in at the reorganization meeting 7 p.m. Jan. 7. The Democratic com-

mittee will submit candidates for the council to choose from in replacing Walsh.

McDermott said one of the council's priorities in 2003 will be to address speeding and pedestri-

"One-third of our members are new. There's a lot of education we have to do. We have to keep them up to speed with the budget and improvements."

— Mayor Gregory McDermott

an safety in town. The issue has emerged as the top concern for residents who have complained about the safety of their children.

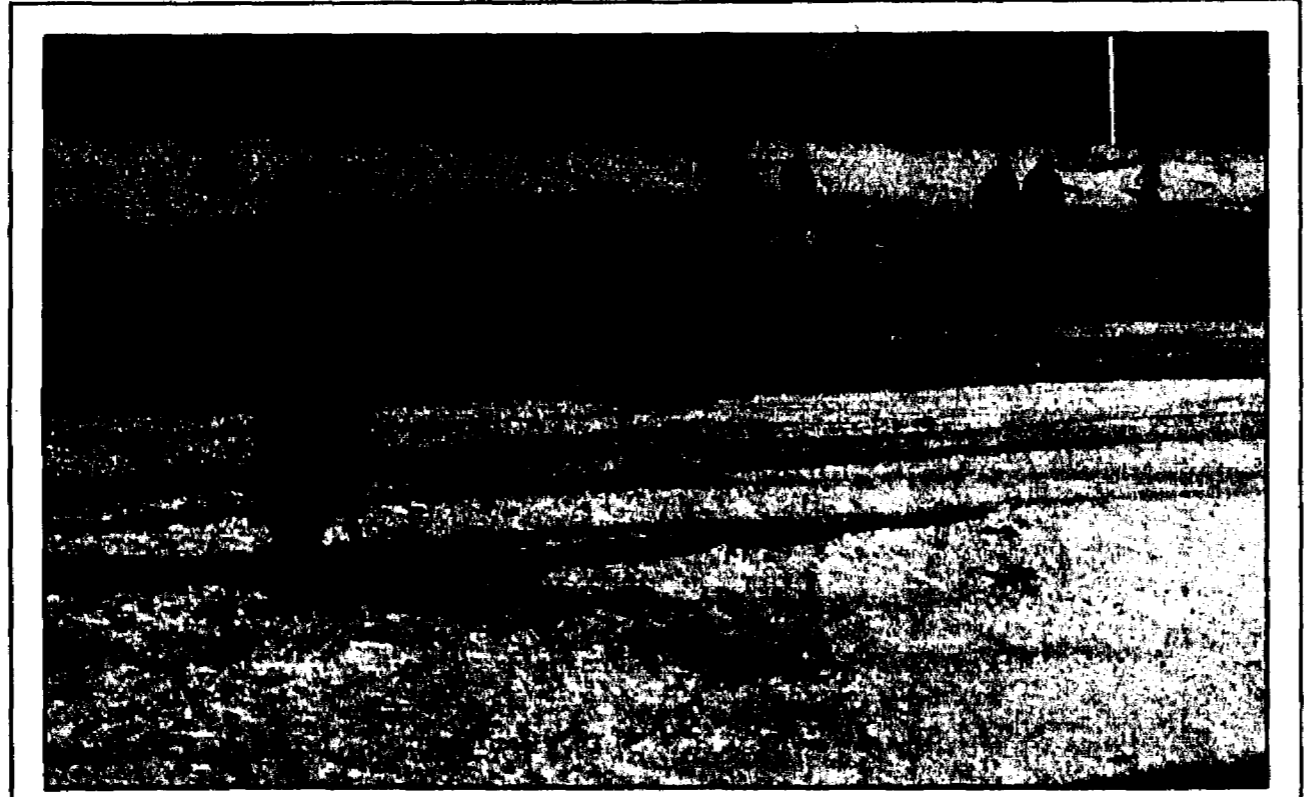
McDermott said he would like to work with the BRAKES group, Police Chief Bernard Tracy and the council's Public Safety and

Traffic, Parking and Transportation committees to remedy the problem. He said speeding enforcement will definitely be stepped up in 2003, and in order to save money the town must find ways aside from traffic calming to address the issue.

McDermott said parking also remains a top priority. The town has received eight responses to its Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and McDermott hopes to narrow them down to three by January. A committee composed of council members from each ward as well as representatives from the Planning Board and the Downtown Westfield Corporation will interview the top three planners in February.

Improving parks and fields, an issue that was raised during the election campaign, will also be a priority for the council this year. McDermott said some residents want extravagant parks, but the

(Continued on page A-2)



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dreams of a white Christmas come true

The first white Christmas in decades gave children across the area an added bonus over their holiday vacation. After opening gifts Dec. 25, these youngsters hit the slopes at Echo Lake Park for some sledding the next day.

Pair indicted for March murder of Scotch Plains man

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

Two men charged with killing a Scotch Plains man in March were indicted on six counts by a county grand jury last week.

Henry "Sal" Bullock, 34, and Antwan Mitchell, also known as Marquis Sowell, 28, both of Newark, were indicted on charges of first-degree murder, felony murder, weapons offenses, carjacking and robbery in the killing of Christopher Demetrius Cooper, 32, on March 26.

Evidence uncovered by detectives revealed that Bullock and Mitchell took Cooper from a street in Newark and were on their way to his home in Scotch Plains to rob him when they ran out of gas and stopped to fill up. When the men pulled into the gas station, Cooper tried to

scream for help. Witnesses said they heard Cooper yelling, but when he tried to escape from the car, Bullock and Mitchell allegedly took him behind a ShopRite supermarket in Clark and shot him in the shoulder and head.

The two were arrested after a phone tip made through the Union County Crimestoppers tip line. The caller said he happened to see an object thrown out of a Ford Taurus wagon at about the time of the murder.

A similar vehicle was allegedly used as a getaway car in the murder of two Irvington residents, which jogged the caller's memory.

A search for the object seen by the caller led police to a cell phone in the parking lot of a

(Continued on page A-2)

Looking back on the year that was: 2002 in review

A year marked by the tragic and the bizarre

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD-PRESS

The past year was marked by several tragic or bizarre incidents that will not soon be forgotten: the sexual assault of a teenage girl in a Scotch Plains school by 5 male students; the untimely death, caused by a windstorm, of a Westfield High School student; and a robbery spree allegedly perpetrated by a Westfield woman. And amidst the familiar political struggles, several issues came to the fore: pedestrian safety in Westfield, recreational space in Scotch Plains and downtown redevelopment in Fanwood.

What follows is a brief accounting of the major local news events that took place in 2002:

January: A 13-year-old Scotch Plains middle school girl was sexually assaulted by five Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys behind Park Middle School. The girl, a Fanwood resident, was abducted after school, beaten and forced to perform sexual acts on the boys. County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan sought to try the teenage boys as adults.

The Fanwood Borough Council voted 4-2 to advance a downtown redevelopment plan to the Planning Board. Democratic Council members Katherine Mitchell and Michael Brennan were the dissenting votes, citing concerns with density and imminent domain.

The Democratic majority of the Town Council in Westfield decided to join a lawsuit with local African-American leaders to challenge the town's Ward Commission over the redistricting of ward lines. The five Democratic council members argued that the 2001 ward changes redistricted a predominantly African-American neighborhood into an affluent ward inconsistent with the neighborhood demographics.

February: Scotch Plains residents received a four percent tax hike in the municipal portion of their property taxes. The township worked on a

tight budget and cut budget requests by nearly \$750,000.

Fanwood Police Chief Robert Carboy retired after 38 years in the department. He was the borough's fourth police chief, having succeeded Anthony Parenti in 1998. Capt. Donald Domanoski took over as acting chief.

Plans for the Sept. 11 memorial in Westfield were underway, with plans for the site at the corner of East Broad Street and North Avenue. The site plan consisted of a granite and glass sculpture and granite pillars for each Westfield victim, surrounded by a stone bench wall and landscaped paths.

March: One of the assailants in the Park Middle School rape case admitted to the crime and agreed to testify against the other boys. Manuel Batista pleaded guilty in Superior Court to first-degree aggravated assault and faced a five-year prison sentence.

The Fanwood Borough Council approved a redevelopment plan after making changes recommended by the Planning Board. As in January, the two Democratic council members rejected the proposal, but it passed 4-2. The plan proposed to redevelop a 6.5-acre block downtown, including Martine, South and LaGrande avenues and Second Street.

School tax on an average Westfield home was projected to rise \$432 under the new budget proposal. The preliminary budget was \$57.2 million, which represented an 8.6 percent increase in school taxes.

April: School budgets passed in both school districts with tax increases of 6.65 percent in Scotch Plains-Fanwood and about \$487 more per year for a Westfield home valued at \$180,000. In addition Alice Hunicutt, Arlene Gardner and William Ziff were elected to the board in Westfield, and Edward Saridaki Jr., Norman Whitehouse and Susan Dyckman were elected in Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

(Continued on page A-6)



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
In Westfield, police officers and the Town Council became embroiled in unusually bitter negotiations over the police union's new contract. Officers even participated in a public protest march before the two sides came to an agreement.

Mayor says focus will be on tax reform, improving athletic fields

(Continued from page A-1)

month. However, Marks said he has heard that the state Senate will let it die.

Marks added that the legislature can do something about property tax without a constitutional convention, but people are too concerned with their political futures. Though municipalities have little control over systemic problems, he said, he wants to do everything in his power to promote reform.

The largest project within the Township Council's control in 2003 will be improvement of its athletic

fields. Marks said as youth athletic leagues have grown, the availability of fields has been limited. But by the end of 2003, the township plans to address the problem with renovations to several fields.

In 2003, the new field on Plainfield Avenue will be finished, the field at Union County Vocational-Technical High School will be expanded, a field on the north side of Route 22 near McDonald's will be renovated, Jerseyland and Farley Avenue parks will undergo renovations and construction is expected to begin on the "Field of Dreams" shared-ser-

ices project at Park Middle School.

Marks said the additional fields will help the conditions because current fields are overused. He added that scheduling may be difficult, but the township is receiving new software for scheduling paid for through a state grant.

Another priority for the council is the finalization of the Broadway Associates age-restricted housing plan, which calls for 53 homes in vacant land off Jerusalem Road. Marks also said he wants to pursue additional shared-services projects with Fanwood and the school district, possibly in public works.

McDermott

(Continued from page A-1)

town must be fiscally responsible. He said the Recreation Department is exploring installation of artificial turf on some fields.

"People want to see a Yankee Stadium field, but that's not going to happen," McDermott said. "The theme (for field improvements) will be more for less."

McDermott expects the town to be productive in field improvements if it handles the issue the same way it did public works projects this year. He said before the budget was passed in April, the Public Works Department had already surveyed the town and prepared for projects. Thus, once the budget was passed all the town had to do was send out for bids.

The town will also try to avoid lengthy contract negotiations, such as those with the police this year. The public works contract will be up in 2003.

"We learned what we have to do; we're aware of the situation. We want to progress as quickly as possible," McDermott said.



COURTESY CHERI ROGOWSKY

Holiday toy drive

The Business and Professional Association of Fanwood held its Holiday Dinner Meeting and Toy Drive at Il Sogno Restaurant and Pizzeria of Fanwood Dec. 16. The event was sponsored by Commerce Bank of Fanwood and attended by Rep. Mike Ferguson. With the assistance of Jennifer Ricci, director of The Chelsea and Marie Santo, welfare director for Fanwood-Scotch Plains, association members donated many toys to needy families in the area. From left: Ferguson, Association President Peter Chemidlin, Marc Charbonneau of Commerce Bank, Association Coordinator Clayton Pierce.

Openings exist at JCC nursery school

SCOTCH PLAINS — The JCC of Central New Jersey has limited openings available for Kindergarten, Nursery School and Extended Day programs.

Nursery school classes are available for children ages 2, 3, and 4 and meet two, three, or five days a week. Half or full days are available. Full day kindergarten is open to 5-year-olds and is held

Monday through Friday. All classes are taught by certified teachers and qualified assistants. The classroom focuses on reading, art, music, gym and more.

Also available are dozens of classes in the extended day program. These additional programs are designed to supplement the typical nursery school day.

Programming includes art, math readiness, cooking, Judaica and computers. A few of the many class choices include Wiggles 'n Giggles, Dinosaurs Galore and Fancy Dancin'.

An Open House is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Jan. 7. Registration begins Jan. 21. For additional information, call Susan Bennett at (908) 889-8800 ext. 204.

Briefs

Board of Education filings due Feb. 24

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on school boards is 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24.

Prospective board of education members can obtain a School Board Candidate Kit at the local school district office. Published by the New Jersey School Boards

Association, the kit includes information about legal qualifications for candidacy, campaign procedures and the role of the school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process and briefing session times for the candidates are also included.

Open house at Osceola Church

CLARK — Osceola Church

Nursery School will hold an open house 9-11 a.m. and 12:30-2:30 p.m. Jan. 28.

The school is located at 1689. Karitan Rd. For more information, call the school at (908) 272-3668.

Learn about massage at Union County College

CRANFORD — Union County College offers a certificate program in massage therapy for the spring 2003 semester.

The program is open to students enrolled fulltime on the Cranford campus for the spring 2003 semester. Required courses include Human Biology; Fundamentals in Massage Therapy; Massage Therapy I; Kinesiology for Massage Therapists; and Clinic I. For registration, visit www.ucc.edu or phone (908) 709-7134. For program information, phone Andrea Mariani at (908) 791-4916.

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	1L M & R VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 5.99		750 GEORGES DUBOUEF Beaujous Villages • Macon Villages 6.99
			750 JACOB'S CREEK Chardonnay • Shiraz 6.99
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Pair indicted

(Continued from page A-1)

business near the Clark circle off Exit 135 of the Garden State Parkway. The recovery led authorities to the owner of the phone and its use by the suspects.

Telephone toll records established conversations between the victim and the suspects hours and days before the killing.

The men have also been charged with the killings of Larry Harris and Amir Merryweather of Irvington in May. Bullock and Mitchell are being held on \$1 million bail each in Union County Jail.

Record-Press
A Penn Jersey Advance, Inc. newspaper
NUN Publishing © 2002

Record-Press (USPS 006-049) is published on Friday by NUN Publishing, 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ 07066 (908) 575-6660. Second class postage paid at Cranford, NJ 07016. POSTMASTER: please send changes to NUN Publishing, Fulfillment office, PO Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876. Subscription rates by mail, one year within Union County \$17, out of county \$20, out of state \$24. To subscribe call 1-800-300-9321

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Police recognized for saving lives and cracking cases

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD PRESS

WESTFIELD — Eighteen town policemen were honored in an awards presentation at the last Town Council meeting of the year, Dec. 17.

Chief Bernard Tracy, Mayor Gregory McDermott and PBA President Robert Weiss presented the awards in four categories: Medal of Merit, Life Saving, Command Citation and Certificate of Merit.

The Medal of Merit, the highest honor, was presented to Officer Frank Schmitz and Detective Barron Chambliss.

Schmitz was honored for coming to the aid of a Plainfield officer while off duty. On May 24, a Plainfield officer was surrounded by a gang when he attempted to detain a suspect after shots were fired at the Plainfield High School prom. Schmitz, who was armed, identified himself as an officer and helped apprehend the suspect without incident.

"The Plainfield officer stated that he believed he was about to be attacked by the crowd and that Officer Schmitz' presence not only assured the Plainfield officer's safety, but also the safety of the other individuals involved," Weiss told the council.

Chambliss' award came for his investigative work in a sexual assault case involving an 8-year-old girl. In March, Chambliss was notified by an out-of-state citizen about a possible ongoing sexual assault involving the juvenile. Chambliss began an investigation and convinced the informant to give a formal statement so an in-depth investigation could be conducted.

After police searched the suspect's home, he was charged with endangering the welfare of children, possession of pornographic material and distribution of pornographic materials. No sexual

assault had taken place. Despite limited experience in sexual assault cases, Chambliss earned a commendation for his work.

Chambliss was also honored with a Command Citation, along with Det. Joseph Costanzo, in the case in which Westfield resident Candice Singer allegedly went on a 10-month burglary spree in Union and Somerset counties. The detectives were the lead investigators, heading a team of Westfield and Mountainside officers.

The detectives helped uncover the first methamphetamine lab discovered in the county. They worked with the Newark and New York field offices of the Drug Enforcement Agency to disassemble the lab. Detective James McCullough also earned a Certificate of Merit for his work on the Singer investigation.

Officers Lisa Perrotta and Frank Moya won the Life Saving award for their April 6 response to a heart attack victim at a local supermarket. The officers were able to sustain the 67-year-old store employee until she was taken to Morristown Memorial Hospital.

Several other policemen won awards in Command Citation. Officer Christopher Battiloro was recognized for his investigative work in internet fraud with the Union County High Tech Task Force in July 2001. Battiloro was also honored along with Officer Robert Bartkus for apprehending the suspect who called in three bomb threats to the high school within two weeks in December 2001.

Also receiving Command Citations were officers Jason Rodger, Frank Padovano, Todd Earl and Robert Beaton, Sgt. David Wayman and Detective Vincent Costanzo.

Receiving Certificates of Merit were officers Kevin O'Keefe, Richard Smialowicz, Gregory Kasko and Robert McInerney.

Camp offers help to families of 9/11 victims

Comfort Zone Camp, the nation's largest bereavement camp, will offer two free, one-day camps in the New York City area for children who lost a parent or close relative in the Sept. 11 attacks. The children's surviving parents or primary caregivers are also encouraged to attend, and day care is provided.

The first camp will be held at the Montclair Kimberley Academy Saturday, Feb. 1. The second camp will be held Sunday, Feb. 2, at St. Francis Prep in Queens, N.Y.

The camps are free of charge to all participants and are an important part of the healing process, according to Lynne Hughes, Comfort Zone Camp's co-founder.

"The grieving process doesn't end just because a year anniversary has passed," Hughes said.

The one-day mini-camps will feature separate activities for children and adults. Children's activities include playing games, sharing memories and creating arts and crafts. Adults will have a separate program designed exclusively for them. At the camp's conclusion, the children and adults will participate in a closing ceremony to honor lost loved ones.

Comfort Zone Camp, a non-profit organization, is fully funded by corporate and private donations, and it is staffed by trained volunteer grief counselors. Since the Sept. 11 attacks, Comfort Zone Camp has hosted seven camps in the New York metro area.

For registration information, call (866) 488-5679 or visit www.comfortzonecamp.org.



A fun class activity

During the month of December, the children in the Pre-K Title I classes at Brunner Elementary School and School One in Scotch Plains made gingerbread cookies, which were donated to the Interfaith Council for the Homeless. Making the cookies from scratch provided the children with many learning and sensory experiences. Above, Brunner students Lainie Kosciolok, Ben Skanes and Francesca Carvalho hold a tray of cookies they helped make.

Plainfield man charged with stealing \$13G in video games

WESTFIELD

Tysean Clarke, 21, of Plainfield was charged Dec. 24 with third-degree theft after allegedly stealing \$13,200 worth of PlayStation video games from KB Toys. Clarke was an employee at the toy store.

Clarke was also picked up on a contempt of court warrant Dec. 23. He was released on that arrest after posting \$150 bail.

The theft of a purse and contents from a store in the 300 block of South Avenue was reported Dec. 22. The value of items stolen was \$750.

An Eaglecroft Road resident reported being the victim of identity theft Dec. 23. He reported someone opened a credit card account in his name and charged \$3,000 for a purchase made in Delaware.

A Fairmont Avenue resident reported that someone entered her garage and stole \$75 worth of Christmas presents Dec. 24.

Police received a report of an attempted burglary of a motor vehicle in the 10 block of Doris Parkway Dec. 21.

Police Log

A Mountain View Circle resident reported criminal mischief to a residence Dec. 21.

The theft of Christmas tree decorations from the 100 block of Park Street was reported Dec. 21. The decorations are worth approximately \$4.

Jesenia Gonzalez, 19, of 714 W. Broad St. was picked up on two contempt of court warrants out of Westfield Dec. 22. She was released after posting \$180 bail.

A report of criminal mischief to a business in the 200 block of East Broad Street was filed Dec. 22.

Criminal mischief to a vehicle in the 400 block of Colonial Avenue was reported Dec. 22.

A Boynton Avenue resident reported the burglary of an unidentified amount of money and jewelry Dec. 23.

A Sherman Street resident reported criminal mischief to Christmas decorations Dec. 23.

Fibromyalgia?

Clark, NJ - A new, free 16 page report has been published that reveals the "Untold Story" behind Fibromyalgia pain. Fibromyalgia misdiagnosis and mistreatment is rampant and may lead to countless years of unnecessary suffering. This free report reveals a natural, drugless procedure that is giving new hope to these patients with miraculous results for many. If you suffer from fibromyalgia you need this no B.S., no gimmicks free report that is giving hope to fibromyalgia sufferers everywhere. To order your copy of this free report, call toll free 1-800-278-5388 (24 hr. recorded message)

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Campus notes

Stacey Jo Bayos of Westfield has graduated from Raritan Valley Community College in Branchburg. She received an associate's degree in liberal arts with high honors at winter commencement exercises Dec. 19.

Bayos completed requirements for her degree in August.

Jason Thomas Meehan of Scotch Plains was named to the dean's list for the fall 2002 quarter at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga. The son of William and Kathleen Meehan is majoring in photography.

Louise Armstrong of Westfield and Doris Linaberry Bartell of Scotch Plains have been honored as Distinguished Alumni of Centenary College, Hackettstown.

They were recognized in the Distinguished Alumni dinner held on campus Oct. 18. Armstrong graduated in 1948 and Bartell graduated in 1941.

Westfield resident Matthew Kiebus achieved first honors, and town residents Brian Serzan and Michael Serzan achieved second honors, at St. Peter's Preparatory School in Jersey City for the first marking period.

To achieve first honors, a student must maintain a grade of 90 or higher in all courses; for second honors, a student must maintain grades of 85 or higher.

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Commentary

Here is the way it should be

In the spirit of the season, The Record-Press offers these suggested New Year's resolutions for local officials:

In Westfield, residents have clearly indicated their desire for traffic-calming measures that improve pedestrian safety. The Town Council is to be commended for taking these concerns seriously, and should continue to do so in the future. While some of the measures may be a nuisance to drivers, when judiciously applied, they can be of great value. In addition to making the streets safer, these measures can restore the pedestrian presence, and a better quality of life, to the town's neighborhoods and downtown.

At the same time, the council must be cautious when addressing these concerns: namely, it must learn how to say no. There is a finite amount of money and time that can be directed to these projects. The council should resolve not to become so preoccupied with traffic-calming measures that other important issues fall by the wayside. Similarly, the measures that are undertaken should be based on data and recommendations from the police department, not on which neighborhoods complain the loudest.

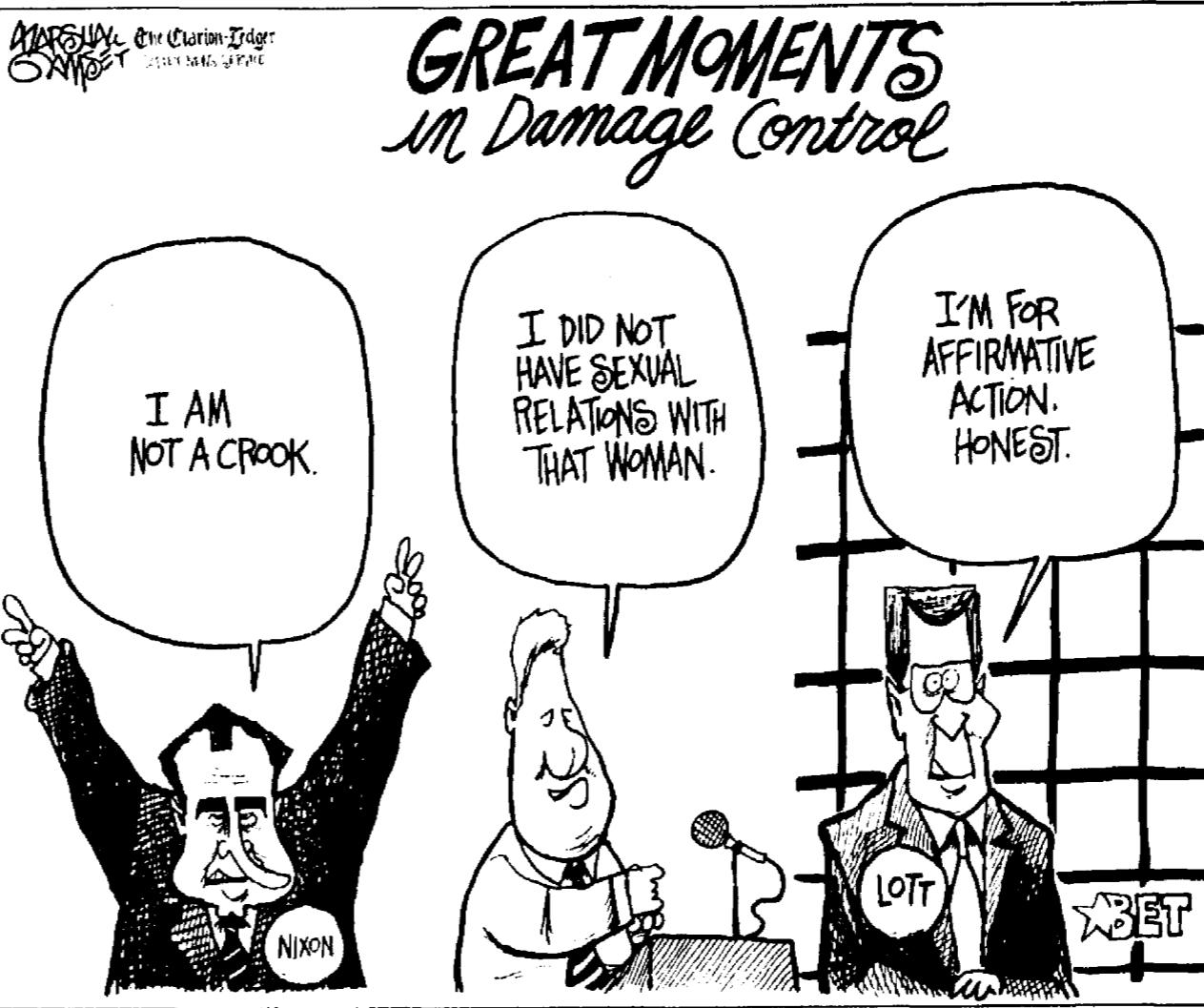
In Scotch Plains, Mayor Martin Marks and the Township Council should continue to press for a regional response to deer overpopulation and a statewide convention on property tax reform. While local officials have little authority to solve these problems, the higher-ups who do have the authority will act only under persistent pressure.

But the mayor and council must also do what it can to protect residents' immediate interests. The proposed commercial development of the quarry in Watchung, for example, threatens to create new flooding problems in the valley below Route 22 just as efforts are getting under way to correct existing problems. The township should take the lead in brokering a solution that will address Watchung's legitimate desire for new revenue while protecting the environmental interests of the municipalities below.

In Fanwood, the priority is, of course, the downtown redevelopment project. The initiative, which calls for the reconstruction of much of the borough's center, has great potential. But there is a reason most municipalities have abandoned these overhaul-everything construction projects. They tend to alienate people, and if the project doesn't look as good in bricks and mortar as it does on paper, it's a disaster. As the borough moves ahead, the Borough Council and Mayor Lou Jung must continue to pay attention to input from residents and existing business owners, and must place the borough's interests first in negotiations with the developer. The project is too important for mistakes or compromises.

Other issues cross municipal boundaries. In every town, there is a need for more and better recreational space. The explosion of membership in youth sports leagues has placed a premium on quality playing surfaces. But local leaders should also provide more places for children and teenagers who need a place to play, but who dislike or have outgrown recreational leagues.

Municipal leaders should also continue seeking an effective model to regulate residential development. Requests for subdivisions regularly draw residents complaining about increased traffic and the changing character of residential neighborhoods. The concerns have merit, but neither is it fair for current residents simply to bar all newcomers. And with the continued demand for housing in local towns, this is an issue that will not go away.



Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

Classic rock stunts my growth

In 2003 I resolve to grow up. That's a momentous resolution, especially for someone who's 46 years old.

No doubt there are some people who will say it's about time.

But there are others who will be working against the successful completion of this resolution. Just as those sources of aggravation and anxiety conspire to lead us away from resolutions to stop smoking, cut down drinking, eat healthier foods and exercise more, there are a lot of factors that will keep me from growing up in 2003.

For example, there are classic rock radio stations.

At age 46, I am hopelessly (and thankfully) out of touch with the trends of contemporary music. I'm at a loss to comprehend the subtleties of the musical trend *de jour* and just as all rock music sounded alike to my parents three decades ago, I'm afraid the nuances of today's bands escape my imagination. And, let's face it, there's no easier target for derision than a 46-year-old man-child trying to be hip.

That means my car's radio buttons are programmed to four different classical rock stations. Where I live in the middle of the Garden State I can listen to classic rock stations from New York, Philadelphia, Trenton and Easton. It is these stations, playing songs from two or three decades ago, that are working against my resolution.

At first I found these stations mildly diverting from the everyday stresses in my life. The songs from another time when my waist size was four inches smaller loosened me up and gave me a strange energy boost as I remembered the differences between jeans that were flared or bell-bottomed. How refreshing it was for a song to dredge up long-forgotten memories of a time when the possibilities were endless and you have the freedom to commit random acts of stupidity and recklessness. Whatever happened to the joy of youthful exploration when every new experience led to a revelation of the world both inside and outside of us?

But then I noticed something unsettling about the radio stations. They seemed to have very limited playlists, as if there were only about 40 songs worth remembering from a time when it was considered daring to move in with a lover who wasn't your spouse and the width of a trouser leg was a political statement. At first whenever I heard Supertramp's "The Logical Song" or Kansas's "Dust in the Wind," I remembered, with great fondness and little shame, my own valiant attempts to solve the mysteries of existence (to quote Bob Seger's "Night Moves," a song from that era, "Workin' on mysteries without any clues.")

However, after you've heard Boston's "More than a Feeling," The Eagles' "Hotel California," and Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" for the 46th time in a month, you begin to get a weary of songs that at the time seemed astronomically profound but are now just annoyingly superficial. I know that statement is sacrilege, but it's the first step to growing up.

It is heartening, however, to know that many people in their 20s now seem to enjoy the songs from when I was in my early 20s (though that would have been equivalent to me, in 1978, thinking that Patti Page's "How Much is that Doggie in the Window?" was cool.) Perhaps those songs, more so than today's, really do have an universal meaning that survives the passage to maturity.

And, no matter how many times I hear it, there is still something disturbingly stirring about anthems such as "Free Bird" and "Carry On, Wayward Son." They kindle memories of a time when my college newspaper office had been in the soda machine and we competed to see who could be most outrageous.

I can't do that now. Because at age 46 it's time to grow up and it's not acceptable to be outrageous. I'm expected to be staid, a word I didn't even know a quarter century ago. But there are any radio stations that will help me find my way in 2003?

Letters to the editor

How to limit drunk-driving deaths

To the Record-Press:

Despite the valiant efforts of law enforcement and organizations like Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), drunk-driving-related deaths continue to rise.

There is no more important responsibility of government than the protection of its citizens, and by introducing legislation to help keep drunk drivers off the road it is my hope that those numbers, as alarming as they are, will drop substantially as the years progress.

John's Law — which has been signed into law in New Jersey and is being considered in other states — requires police to impound for as long as 12 hours the vehicle of a person charged with driving while intoxicated.

The measure also requires police to issue a written notice to the person who picks up the arrestee, warning the person of the potential civil and criminal liabilities if he or she lets the drunken driver get back behind a wheel while still intoxicated.

Drunk drivers should not be allowed to simply return to their cars after they are released from police custody. And those who pick up a drunk driver from the local police station must be made aware of what

will happen to them should they allow a person under the influence to again get behind the wheel.

The time has come for a nationwide standard of John's Law to be adopted. Last year, I introduced a measure (S.2805) in the U.S. Senate that would mirror the New Jersey version of John's Law — but with one sticking point. Any state that refuses to adopt the measure on a national level would lose federal highway funding for local transportation projects until they adopt John's Law.

If we are to win the war against drunk driving, we need to keep drunk drivers off the road. By allowing police to impound the vehicles of those arrested for DUI, we help prevent accidents and protect lives.

According to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, there were 17,448 drunken deaths in 2001 — up from 16,792 in 2000.

Drunk drivers have torn the fabric of far too many families. By making John's Law a national mandate we help protect families from having to go through the terrible loss of losing a loved one to a drunk driver.

JON S. CORZINE
United States Senator
New Jersey

Year-round school would help kids

To the Record-Press:

The thought of college is lurking in the back of every student's mind. Students need to remember and learn information to get into college. If students were provided with more education, they would have a better chance of getting into prestigious colleges.

When students have the summer off, they come back to school not remembering much of the previous school year. If school were held year round, students would not forget the information they have learned and could absorb more education.

The idea of all-year school is like a death wish to many students. But these students do not realize how much they can benefit from having more education. Students from China and Japan are considered smarter than American students because they

go to school year round and are becoming more intelligent. By going to school all year, students can receive a better education because teachers will not have to be pressured to fit a lot of education in a small amount of time.

School year round will help students in the future. With more education, students can go to better colleges. When a student goes to a very good college, he or she receives a well-paying job. The economy would greatly improve if every student were to go to school year round.

The many positives outweigh the negatives. Students need more education to become well-rounded, educated people when they get older. Our leaders should take this idea under consideration.

BREANNE DURNING
Cranford

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

Call Editor Greg Marx at (908) 575-6687 with story suggestions, questions or comments.

For sports, call Dan Murphy at (908) 575-6691.

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Our fax number is (908) 575-6683.

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



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A Penn Jersey Advance, Inc. Newspaper

Publisher	Rosemarie Maio	908-575-6664
Executive Editor	Michael Deak	908-575-6685
Editor	Greg Marx	908-575-6687
Sports Editor	Allan Conover	908-575-6689
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Record-Press (USPS 096-019) is published on Friday by NJN Publishing, 401 Central Ave., Clark, NJ 07060 (908) 575-6600. Second class postage paid at Cranford, NJ 07016. POSTMASTER: please send changes to NJN Publishing, Fulfillment office, PO Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876. Subscription rates by mail: one year within Union County \$17, out of county \$20, out of state \$23. To subscribe call 1-800-300-9321.

Circulation: 1-800-300-9321 ■ News: 908-575-6686
Advertising: 732-396-4223 ■ Classified: 1-800-559-9495

What was the last New Year's Resolution you kept?



MIKE FONTENELLI
Westfield

Working out every weekend at the gym.



MIKE KENNY
Westfield

To do better in school.



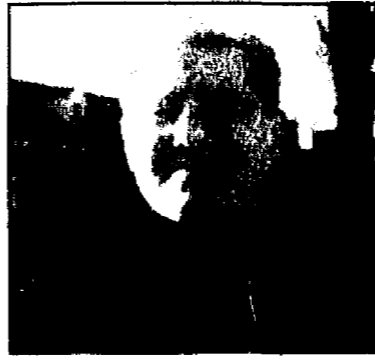
CHRIS GALLEGO
Westfield

To get better grades in school.



DEVIN BAER
Summit

I haven't made one in a while. I used to say I wanted to do better in high school. I kept those.



JIM CUTY
Kenilworth

The last one I made, last year. It was to get better, all around.



RON SMITH
works in Westfield

I don't make New Year's resolutions because I never stick to them.



Members of the Optimist Club of Westfield pose with Kings assistant manager Frank Pershpalaj (front row, second from right) as the club gathered for its annual distribution of food baskets Dec. 14.

Westfield group is optimistic about helping needy families

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Optimists gathered Dec. 14 to assemble holiday food baskets for distribution to the community's neediest families. With the generous cooperation of Kings Supermarket in Garwood, the Optimists provide 40 local families with a full Christmas dinner including a turkey, canned goods and fresh fruit in a program they have conducted since 1989.

"The primary mission and purpose of the Westfield Optimist Club is to promote the well-being of Westfield youth," said club president Jay Boyle. "One of the most basic things we can do to achieve that mission is to provide those in need with some of the essential elements of everyday life. The year-end holidays can be a time of stress and disappointment for those who don't have as much as other mem-

bers of their community. All of the families we serve have children and we want to brighten the holidays for those children and their parents with these gifts."

Each year on a mid-December Saturday, members of the Optimists gather to put the food baskets together, share a holiday breakfast, then break up into pairs to deliver their cargo. Steve Joskowitz, the manager of Kings, helps the group select and package the items to be distributed. George Brunner of Brunner's Chocolates and Dave Sutter of Lancaster Ltd. also contribute items for the food baskets.

"We are brought up with the idea," said Boyle, "that, no matter what our religious beliefs, it is important to be especially generous with others as one year ends and the next begins. Through this pro-

gram and others that encourage the spirit of volunteerism and giving, we try to bring that idea to life. All of us who participate feel this deeply. It is a great feeling. It's the essence of the holiday spirit."

The Optimist Club of Westfield is a not-for-profit service club composed of men and women who live or work in the Westfield area. Individuals interested in joining the Optimist Club should contact Membership Chairman Steve Wearley at 654-7663.

State grant will allow boro to improve emergency services

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE RECORD PRESS

FANWOOD — The borough's emergency services will get a technology upgrade courtesy of an \$80,500 grant from the Department of Law and Public Safety as a part of the statewide Local Domestic Preparedness Equipment Grant for 2003.

The grant money will be used to upgrade the emergency communication system used by police, fire and emergency medical services in the borough. It will allow the emergency departments to use a radio system that operates on an ultra high-band system.

"We are so pleased to have been able to help secure this funding for the Borough of Fanwood," said

state Sen. Joseph Suliga. "These monies will allow for the improvement and facilitation of two-way radio systems for the police, fire

"Quick and efficient transfers of information are vital to successful responses to emergency situations."

- Linda Stender
Assemblywoman

and rescue squad departments as well as for improved equipment."

Operating on the new frequency will enable transmissions to penetrate obstacles such as large build-

ings and travel over low-lying geographical areas that cause problems for the current low-band system, according to a press release from District 22 legislators. The new frequency will also allow the borough to cooperate with surrounding municipalities to provide regional emergency response.

"The attacks on the World Trade Center and the difficulty experienced by the police, fire and emergency departments are an all too real demonstration of the need for direct and uninterrupted communication between emergency workers of all departments," said Assemblywoman Linda Stender. "Quick and efficient transfers of information are vital to successful responses to emergency situations."

Register now at Community School

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Community School of Scotch Plains-Fanwood has a "Winter Inter-Session" in January.

After-school enrichment classes for Grades 5-6 begin the week of Jan. 6. They include "Super Volleyball" and an "Introduction to Theater Arts," Monday at Park Middle School and Thursday at Terrill Middle School; "Internet Research Skills" and "Model Building," Tuesday at Terrill Middle School; "Internet Research Skills" and "World Cuisine," Wednesday at Park Middle School. Cost for each course is \$40 plus any individual fee.

"Slenderizer" exercise classes for women are 7:15 p.m. Monday and Wednesday at Terrill Middle School beginning Jan. 6. Cost for the seven-week course is \$74.

Chess clubs for Grades 3-12 meet Tuesday at Park Middle School beginning Jan. 7. A beginners club is at 3:30 p.m. and the intermediate Spiffy club follows 4:50 p.m. Cost for each club is \$60.

For registration, pick up the pink-and-green Community School flier at the Scotch Plains Public Library and Fanwood Memorial Library. For full information, phone (908) 889-7718.

This week

SATURDAY

JAN. 4
WINTER MUSICAL — "And the World Goes 'Round." Westfield Community Players, 1000 North Ave. West, Westfield, 8 p.m. Jan. 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25. \$15. Tickets: (908) 232-1221.

MONDAY

JAN. 6
REHEARSAL — for all-Brahms concert of First Oratorio Singers. First United Methodist Church, 1 E. Broad St., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. (908) 233-4211.

TUESDAY

JAN. 7
OPEN HOUSE — for spring semester of Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 3-7 p.m. (908) 709-7518 or www.ucc.edu/recruitment.
SPA NIGHT — for Westfield Welcome Club, 7 p.m. Directions: (908) 317-5812 or (908) 301-1923.

WEDNESDAY

JAN. 8
MINISERIES — on Jewish philosophers. Temple Emanu-El, 756 E. Broad St., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29. \$5. (908) 232-6770.

SATURDAY

JAN. 11
BABYSITTER — training for boys and girls 11-15. American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Registration required: (908) 232-7090.
CPR CLASS — "CPR for the Professional Rescuer." Union County College, 232 E. Second St., Plainfield, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. \$70. Registration: (908) 709-7600.
OPEN HOUSE — for paramedic courses of Union County College, 232 E. Second St., Plainfield, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (908) 412-3571 or (908) 709-7518.

SUNDAY

JAN. 12
INDIGENOUS — "Native American Wood Carvings." Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 2-4 p.m. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; under 6 free. (908) 232-1776.

COMING UP

OPEN HOUSE — for parents interested in preschool of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains, 10:30 a.m. Jan. 14 (snow date Jan. 15). (908) 232-7117.
'ST. JOHN PASSION' — music by Johann Sebastian Bach, sung by Choral Art Society of New Jersey. Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 8 p.m. Jan. 18. Adults \$15; students, seniors \$10. Tickets: (908) 232-1120.
OPEN HOUSE — for continuing education courses of Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 6:30-8 p.m. Jan. 21. (908) 709-7600.

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15:293:525	PSYCHOLOGY OF THE EXCEPTIONAL CHILD	Regan	T	5:30pm - 8:10pm
05:300:483	RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES	Frawley	Th	4:50pm - 7:30pm
15:252:521	TEACHERS AS WRITERS	Bodino	T	5:15pm - 7:55pm
15:254:649	ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES IN MATH EDUCATION REFORM	Dann	By Arrangement	
15:251:572	CURRICULUM DEV. IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	Fanelli	T	5:00pm - 7:40pm
15:254:649	EXPLORING STANDARDS-BASED MATHEMATICS GR5-9	Alston	Th	3:45pm - 6:25pm
15:230:500	FOUNDATIONS OF ED. ADMIN. & SUPERVISION	Rock	M	5:00pm - 7:40pm
15:310:500	CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION	Alirangues	Th	5:00pm - 7:40pm
15:297:505	GROUP PSYCHOLOGY: THEORY & PRACTICE	Katz	Th	6:00pm - 8:40pm
15:293:521	MENTAL RETARDATION & OTHER DEV. DISABILITIES	Barudin	T	6:00pm - 8:40pm
05:300:483	RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES	Brennan	Th	5:00pm - 7:40pm
15:230:521	SUPERVISION OF INSTRUCTION	Hannum	T	6:00pm - 8:40pm

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Community Life

Briefs

Rotary raffle rakes in \$20,000

FANWOOD The annual 50/50 raffle of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club drew in \$20,000, half of which benefits the club's "Share-in-Youth" program.

The \$10,000 will be shared evenly between the Fanwood Community Foundation, RESOLVE Community Counseling, David Ringle Scholarship Fund, Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, Rotary Foundation (Polio Plus), Contact We Care and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Student Leadership.

The \$6,000 first prize was claimed by David Roth of Fanwood, while Scotch Plains resident Pat Signon won the \$1,000 third prize. Second prize and \$3,000 was claimed by John Guerriore of Shelburne, Vt.

The Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at noon at Snuffy's Restaurant in Scotch Plains. For more information, phone Dick Dobyns at (908) 232-3321.

Willow Grove hosts open house

SCOTCH PLAINS Willow Grove Pre-School will hold an open house for the 2002-2003 school year Jan. 14.

The event will begin 10:30 a.m., as director Kathy Calello presents a slide show about the program.

Willow Grove is a Christian pre-school licensed by the state of New Jersey. Teachers are state-certified.

The school's 3 Minus program is open to children who will be 2½ by Oct. 1. Classes are also offered for 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds, and the 4+ Class is for children who miss the kindergarten cut-off date or just need another year of preschool.

Registration will begin Feb. 3 for present enrollees and alumni. Open registration begins Feb. 10. For more information, call Calello at (908) 232-7117.

Westfield Unico donates to disabled

WESTFIELD Thanks to the Westfield Chapter of Unico National, mentally retarded people all over Union County got a New Year's Eve party of their own.

The organization donated an unspecified amount to Community Access Unlimited for the special New Year's Eve bash. Unico has funded this holiday party for the past 10 years, according to a press release from the Italian-American organization.

Married couples' dinner is Jan. 12

The B'nai B'rith Ketubah Married Couples Unit (40+) will be meeting for dinner at the Buttonwood Manor, Rte. 34 in Matawan 6 p.m. Jan. 12.

The cost is the price of your own dinner. Non-members are welcome to attend. Please R.S.V.P. to Barbara at (732) 264-6604 by Jan. 10.

County college offers child care course

CRANFORD "Child Care: The Foundations" is the subject of a course leading to a certificate from Union County College as a children's caregiver.

The course is held in two parts at Roselle Park High School: Jan. 21-Feb. 20 for the first part and Feb. 25-March 27 for the second part. Classes meet 6-9 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

"Child Care: The Foundations" is intended for people who want to be certified as child care professionals. Topics include children's growth and development; general health care; nutrition; educational activities; child safety standards; and appropriate play.

Fee is \$175 per part. For full information and registration, phone (908) 709-7600.

The course is offered through the college's Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education.

Looking backward: 2002 in review



Left, these children were all wet but still having a great time at a Scotch Plains Fire Department wetdown in August. The event, held on a sweltering summer afternoon, was held to show off the department's new fire engine. Below left, Lucy Shaaf probably wasn't staying as cool, but she still had fun over the summer by tending her eggplants, beans and asparagus in the Westfield Share Garden. Shaaf and other growers fought off cold spring weather and pesky animals to keep their vegetables growing. Below right, Westfield Mayor Gregg McDermott laid a flower at the dedication of the town's memorial to victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tragic, bizarre events mixed with familiar discussions

(Continued from page A-1)

Fanwood Councilwoman Carol Wood, 57, died April 7. Wood served on the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Board of Health and Strategic Planning Committee. Wood is survived by her husband Lewis.

May: A dispute was sparked between Garwood and Westfield over the town's closing of a portion of South Chestnut Street during baseball games at Gumbert Park. The town proposed the portion of the street be closed for a 30-day trial period to see if the closing could be made permanent, but the suggestion was rejected by the Department of Transportation.

In Fanwood, David Trumpf was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Borough Council left by the death of Carol Wood. Trumpf's nomination was approved by a 3-1 council vote.

Two more juvenile suspects pleaded guilty to the sexual assault of the 13-year-old Fanwood girl in Scotch Plains. Mark Russell, 17, and Jesus Gonzalez, 16, pled guilty as adults to first degree charges.

June: Windsor Furniture in Westfield was gutted by a fire and subsequently investigated by Westfield Police and the county Arson Squad. In the next several months, customers filed complaints with the police about furniture not being delivered and money not refunded. The state filed a suit against the company in December.

The Scotch Plains Township Council decided to table an ordinance that would have allowed

police to enter private property where they suspect underage drinking is taking place. The ordinance was overwhelming opposed by residents, who lined up at two public meetings to voice their opinions.

In Fanwood, Alex Kovalyov, owner of the Internet Lounge on South Avenue, quelled the Planning Board's concern about the business possibly having an adult viewing for access to online pornography. Kovalyov explained that was not his intent and decided to drop an adult room from his plans.

July: Most of the construction for the first traffic-calming measures in Westfield was completed on Rahway Avenue. The measures included speed humps, raised crosswalks and bump outs in order to slow motorists on the road.

Rose Barnet sought assistance from Westfield officials, as she had been homeless for two months in the town. The Westfield Caring Neighbor Fund pays for her housing over the Fourth of July weekend, but it is another several months before Barnet finds permanent housing.

Residents filled Borough Hall in Fanwood in the first of three Planning Board hearings in 2002 for Verizon Wireless' proposal to erect cell phone antennas in a residential area.

August: Westfield police held a demonstration and voiced their displeasure with the Town Council about the status of contract negotiations with the town. Police had been without a

contract since the end of 2001 and were paid significantly lower salaries than surrounding municipalities' police.

The shared-services effort among governing bodies in Scotch Plains and Fanwood and the joint school district moved forward after all three entities approved a plan for the Field of Dreams project at Park Middle School. At first the Board of Education approved an alternate plan, one with two baseball fields instead of three which the two councils approved. But after seeing a full presentation, the board accepted the plan favored by the two councils.

September: Westfield High School mourns the death of Greta Schoenemann, a 14-year-old freshman who was struck by a falling tree limb in the picnic area at the high school on Sept. 11. Schoenemann and freshman Amanda Gross were seriously injured and flown to University Hospital in Newark. Schoenemann died four days later, while Gross was released the following week.

Westfield opened its Sept. 11 Memorial with a 33-hour vigil. The final memorial features an 11-foot glass spire etched with the names of the 3,000-plus victims of the attacks and 12 stone pillars honoring the local victims along the walkway.

Scotch Plains is named in a suit filed by the NJ Builders Association against the Council on Affordable Housing and 45 other municipalities who were granted extensions for their affordable housing obligation

numbers. The League of Municipalities filed a brief with COAH on behalf of several of the municipalities.

October: The Westfield Planning Board approved a redevelopment analysis by the Atlantic Group for the construction of two parking decks downtown. The board unanimously approved the train station lot and the lot at Prospect and Elm streets as locations for the parking decks. The Town Council later approved the plans as well, and RFPs were sent out for the redevelopment areas.

Westfield, Mountainside and Green Brook police recovered myriad items stolen from residents in the three municipalities in what they believe was a 10-month burglary spree by Westfield resident Candice Singer. Singer and her boyfriend Damon Brown were also charged with operating a methamphetamine lab in their Orinda Circle home.

November: Republicans won big on Election Day, claiming or maintaining the majority on the governing body of each municipality.

Westfield Republicans took control of the council, while Mayor Gregory McDermott was reelected. In Scotch Plains, lone Democratic Councilwoman Geri Samuel was defeated, leaving an entirely Republican Township Council, and Fanwood Republicans defended three seats to maintain a 4-2 advantage.

The teens charged in the sex-

ual assault of a 13-year-old girl in Scotch Plains received maximum sentences. Two were sentenced to 10-year terms, and two others received five-year terms. The youngest attacker, 14 at the time, was sentenced to four years in a boys' training school. The girl filed a lawsuit in December against the school district for failing to protect her from the attack.

December: The Westfield Town Council passed an ordinance to accept a new contract with the police after months of negotiations. The two sides reached a tentative deal in October and finalized the agreement in December.

Fanwood approves a developer for downtown redevelopment after interviewing three companies. The Borough Council approved the recommendation of a special committee to accept Landmark Communities to develop the 6.5-acre downtown block. The plan includes a mix of commercial and residential units. Before the project can get underway, the borough must negotiate a developer's agreement with Landmark.

Throughout the last few months of the year, each municipality's planning board heard applications for subdivisions in which a homeowner proposed to divide his or her lot in order to allow a developer to construct a new home. Residents in each municipality opposed these applications, saying the practice of "shoe-horning" increases density and alters the character of the neighborhood.



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Rene P. Regencia

FANWOOD — Rene P. Regencia, 61, died Dec. 20, 2002 at his home.
He was born in Sindangan, Zamboanga, Philippines, and lived in Jersey City before moving to Fanwood in 1978.
Mr. Regencia was with Verizon Communications and predecessor companies for 31 years. He retired in November as an architectural draftsman at its Cedar Knolls office.
He held a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Southern Philippines. Mr. Regencia was an El Shaddai DWXI prayer partner at St. Aedan's Roman Catholic Church in Jersey City.

Surviving are his wife, Rosalind; two daughters, Rose Ginley and Rosemary; three sons, Rene Jr., Armano and Wayne Thomas; three sisters, Teresita R. Bahena, Maria Fe R. Camposano and Fatima Domposi; five brothers, Edwin, Carlos, Bartolome Jr., Ariel and Dennis; and six grandchildren.
A funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 23 at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. Entombment was in the Good Shepherd Chapel Mausoleum at St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.
Arrangements were by the Rossi Funeral Home in Scotch Plains.

Antoinette Ruzzano

WESTFIELD — Antoinette Pannullo Ruzzano died Dec. 21, 2002 at Union Hospital.
A native of New York City, she lived in Newark and Hillside before moving to Westfield.
Mrs. Ruzzano retired in 1982 after 20 years as an assembler with the Essex Paper Box Co. in Newark. She was a member of the Hillside Senior Citizens Club.
Deceased are her husband, Peter; a son, Angelo; a brother, Ralph Pannullo; and a sister, Aurelia Gwozdzik.
Surviving are three sons,

Peter, Anthony and Frank; five daughters, Marie Cicalese, Agnes Barilla, Antoinette Gregoire, Theresa Colasanti and Barbara Harris; two brothers, Othello Pannullo and Anthony Pannullo; two sisters, Josephine Luca and Agnes Swatki; 18 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.
A funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church, Newark, following services at the Galante Funeral Home in Union. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington.

Imelda McGraw

WESTFIELD — Imelda E. McGraw, 84, died Dec. 21, 2002 at her home.
Mrs. McGraw was born in Philadelphia, Pa., and lived in Scotch Plains from 1959 until she moved to Lakehurst in 1989. She had resided in Westfield since 2001.
She worked for American Home Products Co. in Cranford for 20 years prior to her retirement. As a piano player Mrs. McGraw performed with swing bands on Philadelphia radio stations.
She was a founding member of the Catholic Golden Age Club at

St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains.
Her husband, Harold E., died in 1988.
Surviving are a son, Brian; a daughter, Teresa Hamill; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.
A funeral Mass was celebrated Friday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church.
Arrangements were by the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Donations may be sent to Fanwood Fire Company, 75 N. Martine Ave., Fanwood, NJ 07023.

Rudolph Martino

SCOTCH PLAINS — Rudolph Martino, 65, died Dec. 21, 2002 at Union Hospital.
A native of Elizabeth, he lived in Toms River and Roselle before moving to Scotch Plains in 2001.
Mr. Martino retired in 1981 after 20 years as a draftsman with the Singer Manufacturing Co. He also was from 1962-67 a partner in Martino's Deli in Elizabeth. He attended the Newark School of Fine Arts.
He was a member of the Disabled American Veterans

and the Argonne Post Drum and Bugle Corps, both in Elizabeth. Mr. Martino served in the Army during World War II.
Surviving are his wife, Mary Kilpatrick Martino; two daughters, Carol L. Macmillan and Patricia A. Stanislowski; a sister, Mathilda Colaianni; three grandchildren and two nieces.
Services were held Dec. 24 at the Werson Funeral Home in Linden. Burial was in Rosedale Memorial Park, Linden.
Donations may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association.

Stephen P. Scher

SCOTCH PLAINS — Stephen P. Scher, 60, died Dec. 20, 2002 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.
A native of Newark, he lived in West Orange and South Orange before moving to Scotch Plains in 1997.
Mr. Scher was the comptroller of General Prescription Progress in Newark, with which he also was a consultant. He was a certified public accountant with a master's degree from New York University and a law degree from the NYU

law school.
He also held a bachelor's degree from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.
Surviving are a companion, Ferne Smer; a brother, Alan; a sister, Barbara Hausman; three daughters and four grandchildren.
Graveside services were held Dec. 22 at Beth Israel Memorial Park in Woodbridge.
Arrangements were by the Menorah Chapels at Millburn, in Union.

Eugene Arpino

WESTFIELD — Eugene J. Arpino, 65, died Dec. 23, 2002 at his home.
Mr. Arpino was born in Coney Island, Brooklyn. He lived in Chicago, Ill., before moving to Westfield in 1976.
He was a salesman with Hartman Furniture in Whippany since 2000 and Mannington Mills Inc. in Manhattan for 10 years before then. Mr. Arpino served in the

Air Force from 1954-58 and the Air Force Reserve from 1958-62.
He was a member of Rotary International.
Surviving are his wife, Gladys Vaughn Arpino; and two daughters, Jean Marie Chisholm of Alexandria, Va., and Jennifer Mathews of Manhattan.
A memorial gathering was held Friday at the Dooley Colonial Home.

Elizabeth Giambalvo

WESTFIELD — Elizabeth A. Szpala Giambalvo, 86, died Dec. 21, 2002 at her home.
She was born in Richmond Hill, Queens, and had lived in Westfield since 1956.
Mrs. Giambalvo retired in 1994 after 30 years as a registered nurse to Dr. Evalina LiSooy in Westfield and Mountainside.
Her husband, Nathaniel, died in 1965.

Surviving are a son, Nathaniel J. and wife Marie of Clark; and two sisters, Helen Kara of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and Stephanie Endres of Garden City, N.Y.
A funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 23 at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.
Arrangements were by the Dooley Colonial Home.

Wanda Torbik

SCOTCH PLAINS — Wanda M. Hotko Torbik, 92, died Dec. 23, 2002 at the Franklin Park home of her daughter, Sandy Cieslarczyk.
Mrs. Torbik was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and lived in Elizabeth before moving to Scotch Plains in 1952. She most recently resided in Franklin Park.
She retired in 1972 as a secretary with Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill. Mrs. Torbik earlier

worked for Lionel Corp. and the H.A. Wilson Co.
Her husband, Alexander, is deceased.
Also surviving are a son, Richard; and three grandchildren.
A funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Wilkes-Barre.

Obituaries

Lena Heyder

WESTFIELD — Lena Heyder, 77, died Dec. 21, 2002 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.
She was born in Flushing, Queens, and had lived in Westfield since 1950.
Mrs. Heyder retired in 1987 after 12 years as a hostess and waitress at the Jolly Trolley restaurant in Westfield.
Surviving are her husband, Charles Jr.; two sons, Charles F.

III and Thomas A.; a sister, Mary Trushell; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.
Services were held Friday at the Krowicki Gorny Memorial Home, Clark, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church. Entombment was in the Woodbridge Memorial Gardens mausoleum.
Donations may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association.

Anne Rowan Bishop

SCOTCH PLAINS — Anne S. Rowan Bishop, 80, died Dec. 26, 2002 at her home.
A native of Nashville, Tenn., she lived in Fanwood and Westfield before moving to Scotch Plains in 1986.
Mrs. Bishop was a past president of the Westfield League of Women Voters and a decent at the Miller-Cory House Museum in Westfield. She wrote or co-authored four books on historical cooking.
She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution; the National Society of U.S. Daughters of 1812; the United Daughters of the Confederacy; the First Families of Tennessee; the Boston and New York Culinary Historians; the Woman's Club of Westfield; the Genealogical Society of the West Fields; the Westfield Historical Society; the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Historical Society; the Colonial

Westfield Questers; the Mountainside Garden Club; the Avon Park Historical Society and Avon Park Genealogical Society, both in Avon Park, Fla.
Mrs. Bishop graduated from Peabody College in Nashville.
Surviving are her husband of 59 years, Robert M.; three sons, Donald M., Robert M. and Rowan J.S.; three daughters, Anne Selene Bennett, Elizabeth M. Speed and Regina J.M. Bergeland; two brothers, John Rowan and Manson Rowan; a sister, Patricia Maraz; nine grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.
A funeral Mass was scheduled Monday, Dec. 30 at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.
Arrangements were by the Gray Funeral Home in Westfield.

SP-F High School names honor students

SCOTCH PLAINS — Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School has issued its honor roll for the first marking period of the 2002-03 academic year.
Named to the high honor roll:
Grade 12 — Andrew C. Costello, Colleen A. Coyle, Alyssa David, Jillian DeMair, Jessica M. DiFiore, Eve E. Donovan, Katie E. Downey, Cristina M. Fabiano, Sofia Fayngold, Michael F. Gleason, Jason F. Hipp, Danielle A. Hirschhorn, Alex D. Hofer, Jovonne H. Jones, Annunarie E. Klimowicz, Jeremy S. Lipstein, Adam W. Melber, Malina M. Milonnet, Angela Minio, Sonali D. Phatak, Zennie A. Piedak, Eric D. Pratt, Abby Price, Amy M. Ryan, Adam M. Siegal, Bruce J. Smith Jr., Erica Speer, Nisha S. Tamhankar and Caroline L. Webb.
Grade 11 — Flora S. Alexander, Ryan P. Aspell, Andre L. Buruch, Jessica A. Cavanagh, Valerie L. Dent, Caryn E. Feder, Hoi Yan Fung, Hannah V. Greenspan, Lauren L. Haertlein, David Harris, Cheryl L. Kaplan, Laura Manzano, Andrea C. Meyer, Scott J. Moynihan, Yoav A. Nudell, Scott J. Pober, Varun Ponnudai, Allyson B. Salisbury, Tracy L. Salmon, Brian J. Schweikert, Victoria Shelus, Caitlin A. Shevlin, Nancy H. Twu, Jonathan R. Wagner, Christopher A. Wallden and Richard A. Zeblickas Jr.
Grade 10 — Robert L. Bethea, Margaret D. Brownell, Jenny M. Burke, Aliza E. Burns, Patrice M. Candia, Taylor L. Cianciotta, Daniel B. Deenga, David C. DeMair, Michael R. DiNizo, Elizabeth A. Elko, Marc DiBiano, Alexandra Fredas, Kerry M. Gander, Johanna S. Ghabour, Rachel M. Goor, Nora R. Isack, Rebecca J. Koransky, Sean M. Mahoney, Christopher Matern, Kelly L. McManus, Alan J. Neuhauser, Lauren E. Perrotta, Jamie S. Quale, Michelle M. Regg, Sean S. Robinson, William J. Rollins, Joanna D. Rosenberg, Justin S. Rowinsky, Jeremy E. Sanders, Alyssa G. Shea, Brittany L. Speer, Erica M. Suppler, Chloe R. Sundstrom, Michelle P. Swick and Katie L. Zaleski.
Grade 9 — Allison M. Abbott, Claudia A. Ahiabor, James M. Alfano, Michael R. Bonacum, Cleo B. Chou, Carolyn G. DiProspero, Joseph P. Fallon, Kristen P. Henkels, Elizabeth A. Jacobs, Krista L. Kazmierkiewicz, Meaghan A. Kelly, Jessica N. Levine, Christopher T. Nilsen, Raunaq V. Palejwala, Ronald Petty, Danielle C. Porter, Katherine Van Haasteren, Robert D. Ventura, Emily E. Wallden, Katerina G. Wong and Joshua A. Zinman.
Named to the honor roll:
Grade 12 — Kendra M. Andrews, Leslie G. Argueta, Joseph A. Bartolotta, Lauren E. Bauman, Kathryn A. Bensi, Jonathan Bezrutczyk, Lauren M. Bianco, Schuyler C. Boyda, Pamela Cameron, Rhea Chakraborty, David Chang, Evan D. Chinoy, Phillip Cho, Breanne T. Crawford, Alicia D. Cristiani, Stephanie DeMarco, John F. DeVall Jr., Steven B. Doremus, Shawn D. Doyle, Kaitlyn L. Durso, Gianna M. Ferrante, Sara A. Finkelstein, Samory K. Fritz, Samantha H.

Grzywacz, Megan J. Halma, Jennifer M. Howell, Katherine R. Howell, Nicole E. Impelizzieri, Arthur J. King, Holly L. Kramer, Aimee M. LaMastra, Alicia Lazar, Monique A. Lemus, Matthew Loomis, Kelly A. Lusk, Edward A. Madan, Catherine A. Madurski, Michelle E. Marr, Daniel McCruden, Lenore A. McMillion, Kristen E. Miner, Melissa Mollen, Deanna R. Mustachio, Emily C. O'Connor, Megan A. O'Leary, Adam S. Ortyl, Melissa Palomares, Elizabeth A. Pilkington, John Piniat, Sarah Poplyansky, Kimberly M. Poduk, Karlene Quigley, Megan A. Reddington, Daniel M. Rosenkrantz, Chaela A. Roshetar, Joshua G. Sanders, Edward J. Saridaki, David Senatore, Jessica S. Seto, Nicholas G. Sette, Delsa R. Slough, Christopher R. Sprague, Michael C. Sullivan, Sydney N. Thorne, Michael K. Tufolo, Joshua Wexler, Diana M. Wilks, Kristin A. Williams, Laura M. Wittish, Harry Yang and Michael R. Zatorski.
Grade 11 — Meral N. Akyuz, Jesse L. Allen, Kathryn M. Anaczkowski, Kyle G. Baker, Nina G. Baker, Kathryn E. Bantz, Danielle N. Bartley, Sara A. Beckerman, Shaun M. Bendik, Travis J. Boff, Kristen M. Bover, Daniel W. Chase, Yiu Wah Cheung, Adam J. Corbin, Brian J. Coyle, Michael DeNichilo, Dani B. Finkel, Pedro A. Fiorentino, Robert A. Fusco, Kristi A. Gayara, Allison S. Gebler, Dennis M. Herzel, Brittany L. Hessemer, Michael P. Hessemer, Theresa P. Jahn, Ashley V. Jones, Timothy G. Karis, Kara M. Kaskiw, Jessica J. Kim, David M. Koses, Brian C. Kopnicki, Robert Kuchinski, Ilya Laksin, Morgan F. Larkin, Joshua D. Liss, Karen E. Lucey, Joseph I. Malchow, Dominic A. Mangonon, Laura A. Manzi, Peter A. Maricic, Jenna M. Marionni, Robert C. Maroney, Zachary J. McGuire, Andre J. Melendez, Daniel E. Metzger, Amanda Miller, Chelsea L. Mintz, Jared T. Montagna, Jessie L. Montlor, Jessica E. Neuringer, Tuan L. Nguyen, Meridiane O. Nitro, Kristin Oley, Hyojin T. Park, Joshua S. Parker, Matthew E. Powers, Guillermo D. Rozenblat, Barie J. Salmon, Juliana K. Sams, Kristin E. Schardien, Jessica B. Schink, Jeanne M. Schneider, Jonathan R. Sheffield, Dana A. Skwirut, Danielle K. Stanley, Courtney A. Stewart, Erin N. Sullivan, Stephen L. Tavares, Camille E. Tiangco, Tamie M. Walker, Talia R. Weinberg, Allison N. Williams and Sara C. Woods.
Grade 10 — Jonathan M. Altman, Daniel M. Aronds, Katharine A. Berka, Briana L. Berry, Carlene A. Bronikowski, Jesse F. Bruch, Krystina Byron, Jennifer L. Calvo, Salvatore R. Cerchio, Jocelyn N. Chang, Jessica L. Cicalese, Dori A. D'Aloisio, Christopher M. D'Annunzio, Elizabeth A. DeCataldo, Jacqueline DeJohn, Christine L. DeLuca, Alexa N. DiGiorgio, Rachel L. Dolgin, Janee M. Easley, Christopher P. Finan, Corey Fineman, Kelsey Q. Foy, Jeannette M. Franzone, Dakim Gaines, Jennifer R. Gawryluk, Maura E. Gillooly, Octavia L. Gomes, Karina O. Goulbony, Nicole R. Hagerty,

Edna McFall

SCOTCH PLAINS — Edna G. Dambres McFall, 93, died Dec. 25, 2002 at the Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.
A native of Brooklyn, she lived in Union and Toms River before moving to Scotch Plains in 1996.
Mrs. McFall was a member of the Women's Association at the Presbyterian Church of Toms River.
Her husband, Stewart M., is deceased.

Surviving are two sons, Warren and Donald; a daughter, Judith Moor; a brother, Edward Dambres; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.
Services were held Saturday at the McCracken Funeral Home in Union. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.
Donations may be sent to the Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Recreation Department.

Lawrence P. Berry

WESTFIELD — Lawrence Paul Berry, 73, died Dec. 25, 2002 at the Cranberry Pointe Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in Harwich, Mass.
Mr. Berry, who was born in the Bronx, lived in Brooklyn and Westfield before moving in 1995 to Brewster, Mass.
He retired in 1995 as the controller of Dan River Inc. in Manhattan. Mr. Berry held a bachelor's degree from St. John's University and served with a counterintelligence unit in the Korean War.
He was a member of The

Captain's Course in Brewster and the treasurer of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Harwich.
Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Evelyn Johanson Berry; three daughters, Virginia Del Prado, Kathleen Miller and Patricia Curley; a son, John; a sister, Ann Juliano; and ~~two~~ grand-children.
A memorial service will be 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4 at St. Peter's Church.
Donations may be sent to St. Peter's Capital Fund, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 310 Route 137, Harwich, MA 02645.

Troy Tanner Jr.

WESTFIELD — Troy Tanner Jr., 87, died Dec. 24, 2002 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.
A native of Hazelhurst, Miss., he lived in Westfield before moving to Plainfield in 1938.
Mr. Tanner retired in 1980 after 40 years as a railroad clerk, first with the Central Railroad Co. of New Jersey and later with Conrail. He was a member of the First Christian Assembly in Plainfield for 36 years and an usher for serv-

ices at that church.
A son, John D., died in 2000.
Surviving are his wife, Jean; a son, Troy C. of Sterling, Colo.; a daughter, Constance Smoot Tanner of Plainfield; a sister, Leathia Pernel of Westfield; 12 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.
Services were held Monday, Dec. 30 at the First Christian Assembly Arrangements were by the Judkins Colonial Home in Plainfield.

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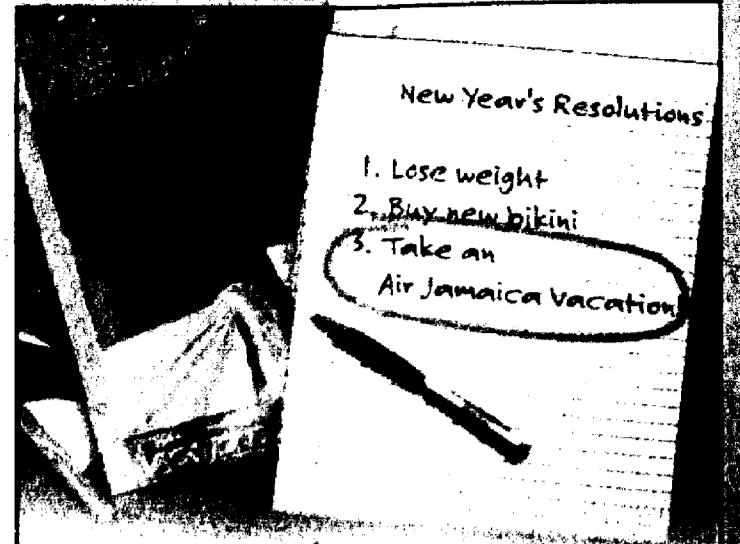
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Sports

Blue Devils eyeing share of state-title record

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD-PRESS

Westfield High boys swim coach Bruce Johnson has been counting down to this season for a while now, and the Westfield High boys swim team wants to make sure he doesn't have to wait any longer.

After winning the program's 18th state championship with an 88-82 victory over Vineland in the Public A championships last season, the Blue Devils stand just one state title shy of tying the public school record held by Trenton.

"That's what we're looking to do," said Johnson. "Because we're defending state champs and because we're in the finals seemingly every year these kids are

focused on getting back and tying the public school record. But it's not going to be handed to us."

Westfield has already raced out to a strong start, opening the season 5-0, including victories over rival Scotch Plains-Fanwood and Central Jersey power Bridgewater-Raritan. The road to the title will be long, with Cherry Hill East returning to Public A after winning the Public B championship last year, and Vineland and Vernon fielding strong teams again this year.

But the Devils once again feature a lineup deeper than any team in the state, with superstar caliber swimmers leading the way. Westfield is a veteran squad led by a strong class of seniors that has been to the state final all

three years, winning two championships, and a corps of eight juniors — providing them with the experience and depth to challenge all of the state's public and parochial elite. Two sophomores and a freshman should also make contributions in the postseason.

"No team has this kind of depth," said Johnson. "I have 18 guys that I can put into a state final and think they can score. Any of these 18 swimmers can score."

Headlining the Blue Devils depth is the star power of seniors Zack Coppa, Vin Shen and junior Ryan Bartholomew. Coppa is the best of them all, specializing in

the 500, 100 and 200 freestyle events, is the Blue Devils best in the 200 individual medley and their fastest butterfly and breaststroke swimmer.

Shen is Westfield's best backstroke and will also swim butterfly and some IM. Bartholomew was one of the top sprinters in the state last year, but has become more versatile this year, looking strong in the 50 and 100 free and backstroke and butterfly events.

But the key to Westfield's championship aspirations is not its handful of superstars but its bushel of stars. While Coppa, Shen and Bartholomew stand out, the likes of Josh Schoenfeld,

Sam Gurdus, Chris Heimen, John Chiesa, Sean Baran, Dan Shabanoff and J.J. Sobala push Westfield over the top.

Add to that group Greg Matthews, Rob Eckman, Dave Hedman, Tim Kolenut, Kevin Hobson, Demetri Covall, Pat Doria, Sean O'Neil, Andrew Ruttolo, Keith McCluskey and Andrew Prunesti and you have the type of deep, versatile team that opponents will have a tough time matching up with.

"I think we have more good kids than any team in the state," said Johnson. "We don't necessarily have as many superstars, but we have more really good kids. Depth has been how we've done it in the past and if we're to do it again that is how we'll do it this year."

Winning another state championship is the focus of the squad, but not the only goal. Westfield once again swims one of, if not the toughest schedule in the state and is looking to pull off a few upsets before the state tournament begins in February. Westfield will be gunning for its first Pirate Invitational title since 1993 Saturday, then will go head-to-head with parochial powers St. Joseph's of Metuchen Jan. 14, Christian Brothers Academy Jan. 16, and Bergen Catholic Feb. 4.

"The kids think they have a shot to beat those teams during the year," said Johnson. "They want to be state champs. That's all they think about."

Klimowicz, Gillooly have Raiders off to a fast start

So far, so good. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High girls basketball team continued its early season dominance, advancing to the North Warren Tournament final with a 70-24 pasting of Vernon Friday.

Hillary Klimowicz, who has averaged 21.3 points in the first three games, led the way with a 22 point effort, scoring 10 in the first quarter as Scotch Plains grabbed a 20-5 lead. The tournament final was held Saturday.

Scotch Plains won its first three games by an average of 32 points and will have two more games before its showdown with Shabazz at home Jan. 7. The Raiders will travel to Westfield 4 p.m. Thursday and host Hillsborough Jan. 4.

Scotch Plains (70)
Penella 6 0-0 12, Russell 2 0-3 7, Burke 2 0-1 5, Gillooly 3 2-0 12, Klimowicz 10 0-2 22, Dill 1 0-0 2, DeCataldo 2 0-0 4, Freeman 0 0-2 2, McCoy 1 0-0 2, Makely 0 0-0 0, Benivago 0 0-0 0, Kaye 1 0-0 2. **Totals: 28-2-8-70.**

Vernon (24)
Lucas 0 1-0 3, Murphy 1 1-2 7, Pinck 1 0-0 2, Patchell 5 0-0 10, Magna 1 0-0 2. **Totals: 8-2-2-24.**

Scotch Plains 20 21 15 14 - 70
Vernon 5 8 6 5 - 24
Scotch Plains 73, Bridgewater-Raritan 47 — Hillary Klimowicz and Maura Gillooly led Scotch Plains' 73-47 rout of Bridgewater-Raritan Dec. 23, each scoring over 20 points.

The Raiders dominated throughout as Klimowicz poured in a game-high 25 points and Gillooly added 21 for the Raiders.

Scotch Plains (73)
Penella 1 0-2 4, Russell 4 0-3 11, Burke 3 0-2 8, Gillooly 3 4-3 21, Klimowicz 12 0-1

SCOTCH PLAINS ROUNDUP

25. DeCataldo 1 0-0 2, Freeman 1 0-0 2. **Totals: 25-4-11-73.**
Bridgewater (47)
Imbesi 4 0-0 8, Cubas 1 0-5 7, Tsangourlis 4 1-0 11, Gibbons 5 0-4 14, Ramsay 3 0 0 6, Driscoll 0 0 1 1. **Totals: 17-1-10-47.**

Scotch Plains 22 17 18 16 - 73
Bridgewater 16 14 12 5 - 47

BOYS BASKETBALL
Scotch Plains grabbed its first victory of the season, staging another fourth quarter rally to overcome Millburn 60-56 in the first round of the Union Catholic Tournament Friday.

Freshman Lance Thomas, who finished with a game-high 24 points and 15 rebounds, sparked the rally with seven points in the 25-14 spurt. Sean Fuller finished with 14 points for the Raiders.

Scotch Plains (60)
Lockery 2 0-0 4, Fuller 2 3 1 14, Adeyemo 2 0-0 4, Brown 3 0-0 6, Thomas 10 4 24, Clemens 1 0-0 2, Moynihan 0 1 0 3, Walker 1 0 1 3. **Totals: 21-4-6-60.**

Millburn (56)
Parcells 9 0-5 23, Britton 3 0 1 7, Yomini 0 0 2 2, Rummel 3 0 5 11, Emposimato 3 0 4 10, Buckley 0 0 1 1. **Totals: 19-0-18-56.**

Scotch Plains 18 4 11 25 - 60
Millburn 11 11 18 14 - 56

South Brunswick 63, Scotch Plains 61 — Time just ran out on the Raiders Dec. 23. After digging themselves a 16 point hole after three quarters Scotch Plains staged a furious comeback but couldn't get closer than five points before hitting a three-pointer as time expired.

Kanal Brown sparked the comeback with 14 of his team-high 23 points in the fourth

quarter. Lance Thomas had 15 points and 11 rebounds. South Brunswick converted 31 free throws, compared to 17 by Scotch Plains.

Scotch Plains (61)
Fuller 4 1 2 13, Adeyemo 0 1 1 4, Brown 5 3 4 23, Thomas 4 0 7 15, Clemens 0 0 1 1, Moynihan 0 0 1 1, Walker 1 0 0 2, Flagg 1 0 0 2. **Totals: 16-4-17-61.**

South Brunswick (63)
Kannanpuzha 0 1-2 5, Brown 4 0-19 27, Brees 5 2 1 17, Stokus 0 0 2 2, Clemente 1 0 0 2, Promise 0 0 2 2, McKendrick 0 1 4 7, Thompson 0 0 1 1. **Totals: 10-4-31-63.**

WRESTLING
The Scotch Plains wrestling squad opened the season with a pair of wins over Plainfield and East Side Dec. 21.

Scotch Plains 57, Plainfield 24
112: Concucos, P, pinned Adams, 3:27
119: Ferrara, SP, pinned Castenea, 5:0
125: Mineo, SP, pinned Stencer, :42
130: Francavilla, SP, dec. Carter, 13:5
135: Ferante, SP, won by forfeit
140: Connolly, SP, pinned Robinson, 1:01.

145: Strong, SP, pinned Eure, 2:40.
152: Gonzalez, P, pinned Cho, 5:52
160: Golran, SP, pinned Seay, :59
171: Buchi, SP, pinned Davis, :44
189: Silver, SP, pinned Haw, 4:38
215: Cater, P, pinned Diannaci, 1:35
HWT: Loomis, SP, won by injury default.
103: Orellana, P, pinned Fleissner, 1:52

Scotch Plains 61, Newark East Side 18
112: Frere, E, pinned Adams, 1:44
119: Ferrara won by forfeit.
125: Mineo, SP, won by forfeit.
130: Francavilla, SP won by forfeit.
135: Ferrante, SP, pinned Carl, 3:16
140: Connolly, SP, won by forfeit.
145: Jan, E, pinned Strong, 19.
152: Cortes, E, pinned Cho, 1:28.
160: Golran, SP, pinned Watson, 1:06.
171: Buchi, SP, pinned Antunes, 3:27
189: Silver, SP, pinned Terenta, 1:52.
215: Sabiano, SP, dec. Campa, 2-0.
HWT: Loomis, SP, dec. Olivera, 19-4.
103: Fleissner, SP, won by forfeit.

BOYS SOCCER
Scotch Plains-Fanwood High junior Ryan Breznitaky was named to the 2002 AP All-State Boys Soccer Team, second team.



Senior Lindsey Penella scored four points as Scotch Plains defeated Bridgewater-Raritan 73-47 Monday. Scotch Plains reached the North Warren Tournament final and will face Westfield Thursday.

Mench captures Blue Devil title

Westfield High junior Rob Mench has high expectations for season and has gotten off to a strong start, winning the 103 pound title at the Blue Devil Classic Friday in Westfield.

Mench, who took third in District 11 last year, was the only Blue Devils to win a title, pinning Chris Trapani from Howell in 3:18 in the final. Ethan Powell advanced to the 140 pound final, where he was defeated by Bob Dent of Roselle Park 6-3.

Westfield placed sixth as a team with 64.5 points. West Milford took the title with 148.5 points, followed by Howell (140), Roselle Park (127.5), Hanover Park (126.5), Madison (88), Westfield, Piscataway (57.5) and Morristown (12.5).

Westfield will have its next four matches at home, starting with Shabazz 4:30 p.m. Friday.

BOYS BASKETBALL
Eric Hayes nailed a three-pointer with 21 seconds left in

WESTFIELD ROUNDUP

overtime to lift the Blue Devils to a 48-47 win over J.P. Stevens Friday in the first round of the Tri-County Tournament. Hayes finished with 18 points, Bobby Wilt had 10 and Jan Cocozziello had nine to lead the Blue Devils.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
It was a disappointing opening weekend for the Devils as they dropped their second game in the first two days of the season Dec. 21, falling to Harrison 59-25.

Westfield (25)
Rock 1 0-0 2, Rosen 1 0-1 3, Sharell 1 0-1 3, O'Neill 1 0-0 2, Sonnenberg 1 0-1 3, Tena 1 0-0 2, Cerneth 1 0-1 3, Judd 1 0-0 2, Yee 1 0-0 2, Church 1 0-1 3. **Totals: 10-0-5-25.**

Harrison (59)
O'Brien 0 1-6 9, Derric 0 1-3 6, Morales 5 1-2 15, Podgarna 0 0-0 0, Meio 1 3-3 14, Vasquez 0 0-1 1, Pinto 1 0-0 2, Quinonez 0 2-2 8, Horvath 0 0-1 1, Franco 0 1-0 3. **Totals: 7-9-18-59.**

Harrison 24 11 13 11 - 59
Westfield 2 7 6 10 - 25



Rob Mench pinned Chris Trapani of Howell in 3:18 to capture the 103 pound title at the Blue Devil Invitational Friday. Westfield finished sixth as a team.

ST. HELEN'S CYO HOOPS

6th grade boys post two romps
The St. Helen's 6th grade boys basketball team continued their red hot start to the season with a 3-0 week, including two romps to open their Union County CYO League play and an impressive win in their opener in the IHM Christmas Tournament in Scotch Plains. In their CYO opener, a 35-15 trouncing of St. John's of Rahway, Spencer Cassidy led all scorers with eight points and Bret DeFazio and Kyle Marsh chipped in with six each. St. Helen's then rout-

ed St. Joseph's of Roselle 35-11, keyed by tremendous team defense that held St. Joe's to just five points through three quarters. Tony Diforo led the way with eight points while Greg Baker and Matt Isabella pumped in six each. In their IHM Tourney opener, St. Helen's dominated St. Paul's from the start winning 43-32. Chris Sheehan led scoring with 10 while Isabella and Cassidy pitched in six each and Diforo had a stellar defensive game. St. Helen's is now 8-1 overall on the year.
7th/8th grade girls improve to 9-1

YOUTH SPORTS

The St. Helen's 7/8th grade girls basketball team won their 6th straight game to improve their record to 9-1, defeating St. Stan's of Sayreville 48-28 in a battle for first place in the Metuchen CYO league. St. Helen's used a balanced attack led by Kathryn Ruhno with nine points and Enn Miller with eight points and five steals. Casey el Koury had eight points and nine rebounds, Claire Bennett had 7 points and a team-high 16 rebounds. Breanne Defalco scored six points and grabbed six rebounds while Gabrielle O'Leary had four points and

three steals. Danielle Infantino had three points and five rebounds. Allison Oberlander chipped in two points while Krissy Wandel and Elizabeth Harbaugh had 8 rebounds each. In the last game before the Christmas break, St. Helen's defeated IHM 7 41-23. Erin Miller led the way with 19 points hitting 33-point shots and connecting on 7 of 8 free throws to go along with her 7 rebounds, 4 steals and 3 assists. Four players scored 4 points: Stodyczka, Defalco (10 rebounds), Ruhno and Bennett (7 rebounds). Casey el Koury (8

rebounds), Danielle Infantino, Krissy Wandel scored 2 each to round out the scoring. Elizabeth Harbaugh had 8 rebounds. Gabrielle O'Leary and Rose Driscoll had 3 steals and 2 assists each splitting the game at the point guard position. An McDonald and Allison Oberlander had 3 rebounds each. St. Helen's is in two holiday tournaments, the Rutgers-Prep Classic and the St. Ann's Invitational.

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

- (all times p.m. unless otherwise noted)
- THURSDAY, JAN. 2**
Boys Basketball
Westfield at Scotch Plains, 4
Girls Basketball
Scotch Plains at Westfield, 4
Bowling
Westfield at Plainfield, 3:15
Scotch Plains at East Side, 3:20
- FRIDAY, JAN. 3**
Wrestling
Westfield vs. Shabazz, 4:30
Scotch Plains at Irvington, 5
- SATURDAY, JAN. 4**
Boys Swimming
Pirate Invitational
Boys Basketball
Westfield vs. Cranford, 2
Scotch Plains at Hillsborough, 1
Girls Basketball
Westfield at Cranford, 1
Scotch Plains vs. Hillsborough, 2
Wrestling
Scotch Plains at Parsippany Hills, 6
- MONDAY, JAN. 6**
Boys Track
Union County Relays, 6
Dunn Center, Elizabeth
- TUESDAY, JAN. 7**
Girls Basketball
Scotch Plains vs. Shabazz, 4
Westfield vs. Linden, 4
Boys Basketball
Westfield at Linden, 4
Scotch Plains at Shabazz, 4
Swimming
Westfield at Cranford, 4
Bowling
Westfield at Cranford, 3:15
Scotch Plains at Keansy, 3:20
- WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8**
Boys Track
Union County Relays, 6:30
Dunn Center, Elizabeth
Wrestling
Westfield vs. Keansy, 5:30
Ice Hockey
Westfield vs. Ridge, 6:30

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WESTFIELD COMMUNITY PLAYERS
 1000 North Ave. West
 Westfield
 (908) 232-1221
 "And the World Goes 'Round," musical by John Kander and Fred Ebb. 8 p.m. Jan. 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25. Admission \$15.
COMING UP
PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE
 Brookside Dr., Millburn
 (973) 376-4343;
 www.papermill.org
 "Blue," musical by Nona Hendryx (ex-La Belle) and Charles Randolph-Wright. Jan. 8-Feb. 9. Admission \$63-\$26; discounts available. Call for showtimes.
VILLAGERS THEATRE
 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset
 (732) 873-2710;
 www.villagerstheatre.com
 "Popcorn," comedy/satire by Ben Elton. 8 p.m. Jan. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25; 2 p.m. Jan. 12, 19. Admission \$12.

For Kids
CHARLOTTE'S WEB
 1 and 3:30 p.m. Jan. 12
 Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College
 Route 28, Branchburg
 (908) 725-3420;
 www.raritanval.edu/theatre
 The E.B. White book done live and local. Admission \$9.
SWORD IN THE STONE
 11 a.m. Jan. 11, 14, 18; 1 p.m. Jan. 19; Forum Theatre
 314 Main St., Metuchen
 (732) 548-0582;
 forumtheatrecompany.com

An original play with Merlin, Guinevere and a young King Arthur. Admission \$12; group rates available.

Concerts
AMERICAN BEETHOVENS
 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9
 State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
 (800) ALLEGRO;
 www.njsymphony.org
 Two works by Charles Ives and a third by Ludwig von Beethoven, all with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Admission \$72-\$19. Related lecture 7 p.m.
MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr.: A MUSICAL TRIBUTE
 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12
 Union County Arts Center
 1601 Irving St., Rahway
 (732) 499-8226; www.ucac.org
 Revue for the eve of the social activist's birthday. Admission \$10.
ROCKAPELLE
 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10
 Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College
 Route 28, Branchburg
 (908) 725-3420;
 www.raritanval.edu/theatre
 Rock-leaning a capella ensemble, hence the name. Admission \$22, \$17.

Events
SUMMER CAMP FAIR
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Museums
AMERICAN HUNGARIAN FOUNDATION
 300 Somerset St.
 New Brunswick
 (732) 846-5777
 Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission \$5.
 Recent additions "From the Old World to the New World," to April 20.



Maryland folk group at Watchung Arts Center

Folk group We're About 9 will be the opening act for GrooveLily at the Watchung Arts Center (on the circle in Watchung) on Saturday Jan. 11. We're About 9 was named "Most Wanted Performers" at last year's Falcon Ridge Folk Festival; the group has been described as a combination of The Kingston Trio, The Four Tops and The Story. The performance begins at 8 p.m.; tickets are \$12. For more information, call (908) 753-0190.

CORNELIUS LOW HOUSE
 Middlesex County Museum
 1225 River Rd., Piscataway
 (732) 745-4177
 Open to the public 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.
 "UnCommon Clay: New Jersey's Architectural Terra Cotta Industry, to May 30, 2003."
EAST JERSEY OLDE TOWNE
 1050 River Rd., Piscataway
 (732) 745-3030, (732) 745-4489;

www.cultureheritage.org
 Historical village in what was once Raritan Landing. Open to the public 8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday.
 Victorian ornaments, to Feb. 23.
MILLER-CORY HOUSE MUSEUM
 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield
 (908) 232-1776
 Open 2-4 p.m. alternate Sundays in January and February. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; under 6 free.

Native American wood carvings, Jan. 12.
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM
 (609) 258-3788; www.princetonartmuseum.org
 Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday. Free admission.
 "Beyond the Visible: A Conservator's Perspective," to Jan. 5.
 "Earth's Beauty Revealed: The Nineteenth-Century European Landscape," to Jan. 12.

"Cezanne in Focus," to Jan. 12.
 "Lewis Baltz: Nevada and Other Photographs," to Jan. 19.
 Photographs from the Peter C. Bunnell collection, to Feb. 3.
 "The Arts of Asia," to June 30.

Galleries
DIVERSITY ART GALLERY
 Union County Baptist Church
 4 Valley Rd., Clark
 (732) 574-1479
 Open to the public 1-3 p.m. Sunday or by appointment.
 "Seasonal and Diversity Art," to Jan. 12.
J. CACCIOLA GALLERY
 Route 202, Bernardsville
 (908) 204-9900
 Open 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday or by appointment (closed Jan. 1).
 "Small Pleasures: A Holiday Celebration," to Jan. 3.
MASON GROSS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
 Rutgers University, 33 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
 (732) 932-2222;
 mgsa.rutgers.edu
 Open to the public 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday or by appointment.
 RCIPP exhibition, Jan. 6-Feb. 6.
PRINTMAKING COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY
 440 River Rd., Branchburg
 (908) 725-2110;
 www.printnj.org
 Reopens Jan. 2. Gallery hours 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m. Saturday.
 Juried members show, Jan. 2-18.
WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER
 Watchung Circle, Watchung
 (908) 753-0190;
 www.watchungarts.org
 Open to the public 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday; 1-7:30 p.m. Thursday.
 New Jersey Teen Arts exhibit, Jan. 2-30. Reception 1-4 p.m. Jan. 5.

'Consumer Reports' on display in Cranford

CRANFORD — From Jan. 17 to Feb. 20, "Consumer Reports," a group exhibition guest curated by Margaret Murphy, will be on display at Union County College's Tomasulo Gallery. The gallery is located on the first floor of the Kenneth MacKay Library on the college campus at 1033 Springfield Ave. "Consumer Reports" is a multi-media exhibition exploring the role of consumerism in today's culture. The artists in the show are James A. Brown, Matt Chansky, Elise Engler and Murphy.
 As the curator of the exhibition and a participating artist, Murphy explained she was particularly interested in the show because she was intrigued by the way other artists shared her interest in consumer culture. The four artists in the exhibition all approach the subject in meaningful and deliberate ways.
 Brown, who hails from Paterson, has created a site-specific installation. His piece "Love for Sale" combines wall-mounted wood objects, text and video exploring the role of prostitution, the oldest form of business. Brown forces the viewer to participate in the installation by placing the video monitor so the viewer must bend down to see it. His work confronts the viewer with its bold imagery and subject matter.
 Brown explains, "The anger found in my work is not my anger, but an example of our resistance to change." An associate professor at William Paterson University, Brown in 2002 received a fellowship in painting from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.
 New York City native Engler creates drawings that take on an archaeological nature. She unearths buried objects found in "containers" such as purses, refrigerators and vehicles. Making drawn lists of the contents found in the containers, she is able to catalogue and report on a variety of people in relation to ethnicity, class, profession and age. These drawings become portraits of sorts, as the owner's identity is revealed by the products, personal items and objects found in the containers. Possibly more than any of the artists in the show, Engler's drawings are consumer reports.
 For 2003, Engler is a recipient of the Civitella Ranieri Fellowship and will be in residency in Umbertide, Italy.
 Chansky, of Chapel Hill, N.C., is

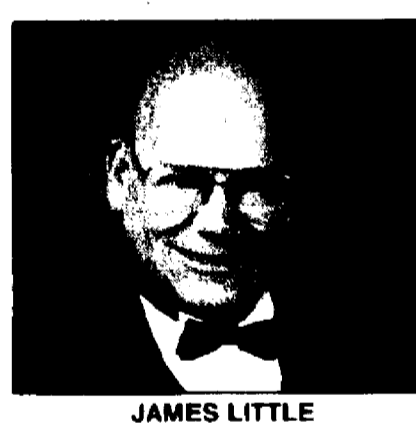


Clockwise from top left: "Freedom," by James A. Brown; "Everything in her Bag #51," by Elise Engler; "EPOISCR," by Matt Chansky; and "White Castle," by Margaret Murphy will be featured in the "Consumer Reports" exhibit at Union County College.

a digital artist who uses the computer not only as a tool but as subject matter. The human presence intertwined with the machine is the theme of his work. For this exhibition, Chansky has used a tiny image of a shopping cart along with a few simple bar codes and scrambled the images to create abstract works on paper. His fully-saturated, glossy, abstract images literally blur the boundary between human sensitivity and the machine.
 In 2002, Chansky had a solo exhibition at the University of Georgia's Lamar Dodd School of Art.
 A Jersey City resident, Murphy has created an installation of large-scale watercolors which are blown-up paintings of souvenirs and collectibles. Playful and inviting, the paintings recall our collective history as consumers. These domestic collectibles are often prominently displayed in homes as representations of past travels and experiences. Others pay homage to mythology and faith. Seen together, the bald eagle with the Christ figure, the Empire State Building and the running dog, become icons of American culture seen through the eyes of the dollar store consumer.
 Murphy has been exhibited in Jersey City and at William Paterson and in 2001 was an artist-in-residence at the Newark Museum.
 The Tomasulo Gallery exhibit debuts Jan. 17 with an opening reception 7-9 p.m. Gallery hours are 1-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday and Saturday. Evening hours are 6-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday. For more information, call the gallery at (908) 709-7155.

Choral Art Society brings a little "Passion" to Westfield

WESTFIELD — The Choral Art Society of New Jersey, Inc., will perform J.S. Bach's "St. John Passion" 8 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located at Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street.
 James S. Little, the society's musical director, will conduct the performance. Soloists include Steven Sands, tenor, in the role of the Evangelist; Ellen Goff Entriken, soprano; Valerie Coates, mezzo-soprano; Matthew Hughes, tenor; Dale Livingston, bass, in the role of Jesus and Steven Hryciak, bass, in the role of Pontius Pilate. The Choral Art Society Orchestra, with Mary Beth McFall playing harpsichord and George Moser on organ, will accompany the chorus.



JAMES LITTLE

Admission is at the door and is \$15, \$10 for seniors and students.
 Little has been director of the Choral Art Society since the spring of 1999. In addition to his duties with the society, Little is Director of Music at Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit, where he directs several choruses, most notably the Calvary Chorale and the Calvary Concert Series.
 The "St. John Passion" was first performed in Leipzig on Good Friday in 1724. It was divided into two parts, and a sermon would have been given between them. Bach's orchestra was probably no more than 17 players, and his chorus consisted of 12 men and boys, some of whom may have performed solo parts. The text consists of Chapters 18 and 19 of the Gospel of John to which Bach added, for dramatic effect, several verses

from the Gospel of Matthew.
 During the early centuries of the Christian era, it was customary to read or chant the Passion during Holy Week services. The Passion gradually evolved into a distinct musical genre with different voices singing the parts of the various characters in the story. Bach's "Passions" were the culmination of this centuries-old tradition and are distinctive for the high quality of the choruses, arias, chorales and recitatives.
 The center of this huge work is the somewhat inconspicuous chorale, "Durch dein Gefangnis, Gottes Sohn," which expresses the central Christian beliefs of incarnation and redemption. As with all of Bach's sacred works, the purpose was to teach the meaning of the Gospel and show the believer how it applied to his or her life.
 The tenor Sands, who plays the role of the Evangelist, is a graduate of Westminster Choir College, where for three years he sang with the world-renowned Westminster Choir and toured throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. He has performed under the batons of Kurt Masur, Wolfgang Sawalish and John Rutter. Sands is currently involved as a soloist recording the entire choral works of Haydn. He is the executive director of the Antioch Chamber Ensemble, which has been a part of the Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Concert Series. As a soloist, he has performed with the Trenton Symphony Orchestra, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, the Ensemble Rebel and the New York Philharmonic. He was recently heard on WQXR as a soloist for Handel's "Messiah" and a concert of all Purcell works. Sands teaches vocal music in the Somerset Hills School District.
 Playing the role of Jesus, bass Dale Livingston has been active as a concert soloist, recitalist and opera singer since he made his recital debut at New York's Carnegie Recital Hall in 1972. He presented a solo recital at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center, and three highly-praised solo recitals at the Montclair Art Museum. His operatic roles include, among others, Guglielmo in "Così fan tutte," Lescail in "Manon," Sharpless in "Madam Butterfly" and Shunard in "La Bohème." Livingston has performed many bass and baritone oratorio solos from the works of Bach, Beethoven, Berlioz, Brahms, Durufle, Faure and Handel. His recent appearances with the Choral Art Society were Haydn's "The Seasons," Mozart's "Requiem," Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms" and Verdi's "Requiem."

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Viki Lee to Barbara J. Doshier for \$155,000. 6 Poplar Way from Michael J. & Gail V. Fortier to Gordon C. & Christine Smith for \$410,000. 8-207 Riverside Drive from Riverside Cranford L.L.C. to Philip R. & Camille Costantino for \$242,000. 123 Riverside Drive from John E. Ellems to Dimitrios Marmarou for \$230,000. 22 Roger Ave. from Michael P. Kurzweil to Victor & Michelle Paredes for \$4265,000. 10 Roselle Ave. from William B. & Kathleen Matier to Fritz Oltmann et al. for \$322,000. 43 Roselle Ave. from Richard A. Rocchini to Albert G. & Mercedes Johnson for \$307,500. 14 Samoset Road from Solomon H. & Harriette Koved to Roy Moffett for \$335,000. 5 Spring Garden St. from George J. & Barbara Petrello to Michael & Donna Normann for \$470,000. 405 Springfield Ave. from William B. Thompson Jr. & K. Thompson to Ronald & Eileen Head for \$60,020. 336 S. Union Ave. from Estelle Sienkiewicz to Richard J. & Victoria A. Goski for \$277,000. 353 S. Union Ave. from Marvin R. & Susan D. 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Automotive/Classified

Saab's reborn 9-3 has character without quirkinsess

By LAURA BYRD, COPLBY NEWS SERVICE

Long before becoming an automotive journalist, I was a car nut.

That "likable but weird" list never included a Saab, however. In fact, I thought those cars from the quirky Swedish automaker were ghastly looking and unreliable.

But after a recent afternoon cruising in a newly reborn 2003 Saab 9-3, I'm turned around — not only by the impressive resurrection of a vehicle I wouldn't have ever considered driving in the past, but by its user-friendliness.

"It's one touch, you can let go of it," said Doug Blank, of product development for Saab Cars USA.

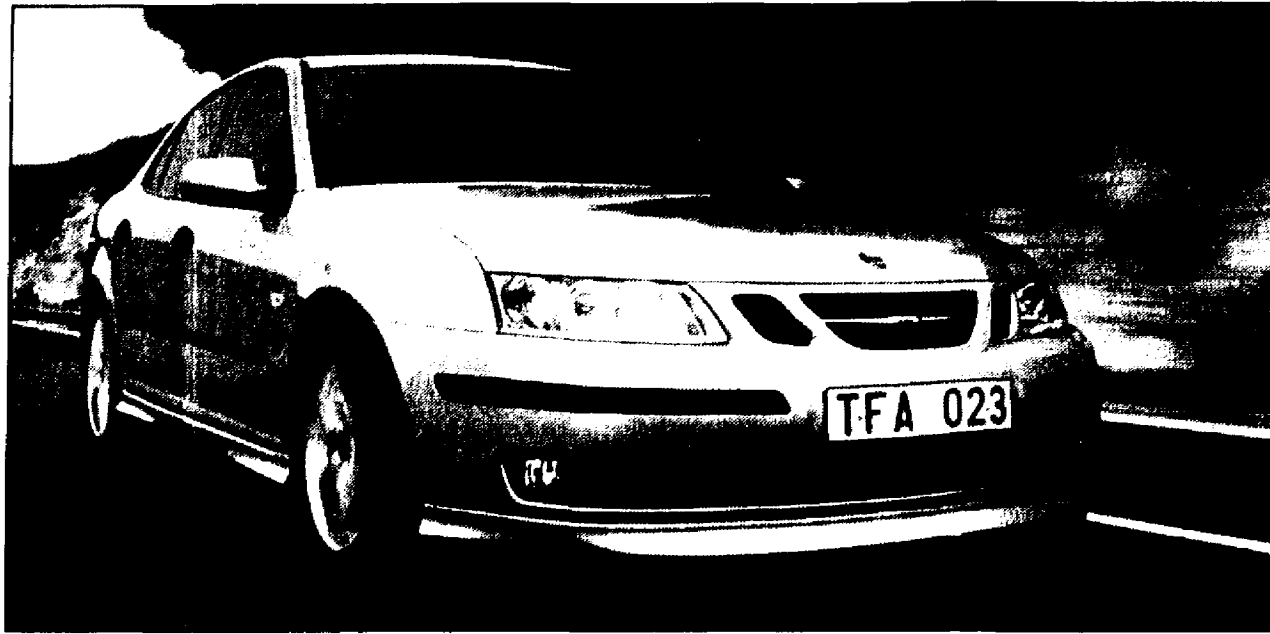
He sounded remarkably patient for a guy who had given me the same instructions four times in two hours.

One touch of the ceiling switch, and the sliding roof opened. But I was, for the fourth time, holding the switch like the chop button on a blender until all the blood ran out of my hand.

Same with the trunk release — in the door panel next to the door handle. OK, that wasn't hard.

For two days, pitting it against other European sport sedans, the Saab 9-3 kept fooling me.

Owned by General Motors



The Saab 9-3 has much-improved styling and an all-new aluminum, turbocharged engine. CNS Photo courtesy of Saab.

since 1997, Saab appears to have benefited from some long-needed clout. The 9-3 is a surprisingly good looking and fast entry-level luxury sedan.

Unlike the previous incarnations of Saab, this one has character without the quirkinsess. And it handles beautifully.

The 9-3 comes in three front-wheel-drive levels: Linear, Arc and Vector.

Prices start at \$26,525 for the Linear, with such standard features as free scheduled maintenance, electronic stability control, 15-inch all-season tires and alloy wheels.

The Arc starts at \$30,620 and adds 16-inch wheels, color-matched lower trim, dual power front seats, 13-speaker audio, one-touch up-and-down window controls and a dressier interior with more leather and wood.

Vector models come with a 210-horsepower turbo, a 210-horsepower version of the base engine that delivers more immediate and abundant torque.

front seats, 13-speaker audio, one-touch up-and-down window controls and a dressier interior with more leather and wood.

Vector models start at \$33,120 and emphasize a sportier image with 17-inch wheels, stiffer suspension, sport exterior body trim and matte chrome interior trim.

An automatic transmission adds \$1,200 (\$1,300 for the Vector) and a power sunroof is \$1,100.

A Linear can be dressed up to about \$33,000 with all the options, but it would still have fewer features than a Vector.

Featuring a new, aluminum 175-horsepower, 2.0-liter turbocharged 4-cylinder engine and 5-speed manual gearbox, the Linear model is quick and has plenty of power for sporty driving.

Cruising through hairpin

turns on a backcountry road at 30 to 50 mph is effortless and comfortable. The 5-speed automatic transmission shifts quietly and smoothly, even through tight turns and long stretches of road where the speed limits change and shifts from third to fifth are a constant.

The automatic can be manually shifted; the Vector model comes with steering wheel shift controls.

Featuring a new Trionic 8 engine management system, the system "reads" and integrates driving conditions. The end result is a jerk-free, smooth and powerful acceleration through the shifts.

The interior is surprisingly quiet. Even with the sunroof open, conversation in the sedan is free of thumping or road noise interference.

For more thrills, the Arc and

Vector models come with a high-output turbo, a 210-horsepower version of the base engine that delivers more immediate and abundant torque. Combined with the new synchromesh 6-speed manual transmission, it's downright exhilarating driving.

Almost 300 pounds lighter than the previous 9-3, the new model has abundant use of aluminum and hollow steel. An Electronic Stability and Traction Control System make for tight, stiff handling with a sporty road feel.

From the outside, the design is distinctly different, though the headlights are fairly Audi and the profile is a nod to BMW.

And, buyers still get the ignition on the center console and cockpit-like instrumentation for the driver, a carryover from Saab's aviation roots.

The parts of Saab that are worth retaining are still there, a declaration of "different" that longtime enthusiasts will be relieved to see. But the homely profile of Saab in all its hatchback glory is gone.

And the handling dilemmas that have haunted it are replaced by a new sophistication and refinement.

For those about to shed tears about the cost of a new Beemer, Audi or Acura, for price and performance it's worth grabbing a hankie and driving a Saab first.

SPECS BOX

2003 Saab 9-3 Linear

Body style: 5-passenger, 4-door sport sedan

Drive system: front-wheel drive

Engine size and type: alu-

minum, DOHC, 16-valve turbocharged 2.0-liter 4-cylinder or high-output turbocharged for Arc and Vector models

Horsepower: 175 at 5500 rpm (Linear); 210 at 5500 (Arc and Vector)

Torque: 195 at 2300 rpm (Linear); 221 foot-pounds at 2,500 (Arc and Vector)

Transmissions: 5-speed manual (Linear) or 6-speed manual (Arc and Vector); optional 5-speed automatic with manual shift mode

Acceleration: n/a

EPA fuel economy estimates: n/a

Fuel capacity: 16.4 gallons

DIMENSIONS

Cargo space: 14.8 cubic feet

Front head/leg/shoulder room: 38.9/42.3/56.3 inches

Rear head/leg/shoulder room: 37.0/35.1/55.1 inches

Length: 182.5 inches

Wheelbase: 105.3 inches

Curb weight: 3,175 pounds

Standard features: free scheduled maintenance, OnStar with 12 months of Safe & Sound package, leather seats and steering wheel, power windows and locks, heated outside mirrors, cruise control, alarm system with remote, CD player, fog lights, floor mats.

Safety features: adaptive driver and passenger front air bags, front and rear side-curtain air bags, active head restraints, child seat anchor points, child-proof rear door locks, impact-resistant bumpers, Saab anti-theft with engine immobilizing, impact collapsible steering column.

Base price: \$26,525, including \$625 destination fee

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