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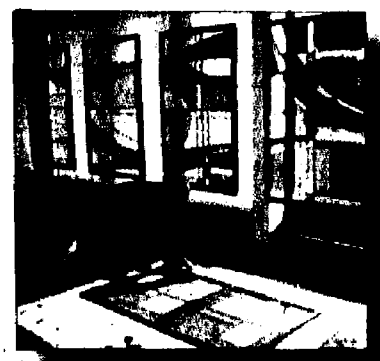
Vol. 18, No.

INSIDE



Line 'em up

The offensive and defensive lines of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High football team have been the driving force behind the Raiders run to the state final. Scotch Plains faces Ridge in the North Jersey Section 2, Group 3 final tomorrow night at Giants Stadium. For coverage see Sports, Page C-1.



Dynamic duo

The Fanwood husband-and-wife team of Marc Faust and Lee Renner has made quite a name for itself with its stained-glass creations and restoration work; the couple's latest project is an installation for JFK Medical Center in Edison. For more on their efforts, turn to Page B-1.



Talking turkey

Students in the Pre-K program at Scotch Plains' Brunner School re-enacted the first Thanksgiving last week. Some in the class dressed up as Pilgrims, while others came as American Indians, and each group brought food to share. For all the information, see Page B-1.

REMINDER

Fight club, for a cause

Prominent Westfield residents take to the ring against former heavyweight contender Gerry Cooney to raise money for Centennial High School Saturday. The event begins 8 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El on East Broad Street. For tickets, call (908) 780-8070 or (908) 232-6770, ext. 129.

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And they're off!



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

What's your favorite thing to do two days after stuffing yourself at a Thanksgiving feast? For the participants in the annual Turkey Trot in Westfield, it's making a five-mile run. Five hundred sixty-seven area residents congregated in Tamaques Park for the race, won by Paul Buccino of Westfield in 27:33. Above, the speedsters get off the line as the horn sounds. At left, Meg and Eileen Moran of Chatham are all bundled up to cheer on the runners.

Westfield school finances solid

By GREG MARK
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The school district's finances received a clean bill of health in the annual audit report presented to the Board of Education Tuesday night by Robert Morrison of the firm Hodulik and Morrison.

Morrison made just two minor recommendations for improvements in the district's bookkeeping. The first is that, to comply with new government regulations, the district maintain an inventory of its fixed assets and record yearly depreciation.

Because of the cost associated with that process, the board had been putting it off, said vice president Anne Riegel. But to comply with the new guidelines, the board has already contracted with an outside vendor, and the inventory has been supplied.

The other recommendation involved better accounting for grant funds allocated to non-public schools within Westfield that are not expended. Because the grant monies flow through the public school district, they must be accounted for in the

district's books.

Morrison said the degree of oversight on that issue has "improved dramatically" since his firm first noted it. He also pointed out the public schools have spent all the grant monies allocated to them.

Business Administrator Robert Berman noted the district's free balance, or surplus, for 2003-2004 is \$3.2 million. That represents 4.8 percent of the operating budget, and falls squarely within state guidelines that free balance equal between 3 and 6 percent of the operating budget.

The district had dedicated \$900,000 of its free balance to the current school year's budget. In the next budget cycle, he said, the amount taken from free balance should be about the same, and possibly slightly higher.

Overall, Morrison said, "Your internal controls were properly designed... and we did not find any noncompliance with laws and regulations that were reportable. You can't do much better than that."

Board members were pleased with the report, and praised the efforts of district employees. "We're really in an excellent financial position," Riegel said.

High school parking plan moves ahead

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — By the slimmest of margins, the Town Council voted to introduce two related ordinances establishing a parking permit system and code of conduct for high school seniors at Westfield High School at its regular meeting Tuesday.

The two ordinances were introduced by a narrow 4-3 margin and needed a tie-breaking vote of support from Mayor Greg McDermott. They are scheduled for a final hearing and vote at the council's Dec. 16 meeting. The town could have the new policy in place by January.

The high school has wrestled with parking issues for years.

Due to limited parking space, student vehicles have often been parked on streets close to the high school, and this practice has led to frequent complaints by residents who live near the school.

The ordinances will allow eligible seniors to park on designated streets near the high school. These streets include portions of Trinity Place; Rahway Avenue; Dorian Road, Place, and Court; Coddling Road; Knollwood Road; Nottingham Place; Shadowlawn Drive; and Shackamaxon Drive. The streets would be subject to alternate-side restrictions to allow snow removal and leaf collection.

Under a policy recently adopted

(Continued on page A-2)

Township to get a new cell tower

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Township Council approved a resolution to contract the firm Edwards and Kelsey to prepare plans and specifications for the construction of a new cell tower at its regular meeting Nov. 25. The tower will replace an aging communications tower originally built around 1959 and will be constructed on the same site as the original tower.

The move was inspired by complaints from the Fire Department about insufficient communications capabilities. "Firefighters have difficulty communicating with each other between the north and south side," said Councilwoman Nancy Malool.

Malool said the cell phone tower is needed for three primary reasons. First and most important to councilmembers is the need to improve communications for the Fire Department.

Secondly, there are dead zones for cell phone users on the south side of the township, and the tower could help solve some of those problems. Finally, the tower's capabilities will be leased out to wireless service providers to fill their service gaps. Therefore, officials estimate, the tower will become a revenue generator after the rental costs recoup the initial investment in two or three years.

"People are always concerned about property taxes, and this is one possibility for alternative means of revenue generation."

— Martin Marks

Council members were unanimous in their support of the project. "Ultimately, we felt it was important for the council to have control... in design, placement, and everything that happens afterward," said Mayor Martin Marks, referring to concerns that a service provider or another independent entity might construct a tower somewhere else in town less desirable to the council and collect the usage fees. Neighboring Fanwood

ment, and everything that happens afterward," said Mayor Martin Marks, referring to concerns that a service provider or another independent entity might construct a tower somewhere else in town less desirable to the council and collect the usage fees. Neighboring Fanwood

(Continued on page A-2)

Affordable housing obligation could rise

Pending regulations could have impact on redevelopment

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — New rules proposed by the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) may have a bearing on the town's planned redevelopment projects at South Avenue and Prospect and Elm streets.

The new rules, which could take effect by October 2004, attempt to create what COAH describes as a "growth share model." One out of every 10 residential units built in a municipality would be required to be "affordable" according to state guidelines. In addition, for every 30 new jobs created — based on square footage of new non-residential construction — a municipality must produce one affordable unit.

COAH's new rules are currently open to public review. The rules were published in the New Jersey Register Oct. 6 and will remain open to public comment until Dec. 5, a period of 60 days. At that point COAH will revise

the rules and respond to public comments. New rules are then approved by a vote of the agency's directors and subsequently become law.

Council members discussed the potential impact of the regulations at the Nov. 25 township meeting, and were unsure what their impact would be. Town officials did say Westfield has at the moment met its obligations. "Right now we have satisfied the affordable housing requirement," said town administrator Jim Gilden, "so current COAH regulations have no bearing on the project."

However, the current redevelopment projects propose 73 new residential units on the south side and 15-20 on the north side. The new COAH rules would require that approximately 9-12 of those units be set aside as affordable units, depending on the number of jobs the redevelopment project generates.

An option available to the town, if the redevelopment projects are affected by new COAH rules, would be to transfer Westfield's increased affordable housing requirements to another municipality. In this case, the

(Continued on page A-2)

Out with the old, in with the new

It didn't take long for everyone to leave Thanksgiving behind and turn attention to the December holidays. Westfield kicked off the holiday festivities with a tree lighting on North Avenue Sunday, complete with an appearance from Jolly Old St. Nick. Above, a crowd gathers in front of a brass ensemble playing Christmas carols before the lighting. Right, Santa waves to his fans after arriving on a fire truck. The holiday celebrations continue in Fanwood and Scotch Plains Sunday.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Parking plan moves ahead

(Continued from page A-1)

ed by the Board of Education, eligible students would be seniors who live in an area generally more than one-half mile from the school. Other students would be permitted to drive to school — neither the town nor the school district can absolutely prohibit students from driving — but would be required to park outside the designated permit areas. Permits would be distributed by the Westfield Police Department.

The policy requires that eligible seniors abide by a code of conduct. These students must arrive to school on time in the morning, "demonstrate neighborly conduct and good citizenship," and avoid making disturbances during the lunch hours. The student parking permits will likely cost \$100 annually.

The ordinances carry a sunset provision, which means that they will expire in June unless the council renews them. This provision will give the council the opportunity to review the effects of the policy this coming spring and include that information in their evaluation.

Board of Education President Arlene Gardner addressed the council before Tuesday's vote. "There is no option for off-street parking this year," she said. Gardner stressed that the board and a committee appointed to create a solution to the parking problem had pursued alternatives such as using the National Guard Armory parking lot, paving over athletic fields to create parking lots and using a trolley service for students. These options were not possible because of objections from various interests, she said, and the board pursued the only policy available.

Nearly 20 residents spoke to the council on the issue, the majority strongly opposed to the proposed ordinances. "Good government does not serve a privileged few for the sake of convenience," said Michelle Tobert, a resident of

Nottingham Place. Many residents felt that the new parking policy should expand the limitation on eligible drivers to seniors living as far as one mile or more from the school. Some residents indicated they walk that far to the train station every day.

Other complaints focused on safety issues, particularly at the corner of Shackamaxon Drive and Rahway Avenue. Residents complained that the intersection is already very dangerous and feared the prospect of inexperienced drivers being drawn to the area.

Other residents complained about potential signage and the effects of the new policy on property values. Some also object to a \$10 fee for residential parking permits on their streets. "Residents should not have to pay a fee to park," said Peter Murray of Shackamaxon Drive.

The council members present were evenly split on the issue. "We should go back to the drawing board, address the concerns, and bring it back for next semester," said Councilman Matthew Albano, who was joined by councilmen David Haas and Peter

Echasse in opposition to the ordinances.

But, countered Councilman Sal Caruana. "If we do nothing the situation will only worsen. I think this ordinance is better than what we have." Councilmen Rafael Betancourt and Andrew Skibitsky also voted in support of the ordinances. Larry Goldman and Sue Jacobsen were absent from Tuesday's meeting.

With the council members present deadlocked, McDermott cast the deciding vote to introduce the ordinances. Despite some concerns about the residential parking permits, McDermott said that by issuing permits to students, residents can determine who is parking in front of their houses and more easily report infractions to law enforcement. He also noted that the policy spreads the parking burden across a wider area than the part of town currently dealing with the high school parking problem.

The code of conduct and other policy information relevant to the parking issue can be found on the community website at www.westfieldnj.com.

Affordable housing obligation could rise

(Continued from page A-1)

town would transfer a negotiated payment to another municipality to subsidize new construction or to rehabilitate existing units for occupancy by low- or moderate-income households.

Council members are waiting to see whether COAH's new rules are approved before addressing how they may affect redevelopment. But the issue has not escaped their attention. In fact, "The council is considering whether we have the

social and moral obligation to (include affordable units)," regardless of whether the new COAH rules compel it to, Gildea said.

COAH is an administrative organization funded by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. It was created by the Fair Housing Act of 1985 as the Legislature's response to a series of New Jersey Supreme Court cases known as the Mount Laurel decisions. The Supreme Court established a constitutional obligation for each of the 566 municipalities in the state to establish a realistic opportunity for the provision of fair share low and moderate income housing obligations, generally through land use and zoning powers.

Westfield council takes step to reorganize town's committees

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD PRESS

WESTFIELD — After Mayor Greg McDermott proposed a reorganization of town committees, the Town Council approved an ordinance stipulating the changes on first reading at its regular public meeting Tuesday. McDermott said the move would consolidate the committees and reduce the number of meetings the committees have.

McDermott suggested that the eight committees be reduced to four. Combined would be the Personnel and Finance committees; the Public Works and Solid Waste committees; the Traffic, Parking, and Transportation (TPT) and Public Safety committees; and the Laws and Rules and Building and Town Property committees.

The four new committees would be titled the Finance Policy Committee, The Public Works Committee, The Public Safety & Transportation Committee, and The Code Review & Town Property Committee.

Each of the eight committees is currently chaired by a Town Council member. In the revised structure, each of the four committees

would be headed by a chairman and vice chairman. Council members would therefore retain either a chair or vice chair position when the changes take place at the beginning of next year.

"This gives committees more opportunities to work together," McDermott said, and suggested that the reorganization would make committee meetings more productive.

The committees would also adjust their schedules for reports to the Town Council's conference meetings. The Finance Policy and Public Works committees will make presentations to the first conference meeting each month. The Public Safety & Transportation and The Code Review & Town Property committees will make presentations during the second conference meeting each month.

"People are busier and busier," said McDermott. He said that amending the committee structure should make next year's committee meetings better attended and more focused.

The council will vote on the final reading of the measure at its regular public meeting Dec. 16.

"This gives committees more opportunities to work together."
— Greg McDermott

Council OKs loans for field project

Work will likely begin soon on upgrades at Park Middle School

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD PRESS

FANWOOD — The Borough Council approved an agreement between the borough, the Township of Scotch Plains, and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education to fund the Field of Dreams project at Park Middle School at its regular meeting Tuesday. The move, the last necessary to get the shared services project under way, passed unanimously on final reading.

Work on the project is

expected to begin over the winter. The project involves refurbishing existing fields at Park Middle School, adding irrigation, and creating additional playing space. The facility receives heavy use, and the program was designed to create new fields in part to distribute the extensive wear the site receives.

Last month, the three bodies approved a bid for the project to contractor A. Juliano and Son for \$694,000. The anticipated cost of the project ran higher than initial projections because

of additional work related to the stabilization of a nearby stream bed. On Nov. 14, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education approved the agreement, which entails loans from the Township of Scotch Plains and the Borough of Fanwood in the amount of \$75,000, to be repaid over three years.

The board had initially set aside \$100,000 for the project. The remainder of the funding has been approved by Scotch Plains, Fanwood, and the Union County Board of Freeholders.

Trailer to be installed at Wilson?

By GREG MARK
THE RECORD PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Board of Education may have to install a trailer at Wilson School for the next school year to handle growing enrollment, Business Administrator Robert Berman said.

The board approved a resolution Tuesday to pay an architect \$10,250 to prepare plans for the installation of the trailer. It's

unclear at this point whether the trailer will be necessary, but district administrators said taking that step puts the board in a pro-active position.

The board has in the past had to use two trailers at Franklin School, and currently has one at Washington School, Berman said. Trailers have never been used at Wilson.

If the trailer is necessary, it will be up to the building principal to decide exactly how it fits

into the instructional program. But Berman said it would most likely be used for small group instruction, housing eight to 10 students at a time.

The students would probably not spend more than 45 minutes at a stretch in the trailer, which would not be equipped with restroom facilities, Berman said.

If the trailer is necessary, it will be in place to start the school year next September.

Township to get a new cell tower

(Continued from page A-1)

has recently experienced extended battles over the placement of cell towers.

Marks added that township taxpayers often ask council members to produce revenue to offset taxes, and the tower could be one solution. "People are always concerned about property taxes," Marks said, "and this is one possibility for alternative means of revenue generation."

Town Attorney Doug Hansen said that if a cell phone gap is

determined to exist, the township can not prevent the construction of an independent tower elsewhere in town. In addition,

Councilwoman Paulette Coranato said the council cannot deny an application to construct a tower for health reasons, as the FCC has determined that cell tower emissions are not considered harmful. The council has determined that the proposed tower meets all health and safety standards.

Council members also addressed concerns that the new

tower — about 25-30 feet higher than the existing communications tower it will replace — will be an eyesore. "While (we believe) beauty is in the eye of the beholder," Marks said, "we will work to make the aesthetics as pleasing as is reasonably possible."

Councilmembers emphasized, however, that the primary goal of the tower was to improve safety in the township. "We backed into the cell tower from the need to replace the fire tower," Hansen said.

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Removal of trees frustrates officials

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — An incident in which a developer was recently fined \$2,500 for cutting down five trees without gaining prior approval has frustrated Town Council members and prompted the chairman of the Tree Preservation Commission to call for stronger regulatory controls.

Last month, D. Villane Construction, LLC of Scotch Plains removed the five trees as part of a demolition project at 817 Grant Ave. As part of its original application made Oct. 15, the developer stated it did not intend to remove trees. However, on Nov. 10 the firm revised the application, stating it did intend to remove the trees.

The demolition was approved Nov. 12, but the change to the application was evidently not included in the town's approval. The Tree Preservation Commission (TPC), which has the opportunity to comment on applications before the Planning Board, never had a chance to see the revised site plan.

At their conference meeting Nov. 25, some council members expressed frustration that the developer may have intentionally circumvented the process. Council members wondered how many infractions the town should tolerate before denying a developer the right to do work in the town. It was suggested that a second infraction should be sufficient for denying future construction by an offending developer.

"Right now, we have a process. But there is no first offense unless we act on it," said Councilman Rafael Betancourt.

The developer can be denied a building permit if it does not pay the \$2,500 fine for illegally cutting down the trees.

Michael Snizek, chairman of the TPC, said the Grant Avenue incident coupled with an earlier situation on Harding Street shows that the commission's rules are being circumvented. Because the ordinance establishing the commission allows owners to remove as many trees as they want without a permit, Snizek said that potential developers can entice property owners to remove trees prior to selling properties to the developer.

Snizek said he thinks it is necessary for the Planning Board's adjuncts (the Tree Preservation, Historic Preservation, and Architectural Review committees) to hold a summit to more effectively manage development in the future.

"I would like to see a symposium on intelligent planning in Westfield bringing together the community, Planning Board, and developers," he said.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Doing the heavy lifting

Volunteers Dan Villalobos of Westfield, left, and Kevin Brown of Cranford pull dead branches from the brush at Lenape Park on Springfield Avenue in Westfield. Saturday's clean-up event was another in Union County's efforts to do a little fall cleaning at area parks with the help of volunteers.

Board rejects subdivision application on Prospect Street

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Planning Board voted 5-1 to reject a proposed subdivision on Prospect Street at its meeting Monday. The applicants for the subdivision, Bruce and Edna Ashforth, were seeking to create two single-family building lots from an existing single lot.

In the subdivision's extended final hearing, their fourth on the matter, board members heard extended testimony from Bruce Ashforth related to the chronology of his ownership interests on the property.

Ashforth purchased his property in 1967 and a nearby lot in 1974, always with the intention of developing the second lot. He constructed a driveway on the second lot and did sewer work as well. In 1981 contiguous lots under the same title, including the Ashforth's, were merged into one lot. And after a series of zoning changes over the next years, the town's 1995 master plan settled the upper Prospect Street area into an RS-40 zone, designed to protect the low-density area from development. It was the RS-40 zone from which Ashforth sought several variances.

The RS-40 zone requires that lots contain an area of 40,000 square feet, a width of 150 feet, a depth of 200 feet, and frontage of generally 150 feet. Ashforth sought to gain a variance for 33,375 square feet of area, 125 feet of width, and several other minor nonconforming zoning conditions.

An attorney representing several neighborhood families opposed to the application argued that the variance was unjustified because the Ashforths had not shown that there was an overall benefit to the zone or anyone but the applicant. Concerns about wetlands and drainage were also raised.

Ashforth's attorney argued that

the area of the property was unique because of 40,000 square feet of wastage, or unutilized space. He argued that the streetscape would not be affected by the construction of a single family home on the property, and that there would be no detriment to the neighborhood. He added that the new lot would not be significantly different from existing lots. But members of the public who spoke at the hearing disagreed with that assertion.

Susan Stern, who lives on Prospect Street, pleaded to the board to preserve the integrity of the town. "Your zoning has preserved our neighborhood," she said, referring to the 1995 zoning decision. "The upper Prospect area provides something other areas don't provide," she added, noting its "secluded, rustic environment."

Nancy Pendergast of Prospect Street testified that the area has become a haven for joggers and even small mammals like deer and foxes. "Preserve the character (the street) lends to the community," she said, noting that development on Prospect Street manipulates wetlands and would create an added population burden on Franklin Elementary School.

Some residents who spoke feared establishing a precedent for development in the area. Resident Barbara Lang said, "The subdivi-

sion would open a Pandora's Box for similar properties on the cusp of being opened to development." Another resident suggested that debris and runoff from previous Prospect St. construction has affected several ponds downstream and that further construction could exacerbate the problem.

Board members expressed similar sentiments. "This is a unique, special area of Westfield," said member Martin Robins.

Town engineer Ken Marsh also expressed concern over the 125 foot width the variance would have permitted. And board chairman Jay Boyle said permitting the reduced lot width could quickly lead to the 60 foot width seen elsewhere in town. "The word neighborhood sticks out in my mind," he said. "Many neighborhoods don't exist in town anymore."

Bruce Long was the only board member who voted to approve the subdivision. "It was always the intent of the owner for two lots," he said. "I don't see a great detriment to the neighborhood." Long added that he felt the applicant had demonstrated that wetlands issues had been addressed, and said he didn't feel the subdivision would have set a precedent.

"Mr. Ashforth was caught between a rock and a hard place," Long said.

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Special ed students doing well on tests

But district is continuing search for new methods to improve instruction

By GREG MARX
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Special education students in local schools are performing above federal guidelines on statewide proficiency tests, but that didn't keep district administrators and Board of Education members from engaging in a lengthy discussion Tuesday night about how to improve the quality of instruction those students receive.

According to information presented by Assistant Superintendent Margaret Dolan, the special education population surpassed the "adequate yearly progress" requirements established in the No Child Left Behind Act.

On the High School Proficiency Assessment, given to 11th-graders, 82.3 percent of special education students scored proficient or better in language arts; the federal standard for 2003 was 73 percent. In math, 64 percent were proficient, while the federal standard was 55 percent.

On the Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment, 66.3 percent were proficient or better in language arts (the federal standard is 58 percent) and 46.3 percent in math (compared to 39 percent).

On the fourth-grade NJ Ask test, 81.5 percent were proficient in language arts (compared to 68 percent) and 78 percent in math (compared to 53 percent).

In all of the different areas, we clearly surpassed what was required," Dolan said. She also noted the district's special education population outperformed by far the county-wide average.

Under the No Child Left Behind Act, federal standards for proficiency will rise every two years until, by 2014, every tested child must demonstrate proficiency in all areas. Administrators took another opportunity Tuesday to criticize that goal as unrealistic, but acknowledged the law has placed new emphasis on sub-populations such as special education students.

"It's definitely going to focus our efforts," said Superintendent William Foley. "...We're really going to have to look at what works and make that the basis of the IEP." An IEP is an individual plan

which must be prepared annually for each special education student. To that end, administrators, board members and parents discussed possible improvements to the program.

Foley noted that one of the challenges is that in "replacement" classes — classes which replace mainstream classes for special education students, and which are intended for students with the most severe need — instruction often strays away from the core curriculum standards. That discrepancy leaves students less prepared for standardized tests and, according to parent Laura Sullivan, makes the transition back to a mainstream classroom more difficult.

Foley said the district, which now uses certified teachers of the handicapped for those classes, may have to switch to teachers with more expertise in specific subject areas.

Also discussed was the discrepancy in methods between the middle schools; Edison uses an "in-class support" model in which certified teachers are assigned to help instruct a group of special education students in a mainstream classroom, while Roosevelt uses paraprofessionals who do not have instructional expertise often provide more individualized attention.

Foley said "there's no real evidence to suggest that one's better than the other," and said the best solution may be a mixture of the two models.

District officials also acknowledged the guidance department needs to work more successfully with special education students, who make up about 15 percent of the total student population and more than half of whom pursue higher education. And Assistant Superintendent Theodore Kozlik made a pitch to board members for, among other things, more planning time for teachers and a special services supervisor for the elementary and intermediate levels.

The board took no action on the issue Tuesday, but said it would take up the topic again soon. Improving instruction and performance for special education students is among the board's goal for the current school year.



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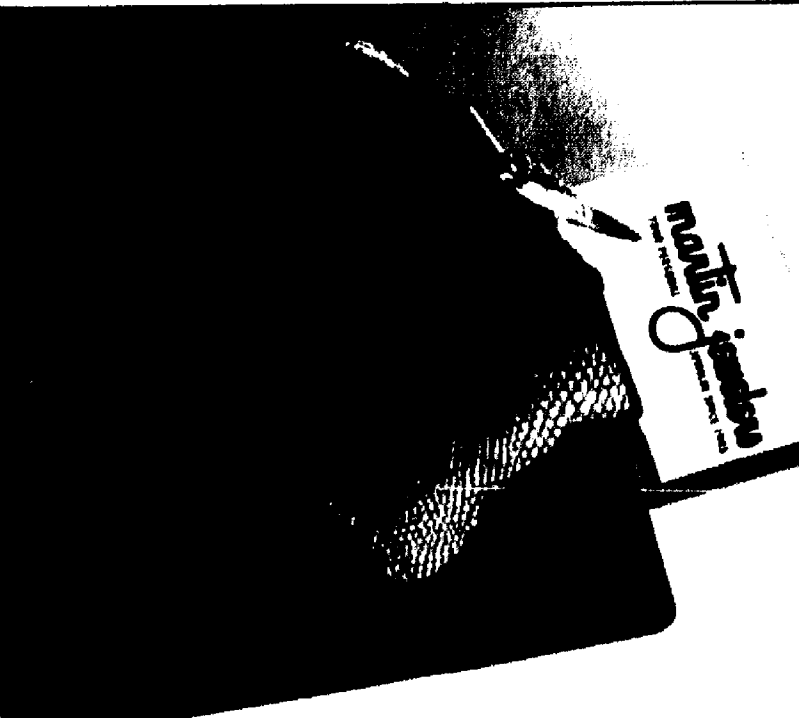
Tuesday, December 9
5:30pm - 7:00pm
Elizabeth Campus
12 West Jersey Street

Trinitas School of Nursing • Engineering • ESL
Continuing Education Programs • and More!

Monday, December 8
5:30pm - 7:00pm
Plainfield Campus
232 East Second Street

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For more details call 908-709-7818 or visit us at www.ucc.edu



Join Us,

The event will kick off on Thursday, Dec. 4 with refreshments from 5pm to 8pm

Martin Jewelers

will donate ten dollars from the sale of each Kelly Bag from Wolf Designs to the Muhlenberg Hospital Auxiliary for Muhlenberg Hospital Cardiac Care Unit.

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Commentary

Seeing with 2020 vision

The end of the year is always a good time to reflect on the past and look to the future. It is time for residents of New Jersey to pause and ponder what their state will be like in nearly two decades — an example of developing 2020 vision.

Perhaps the most overriding issue in the coming years will be controlling development. New Jersey is already the most highly developed state in the country; if the real estate boom continues to be robust, more growth, particularly in the suburbs, is inevitable. Suburbs that were rural areas 20 years ago will be small cities in 2020. And they will have the same problems as all small cities — traffic, crime, environmental pressures, maintaining the quality of public education etc. That also means today's rural areas are likely to become tomorrow's suburbs. Remember what New Jersey was in 1980 and consider all the changes in the last two decades; the next two decades will probably have even more changes.

It is never too early to start planning for the future development of the state. "Smart Growth," the latest fashionable buzz word in planning, may not be enough to preserve the state's quality of life. For example, municipalities throughout New Jersey are eager to host corporations; after all, a corporate headquarters generates plenty of property tax revenue without requiring a proportionate amount of municipal services. However, a major corporation moving into a suburban area generates considerable more traffic on highways that are already congested, and more housing in "fringe" areas between developed suburbs and rural areas. That increase in population then places more pressure on the local board of education, which then has to raise property taxes. And that, in turn, prompts local officials to begin the search for more property tax ratables, which then starts the vicious cycle all over again.

So perhaps it really isn't good news when a corporation announces plans to locate in your suburban town. What should be done to rein in development?

More teeth should be put into the state master plan, a document that offers a reasonable vision for the future of New Jersey. Regional planning that stretches across county borders needs to be developed. More tax incentives should be given for corporations to locate in urban areas, where mass transit is available and the need for an economic boost is more needed. And, of course, there should be less reliance on property taxes to fund municipal government and public education. When a better and more just way is found to fund public education, then the pressure to lure property tax ratables will be relieved from municipalities.

Unfortunately, given the perpetual climate of avoidance in Trenton, New Jersey will still be stuck with an antiquated property tax system two decades from now. No candidate, however, will promise true reform; calling for a more progressive income tax to shift the burden from the low and middle-class property tax burden requires more political courage than is available in Trenton. Rebates and deductions are not the answer; they just complicate the situation. Radical reform is needed so that the state can finally fulfill its just obligation to public school funding. But until the property tax system is overhauled, development will continue to inch into rural areas and the Garden State may eventually become the Parking Lot State.

Despite all the rhetoric from politicians begging for your vote with pledges to limit growth, the urbanization of New Jersey will continue to creep toward new frontiers in the next two decades. The voters must let candidates know that enough is enough.

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 suggestions, questions or comments. For sports, call Daniel Murphy at (732) 396-4202.

Our address: *The Record-Press*, 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ, 07066.

Our fax number is (732) 574-2613.

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



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Letters to the editor

AARP sells out members on Medicare

To The Record-Press:
The AARP, also known as the American Society for Retired Persons, has continually violated its commitment to its members.

During the past five years, the AARP national dues have been raised two times without any input from its general membership. Now, the hierarchy of the AARP at its push headquarters in Washington, D.C., including President William Novelli, who earns about \$300,000 per year and many other highly paid executives, have suddenly switched their weeks of opposition and officially approved the disastrous Congressional bill for revising Medicare and providing an expensive scheme for senior citizens to obtain prescription drugs.

My dues have been paid, but my fellow members and I have not been asked for our opinions on this issue. AARP members, particularly those who belong to local clubs, are steadfastly questioning and protesting many of the revisions contained in the Congressional bill. Many members are tearing up their membership cards or letting their already-paid dues expire.

Affordable Medicare, as we now know it, will be

virtually abolished for the middle class. The only persons who will benefit more are those who have less than \$6,000 in assets and/or those with incomes below the so-called poverty level. A built-in feature will be millions to be spent for the health care of aliens.

There will also be an option to privatize Medicare so that private insurance companies will be able to sell health benefit deals with escalating premiums. Among those offering health benefit insurance is the AARP, which also promotes sales of bonds, automobile insurance similar to AAA, and other commodities.

AARP tries to pass itself off as being the spokesman for retired persons, and works desperately to direct the senior citizen vote at the polling places to follow its recommendations. It forgets that the older person has a great deal of wisdom and has spent years researching, analyzing, and making prudent individual decisions. The AARP has very little influence on molding the minds of older persons, and it should consult with its general membership on major decisions.

HAZEL HARDGROVE
Springfield

HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING YET?

		
RAOUL LARRINAGA Fanwood	BONNIE GOLD Scotch Plains	SUSAN MENAKER Mountainside
No, we don't do a lot of holiday shopping.	Yes, I've done some of it. But I will probably be done on Christmas Eve.	Yes, I will be finished in a couple of weeks.
		
NANCY BATEMAN Westfield	FRANK DIMONDI Cranford	ANGIE DAILEY Cranford
Yes, I guess I will finish shopping at the last minute.	No, I don't usually do much shopping.	Yes, I went shopping on Black Friday. This year I have to be done shopping by the 15th.

Jersey Boy



The lament of a retired pro moper

Mike Deak

The one thing I miss about being young is not having permission to mope.

When you're in your late teens or early 20s, you're expected to mope. It's part of the maturation process, like acne. It's the time of your life when the chemicals secreted by the part of your brain called the Modula Seattle cause you to revel in existential disdain.

Because I fancied myself an artistic type, I was a great moper at my college, Johns Hopkins, which is known for its classic intramural mope competitions.

Unlike my classmates who feverishly competed for spots in medical or law school, I tried to restore moping to a high art form by writing lengthy essays in the college newspaper about the joys of moping. The essays were popular because they gave the so-called "throats" (what is the comparable slang these days?) the vicarious thrills into the moper culture, where you placed yourself above the rigorous demands of the academic world and instead retreated to a world of television reruns and long mournful conversations with fellow mopers.

Do not confuse moping with depression. Depression is a clinical disease; moping is a rational way of life. (I was born too soon to have Keanu Reeves.) People who mope do not engage in self-destructive behavior, like drinking or taking drugs; we mopers engage in self-indulgent behavior, like endless debates whether Kierkegaard would have liked Bachman-Turner Overdrive or writing *The Great American Novel* about a young college student from a small Central Jersey town who becomes the savage lover of Ayn Rand's niece.

Mopers have very little social life, except for communal whining and complaining. Sometimes mopers of the opposite sex come together in a tortured relationship marked by desultory passion and long, uncomfortable silences in which neither one dares to speak of any emotions that refused to be stirred. If you dare fantasize about the future of the relationship, your ideal is reading Kafka — in separate books, of course — in a dark, damp coffeehouse on a rainy January day in Prague. The relationship lapses in and out of activity and eventually it sputters to a close with a faint and sweet trace of wistfulness that often signals the beginning of *The Grand Mope*.

I remember my mopes with a great deal of fondness. They were times when *The Mope Muse* guided my hand across electric typewriter keys to compose audacious sentences and sentiments I would never dare to express today. When I'm forced to confront the growing pile of ancient clips at home, inevitably I find one of those moper essays and though I may be embarrassed by some of the content, I am impressed by the foolish courage that propelled me to reveal the withered soul of the moper.

I remember being intensely happy when I wrote the darkest passages about the minutiae of a moper's life. It was a young writer's Catch 22. I couldn't write unless I was moping, but the act of writing roused me out of the mope. To this day, I sometimes fear the torrent of creativity still starts with just a drip of mope.

But now, more than halfway through my actuarial predicted life, I can not afford to mope. There are responsibilities to fill and bills to be paid. Moping is no longer acceptable once you leave college, once you get that degree, you are not permitted to ponder the meaning of life or wonder why Europeans eat with forks in their left hands. The business of life — and, yes, it is a business — does not allow you the time and energy to uncover the secret meaning of life or "leave it to Beaver" reruns.

That's why, on my next vacation, I'm going to Club Mope for a week. Just for old time's sake.

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 Record-Press*, 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ, 07066, fax them to (732) 574-2613 or e-mail them to union@njpublishing.com.

Students help build homes, and friendship

ELIZABETH — The girls of Brownie Girl Scout Troop 99, second-graders from Westfield's Wilson Elementary School, made sandwiches and brownies and then provided the lunch to volunteers installing sheetrock at a Habitat for Humanity home site in Elizabeth recently.

Not old enough to successfully wield a hammer, they wanted to find another way to help, and came up with feeding the adult volunteers. They originally envisioned a project to help others, but the girls found they got something in return — the fun of making new friends.

The girls made macrame friendship bracelets with the daughter of the soon-to-be homeowner, 8-year-old Brianna, and her cousins Jessica and Cynthia. The girls shared crafts, stories, and childhood nicknames with their new friends — the only difficulty was trying to talk over the sounds of pounding hammers! The Brownies are looking forward to seeing the house when it is finished later this winter.



Cynthia La Rossa (rear row, far left), Jessica La Rossa (rear row, far right) and Brianna Wilkerson (front row, far left) of Elizabeth hang out with Westfield Brownies Caitlyn Tierney, Audrey Bangs, Shea Fitzpatrick, Rachel Holtzman, Emma Kao, Belle Hutchins and Nora Moriarty.

Willow Grove plans an Advent Festival

Sunday's event will feature holiday crafts and treats

SCOTCH PLAIN — Willow Grove Presbyterian Church will hold its 25th annual Advent Festival 4:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Everyone is welcome, singles or families, youngsters or oldsters, connected to a congregation or not, knowing no one or knowing many. All are invited to participate in the fun. Babies and toddlers will be safe and well-cared for in the Children's Ark.

There will be activities appropriate for adults and children, including holiday crafts for home decor, cookie-baking and icing, a Christmas playlet presented by and including all the children present (with a cute script and some adult guidance), fellowship over a simple supper, a brief time of devotions and singing of old favorite Christmas carols.

On display will be materials from Heifer Project International, a mission organization dedicated to providing needy families in developing countries with live animals which they care for and whose natural products, such as eggs, milk, wool, can be sold to

improve the family income. The Advent Festival Committee thought it especially appropriate at this holiday gift-giving time to provide the opportunity for practical gifts that could immeasurably improve the lives of people struggling in poverty. Depending on the size of individual donations, Heifer Project will provide a needy family with a flock of chickens or a goat, a pair of rabbits or a sheep. Gift cards will be available for purchase that Sunday.

The four weeks preceding Dec. 25, Christmas Day, are commemorated by Christians as Advent, the period set aside in the church calendar for the preparation of hearts, minds and spirits to welcome the birth of Jesus on Christmas. This Willow Grove Advent Festival seeks to enable attendees to catch glimpses of the coming joy and experience the true reason for the season's glow.

Willow Grove, fully handicapped-accessible, is located at 1961 Raritan Rd., across the street from the Scotch Plains Southside Firehouse.

For more information or to sign up to attend, call the church office during weekday morning hours at (908) 232-5678, or phone Barbara Couphos at (908) 322-7892.

Aaron Doliber earns rank of Eagle Scout

Service project involved restoration of the Fanwood Nature Center

Boy Scout Troop 33 of Fanwood and Scotch Plains recently announced Aaron Doliber has done something that only two percent of scouts are able to achieve — he has completed the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout.

In recognition of this achievement, an Eagle Scout Court of Honor was conducted Nov. 24 at Fanwood Presbyterian Church to award the rank and celebrate the accomplishment with his troop. Family members and other significant people in Aaron's life. The ceremony was opened by Fanwood Mayor Jung reading the proclamation marking the day as "Aaron Doliber Day".

For his Eagle Service Project, Aaron planned, organized, and conducted a restoration of the Fanwood Nature Center. The project included cleaning trash from the trails and creek, clearing deadfall, creating trail borders, restoring the trails with wood chips, and painting benches. More than 30 scouts and parents participated over two weekends. The work involved coordination with the Public Works and the Environmental Commission.

Aaron, a sophomore at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, began his scouting career as a



Aaron Doliber of Boy Scout Troop 33 officially became an Eagle Scout in a Nov. 24 ceremony.

Cub Scout with Pack 4 at All Saints Episcopal Church and has been a member of Troop 33 since May 1999. He has been a pillar of the troop, having attended every one of the troop's 39 overnight camping trips since joining the troop. Aaron is the son of Randy and Suzanne Doliber. His younger brother, Patrick, is a Life Scout in Troop 33.

Rowan joins Overlook staff

The Cancer Center at Overlook Hospital recently welcomed a local resident to its staff.

Emile Rowan, LCSW, of Westfield is a clinical licensed social worker and brings 18 years of experience in the mental health field to aid oncology patients. Since Rowan's arrival, there are new support programs for cancer patients and their families in addition to enhanced current groups, educational workshops and mind-body programs.

Rowan has extensive professional and personal experience in all aspects of illness and dealing with the stress brought about by the impact cancer brings into one's life. As a result of losing a parent to cancer, she has developed tools to cope and adjust to the emotional changes cancer brings.

Among the new programs, "The Journey Ahead" is a new

group designed to be a cancer patient orientation program and empower patients in the treatment process. Sessions are scheduled 9-10:30 a.m. Jan. 6 and 20.

"Facing the Challenge" is another support group designed to meet the psycho-social needs of the cancer patient and caregivers. This series addresses in an open-ended forum issues for the patient and their caregivers in a supportive group setting. The next workshop is Dec. 19; call (908) 522-5349 to register.

Rowan facilitates a grieving group for family members who have lost a loved one due to cancer. This support group, "Recovery from Loss" meets every 4-5:30 p.m. Mondays.

Rowan can be reached directly at (908) 522-5255 for information or to register for any oncology support program. All support programs are free of charge.

Meet new director of special services

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Learning Disabilities Association of Scotch Plains-Fanwood invites parents, guardians and caregivers with children receiving any type of additional educational services to meet Thomas Beese, the new director of special services for the district.

The morning event will take place over coffee and tea 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School on Westfield Road. The event should be a great opportunity for parents to bring any questions or concerns about a child's education, services, district processes, last year's self-assessment or anything else relating to special education in the district.

Beese has worked in the field of special education for 24 years in a variety of settings, ranging from urban to suburban and large and small school districts. Beese has worked as a teacher, learning consultant, principal, director and assistant superintendent.

A graduate of William Paterson, he earned his master's degree also at William Paterson College, his administration certification at Keon and his doctoral credits at Seton Hall.

This meeting is free and open to all. Sign up to guarantee a seat by calling (908) 322-4020, ext. 5 or go online at www.ldasnj.org

Executive offers tips on retirement

WESTFIELD — Leon Fern, regional vice president of GE Financial Corp., will lead "The GE Retirement Answer," the third workshop in the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce Business Workshop Series, 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at UBS Financial Services, 109 North Ave.

Fern will discuss how business owners can create a retirement plan for themselves

and/or their employees and explain how to "guarantee" retirement income.

All are welcome to attend. Admission to the workshop is \$20 for WACC members, \$30 for non-members.

Proceeds go to the WACC Scholarship for a graduating Westfield High School student. Contact the chamber office at (908) 233-3021 for more information or to reserve a space.

Your Invitation To The
Westfield Winter Stroll
Sunday, December 7th 3-7pm
Join us!

Participating merchants will be donating a percentage of the evening's receipts to The Education Fund of Westfield
This Year's Participating Stores:

<p>North Avenue Adler's Jewelers MotoPhoto Michael Kohn Jewelers</p> <p>Prospect Street Many Clever Hands Sole Rituals Hair & Body Spa</p> <p>Quimby Street Anthology Castle Bootery Mother & Baby Co Scott's Shoes</p>	<p>East Broad Unlimited Communications Menina The Leader Store American Shoe Rep/Luggage Classic Thyme Gift Monkey Bella Rena Nirvana Town Book Store Baron's Drugs Cellular Signal Plus The Golden Bee Antiques</p>	<p>Elm Street Lancaster's Juxtapose Gallery Success Express The Papery The Green Room Anais Kabloom Periwinkles Fine Gifts Planet Smoothie The Flower Zone</p> <p>Central Avenue Douglas Cosmetics Detailing, New York</p>
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Look for the "Proud Sponsor of the Education Fund" signs on the participating merchant's door
The Ed Fund Thanks these wonderful local stores for supporting our schools! With special thanks to Copies Now, Downtown Westfield Corporation And the musical performers for the evening.

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Ellen R. Rarner, CGA Jeff Robbins, RJ

Holiday Hours Starting Sunday, December 7
Sundays, December 7, 14, 21-11:00am-8:00pm
Monday-Friday 9:45am-8:30pm, Saturday 9:30am-5:00pm

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NOW IN OUR 58th YEAR



Fleet Holiday Toy Drive. Make a deposit.

Just bring a new, unwrapped toy to your local Fleet branch. Or make a financial donation at the branch or through Fleet HomeLink™ Online Banking at fleet.com. The program runs from November 10 through December 19, and all gifts go to charities right in your local community. So please give generously.



All donations will be distributed to local charities, including **Drunk Jeter's Fun Foundation**.

Forward Thinking **Fleet**

This week

FRIDAY

DEC. 5
MAYOR'S GALA — in Scotch Plains, to benefit local charities. An evening of dining, dancing and socializing for the whole community.

EL GRECO EXHIBIT — tour the works of the famous painter at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, sponsored by Friends of Westfield Memorial Library.

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.

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.

HEALING SERVICE — for those who are ill and their caretakers. 6 p.m. Temple Sholom Chapel in Fanwood Presbyterian Church, Martine and LaGrande avenues.

SUNDAY

DEC. 7
HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS — annual house tour sponsored by the Cranford Junior Woman's Club. A chance to see the interiors of four distinguished local homes.

WINTER STROLL — seasonal promotion returns to downtown Westfield. Many local stores participate in activities to benefit Education Fund of Westfield.

'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 slerman@jccnj.org.

'OLD-FASHIONED HOLIDAY' — 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.

JEWISH ART LECTURE — by Laura Krueger, curator of the Jewish Institute of Religion Museum at the Hebrew Union College. 10:30 a.m.-noon. Union Catholic High School, Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains. (908) 889-4900.

ADVENT FESTIVAL — for the whole family. 4:30-7:30 p.m. Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains. (908) 232-5678.

MONDAY

DEC. 8
PNEUMONIA VACCINATION — sponsored by Westfield Regional Health Department, open to Westfield and Fanwood residents. 9-11 a.m. Westfield Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St.

Open only to those who have pre-registered.

WEDNESDAY

DEC. 10
PAJAMA PARTY — for kids age 3-6. Children can enjoy bedtime story, a craft activity, a video and hot chocolate. 7 p.m. Westfield Memorial Library, East Broad Street. In-person registration is required and begins Dec. 1.

MEET THOMAS BEESE — the new director of special services for Scotch Plains-Fanwood. 9:30 a.m. SP-F High School, Westfield Road. To register, (908) 322-4020, ext. 5 or www.ldaspf.org.

SATURDAY

DEC. 13
HOLIDAY EXCURSION — trip to Bethlehem, Pa., "America's Christmas City." To register, call the Community School of Scotch Plains-Fanwood at (908) 889-7718 or the Scotch Plains Recreation Department at (908) 322-6700. 'GETTING ORGANIZED' — talk by Beverly Yackel for the Genealogical Society of the West Fields. 10 a.m. Westfield Memorial Library. Open to the public.

Car parked over leaves catches fire

SCOTCH PLAINS

A vehicle belonging to a Princeton Avenue resident caught fire Saturday, according to police, it appears the vehicle was parked over a pile of leaves. The Scotch Plains Fire Department arrived to extinguish the fire.

A Union Catholic student reported that her purse was stolen from a vehicle that was left unattended Nov. 24.

The student reported she was cleaning out her locker when she placed her purse inside the vehicle. She returned after a moment and the purse was gone.

On Nov. 25 a worker from the Jewish Federation of New Jersey reported a computer removed from her office.

The theft occurred sometime between Nov. 18 and Nov. 25. The computer had been secured inside an office.

A member from the Knights of Columbus located on North Avenue reported illegal dumping Nov. 25.

A resident of Rambling Drive got a rude Thanksgiving Day sur-

Police Log

prise, as his 1995 Acura Integra was stolen from his driveway. The theft occurred sometime between 6:15 p.m. Nov. 26 and 9 a.m. Nov. 27.

The owner said the vehicle had been left unlocked.

WESTFIELD

After being stopped for a motor vehicle violation, Monica Flora of Cumberland Street was arrested for driving while intoxicated Nov. 25.

On Nov. 25 Jacob Tuano of Trenton was arrested on warrants out of Westfield, Millburn, Hillside, and Kearny.

A resident of Westfield Ave. reported someone entered his unlocked vehicle and removed cash, a cell phone, and a pocketknife Monday.

On Monday, Dante Mariani of Kenilworth was arrested on an open warrant out of Harrison. Mariani was arrested after police were called in to check out a suspicious person on Central Ave.

Scotch Plains man charged in robbery

Allegedly brandished toy gun at guard

By JENNIFER McCANDLESS STAFF WRITER

WATCHUNG — A Scotch Plains man was arrested and charged with armed robbery Nov. 24 after he allegedly pulled a toy gun on a security officer at Target in the Watchung Square Mall.

Somerset County Prosecutor Wayne Forrest said Darren Easley, 55, was seen taking items from store shelves and placing them in his pockets. Store security officers attempted to detain him, but he allegedly pulled the gun from his pocket and threatened the officers.

Police said Easley ran from the store, dropping several packs of razor blades, to a vehicle waiting outside and fled. Store employees obtained a license

plate number, which police used to stop the vehicle later that day in Fanwood.

The driver, Charles Jones, was alone in the car and was questioned by police. Surveillance videos from Target showed Jones was not the alleged shoplifter, and police used the videos to identify the shoplifter as Easley.

Jones was released, but was kept under police surveillance, Forrest said. Jones drove to Plainfield where he reportedly picked up Easley.

Police then stopped the vehicle near Route 22 and Easley was arrested, Forrest said. Police allegedly found the toy handgun that was used in the robbery in Easley's pocket. Jones was not charged, but the investigation is continuing.

Easley was charged with armed robbery, possession of a weapon and simple assault. His bail was set at \$45,000. He was taken to Somerset County Jail.

A Sunday 'Stroll' returns to Westfield

WESTFIELD — As the holiday season draws nearer, officials planning the third annual Westfield Winter Stroll remind residents that this year's event, including an array of stores, will take place Sunday. This stroll, sponsored by The Education Fund of Westfield, will run 3-7 p.m.

Stores participating in the stroll include Anthology, Adlers Jewelers, Baron's Drug Store, Castle Bootery, Cellular Signal Plus, Classic Thyme, Details NY, Douglas Cosmetics, The Flower Zone, The Gift Monkey, Golden Bee Antiques, Juxtapose Gallery, Kabloom, Lancasters Hallmark, The Leader Store, Many Clever Hands, Menina Mother & Baby Co., Moto Photo, The Papery, Periwinkles Fine Gifts, Planet Smoothie, Scott's Shoes, Sole, Success Express, and The Town Book Store.

Participating merchants may also be identified by posters displayed in their windows.

Refreshments will be provided at several locations, along with street entertainment. The Little Opera Company of New Jersey will perform during the evening, as will the Watson Highlanders Pipe Band and Escape-Women's Barbershop Quartet. And Ted Schlosberg, executive director and founder of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, will be back to play his famous alphorn.

Childcare for the event will be provided through the Westfield Y and proceeds from the evening's childcare will benefit the Westfield Y Teen Programs.

The Education Fund of Westfield, Inc. provided more than \$30,000 in the past year in grants for programs and projects that were not included in the operational budget of local schools.

For more information on the Winter Stroll, contact Beth Payhojas at (908) 654-8954 or Merry Wisler at (908) 233-2646.

Witty's Discount Wines & Liquors. 870 St. George Ave., Rahway, CVS Shopping Center • 732-381-6776 • FAX 732-381-8008. LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED. Bring in any competitor's ad or coupon and we will meet or beat that price subject to ABC regulations.

Witty's liquor price list. Includes categories like SEAGRAMS 7 CROWN, JOHNIE WALKER RED, ABSOLUT, BACARDI RUM, MALIBU, SKYY, SMIRNOFF, Vodka, and various wine and beer selections with prices per bottle.

New Jersey International Arts & Crafts EXPO. at Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset • Dec 5, 6 and 7. Live Entertainment for adults & kids • Food available • Over 100 Vendors. For details call 908-222-1152.

Looking for Cancer Treatment Options? www.njctc.org 866-788-3929. Operated by The Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

Community Life

Briefs

Carolers will sing for charity next week

SCOTCH PLAINS — Carolers in Scotch Plains and Fanwood will stop by homes to sing holiday melodies 4-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11.

Donations will benefit the Tiny Tim Fund, a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to children in Fanwood and Scotch Plains who are in need of medical care and cannot afford it. To have the carolers stop at your home, leave porch lights on between 4 and 9 p.m.

Contributions may also be made directly to The Tiny Tim Fund, P.O. Box 181, Fanwood, NJ 07023. For additional information, call Mari at (908) 233-6513.

Blood drive Saturday at Presbyterian Church

FANWOOD — The deacons of Fanwood Presbyterian Church will conduct their annual blood drive 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday in the church dining room.

Because blood can only be stored for 42 days before being discarded, it is especially important to participate in blood drives on a regular basis.

Marie Forrestal of the New Jersey Blood Services said added that during the holiday season, blood supplies tend to drop to a low three-day level. She added that this year, in addition to blood donations, New Jersey Blood Services will be accepting platelet donations.

The church is located at the corner of Martine and LaGrande avenues in Fanwood. For additional information, call the church office at (908) 889-8891.

Speaker to address canine companions

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Y, located at 220 Clark St., has announced the next meeting of the Arthritis Education and Support Group will be 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday. The meeting will feature Carole Dunscombe from the organization Canine Companions for Independence. Dunscombe will speak and demonstrate the effectiveness of dogs in assisting people with disabilities.

The Arthritis Education and Support Group is free and open to the public. It offers participants a comfortable environment to meet and discuss day to day issues and share current arthritis information. The group is offered in conjunction with the North Jersey Regional Arthritis Center. Call (908) 233-2700 for more information or to register.

Torah Center presents lecture on Maimonides

WESTFIELD — The Union County Torah Center will present its third installment of the history course titled "Great Heroes in Jewish History: A Taste of Spain" 8 p.m. Wednesday at the center, located at 418 Central Ave.

The subject of the lecture will be Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon (Rambam, 1135 - 1204) otherwise known as Maimonides. He was the most eminent Jewish philosopher of the Middle Ages.

Rabbi, doctor, scholar and writer, Maimonides continues to fascinate Jewish scholars with his writings to this day. Rabbi Mitchell Bomrind of Kean University and the JEC will give the lecture.

No branch collection yet in Scotch Plains

SCOTCH PLAINS — In response to resident requests, the township recently announced it intends to complete leaf pick-up before beginning collection of downed branches.

Recent rough weather patterns have complicated leaf pick-up, creating several problems dealing with drainage and cleanliness of roads. In addition, the township cannot mix tree parts with leaves because branches do not break down during the composting process. The leaves are hauled to the Union County Conservation Center for processing, and the county does not permit any other vegetative waste.

After the leaf pick-up is completed, the township will assist residents by picking up branches brought down by the recent storms. Officials said they will have a more specific update in the near future on the starting time for tree branch and limb collection.

Stained-glass artists lead a colorful life

Couple works together in life, and art

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD PRESS

Lee Renner and Marc Faust just opened a major commissioned stained-glass artwork at John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison, but they're willing to create just about anything, as long as it is a challenge.

The married couple, who live in Fanwood, began their professional collaboration 18 years ago. Renner was an illustrator and studied at the School of Visual Art in New York, while Faust started in the printing industry and as a painter. Somehow, they both found their way into working with glass.

"I got burnt out (in the printing industry) and decided it was time to do something different," Faust said.

Renner and Faust work on their projects from concept through fabrication and beyond, even installing their work after they've created it.

They create original glass pieces, wooden pieces, murals, framing, corporate art and logos, and also perform restoration work. Their work with glass has gotten them the most attention, however.

Their recent project at JFK was inspired by a verse from "The Prophet," by Lebanese poet Ghalib Khabran: "And what are your thoughts but the petals which the winds of your heart scatter upon the hills and its fields."

The hospital wanted to create a "Place of Prayer" chapel for visitors and patients. As part of the \$250,000 renovation project, Renner and Faust were commissioned to create an artwork that represented the four seasons, was non-denominational, and was not a literal representation of a landscape, trees, or flowers.

Renner and Faust's solution was to construct a piece which runs the length of one wall. It consists of eight three-foot by five-foot panels, each framed in cherry wood, suspended in a horizontal row. "We built the frames and hung (the pieces) from steel cable so they appear to float," said Faust. "We wanted to use one motif to flow from panel to panel," added Renner.

The multi-colored piece is an abstract composition, but its lines have a linear,

left to right flow. Horizontal lines connect one section to another, evoking wind, while the color scheme of one panel connects it to the next.

Panels on the left are bright and subtle, symbolic of spring. As the eye follows lines and colors toward the center of the piece, the colors become deeper and more lush. Past the center greens and yellows give way to browns and oranges, implying the transition from summer to fall. The palette of subsequent panels recedes into deep, cold blues and purples. The final winterlike panel is sparse and clear, dominated by white, black, and muted colors.

"The project consists of 40 different colors of glass, all from different manufacturers," said Renner, who said the most difficult part of the project was designing the color scheme. She selected the colors after an exhaustive two-week search.

Much of the creative inspiration for the project happened by chance. "Marc was playing with a set of French curves and swirling designs. I pointed out that he'd created the sun and the wind, and it just fell in to place," Renner said.

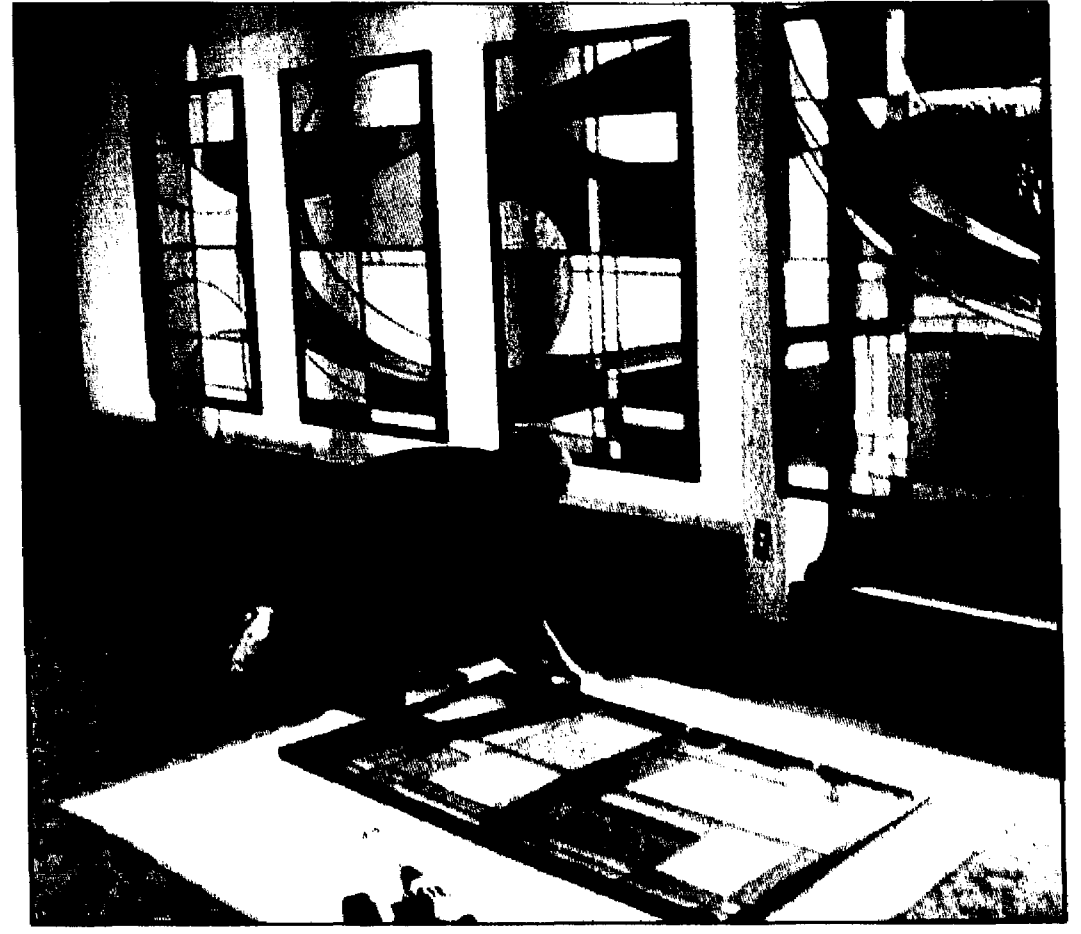
While the JFK piece is their latest, it is by no means the only piece by Renner and Faust with a public audience. Their work has been displayed from Ottawa to Houston; another recently-commissioned work for the Mercantile Stock Exchange in New York City consisted of two six-foot-tall glass panels etched with the names and badge numbers of 19 members of the NYNEX Stock Exchange who died in the World Trade Center collapse. Renner and Faust used a sandblasting method to etch the 19 names onto the piece.

"Sandblasting is a little like painting by numbers," Faust said, describing the stenciling process he used to create the simple, effective memorial.

In addition to their original creations, Renner and Faust do restoration work, often on older mansions and houses that have antique windows which are very difficult to repair if glass panes are broken.

"Nobody knows where to get work done for leaden and stained-glass windows," Renner said. In fact, very few peo-

Much of the creative inspiration for the project happened by chance. "Marc was playing with a set of French curves and swirling designs. I pointed out that he'd created the sun and the wind, and it just fell in to place," said Lee Renner.



Mark Faust installs the commissioned stained glass artwork he and his wife Lee Renner prepared for JFK Medical Center in Edison.

ple in New Jersey or in the U.S. generally know how to replicate the processes used by craftsmen who built windows in older mansions throughout the United States. Many of these craftsmen were Germans chosen by wealthy landowners specifically for their unusual techniques in crafting window frames and panes. Their window frames cannot be mixed and matched with most existing materials.

One restoration Renner and Faust are working on requires the couple to cut into 100-year-old lead frames, simulate the glass style and color hand-blown by the original artisans, and then solder the lead frames back together. Making the restoration invisible is the real challenge. "The masons and craftsmen used unfamiliar techniques," Faust said, "but we would rather see people save things and preserve them."

Much of the couple's work comes from unusual misadventures. "We get a lot of work from children and dogs," Renner said, laughing. "One time a poodle jumped through a pane of glass trying to

get at the mailman."

Working on their own has its rewards, but Renner and Faust said substituting inspiration for a paycheck can be trying at times. "You have to be self-motivated. The problem with working for yourself is that you work all the time — even weekends," Renner added.

They attribute their success to their elaborate presentations. Each firm the couple works with requests an example of their work, and Renner and Faust usually create a small scale model of what they expect to create. Most artists in their business seldom provide more than a draft or storyboard for their prospective clients. "Firms want to see examples of the work right away," Faust said.

Their future holds more restorations and three-dimensional work. "In our spare time we generate new pieces and are often able to sell them later," Renner said. "Fall is a big time of year for residential restoration."

For more information about this artistic couple and their work, check Renner and Faust's website at www.faustart.com.

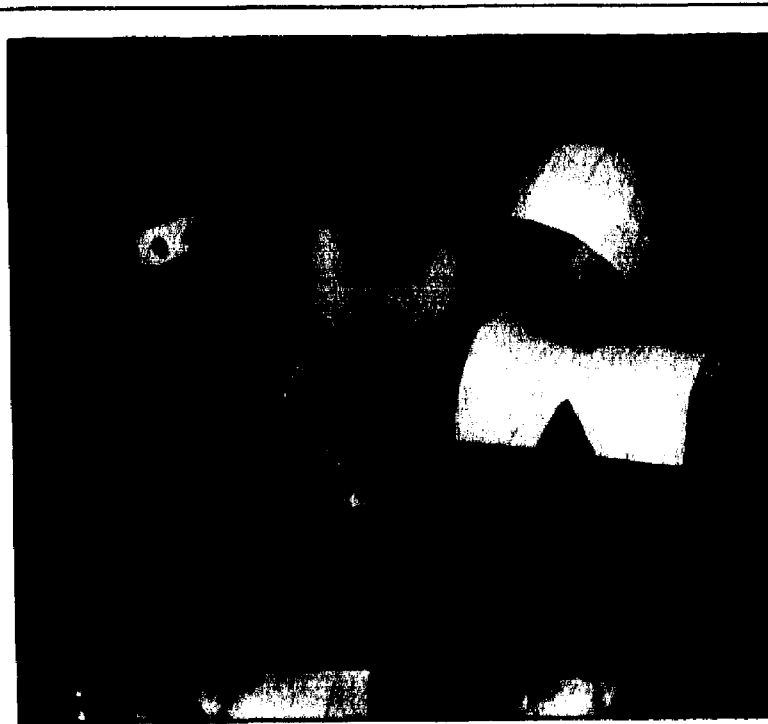
Film series continues in Fanwood

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Memorial Library's Friday Film Festival concludes its 2003 season in December with two popular movies. The series remains completely free to the public, and all films start at 7:30 p.m. at the library.

On Friday, Dec. 5, the library will present "The Santa Clause 2" (2002, G, 105 min.). Scott Calvin (Tim Allen) has been Santa Claus for the past eight years, and his loyal elves consider him the best Santa ever. But Santa's got problems — he's even mysteriously losing weight — and things quickly go south when he finds out that his son, Charlie, has landed on his year's "naughty" list. Desperate to help his son, Scott heads back home, leaving a substitute Claus to watch over things at the Pole. But when the substitute institutes some strange re-definitions of naughty and nice, putting Christmas at risk, it's up to Scott to return with a new bag of magic to try to save Christmas.

The month's offerings conclude Dec. 12 with "Bruce Almighty" (2003, PG-13, 101 min.). Bruce Nolan (Jim Carrey), a television reporter in Buffalo, is discontented with almost everything in life despite his popularity and the love of his girlfriend, Grace (Jennifer Aniston). At the end of the worst day of his life, Bruce angrily ridicules and rages against God, and God responds. God appears in human form (Morgan Freeman) and, endowing Bruce with divine powers, challenges Bruce to take on the big job to see if he can do it any better.

The series will resume again early in 2004. The series is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library with the cooperation of Palmer Video in Scotch Plains. For more information, please call the library at (908) 322-8400.



Traditional Thanksgiving at Brunner

Children in Bernadette Hoyer's Pre-K class at Brunner School in Scotch Plains participated in a Thanksgiving Gathering Nov. 24. The children prepared for the gathering by learning about how the Pilgrims and American Indians lived long ago. They were made aware of the people in colonial times needed the same things we need today: shelter, food, clothes and ways to have fun. The afternoon class came as American Indians, crafting items to wear and preparing popcorn and corn muffins to share. The morning students made hats and collars to emulate Pilgrim attire and baked pumpkin bread and made butter. Above, McKella Sylvester and Haley Nakonechny meet at the table and join hands.

Belsnickel pays a visit to Miller-Cory

Children and families can encounter a scary figure from German folklore

WESTFIELD — The Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Ave., will celebrate German Christmas customs with the arrival of the Belsnickel and a traditional German dinner cooked over the open hearth Sunday. The program will be from 2-5 p.m.; the last tour begins at 4 p.m.

Jack Petersen of Westfield will portray the "Belsnickel," a figure from German folklore, who visited the homes of children on Christmas Eve. He is a scary visitor dressed in a cape of ratty old pelts and worn out clothes. The Belsnickel is nervously awaited by the children, especially those children who have been naughty. He throws candies to the children and then disappears until the next Christmas. Visitors to the museum will meet the Belsnickel, and children can try to catch some of the candies that he scatters.

Costumed deacons will greet

visitors and guide them through the historic farmhouse. Deborah Bailey of Westfield will also present a program on German Christmas customs, and Sherry Lange of Cranford and Arlene Soong of Plainfield will prepare a traditional German Christmas dinner over the open hearth.

The museum's quaint gift shop offers many unique gift items, including colonial reproductions, toys, cookbooks, recipes, teas and more. Admission to the museum is \$2 for adults and 50 cents for students. Children under six years of age are admitted free of charge.

The holiday spirit continues at the Miller-Cory House Museum with Gingerbread Sunday, a program for young children, Dec. 14. For information about the museum and its winter schedule of events, call the museum office at (908) 232-1776.

Latest edition of poetry journal is now available

FANWOOD — The new issue of Exit 13 magazine, an annual publication featuring a variety of local and out-of-state poets, is now available from borough resident, editor and publisher Tom Plante.

Issue number 11 of this independent journal of contemporary poetry includes the work of 39 poets, including nine New Jersey writers. Local contributors to the new issue of Exit 13 include Adele Kenny of Fanwood, who writes about her childhood in East Rahway; John McDermott of Cranford, who teaches at Union County College; Deborah LaVaglia of Cranford, who co-directs the Poets Wednesday series in Woodbridge; David Alpaugh, a Plainfield native who returns to Exit 13 from California with thoughts of a special car and the open road; and Plante himself, whose subjects range from the Blue Star

Shopping Center to the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

Exit 13 magazine takes special pride in

Exit 13 magazine takes special pride in being accessible to poets of all ages and degrees of experience. It's a rest stop for wordsmiths in transit, with a focus on geography, travel and human experience wherever the road may lead.

being accessible to poets of all ages and degrees of experience. It's a rest stop for wordsmiths in transit, with a focus on geography, travel and human experience wher-

ever the road may lead, and well-known poets take their place in its pages alongside newcomers to the field in its pages.

Plante named his magazine after the Elizabeth exit off the New Jersey Turnpike. He has assembled and published Exit 13 in Fanwood since 1988, the year that he and his wife moved out of the Elmora section of Elizabeth. The poetry journal has featured snapshots of Exit 13 road signs ever since, including photographs contributed by correspondents from throughout the United States and overseas. Plante sends a copy of the magazine to each shutterbug if his or her photo is published.

Exit 13 magazine, number 11, is available for \$7 from Exit 13 Publications, P.O. Box 423, Fanwood, New Jersey 07023. The journal may also be found in the periodicals section of the Fanwood Memorial Library.

BEST BETS

Celebration Singers begin holiday season

The Celebration Singers, in their 66th year, and the Children's Chorus, in its ninth year have begun the 2003-2004 season under the direction of Sean Berg in preparation for several holiday performances.

Sing-a-longs at the Berkeley Heights Tree Lighting Ceremonies Saturday and the Union County Tree Lighting Ceremonies at Watchung State Sunday start the melodic season, and historically have generated several hundred attendees at each performance.

From there, the groups perform their holiday concert Dec. 12-13 at the Cranford United Methodist Church; the show is shaping up to be a thrill-packed performance of classical numbers as well as traditional favorites. After a trip to one of the local hospitals Dec. 16, the singers move on to the Westfield United Methodist Church for a repeat performance of the Dec. 12 concert.

The Celebration Singers have welcomed 11 new members, and two alumni members returned this season. The Children's Chorus welcomed six new members.

The Celebration Singers funding is made possible in part by the Union County Cultural and Heritage Commission and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Mixed media event at Union County College

From 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Dec. 11, Union County College will host a World Music Concert Series that will be a mixed media musical event featuring virtuoso violinist Kurt Coble and master sitarist Morshed Khan.

The event will be an afternoon of improvised music and visual art. Joining Coble and Khan will be painters Judith O'Donnell, Corda Beth Anderson and Ethel Sweeney, whose artwork has been shown throughout the tri-state area.

As Coble and Khan improvise on the violin and sitar, O'Donnell, Anderson, and Sweeney will improvise on a large canvas. Admission is free and the event will be open to the public.

The event will take place in the Commons of Union County College's Cranford Campus, located at 1033 Springfield Ave.

For more on this performance, call (732) 745-6751.

'Life' is wonderful at the Theater Project

"It's a Wonderful Life—The Radio Play" is the Theater Project's way of saying "thank you" and "happy holidays" to the community for its support through nine wonderful years.

"Much of what we do is adult-oriented," said Mark Spina, artistic director for the Theater Project. "We wanted to do something the whole family could enjoy for the holidays."

Residents are invited to join the actors as they recreate the Lux Radio Theater circa 1947 and see all the drama, heartbreak and comedy as 12 actors, one musician and an extremely over-extended sound technician prepare for an old-time radio broadcast of the story made famous in the Frank Capra film.

The show is also a way to bring together many of the actors, both Equity and non-



Director Liz Zazzi and actor Gary Glor test-drive the microphones for "It's a Wonderful Life—The Radio Play" at the Theater Project at Union County College.

union professional performers, who have worked with the Theater Project over the years. "It's a reunion for us as well as a holiday gift for the community," said actor Barbara Guidi of Scotch Plains, who plays Mary Bailey, the Donna Reed role.

The cast includes founding members Andre DeSandies and Lisa Alford, as well as Equity performers Gary Glor, Harry Patrick Christian (Clarence the Angel) and Rick

Delancy (George Bailey), all three featured in the recent Theater Project production of "A Wilde Night in the Rockies."

"It's a Wonderful Life — The Radio Play," adapted and directed by Liz Zazzi, will be presented 3 p.m. Saturday. The suggested donation is \$5.

The Theater Project is on the Cranford campus of Union County College, located at 1033 Springfield Ave.

Singer performs for Women's Club

Meredith Hoffman-Thomson, soprano, will sing holiday music, arias from famous operas, and Broadway melodies when she performs for the members of the Woman's Club of Westfield at the Dec. 8 general meeting. Her Monday afternoon performance will begin 1 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, located at 125 Elmer St. in Westfield.

Hoffmann-Thomson is a recent graduate of McGill University Opera Department in Montreal. She sings with the Pacific Opera Company in New York City and is auditioning for young artists' programs with opera companies around the United States. She continues her music studies with Donald Neil Roberts in New York.

Her most recent accomplishments include the "Young Artist



MEREDITH HOFFMAN-THOMSON

Encouragement Award" of the New Jersey Section of the Metropolitan Opera National

Council Auditions. In November, she was the third place winner in the Palm Beach Atlantic National Vocal Competition in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Accompanying Hoffmann-Thomson on the piano is her mother, Dr. Barbara Thomson, organist and musical director at the First Congregational Church in Westfield. Dr. Thomson is also Voorhees Chapel organist at Rutgers University and organist/musical director at Temple B'nai Abraham, Livingston.

Guests are welcome to attend the concert, which follows the Woman's Club business meeting. A reception at the end of the program will be hosted by the executive board of the Woman's Club, led by President Anita Smith.

Next 'Musicale' features Madison String Quartet

The First Congregational Church of Westfield, located at 125 Elmer St., has announced the continuation of the acclaimed series of Mid-Day Musicales with a concert by the Madison String Quartet at noon Wednesday, Dec. 10. The members of the Madison String Quartet, currently in residence at Drew University, are violinists Evelyn Estava and Michael Avagliano, violist Elizabeth Schulze, and cellist Gerall Hieser.

These free, half-hour concerts are presented in the church sanctuary and are followed by a soup and sandwich luncheon available in the church's social hall for \$5.

Violinist Evelyn Estava has earned recognition as one of the top performing artists in her native Venezuela. She has made many guest soloist appearances with symphony orchestras in Latin America and has performed in major halls and music festivals on three continents. At age 15, she was the youngest member of the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra and later was appointed assistant concertmaster of the Filarmonica Nacional de Venezuela.

Estava completed her musical studies at the Simon Bolivar Conservatory in Caracas, where she was a student of Jose Francisco Del Castillo. She studied chamber music with Josef Gingold at Meadowmount and performed for six years at the Killington Music Festival in Vermont. She currently serves as concertmaster of the Plainfield Symphony. Also active as an orchestral musician, Estava performs regularly with the Harrisburg Symphony, the Hudson Valley Philharmonic and the Staten Island Symphony.

With a tone described as "both bold and graceful" by The Washington Post, violinist Michael Avagliano has received acclaim as a soloist and chamber musician in the United States and Europe. Avagliano has performed as a member of the New Jersey Symphony, the Singapore Symphony, and the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra. He currently serves as principal second vio-

lin for the Plainfield Symphony and holds the Westfield Symphony Young Professional Chair.

Earlier this season he performed Mozart's Sinfonia Concertante with the Central Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Also an active freelance musician, Avagliano frequently performs with several orchestras in the region, including the Harrisburg Symphony, the Allentown Symphony, and the Princeton Symphony.

Violist Elizabeth Schulze, affiliate artist with Drew University, completed her studies at Indiana University under the tutelage of Kim Kashkashian and Csaba Erdelyi. Presently she performs with the Zephyr Duo (viola and piano) as well as with the Madison String Quartet. In addition to chamber music, Schulze is dedicated to teaching in her own private studio as well and at Drew Summer Music and Summertrios. She has been principal viola with the Plainfield Symphony since 1999 and has recently become assistant principal viola of the Princeton Symphony.

Cellist Gerall Hieser began her musical studies with her mother, also a cellist, in Newport News, Virginia. She attended the New School of Music and graduated from Temple University, where she studied with Orlando Cole. She received her master's degree from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University as a student of Paul Tobias.

Hieser has been a member of the Gabriel Piano Quartet for eleven years and has been heard with this ensemble on Maryland Public Radio as well as in concert in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Vermont. She is a member of the Colonial and Westfield Symphonies, free-lances in the North Jersey area, and maintains private teaching studios at Drew University and in Bernardsville, New Jersey. Hieser is a founding member of the Madison String Quartet. When not playing the cello, she enjoys playing Appalachian fiddle.

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Don't be caught unprepared for holiday entertaining

(ARA) — More entertaining takes place during the holidays than all the rest of the year put together. Relatives come to visit, friends and neighbors drop by unexpectedly — this time of year you have to be prepared for a party on short notice.

But with all the other things going on during the season, it's

hard to find the time to cook something nice for your guests. How can you put together a gourmet menu at the last minute?

The following are some tips from the experts at Tastefully Simple, an easy-to-prepare gourmet foods company, on how to be prepared at short notice for any kind of gathering this season:

— Archive good recipes. From time to time you run across a recipe that would be great for entertaining; a quick and easy soup, an interesting hors d'oeuvre, a good mulled cider mixture. Keep an active file of the ones you want to try so they are ready for you when you need them.

— Keep important staples on hand at all times. There are certain items that your pantry shouldn't be without during the

holidays: a variety of crackers, chips and mixed nuts; cream cheese for a cheese ball; sour cream for an easy dip; some fresh spices such as ginger, cinnamon and cloves for mulling and condiments such as mayonnaise, mustard, preserves and chutney.

— Stock some items that can be ready to serve quickly. Even if you don't like to cook, you'll be able to whip together a menu that will impress your friends and relatives with the help of a few Tastefully Simple products. Each one is either ready to serve, or can be prepared by adding just one or two additional ingredients.

You can find hundreds of recipes and find out how to get Tastefully Simple products by visiting www.tastefullysimple.com.

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Musical Club concert is set for Wednesday

The Musical Club of Westfield's holiday program will be held 1 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10 at the First Baptist Church, located at 170 Elm St. The program is open to the public.

The program will feature unusual combinations of instruments, a vocal solo with trio accompaniment, a piano duo, and a vocal solo with piano accompaniment.

To start the program, Beverly Thomson Shea, harp, (Scotch Plains), and George Toenes, clarinet, (Westfield), will perform "Pavane" by Maurice Ravel, arr. by Quinto Maganini.

Diantha Clark, mezzo-soprano, will sing "Four Songs to Poems of Thomas Campion" by Virgil Thomson. The accompanying group will be Beverly Thomson Shea, harp; Betsy Vaden, viola (Westfield) and George Toenes, clarinet.

The piano-duo team of Carole-Anne Mochemuk and Paul Kueter will perform 12 pieces from Georges Bizet's "Jeux d'Enfants."

Sandra Smith, soprano, will sing, accompanied by Paul Kueter.

Accompanied by Kueter, Sandra Smith will sing "A Christmas Carol," "Stopping by Woods" and "The Carol of the Birds."

what to do!

Theater

NOW PLAYING

FORUM THEATRE
314 Main St., Metuchen
(732) 548-0582; www.forumtheatre-company.com

"A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Carol," or A.A. Milne meets Charles Dickens. To Dec. 28. Admission \$15; group rates available. Call for showtimes.

GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE
9 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
(732) 246-7717; www.georgestplayhouse.org

"A Walk in the Woods," Cold War drama by Lee Blessing. To Dec. 14. Admission \$52-\$28; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

PHILIP J. LEVIN THEATER
Rutgers University, George St., New Brunswick
(732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu

"The Love of the Nightingale," ancient Greek mythology modernized by Timberlake Wertenbaker. 8 p.m. Dec. 5, 6, 9-13; 2 p.m. Dec. 7. Admission \$20-\$10.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE
Brookside Dr., Millburn
(973) 376-4343; www.papermill.org

"A Christmas Carol," touring production of Dickens standard. 10 a.m. Dec. 6, 7. Admission \$10, \$9.

"The Sound of Music," touring production of Broadway/movie musical. To Dec. 14. Admission \$61-\$30; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

COMING UP

FORUM THEATRE
314 Main St., Metuchen
(732) 548-0582; www.forumtheatre-company.com

"The Rocky Horror Show Live" and local (bring your rice!). Dec. 11-31. Adults \$35; seniors \$32; students \$25. Call for showtimes.

For Kids

THE SNOW QUEEN
10 a.m. Dec. 13, 14
Paper Mill Playhouse, Brookside Dr., Millburn
(973) 376-4343; www.papermill.org

Based on the Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale. Admission \$10, \$9.

Events

COUNTRY FOLK ART CRAFT SHOW
New Jersey Exposition Center, Raritan Center, Edison
(732) 417-1400; www.countryfolk-artshows.com

Holiday edition of touring craft show. 3-9 p.m. Dec. 5; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 6; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 7. Admission \$7.

Dance

DancePLUS FALL-VISIONS
8 p.m. Dec. 5, 6; 2 p.m. Dec. 7
The New Theater, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
(732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu

Headlined by "Hendrix" choreographed to Jimi Hendrix' smash hits. Admission \$20-\$10.

Concerts

CHRISTMAS IN CAROL AND SONG
8 and 9 p.m. Dec. 6; 5 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 7
Kirkpatrick Chapel, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
(732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu

Featuring the Kirkpatrick Choir and the Rutgers Glee Club. Admission \$20-\$10.

RIO CLEMENTE
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12
Watchung Arts Center
Watchung Circle, Watchung
(908) 753-0190;
www.watchungarts.org

Jazz guitarist. Admission \$13.
CRYSTAL GAYLE
8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10
State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11;
www.statetheatre.nj.org

Christmas show with a late-70's star ("Talking in Your Sleep," "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue"). Admission \$45-\$20.

HOLIDAY HOP
KLEZMER CONSERVATORY BAND
8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11
State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11;
www.statetheatre.nj.org

Yiddish-Jewish ensemble. Admission \$28-\$16. Related lecture 7 p.m.
CYNDI LAUPER
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13
State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11;
www.statetheatre.nj.org

Had one of her 80's hits remade by Celine Dion for a car commercial this year. Admission \$45-\$25.
MAJESTIC BRASS
Noon Friday, Dec. 5
Kirkpatrick Chapel, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
(732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu

Playing Christmas carols under the direction of Scott Whitener. Free admission.
MESSIAH
3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14
State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11;
www.statetheatre.nj.org

Handel standard sung by the Masterwork Chorus. Admission \$50-\$25.
ORATORIO de NOEL
8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10
Kirkpatrick Chapel, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
(732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu

Written by Camille Saint-Saens and sung by the Rutgers University Choir. Adults \$10; students \$5.
JON STEWART
8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11;
www.statetheatre.nj.org

Bringing "The Daily Show" to the weekend! Admission \$52-\$35.
VOORHEES CHOIR
2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7
Voorhees Chapel, Douglass College, New Brunswick
(732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu

All-woman ensemble sings its holiday candlelight concert. Free admission.
WINTER SOLSTICE
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12
State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11;
www.statetheatre.nj.org

Windham Hill Records package tour: Will Ackerman, Liz Story, Samite. Admission \$28-\$18.
Galleries
MASON GROSS GALLERIES
Rutgers University, 33 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
(732) 932-2222; mgsa.rutgers.edu

Open to the public 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Free admission.
First year review graduate exhibition, to Dec. 12. Reception 5-8 p.m. Dec. 4.

Country Folk Art Shows, Inc.
15045 Dixie Hwy, Holly, MI 48442
Ph: (248) 634-4151, Fx: 634-3718
email: info@countryfolkart.com

More show info & directions at CountryFolkArt.com

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NJWA to play Sunday

The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Concert Band, in collaboration with the Education Committee of Congregation Beth Israel will hold a benefit concert Sunday at the temple located at 18 Shalom Way in Scotch Plains.

Beginning at 2 p.m., the two-hour concert is suited for children and adults alike. Some of the musical selections to be performed include Leroy Anderson's "Blue Tango," George Gershwin's "Swanee," Offenbach's "Ballet Parisien," Moss' "Disney Spectacular," and Gold's "Exodus." Soloist Ryan Salmon will perform "Hoopla" on the piccolo.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Advance tickets can be purchased by calling the temple at (908) 889-1830.

"We are privileged to have the NJWA Concert Band make a return engagement," said Ruth Gross, director of education of the temple. "The concept of a benefit concert is marvelous. In June, the NJWA Concert band performed and the concert raised money to assist Israeli and Arab children with special needs. It was incredible and I am confident that the community will, once again, come out and hear some fantastic music while supporting an important cause."

The NJWA Concert Band, under the direction of Howard Toplansky, is now entering its eighth year of operation. Toplansky, author of "Essentials of Bassoon Technique," has been an instrumental music teacher in Kenilworth for more than 25 years and instructs students in brass and woodwinds at the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Annex in Westfield.

The NJWA Concert Band is one of many divisions of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts. Other divisions include the year-round Music Studio, the Westfield Summer Workshop, the Fencing Club, the Drawing Workshop, The Little Opera Company of New Jersey, the Alphorn Ensemble, Kids 'n' Arts and the newly formed Pro-Jazz Band.

Recently the NJWA held their fourth gala fundraising event at the Shackamaxon Country Club where Otis Livingston, sportscenter from "The Today Show," was master of ceremonies.

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By mail: JCRHS, 60 Cheswick Court, Bedminster, NJ 07921. Enclose \$10 Stamped envelope with check or money order. ALL SALES FINAL!

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Address _____
Zip _____ Phone# _____
Children _____ \$10.00 ea. (under 12) \$ _____
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Westfield for 9:00 AM _____
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For info Call: 908-781-1898 After 6PM or visit www.jcrhs.org

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Arbor series presents Goode and Weinfeld

Pianist Richard Goode will perform with his wife, violinist Marcia Weinfeld, in a recital 8 p.m. Saturday at the Maplewood Women's Club, 60 Woodland Ave., and again 4 p.m. Sunday at Westfield's Presbyterian Church, at the corner of East Broad Street and Mountain Avenue.

The program, part of the Arbor Chamber Music concert series, includes both duos and solos: Mozart's Sonata in A for violin and Piano, K.526; Beethoven's Piano Sonata no. 26 "Les Adieux;" Janacek's Piano Sonata October 1, 1905; and Brahms Sonata in G for Violin and Piano.

Tickets are available by calling (908) 232-1116 and cost \$20; \$15 for seniors; \$10 for college students; children are free. The Saturday night concert is a co-production with ArtsMaplewood.

Sunday afternoon's concert offers a pre-concert lecture by John Sichel.

Hailed for music-making of tremendous emotional power,

depth and sensitivity, Richard Goode is acknowledged as one of the leading interpreters of Beethoven and Mozart.

Goode's recitals regularly take him to the major centers of the United States, Europe and Japan, including New York, Paris, London, Amsterdam, Milan, and Berlin. He and Marcia Weinfeld performed an all-Bach program together on Arbor's 2001 series. This performance marks another rare opportunity to hear them collaborate.

Arbor Chamber Music is now in its 13th season. Funding for the series is generously provided by the NJ State Council on the Arts through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Hayward Industries, The Westfield Foundation and McCarter & English, LLP.

The Presbyterian Church of Westfield is handicapped accessible.

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ADMISSION: Dry or canned food, or a new, unwrapped toy. For information call (908) 789-3665 or (908) 27-4900.

Union County

Enriching events at Temple Sholom

FANWOOD — Temple Sholom will host a trio of events this week end for the heart, mind and soul. The events will begin with a Healing Service. A Healing Service is not only for those who are physically or mentally ill, but also for those that are caretakers, family members, friends, and for those who are themselves in need of something more — some extra sense of wholeness or completion to help them through the day.

The service will be held 6 p.m. Saturday in the Temple Sholom Chapel at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, Martine and LaGrande avenues. The service will be conducted by Student Cantor Shira Nafshi and Student Rabbi Robin Nafshi. All are welcome.

At 8 that evening, Temple Sholom will showcase former student cantor Hayley Kobilinsky in a concert of international Jewish music. Kobilinsky, accompanied by accomplished pianist Alex Mekinulov, will perform favorites and more, in varied languages, including Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, French and Italian. Countries represented include France, Spain, Israel, Yemen, Morocco, India, Italy, Germany and America. The music presented will demonstrate the wide range of musical styles of Jews around the world. Some pieces show the influence of the surrounding culture and dominant musical styles of the period. The music traces historical events such as pogroms in Europe, the rise of Yiddish theater as pop culture, and the life of Jews under rule by various nations. There are love ballads, liturgical selections, joyous and somber.

Tickets for the concert are \$10. Kobilinsky, a student cantor at Temple Sholom from 2001-2002 and currently the student cantor at East End Temple of New York City, is completing her master's degree in Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College. Kobilinsky has been singing opera since 1988 and just completed the role of Gretel in Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" with the Regina Opera Company of Brooklyn, New York.

This May she will sing the soprano solo in Mozart's "Requiem" with the Bronx Symphony. She has performed in more than 30 operas and numerous concerts, and specializes in singing in varied languages. Kobilinsky holds a baccalaureate degree from Columbia University and is married, living in Brooklyn.

On Dec. 7, Temple Sholom Adult Education welcomes Laura Krueger, Curator of the Jewish Institute of Religion Museum at the Hebrew Union College, to discuss Jewish Contemporary Ritual Art and Artists. The lecture is offered in conjunction with an exhibit currently on display at Hebrew Union College. The lecture will focus on the changes in Jewish ritual art through the years and the recent growth in the number of artists creating contemporary ritual art internationally.

Temple Sholom Adult Ed Classes are held at Union Catholic High School 10:30 a.m.-noon Sunday mornings. They are open to the public. There is no charge, but donations are accepted.

For more information about any of these events, call the Temple Sholom office (908) 889-4900.



Math is a family affair in Scotch Plains

A family math session was recently held at School One in Scotch Plains. District fourth-grade students and their families participated in the four-week session. The goal was for the students and parents to enjoy math and learn to solve problems together. Above, fourth-grader Marion Buissere and her mother work on creating a graph of information gathered from all the Family Math participants.

Seniors stay active at the JCC

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Wilf Jewish Community Campus Senior Adult Program convenes every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Each day a kosher lunch is served. Participants choose from the following activities:

Monday: "Art with Lillie Bryen" — explore various media and techniques while creating projects to be proud of. No previous art experience is required; "Current Events with Salo Enis" — stimulating discussions on politics and national and international events; "Exercise with Anne Baker" — exercise to music, boost your energy, and have fun in this exciting class; and "Jewish Culture with Salo Enis" — discussions on topics such as the political situation in Israel, Jewish Holidays, and Jewish authors.

Tuesday: "Drawing with Ruth Rosenzweig" — use charcoal and pencil to sketch different subjects; "Exercise with Claire

Lazarowitz" — this program helps promote health and well being, and includes stretching, strength training and endurance work; "Spencer Series with Jewish Family Services" — on a weekly basis there are new topics to explore, and ideas to share; "Short Stories with Barbara Buettner" — read short stories in class and enjoy a lively discussion; and "Personal Histories with Barbara Buettner" — this writing class encourages participants to write about their lives and their experiences. No previous writing experience is required.

Wednesday: "Exercise with Betty Rosman, R.N." — strength-

en muscles, halt or reverse bone loss, and improve your balance; "Therapeutic Exercise with Betty Rosman, R.N." — a registered nurse teaches this class, designed for those with orthopedic and/or cardiovascular concerns. Blood pressure and heart rate are monitored; and "Drama with Robin Wong" — enjoy drama games and improvisation. No prior acting experience required.

For more information about these programs, call Nan Statton, director of adult and senior services, at (908) 889-8800, ext. 207.

The JCC of Central NJ is located at 1391 Martine Ave.

Newcomers plan ladies dinner, kids' play dates

The Westfield Newcomers Club has planned a "Ladies' Dinner Out" for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Chez Z in New Providence. The cost is \$41 per person. For more information, residents should contact Georgia Murphy at (908) 654-7703.

The Children's Committee has planned a Children's Musical Pajama Party at Grace Orthodox Church on Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The class is already almost full, so registrations should be made as soon as possible. There is also a Music, Tumbling and Pizza play date planned at Tumble Jam in Scotch Plains 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 16.

The Activities Committee has planned a Cookies and Ornament Exchange at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 22. For the cookie exchange, participants should plan on bringing for dozen cookies and a container to take home new cookies, and should be sure to bring copies of

the recipes too. For the ornament exchange, participants should bring a wrapped ornament for an anonymous exchange.

The Newcomers Club is a social organization founded in 1944 for women over the age of 21 who are new to Westfield or surrounding communities, or established residents who have experienced a change in lifestyle, such as the birth or adoption of a baby, a marriage, a job change or a move within the town.

Residents don't have to be new to Westfield to join Newcomers. The Newcomers Club offers fun day and evening, weekday and weekend social activities for women, couples and children.

For more information about the Newcomer's Club of Westfield, or any of these events, contact Sandra Alfano at (908) 232-7151 or Jennifer Beke at (908) 317-8431.

Briefs

Farbrengen, Shabbat at the Torah Center

WESTFIELD — The Union County Torah Center will be having a Chassidic Farbrengen 7 p.m. Dec. 14 in honor of Yud Tes Kislev (the 19th day of Kislev) at the Torah Center, 418 Central Ave.

Dr. Yitzchok Block from London, Ontario, Canada will lead the Farbrengen and will discuss the history of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement along with inspiring stories of the Lubavitcher Rebbes.

The 19th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev (Yud-Tes Kislev) is the day on which Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, founder of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, was freed from his severe imprisonment in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1798. A farbrengen is an informal gathering in which people get together to celebrate their Judaism by means of song, stories, and words of inspiration.

The Farbrengen is open to the public and free of charge. For more information call the center at (908) 789-5252.

Professor Block will also speak at a community Friday Night Shabbat Dinner 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12 at the center.

Friday night services will be held prior to the dinner at 6 p.m. and are also open to the public. There is an \$18 charge for this program.

Seats still available for NYC production

WESTFIELD — The Westfield YMCA has announced there are still seats available for a dinner theatre trip to the Westchester Broadway Theatre.

The Dec. 30 trip will include transportation, a 6 p.m. sit-down gourmet dinner and an 8 p.m. production of the musical based on the Christmas classic, "Miracle on 34th St."

The Westchester Broadway Theatre features professionals who have performed on the New York stage and in film and television. The event will appeal to all family members. The cost for the entire evening is \$81 per person. For more information or to register call the Y at (908) 233-2700.

Women's business group meets Wednesday

WESTFIELD — Women in Business, an association of the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, will hold its next meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday at the home of Dalida Nigro, 433 Roanoke Ave.

Women in Business provides women who work in the Westfield area an opportunity to network, socialize, and exchange valuable experiences. Combining serious business with holiday fun, this meeting will include a holiday gift swap. Participants should bring a sample product or gift certificate for a service, lesson, or consultation.

All area businesswomen are welcome. Contact the chamber office at (908) 233-3021 for more information or to reserve a space.

Swap Christmas treats at First Baptist Church

WESTFIELD — Christmas and cookies go together at First Baptist Church of Westfield, just as they do at home. The second annual Christmas Cookie Exchange will be held 7 p.m. Wednesday in the church lounge. Participants should bring 3-4 dozen cookies or small desserts to share, and don't forget to bring a great big empty tin or basket to be filled with great treats.

The church is located at 170 Elm St. and can be contacted at (908) 233-2278, or at firstbaptist.westfield@verizon.net

Next HOTLINE session is set for Thursday

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce announced the next HOTLINE breakfast meeting, featuring chamber member Mark Zenobu, to be held 9:15 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 in the chamber offices, 173 Elm St.

Zenobu, home-based business owner of On Your Mark Productions, an events promotions company, will provide a unique perspective on creating a business that is compatible with one's lifestyle. In this interactive workshop, participants will get tips on refining their management strategies to reach their goals with peace of mind. Breakfast will be provided.

Admission for WACC members is \$10, non-members \$15. All are welcome. Contact the chamber office at (908) 233-3021 for more information or to reserve a space.

Urgent news for people who have used

WELDING RODS

Scientists have discovered that elevated manganese exposure from welding rod fumes has been associated with Parkinsonism (like Parkinson's disease) and manganism. Symptoms include: shakiness, distorted facial expression, loss of equilibrium, decreased hand agility, difficulty walking, joint pain, loss of short term memory, slurred/slow speech, stiffness in muscles and tremors. Call us today toll free at 1-800-THE-EAGLE for a free consultation to evaluate your potential claim. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S. to help people across the country.

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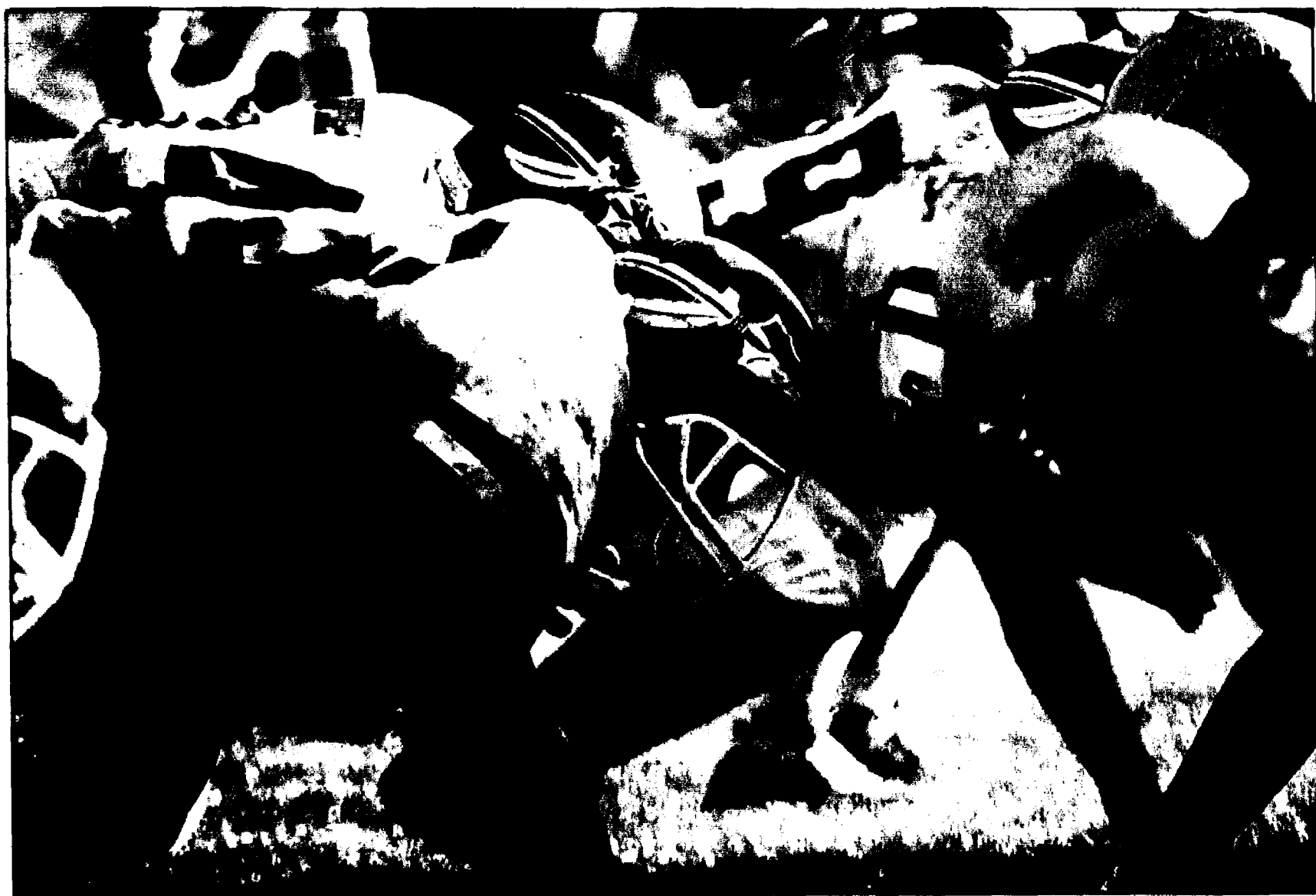
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Sports

Raiders ready to climb over Ridge



Defense needs to defuse explosive Ridge offense

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD-PRESS

Steve Monastero has had the type of dream month that teen football movies are made of. But before the Ridge High football team's senior backup quarterback can write a Hollywood ending to his season, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood defense hopes to knock him back to earth.

Scotch Plains takes on Ridge 7:30 p.m. tomorrow in the North Jersey Section 2, Group 3 final at Giants Stadium and will need to find a way to cool down the red-hot Monastero to win its first state title since 1990.

In the first round of the playoffs, against heavily favored Phillipsburg, Monastero replaced injured starter Tim Howarth in the second quarter and quickly guided the Red Devils to a monumental 31-27 upset victory, throwing for 203 yards and three touchdowns.

Since then Monastero has been nearly perfect in guiding Ridge's no-huddle, run-and-shoot offense, completing 34 of 48 passes for 465 yards in victories over Livingston and Somerville. Ridge was scoring 28 points per game with Howarth behind center and has put up 33 points in the three victories with Monastero calling the signals.

"In our system you need to have more than one quarterback ready to go," said Ridge Head Coach Tom Falato. "For four years (Monastero) has kept himself ready to go. When he got the chance he was prepared and has done a tremendous job."

"He's a pretty good quarterback in his own right. If we didn't have (Howarth) I'm sure he would have done a great job. He has always prepared as if he is the No. 1 quarterback."

The Raiders' defense has been the backbone of the squad all season and has adjusted to each new offensive look it has seen, from wing-Ts to single-wings to option attacks. Scotch Plains faced a similar offense in its only loss of the season, an 18-9 setback to Irvington where it only gave up one defensive touchdown, and in last year's playoff loss to Jefferson, but nothing like what Ridge brings to the table.

The key for the Raiders tomorrow will be the play of its front-four

lineman — Tim Karis, Marc Fabiano, Leroy Anglin and Rynn Weber. The Raiders will mix up coverages and blitz every so often, but if the foursome can generate pressure and hit Monastero on their own and shut down the running game, Scotch Plains will be able to drop seven into coverage to take away passing lanes.

"All I know is I have to get to the quarterback as quickly as possible," said senior defensive end Tim Karis. "We've been doing a good job pressuring the quarterback with just our linemen all season and we'll need to do that again to win this game."

"We've seen everything this year and managed to adjust to most things so far. Our coaches do a really good job preparing us for everything."

The Raiders will not be able to key only on the pass, needing to keep their eyes on running back Matt Mullen, a 1,300 yard rusher for Ridge this season. Falato said his offense has a 55-45 balance between the pass and run and is hoping the Raiders will forget about Mullen.

"He's had a great year," said Falato. "He's the one that keeps things going. You have to respect him. If (Scotch Plains) thinks we're only going to throw it, that's okay with us."

The opposite is true of Scotch Plains, who will go heavy on the run but mix in the pass to keep you honest. Falato is impressed with the play of Kyle Baker and Lakiem Lockery, but knows he can't forget about quarterback Dan LaForge either.

"Scotch Plains is the most physical team we will have played," said Falato. "They are very well coached. I don't know if we can stop (Baker and Lockery) but we have to try to contain them and LaForge breaks containment on everybody. We'll definitely try to stop the run first, but they throw it pretty good."

"Hard nosed football," said full-back/linebacker Travis Boff. "That's what we have to do. If we can keep their offense off the field, run the ball at them we can wear down their linemen. And if the passing game opens up we can throw it."

Linemen the driving force behind Raiders' success

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD-PRESS

They are the biggest and strongest players on a field filled with big and strong players and are often the difference between a five-yard loss and a 20-yard gain.

But despite being in the middle of the action on every snap of the ball and the cornerstone of every game plan, linemen are also often the most anonymous players on the field.

Kyle Baker and Lakiem Lockery have garnered barrels of well-deserved ink by scorching the opposition on the ground and linebackers Travis Boff and

Charlie Bachi have been tackling machines and the leaders of a phenomenal defense. But their jobs have been made possible — or at least a lot easier — by the group waging, and winning, the fight along the line of scrimmage.

The seven starting linemen Scotch Plains uses on the offensive and defensive sides of the ball — Tim Karis, Marc Fabiano, Justis Evans, Leroy Anglin, Mark Giannaci, Ryan Weber and Kevin Urban — have been the engine that has propelled the Raiders into tomorrow night's state final, their first since 1990.

"It comes with the territory,"

(Continued on page C-2)



NICOLE DIMELLA/THE RECORD-PRESS
The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High football team has reached the sectional final due in large part to the play of its seven starting offensive and defensive linemen. Back row, from left: Leroy Anglin, Marc Fabiano, Justis Evans, Tim Karis. Front row: Mark Giannaci, Kevin Urban, Ryan Weber.

Banged up Devils fall to Plainfield

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Without star quarterback Jan Coccoziello, the Westfield High football team was unable to overcome a rash of injuries and ill-timed mistakes, falling to Plainfield in the annual Thanksgiving Day game.

The Cardinals took advantage of a sputtering Blue Devil offense and two special teams letdowns by the Blue Devils to come away with a 9-7 victory in front of an estimated crowd of 4,000 at Gary Kehler Stadium. Westfield still leads the series 50-42-7.

Coccoziello left the game in the second quarter with a high ankle sprain, and was soon followed to the trainer's room by center Brian Bigelow. The two injuries decimated Westfield's offense against a big, physical Plainfield defense as the Devils were unable to take advantage of a rash of Cardinal fumbles in the second half.

Tom DeDuca led Westfield with 77 yards on seven carries and Tyshon Blackman carried 16 times for 53 yards. Bart Walsh had 28 yards rushing and eight short passes for 44 yards. Plainfield put the ball on the ground seven times in the game, with Westfield recovering five of them. Westfield was able to move the ball, forcing Plainfield to punt on all five of its second half possessions. Plainfield took advantage of two special teams miscues to score three points.

With 1:16 remaining in the third quarter, Dante Harvey kicked a punt 93 yards, tying

the game at 7-7.

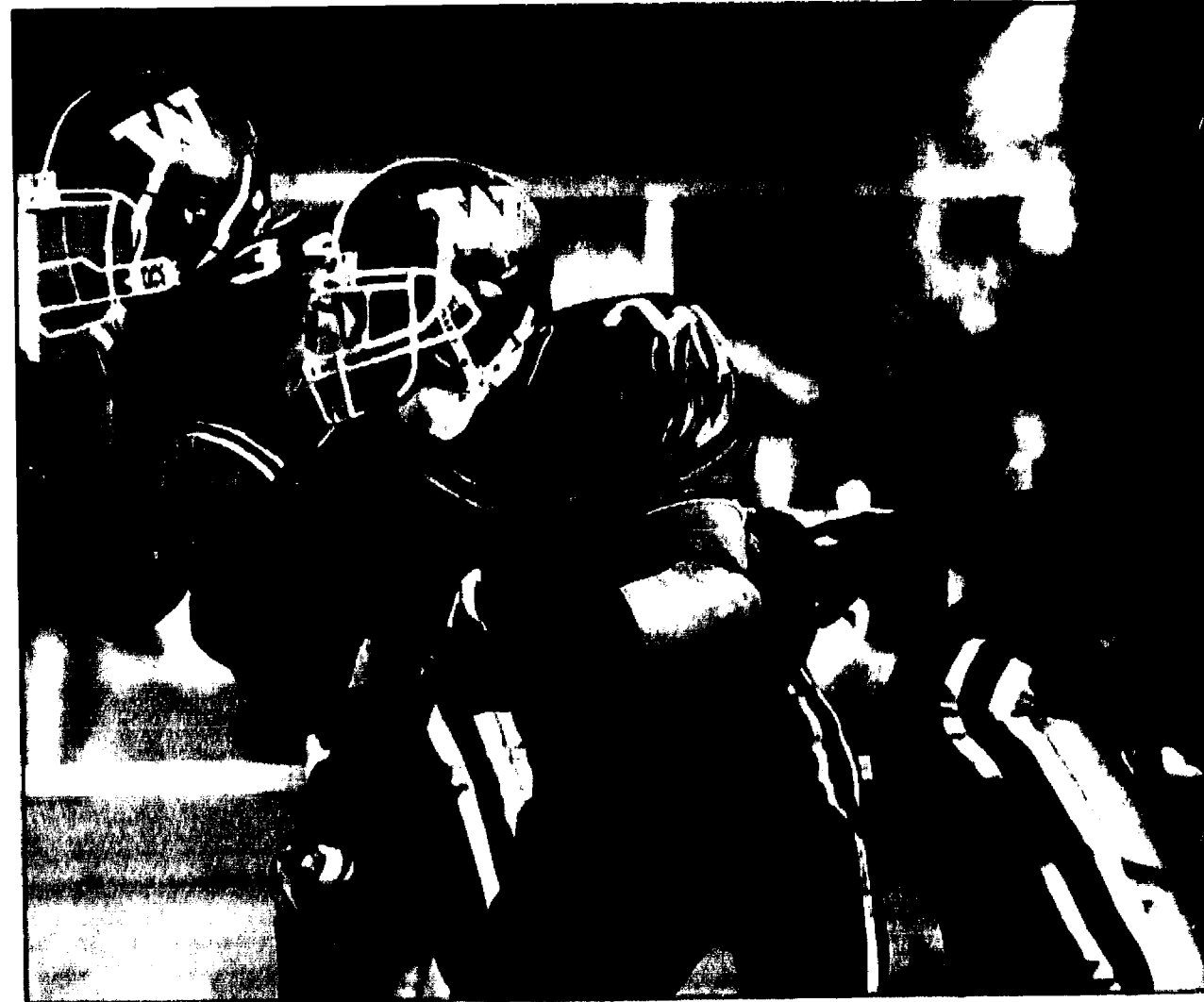
On Westfield's ensuing possession the Devils snapped the ball over punter Joe Insignia's head, forcing him to kick it through the back of the end zone for a safety and a 9-7 Plainfield lead. Backup quarterback Mike Pattalla found few open receivers and little time to throw the ball against the Cardinal's defense, and would eventually leave the game due to injury.

"They are a big physical team and you take your lumps when you play them," said Westfield Head Coach Ed Tranchina. "There is a big size difference and we got a lot of guys banged up."

Westfield opened the game in impressive fashion, forcing Plainfield into a three-and-out and taking over at their own 38-yard line. DeDuca swept left on the first play from scrimmage and raced 38 yards to the Plainfield 26. Coccoziello then completed a 19 yard pass to Bart Walsh to set up a first and goal.

A four-yard loss and a penalty pushed the Devils back to the 16 but Coccoziello connected with Marc Dowling for 10 yards then ran four yards on third down to set up 4th and goal from the two. Coccoziello ran a keeper to the middle for the touchdown, putting Westfield on top 7-0 less than four minutes into the game.

After forcing another Plainfield punt Westfield took over at its own 18 and in nine plays reached the Plainfield 10-yard line, sparked by a 28 yard run by Tyshon Blackman. But the Blue Devils fumbled the



NICOLE DIMELLA/THE RECORD-PRESS
Tom DeDuca ran seven times for 77 yards and had a 38 yard run to set up Westfield's lone touchdown in a 9-7 loss to Plainfield on Thanksgiving Day.

handoff on the next play, the last of the first quarter, and Plainfield recovered.

"We should have scored twice," said Tranchina. "What we called in the huddle and what we ran were two different plays. We should have scored there and if we go in there it is a different ball game."

On its next possession Westfield reached the Plainfield 28, but was stopped on a 4th-and-1 attempt. Westfield recovered a fumble on Plainfield's

first play and, after picking up a first down at the Plainfield 21, Coccoziello ran for a yard but rolled his ankle while being tackled with 6:30 left in the half.

With 1:16 left in the third quarter Westfield reached the Plainfield 45, but Dante Harvey fielded a punt at the 7 yard line, started left, spun back to the middle of the field, broke a tackle and out ran the Westfield pursuit for a 93 yard touchdown return tying the score 7-7.

Westfield was unable to get a

first down on its next drive and was forced to punt from its own 16 on the first play of the fourth quarter. But the snap sailed over the punter's head he was forced to kick it out of the back of the end zone for a safety, putting Plainfield on top 9-7.

"Coccoziello wanted to try to come back at the end, but he couldn't run," said Tranchina. "Then we had no center. With two new kids in there it is tough to move the ball. (Bigelow) wanted to come back too."

Breznitsky commits to Rutgers

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD-PRESS

Ryan Breznitsky has been following the Rutgers University men's soccer team since he was in grade school, roaming the sidelines as a ball boy and watching Scotch Plains alum from the stands.

Now he'll be a Scarlet Knight himself, off the sidelines and into the midfield.

Breznitsky, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High senior and co-captain of the boys soccer team, gave a verbal commitment to the Scarlet Knights earlier this week, choosing Rutgers over a long list of suitors.

"I've known the coach for a long time, I grew up going to their games, watching guys like (former Raider) Todd Moser play," said Breznitsky. "I had a good time on my official visit and I liked all the players and the coaches."

Breznitsky, who scored 18 goals and had 19 assists this season for Scotch Plains and 37 and 43 for his career, chose Rutgers from a list that included Michigan, North Carolina State, Hartwick, Seton Hall, Old Dominion and Duke. In the end he felt more comfortable with Rutgers, Head Coach Bob Renso and the proximity of the school to home.

"I looked all over the place," said Breznitsky. "I didn't know what I wanted. Rutgers was always an option, it started as an option and ultimately finished as the option. It's close to home so my family and some of the guys can come and watch me play, and I can make it back to see how the (Scotch Plains) team is doing."

"It is nice to have it off my mind and have the pressure off. I can relax now and not have to worry about."

SPORTSCENE

DEVILS OFF TO FAST START

The Westfield High boys swim team started the season strong, defeated Bridgewater-Raritan

90.5-79.5 in the opening dual meet of the season Tuesday Ryan Bartholomew won the 50 free in 22.42 and Chris Heinen won the 200 free in 1:50.87 and 100 fly in 56.21. Sam Gardas won the 100

breaststroke in 1:07.11.

RAIDERS SPLIT WITH HILLSBOROUGH

The boys and girls swim teams from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High split season-opening meets Tuesday with Hillsborough, with the girls squad claiming a 96.5-73.5 victory but the boys squad falling 110-60.

Cameron led the Raiders with victories in the 200 and 500 yard free and Scotch Plains won two of the three relays to open the season 1-0.

Dave Hauptman won the 50 and 100 yard free style events in 24.12 and 53.02 for the boys squad, but Hillsborough took first in eight of the 11 events.

FUNDRAISER

The Westfield High School Ice Hockey Association and Parker Greenhouses are having a fundraising event to benefit the Westfield Ice Hockey team. Shop at Parker Greenhouses, 1325 Terrill Road, Scotch Plains, between now and Jan. 5 and receive five percent off entire purchase and 10 percent of all proceeds will be donated to the hockey team. Just mention Westfield High School Ice Hockey at the time of purchase.

Kopnicki shined, but SP-F was plagued by injuries

By DAVID LAZARUS RECORD PRESS CORRESPONDENT

Injuries and inexperience took their toll on the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High boys cross country team which, despite consistently receiving outstanding individual performances by Brian Kopnicki, fell short of many of its team goals.

Kopnicki along with fellow senior Zack McGuire were the only returning lettermen and led the squad throughout the season but team success is predicated on having five finishers and, despite an 8-2 dual meet record, the Raiders were not competitive with Cranford in the larger end of the year meets.

"It's always very difficult having to deal with not being as good as you were the year before," said Head Coach Jeff Koegel, now 58-8 in seven seasons. "It would have been nice to see what we could have done had we not been hit so hard with injuries."

The biggest loss was junior Sean Smith, who had run a 50.7 second 400-meter relay leg last spring and was going to be running cross country for the first time.

"He was training very hard over the summer and definitely would have run in our top five. It appears that the lingering shin injuries he struggled with this spring never healed properly, and the distance training caused them to develop into a stress fracture. He was lost for the season," said Koegel.

Another top runner, sophomore Josh Zinman, who ran 10:24 in the 3200 as a freshman last spring, suffered the same injury right before the championship season started. "He was our third runner. Being without two of your top five runners is extremely difficult. It's even more difficult when you only have about a dozen boys on the team and you don't have the depth to replace them. I guess we can look on the bright side of still coming in second in the conference and qualifying for the group meet without them, but that's not an easy thing to do," said Koegel.

Koegel was also pleased with the way some of his less experienced runners developed. Freshman

Mike Miller ran some of the best freshman times in Koegel's career and sophomores Brian Glassett and Matt Capodicasa also progressed quite a bit over the course of the season, both running low-18s after never having broken 19:00 coming into this season.

"We need to get more people out for the team. Scotch Plains and Fanwood are soccer towns, which doesn't help us much, and we also lack a middle school program," said Koegel.

"I don't care if they're not very good when they come out. If they're willing to work, I will make them better. Some of my best runners were the slowest guys on the team when they first started."

Amazingly enough one of those slow runners at one time was Kopnicki, who struggled to break 24 minutes for the 5K his first season. His impressive list of accomplishments this season ranks with the greats of tradition-rich Scotch Plains. Kopnicki rolled to championships in the Watchung Conference and Union County meets and was named county runner of the year by the Courier News and the Star Ledger.

Kopnicki considered one of few non-winning efforts, a fourth place finish in 16:24.67 in the Group 3 state meet at Holmdel, as his best effort of the year. The time was the second fastest by a Raider runner during Koegel's tenure and the third best in school history behind Bob Wallden (2001) and Pete Clavin (1991).

Koegel was most proud of the way that Kopnicki bounced back from a second place finish at the sectionals and defeated the same runner at the following two meets, the group finals and the Meet of Champions.

"I came into that race just trying to get under 16:40 and I ended up doing a lot better than I thought I could do," said Kopnicki.

Kopnicki gives much of the credit to Koegel. "Having a good coach who knows what he is doing is great. A lot of the times cross country coaches don't get enough credit for what they do because all they do is tell you to 'run' but it's a lot more than that."

Linemen the driving force behind Raiders' success

(Continued from page C-1)

said Karis, a senior captain. "People don't talk about the offensive line much but you don't join the line because you want to get mentioned. You do it because you like to go out there and hit people.

"Our entire team didn't get a lot of respect at the beginning of the season. It's kind of like playing on the line. You don't get a lot of respect but you go out there, play hard and get the job done. That's what we've done as a team."

The Raiders have been getting

the job done in the trenches mainly because of their effort and hard work, not just on Saturday afternoons but from an off-season dedicated to the weight room, an attention to detail in practice and an unquenchable desire to dominate.

"The big thing is they have worked very hard in the weight room and play hard all the time," said Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli. "The goal is to play a perfect game and to dominate people. To do that you can't take a play off. The thing I love about this group is that they play hard all the time. They have great chemistry, they feed off each other and it just snowballs from there."

The defensive line, with Fabiano and Anglin at tackles and Weber and Karis on the end, is going to be the key to the Raiders' game plan against Ridge Saturday. If the front four can pressure quarterback Steve Monastero on their own the Raiders can drop seven players into coverage against the pass-happy Red Devils and disrupt the red-hot Monastero's rhythm.

"The (defensive linemen) have been doing a good job pressuring the quarterback on their own all year," said Baker. "That makes it a lot easier on the secondary. If they can do that against Ridge we should be able to shut down their offense."

The key to the defensive line has been Fabiano. Combining size

and strength with the quickness, balance and athleticism that helped him win a District 11 championship in wrestling last winter, Fabiano leads the team in sacks and tackles for a loss and fought off a multitude of blocks to record a key sack in the semifinal round victory over Sayreville.

"In the trenches it's 1-on-1 like on the mat," said Ciccotelli. "He knows how to use his hands well and has the quickness and balance to get his guy off-balance and make a move."

A glance at the stat book following just about every game this season has revealed few, if any, runs for negative yardage, a testament to the offensive line's ability to move defensive lineman and linebackers off the ball and create daylight for Baker, Lockery and Boff on every carry. Giannaci anchors the line at center, with Fabiano and Karis at guard and Evans and Urban at tackle.

"They get such a great push off the ball that we never have any rushes for negative yardage," said Baker. "They've been opening up huge holes throughout the season and I just have to worry about putting a move on the secondary and not a linebacker. They have made life a lot easier for me. They are a big part of our offense."

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Susanne Novak

SCOTCH PLAINS — Susanne Novak, 56, died Nov. 24, 2003 at her home after a brief battle with lung cancer.

Born in Newark, she lived in Scotch Plains for more than 30 years.

Mrs. Novak was a registered nurse with the Solaris Healthcare System, Haven Hospice of Edison, for 12 years.

She was earlier a research and engineering secretary with the Esso Co. in Florham Park for six years.

Mrs. Novak was a graduate of the Drake School of Business, Union County College and Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center School of Nursing in Plainfield.

She was involved in parish nursing at Bethel Presbyterian Church, Plainfield, and was a Girl Scout leader with the Washington Rock Council for more than 15 years.

Active in the community, Mrs. Novak spent one Sunday each month providing free blood pressure screening to church members. She was a leader in the congregation at Fanwood Presbyterian Church, serving as a deacon, and session member and teaching Christian Education to the Middlers for over 12 years.

While in the hospital, she

donated more than 15 inches of her hair, calling in a beautician from Salon One Seventeen, a participating salon with Locks of Love in Cranford. The hair was donated to make wigs for other cancer victims who lost their hair during chemotherapy treatments.

Surviving are James J., her husband of 34 years; daughters, Jamie Lynn, Brandy Lee, Jessica Marie and Kristy Sue; brothers, John and Vincent Mellott, and one grandchild.

Arrangements were by the Rossi Funeral Home, Scotch Plains.

A memorial service will be held 2 p.m. Saturday, followed by a reception at The Fanwood Presbyterian Church. A blood drive will be held prior to the memorial service; all those wishing to donate in Mrs. Novak's memory are invited to participate between 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Fanwood Presbyterian Church.

Monetary donations may be sent to the Sue Novak Scholarship Fund, which will help local students attend nursing or nursing assistant school. Checks should be made out to Fanwood Presbyterian Church and marked "Sue Novak Scholarship Fund" and can be sent to 74 Martine Avenue South, Fanwood NJ 07023.

Joseph W. Knapp Jr.

FANWOOD — Joseph W. Knapp Jr., 66, died Nov. 26, 2003 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Newark, he moved to Fanwood 32 years ago.

A land surveyor, he owned and operated Sailer & Sailer Associates Inc. in Elizabeth for the past 40 years.

Mr. Knapp was a peacetime veteran of the Army, an elder at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church and a trustee for Camp

Brettdeavor in Lebanon.

He was a member of the executive board and a recipient of the Boy Scouts Silver Beaver Award, both with the Northern New Jersey Boy Scout Council.

He was also a member of the CRS Committee for the Elizabeth Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Knapp was also a member and former president of the Elizabeth Rotary Club, where he was named a Paul Harris Fellow.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara A.; sons, Joseph W. III, Scott F. and Gregory P., and sisters, Doris M. Downey and Claire R.

Arrangements were by Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Interment was in Hollywood Memorial Park in Union.

Donations may be made to the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 Martine Ave. South, Fanwood, NJ 07023 or the Northern New Jersey Boy Scout Council in Oakland.

Waldemar Schliesske

WESTFIELD — Waldemar Schliesske, 80, died Dec. 1, 2003 at his home.

Born in Germany, he came to the U.S. in 1951 and settled in Westfield.

Mr. Schliesske was an assembly line worker for General Motors in Linden for 36 years before retiring in 1990.

Surviving are Gertrude, his wife of 52 years; a son, Harold; a daughter, Alice Masters; a sister, Marie Schliesske, and three grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday in Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 229 Cowperthwaite Place, Westfield. Arrangements were by the Dooley Colonial Home, Westfield.

Anna Sapia

SCOTCH PLAINS — Anna Sapia died Nov. 29, 2003 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in New Britain, Conn., she lived in Sicily, Newark and Orange before moving to Scotch Plains in 1998.

Mrs. Sapia was a seamstress for the Richard Mondello Co. in Orange. Previously, she worked at Silvertown Frock in Orange.

She was a member and past president of the Newark chapter of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

Surviving are a daughter, Maria Calabria; a sister, Lucy Rametta, and three grandchildren.

Arrangements were by the Rossi Funeral Home in Scotch Plains.

Obituaries

Doris D. Ragan

SCOTCH PLAINS — Doris D. "Mary" Ragan, 81, died Nov. 26, 2003 at Genesis at Woodlands Eldercare, Plainfield.

Born in Hillsborough, she was a resident of Scotch Plains for 25 years. She also lived in Plainfield and Manhattan.

Mrs. Ragan worked for more than 20 years at Rickels in South Plainfield as a data processor, retiring in 1995. She attended St. John's Baptist Church in Scotch Plains.

Surviving are her son, Fred Lee Ragan Jr. of Lakewood; two nephews, Alton Richardson Jr. of Portsmouth, Va., and Dennis V. Hill of Philadelphia, Pa.; two nieces, Beverly N. Richardson of Castalia, N.C., and Patricia H. Hill of Toms River; a sister, Marion T. Jones Hicks of Toms River; a granddaughter, great-granddaughter and a surrogate granddaughter.

Services were held at Judkins Colonial Home.

Ronald Jenerette

SCOTCH PLAINS — Ronald Jenerette, 42, died Nov. 25, 2003 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

He was born in Jersey City and had lived in Scotch Plains since 1993.

Mr. Jenerette was a firefighter for 11 years with the Jersey City Fire Department.

A brother, Abdul Majed Ali, is deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Wendy;

his mother, Sarah; a son, Ronald TyQuain; three sisters, Sheriann Middleton, Tonya and Natasha; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Saturday at the Mount Pisgah A.M.E. Church in Jersey City. Burial was in Roschill Cemetery, Linden.

Arrangements were by Watson Mortuary Services in Jersey City.

Gertrude Kjellmark

SCOTCH PLAINS — Gertrude Kjellmark, 93, died Nov. 20, 2003 in the Hospice of the Valley in Phoenix, Ariz.

Born in Plainfield, she lived in Scotch Plains, Cranford and Whiting before moving to Phoenix three years ago.

Mrs. Kjellmark was a statistician at Prudential Insurance Co. in Newark, where she worked for 30 years before retiring in 1970.

She was a member of the Crestwood Village Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in Whiting.

Surviving are daughters, Judy Winters and Jill Bogert; a brother, Detlev Hauck, and three grandchildren.

A memorial service will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the Gray Funeral Home, 318 E. Broad St., Westfield.

Dorothy M. Harris

WESTFIELD — Dorothy Madeline Harris, 90, died Nov. 21, 2003 at Liberty Commons in Burlington, N.C.

Born and raised in Westfield, Mrs. Harris later moved to Cranford, where she raised her family before retiring to Toms River. She moved to North Carolina in 1997.

Before her marriage to the late Milton R. Harris, she worked at New York Life Insurance Company in New York City. She cared professionally for many children in the area and enjoyed

gardening, entertaining and needlepoint.

Surviving are two daughters, Marie Mann and Rev. Barbara Barlok and husband Ronald; six grandchildren, including Howard Mann and wife Jackie and Melinda Mann of Cranford; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Harris is predeceased by her husband and a brother, Martin V. Vincentson.

Burial was in Fairview Cemetery. Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Susan Weiveris

Susan Stecher Weiveris, 48, died Nov. 24, 2003 at the Father Hudson House in Elizabeth.

Mrs. Weiveris was a lifelong Cranford resident and since 2000 owned Integrity Bookkeeping in the township. She earlier was a bookkeeper for the Petro-MacArthur Fuel Co. in Clark; the Rankin Fuel Co. in Cranford; Schwartz & Romankow in Union; Helling, Lindemann, Goldstein & Seigel in Newark; AirCon in Mountainside; Red Devil Tools Inc. in Union; and the Technit Wire Co. in Cranford.

She also was the bookkeeper of the Crossroads Christian Fellowship in Union, where Mrs. Weiveris was the technical coordinator for the Easter play. The 1973 alumna of Cranford High School held an associate's degree in business from Union County College. She was a member of Phi

Theta Kappa honor society at the college.

Mrs. Weiveris was a life member of the Cranford First Aid Squad and the chairman of its 25th anniversary parade in 1978. She was the First Aid Squad's chaplain, president, vice president and treasurer in her years as an active member from 1971-86.

Her mother, Dorothy Elwert Stecher, died in 1998.

Surviving are her husband, Jim; her father, Charles Stecher; a brother, Charles Stecher Jr.; a niece and a nephew.

Services were held Sunday at the Crossroads Christian Fellowship.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to Carcinoid Cancer Foundation Inc., 333 Mamaronck Ave., Suite 402, White Plains, NY 10605.

Edward Kammler Jr.

Edward A. Kammler Jr., 79, died Nov. 30, 2003 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Elizabeth, he lived in Cranford and Summit before moving to Basking Ridge in 1987. He also maintained a summer residence in Wolfeboro, N.H.

Mr. Kammler owned Union County Buick in Elizabeth for many years before retiring in 1990.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

A former president of the Suburban Golf Club, Union, he was a member of the Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, president of

the New Jersey Automotive Trade Association and a charter president of the 200 Club of Union County.

Mr. Kammler was also a director of the United Counties Trust Co. in Elizabeth, a 32nd degree mason and a member of Salaam Temple Shrine Club.

Surviving are his wife, Lucy; daughters, Laurie Kaye and Patricia Luff; a son, Edward A.; a brother, Corydon S.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services will be 11 a.m. today at McCracken Funeral Home, 1500 Morris Ave., Union.

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Gala raises more than \$175G for Children's Specialized

Five hundred guests helped Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation raise over \$175,000 at its 16th annual Umbrella Gala Nov. 1. Proceeds from the black tie ball, held at The Regent Wall Street in New York City, benefit Children's Specialized Hospital, the nation's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital.

The evening included cocktails, dinner and dancing, as well as a dynamic performance by American tenor Michael Amante. Guests had an opportunity to meet Children's Specialized Hospital's new president and CEO, Amy Mansue, and recognize the evening's honoree CIT Group, a leading commercial and consumer finance company based in Livingston. CIT was recognized for its long standing relationship and generous financial support of a wide range of initiatives that have helped advance the accessibility of care to thousands of New Jersey's children. Other sponsors for the event included Englehard Corporation and Pfizer Inc.

"The gala was a tremendous success. Our guests enjoyed a beautiful evening in one of New York's grandest spaces, while contributing generously to help the hospital achieve its goal of expanding services. Together we have helped to ensure more children realize their potential for a brighter, happier future," said

Gemma Lyons, chairwoman of the gala planning committee.

Lyons was joined by co-chairwoman Barbara Kiley and Jean Pascuiti, Mountainside; auction chairwoman Pat Mauceri, Warren; Sueanne Korn, Scotch Plains; Barbara Cortese, Califon; Francine Leddy, Cranford; Barbara Rothman, Westfield; and Anita Siegel, Morristown. The advancement committee was led by co-chairs Paul Lamb and Rocky Mangiarano, both of Engelhard Corporation, and ad journal chairman John Boyle III of Basking Ridge. Committee members included Barry Bregman, Heidrick & Struggles; Tom Kay; J.P. Morgan Securities; Edward Moragas, KPMG; Joseph Lamendola, Ph.D. and Thomas Koestler, Ph.D. of Schering-Plough Corporation. Alexander

Giaquinto, Ph.D. and Philip Salerno III served as ex officio on both committees.

Attendees showed their support for the hospital by participating in a silent auction, which included a wide variety of items including tickets to metro sporting events, vacation trips, signed pieces of memorabilia and many other luxury items. The auction raised more than \$18,000 in net proceeds.

Children's Specialized Hospital, an affiliate member of the Robert Wood Johnson Health System, is the largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital in the United States. Children's treats infants, children, and young adults from birth to 21 years of age. This Foundation is the only organization of its kind where every gift has a direct impact on the future of special needs children.

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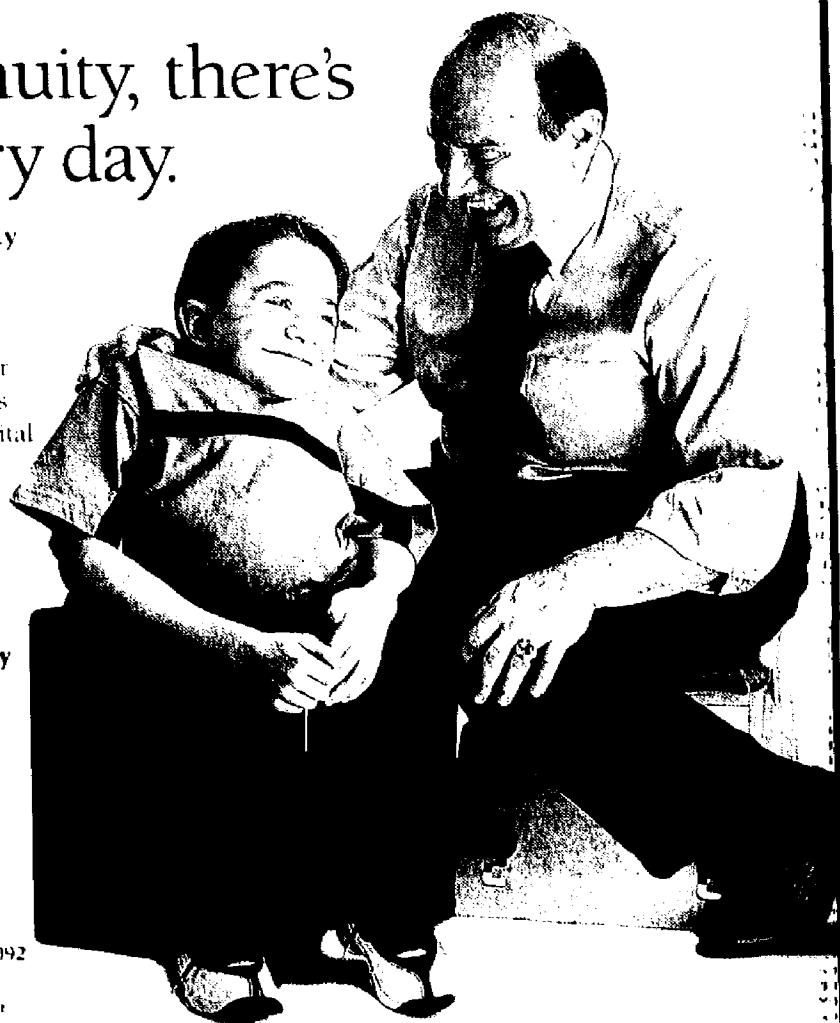
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Real Estate

Popularity of adjustable-rate mortgages is on the rise

By JAMES M. WOODARD
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Adjustable-rate mortgages appear to be experiencing a mini-revival in popularity with borrowers. The proportion of ARM loans to the total volume of mortgage applications has been increasing.

"The ARM share has risen to its highest level in more than three and a half years," said Jay Brinkmann, the Mortgage Bankers Association vice president of research. As of the second week of November, the ARM proportion of mortgage activity increased to 27.5 percent of total applications — almost a full percentage point increase from just the week before.

The attraction of ARMs is

that they come with a substantially lower interest rate than is available for fixed-rate loans. With most experts predicting that mortgage interest rates will remain low for the foreseeable future, more and more consumers are taking advantage of the lower adjustable rates. A one-year ARM can carry an interest rate up to 2 percentage points less than a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage.

Most borrowers, however, want the peace of mind that comes from knowing their mortgage rate will not periodically jump upward, raising their monthly payments. Consequently, they opt for a 15-year or 30-year fixed-rate mortgage. Usually, the interest rate on a 15-year loan will be about three-quarters of a percentage

point less than on a 30-year loan.

Q: What's being done to make homeowner's insurance more available?

A: Finally, homeowner's insurance coverage may become more available next year, thanks to Policyholders of America.

This consumer group will start selling homeowners policies in the later months of 2004, it was announced. It's part of POA's continuing attempt to provide consumer-friendly products.

Unlike conventional insurers, POA will not use credit scores or report claims to the Comprehensive Loss and Underwriting Exchange database, says POA President Melinda Ballard.

However, the group will require policyholders to have their roofs and homes inspected annually, and require leak-detection systems for those seeking water-damage coverage. POA will decline to insure synthetic stucco homes or structures constructed by builders the POA believes are prone to problems.

Q: Generally, how fast are home prices going up nationwide?

A: Many U.S. markets are growing significantly in population and in home values. In a recent study, 74 markets were identified where residential real estate values are appreciating at 10 percent or more per year. The study was by Runzheimer International, a

real estate and relocation consulting group.

The study analyzed home market values for a 2,200-square-foot residence in a suburban community. In an average-cost location, home values increased 4 percent per year over the past four years.

"A 3 percent to 6 percent appreciation rate is typical for the majority of home markets across the United States," said the manager of research for Runzheimer. "This is the case in most markets, but in a few suburban communities home values are increasing at a rate of more than 12 percent per year."

Q: Does the new do-not-call rule prevent real estate brokers from calling homeowners who are trying to sell their property by themselves?

A: The Federal Trade Commission has given real estate brokers a bit of a break. The commission has determined it is acceptable for brokers or their sales associates to call owners of homes being marketed "by owner" if the broker has a prospective buyer for the property, despite the new do-not-call registry. However, if the broker does not have a viable prospect, the call is prohibited.

"Practitioners who solicit business from FSBOs (for sale by owners) without having an interested buyer aren't exempted from the do-not-call list restriction," said FTC Commissioner Mozelle Thompson. "Consumers have been very clear in their communications to the FTC about their concerns over unsolicited marketing calls."

Deteriorating tub should be recaulked

By GENE GARY
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: The caulking around our bathtub/shower unit shows signs of crumbling, and some rust is beginning to appear in crevices. This condition makes the area look dirty, even though I have used recommended bath and tub cleaners as well as household bleach. Can I recaulk over the old caulking, and do I need to remove the rust prior to applying new caulk?

A: Recaulking over old and crumbling caulk is not the answer. It will only compound the problem. Sooner or later, almost every shower or tub will need to have seams recaulked. It is best to tackle this job at the first signs of cracking, before water seeps behind the tile and rust appears or — even worse — dry rot sets in.

Cracks in the seams of your shower enclosure occur from regular expansion and contraction of walls due to changes in temperature and humidity as well as the general settling of the house. Tub seams are even

more vulnerable because most tubs flex when you step into them. Repairing the existing caulking is not a recommended procedure. All of the old and crumbling caulking should be removed.

Fortunately, there is an alternative to the removal of hardened old caulking by tedious scraping and chipping. Removal can be facilitated with the use of 3M Caulk Remover, available at hardware stores and home centers. This product softens the old caulk and makes it easy to lift and scrape it out with a putty knife, leaving a smooth, clean surface for the new seal.

Recaulking with a silicone caulk provides the best long-term protection. This comes in tubes or can be applied using a cartridge in a caulking gun. The tubes are convenient for small jobs.

Be sure that all soap residue and mildew are removed from the walls and tub or shower surface. Use a commercial rust remover if rust is present. If applying the caulking from a tube, cut the applicator tip so

that the opening is one-eighth of an inch in diameter. This will allow you to apply a continuous bead of caulk about 3 feet long.

Silicone becomes tacky fast, so it is important to smooth the bead with your fingers as soon as you lay it. If the caulk should flow around the sides of your finger, immediately wipe away any excess with a soft cloth. Use warm, soapy water and your finger to form the joint.

If you haven't applied caulking before, consider purchasing a handy, inexpensive tool that works better than using your finger to maintain a smooth, even caulking bead. The Homax Caulk Finisher is one brand that can be trimmed to the desired bead size for a variety of caulking jobs. This small hand tool removes any excess caulking and maintains an even, uniform bead.

When you have finished the caulking job, filling all joints, wait at least 12 hours before using your tub or shower.

Send e-mail to copleysd@copleynews.com or write to Here's How, Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190. Only questions of general interest can be answered in the column.

ERA Agents take a Tech Tour

ERA brokers and agents from offices throughout New Jersey attended the company's 2003 Tech Tour Oct. 30 at the Victorian Manor in Edison. At this annual event, ERA's latest technology tools were presented to 175 associates.

With customers increasingly relying on the Internet for real estate-related information, agents are expected to use all types of technology to help their clients buy or sell their home. To help their associates utilize the technology available to them, ERA business consultants and technology vendors have been touring the Northeast presenting the company's most innovative programs for prospecting, marketing and servicing clients.

"The Tech Tour helped our agents to better understand the programs and tools offered by ERA," explained Paul Giannantonio, president of the ERA Brokers of NJ and broker/owner of ERA American Dream Realtors. "I discovered some great prospecting and follow-up tools such as Property Source Network's e-Newsletters and e-Greetings."

"The weekly online newsletters contain valuable real estate information and homeowner's tips, while e-greetings can be sent for birthdays and to tell customers about new listings, price reductions and open houses. By using both, I keep in touch with my customer-base while providing them with a valuable service," Giannantonio said.

ERA also presented its Interactive Brochure, a marketing tool given to consumers that utilizes business card-sized CD-ROMs containing useful information on buying, selling and moving.

To encourage agents to use the technology developed, ERA offers most programs online. For example, ERA associates have a customized version of the Top Producers productivity software (called ERA Leaders EDG Agent) available online for free, a significant savings over the monthly charge most agents pay to use it. Leaders EDG Agent helps associates manage the entire real estate process — from creating a customized client database, to developing professional listing presentations, action plans, comparative market analyses (CMAs), financial reports, customer correspondence and more.

Other online programs demonstrated at the Tech Tour included eNeighborhoods, e-Campus and ERA Mortgage. Viewing eNeighborhoods data on both the ERA.com and ERANJ.com web-sites, consumers can get a glimpse of a neighborhood's personality — age, income, housing, school rankings, maps and more. Through its eCampus online training center, ERA offers its associates over 100 training courses. Using an online link to ERA Mortgage, agents were shown how to track a transaction in progress, allowing them to be more responsive to their clients' needs.

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15 YR FIXED	5.000	0.00	5.040	20%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED	5.000	0.00	5.030	5%	90 DAY	15 YR FIXED	4.625	0.00	4.870	0%	45 DAY
1 YR ARM	3.750	0.00	3.656	20%	60 DAY	5/1-30 YR	4.500	0.00	4.120	5%	90 DAY	1 YR ADJ.	1.950	0.00	4.480	0%	90 DAY
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30 YR FIXED	5.500	0.00	5.540	5%	30 DAY	30 YR FIXED	5.025	0.00	5.750	5%	45 DAY	30 YR FIXED	5.125	2.00	5.280	5%	30 DAY
15 YR FIXED	4.875	0.00	4.890	5%	30 DAY	15 YR FIXED	4.875	0.00	5.000	5%	45 DAY	15 YR FIXED	4.500	2.00	4.710	5%	30 DAY
30 YR JUMBO	5.750	0.00	5.790	5%	60 DAY	30 YR JUMBO	5.875	0.00	6.000	10%	45 DAY	OPTION ARM	1.980	1.00	3.290	10%	30 DAY
No Application, commitment or broker fees																	
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Any Income Any Credit Purchase or Refi																	
30 YR FIXED	5.375	3.00	5.053	5%	60 DAY	30 YR FIXED	5.500	0.00	5.520	5%	45 DAY	30 YR FIXED	5.125	0.00	5.170	5%	60 DAY
15 YR FIXED	4.500	0.00	5.012	5%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED	4.875	0.00	4.897	5%	45 DAY	15 YR FIXED	4.500	0.00	4.540	5%	60 DAY
5/1-30 YR	4.625	0.00	4.309	5%	75 DAY	30 YR JUMBO	5.750	0.00	5.770	10%	45 DAY	30 YR JUMBO	5.625	0.00	5.670	5%	60 DAY
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15 YR FIXED	5.125	0.00	5.140	N/P	N/P DAY	15 YR FIXED	5.000	0.00	4.670	10%	90 DAY	15 YR FIXED	5.250	0.00	5.320	5%	60 DAY
30 YR JUMBO	6.000	0.00	6.009	N/P	N/P DAY	5/1-30 YR	4.500	0.00	4.130	10%	75 DAY	10/1-30 YR	5.750	0.00	5.170	10%	60 DAY
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15 YR FIXED	6.000	0.00	6.031	5%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED	6.000	0.00	6.031	5%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED	6.000	0.00	6.031	5%	60 DAY
20 YR FIXED	6.500	0.00	6.520	5%	60 DAY	20 YR FIXED	6.500	0.00	6.520	5%	60 DAY	20 YR FIXED	6.500	0.00	6.520	5%	60 DAY

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Automotive/Classified

A sentimental journey in a vintage Lincoln

By LAURA BYRD
Copley News Service

It was April 25, 1964, when Rose Medina signed her name on a cocktail napkin at the Hotel del Charro in San Diego.

The napkin was a contract for \$2,900, the purchase price for an 8-year-old she dearly wanted - weighing in at a remarkable 5,250 pounds. Rose was buying a gently used 1956 Lincoln Mark II.

"My mother was the car nut," says her son, Jim Medina, a longtime resident of La Mesa, Calif., with his wife, Diana.

"My dad was a fisherman in San Diego, and he was gone a lot. My mom's hobby was collecting cars. She probably owned more than 30 collectible vehicles in her lifetime."

Rose Medina's collection at one time included seven Mustangs, a 1951 Crosley station wagon and an unrestored 1930 Moon, which Medina has tucked away in storage.

Although many of the cars, including the Mustangs, were sold, a few of the favorites have stayed in the family for three decades.

"I think my mom's favorite might have been the 1956 Thunderbird, which we still have," Medina says. "But it's unrestored, because you can only do so much."

"We restored and drive the Lincoln, which has great sentimental value to us."

Considering the Lincoln was purchased with fewer than 57,000 miles on it and served as Jim and Diana's wedding-day car shortly after his mother purchased it, it's easy to understand why the Mark II sat safely in storage for the next 30



Even with such a heavy curb weight, the Lincoln was a sporty go-fast car, thanks to a hearty 300 horsepower, 368-inch V-8 under the hood.

years. At least, if you're from a generation of car collectors, it's easy to grasp.

"My dad wasn't much on old cars," Medina says. "He liked new cars, and bought something new almost every year. Fishermen made a lot of money in those days, and my folks had a lot of cars around all the time."

A bright, almost-blinding snow white with a vivid green

interior, the Mark II has the presence of both a larger luxury car and a smaller, vintage sport car.

Even with such a heavy curb weight, the Lincoln was a sporty go-fast car, thanks to a hearty 300 horsepower, 368-inch V-8 under the hood. For some owners, that would be an impetus for a lot of weekend showing off around town.

"We didn't ever drive it much after our wedding,"

Medina says. "Diana and I took it to Las Vegas once in 1965, but that was its biggest trip. Now, we cruise Coronado once in a while, and we periodically trailer it to car shows, but it's hard to subject it to wear and tear."

That means the Lincoln was in pristine shape for its second wedding in 35 years when Medina's son got married last year in La Mesa, and like dad, drove the Mark II on his wed-

ding day. "It was a posturing car for Continental," Medina says, "So I guess it is for us, too!"

Built for just two years in 1956 and 1957, the Lincoln Mark II had a production run of 2,500 units in 1956, and a mere 300 in 1957.

It sold for \$10,732 new, and rumors among current collectors are that Ford Motor lost money on every one, which led to the quick demise of the

model. In fact, rumors among owners include information that potential buyers in 1956 had to be pre-approved by Ford and were required to put up a \$5,000 cash deposit to even order the car. Shipped out in protective containers, the Lincoln - manufactured in Wixom, Mich. - had a long ride to Los Angeles in the '50s.

One car in particular - white outside, green inside - would be purchased by a couple that used their 1953 Cadillac Fleetwood for a \$2,639 trade-in toward the Mark II.

They would sell that car eight years later to Rose Medina, who couldn't know then that she was buying the car her children - and later her grandchildren - would drive to their wedding receptions.

Car talk
Yahoo! Autos has released the not-surprising results from its latest survey and found that, yes, people talk to their cars. And not just that, we have names for our cars and trucks.

Many respondents probably wondered "Do swear words count?" But here's what the survey shows:

- Do you talk to your car?
 - Yes: 69 percent
 - No: 30 percent
 - (Total votes: 1,541)
- Do you have a name for your car?
 - Yes: 51 percent
 - No: 48 percent
 - (Total votes: 1,259)
- Do you consider your car male or female?
 - Male: 28 percent
 - Female: 48 percent
 - Neither: 22 percent
 - (Total votes: 1,714)

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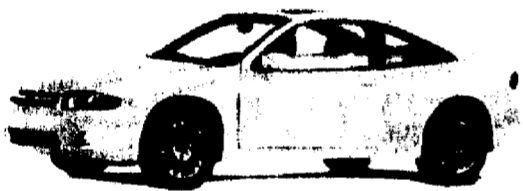
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48 MOS.

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PER MO. **
48 MOS.

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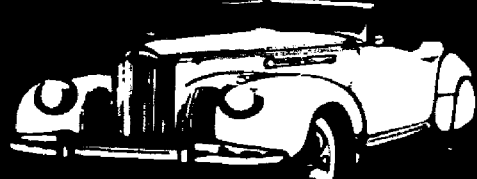
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1997 Nissan Pathfinder 4x4 4 dr. auto trans, (ps, pb, pw, plocks, seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, moonr. 20,000 miles VIN#0198842)	\$12,995	2003 Mercury Grand Marquis LS 4 dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, plocks, seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, moonr. 20,000 miles VIN#0198842	\$19,995
2002 Mercury Sable GS 4 dr. auto trans, (ps, pb, pw, plocks, seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, moonr. 20,000 miles VIN#0198842)	\$12,995	1999 Lincoln Navigator 4x4 4 dr. auto trans, (ps, pb, pw, plocks, seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, moonr. 20,000 miles VIN#0198842)	\$22,995
2001 Mercury Sable LS 4 dr. auto trans, (ps, pb, pw, plocks, seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, moonr. 20,000 miles VIN#0198842)	\$13,995	2003 Lincoln Town Car 4 dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, plocks, seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass. alloy wheels, moonr. 20,000 miles VIN#0198842	\$26,995

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2000 Chevrolet Blazer LT 4 dr. 6 cyl. auto OD trans, pwr strng/anti-lock brks/wind/locks, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels. VIN# 421270122. MSRP \$16,999. Buy price incl \$1000 GM Rebate 48 mo. GMAC Smart Buy w/12,000 mi/yr. 20c thereafter. Incl. \$1500 Down Pymnt Assist. \$0 due at signing. Til Pymnts = \$8413. Til Cost = \$8413. 48th Pymnt is Balloon Pymnt = \$8294.30**	2000 Dodge Durango EXT 4x4 4 dr. 6 cyl. auto OD trans, pwr strng/anti-lock brks/wind/locks, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels. VIN# 421270122. MSRP \$18,999. Buy price incl \$1000 GM Rebate 48 mo. GMAC Smart Buy w/12,000 mi/yr. 20c thereafter. Incl. \$1500 Down Pymnt Assist. \$0 due at signing. Til Pymnts = \$8413. Til Cost = \$8413. 48th Pymnt is Balloon Pymnt = \$8294.30**
2001 Chrysler 300M 4 dr. 6 cyl. auto OD trans, pwr strng/anti-lock brks/wind/locks, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels. VIN# 421270122. MSRP \$18,499. Buy price incl \$1000 GM Rebate 48 mo. GMAC Smart Buy w/12,000 mi/yr. 20c thereafter. Incl. \$1500 Down Pymnt Assist. \$0 due at signing. Til Pymnts = \$8413. Til Cost = \$8413. 48th Pymnt is Balloon Pymnt = \$8294.30**	2000 Mercedes Benz C230 4 dr. 6 cyl. auto OD trans, pwr strng/anti-lock brks/wind/locks, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels. VIN# 421270122. MSRP \$20,499. Buy price incl \$1000 GM Rebate 48 mo. GMAC Smart Buy w/12,000 mi/yr. 20c thereafter. Incl. \$1500 Down Pymnt Assist. \$0 due at signing. Til Pymnts = \$8413. Til Cost = \$8413. 48th Pymnt is Balloon Pymnt = \$8294.30**
'02 Buick Rendezvous 4 dr. 6 cyl. auto OD trans, pwr strng/anti-lock brks/wind/locks, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels. VIN# 421270122. MSRP \$22,499. Buy price incl \$1000 GM Rebate 48 mo. GMAC Smart Buy w/12,000 mi/yr. 20c thereafter. Incl. \$1500 Down Pymnt Assist. \$0 due at signing. Til Pymnts = \$8413. Til Cost = \$8413. 48th Pymnt is Balloon Pymnt = \$8294.30**	'02 Cadillac Sedan DeVille 4 dr. 6 cyl. auto OD trans, pwr strng/anti-lock brks/wind/locks, AIR, AM/FM Stereo, CD, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels, dual air bags, 16" alloy wheels. VIN# 421270122. MSRP \$28,999. Buy price incl \$1000 GM Rebate 48 mo. GMAC Smart Buy w/12,000 mi/yr. 20c thereafter. Incl. \$1500 Down Pymnt Assist. \$0 due at signing. Til Pymnts = \$8413. Til Cost = \$8413. 48th Pymnt is Balloon Pymnt = \$8294.30**

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