



Running wild

Lakiem Lockery ran for 171 yards and a touchdown on 10 carries to spark the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High football team past Savreville 28-24 Salurday and into the North Jersey Section 2, Group 3 final. For story see Sports, Page C-1.



Fanwood might not seem like an obvious getaway destination, but one local couple is having a blast running a bed and breakfast on North Avenue. For the story, see Page B-1.



Congratulations.

Westlield resident Staff Sgt. William Gandy was among the Union County veterans to receive a new medal from the state in recognition of his service last week. For the story, see Page A-5.

The town's annual holiday festivities get under way in earnest 5 p.m. Sunday at the north side train station parking lot. Santa will arrive at dusk to light the holiday tree. For more, call the Chamber of Commerce at (908) 233-2031

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Serving Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood

Restaurant wins board approval

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD - After more than 12 hours of testimony stretching over three months, the Board of Adjustment approved the application for a Wolfgang Puck Express at 1 Elm Street by a 7-2 vote Monday. In approving

attached several conditions to the application, all of which were agreed to by applicant 1 Elm Street Associates, LLC

improve safety at the intersection of Elm Street and North Avenue by assisting with installation of striping, a timed pedes-

board trian signal, and an advanced warning sign at the centerline of North Avenue which indicates a yield to pedestrians. The owner of the building, Mitchell Berlandt, The applicant agreed to also agreed to attach an agreement preventing him from opening a fast food restaurant on the site at a later date should Wolfgang Puck Express fail.

The opposition consisted of 10 downtown restaurants and was represented by attorney Richard Schkolnick of Hersh, Ramsey, and Berman, P.C. Schkolnick first called traffic expert and planner Michael Chasin. Chasin testified that the Wolfgang Puck Express was likely to increase traffic volume and would nega-

tively affect pedestrian safety at the intersection of North Avenue and Elm Street.

"The direct parking implication of this location... is express action," he said, "and the operat tion of an express (service) would have an adverse affect on pedes-

(Continued on page A-2)



JOHN FEI/CORRESPONDENT

It's turkey time

Students from Westfield's Edison and Roosevelt schools gathered at Franklin School Saturday to organize the frozen turkeys donated in a food drive. The turkeys were given to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, which will distribute them to needy families for Thanksgiving.

District finances in good shape

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS - An annual audit of Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools has found the district's books in order. The independent audit, which was performed by accountants Barre and Company of Springfield, was completed Nov. 5 and presented to the board last

At their regular meeting Nov. 20, board members approved the findings of the 2002-2003 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The company found no major problems with the district's accounting procedures, and the recommendations

The auditors examined payroll accounts, insurance, treasurer's records, school service funds, transportation expenses and numerous other district xpenditures.

Typically an audit takes 21/2 to 3 weeks for both field work and report preparation," said Joe Barre, the accountant who handled to audit. Barre and Company has audited the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school district for about 4 years.

In most districts in New Jersey, the most problematic areas for auditors have tended to be lump sum payments, awards, overtime, or payments for special

Temple parking lot application continues Dec. 4

THE RECORD PRESS

WESTFIELD - Continued hearings before the Board of Adjustment over Temple Emanu-El's proposed parking lot expansion have been scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 4 and Monday, Dec. 8.

The meeting scheduled for Dec. 4 will be held in the Community Room of the municipal building at 7 p.m.; on Dec. 8 the meeting will be in Council Chambers. Both meetings are open to the public. A meeting had been scheduled for Nov. 20, but was cancelled.

The board last met on the matter Oct. 29 and Oct. 30; the unusual back-to-back meetings had been scheduled in hopes of concluding the application, but the board was not prepared to take action.

In the last two sessions, new testimony was heard from groups opposed to the parking lot expansion, and the sheer volume of opposition testimony was one of the factors that prevented the board of wrapping up the hear-

At the conclusion of the hearing Oct. 30 there were still witnesses to be presented by the opposition. The board directed James Flynn, attorney for the request to the board asking for ous hearings on the application. more time to present witnesses.

Due to overcrowded parking

conditions on its existing lot, the temple, located on East Broad Street, is proposing to expand its existing 65-space lot to 150 spaces. The temple had originally proposed a 170-space lot to accommodate its congregation; which is often forced to park of surrounding streets. Temple congregants have parked on Linden and Jefferson Streets, creating traffic and pedestrian safety problems in the surrounding neighborhood.

While proponents say the expanded parking lot would alle: viate safety concerns due to over crowded street parking, the temple's opposition believes the lot would negatively affect property values of surrounding homes.

The opposition has presented the testimony of professional planners and traffic engineers who have pointed out that usage of the lot occurs infrequently and during a small part of the year. They have also suggested alternate uses of the open space which would, they say, improve the character of the neighborhood and provide benefits to both the temple and residents.

Residents have formed a group, UNITE, in opposition to the lot expansion and several of its members have provided testimony during the hearings. UNITE's members have filled opposition, to submit a formal Council Chambers during previ-

(Continued on page A-2)

New store brings the funk to downtown Westfield

Funk and Standard opens just in time for holiday season

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD - Opening a variety store can be a daunting task, but Patty Siciliano looks like she can handle it.

"You'd be amazed what you can do in four hours," she said last week while preparing for her store's grand opening, expertly navigating a labyrinth of unopened boxes, busy employees, and merchandise displays in varying stages of completion. In the course of three weeks, Siciliano and her staff converted a former tanning booth with many compartments and tanning rooms into a

wide-open shopping environknock down walls, add dressing rooms, and reconfigure the floors A complicated project, to be sure, but it was easier than her first

Funk Standard, which opened for business on Saturday on East Broad Street, is Siciliano's second retail outlet Her first Funk and Standard opened in Red Bank in radio stations like 1063, and 1998 after five weeks of renovating a location Siciliano called "a vanilla box." Despite the early challenge, that store has been a aucress, blending nicely into a community of alternativethemed jetail millets there Siciliano is hoping that the ecler tic blend of accessories, gifts, clothing, and other novelties will trapalate in Westfield as well as

it has in Red Bank.

"Downtown Westfield is chock full of awesome shops, eateries, galleries, theatres, and nightlife, Siciliano said. She added that Westfield's commercial atmosphere fits nicely with her business plan. Siciliano thinks that her location near The Gap and Kay Bee Toy Store will bring customers, not competition. "I like the fact that there are so many national chains downtown," she

Marketing and promotion is a focus of Siciliana's business. She has worked with the same graphic designer since her first days in Red Bank, and their retro posters - and ad cam-

paigns grow out

of their collabo-

said with a

laugh. Funk and

rials advertise

"It's what I love -ment. She had to bringing people together rations. "We go is what it's all about. It's back and forth, sometimes more than making back and forth money, and it's what I've than I'd like," she always wanted to do." - Patty Siciliano Standard's mate-

> the store as "your one stop happy shop" and "the most badass store

> > in town In Red Bank, Siciliano had a constant advertising presence on plans to continue an aggressive marketing strategy through that venue. Music is one of the elements of the store as well, as there is usually progressive music playing on Funk and Mandard's soundtrack

Siciliano's vision of the store's atmosphere is a cool and comfort. able family environment where there's something to interest



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Donna Foerster, left, of Scotch Plains and West Caldwell resident Chris Hubbaner check out the merchandles at Funk and Standard, which just opened on East Broad Street in Westfield.

practically anyone. Pets are welcome, and customers can wander through the store without any pressure to buy. "We want to translate the obscure and funky to the mainstream and make it palatable to (customers)." Siciliano said

Funk and Standard sells clothing by Puma, Dickles, Maphattan Portage, and Levi's, among other large and small lines. Novelty items include books like "Bad Girl's Guide to the Open Road," action figures, classic games, lunchboxes, and gag items like whoopee cushions and magic eight balls

The store is a labor of love for Siciliano "It's what I love bringing people together is what it's all about It's more than mak ing money, and it's what I've

(Continued on page A-2)



NIGDLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPH These Chinese cat banks are among the unusual Hems for sale Funk and Standard.

Funk

(Continued from page A-1)

always wanted to do." Funk and Standard is a family affair; Siciliano's sister does administrative work for the store and

her father, a longtime retail businessman, is an advisor.

If the store in Westfield works out, Siciliano may continue her New Jersey expansion. "Ultimately I would like to have a chain of stores," she

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Kiwanis Club sells luminaries

Kiwanis Club is preparing for their 2003 annual luminary sale.

This year's sale will be held on three Saturdays in December - Dec. 6, 13, and 20, with an additional sale day on Dec. 21.

Luminary candles with bags and sand may be purchased and picked up between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on the three Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 21.

The sale will be held at the Fanwood municipal garage, located across from the Fanwood Library on North Avenue. The price including candle, bag and sand will remain at 35 cents for this year's sale.

The luminary tradition was brought to America by the Spanish in the late 1600s. The

AAAH! MASSAGE!

THE PERFECT GIFT

custom of placing lighted candles in front of one's house on Christmas Eve was prevalent in the southwest for many years

The custom was brought to our area in the late 1950s by the Byerts, who moved into Fanwood from the southwest. The tradition was continued by the SPF Kiwanis members, after the Byerts moved from our area some 30 years ago.

Various neighborhoods throughout the Union County area light up their front yards, driveways and walks by lighting luminaries each Christmas Eve.In addition to the luminary tradition, neighborhood gatherings renew old relationships at luminary lighting time.

For more information, contact Bill Lehman at (908) 518-0713 or write the SPF Kiwanis Club at P.O. Box 24, Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076.

Hearing continues on Dec. 4

(Continued from page A-1)

The application includes request for relief from eight requirements of the Westfield Land Use Ordinance. The vari ances range from large issuelike pedestrian access walkways to smaller issues such as the location of sheds and locking devices for manhole and inlet grates.

Wolfgang Puck Express wins board approval

(Continued from page A-1)

trian safety." Chasin said the restaurant would increase the

parking shortfall in the immedi- Puck Express location would ate vicinity of 1 Elm Street by as much as 36 percent.

park illegally on Elm Street in front of the restaurant's front Chasin said that the Wolfgang

entrance. This, he said, would limit visibility for pedestrians crossing the street and would make the intersection more dangerous for vehicles as well. "(Granting) the variance would promote a hazardous parking situation," he said. Chasin also suggested that driv-

encourage takeout customers to

ers would be less vigilant in looking out for pedestrians since the limited parking options in Westfield encourage drivers to circle through the downtown, searching for newly-available

However, Art Attonasio, attorney for the applicant, pointed out that no retail or restaurant use either at 1 Elm Street or anywhere else downtown is capable of creating additional parking options. Attonasio also mentioned that the only lots available are municipal lots, and added that the Town Council has made provisions for a future parking deck to alleviate the parking situation downtown.

Chasin argued that any future parking deck should not be considered in the application process until it has actually been constructed, noting that plans for a deck have been in the works for many years. He also said that the Wolfgang Puck Express violates the town's Master Plan, which calls for the town to "maintain and enhance the viability of business districts by providing or requiring provisions for appropriate parking for public patrons and employees." Chasin further suggested that traffic issues on Prospect Street could affect the maneuverability of fire trucks downtown.

The board considered planned changes to the awkward Elm Street-North Avenue intersection. Currently, the conflicting left turns between Elm Street and the North Avenue train station egress cause confusion with motorists. The proposed change would create a two-lane entrance and exit to the train station, converting the Elm Street-North Avenue intersection into a less ambiguous. classic four-way intersection.

Attonasio closed by suggesting that changes downtown have created a "synergy" for businesses, and that the town is thriving because of the volume.

Elaine Moffet, the owner of Periwinkles, independently testified that the Wolfgang Puck Express would eliminate a longstanding eyesore at the intersection. "I would be delighted to see someone come into this building," she said, and added that the new restaurant would "enhance pedestrian circulation in that region of town." The 1 Elm Street property has been vacant for four years.

Sherry Cronin, director of the Downtown Westfield Corporation, agreed. "The parklike area enables pedestrians to go from Elm to Prospect," she acknowledging that Prospect Street businesses would benefit from added pedestrian traffic. "(The applicants) have shown they're willing to revise the application and do what's best for downtown," she added.

In the end, that sentiment carried the day.

Board Chairman Jay Boyle said that the applicant's cooperativeness and willingness to adjust their business plans to enhance safety were enough to gain his support. Vice Chairman Jay MacDonald responded similarly, noting that the applicants were helpful and cooperative in responding to the board's sug-

gestions Board member Martin Robins noted that the restaurant was an appropriate use of the property and supported the architectural approach planned by the applicants. He concluded his comments by appealing for the construction of a parking deck to address the parking issues in Westfield.

Board member Bruce Long was one of two members to vote against the application, citing concerns about pedestrian safe ty "(Wolfgang Puck Express) would be a great addition to some area, but not to the location here today," he said. William Ziff joined him in dissent, claiming that the restaurunt either creates or exacerbates a traffic problem.

Merned-Pleens A Pass Jersey Artenne, Inc. newspaper NIN Publishing @ 2002

Herord Press (USPS 006 049) le published on Friday by NJN Publishing, 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ 07066 (908) 575 6660, Second class postage paid at Cranford, NJ 07018 POSTMASTER please early changes to NUN Publishing . Fulfillment office PO Box 699. Sumerville, N.1 ORAZO.

Coles ription rates by mail, one vent within Union County \$17, out of county \$20, out of state \$24. for subscribe čalt 1.800.300.9321





Financial aid tips available in Westfield

WESTFIELD - The Westfield School Guidance Department is presenting its 18th annual Financial Aid Information Program 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the high school auditorium.

A guest presenter from the Financial Aid Services for the Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (HESSA) will explain the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the College Scholarship Service's PROFILE.

Westfield High Guidance Department representatives will discuss college academic scholarships as well as local scholarships. Informative pamphlets and brochures will also be avail-

Parents of seniors who will be applying for financial aid for college are encouraged to attend the program as well as parents of juniors and sophomores who may want to start planning now.



Thanksgiving feast at St. Bart's

about ingress and egress of the

parking lot, which is along a busy

businesses invest in their proper-

ty, so in that respect Bowcraft has

been a good neighbor." However,

with increased investment and

business, higher traffic volume

and noise can become a problem.

it may still be some time before

construction begins on Bowcraft's

water playground. The company

would still have to approve final

construction design and acquire

permits before breaking new

would close sections of the park for

construction purposes during their

peak business season in 2004.

work would probably be put off

until next fall, meaning the water-

slides wouldn't open until May of

Since it is unlikely Bowcraft

If the application is approved,

The owner has poured a lot of money into the park," said Fawcett. "The town likes to see

highway, U.S. Route 22.

First- and second-graders at St. Bartholomew Interparochial School dressed as pilgrims and Native Americans as they prepared the table decorations for the school's 10th annual Thanksgiving feast. Following the school's Thanksgiving prayer service, parents from Home School Association of St. Bartholomew School have hosted a traditional Thanksgiving feast for the past 10 years for the faculty, staff, and students. From left are Anne Luongo, Austin Graham, Alex Sabatell, Jessica Florendo.

Decision could come soon on water park

By BRAD BISHOP

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS - A vote on a local amusement park's proposed water park expansion could come as early as Tuesday, when Marke Enterprises, the owner of Bowcraft, presents a revised site plan before the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

"If they come back with a fully detailed site plan, we will take action," said board chairman James Fawcett last week.

The plan calls for a water playground that includes water slides, a pool and a shallow lazy river. It will also have retaining walls. The slides will be 14 feet high and the retaining wall 10-12 feet high. The new water park will be for children ages 2-12 and will be open from May through Labor Day.

To accommodate the added attration, the proposed plan will also remove the miniature golf course at the southwest portion of the park and replace it with parking. New pedestrian walkways will also be installed in the park-

ing lot. Board members had an opportunity to see the site in person Oct. 16.

Among the concerns the board has. Fawcett said, is which trees were going to be cut down to accommodate the changes at Bowcraft. Also, the board is concerned about the impact of drainage and noise on nearby residential neighborhoods.

In addition to drainage and buffering concerns, the board has in the past expressed concern

Secretaries to get 3.9% yearly hike

WESTFIELD - The Board of Education ratified a three-year contract with the Westfield Association of Educational Secretaries at its Nov. 12 meeting. The contract, which is effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2006, allows for annual increases of 3.9 percent for each of the three years.

The major changes in the contract, which covers the 56 secretaries in the district, include an added \$50 incentive for secretaries who demonstrate proficiency in specific computer software utilized by the district. Also, any secretary who earns state certification for her position shall receive a stipend of \$500 per year.

To control health insurance coats, all new hires will participate in a Point of Service insurance plan. Health benefits also include a change in the prescription co-payment from \$9-\$15 for non-generic drugs and \$5-\$8 for generic drugs.

Members of the Board of Education were pleased with the new contract. "This is a way for both of us to get what we needed," said Vice President Anne Riegel.

Members of the employee negotiating team included Donna Dzury, Linda Frame, Gennie Lagola, Nancy Rich, Carla Wolf and NJEA Consultant Sally

The board team included Anne Riegel, Clinny Leix, and William Ziff Serving as administrative Husiness Minimini Administrator Robert Berman. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Margaret Dolan and Superintendent of Schools William J. Foley

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Commentary

The lessons of Thanksgiving

It's heartening to know the most heavily-traveled time of the year is Thanksgiving.

Though families no longer go over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house, far-flung relatives jam the interstate highways and airports so they can share a unique American holiday with their loved ones. The holiday is more than just a huge feast; it is a celebration of the genuine family values at the core

of the American experience.

No matter what political pundits and cultural gadflies may say about the deterioration of American life, family ties still remain strong. In fact, the great efforts most Americans make to be with their families on Thanksgiving are convincing proof we are not on the road to decadence and social anarchy. The social fabric of our country is strong, and it is strong enough to withstand the efforts of those who wish to tear it apart for their own political advantage. We must not let fear deter us from those traditions that make us such a strong

When this editorial was being written, American soldiers are fighting a war against a different kind of enemy - terrorists. It is a war for which we have no reference points in history. It is a war without large armies moving across a battlefield. And unlike our previous wars, there are no large battles being fought and victories are often unseen.

Because of these threats, there will be many Americans in the military who will not be able to be home this Thanksgiving. They will be sacrificing the comforts of home so that we can enjoy and give thanks for our freedoms.

The lessons from the first Thanksgiving more than three centuries ago are valid even today. That first celebration of a good harvest and cooperation among diverse peoples taught us the value of tolerance and community. The foundation for the personal freedoms which we all take for granted and has been the envy of people all around the world began to be built in that brave settlement in Plymouth.

Thanksgiving is a joyful time as we celebrate the ties that keep us together as families and Americans. It is also a time to cherish the ties that keep our communities and country together.

The Record-Press is here for you

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

Call Editor Gregory Marx at (732) 396-4219 with story

uggestions, questions or comments. For sports, call Daniel Murphy at (732) 396-4202. Our address: The Record-Press, 301 Central Ave., Clark.

Our fax number is (732) 574-2613.

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

Deadlines

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

The deadline for submitting letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday.

Correction policy

The Record-Press will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to Editor Greg Marx at (732) 396-4219.

Letter policy

Letters may be edited for content, brevity, good taste and libel. Letters should be typewritten and include the writer's daytime telephone number for verification, if necessary. Send letters to the above address or fax number.



Record-Aress

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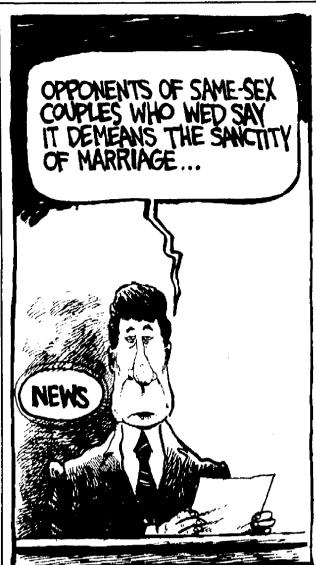
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News: Phone: 732-396-4219 Fax: 732-574-2613 Circulation: 1-800-300-9321 Advertising: 732.396.4404 & Classified: 1-800-472-0102

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Letters to the editor

Much to give thanks for this season

To The Record-Press:

Thanksgiving is a distinctively American holiday, set aside for giving thanks for the blessings of health, food, shelter, family, friends and community. During the Thanksgiving season many Westfielders, who recognize how much they have to be grateful for, say "thank you" by giving to the United Fund of Westfield, which helps maintain the quality of life for all in our community.

We are grateful to all who have generously responded to the 2003 United Fund campaign, and we urge all who have not yet sent in a pledge card to do so now, as a sign of "thanks-giving." By sharing their blessings, Westfielders can extend the spirit of Thanksgiving throughout the coming year. A past edition of the "Friendly Place," a newsletter

for Westfield Community Center Senior Citizens tone of the 22 member agencies supported by our United Fund), contained the following inspirational message which we would like to share again this year: "Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when

the alarm rings each morning, thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are those who are deaf.

"Even though I keep my eyes tightly closed against the morning light as long as possible, thank

you, Lord, that I can see. There are many who are

"Even though I huddle in my bed and put off the effort of rising, thank you, Lord, that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bed-ridden.

"Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, thank you, Lord, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the pictures in the magazines, and the menu is at times unbalanced, thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

"Even though the routine of my job is often monotonous, thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no job.

"Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day, and wish my circumstances were not so modest, thank you, Lord, for the gift of life."

On behalf of all of us at the United Fund of Westfield, let me wish everyone a most happy Thanksgiving season.

MATT FORSTENHAUSLER President, Board of Trustees United Fund of Westfield

Put a halt to unneeded tree trimming

To The Record-Press:

Only God can make a tree, but are trees, then, completely at the mercy of PSE&G? Is there, I wonder, a single official in Westfield going to bat to preserve the splendid ambiance trees have imparted to our town since its founding? Probably not. Westfield's elected officials and functionaries prove themselves time and again to be in over their heads and, where stewardship of the environment is concerned, completely use-

PSE&G's doorknob flyer, "Sorry We Missed You," states the company's "tree trimming program follows the guidelines established by the National Arborist Association and International Society of Arboriculture." You could have fooled me.

One less-than-felicitous example of PSE&G's handiwork can be seen on Rahway Avenue near Shackamaxon Drive. Though the "trimming" performed on the tree in question was actually done a few years ago, any new growth has obviously not mitigated this specimen's grotesque ugliness. The tree will remain a basket case indefi-

Such overzenlousness can be seen all over, not only in Westfield. I was recently fortunate

enough to rescue one of my own trees from PSE&G's hatchet men. The branches come nowhere close to power lines. And given the upward habit of the species, they will never threaten the company's lines unless there should be some cataclysm. (Do PSE&G's tree "specialists" know anything at all about the growth habits of tree species?)

Those who have been in Westfield for decades have witnessed firsthand the fast attrition of trees on roadsides. A workman from the Public Works Department speculated to me, years ago, that trees are being lost due to subterranean leaks from gas lines. Whatever the cause, unrestrained pruning by PSE&G compromises roadside trees still further.

The cost of removing a dying tree from one's property is nothing to sneeze at, and such costs are absorbed neither by PSE&G nor by the town.

Perhaps Westfield's town attorney, who surely has nothing more pressing to do with his time, could enlighten our townspeople as to exactly what prerogatives New Jersey statutes grant power companies in this regard - and what the rights of property owners might be

FERDINAND GAJEWSKI, Ph.D. Westfield

Jersey Boy Mike Deak

A creep's holiday homecoming

It was the proper and indisputable tradition that when you came back from college you went out drinking on the night before Thanksgiving to escape your parents' house and meet your high school buddies to exchange the gossip of other people's foibles and tell lies about your own collegiate exploits. There were lots of beers, laughs and hangovers that could barely survive Grandma's pumpkin pie.

By the time we reached senior year, however, our merry band had dwindled; lives were following different trajectories. The tone was somber because we were in the slow process of realizing real life was beginning in six months. We all had problems; I was pre-occupied with frets about my girlfriend. The love that was so glorious a month ago - imagine the exhibaration of two neophyte cliff divers leaping together - had been replaced with a question "what do we do now?" for which we had no answer.

When the silences among us were becoming uncomfortable and my buddies were staggering to the men's room, someone plopped on the stool next to me. Well, you don't look different except you've learned how to shave," she said.

She was smiling and she was from Somerville High School, but I didn't recognize her because girls had not smiled at me in high school. In the years since being a social spastic and existential eunuch I had developed rudimentary social skills so I replied, "You look pretty good yourself," hoping her name would swim to me in the stream of consciousness.

"Thanks," she said. "I feel like something the cat buried."

With her laugh, I recognized her as Melissa W., who through alphabet's fate had always sat on the other side of the classroom. the edge of my universe.

For the next two hours I listened to Melissa unroll her tale of woe. Every boyfriend - and there were many - turned out to be a creep, every professor was an ogre and every roommate practiced bizarre personal hygiene.

"Did I tell you all guys are creeps?" she asked, just a quarter inch of beer left in her pitcher.

"I believe you mentioned it a

few times -"Well, you're a creep too but you're not as creepy as most of

Thanks."

"Now get me another beer.

Like a shipwrecked sailor clinging to the remains of the bow, she hung to me as I dragged us to my car. She passed out as soon as she reached the front sent. I didn't want to her take her home dead drunk; that would be embarrassing for everyone. I decided to give her a tour around town, as if it were a rehearsal for when my girlfriend ever visited.

Up and down the streets ! drove, delivering a narrative of a small town's unmentionable perversities. In high school the hypocrisy between the public and private disgusted me; now, after becoming better acquainted with my weaknesses, I found every thing to be oddly endearing, as if there were an alternative version of "Our Town" written by a drunk on and cynical Thornton Wilder.

Melissa stirred as I stopped in front of her house. She groaned: she must have realized it was going to be a rough Thankeriving. Then she looked at me and smiled, a and and contradictory look of loss and lust in her cloudy eyes, "You want to come in?" she nakad

"It's getting late," I said. She smiled and gave me a kies that spun my uvula. She got out of the car and lurched to the front door. like an oxygen-deprived motintain climber nearing the summit of Everest. (It was the last time I ever saw her - different trajecto:

ries, you know.) As I drove home, I wondered ! il were too late to call my girls





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Vets receive new honors

By LAUREN TRAINOR

STAFF WRITER

More than 90 Union County veterans were honored with New Jersey's highest military award at a special awards ceremony held Nov. 19 at the National Guard Armory in Westfield.

New Jersey Distinguished Service and New Jersey Meritorious Service medals were presented to area veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the first and second Gulf Wars.

"It's kind of sad in a way, because it reminds you of all the fellows who didn't make it back," said retired Marine Corps Staff Sgt. William Gandy, of Westfield. Gandy served more than nine years in Vietnam, earning the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with Combat V, three Purple Hearts, and six Vietnamese Crosses of Gallantry.

"I couldn't even go to the memorial in Washington," he said. "It was really great for the state to do something like this."

Retired Army Sgt. Biagio Sciscione of Kenilworth, who served in the Pacific theater in World War II, was similarly reflective. "I did my duty there and I got home safely, but I saw my fellow soldiers die before my eyes," Sciscione said. "I was honored to receive (the medals)."

The ceremony refreshed the pride the veterans felt for serving their country in it's time of need, and reinforced the importance of their

"I was very proud of what I did there, because I love my country and I love the Marine Corps," said Gandy, who for years could not even talk of his experiences in Vietnam. "It means a lot to me now because I'm a very proud person."

Tears come to my eyes when I read the newspapers. If I was young again, I'd certainly join up," said Sciscione.

Veterans who were residents of New Jersey at the time of service, were honorably discharged, and have proof of served in combat while on active duty during wartime received the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal. The New Jersey Meritorious Service medal was presented to those who met the qualifications but were not residents of New Jersey when they received the awards, but have been residents of the



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Staff Sgt. William Gandy, a Westfield resident, was among the Union County veterans to receive a medal for his service during

a Nov. 19 ceremony at the National Guard Armory. Gandy served Veterans who have already received a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air

Medal or equivalent award received the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal with an oak leaf cluster.

Among the other recipients were Scotch Plains residents Donald Bishop, Richard Gallagher, Seymour Goldberg and Richard Sloan; and Westfield residents Silveo Colletti, James Doherty and Alfred Shea.

Donate food, get a photo

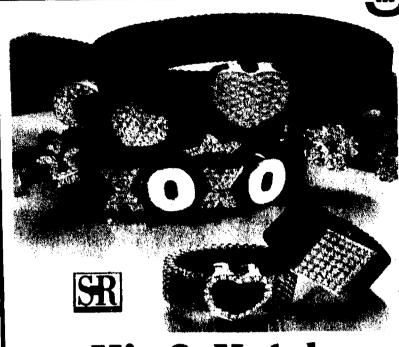
WESTFIELD — As part of the "Welcome Home to Westfield" holiday festivities, children, accompanied by an adult, are invited to have their photos taken with Santa 1-3 p.m. Sunday at MotoPhoto, 251 North Ave. West.

"Photos with Santa" is an annual event co-sponsored by The Downtown Westfield Corporation and Greg Gradel of MotoPhoto Portrait Studio. MotoPhoto will provide a professional 5x7 enlargement in

exchange for two cans of non-perishable food or a \$5 donation to the Westfield Food Pantry.

In addition to MotoPhoto's photographic services, the DWC will distribute giant candy canes Brummer's provided by Homemade Chocolates and refreshments from Great Harvest Bread.

For more information, contact the Downtown Westfield Corporation at (908) 789-9444, or visit their website www.WestfieldToday.com.



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Police Log

SCOTCH PLAINS

state for the past five years.

. A North Ave. Mobil gas station attendant reported receiving a counterfeit \$10 bill on Friday. A driver paid for gas with the bill, and before the attendant noticed that it was counterfeit the driver drove away.

On Sunday, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints located on Raritan Road reported that over the past week the egress lights on the north and west sides of the building were broken; firecrackers were found by the storage shed door. Several garbage bags were found behind the shed with empty beer cans in them.

WESTFIELD

Christopher Kenneally, 44, of Harrington Park was arrested for driving while intoxicated on Sunday.

Pineda, 40, Jose Kenilworth was arrested for while intoxicated driving Sunday.

After being stopped for a motor vehicle violation, Richard Bendetti of Westfield was arreston a warrant out of Middletown Township Nov. 18.

Dwayne Johnson of Hillside was arrested on warrants out of Orange, West Hillside, and Newark Nov. 18.

UC student-athletes join diabetes walk

Most days they can be seen kicking, running and passing on the soccer field. But on Oct. 12, eight of Union Catholic's varsity soccer players spent the day participating in the Walk to Cure Diabetes.

The Walk to Cure Diabetes is held in more than 200 locations throughout the year benefiting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The walk-a-thon was held in Avon-by-the-Sea on a rainy, windy day. The team of eight, encouraged by Captain

Matt Poirier, enthusiastically completed the walk despite the inclement weather. Their efforts helped raise more than \$1,000, some of which was donated by members of Union Catholic's faculty. The money raised will help accelerate research progress to cure diabetes and its complica-

Walking with Matt were fellow teammates Tim Hague, Dave Gorczyca, Brian DeOliveira, Esperon, Messercola, Adam DiBona and a nationwide effort that raises million of dollars to help find a cure for diabetes.

Collin Dube. Together, the stu-

dent-athletes experienced the

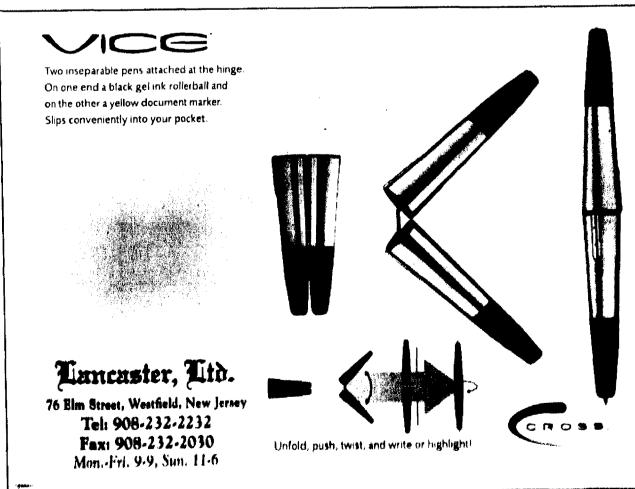
pride and satisfaction that comes

from knowing they were a part of

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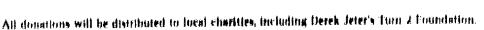


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of North Plainfield and Sorala L.

Khan of Albuquerque; a brother,

Billy Barkley Sr. of Syracuse,

N.Y.; a sister, Sara Barnett of

Albany, Ga.; and two grandchil-

Services were held Monday at

Plainfield.

the Christian Fellowship Gospel

Arrangements were by the

Judkins Colonial Home in

in

Angela Malinowski

SCOTCH PLAINS - Angela C. Blowikowski Malinowski, 83, died Nov. 18, 2003 at her home.

Born in Scranton, Pa., she lived in Harrison before moving to Scotch Plains in 1949.

Mrs. Malinowski was an origihal member of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Garden Club. She was long active with Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops in Scotch Plains. She was a member of the Scotch Plains Senior Citizens Club.

Her husband, Louis, died in 1999. A son, Martin, died in 2002.

Ruth O. Bonner

Bonner, 89, died Nov. 21, 2003 at the Neptune Rehabilitation and Care Center.

Born in Jersey City, Mrs. Bonner lived in Elizabeth and Westfield before moving to Manchester in 1985. She moved to Spring Lake in 2003.

She retired in 1977 after 23 years as an investigator and clerk at the Union County dourthouse in Elizabeth. Mrs.

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Surviving are two sons, Louis and Edward; a daughter, Marcia Tyler; three brothers, Edward Slowikowski, John Slowikowski and Felix Slowikowski; a sister, Verna Paczkowski; 15 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. A funeral Mass was held

Saturday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. McDermott owned JPM Arrangements were by the Rossi Funeral Home. Donations Associates, a packaging distribution company in Basking Ridge. Hemay be sent to Trinity Hospice, attended Mount Carmel College in 354 Union Ave., Elizabeth, NJ Canada and Seton Hall University in South Orange.

WESTFIELD - Ruth O. Bonner was active in clubs and organizations Manchester.

> two great-grandchildren. A funeral Mass was held Monday at St. Rose Roman

Reilly Funeral Home in Belmar. Donations may be sent to St. Rose Church.

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Catholic Church in Belmar. Arrangements were by the

FANWOOD - Raymond E. Ostro, 52, died Nov. 22, 2003 at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in Manhattan.

Obituaries

McDermott, 76, died Nov. 22, 2003

Westfield for 40 years before moving

A former governor of Serra International, Mr. McDermott was a

member of Knights of Columbus

Council 1711 in Westfield and the

Bakers Club of New York. He was

an assistant leader with Boy Scout

Troop 171 for 15 years and coached

the Wings team in the Westfield

Little League for 17 years.

Born in Jersey City, he lived in

at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

WESTFIELD

to Basking Ridge in 1995.

Born in Elizabeth, Mr. Ostro lived in Fanwood before moving to Linden in 1979. He returned to Fanwood in 2001.

He was a diesel mechanic and truck driver with Apuma Enterprises in South Plainfield. Mr. Ostro earlier was a mechanic with Maxon Pontiac in Union.

His father, Edward J., died in 1989.

Surviving are his wife, Jean M.;

son, John P. Jr. and fiancée Dr.

Sharon Burke of Mountainside;

two daughters, Maura Shea and

husband Kevin of Hopkinton,

Mass., and Monica McDermott-

Bergin and husband Patrick

Bergin of Westfield; a brother,

James of Jersey City; a sister, Ann

Dougherty of Crestwood, N.Y.; and

Monday at St. Vincent de Paul

Roman Catholic Church in

Gallaway & Crane Funeral Home

in Basking Ridge. Donations may

be sent to Elliot P. Joslin Camp for

Boys, 1 Joslin Place, Boston, MA

Arrangements were by the

A funeral Mass was held

six grandchildren.

Stirling.

He held the rank of sergeant 02215 or Center for Hope Hospice,

while in the Army Reserve from 176 Hussa St., Linden, NJ 07036.

Raymond Ostro

Surviving are his wife, Doreen Corrente Ostro; his mother, Loretta Gorringe Ostro; a daughter, Sabrina; a sister, Janet S. Mercer; and a grandchild.

Services were Wednesday at the Memorial Funeral Home, Donations may be sent to Fanwood Rescue Squad, 218 Forest Fanwood, NJ 07023. Road,

Charles M. Gonzalez

Record Press

John P. McDermott

- John P.

M. Gonzalez, 48, died Nov. 21, 2003 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. He was born in Newark and

lived in Scotch Plains for most of Mr. Gonzalez was selfemployed for 10 years as a chauf-

Surviving are his wife, Rosina Yriart Gonzalez; his parents, Louis and Rose M. of Basking

Ridge; a brother, Louis Jr., a sisterin-law, Sandra Stephen Gonzalez, and an aunt, Sarah, all of Elburn,

A funeral Mass was held Monday at St. James Roman Catholic Church, Basking Ridge, following services at the Gallaway & Crane Funeral Home in Basking Ridge. Burial was in Somerset Hills Memorial Park, Basking Ridge.

Julius Finkelstein WESTFIELD Finkelstein, 89, died Nov. 19, 2003 at Genesis ElderCare-Westfield

He was born in Newark and had lived in Westfield since 1956.

Mr. Finkelstein retired in 1989 from Central High School in Newark, where he was chairman of the social studies and history department. He taught social studies and history classes at Central High for 42 years.

When Germany was under military occupation after World War II he was a military governor of Fulda. Mr. Finkelstein was a lieutenant in Army intelligence during the War.

He held bachelor's and master's degrees in education from New York University. In addition, Mr. Finkelstein studied at Johns Hopkins University for military government services in Germany.

He was a member of B'nai B'rith in Springfield.

A sister, Ann Koren, is deceased. Surviving are his wife, Phyllis Friedman Finkelstein; a son, Michael; a sister, Ruth Barr; a brother, Dr. Aaron; and two grand-

children. Services were held Sunday at the Menorah Chapels at Millburn, in Union, Burial was in Beth Israel Memorial Park, Woodbridge.

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Holiday Hours

Helen R. Riley

Church

WESTFIELD - Helen R. Sheila A. of Avenel, Deawana R. Riley, 79, died Nov. 16, 2003 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Born in Leary, Ga., she lived in Westfield before moving to

Albuquerque in 1997. Mrs. Riley was active with prison ministries in New Jersey

and New Mexico. Her husband, Wallace, is

deceased.

Surviving are a son, Wayne of Plainfield; three daughters, Plainfield.

Edna Spalteholz

Cossens Spalteholz, 91, died Nov. 20, 2003 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. She was born in Brooklyn and

lived in Valley Stream, N.Y., before moving to Scotch Plains in 1968. Mrs. Spalteholz was a retired

executive secretary with the Doubleday Publishing Co. in

Garden City, N.Y. Surviving are her husband, William; a daughter, Helen S.

SCOTCH PLAINS - Edna H. Williams of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; a son, Robert of Springfield; a sister, Anna Lemay of Ormond Beach, Fla.; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by the Higgins & Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home in Westfield.

Donations may be sent to Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, NJ 07834-1365.

Surviving are a daughter,

Barbara Crane of Etna, N.H.; a son,

Robert A. of Scotch Plains; a sister,

Frances Murphy, two grandsons, Mark R. of Derby, Conn., and Paul

Crane of Etna; two granddaugh-

ters, Ann Marie Harvey of Fanwood

and Rebecca Crane of Etna; and a

Nov. 29 at the Memorial Funeral

Home, 155 South Ave., Fanwood. A

funeral Mass will follow 10 a.m. at

St. Helen's Roman Catholic

Services will be 9 a.m. Saturday,

Arthur J. Zeck

SCOTCH PLAINS - Arthur J. Zeck, 88, died Nov. 23, 2003 at the Veterans Affairs New Jersey System, Lyons Healthcare Campus.

Mr. Zeck was born in Union City. He lived in Weehawken, Secaucus and New Port Richey, Fla., before moving to Scotch Plains in 2000.

He was a life member and former treasurer of Local 6 of the carpenters' union in Bayonne. Mr. Zeck retired in 1979 from the Brennon Co., a general contractor

He was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10167, the Loyal Order of Moose and Suncoast Aerie 3153, Fraternal Order of Eagles, all in New Port Richey. Mr. Zeck was an Army sergeant in World War II.

in Secaucus.

His wife, Mildred Vogt Zeck, died in 1973.

Church, Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield. Burial will be in Holy Name Cemetery, Jersey City. Visitation is 7-9 p.m. Friday,

great-grandchild.

Nov. 28 at the funeral home. Donations may be sent to Alzheimer's Association, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, NJ 07834-1365.

Ralph Pigna

Ralph Pigna, 66, died Nov. 22, 2003 at his home in Lakewood.

Born in Italy, Mr. Pigna came to the United States in 1953 and lived in Elizabeth before moving to Garwood in 1987. He had resided in Lakewood since 1998.

Mr. Pigna founded and owned Ralph's Taxi service in Elizabeth, which handles passengers going to and from Newark Liberty International Airport. He also was member of Laborers International Union Local 394 in Elizabeth.

An Army veteran, he retired in 1993 after over 20 years as a mason laborer.

His father, Enrico, died in 1984. His mother, Fernanda Tacinelli Pigna, died in 2003. A brother, Alfonso, died in 2000.

Surviving are his

Jacquelyn Meltz Pigna, to whom Mr. Pigna was married seven years; his former wife, Rosemarie Chowaniec Pigna; three daughters, Angelina M. Hathaway, AnnMarie F. Bernardo and Gina; two brothers, Aldo and George; a sister, Angela Soja; two grandchildren; and many nieces and nep**hew**s.

Services will be 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26 at the Rossi Funeral Home, 1937 Westfield Ave., Scotch Plains. A funeral Mass will follow 10 a.m. at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, 2032 Westfield Ave., Scotch Plains, Burial will be in Rosedale Cemetery, Linden.

Donations may be sent to American Cancer Society, 507 Westminster Ave., Elizab**et**h, NJ wife, 07208.

Steffie Jamilkowski

Okuniewski Jamilkowski, 89, died Nov. 23, 2003 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born in Ashley, Pa., she lived in Linden before moving to Cranford

Mrs. Jamilkowski retired in



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1975 after 25 years as a presser with the Linden Dress Co. She was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and the Linden Senior Citizens

Her husband, Stanley J., and a son, John, are deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Veronica White and husband Raymond of Cranford; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services will be 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 26 at the Leonard-Lee Funeral Home, 301 E. Blancke St., Linden. A funeral Mass will follow 10 a.m. at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church. East Blancke Street, Linden. Burial will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Linden.

Donations may be sent to the

Walter **Brodin**

Walter Brodin, 84, died Nov. 18, 2003 at Union Hospital.

He was born in New York City and had lived in Cranford since

Mr. Brodin was a retired East Coast sales and marketing manager for U.S. Amada Corp. He earlier was a chemical engineer with M&T Chemicals

Surviving are his wife of 49 years. Dita von Fraunhofer Brodin; three children, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday at the Gray Memorial Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to the American Heart Association



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This week

SATURDAY

NOV. 29 WEED OUT DAY Volunteers gather to pull weeds. trash and debris from Lenape Park in Westfield. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Meet at Broad Street and Springfield Avenue park entrance. To sign up. (908) 527-

SUNDAY NOV. 30

TREE LIGHTING - annual holiday event in Westfield, as Santa arrives in town. Festivities begin 5 p.m. at North Avenue train station parking lot. For more, call the Chamber of Commerce at (908) 233-2031.

MONDAY DEC. 1

CHRISTMAS PARTY - of the St. Bartholomew's Rosary Altar Society. Featuring entertainment from the children's choir. Following the 7:30 p.m. Mass. St. Bartholomew's Church, Scotch Plains. (908) 889-2152 or (908) 322-5409.

'FAITH IN WESTFIELD' awards dinner of the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, 6 p.m. Dec. 1. Primavera Regency, in Stirling. \$65. Reservations required at (908) 233-3021.

TUESDAY DEC. 2

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

for Westfield High School students and their parents, presented by the Guidance Department. 7:30 p.m. Westfield High School auditorium, 550 Dorian Rd.

HOLIDAY VENDOR DAY hosted by Friends of the Scotch Plains Library, Featuring vendors from Tupperware, The Pampered Chef, and more. 4:30-8:30 p.m. Scotch Plains Library, 1927 Bartle Ave. To rent a table, (908) 518-

FRIDAY DEC. 5

MAYOR'S GALA - in Scotch Plains, to benefit local charities. An evening of dining, dancing and socializing for the whole community. Snuffv's Pantagis Renaissance, Park Avenue, 7 p.m.midnight Dec. 5, \$55, (908) 322-6700, ext. 221

EL GRECO EXHIBIT tour the works of the famous painter at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, sponsored by Friends of Westfield Memorial Library, Bus leaves library 8:45 a.m., returns 5:30 p.m. \$63, (908) 233-2902.

SATURDAY DEC. 6

LONGWOOD GARDENS trip to Pennsylvania attractions sponsored by Westfield Adult School. See 300 flower beds decorated for the holidays, and visit the Brandywine Museum to see artworks by Wyeth. (908) 232-

BOXING EXHIBITION prominent Westfield residents take to the ring against former heavyweight contender Gerry

Cooney to raise money for Centennial High School. Event begins 6 p.m. Tickets \$75-\$200. :908: 789-6070 or :908: 232-6770,

SUNDAY

HOME FOR THE HOLI-

DAYS — annual house tour sponsored by the Cranford Junior Woman's Club, A chance to see the interiors of four distinguished local homes. Noon-4 p.m. (908)

WINTER STROLL - seasonal promotion returns to downtown Westfield. Many local stores participate in activities to benefit Education Fund of Westfield. (908) 233-2646.

'ANTI-SEMITISM

Fanaticism, and Terrorism.' Lecture by Jewish scholar Malcom Hoenlein, 10 a.m. JCC of Central NJ, 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. Reserve a seat at (908) 889-8800, ext 205 or slemer-

man@jeenj.org.
*OLD-FASHIONED HOLI-**DAY** — Celebration sponsored by Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association. Numerous festivities from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Village Greene; Santa will arrive at 3 p.m.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION community event in Fanwood. 2-5 p.m. North side train station. Santa arrives at 3 p.m.; tree lighting at dusk.

COMING UP PNEUMONIA VACCINA-

TION - sponsored by Westfield Regional Health Department, open to Westfield and Fanwood residents, 9-11 a.m. Dec. 8. Westfield Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St. Pre-registration required by Nov. 25 at (908) 789-



PHOTO BY SUSAN DOUGHERTY

Students pitch in for coat drive

Hope Gallagher of Edison, left, and Scotch Plains residents Neil Merchant and Mark Badalamenti. eighth-graders at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School, participate in the Jersey Cares eighth annual Coat Drive, which runs through December 12. The students in the middle school are helping to collect 25,000 "gently used" coats for men, women, and children in the state.

Holiday spirit, research help at library

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Library invites residents to get into the holiday spirit by enjoying "Holidays on Radio" 10:30 a.m. Dec. 5.

Henry Morse, a radio enthusiast, will play and talk about some of the favorite holiday programs of the '30s, '40s, and '50s. This program is part of the Library's TGIF series, which is free to Westfield Library cardholders. No advance registration is required.

Those doing research will be interested in the computer courses offered at the library.

On Dec. 9, from 10:30-11:30 a.m., the library will offer "Help! I'm Looking for an Article; EBSCOhost Solved!" The class will cover how to search magazine

and newspaper databases at the library and from, home. A proper search can lead to over 2,000 magazines and 150 newspapers, including the New York. Times and The Star-Ledger.

The classes are free to Westfield Library cardholders. Class size is limited and those interested are asked to register in advance by calling the Reference Department at (908) 789-4090 or by visiting the Reference Desk in person on the second floor of the

For more information on these programs, call (908) 789-4090 or visit the library's website at

Haliday Gift Guide

For holiday gifts, everything old is new again

(ARA) — The holiday shopng season is here. What's hot? bys from the 1980s.

That's right. He-Man, trawberry Shortcake, Care ears and Transformers are a ew of the brands being reeleased. There's even "The 80s ame," a new trivia board up every year. ame for adults.

So why are store shelves acked with '80s products?

Toy industry experts say hat kids — and adults — just an't get enough of these "retro oys.

"Many popular product lines rom the 1980s have been reinroduced or enhanced for the 1003 holiday season, and we xpect them to be big sellers," ays Shannon Eis, spokesperon for the Toy Industry Association, "It seems as if parnts who once played with hese items are hoping that heir children will take as nuch enjoyment from them as

And that's just fine with toy letailers, who eagerly anticioate the busy holiday shopping

"Retro toys" are selling briskly right now and we expect that the high demand for these products will continue

through the holiday season," says David Novitsky, vice president of merchandising for KBtoys.com.

Re-releasing best-selling toys is not unusual in the toy industry. For example, new versions of Barbie and G.I. Joe pop

re-released '80s toys is turning some heads. That's because the new versions are now sold with "modern day" accessories.

For example, Strawberry Shortcake now comes with a DVD. He-Man talks, thanks to a tiny microchip. And you can buy Pac-Man for Xbox.

All of which must have some parents doing a double-take when they walk down toy store aisles.

To feel young again themselves, adults can catch retro fever with The 80s Game. Geared to those aged 25 and older, the trivia game features 3,000 questions about '80s pop

A quick glance at the game's trivia cards reveals topics such as The Cosby Show, Fletch, Madonna, Journey and The Breakfast Club.

"People who grew up in the 1980s are now getting married

and having kids, and they want show to remember their younger days," says Anne Siegert, vice president of the company that makes the game.

Siegert says that the game's music trivia questions are especially popular with players. One question asks for the open-However, this year's crop of ing lyrics to the '80s song 'Come On Eileen.

But do players actually remember songs like this?

They do, according to former MTV vee-jay Nina Blackwood, who hosts the syndicated radio

"Absolutely Blackwood says she gets hundreds of requests for the song, performed by Dexy's Midnight Runners.

Blackwood points out that many of her listeners now have strong nostalgic feelings for 1980s pop culture. "People who were watching me on MTV in the '80s get a nice dose of memories," she says.

And those '80s memories could explain why many parents are poised to purchase '80s toys for their children this year.



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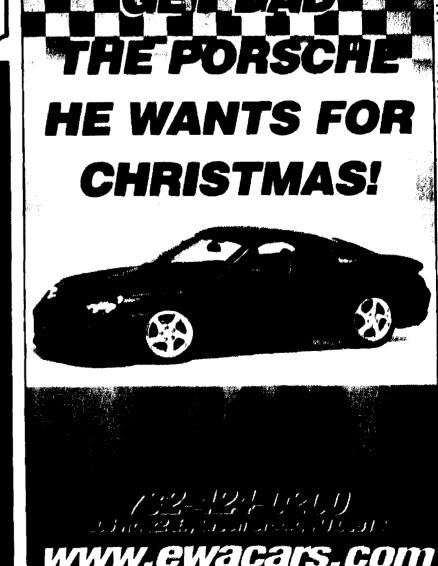
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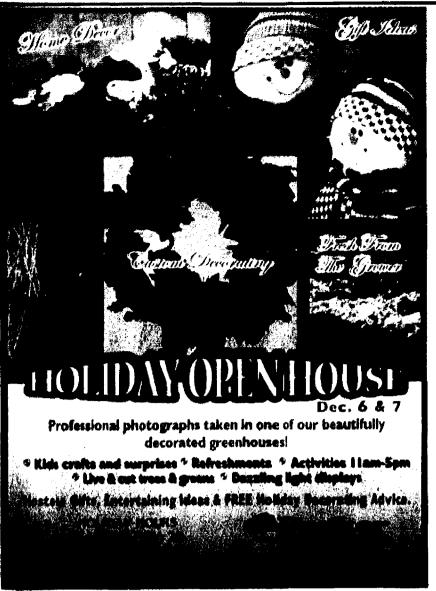
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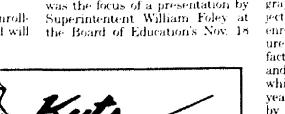
Board focuses on coming enrollment increase

By BRAD BISHOP

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Student enrollment in local schools is up and will

continue to rise - but just how meeting. much that increase will amount to was the focus of a presentation by



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Foley presented a number of graphs and charts to illustrate projections he has made for district enrollment through 2010. The figures are based on projections which factor in the previous three years and more conservative estimates which include the previous five years. The numbers were arrived at by an analysis of birth rates and previous enrollment statistics.

By the most conservative estimates, district enrollment will likely increase by well over 200 students between now and the 2006-2007 school year. The immediate concern would appear to be the enrollment increase in the elementary schools, which would have to accommodate the new students

Unfortunately, elementary school enrollment can be the most difficult to predict. Some parents do not send their kids to the district's half-day kindergarten, preferring to send kids to full-day instruction elsewhere. Concentrations of families moving to town with young children can also skew statistics. Foley said that first-grade enrollment numbers therefore often surprise school officials.

Franklin Elementary School appears to have the highest student population now and in the future, but Foley cited concerns about Tamaques, Washington, and Wilson elementary schools. Tamaques has no art room, Washington currently uses a trailer, and Wilson is approaching capacity.

Board members want to maintain class sizes of between 18 and 25 students, and that goal will continue to be one of their points of emphasis.

High school enrollment will continue to increase as well. 1.624 students currently attend the high school, and that number may increase to 1.899 for the 2010-2011 school year. The figure seems even more surprising when compared with the high school's 1997 enrollment figure of 1,372.

Board members want to maintain class sizes of between 18 and 25 students, and that goal will continue to be one of their points of emphasis.

There is no single cause for the increases in student enrollment, Foley said. As older residents move out of Westfield, younger families move in, often because of the school district's strong reputation. In addition, board members suggested that the current generation may be having more children than in past years. Also, further residential development in Westfield adds students to the school district.

Board members will discuss potential solutions at future longrange planning meetings. Solutions may include adding classroom space, temporary classrooms, and redistricting.



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Community Lif

A kids' pajama party at the Westfield library

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Memorial Library invites children ages 3 to 6 to a Pajama Party story time 7 p.m. Dec. 10.

Children can cuddle up with their favorite grown-up and join the children's librarians for bedtime stories, a simple craft, a cozy video and, of course, hot cocoa and cookies. Pajamas are recommended.

In-person registration is required and begins Monday at the Children's Desk. Children must be Westfield Library cardholders to participate and must be the appropriate age for the program.

For more information, call (908) 789-4090 or visit the library's website at www.wmlnj.org.

'Old-fashioned holiday' in Scotch Plains Dec. 7

SCOTCH PLAINS - On Dec. 7 the Scotch Plains Business and Professional Association is once again organizing an "old fashioned holiday celebration" to welcome Santa, who will arrive at 3 p.m. at the Village Greene.

Throughout the afternoon there will be numerous activities for all ages including music, a performing clown, an outdoor craft fair, sidewalk sales, ice sculptures and the always-popular horse drawn hay wagon ride. Added to the fun this year is a giant piñata. Most activities will run from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

First Baptist Church offers support group

WESTFIELD - Those over 45 and widowed, divorced, or never married don't have to be

Join with others at 9 a.m. Dec. 7, 14, 21 and 28 for coffee and cake and lively discussion dealing with single issues, how to cope and learn from each other. It's not group therapy, it's friendship, a sharing of experiences, and good company.

Other activities include winter movie nights, summer picnics, holiday get-togethers, and more. The singles meet at First Baptist Church of Westfield, 170 Elm St., in the lower level meeting room. A \$2 donation is

requested, and all are welcome. For more information, call (908) 889-5265 or (908) 889-

Hoenlein to speak about anti-Semitism

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scholar-in-Residence: Jewish Institute of Learning program welcomes Malcolm Hoenlein to the JCC of Central NJ at 1391 Martine Ave. 10 a.m. Dec. 7.

Hoenlein is the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Organizations, the coordinating body on international Jewish concerns for 52 national Jewish organizations. He has been at the helm of the Conference of Presidents since 1986 and is recognized as one of the foremost experts in the field of World Jewry.

His lecture is titled, "Anti-Semitism, Fanaticism and Terrorism: Are Jews Rehving the Past?" Registration is required by Dec. 3 with a suggested donation of \$10 per per-

Contact Susan Lemerman at (908) 889-8800 ext. 205 or slemerman@jccnj.org to reserve a

Take a theater trip with the Westfield Y

WESTFIELD - The Westfield YMCA, located at 220 Clark St., has announced a holiday theatre trip for the family. On Dec. 30, travel with the Y to the Westchester Broadway Theatre and enjoy a 6 p m sit down dinner and the holday show "Miracle on 34th St" at 8 p.m. This classic tale of Christmas and Kris Kringle fea tures familiar faces from the Brondway stage and TV

The cost for the trip is \$81 per person and includes duner. show, transportation, tax and The trip is open to gratuity

the public For more information or to purchase a ticket call the Y at igosi 233-2700. Tickets must be purchased and paid for in full by Nov. 30. All fees are non-refundable unless the seat can be sold.

A house of their own, with rooms to share

Couple's bed and breakfast open for business in Fanwood

By BRAD BISHOP

THE RECORD-PRESS

FANWOOD - After two years of detailed planning and many more of imagining and hoping, Jim and Barbara Vierschilling have opened the Walter Gilbert House for busi-

The bed and breakfast, which is located at 225 North Avenue, opened in May. It boasts three guest bedrooms, a large outdoor porch, sitting rooms, and a grand piano. Breakfast consists of a rotating menu and is served at a large dining room

"We always wanted to do it," said Jim Vierschilling. "We always had it in the back of our minds.

The couple had thought of opening a bed and breakfast for years. They originally considered Annapolis, Md. as a location, but ultimately chose to remain in New Jersey.

Both were born in Union and lived in Westfield for more than 20 years before moving to Fanwood. Each

of their three children live with in a short drive of the Walter Gilbert House and now have children of their own, and the guest rooms are named after the couple's daughter and daughters-in-law. "They're here all the time," said Barbara, rocking her granddaughter

Gilbert House.

In fact, the Walter Gilbert House's first major event was the celebration of their daughter's wedding. The ceremony went over well, even though the soaking spring rain kept guests in tents and splattered part of the bride's dress with mud. Many of the guests had an opportunity to see the bed and breakfast at a stage the Vierschillings considered a bit

primitive. "People came by and wanted

to see everything, but we didn't want to let anyone inside because it just wasn't done." said Barbara with a smile.

The elegant house, which was originally constructed in 1892, was lovingly restored by the couple over a period of several years. When the Vierschillings found the house, it was rented to three different tenants. As they began to refurbish the building, they discovered many important elements of the house which had been hidden behind temporary walls erected to partition the house into different rental units.

One of the posts near the bottom of the main staircase remained, for example, so the Vierschillings were able to replicate the rest of the stair-

way posts. The period staircase restores some of the building's original Victorian charm. We wanted

(the building) to have a gracious. entrance," said Barbara.

The Music Room was another proj-This porcelain jack-o-lantern ect. The couple welcomes visitors to the Walter unearthed and restored a stain glass

window. Aluminum siding covered another original window, and some work was required to recreate a window seat. The window now allows bright sunshine into the cheerful room, and during the upcoming holiday season guests will have a lovely view of decorated Christmas trees near the Fanwood train station. The room has a grand piano which was acquired locally from a woman in Westfield.

Completing these projects and many others required the couple to put in long hours no small task for two people already working full-time jobs.

"My husband turned out to be a great carpenter," said Barbara, adding, "we developed skills we didn't even know we



PHOTOS BY BRAD BISHOP/THE RECORD-PRESS

The Walter Gilbert House, located at 225 North Ave. in Fanwood, opened for business as a bed and breakfast earlier this year.

The ambience of the Walter Gilbert House is the result of the couple's significant experience with similar establishments. "We stayed at more than 100 bed and breakfasts, and decided what we did and didn't like about them," said Jim. The couple also attended seminars and refined their preferences for everything from lighting to the texture of the bed and breakfast's towels.

The guest rooms are bright, cozy, and furnished with antiques Barbara selected over a period of several years. The Dawn Michelle Room features an original window and a sleigh bed in a deep cherry wood. The Jessica Sara Room has a Casablanca ceiling fan and a four-poster queen size bed. And the Rachel Kristen Room has a cedar closet with a canopy bed. Views from the windows are of the Walter Gilbert House's rose garden and roof gardens.

The rooms boast period lighting to add ambience and have been meticulously carpeted and wallpapered. "I wanted (the rooms) to feel warm and com-



Barbara and Jim Vierschilling with their granddaughter, Casey. The couple has named the rooms in their bed and breakfast after family members.

fortable," said Barbara. Each guest room has its own bathroom and air conditioning controls. There is a sitting room upstairs with a television and refrigerator.

Breakfast features Barbara's homemade coffee cake, "Barbara is the gourmet chef, and I'm the sous-chef," Jim said. Also on the

brenkfast menu are French toast, Belgian waffles, fresh fruit, muffins, and fresh squeezed orange juice. During the warmer months, guests can dine on the Walter Gilbert House's expansive wrap-around

The bed and breakfast's proximity to the train station is an asset. Guests can walk to the train and take a stress free ride into New York City, or take a short trip to Westfield and points farther west, "You'd be amazed at how convenient the train is," said Jim Vierschilling.

The train also brings guests from New York and beyond. "We had a couple from Japan, a couple from India, and a couple from Canada — all in the same weekend," said Jim. The couple welcomes business travelers, vacationers, visiting relatives and local people who would like to spend a luxurious evening or romantic weekend getaway.

Reservations at the Walter Gilbert House are available by calling (908) 322-9586. For more information, check the website at www.waltergilberthouse.com.

Gross!

It was "slime time" at the **Westfield Memorial Library** Saturday, as local youngsters had a chance to play mad scientist and whip up some disgusting concoctions. At left, Felicia Mermer (right) and Kirsten Masut look like they're enjoying their creations.



JOHN FLICORHESPONDENT

Westfield Historical Society meets Dec. 3 Bob Miller will discuss Varina Davis, first lady of the Confederacy

WESTFIELD Varina Howell Davis. first Indy of the South (1861-1865) and the wife of Jefferson Davis, will be the topic of Bob Miller, program chairman of the Westfield Historical Society at the First Wednesday Lamcheon at noon Dec 3, at B.G. Fields Restaurant, 500 Springfield Ave.

Miller anys his interest in Varina Davis began when he discovered she was the grauddaughter of New Jersey Unvernor Richard Howell (1793-1801). He wondered how and why Varina's father had ended up in Natches, Miss. and the circumstances that led to his daughter, Varina, meeting and marrying Jefferson Davis.

Miller will talk about Varina's life with Davis covering his years as a US Senator and as a hero in the war with Mexico, US Secretary of War, and president of the Confederacy during the Civil War. He will discuss their life in Richmond during the war, their flight from the city a lew days. hotore the Union forces entered in April of 1905, the confusion during their capture on May 10 in Irwinville, Ga, and the impresonment of Davis in Fort Montre, Vitginia

Miller will tell of the turmuil Varina Davis went through during her husband's imprisonment, and the campaign and but tles she waged for his eventual release in

1867 Davis's final days were spent in Bauvon, a small estate in Biloxi, Mise where he present away in 1889.

Varian Davis moved to New York City in 1891 where she enjoyed the life of the city. making new acquaintaines in the North and mingling with old ferends from the South, always defending her husband's name in word and print until her death in

Regular attenders of the lumbern will be contacted by telephone to verify their reservations Space permitting, others may attend by calling (908) 233-2930 by noon,

Fanwood marks the season

FANWOOD --- The borough's community celebration of the holiday senson will take place at the north side train station 2-5 p.m.

The day before, the decorating of Christmas trees in the downtown will be completed by merchants, civic organizations, and individuals. Winners of the decorating contest will be announced at the celebration on Dec. 7.

Santa will arrive by train at the station at about 3 p.m. Children and their parents will be on hand to greet him, as well as carolers from the Scotch Plains Fanwood High School. The cameras of Fanwood's TV-35 will be there to record his arrival.

Santa will then go into the Community Room of the train station to take pictures with the children and listen to their Christmus wishes until about 4:45 p.m. The Fanwood Junior Women's Club sponsors Santa's

Displayed in the area will be the posters pointed by children in Grades 2 8 in the school district, A team will judge their work, and prizes will be awarded to the winners. There will be free pony rides for children

A disc jockey will be present to keep everyone in the holiday. spirit, and there will be free refreeliments for both the chile dren and adults A contest will take place to test the skills of beth children and adulta to guesa the number of lights on the Christian tree And there will be a special entertainer present with a long full of antice to entertain the children.

The festivities will conclude at dusk with a tree lighting ceremo-

A classic home gets dressed up for the holidays

Built before the days of the American Revolution, Liberty Hall in Union was a family home for over 200 years. The holiday season in particular is one of tradition for the seven generations of family who have lived in the mansion. Beginning in early December,

the magnificent home will be gaily decorated to reflect the beauty and history of Christmas past

On four evenings in December, Liberty Hall will be illuminated by electric candlelight and visitors can experience its special beauty.

Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr. 7:30pm

> SATURDAY ★ DECEMBER 6 1:30, 4:30, 7:30pm

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CHINA CLUB 268 WEST 47th STREET FRIDAY'S CATURDAY'S CHARLE STRAIL OF A WORL'S AT ROOM AT ROOM CALL TREETMASTER 332 307 Alon PARTIET, CHOUPE, 212 SH So M. • The Kishow com

Beginning with the stories of St. Nicholas and his nighttime journeys, five unique styles of Christmas will be explored during the "St. Nicholas to Santa Claus" evening tours.

English Twelfth Night of 1800, the season of merriment and relaxation as the old year ended and the New Year began, will be brought to life with stories and games. The dining room and Victorian parlor will be the settings for "The Night Before Christmas" of 1848 and Christmas 1898, allowing visitors to explore the holiday traditions of the midto late-19th century, which more closely resemble the traditions of today. For those who might be old enough to remember the World War II era, a visit to the morning room, gaily decorated for Christmas 1942, will be a trip down mem-

A special addition to the holiday program this year will be a book signing 5-7 p.m. Dec. 13by local author Jean-Rae Turner, secretary of the Union County Historical Society. Turner, whose latest book, "Elizabeth: the First Capital of New Jersey," which she coauthored with Richard T. Koles

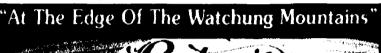
and published with Arcadia Publishers as part of their "Making of America" series, will greet visitors and sign books

Along with other books of interest to local residents and historians, the Liberty Hall gift shop is fully stocked with holiday and unique gift items and is open during regular museum hours, April-December, Wednesdays-Sundays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (noon on Sundays).

Liberty Hall will also repeat its popular children's Gingerbread House Workshops 10 a.m.-noon or 12:30-2:30 p.m. Dec. 6, 13 and 20. The workshop fee, \$15 per child, includes all materials. Parents are expected to stay and work alongside their children.

Reservations are required for both the workshop and evening candlelight tours, which take place 5-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12-13 and 19-20. Admission for the tours is adults \$12, seniors \$10, and children (6-17) \$6. Call (908) 527-0400 for details.

Liberty Hall is at 1003 Morris Ave., directly across from Kean University.





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Musicales resume with performance by Juana Zayas

The First Congregational Church of Westfield, located at 125 Elmer St., has announced the resumption of their acclaimed concert series, the Mid-Day Musicales, at noon Dec. 3.

The first of three concerts in December will feature celebrated pianist Juana Zayas in a program of works by Scarlatti, Liszt-Schumann, and Chopin. These free, half-hour programs are presented in the church sanctuary, and are followed by a soup and sandwich luncheon available for \$5 in the church social hall.

In its Summer 1999 issue, International Piano Quarterly's Donald Manildi surveyed the discography of complete recordings of the Chopin Etudes, weighing the strengths and weaknesses of the most notable of the lot. Among all of these recordings, including legendary versions by Arrau, Pollini, Ashkenazy and others, Manildi declared the Juana Zayas recording to be the best of the century. His assessment amply confirms what the New York Times' chief critic Harold Schonberg observed 22 years earlier after having heard her perform these virtuoso pieces at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall: "It was altogether an imposing feat, and it may be that we have with us a Chopinist to the manor born... She played with style, sensitivity, a big technique and an aristocratic flair for the mixture of romanticism and classicism embedded in the music.

While it would be impossible to hide the massive pianistic technique in her possession, Zayas chooses not display it for its own sake. A true musician-pianist, she has always subordinated technical accomplishment to the music itself, revealing its beauty and structure with a warm, rich tone and a superb understanding of its style and architecture. In his American Record Guide review of her 1996 recording of the Chopin Preludes, Schonberg likewise noted this balance and order: "She filters Chopin's notes through a fertile mind, with a very personal but never overdone kind of romanticism that looks back to the great pianists of a previous age."

Zayas has performed throughout Europe, South America, and the United States. In recent seasons she has opened the 1999 and 2000 Newport Music Festivals in Newport, R.I., with all-Chopin programs and played all of Chopin's Etudes at the 2000 World Piano Pedagogy Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. She is regularly invited by the prestigious Serate Musicali to

give recitals at Verdi Hall in Milan and has performed with the Radio Philharmonic Orchestra and the Zeeuws Orchestra in the in the Netherlands, the Orquesta Sinfónica de RadioTelevisión Española in Madrid, the Venezuela Symphony Orchestra, as well as the Lexington Philharmonic, the Rochester Philharmonic and the San Diego Symphony Orchestras. Her performances have been broadcast by National Public Radio and New York's WQXR.

Zayas's recordings have been released on compact disc by the Music & Arts, Albany, and ZMI labels. More information about the artist is available at www.juanazayas.com.

This Sunday, check out this home-town secret

Many residents don't know it, but the 2003 Small Chorus Champions of the Greater New York Region is homed here in Cranford New Jersey. And you can see them perform in "Your Community Holiday Show' Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford.

It's probably one of the area's better kept secrets, but the Metro Rhythm Chorus has been rehearsing in Cranford every Wednesday evening since the group's inception only five years ago. A group of more than 40 a cappella women singers come from all parts of New Jersey and Staten Island each week to enjoy camaraderic and to fill the air with melodic sounds. In their five years of competitions in Philadelphia, this chorus has won numerous awards, including four First Place Small Chorus awards.

This holiday season, Metro Rhythm has invited all ladies who enjoy singing to join them

w/purchase of \$20.00 or up

Only For Take Out & Dine In

w/Purchase of '15" or more

in producing a show that combines the chorus's normal repertoire with a selection of holiday tunes. These ladies have rehearsed the holiday tunes with the chorus for seven weeks and are now ready to present the final product 4 p.m. Sunday.

The chorus is under the direction of Jo Lund, an accomplished musician and singer. She is an International Quartet Champion, as well as a certified music arranger and competition judge. Lund shares her energy and musical creativity each week with her chorus.

The chorus is fortunate to have several performing quartets and soloists, who will also be featured in this holiday show.

"Your Community Holiday Show" will provide an afternoon of family enjoyment with a variety of a capella music. Complimentary refreshments along with a boutique table during intermission will round out the event.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$6. Children under 5 attend free. For more information, contact Cheryl at (732) 968-6118 or

Cheryl1754@yahoo.com.

Tricksters return to Crossroads on Dec. 4

The Zen Tricksters will be appearing at Crossroads, located at 78 North Ave. in Garwood, 9:30 p.m. Dec. 4.

The Zen Tricksters are a superbly talented rock/jam band playing in electric and acoustic formats They have a huge working repertoire that ranges from tuneful and well-crafted original pieces to traditional bluegrass and hillbilly jazz class sics to Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan, Neil Young and inventive interpretations of any songs that eatch their fancy

The Zen Tricksters have three studio CDs of original material Their most recent telease "Shaking off the Weirdness," features "High Horse" and "Sleepwalking," as well as the live show staples "Life of Life" and "The One."

The album also boasts a colorful roster of special guests including Rob Harraco, Buddy Cage and Jason Croshy

The bands other albums are "The Holy Fool" (1996) and "A Love Surreal" (1999).





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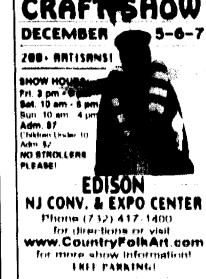
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A cornucopia of concerts in Westfield

WESTFIELD — The Fine Arts Department of the Westfield Public schools invites the public to attend my of the 18 musical concerts cheduled for this winter.

More than 2,500 students from sindergarten to high school will be performing district-wide. All contents are free and begin at 7:30 p.m. at the following dates and locations:

Dec. 1— Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Band and Jazz, Roosevelt School, 301 Clark St.

Dec. 3 — Sixth and Eighth Grade Chorus and Orchestra, Roosevelt School, 301 Clark St.

Dec. 4 — Seventh and Eighth Grade Chorus, Edison Intermediate School, 800 Rahway Ave.; Seventh Grade Chorus, Orchestra, Sharps & Flats, String Ensemble, Roosevelt School, 301 Clark St.

Dec. 8 — Band & Chorus, Jefferson School, 1200 Boulevard; Band and Chorus, McKinley

School, 500 First St; Northside Strings, Roosevelt School, 301 Clark St Dec. 9 — Wind Ensemble & Concert Band, Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Rd.

Dec. 10 — Chamber Orchestra & Symphony Orchestra, Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Rd.

Dec. 11 — Sixth Grade Instrumental and Chorus, Edison Intermediate School, 800 Rahway Ave.; Band, Franklin School, 700 Prospect St.; Band & Chorus, Washington School, 900 St. Marks Ave

Dec. 15 — Southside Strings, Edison Intermediate, 800 Rahway Ave.; Chorus, Franklin School, 700 Prospect St., Dec. 15;

Dec. 16 — Band & Chorus, Tamaques School, 641 Willow Grove Rd.

Dec. 17 — Wilson School Band & Chorus, Roosevelt School, 301 Clark St.
Dec. 18 — Chorus, Westfield

High, 550 Dorian Rd.

Jan. 8 — Seventh and Eighth
Grade Instrumental, Edison
Intermediate School, 800 Rahway
Ave.



St. Bart's marks Veterans Day

Students at St. Bartholomew interparochial School in Scotch Plains commemorated Veterans Day with a special prayer service honoring the veterans of the armed services. An honor guard of students representing members of the various branches of the service led the ceremony. From top left are Ashleyann DelRienzo, Sam Fourre, Danielle Giordanella, Laura Degnan, Scott Marino, and Francis Degnan.

Community Band, Broadway Singers join forces Dec. 10

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Community Band and the Edison Intermediate School Broadway Singers will join in concert to present the 14th annual holiday concert sponsored by the Recreation Department.

The concert will take place 8 p.m. Dec. 10 in the Edison Intermediate School auditorium, located at 800 Rahway Ave.

The Westfield Community Band, under the direction of Elias J. Zareva, will be performing a collection of classic holiday favorites including "A Christmas Festival" and "Have Yourself a Morry Little Christmas." A historical family favorite, "Twas the Night Before Christmas" will be performed, joined by the band's "Uncle" Steve Schoeman."

Two featured selections for the evening will include "Shalom!" a suite of Israeli folk songs by Phillip Spark and "Hallelujah Chorus"

from the oratorio "The Messiah" by George Frederic Handel.

Bringing their own holiday joy to the concert will be the Edison Intermediate School Broadway Singers, directed by Kristine Smith-Morasso. The Broadway Singers are a select, extra-curricular choral group that performs in local nursing homes, Children's Specialized Hospital and other venues.

Concluding the evening's concert, the Westfield Community Band will join the Edison Broadway Singers in performing Irving Berlin's "White Christmas" and "God Bless America."

This event is free to the public, and refreshments will be served after the performance. The Westfield Community Band is sponsored by the Westfield Recreation Department.

For more information, call (908)



Senior CITZEN

Be pro-active about planning for the golden years

(ARA) — Baby boomers are growing older, and by 2010, 76 million will begin reaching retirement age. As boomers age, it is expected that 42 percent who reach age 70 will need some form of long-term care, such as an in-home caregiver or a nursing home, which is expensive. The average annual cost of a nursing home today is \$57,000.

Growing older is inevitable, but many Americans are not planning for their long term care needs. According to a survey commissioned by the GE Center for Financial Learning and conducted by Goodmind, LLC, almost half (46 percent) admit they have done nothing

to develop a plan for themselves, yet almost the same number (45 percent) of those surveyed have had a personal experience caring for an aging or ill relative.

Dr. Kathleen Gurney, advisor to the GE Center for Financial Learning and chief executive officer of Financial Psychology Corporation, believes one reason people do not adequately plan is because long-term care is something that is likely years or decades away and feels more abstract than issues they face today.

"Even when we know something is important, we have difficulty translating it into actions we should and can take To make the task of preparing for your long-term care less daunting, take gradual steps towards planning, which will reduce stress and make you feel more empowered about the process.

today," says Dr. Gurney.

To make the task of preparing for your long-term care less daunting, Dr. Gurney recommends taking gradual steps towards planning, which will reduce stress and make you feel

more empowered about the process. Examples include:

* Visualization — Spend time visualizing the quality of life you'd like to have during retirement. Drawing pictures or writing down descriptions makes planning less abstract and more concrete.

* Develop a "Quality of Life"
Game Plan — Determine all the elements needed to cultivate and maintain the quality of life you want during retirement, including everything from retirement income planning to care giving. Dividing these chores into weekly or monthly actions makes it more manageable.

Develop Good Money Habits
 Schedule time on a regular

basis (at least monthly, but preferably weekly) to discuss the status of your game plan and make adjustments. Those who take consistent and consecutive steps, no matter how small, are better off than those who do nothing at all.

Taking the fear out of such topics as aging, nursing homes, long-term health and retirement planning will help Americans take the necessary steps towards protecting their assets in retirement.

For additional information, tips, and discussion visit the GE Center for Financial Learning at www.financiallearning.com and achieve your personal finance goals.

AARP lunch is Tuesday

The annual Holiday Luncheon of the Westfield Area AARP Chapter No. 4137 noon Tuesday at the Westwood Restaurant in Garwood. Members and non-members are invited to this festive occasion.

There will be an international buffet with a wide selection of foods appealing to all tastes. Desserts and beverages will be served as well as free wine and

Entertainment will be provided by DJ Win Ballou, a wellknown New Jersey performer. He will present a special program of Christmas, pop and some golden oldies.

The cost is \$20 including gratuity. For more information and reservations, call Chairperson Marie Stock at (908) 925-2536.

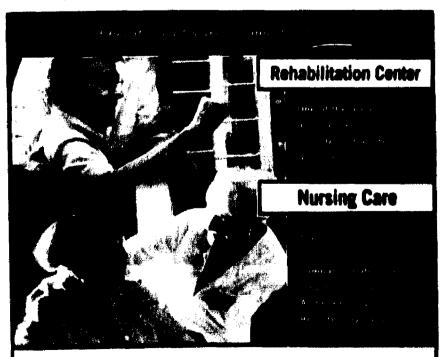
New cancer center offers the latest in care

RAHWAY — In today's world cancer remains one of the most frightening and baffling diseases. But more is known today than ever before about cancer treatment and prevention.

The founder and director of Rahway Regional Cancer Center, Dr. Eric Andrew Karp is a board-certified radiation oncologist who completed all of his training at the world renowned Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. His center has installed a new state-of-the-art high precision linear accelerator with integrated multi-leaf collimator system called the Elekta Frecise Treatment System to aid in the ongoing fight against cancer.

This non-invasive cancer treatment applies the most sophisticated form of radiation therapy available, Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT), which utilizes beams that wrap precisely around tumors to deliver high doses of radiation to the cancer cells while substantially reducing doses to healthy tissues.

IMRT halts the spread of cancer while minimizing the side effects of radiation. Dr. Karp counsels his patients and families to help them cope with the stress and difficulties related to cancer. For more, call (732) 382-5550.



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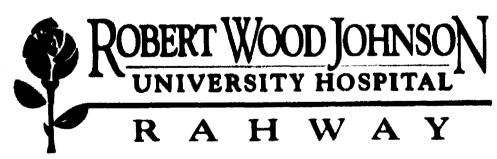
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We hope you are as excited as we are about our new name. As always, the community is our first priority and we look forward to serving you and your family for many years to come. We're still your community hospital - only better!

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Meet these two authors Saturday at Town Book

WESTFIELD — The Town Book Store will host two author appearances Saturday.

From 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Peter Genovese, a feature writer for The Star-Ledger, will be in the store to promote his new book, "Jersey Shore Uncovered: A Revealing Season on the Beach."

Spend a summer with Genovese as he chronicles a typical (wild, wacky, kitschy, classy) season along the NJ coastline. Lifeguards, surfers, beachgoers, birders, ice cream vendors, seashell sellers, banner pilots they're all here.

Be there when Atlantic City's mayor officially begins summer by "unlocking the ocean," get a whiff of the State B-B-Q championship, watch the nation's longest running all-women lifeguard competition, and even spend a weekend, Survivor-style, on a Barnegat Bay island.

"Jersey Shore Uncovered" depicts the timeless allure of New Jersey beach culture. Hundreds of color and black-and-white photos capture what makes this 127-mile stretch of shoreline

Then, from 2-4 p.m., Robert

Ford will be in the store to promote his new book, "Student Conductor."

Cooper Barrow has returned to the competitive fray of the orchestral world after eight years of exile, bringing his prodigious talent and insecurity into Frankfurt and Berlin just at the moment that the Berlin Wall falls, Barrow is to study under the cruel hand of a capricious maestro. Karlheinz Ziegler, a man who carries boundless shame from his days in a Nazi concentration camp, and who will force Barrow to define himself within a morally ambiguous world.

But when Barrow encounters the beautiful and boldly sexual Petra Vogel, an oboist with poisonous secrets, he sets in motion a complex psychological dance of guilt, music, and love. With remarkable intensity and physicality, Ford delivers a pitch-perfect debut, brimming with intrigue and revelation, where passion flowers into desire on every page.

For more information, call The Town Book Store, (908) 233-3535.

A busy holiday season for DECA

Turkeys donated to the high school's DECA chapter by parishioners Bartholomew's and foodstuffs purchased from the proceeds of DECA's fall canister drive were used to make food baskets for several local area families this Thanksgiving.

"DECA would like to thank all the members of the community for their generous contributions," said junior member Liz Elko, who coordinated the purchasing, packaging, and delivery of the food baskets. "Without this help, we would not be able to provide these kinds of services."

DECA members were also hard at work preparing a Thanksgiving Day dinner for people in Plainfield. Coming up rapidly is DECA's Holiday Toy Drive and Adopt-A-Family program, where DECA collects toys, gifts, and monetary contributions for children of all

"Last holiday reason, Ms. Barbara Jost's algebra class adopted a family to support DECA in this cause," said senior member Katherine Bantz.



Scotch Plains-Fanwood DECA students prepared food baskets for local families.

"By banding 20 students plenty of presents for them." together, they were able to adopt a large family and buy contribute, call (908) 889-8600.

For information on how to

It's storytime at the JCC **Nursery School**

SCOTCH PLAINS - During the month of November the JCC of Central NJ's Nursery School students and staff are working on the JCC Read Me a Story Program. The Nursery School goal is to know 100 different stories. The children can read, write, act out a story, or make a book jacket. For each book completed, students are to list the name of the book, the author, illustrator, and publisher on the giant book located in the Nursery School wing.

As a reward for completing their goal, the students will listen to children's author Michelle Shapiro Abraham read her Shabbat story "Shabbat Shalom" Dec. 5 at the JCC, located at 1391 Martine Ave.

Registration for the 2004-2005 Nursery School year begins Jan. 21. For more information about the JCC Nursery School, call Susan Bennett, Director of Early Childhood Services, at 908-889-8800 ext.204.

The JCC of Central NJ is a constituent agency of the United Way and the Jewish Federation of

enior CITIZE

Surprising resources are available to veterans blinded on duty

veteran Otis Scott contracted glaucoma and lost his sight in 1945, he could have sunk into anger and self-pity. Corporal Neftali Sanchez might have done much the same after an explod-

ing grenade in Korea amputated both his arms below the elbows and caused him to lose sight in both of his eyes. The same fate could have awaited Joe Burns after his shovel struck a land mine while he was digging a fox-

hole in Vietnam, leaving him almost completely blind.

Instead, like a remarkable number of 20th-century American veterans, the trio refused to abandon the bright future and full lives they had

envisioned for themselves as young men entering the military.

Otis, an Ohio native, enjoyed a 21-year career in physical medicine. Tali, from El Paso, Texas, went on to earn two bachelor's degrees and a master's degree. Joe, who was born and raised in Tupelo, Miss., returned to his job as a geologist, became a certified public accountant, and now runs his own accounting services and geology consulting company. Along the way, each of these courageous men discovered an organization that would serve them and enrich their lives.

The Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) traces its roots to a March 28, 1945, meeting of World War II war-blinded veterans recuperating at Old Farms Convalescent Hospital in Avon, Conn. Since that day, BVA has been instrumental in spearheading and helping sustain programs and services meant to help blinded veterans.

"Anyone who loses their sight in combat, during military training, or after military service is potentially eligible for federal or state and local assistance," says Tom Miller, BVA executive director. "All blind and visually impaired veterans are eligible, and membership in the association is never a prerequisite to receive help."

Assistance includes residential blind rehabilitation, access to the latest technology, compen-

"It took me almost 30 vears to receive some of the benefits I should have received upon losing my vision, but I might still be waiting if it were not for BVA resources, volunteers, and valuable peer group support."

— Otis Scott

sation and pension allowances, and the support of fellow blinded veterans who gather regularly in localized regional groups. The groups offer emotional assistance, friendship, opportunities for service, and recreation.

"As they released me from the hospital after several unsuccessful and physically exhausting operations, I was abruptly handed a 30-inch cane, almost half the size of today's standards, and was told that nothing clse could be done for me," says Otis Scott, now 81 and a resident of North Wilkesboro, N.C. "Nevertheless, I somehow knew that I could make it if someone could just teach and train me."

Three years after becoming blind, Otis became aware of what was then known as the Hines Veterans Administration Blind Rehabilitation Center, located just outside of Chicago.

His enrollment at the center resulted in a newly discovered direction for education, a career, and positions of national leadership in BVA.

Three years ago he ventured into the high-tech world by successfully completing the Computer Access Training Section (CATS) at the Southeastern Blind Rehabilitation Center in Birmingham, Alabama.

"BVA has been valuable in my life because it successfully informed me of my rights as a blinded veteran," he said. "It took me almost 30 years to receive 💢 some of the benefits I should have received upon losing my vision, but I might still be waiting if it were not for BVA resources, volunteers, and value

able peer group support." Tali Sanchez credits BVA with helping motivate him to pursue a college education — and more important to him, opportunities to help others. He graduated from Pepperdine University in 1959 and received a master's degree two years later. Tali later attended Bible college and received a bachelor's degree in theology in

After a land mine exploded in Joe Burns' face, he spent the better part of the next year at Philadelphia Naval Hospital. His left eye kept getting infected and was finally removed. His right eye stabilized, and he regained a

small percentage of his sight. "Of course, I didn't think it would be possible to continue as a geologist or go back to work for my former employer," said Burns. Then, some men from the company — fellows I had known only casually - contacted me and suggested I might want to come back to work."

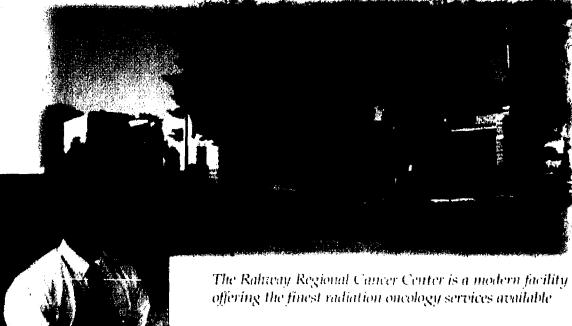
Shortly thereafter Joe indeed returned to Amoco, where he used every type of vision aid he could obtain, sought advice from any and all sources, and developed his own ways of getting work done. He later became the vice president of another oil company and then joined an independent oil exploration firm as executive vice president. He also returned to school and earned a degree in accounting and shortly thereafter became a licensed CPA.

In the midst of a myriad of family, educational, and professional commitments, Joe also become interested in BVA and its mission to help blinded veterans, He held several regional group and national positions before serving as BVA national president the past two years, He creds; its the Association with providing him with a purpose in life that goes beyond his own accomplish-

"I'm not at all uncertain about the good work we do in helping blinded veterans," he said. "As I complete my presidency, I amhonored to have been involved in something so rewarding and worthwhile "

The Blinded Veternia Association is a nonprofit organization that relies solely on the support of individuals and organizations For more information about BVA and its services, call (800) 669-7079 anytime, or visit www.bva.org.

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- Awarded American Cancer Society Fellowship in Clinical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering
- Established central New Jersey's 1st prostate seed implant program
- Graduated with Honors from Mt. Sinai School of Medicine and Columbia University
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Sports

MURPHY'S LAW

Thanks to all of the little things

By DANIEL MURPHY

THE RECORD-PRESS

Often forgotten behind parades, football games, turkey and cranberry sauce is the true essence of Thanksgiving and remembering the many important things in life that we are fortunate to have and

While, like everyone else, I'm thankful for my health, family, friends and the idea that Curt Schilling could end up a Red Sox and not a Yankee, we shouldn't forget the many little things in life that make it worthwhile to put up with all the stress and agitation in our everyday lives.

So let me take this time, on this special occasion, to pay homage to all the many little things I am thankful for:

 The opportunity to cover a football game on a sunny, 70degree Saturday afternoon in late November with no wind or clouds. especially after the sub-artic conditions of the previous weekend.

- Football on Thanksgiving, especially a competitive, important game between the Dolphins and the Cowboys, and subsequent countless replays of Leon Lett sliding across the snow and into a

-- Quotes like "Keyshawn can't throw Keyshawn the ball."

- Digital cable. - Madden 2004.

The start of college basketball season. With NBA teams being outscored by WNBA teams, the excitement of college basketball, even if it isn't what it once was because of early, misguided defections to the NBA, is a welcome sight every fall, especially after Maryland held American to eight (yes, eight) first-half points Saturday.

- Toaster ovens. You can cook everything from toast to Tator Tots (the best food in the world) to a water buffalo in 15 minutes or less and it comes out better than in the oven or the Foreman Grill.

- The Sunday paper. There are few moments more peaceful than a Sunday morning, at the breakfast table with a cup of coffee, a plate of eggs and bacon and a Sunday paper. Other than Christmas morning it is the only reason to hop out of bed.

- Home underdogs (2-0-2 against the spread last week).

Pick 'ems.

Reality television. I especially enjoy how much it annoys and gets under the skin of its detrac-

- Knowing the Giants will, at least, be able to get a good draft pick

- Expense reports.

- Email. Westfield vs. Plainfield. It is one of the longest high school football rivalries in the state and the history of the game isn't lost on the players or the coaches. Every year they refer to it as their Super

"Real Men of Genius" commercials. I rarely keep my finger off the remote long enough to watch any commercial, but Budweiser's "Real Men of Genius" spots are more entertaining than most of the shows on television.

- College football overtime rules. There will never be a tie in college football, which is a very, very good thing.

- Golf tournaments where there is an actual winner. If I had watched all five hours of President's Cup coverage and it ended in a tie the best 7-iron of the day would have been me smashing my television.

Telestrators, I couldn't imagine watching a football or basketball game without them. My buddy anid last year during the Super Bowl he thought he'd be able to get his hands on one, but it never worked out and I've been yearning

for one ever since . Finally getting the bar you built for your apartment to fit up the steirs. Long story. [1] tell it over a drink someday.

And most importantly: - Simple, cliched columns that ent up space quickly on holiday weeks with an early deadline.

One more step for Raiders



Top Sayreville 28-24 to reach sectional final

By DANIEL MURPHY THE RECORD-PRESS

SAYREVILLE — Lakiem Lockery paced up and down the sidelines Saturday, determined not to go home with a loss and making sure everybody within ear shot knew it.

His emotions reflected those of the entire Scotch Plains squad, and when his number was called in the second half he backed up his words with 147 yards on five carries and a touchdown, leading the Raiders to a 28-24 come-from-behind victory over Sayreville in the North Jersey Section 2, Group 3 playoffs.

After hosting Elizabeth Thanksgiving Day, Scotch Plains will take on Ridge for the sectional championship 7:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at Giants Stadium. It is the Raiders first berth in the championship game since 1990.

"I wasn't going home losing this game. This game meant the world to me," said Lockery, who totaled 171 yards on 10 carries. "No one believed we would come this far. We came this far and we worked too hard to come down here and go home losing."

With little style but a whole lot of substance the Raiders rallied

Cardinals tomorrow.

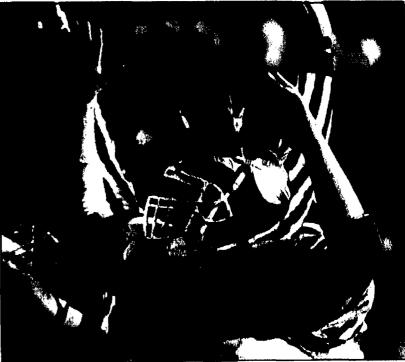
from a 17-7 second half deficit by churning out 215 yards on the ground over the final 19 minutes, led by backs Lockery, Kyle Baker (81 yards, 13 carries, one touchdown) and Travis Boff (53 yards, nine carries, two TDs). The Raiders didn't attempt a single pass in the second half.

Baker started the rally with just under seven minutes remaining in the third quarter. He carried five times on a six-play, 69 yard drive, rushing for 59 yards and scoring on a two-yard run with 3:48 remaining to cut Sayreville's lead to 17-14.

Scotch Plains held Sayreville on its next possession, stopping a 4thand-15 attempt at the Raiders 30yard line. Then Lockery took the

game over. On his first carry of the second half he exploded off right tackle and through a hole created by fullback Travis Boff, tackle Justis Evans and tight end Charlie Bachi, juked two defenders and scampered 70 yards for the go ahead touchdown with 11 minutes remaining in the game.

"We tried that play in the first half and it didn't work, I cut outside, it was my fault," said Lockery. "But in the second half when we ran it again (Boff and Bachi) told



NICOLE DIMELLA/THE RECORD-PRESS Lakiem Lockery (above) exploded for 147 rushing yards in the second half, including a 70-yard touchdown run, as Scotch Plains advanced to its first sectional final since 1990 with a 28-24 win over Sayreville. Below, Mark Glannaci celebrates one of Scotch Plains three second half touchdowns.

me don't cut outside, cut inside and Thomas for a three-yard touchthe hole is there. They couldn't stop

The Raiders were unable to come up with a stop on the ensuing Sayreville possession as quarterback Mark Poore pitched to Shaune

down and a 24-21 lead with 7:37 remaining. But Lockery and the

Raiders weren't going to be denied. On the first four plays of Scotch Plains' next drive Lockery ran for gains of 8, 31, 24 and 14 yards to set

up a one-yard touchdown dive by Boff for a 28-24 lead with 5:42 remaining.

"Everybody on the line did great," said Lockery. "Nobody thought we were going to win this game. Everybody showed up, came out strong and played big. We never put our heads down. The second half is always ours."

Scotch Plains' defense, the backbone of the squad all season, had to come up with one final stop to clinch the victory. The Bombers drove to Scotch Plains' 34, but Poore tripped over one of his line man for a three-yard loss, Mike Dinizo stuffed a screen pass for no gain and Marc Fabiano sacked Poore on fourth down with 2:31 left to turn the ball over.

"I was being double teamed, got through that, shook the back, saw him pump fake and bring it down and went and got him," said Fabiano, "We worked too hard for this. We just kept dominating."

The Raiders punted the ball back to Sayreville with 23 seconds remaining. After two incompletions Scotch Plains stuffed the Bombers final desperation play at midfield.

"I never had a doubt these kids would come out and play hard and give it everything they've got," said Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli "Death and taxes are the only sure things --- and this team play? ing hard. They're playing hard and they wanted it.'

By DANIEL MURPHY THE RECORD PRESS It has been a rollerconster season for the Westfield High football team but the Blue Devils are planning to make sure it ends with a high note. After a 0-3 start, Westfield buttled back, stayed together and triplet all four straight wins to qualify for the playoffs. But two straight losses have left the Blue Devils below .500 heading into tonorrow's annual Thanksgiving Day battle

JOHN FEI/NECORD PRESS CORRESPONDENT Jan Cocceziello ran 48 yards for the game-winning touchdown in last year's Thanksgiving Day showdown with Plainfield and will look to lead the Blue Devile to their fourth straight win over the

Blue Devils host Plainfield hoping to even their record

with rival Mainfield

This is the 99th meeting between the teams, with the first in 1900, and the 60th scheduled Thankegiving Day showdown, dat ing back to 1944. Westfield leads the series 50.41.7, according to Bruce Johnson, author of "100 Years of Blue Devil Football

The Mue Devile, winners of the last three Thanksgiving show. downs, will host Plainfield 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, determined to even their record and go out with a muchdeserved victory

want to finish 4-6," said Westfield Head Coach Ed Tranchina. "We are too good of a team to be 4-6. We want to make sure we go out 5-5. We played a brutal schedule this year and it is important we get to 500."

Of Westfield's five losses this senson, two were to playoff finalists (Scotch Plains, Union) two to playoff semifinalists (Cranford, Sayreville) and the fifth (Randolph) earned the top seed in its section. Westfield also defeated Morristown, a North Jersey Section 1, Group 4 finalist Westfield's nine apparents this sea non have a combined record of 50

32, including eight playoff wins The schedule doesn't get any eas jer for the final game Plainfield qualified for the North 2, Group 4 playoffs where it was detented by Union 20.6 in the first round and aports a 63 record The Cardinals have also last three straight to Westfield and will be determined to annitive skirl and soral their seniors off with at least one win over the Hije Devila

They're a good team and they "We're 4.6 right now. We don't badly want to beat us," said

Tranchina. "I'm sure they are going to be very determined to beat us."

Plainfield has relied on a veri large offensive line that average close to 300 pounds, led by 6 foot 0, 318 pound left tackle Eurene Monroe. The Cardinals also feature 6.2, 240 pound tight end/defensive end Daniel Davis.

The Cardinals will look to ran behind that huge line on offense. handing the ball to backs Danta Harvey and Auron Hale. They work take many shots downfield but will mix in some short passes.

Plaintield's defense is built around speed and it will be very hard for the Blue Devils to get out side, especially quarterback Jun Cocozziello, who burned Plainfield with a 48 yard touchdown run in the find minutes of last year's 14-7

"They have a lot of speed on defense," said Tranchina, "They can run von down very enaily. They at ble and physical on offence, The are pretty hungry to win this

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The activity around Westfield High School's Kehler Stadium is at a high point these days, as a girls field house is in the first phases of construction. Female athletes will now have their own restrooms, a locker room, team room and coaches' office. The restrooms will also be handicapped-accessible for both athletes and fans. A new weight room is part of the plan, too. The

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Real Estate

New phone, email registries represent a setback for realtors

By JAMES M. WOODARD

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Realtors don't like the current

because they interfere with common real estate marketing prac-

e-mail communications to seek buyers for their properties or to solicit new listings. If these meth-Realtors and their sales ods are prevented by law, brokers will need to find new techniques to attract buyers and sellers. Perhaps, though, that challenge would be healthy for the

> industry. As it stands, the Federal Trade

do-not-spam registry associates often use the phone or Commission has the legal authority to operate the do-not-call registry while court challenges wind through the legal system. In other words, the registry is enforced by law. And Realtors are feeling the effect on their marketing.

Real estate professionals who have registered for and obtained registry lists but fail to follow the rules may be subject to a claim by the FCC or a private party,

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according to Association of Realtors report. Violators can be fined up to \$11,000 per violation. The law is unclear regarding

brokers who fail to obtain do-notcall lists, but whether the broker has or has not obtained a list, he will have to defend himself in court if a complaint is filed. That can be costly and time-consuming. The proposed do-not-spam law

is receiving overwhelming support by legislators who sense the strong public desire to restrict unwanted e-mails.

"Realtors use e-mail as a communication tool wisely and in a targeted manner," the National Association of Realtors report said. "We already comply with many of the practices that would be required by the proposed legislation. Our association would be concerned with any bill that would attempt to create a do-not-spam registry given our experience with problems already created by the do-

not-call Registry."

The new law would prohibit email senders from falsifying or disguising their identity and would ban use of incorrect, misleading or fraudulent subject lines. It would require the inclusion of a legitimate return e-mail and physical postal address for the sender and a functioning optout mechanism.

Among other requirements, it would also necessitate a clear and conspicuous notice that the message is an advertisement or solicitation.

With mortgage interest rates remaining at near-record lows, and home values rising at a record pace in many markets, the profile of today's mortgage borrower is changing.

A huge increase in equity has been accumulated by homeowners in short time - equity that could be tapped to consolidate outstanding debt or generate cash for college tuitions, investments or other needs. The focus for many refinance mortgage applicants is shifting from reducing monthly mortgage payments to using equity for other financial needs.

Some homeowners have determined this is a strategic time to refinance their mortgage, combining their existing first and second mortgages into a low-interest mortgage, thus saving money each month on payments. Others have concluded their personal financial needs would be best served with a new second mort-

"An increasing number of borrowers are applying for a new cash-out refinance mortgage, where the balance of the new loan is greater than the previous mortgage," said Michael Levy, president and chief executive officer of Home Savings Mortgage of in Oxnard, Calif. "This produces cash that the family can use for any purpose they desire."

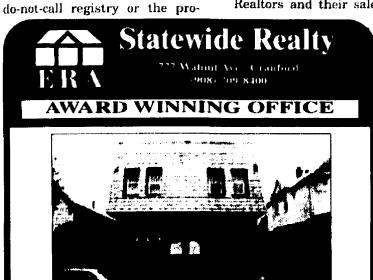
Typically, lenders will loan up to 75 percent or 80 percent of the home's current market value. A higher loan-to-value ratio loan can be arranged if private mortgage insurance is included. There are, of course, closing costs to consider - appraisal, credit checks, title insurance, etc. But in some cases there are ways to minimize these costs. For example, if it wasn't too long ago that the title was researched for a previous title policy, a simple low-cost update of the policy might be possible.

When considering a loan, it is best to discuss your needs and desires with a competent mortgage counselor. Your loan can be structured to meet your financial

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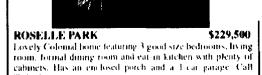


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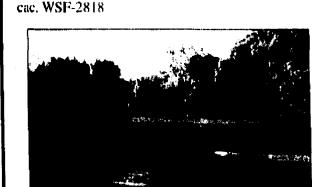
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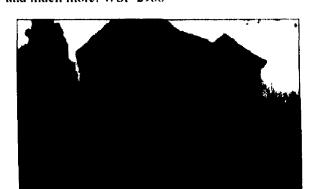
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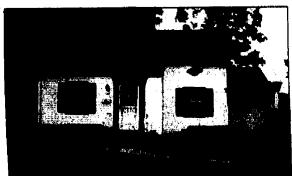


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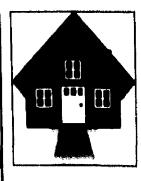
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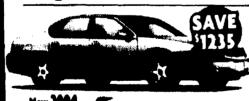
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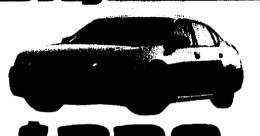
4 cylinder, automatic, power steer, power brakes, air conditioning, redefrost, airbags, am/fm stereo, tint. 39,788 mi. Vin#Y7439507.

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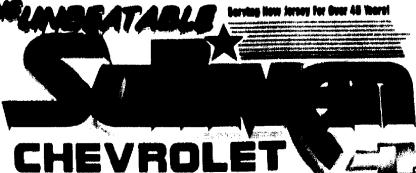


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Automotive/Classified



Buying a used car doesn't have to be risky business.

Certification makes buying used car less than a gamble

term that has a less than positive meaning for most car buyers. Conventional wisdom says that buying a used car is buying someone else's problems. However, as new car quality has gone up, the risk of buying a late model used car has gone down. In fact, the automotive industry doesn't even call them used cars anymore. The term to look for now is Certified Pre-Owned, or CPO.

"There is a growing market in this country for used vehicles that have been put through a Certified Pre-Owned program. CPO vehicles give the consumer a chance to buy the latest models, often only two or three years old, at a big savings over a new car. So, when you

buy one, you're really doing yourself a favor," says John Davis, host of MotorWeek, the longest running weekly automotive show on television.

More than a third of all late model used cars and trucks sold last year -- nearly 1.2 million vehicles --- came with a Certified Pre-Owned designation. They are typically vehicles that have low mileage, and have been put through a battery of tests to make sure they are in tip-top condition. Vehicles that fall into this category are mostly just off-lease, secured from factory executive car auctions, from rental fleets, or the very best trade-ins.

"A new car depreciates by 15 to 20 percent the moment you drive it off the lot," says Davis.

"If you buy one that's Certified Pre-Owned, you avoid taking the initial depreciation, yet have an almost new car with a strong warranty and in some cases a better warranty than a new one. Smart consumers can think of these vehicles as the best and brightest in their

According to CNW Marketing Research, Inc., one can expect to pay a premium of between four and seven percent for a vehicle with the Certified Pre-Owned designation. "They may cost a little more than you'd expect to pay for a used car, but when you look at all the checks and balances performed and the extra warranty, it's easily worth it," savs Davis.

Time to get your car ready for the winter

(ARA) - It's that time of year again. Temperatures and wind chills that can take your breath away. Snow and ice that make stepping outside a dangerous proposition. You know all too well how winter affects you. It is important to take a moment to think about how it affects your car as well. After all, you don't want to be stranded in those sub-zero temperatures.

If you live where it snows, you know the damage that snow, ice, loose gravel and salt can do to your car. Minor scratches and nicks turn to rust, your heater gets a workout it may not be prepared for, and your windshield must deal with the temperature stress of a warm interior and a freezing exterior. Here are some maintenance tips for winterizing your car:

Windshield Safety

Thermal shock is the term engineers use to describe the stress caused by drastic differences in outdoor and indoor temperatures. If you have a small ding in your windshield, thermal shock can cause your minor ding to turn into a major crack.

Repairing a small ding costs as little as \$50 to \$60. Replacing a cracked windshield can cost hundreds of dollars; on some cars, the cost may be even higher. "Once a ding or star (star-shaped with points spreading out) expands, windshield replacement is often the only option," said Jay Bickford, director of factory training at NOVUS Windshield

"If the damage is reported quickly, the odds are much improved that NOVUS can save the windshield", says Bickford, "It is important to perform the repair before dirt infiltrates into the break. If you can't get to NOVUS right away, call your local NOVUS for a windshield saver patch. These patches cover the break until it can be repaired and do not obscure your vision.'

NOVUS, with more than 20 million repaired windshields under its belt, follows a "repair first replace when necessary" philosophy. The company invented windshield repair in 1972 and has pioneered numerous innovations in the field.

To attain optimum consumer safety, Bickford recommends repairing a windshield whenever possible, instead of replacing it. Repair not only saves the windshield it preserves the factory's seal of windshield to auto body. "Since passenger side air bags deploy off the windshield, preserving the fac-

tory installation is an important safety consideration," explains Bickford, "Keeping the factory's original adhesive set also helps avoid air and water

As any mechanic will tell you, checking fluids is the least expensive and easiest preventive maintenance you can do. Change your oil frequently (consult your owner's manual for recommended frequency), and don't forget to change your engine coolant (diluted with 50 percent water) and transmission fluid, about every two years. Pure engine coolants can freeze at zero degrees, but mixing with water prevents freezing and provides great protection for the cold weather.

Though fluids like oil and transmission are commonly checked, other fluids integral to your vehicle's performance, may go unnoticed. Power steering, brake, radiator and battery fluids also should be filled to recommended levels.

Don't forget to top off windshield washer fluid. If you've ever driven after salt trucks have come through to melt snow and ice, you know the importance of windshield washer fluid. Do not dilute washer fluid with water since it can freeze during winter's harsh temperatures. While you're at it, you might want to change the wiper blades to prevent poor vision in already poor driving conditions.

Batteries and Corroded Cables

Winter mornings can wreak havoc on an older battery. The average life of a battery is 3 1/2 years. If your battery is older than that, it's probably time to replace. Have a mechanic check the battery and cables to ensure your car starts quickly and reli-

Anything Made of Rubber

Worn, bald or badly aligned or balanced tires can mean accidents on ice, rain or snow. Have your tires checked for proper inflation and alignment, and rotate them about every 6,000 miles. If you live in unusually snowy areas, you may want to consider snow tires for added traction, or keep chains in your trunk or garage to help you through heavy snowfall.

Rubber parts under your hood need maintenance, too. Radiator, heater and vacuum hoses, among others, should be checked for cracks and bulges. Also, inspect all belts for damages and

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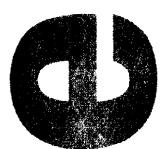
2001 DODGE CRAND

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\$9,995 2003 DODGE CRAND CARAVAN SPORT

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2003 NETSUBISMI LANCER OZ 2003 BUICE CENTURY 4 dr. auto, air, p/s. p/b. p/w. p/incks. p/seats, tilt, cruise, cd. alloy wheets. 22:000-males VIN#31194550 4 dr auto air, pri ph. pw. priceks, tilt.

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2000 TOYOTA AVALON XL dr, V-6, auto. air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, /seats, tilt, crinse, cd, alloy wheels, moon-oof, 36,000 miles. VINWYEO98836.

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miles VIN0340409 (7

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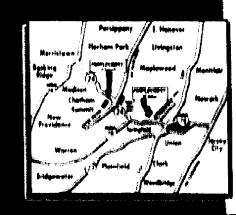


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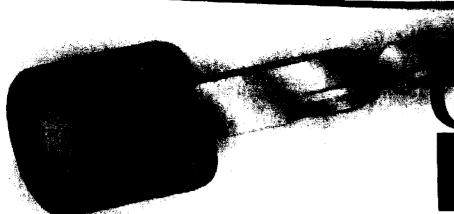
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PORSCHE 944-190- 108K mi., a.to. as is, whiteful., testh., int., good cond., \$9800. o/b/o. 73.8-837-8008



1999 Saturn SL2

4 dr. 4 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng biks, AIR, AMFM Stereo-

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1998 Saturn SL2

4 cyl, auto trans, pwr stmg brks, AIR, AM/FM Stereo-cass, tilt, r/det, Vgls, cloth int,

all ssn rads, int wip, dual air bags, 88,845 mi, Stk#11621. VIN#WZ140115.

pkg, convenience pkg, comfort pkg, MSRP \$23,320, Sik #1378, VIN #37551996 Price incl. \$3000 Customer Choice Allownace, \$500 L Bonus Cash, \$1000 Saturn of Union Bonus, \$1000 GM Credit Card Points, \$750 College Grad Rebate if qual*, \$750 Cash Allowance Certificate & \$1000 Oldsmobile Loyalty if qual*.

2000 Saturn SL2

4 cyl, auto trans, pwr

str/brks, air, AM/FM stereo,

cloth bckts, console, dual

air bags, 37,794 ml, Stk. #11454, VIN #YZ223535.

New 2003 Saturn 1

5 cvl. auto trans air, pwr.str/ABS/wnd/loks, audio' pkg, convenience pkg, comfort pkg, MSRP \$23,975, 5tk #1050, VIN #3Y508923. Price incl. \$3000 Customer Choice Allowaice, \$500 L Bonus Cash, \$1000 Satum of Union Bonus, \$1000 GM Credit Card Points, \$750 College Grad Rebate if qual*, \$750 Cash Allowance Certificate & \$1000 Cdsmbills bushed and



2002 Saturn SL2

4 cyl, auto trans, pwr

str/brks, air. AWFM stereo, cloth bckts, console, dual

air bags, 20,480 mi, Stk. #11765, VIN #2Z116006.

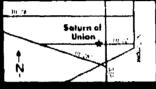
2001 Saturn SW2 2002 Saturn SC2 Wagon, 4 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/brks/wind/locks, AIR, AM/FM Stereo-cass, CD, tilt, 4 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr str/brks, AM/FM stereo, cloth bekts, dual air bags, 18,760 mi, Slk #11657, cruise, all ssn rads, int wip, dual air bags, 32,273 mi, Stk#11757, VIN#12204850

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SAVE '6342 Congramma LS - 4 DOOR

Std Equip Incl: 3800 V6, auto OD trans, pwr strng/brks/wind/locks/mirr/seat, AIR, t/gls. tilt, cruise, r/def, slum whis, bokts. Opt Equip Incl. stereo-cass, CD, alarm, strng whi radio critris. mats, cargo net, heated mirrs. Stk#3769F, VIN#39412011, MSRP \$26,340. Incl. \$3000 factory rebate & \$1000 Bonus Cash.



SAVE '7172 TRAILBLAZER LS - 4 BOOR - 4X4

Std Equip Incl: 4200 l6, auto OD trans, pwr structure recommendation of the structure of the structur \$4000 factory rebate



Std Equip Incl: 3.4L V6, auto OD trans, pwr stroobrks, Vols. Opt. Equip Incl. LS Trim. 8 pass seafing, Int & rear AIR, pwr pass sidd door, pwr seat/wind/locks/mirrs, 15" alum while, CD, cass. roof rack, till, cruise Stk#5940KT, VIN#3D214110, MSRP \$29,305. Incl. \$4000 factory rebate.

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Std Equip Inci 6000 VA auto OD tians pwr and Equip Incl. 6000 VP. auto OD trans. pwf. strapfulsa/windfocks/miriseasts the fill cruse complex sayless entry, 20" atum white locking diff. 35 Equipment Opt Equip Incl. dual zone nec AIR spare Breizok etero: 8 CO player OnStar XM Radio Transi Pkg. 5tk#5993Kf. VIN#31401910. MSRP \$41.640 Incl. \$3000 factory rebets. \$500 Rodus Cash.



88 · COUPE

Std Equip Incl. 3800 V8, auto OD trans, pwr strng/brks/wind/locks/mirr, AIR, t/gls. tilt. cruise, alum while Opt Equip Incl: Hhir bokis, sunt, CD, cass. XM radio, dual pwr htd seats mats, alarm. 9tk#4243D, VIN#39125146, MSRP \$27,145 Incl. \$3000 factory rebate 6 \$1000 Bonus Cash.



Btd Equip Incl. 4200 IB. auto OO Irana, pwr strophrks/wind/oc/stroler deep tigle, AIB. tilt, cruse, r/def Opt Equip Incl. side air bage running boards. locking dill. AM/FM Blana, 6 des CD changer. leather, dual pwr. sests. raeat audio & HVAC controle, creter Bis #5865KT, VINEY8110569, MISTER \$37,800 Incl. \$4000 fectory rebets.



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Still Equip Incl. 5-3L VB, auto OD trans, pwr. timphra/windhocks/min, till, crinsa, deep l/gls. AHT Opt Equip Incl. bisks, B. CD player, in seat autio colle, Bose speakers, auto AHT, byr all, seat, string win colles, ZZT Off flood Psg. locking off, skid ptitles, marts, Trailer Psg. 17, abov. whits speakers/ART VINS/BLZ4014, Millit \$19,115, but \$4000 Includy rebate \$ \$500 Hours Gant



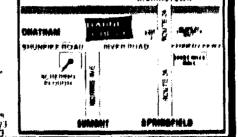
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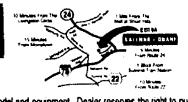


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