

# Record-Press

Serving Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood

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INS



## Devils dominate

Sam Gurdus finished third in the butterfly and fourth in the breaststroke to help the Westfield High boys swim team win its fifth straight Union County championship. Westfield swept the county as the girls squad won its 12th straight title. See Sports, Page C-1.



## Celebrating Souper Sunday

While the Patriots and Panthers slugged it out last weekend on "Super Sunday," area churches collected funds for the needy in their own "Souper Bowl of Caring." See the story on Page B-1.



## All about trees

Master Tree Steward Dean Talcott recently paid a visit to St. Bartholomew Interparochial School to talk to students about tree varieties and development. See the picture on Page B-1.

## REMINDER

## Quality family time at the JCC

The JCC of Central New Jersey in Scotch Plains hosts a Mom-Daughter Night 7-10 p.m. Saturday. Moms and their girls can watch the movie "Freaky Friday" and give each other manicures. The cost is \$8 for moms, \$6 for daughters. For more, call (908) 889-8800, ext. 235 or 218.

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# Towns won't pursue jitney service

By BRAD BISHOP and GREG MARX  
THE RECORD-PRESS

A proposed jitney service connecting Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents to the Fanwood train station will not be created, despite interest from members of both municipal councils and federal grant money supplied to purchase two buses.

The shuttle bus service would have established two or more routes for area commuters during the morning and evening rush hours. Council members said the goal of the project was to run a self-sustaining service which would offer residents another option for their commutes, reducing traffic congestion and pollution along the way.

However, the finances required to start up the project proved too great to justify investment from the borough of Fanwood. And the Scotch Plains Township Council was unwilling to bear the entirety of the costs for the project.

Fanwood Councilman Stuart Kline, who sits on the Joint Transportation Agency of the two municipalities, made the recommendation to proceed to his colleagues on the Borough Council Tuesday night. The JTA's investigation concluded that the service would not be self-sustaining; further, the type of bus that was to be used has a tendency to break down one to two weeks a year, Kline said.

Given the financial burdens and the repair histories, we decided it was time to make a final decision and we decided not to go forward," he said. Though the project was "worth investigating," "the fact of the matter is there is no mass transit system in this country that makes money," Kline said. "A bus line can't be self-sustaining."

And the Fanwood council members were unwilling to subsidize the project. "It was really helping Scotch Plains residents get to our bus station," Kline said. "There didn't seem to be a clamor for this in Fanwood."

The Fanwood council is expected to vote to reject the project at its next meeting Tuesday. Council members said they also intend to dissolve the JTA and terminate their agreement with its executive director and with NJ Transit.

It was technically possible that Scotch Plains could have proceeded with the project on its

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GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Watch your step!

A covering of snow on the ice at Westfield's Mindowaskin Pond made skating difficult in places, but that didn't stop 8-year-old Mary Kate Hrinkevich from strapping on her skates. Tuesday's rains and milder temperatures washed away much of that snow, and there is more precipitation expected for the weekend.

# 100-year-old home will be demolished in subdivision

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Despite reservations by members of the Planning Board, two subdivisions were approved Monday night. One of the approved subdivisions will result in the demolition of a Victorian farmhouse-style home which is more than 100 years old.

By a 7-1 vote, the board approved the subdivision application of developer Charles Pijanowski, who proposed to divide a lot at 619 Elm Street into two new conforming building lots. Pijanowski intends to demolish the existing dwelling and construct single-family homes on each of the newly-created lots.

The board briefly debated whether it had the legal authority to deny an application which conforms to all conditions of the zone and requires no variances. Councilman James Foerst suggested the board could deny the application based on the applicant's failure to address requirements which are not specifically requested on the subdivision application, but members of the board ultimately agreed that rejecting the application on that basis was likely a legally untenable position.

Pijanowski said that attempting to move the house and then pay for the expensive renovations likely to follow was not economically feasible. He mentioned costs related to renovating kitchens, bathrooms, windows, and siding, and noted that homeowners are less likely to purchase buildings such as the structure he proposed to demolish.



BRAD BISHOP/THE RECORD-PRESS  
This house on Elm Street is slated to be demolished after the Westfield Planning Board approved a subdivision of the property.

According to town attorney Robert Cockren, certain buildings can be preserved if they are placed on the town's historic register. But for that to be accomplished, there is a lengthy review process that must be initiated with the consent of the owner of the property.

The property at 619 Elm Street was not on the historic register and further, the date of any given building's construction does not necessarily make a structure historical, at least as far as the town's land use ordinance is concerned.

Betty List, chairperson of the Westfield Historic

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# Board continues budget talks, reviews curriculum

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Board of Education discussed several budget items at its regular meeting Tuesday night, presenting a small decrease in costs from its first budget draft but making no major cuts.

The first draft represented a 7 percent increase over last year's budget, and the board must reduce the budget to a state-mandated 6 percent cap by March 11. The budget will be presented to voters on April 20.

Personnel salaries comprise approximately 70 percent of the district's budget. New staff will include four new teachers at Westfield High School, one Resource Center teacher at the high school and one new guidance counselor, also at the high school. Staff increases are not planned for the elementary and intermediate schools.

Business Administrator Bob Berman said the personnel budget includes an increase of \$335,000 devoted to new staff, down from an earlier projection of \$390,000. The district will need one less Resource Center teacher than originally

envisioned.

Superintendent William Foley said the district still needs a science coordinator for grades K-8, but due to budget constraints, that need was put off for this year's budget.

Berman said additional needs that are also not in the budget include a special education supervisor for grades K-8, an additional computer technician, an elementary school counselor, and additional math and English teachers at Roosevelt Intermediate School.

Dr. Janie Edmonds, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, presented the curriculum-related costs to the board. The curriculum budget, set at \$425,000, includes professional development costs and textbook costs.

Edmonds said that textbooks required to support new and revised curricula would cost approximately \$200,000.

Social studies classes in grades 4 and 5 study the state of New Jersey, and Edmonds said that the text materials for the classes are so badly outdated that a

(Continued on page A-2)

# Many questions about SID are unanswered

But committee settles on district's boundaries

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — A steering committee exploring the creation of a special improvement district (SID) in the township settled the boundaries of the proposed area Tuesday night, but many other details regarding the rates to be charged — and whether the district will be established at all — remain unresolved.

Establishing a SID requires commercial enterprises within a designated area to contribute additional money to a fund used for various physical improvements, marketing, and collective negotiation. SID money would also establish a downtown corporation to oversee the district. Nearby towns Cranford, Summit, and Westfield have established SIDs in recent years.

A SID could work on aesthetic improvements such as establishing sidewalk pavers, improving lighting, installing park benches and holiday decorations, hiring security officers to patrol parking lots, or establishing uniform facades on businesses. Members of the SID can also negotiate collectively for low interest loans and cheaper garbage contracts.

"We're looking for a way to

improve downtown so property owners have control over the way their money is spent," said township council liaison Nancy Malool at Tuesday's meeting.

The boundary of the proposed SID would include Park Avenue between Route 22 and the post office; Westfield Avenue from Park Avenue to Forest Road; the entirety of East Second Street; Front Street from Park Avenue to Terrill Road; and Terrill Road between Front Street and East Second Street.

As envisioned by the steering committee, the new boundaries include a slightly expanded district from previous discussions. However, new sections added to the SID on Front Street and Terrill Road will not be assessed at least during the first year of the SID, officials said, since those property owners have not been given adequate notice about the SID.

And assessments remain an issue of contention among committee members. Although the committee has agreed on an assessment rate of 25 cents per \$100 of assessed property value in addition to the regular property tax bill, members have not yet agreed on whether certain prop-

(Continued on page A-2)



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

## Groundhog Day at Miller-Cory

Westfield resident Drew Glassman, age 3½, colors his Groundhog Day craft Sunday at the Miller-Cory House Museum. The colonial museum's celebration of the holidays continues soon with a Valentine's Day celebration.

# Westfield grapples with school calendar

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The relentless winter weather, combined with a hurricane and construction issues which delayed the opening of the high school last fall, have created an unusual situation for the school district's 2003-04 calendar. But members of the Board of Education decided not to make a significant change to the calendar at their regular meeting Tuesday night after losing another day to snow last week.

All schools in the district have used up their snow days, but options remain available to the board to prevent major changes in the school calendar.

Superintendent William Foley presented the board with several different calendar options should the school district lose another day to inclement weather. One option was to move the high school graduation day and the accompanying "bash" from June 21 to June 24. The event will be held at the Ricochet Racket Club in South Plainfield, and could be

(Continued on page A-2)

# Towns won't pursue jitney

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own, but that appears unlikely. "It turns out that both towns would have had to fund it to make it sustainable," said Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks. "I could have imagined Scotch Plains contributing money (for the service) but to take it all upon ourselves financially was doubtful."

The largest expenses associated with the project included driver's salaries, management and administrative costs, fuel, insurance,

maintenance and repairs, advertising, and office costs.

According to a business model drawn by the Joint Transportation Agency, which was presented to the two municipal bodies in November, the bus service would have posted operating losses of between \$16,000 and \$39,000 over the first five years of operation, despite the fact the state had committed two buses and tens of thousands of dollars of operating funds in the first few years.

Another expense was the

prospect of replacing the buses in the future. The buses which the state would have supplied are currently valued at approximately \$90,000 and are expected to last between seven and eight years.

The Joint Transportation Agency included in its model revenues from passenger fares and discussed selling advertising space on the buses. Other towns such as Roselle Park and Old Bridge run self-sustaining jitney services, but on a smaller scale than what the JTA had envisioned.

assessed value.

Committee chair Seth Grossman said a process could be developed to allow businesses assessed at the 25-cent rate to appeal for a lower rate.

Still to be determined is whether certain nonprofit entities, such as day care centers at churches, would be assessed at all. Members of the SID committee will attempt to reach consensus on all assessment issues at the next meeting this coming Tuesday. Steering committee meetings are held at 1812 Front Street and begin at 6 p.m.

One property owner who attended the meeting was opposed to the concept of a SID because he was concerned the assessment rate, once established, will contin-

ue to rise unchecked in the manner many taxes do.

Also, he said that properties like his which are not within the central business district are unlikely to see major improvements. He said other property owners he has talked to, who have not attended committee meetings, have similar reservations.

Because of these concerns, the committee will have an open informational meeting for concerned property owners and members of the public on Thursday, Feb. 19 at Scotch Hills Country Club. If, after the public session, the committee finds that strong opposition to the SID exists among commercial property owners within the district, it will recommend that the township council not create the SID.

# Many questions remain about SID

(Continued from page A-1)

erty owners, such as offices and professional services, should be assessed at a lower rate than retail properties.

While there are inherent benefits to all properties within the SID, some businesses would likely benefit more than others. Members of the steering committee are attempting to quantify the difference by assessing properties at a different rate.

The committee discussed options which would give certain properties anywhere from a 25 percent to a 75 percent discount on the retail rate. Certain businesses at the reduced rate would therefore be assessed anywhere between 6.25 cents to 18.75 cents per \$100 of



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# Board continues budget talks, reviews curriculum

(Continued from page A-1)

picture of then-Gov. Tom Kean, who served the state from 1982-1990, adorns the first page of the book the classes use.

Also at the elementary level, language arts classes are pursuing a new, differentiated approach to reading. Previously, students read from large

# Westfield home to be demolished

(Continued from page A-1)

Preservation Committee, said that the building was originally located on Dudley Avenue but in 1903 was relocated to Elm Street on a lot considered spacious at the time. She said she deplored the tactics used by developers to outbid homeowners, while intending to demolish houses and construct more and larger homes in their place.

"The developer's gain is Westfield's loss," she said.

Pijanowski countered by claiming that both lots created by the subdivision met the town's zoning ordinances and drainage concerns. He denied the accusation that he was a "greedy" developer, noting that he has been developing property in Westfield for 20 years.

"I'm not a new developer coming into town trying to make money...I'm not knocking down houses and putting up McMansions," he said.

Board member Richard Elbert said the best solution was to find a way to move the existing building. "Developers do have a responsibility to the community," he said.

Board member Andrew McDonald echoed those sentiments, explaining that he was concerned about the growing effect of subdivisions and demolitions on the town's cultural heritage. MacDonald noted a growing trend of developers outbidding potential homeowners in pursuit of economic benefit.

At one point, Pijanowski offered to remove the application and return with legal counsel,

prompting board chairman Jay Boyle to explain that such a move was unnecessary since the board had no legal grounds to deny the subdivision.

"We're voting on a subdivision, not a demolition," Boyle said. "Although many of us feel the character of the town is being attacked...many people buy houses we don't feel are attractive," he said, noting that prospective homeowners often prefer houses that are bigger but not necessarily better.

All voting members of the board approved the application except Foerst, who voted to deny the subdivision.

At the same meeting, the board approved a minor subdivision with variances at 606 Cumberland Street for applicant Robert Brennan. Brennan's application included his intention to demolish an existing garage. Requested variances were related to front and side yard setbacks.

Members of the board expressed some concerns about granting a variance for a 15 foot setback for the corner lot property. Michael Tobia, planner for Brennan, explained that the typical setback in the neighborhood is 13.1 feet, smaller than the figure proposed by the applicant. Tobia said granting the variance would therefore not represent a significant detriment to the neighborhood.

The board approved the subdivision unanimously, although member Robert Newell lamented the loss of another large lot in that section of town.

anthologies, but the departments are now acquiring smaller books.

Teachers will be able to assign books appropriate to each class, and the schools will be able to build a larger inventory of texts which can be assigned based on class progress.

Intermediate schools will have new textbooks in language arts for grades 6-8, which include fiction and short stories to extend differentiation.

New math texts are necessary

for the eighth-grade algebra curriculum, and eighth-grade Spanish classes need new texts to phase in an increasingly authentic curriculum.

At the high school level, many subjects are updating their texts, but science classes are especially noteworthy for new curriculum.

Four chemistry programs require new materials, while Physics 1 and Honors Physics classes will also be updated.

A curriculum cost increase board members applauded is

associated with the Gifted Education Program for grades 5 and 8. Certain advanced students in those grades will have the opportunity to attend select classes at the intermediate and high school level, respectively. Costs for the program include busing the students from one facility to the other.

The board will review the technology budget Feb. 17 and co-curricular activities, including fine arts and sports, Feb. 24. Both meetings are open to the public.

# Westfield grapples with school calendar

(Continued from page A-1)

held either on June 21, as was originally scheduled, or three days later.

If the event was to be moved, Foley said it would have to happen soon so he could reserve the club for the graduation event. The

option would have given the board more flexibility by adding snow days to the end of the school year in June.

In a letter written by Michael Seiler, president of the Westfield Education Association, the board was urged to move graduation to June 24 and preserve spring break.

Seiler argued that spring break has more than likely been booked for vacations and college visits.

But Board Vice President Anne Riegel and the majority of board members were opposed to that idea, since the school's calendar warned that in the event of an unusual loss of school days, spring break would be used to make them up. She said that students and parents make travel plans based on the calendar as they see it in the fall.

"If we're not serious about taking the day, we shouldn't put the warning in there," Riegel said.

There was some debate about reducing the number of school days to 180. The board decided to reserve that decision until a later date if that move is needed. Foley said that losing more than one more day to snow could force him to make a difficult decision about the school calendar.

"If we have significant problems with snow, spring break would be the next to go, starting with April 5," Foley said.

# Students achieve honor roll

**WESTFIELD** — The names of several students were omitted from the Roosevelt Intermediate School honor roll published in last week's edition. The following students earned academic honors for the first marking period:

*Grade 7 Honor Roll* — Steven Anzalone, Michael Carpetto, Panos Chantzis, Trevor Barnes and Connor Sheehan.

*Grade 7 Distinguished Honor Roll* — Katherine Sheridan and Steven Zilberberg.

*Grade 8 Honor Roll* — Melissa Gallagher.

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# Students impress at winter concert

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — Fourth-grade students from School One, under the guidance of Choral Director Debbie Shapiro and Band Director Joseph Reo, warmed the hearts of family, teachers and friends with an outstanding musical performance on Jan. 13. Principal Jeffrey Grysko presided over the evening activities, which took place in the new multi-purpose room.

The instrumental recital featured soloist Claire Muirhead playing two selections on violin, followed by a performance of "Twinkle, Twinkle" by clarinets Aliva DeMaria, Nicole DePaola, Steven Devall, Ramona Dunning, Alexandra Lestarchick, Lisa Matrale, Maria Paz Rivero and Kristina Zekunde.

A rousing rendition of



Members of the fourth-grade chorus at School One in Scotch Plains impressed in a recent concert.

"Marine's Hymn" followed, performed by Ben Ross on baritone accompanied by Reo on trombone. A quartet composed of clarinets Allison Speck and Sarah Van Buskirk and saxes Casey Dugan and Kevin Hesson rounded off the presentation with a tuneful "Theme by Beethoven" and the lively "Camptown Races."

The diverse performances

were made impressive by the fact that Reo has only been working with the fourth-graders for several months; his announcement that band practice would officially begin the following morning was met with much enthusiasm.

The Broadway-themed chorale that followed testified once again to the dedication and enthusiasm of director

Debbie Shapiro. "One Brick at a Time" was followed by "Why Am I Me?" Gifted soloist Aliva DeMaria followed with a soulful "Out Here On My Own." Victoria Lesce and Lisa Matrale were next with a lovely rendition of "Castle on a Cloud", followed by group performances of the crowd-pleasing "Fugue for Tinhorns" and the finale, "Rhythm of Life."

# Board begins hearing on Commerce Bank

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

**WESTFIELD** — Officials supporting an application to construct a Commerce Bank facility on North Avenue opened their case before the Planning Board Monday night. The board heard testimony related to lighting and landscaping before adjourning the hearing until its next regular meeting in March.

Commerce Bank proposes to demolish three vacant buildings at 552-556 and 560 North Avenue East and construct a 3,669-square foot, four-window drive-through facility in that space. The company seeks variances related to parking, signage, and illumination.

In his opening comments, attorney Jeffrey Lehrer said Commerce Bank will improve the aesthetics of a vacant lot and install a "state of the art" building. He said the bank is unique because it has expanded hours to meet the changing needs of today's consumers. Commerce is open 7 days a week, opening early and closing later in the evening than many banking facilities.

Lehrer presented engineer Brett Skapinetz of Bohler Engineering, who testified that Commerce Bank will improve drainage in the area, since it proposes to reduce impervious coverage from nearly 97 percent to 56.6 percent. Skapinetz argued that water runoff would therefore be reduced, and in any event the lot is currently graded to discharge water onto a railroad right-of-way.

Skapinetz said the bank will plant shrubs in the front yard to shield nearby neighborhoods from light leakage caused by car headlights. He said the property will include parking spaces for 41 cars, well above the zone's minimum standard of 15.

Front-yard parking and paving is prohibited in the zone, but Skapinetz said the bank's 24-hour ATM located in the front of the building makes front-yard parking a necessity.

Board member Robert Newell expressed concerns about the illumination of the property, which in places may exceed the zone's minimum of 0.5 footcandles. He said the applicant should attempt to make lighting more uniform across the lot. Skapinetz agreed to work with the board to reduce light leakage and reduce overall illumination, but noted that the state sets minimum lighting standards for

ATMs which Commerce must meet.

The company presented a traffic study prepared by Atlantic Traffic and Design Engineers, Inc. of Watchung. The study found that the proposed Commerce Bank will not significantly impact traffic conditions in the vicinity of the site. The site's egress will consist of two lanes, since making left turns onto North Avenue may pose some difficulty for customers exiting the bank.

Neighborhood resident Diane Bresher testified the illuminated facility will affect the historical value of the area and increase traffic in the ShopRite grid. She expressed concern about appearance and operations of the bank as well. Commerce will be open until 8 p.m. on weekdays.

Lehrer said the area Commerce proposes to develop is not historically significant, and added that the company generally constructs facilities according to a consistent design, which enhances Commerce's brand identification with customers.

But Newell said the architecture of the facility resembled a fast food facility. "That is an image we would not like to have if possible," he said.

Lehrer said Commerce generally adheres to its architectural standards unless prompted to make changes by visual compatibility or historic district requirements. He characterized the building design as "desirable" and said the new bank would "enhance the character of the town as a whole." Commerce has previously constructed atypical

facilities in Livingston and Chatham.

Chairman Jay Boyle asked Commerce officials to reduce the visual impact of signage and said the bank's architecture may be a concern for some board members.

The town's land use ordinance may require the applicant to construct its facility in a way that better matches the architecture of the neighborhood and the town as a whole.

At the board's next regular meeting March 1, Commerce will present testimony by its planner. The hearing is open to the public, and the application and project specifications are available to the public at the town's Department of Public Works, located at 959 North Avenue West, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



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# PTSO sponsors a public service fair

**WESTFIELD** — The Westfield High School Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) will hold a Community Service Fair 7:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday at the high school in Cafeteria B.

The message and goal of the event is "You Can Make a Difference." Students may explore volunteer opportunities for the school year and the summer with agencies serving a wide variety of community needs.

Work opportunities include web sites, children's sports programs, landscaping, helping animals, event planning, theatrical lighting, assisting the elderly and other activities.

Participating organizations include Literacy Volunteers of America, Union County Office of Volunteer Services, Community FoodBank of New Jersey,

Cranford Dramatic Club, Friends of Linden Animal Shelter, the BRAKES Group, Downtown Westfield Corporation, Catherine's Closet, Habitat for Humanity, Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Runnell's Specialized Hospital and Trailside Nature and Science Center.

Other participating groups include ForCHILDREN, Junior Optimists, Reeves-Reed Arboretum, United Way of Westfield, Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad, People for Animals, Union County Parks and Recreation Department, Westfield Baseball League, the Westfield Democratic Committee, the Westfield Republican Committee, and the New Jersey Assembly District 21 Legislative Office.

# Flag lecture at Chelsea

**FANWOOD** — Gerry McCavera, a seasoned entertainer and vexillologist with nearly 25 years of experience in flag-telling lore, will present his program "Flags Unfurled: State Flags of the United States" to seniors, their families and the public at The

Chelsea of Fanwood at 2 p.m. Feb. 17.

McCavera will present the history of Old Glory, including historical accountings of the flag, and those flags of past and present foes.

The Chelsea at Fanwood is located at 295 South Ave.

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# Church youth hold dinner to raise funds

**WESTFIELD** — The youth of the First Baptist Church of Westfield, 170 Elm St., may be holding a dinner on Valentine's Day, but this event is not for couples only.

At 6 p.m. Feb. 14, the youth will serve a catered meal, complete with live music and fun activities. The ticket price of \$20 per person covers expenses and contributions to scholarships for an April Mission Trip. Reservations are required.

For tickets or more information, call (908) 233-2278.

# Commentary

## Wrong approach to budget woes

It's budget season, which means that Gov. James E. McGreevey has been making the rounds lately, touting ways to cut costs and squeeze more out of taxpayers' dollars. And one of the themes he has returned to repeatedly — in diner talks with local officials and in his recent State of the State address — is the need to improve the efficiency of school districts and make sure less money is spent on school administration.

Talk about improving government efficiency is always a crowd-pleaser, as McGreevey well knows, and lowering the percentage of money spent on administrative costs is a good thing. But if this is a key part of the governor's program to reform the property tax crisis in New Jersey, as he has indicated, one has to question his priorities.

The focus on school costs is perplexing because they are already the most scrutinized, and most regulated, part of the property tax bill. McGreevey has proposed new spending caps on administrative costs, but districts' total spending is already controlled by a state formula. More importantly, school budgets are the only ones that are subjected to an annual vote by residents. Neither state, county or municipal budgets face that amount of scrutiny.

As research has shown, the promise of administrative reorganization often yields little in the way of savings — either because the waste has been exaggerated, or because bureaucracies are just too impenetrable. But if you're going to try to find savings, doesn't it make sense to look first in places where there is less oversight — especially at the county level, which tends not to command the attention of either media or residents?

To his credit, McGreevey has highlighted the one area where administrative costs could be slashed — by eliminating and consolidating the state's smallest districts. But as experience here in Union County shows, in a state where "home rule" is king, regionalization can be a hard sell. And absent a big, sustained push toward regional districts, it's unlikely that this effort will produce much besides public resentment about administrators' salaries.

The truth is that rising school taxes are being driven foremost by long-overdue increases in teacher salaries and skyrocketing costs for health benefits, which no one at any level of government has yet found a way to forestall. Faced with a budget crisis brought on in part by these factors last year, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education eliminated two administrative positions. That move didn't save residents in the two municipalities from a major tax increase.

The low possibility of finding major savings from administrative costs points up a larger issue with the state's property tax system. In many cases, it's not that government is wasting money, it's that the tax burden is not equitably distributed.

True change will not come from small measures that sound worthwhile but are really just tinkering around the edges. It will come when the governor uses some political capital to raise the income tax, allowing municipalities and school districts to lower property taxes and shift the costs to those who can most afford them. But based on the recent word out of Trenton, that's not likely to happen any time soon.

## 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@njnpublishing.com](mailto:union@njnpublishing.com).

### Deadlines

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

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



**Record-Press**

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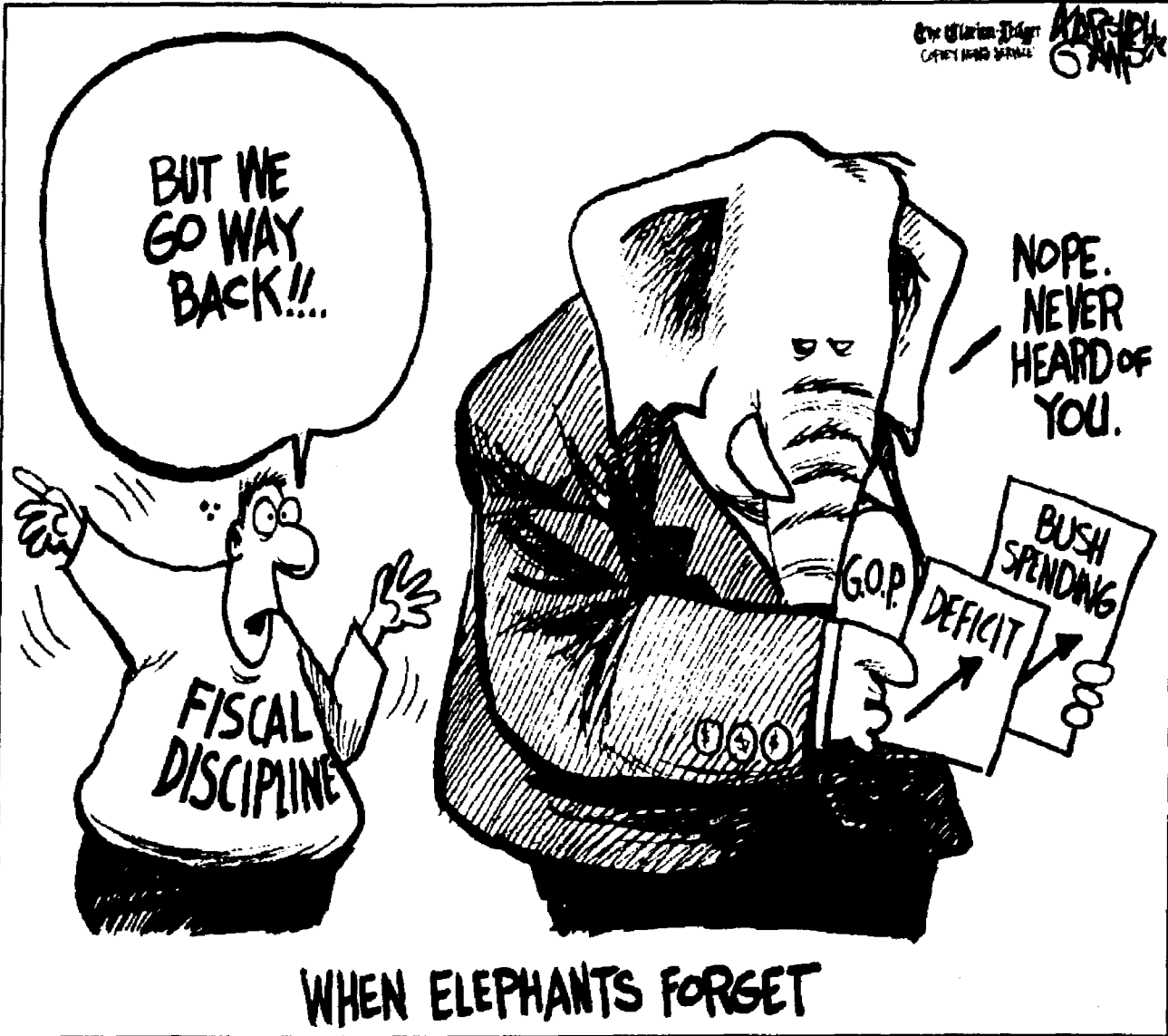
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## Letters to the editor

### Ice hockey team should get funding

**To The Record-Press:**

It seems like we all are hearing a lot about balance in life these days, the fragile co-existence between work and play that makes life more meaningful and helps shape our "whole" self. As parents we take careful steps to nurture our children along a path that isn't purely academic so that they can build their body, mind and spirit equally as part of a total life education.

While no one would dispute the importance of academics as part of this balance, neither should they downplay the role of sports in the development of social skills critical to creating tomorrow's leaders. Learning teamwork, how to win and lose and react to both, are qualities better learned on the fields and in the gyms and ice rinks than in any classroom.

In effect, sports participation is education of the most important and urgent leadership skills needed in our society today.

It is most unfortunate that everything in life seems to come with a price tag affixed to it. Education is not cheap. The residents of Westfield are well familiar with escalating cost of education in our community.

Our Board of Education's budget has expanded to accommodate mandated programs, narrowing the amounts available for use for sports programs that stress the very qualities we need to instill in our children now, more than ever before.

Even under this pressure our Board of Education has found a way to fund every high school level varsity sport, except for one — ice hockey. For 10 years the Westfield High School ice hockey team has remained alone to support its own activities financially, even though the Board of Education made a

commitment to review the team's funding after four years from its initial season.

In this, the team's 10th anniversary year, the families of these young athletes are once again approaching the board to request funding for this program wondering what makes this sport unique and alone to pay its own way. Thankfully, they enjoy the support of the community at large and have depended on their generosity to bridge the financial gap created by being left outside of the Board of Education's sports budget. The only question left unanswered is, why?

Recently, I took notice of Senator John Kerry taking a break before one of the most important political primaries in our country to play a game of hockey with some old friends. Even though he is running for President of the United States it was important for him to return to his roots by playing the game he obviously loved all his life.

I couldn't help but wonder what it was about this sport that inspired him and comforted him at this critical and stressful moment before such a big event. Was it the cold of the ice and the feel of the stick, or was it what he learned about leadership, sportsmanship, and the close friendships that brought him back?

I hope whoever paid for him to play ice hockey understands the contribution they made toward shaping his life. Now, Westfield, it is the Board of Education's turn, through our tax dollars, to pay to shape some others.

Support the future your community, and ask the Board of Education to help fund the high school ice hockey team.

**SAL ESPOSITO**  
Westfield

### Jewish voter supports the president

**To The Record-Press:**

As a Jewish American, I am keenly aware of the leadership President Bush has shown in areas that are important to me and other Jewish American voters.

Education has always been an important part of Jewish culture. The "No Child Left Behind," has helped our nation's children, regardless of race, color or creed all have benefited. Funding for education has increased under President Bush's leadership.

A large portion of the No Child Left Behind Act money goes to schools in "high poverty" regions. Jewish people have long championed making the world a better place for all, and by supporting our young people, President Bush has put his "money where his mouth is." The president is indeed a compassionate conservative.

Spending money is never easy when you wear the "conservative" label, but to spend money as the president does, on children, on our defense, on support-

ing Israel, we have a courageous leader. While Jewish people are perceived to be Democrats, when we look at the issues, the candidate who has proven to support the issues we hold dear, it is President Bush who is the clear choice — for Jewish and non-Jewish voters alike, for America.

We need a president of values, who is unshamed of his love of G-d. President Bush is the man we must support.

We cannot afford a person who is two-faced or short tempered, or in anyway ill-suited for the presidency. The world is a dangerous place and we are blessed to have a leader who is unafraid to lead. None of the democratic candidates have the record, the experience or the vision to lead us in this dangerous world. I urge my fellow Jewish Americans, as well as non-Jews, to vote for the President come November.

**J. C. CANTOR**  
Westfield

### Civil Air Patrol seeks new recruits

**To The Record-Press:**

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is celebrating 62 years of volunteer service to America. Since Dec. 1, 1941, when the organization was formed, CAP has protected the home skies. In the early days of World War II, CAP performed anti-submarine patrols and was responsible for saving countless lives and merchant ships from disaster.

Today Civil Air Patrol, as the US Air Force Auxiliary, is involved in Homeland Security with over 64,000 trained volunteers, 1,700 operational units, 530 aircraft and 1,000 vehicles.

Sept. 11, 2001 was a tragic day for America. CAP responded with the first aerial survey of the World Trade Center disaster site and provided air transportation for Federal Officials days after Sept. 11.

CAP patrolled the waters off Cape Kennedy prior to the last shuttle launch, and provided homeland security support during the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City flying 534 hours of airborne reconnaissance.

CAP conducts 95 percent of all inland search and rescue in our country as tasked by the US Air Force, saving an average of 100 lives per year. Our

units provide airborne imagery of critical infrastructures such as dams, pipelines, bridges, power plants, seaports and more.

The CAP Cadet programs offer our nation's youth the opportunity of aerospace education, college scholarships, powered and glider flight training scholarships, International Cadet Exchange program and more. Aerospace Education initiatives support the community with hundreds of workshops at colleges and schools.

Classroom materials, teacher training and other educational aids are provided at no cost to America's teachers by CAP. The Civil Air Patrol is a vital organization that prepares our youth morally, physically and mentally as leaders of tomorrow.

We are looking for cadet and adult members who want to make a difference in their personal lives while contributing to a strong America. There are squadrons located in Plainfield, Perth Amboy and Sayreville. To find a squadron close to you, visit our website at [www.cap.gov](http://www.cap.gov).

**LISA Van CLIEF, Major, CAP**  
Public Affairs Officer  
New Jersey Wing Civil Air Patrol  
Auxiliary of the United States Air Force

## Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

### Preparing for the 25th reunion

In about three months I will be attending my 25th college reunion. That means in the next nine weeks I have to lose 10 pounds, get a new job that doubles my salary, marry a trophy wife and have two perfect children, buy a Porsche and a summer house in the Hamptons, and dye my hair.

Of course I will do little to meet any of those goals.

I'll try to lose some weight, but that really will be for the new golf season. I refuse to dye my hair; there is nothing more ridiculous and pathetic than the sight of a man who has surrendered to vanity. The other goals can only be achieved if I win the lottery.

Twenty-fifth reunions are tricky because they usually coincide with the traditional mid-life crisis. You really don't need the pressure of a reunion at the same time you're tallying your own life's balance sheet and hoping and praying that somehow the achievements add up to more than the disappointments. And comparing balance sheets with your classmates is about as fun as preparing for a colonoscopy.

How can that dork who once whimpered like an abused goat over not understanding a simple calculus integration be worth a million bucks and have a tan that would make George Hamilton weep?

How could that pervert who had a poster of Farrah Fawcett on the ceiling above his bed have a wife who is a professional volleyball player?

You can only console yourself either with the forlorn philosophy that life is unfair or that they never birdied the 14th hole on the Old Course at St. Andrews, which is a much greater achievement than having a wife who's always mistaken for Cameron Diaz.

At 25th reunions, regrets silently hang from the rafters like sleeping vampire bats ready to suck the life blood from the unwary. That's why so many people drink too much at reunions, as if the alcohol veneer can put a new shine on life. Most people will not admit to feeling a bit depressed after a 25th reunion; after all, that would make the mid-life crisis even bleaker. (Perhaps this is why in the next few weeks I will be renting "Grosse Pointe Blank," the story of a professional killer who mixes a "business" trip with his high school reunion; I can identify with that fantasy.) And many people, though they look forward to renewing old friendships, begin feeling anxious as the reunion approaches. Like impatient readers who skip to the last page of a mystery, you want to see how other people's life stories are evolving, yet you would rather not be the object of the same curiosity — unless, of course, you're waking up alongside Cameron Diaz.

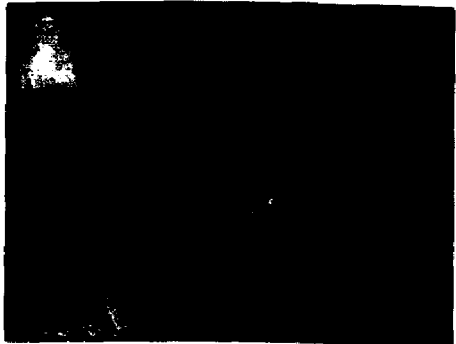
My reunion will be the last week in April, when spring — the cliched season of rebirth — will have finally sprung. On those soft April evenings, when the fresh smell of new life rises from the earth, it is possible for the disappointments to vanish and great expectations for the second half of life's journey to take their place. For a few brief hours, given a cosmic conjunction of factors, you can return to a time when Kansas "Carry On, Wayward Son" had deep meaning, the freedom of fresh adulthood was intoxicating and everything was possible. The reunion can be a recharging jolt to an overworked psyche. In a crazy moment of revelation, you conclude your mid-life crisis is just the summer vacation between your sophomore and junior years, when life seemed impossible and frustrating but, in the end, turned out OK.

So I will be what I am at my 25th reunion. My life will not change in the next dozen weeks, nor will it change after the reunion. Life isn't a poker game, when you can throw away some cards and ask for more. You have to be satisfied with the hand you've been dealt and hope you can bluff your way to the jackpot.

But of course you can always play the lottery.



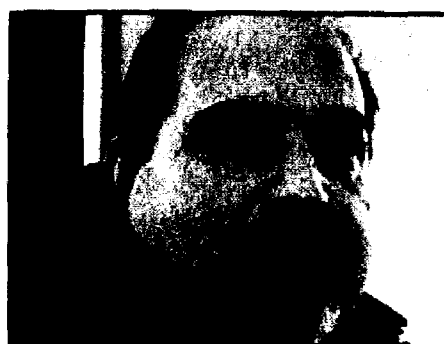
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Maine. We used to vacation there in summer.



**ANDY FREDAS**  
Fanwood  
Las Vegas, because that's where I'm going in three weeks.



**STEVEN FREDAS**  
New York, visiting son in Fanwood  
California. It's sunny out there and I don't like the winter. I like hot weather all year round.



**MICHELLE BRYANT**  
Plainfield  
I'm on my vacation in one week. I'm going to the Bahamas and Miami because it's too cold. I just couldn't take it anymore. I've got nine days and counting.

**Police Log**

**WESTFIELD**

A resident of Clark reported the theft of his 1990 Cadillac Deville on Jan. 28. The car was parked on Quimby Street at the time of the theft.

**SCOTCH PLAINS**

A Park Avenue resident reported receiving harassing phone calls on Jan. 30. The caller allegedly made an ambiguous threat on the victim's cell phone.

A Mountain Avenue resident reported that he was a victim of identity theft on Jan. 30. The victim received a telephone call from a collection agency stating that he did not pay his Nextel cell phone bill. The unpaid bill was in the amount of \$1,000.

On Jan. 30, Popeye's Restaurant reported it had received two bad checks from a local business. The checks, written for \$197, were returned because the account was closed.

Jong Pak, 31, of Bridgewater was arrested and charged with theft Jan. 30.

Mr. Pak is a former employee from the CVS Pharmacy who is accused of stealing controlled dangerous substances from the pharmacy. He was arrested and processed and released on a summons.

A Country Club Lane resident reported receiving harassing phone calls Saturday. The caller accused the victim of withholding money from an alleged previous business engagement.

Rodney Labeet, 28, was arrested on an outstanding warrant. The police department was dispatched to the area of William Street on a call claiming a person was attempting to enter a home.

Police located Mr. Labeet and he was found to have numerous warrants for his arrest. He was processed and transported to the Union County Jail.

**North Avenue crosswalk proposal advances**

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD—The Town Council was scheduled to pass a resolution authorizing construction of a lighted mid-block crosswalk on North Avenue at its regular meeting Tuesday night.

The flashing light structure will be installed once a similar ordinance is passed by Union County and plans are approved by the state Department of Transportation.

Westfield was approached by the May Company, parent of Lord and Taylor, to share costs for the construction of a lighted crosswalk months before a December accident left a Forked River woman dead. The woman was killed while crossing North Avenue at the crosswalk, which is in front of the department store.

"We have to show our support for the project," said Rafael Betancourt, chairman of the Public Safety, Transportation, and Parking Committee. Betancourt

praised the initiative, noting that the safety improvement represents a collaboration between the town, county, and Lord and Taylor.

The town has agreed to pay one-third of the cost of the project or \$4,500, whichever figure is less. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$20,000. Union County has agreed to do engineering work for the project, which was submitted to the state Department of Transportation Sept. 10.

In the last five years, the area

of North Avenue that runs through Westfield has seen a substantial number of traffic accidents involving pedestrians and bicyclists. According to a traffic analysis provided by the police department, 26 accidents involving pedestrians occurred during the period, resulting in three deaths and 16 injuries.

A total of 151 traffic accidents involving pedestrians have been reported across Westfield during the last five years.

**Bag Day is set Saturday**

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Service League's Thrift Shop, located at 114 Elmer St., will hold its annual end-of-winter Bag Day on Saturday.

On Bag Day, customers may purchase a grocery-size paper bag for \$5 and fill it to the brim with clothing, accessories, books, toys, and household items. There is no limit on the number of bags which can be purchased.

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, the shop will be stocked with a large selection of ladies', men's and children's spring apparel. Patrons can also purchase jewelry, shoes, and accessories.

The Thrift Shop is open for business Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proceeds are donated to local charities.

For more information about the shop, call (908) 233-2530.

**"Carpal Tunnel Code Cracked With New Light Therapy: The Next Generation of Laser!"**

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**UCTC program asks: Do you believe in miracles?**

WESTFIELD—What is a miracle? Did miracles only happen during Biblical times?

The Union County Torah Center invites community members to explore these questions and more at a special lecture by Rabbi Zalman Posner on the topic, "Why Don't Miracles Happen Today? (Or Do They?)" The lecture will take place 8 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Union County Torah Center, located at 418 Central Ave.

Rabbi Posner grew up in Linden. In 1948 he was sent as an emissary of the Lubavitcher Rebbe to the Displaced Persons camps and Jewish communities of Europe.

Since 1949 he has served the Jewish community of Nashville, Tenn. as rabbi of Congregation Sherith Israel, and he is the founder of the Hebrew Day School in Nashville.

Rabbi Posner is a dynamic, sought-after speaker who has

addressed Jewish groups throughout the world. He is also a noted translator of scholarly works that include the Tanya and other Chassidic classics, and he is an exponent of Kabbalah and Chassidic thought.

He developed a contemporary language for mystical thought, making it available to a wider public, and is the author of the popular book, "Think Jewish."

The public is invited to hear Rabbi Posner speak on this eye-opening subject, to learn about miracles in our day, and hear anecdotes from the experiences of an Orthodox rabbi in Nashville in the latter half of the 20th century.

The lecture is being sponsored by Mark and Laura Schachman. Light refreshments will be served. There is a suggested donation of \$10 for the evening.

For more information and to register, call the center at (908) 789-5252.

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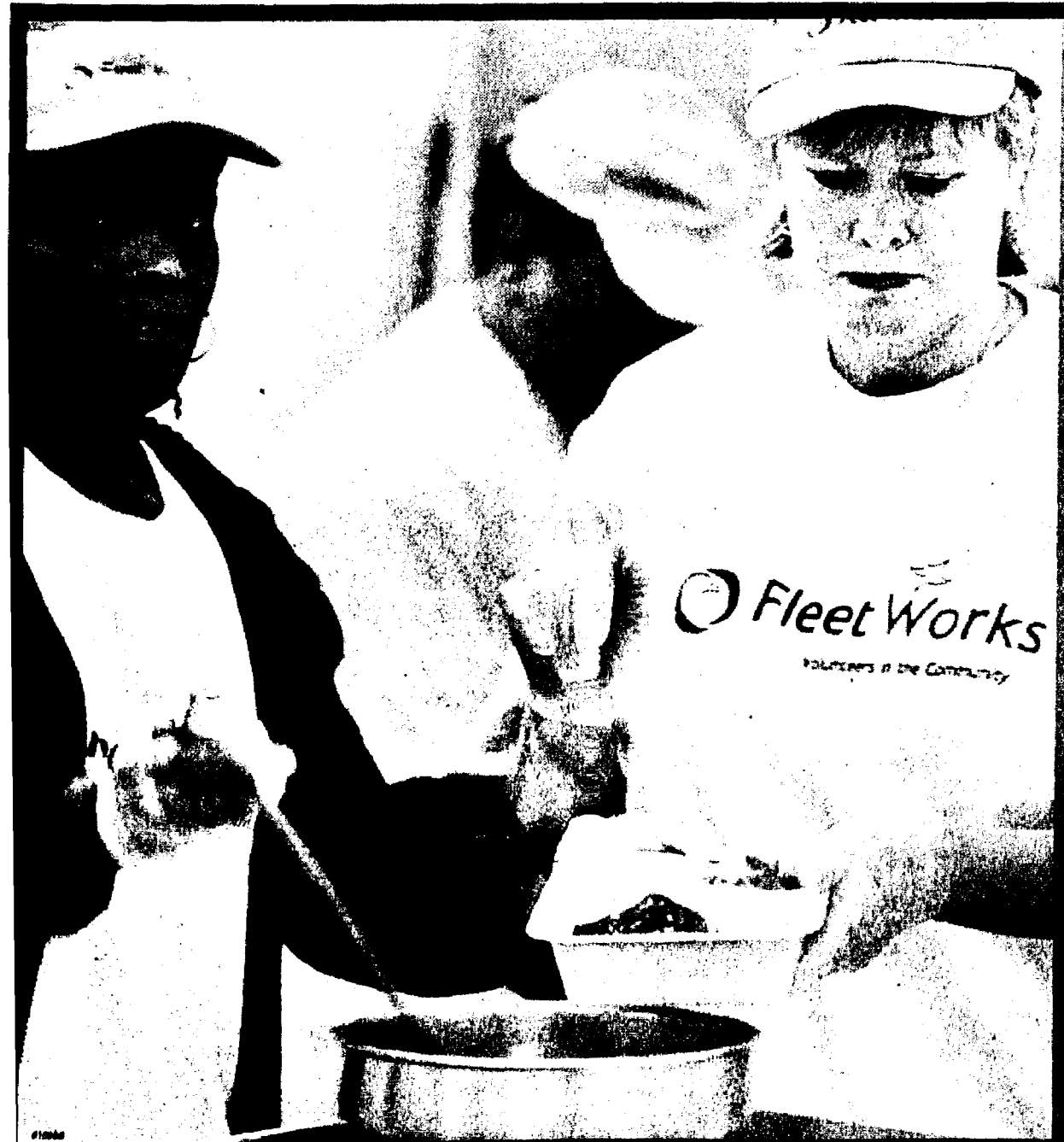
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### Library officers look forward to coming year

The new officers of the Scotch Plains Library board of trustees and the Friends of the Library recently met with Director Meg Kolaya to discuss plans for the upcoming year. Standing from left are Kolaya, library director; Joe Duff, president of board of trustees; and Bob Czaja, Friends president. Seated are Gloria Yakre, treasurer of board of trustees; Janet Gaynor, vice president of board; and Feather Foster, secretary of trustee board.



## Church program asks: Does Satan exist?

WESTFIELD — The public is invited to a forum on the question "Does Satan Really Exist?" at First Congregational Church in Westfield at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24. The discussion will explore the question, why does a God of love permit evil?

Believers have for ages tried to understand how an all-powerful God would allow such horrors as the Holocaust, child-napping, and even natural disasters. If God truly loves and can do

anything why doesn't the divine simply stop these acts and events? Participants will look at various perspectives on why God permits or even causes suffering. They will look at whether God causes all things, good or bad, or whether Satan is indeed real and wars against God and the creation. In addition, modern thinking provides alternatives to these two traditional views.

Participants will explore one

such alternative view from Relational Theology to understand evil, Satan and the logic of love. Relational Theology views the reality of the universe and God as a thoroughly interdependent.

Under this approach, all of creation, human and non-human, and God are interdependent in a dynamic process of growth. Relational or Process theology attempts to integrate this notion into how we live and express our faith. This theology arose from Whitehead's philosophy in the 20th century and is thoroughly rooted in evolution and the interconnectedness of

all things. This modern theology provides an interdependent basis that allows us to look at many faith traditions with fresh and 21st century eyes.

In subsequent sessions, Relational Theology will be applied in two other areas. On March 30 at 7:30 p.m., original sin will be explored. And on April 27 at 7:30 p.m., after Easter, the truth of the resurrection will be discussed.

The sessions will be facilitated by Rev. John A. Mills. First Congregational Church is located at 125 Elmer St. in Westfield. Visit Wisdom's Light online at <http://wislit.home.att.net>.

## Westfield Library hosts a Beach Party for kids

WESTFIELD — Get ready to limbo! At 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, the Westfield Library invites children ages 3 to 6 years old to a special Winter Beach Party featuring Yosi, the "lively children's sing-along" performer. Children can sing, dance and perhaps even "swim" along as Yosi performs his whimsical songs.

In-person registration is required and begins Saturday at the Children's Desk. Parents are welcome to attend this special event. Children must be Westfield Library cardholders and be the appropriate age for

the program. This event is made possible by the generosity of the Friends of the Library.

Founded in 1879, the Westfield Memorial Library strives to provide the Westfield community an environment that promotes a love of reading and ensures free access to ideas and information.

For more information, please call the Children's Desk at (908) 789-4090, visit the library's website at [www.wmlnj.org](http://www.wmlnj.org) or drop by in person at 550 East Broad Street for a copy of the Library's quarterly newsletter.

### This week

#### FRIDAY

FEB. 6

**GIFT AUCTION** — fundraiser for Mother Seton Regional High School Doors open 6:15 p.m. Valley Road, Clark. Admission \$7, advance tickets are \$5.

**'SEABISCUIT'** — screening of the acclaimed film kicks off the Fanwood Memorial Library's Friday Film Festival. 7:30 p.m. (908) 322-6400.

#### SATURDAY

FEB. 7

**BLOOD DRIVE** — hosted by the Garwood Knights of Columbus. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Knights Council Hall, 37 South Ave., Garwood. (908) 789-9809.

**COMEDY NIGHT** — a benefit for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, sponsored by the Garwood Knights of Columbus. 8 p.m. 37 South Ave., Garwood. \$25; age 21 and over only. (908) 789-9809.

**MOM-DAUGHTER NIGHT** — at the JCC of Central New Jersey. Watch "Freaky Friday" and give each other a manicure. 7-10 p.m. 1391 Martine Ave. \$14 for a mom-daughter pair. (908) 889-8800, ext. 235 or 218.

**BAG DAY** — end-of-winter sale featuring special sales, presented by the Westfield Service League's Thrift Shop. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 114 Elmer St. (908) 233-2530.

#### SUNDAY

FEB. 8

**TEEN FITNESS DAY** — at the JCC of Central New Jersey. Mini-classes in spinning, self-aerobics, martial arts, step-defense, yoga, SCUBA, and dance, dance revolution (DDR) will be open to teens ages 13-18 only. 1-4 p.m. 1391 Martine Ave. JCC members \$20; non-members pay \$30. (908) 889-8800 ext. 253 or [Ldavid@ccnj.org](mailto:Ldavid@ccnj.org).

**RABBINICAL LECTURE** — Rabbi Niles Goldstein, who has written for national publications, will discuss finding God at times of discomfort. 7 p.m. Temple Emanu-El, 765 E. Broad St., Westfield. (908) 232-6770.

#### MONDAY

FEB. 9

**GRIEF RECOVERY PROGRAM** — sponsored by First Congregational Church of Westfield. Six-week program begins Feb. 9; continues 7:30-9 p.m. Mondays. 125 Elmer St. \$140. (908) 233-2494.

**RICHARD RODGERS** — a discussion of the great American songwriter featuring a group sing-along, led by Professor Donato Fornuto. At the meeting of the College Women's Club of Cranford. 7:45 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Springfield Ave., Cranford. Free and open to the public. (908) 276-3579.

**CRANFORD/MILLBURN CAMERA CLUB** — Ben Venzio will present a slide show on

"Desert Dreams" at the organization's meeting. 7:30 p.m. Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

**FREE SPINAL SCREENING** — by Dr. Joseph Dilorio, presented by the Westfield YMCA. 5:30-7 p.m. 220 Clark St., Westfield. (908) 233-2700, ext. 251.

**PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP** — organization's monthly meeting features a talk on the effects of hypnotherapy. 1:30 p.m. Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield. (908) 322-9214.

#### TUESDAY

FEB. 10

**CHOLESTEROL SCREENING** — by Overlook Hospital, presented by the Westfield YMCA. 10 a.m.-noon. \$12, \$8 for those over 60. To make an appointment, (800) 247-9580.

#### WEDNESDAY

FEB. 11

**COMMUNITY SERVICE FAIR** — presented by Westfield High School PTSO. Students can explore a wide variety of volunteer opportunities. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Westfield High School, Cafeteria B.

#### SATURDAY

FEB. 14

**SCRAPBOOKING SEMINAR** — presented by Christine Guido for the Genealogical Society of the West Fields. 10 a.m.-noon. Westfield Memorial Library, 550 E. Broad St. (908) 233-6360.

#### SUNDAY

FEB. 15

**'HEALING LOVE' CONFERT** — Valentine's event to benefit the Center for Women and Families. 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, West Fifth Avenue and Fifth Street, Roselle. Donations will be collected.

#### COMING UP

**SKI TRIP** — to Mountain Creek, sponsored by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA. Bus departs the Y building 7 a.m. Feb. 17, returns 6 p.m. \$49 includes transportation and lift ticket. (908) 889-8880.

**'FLAGS UNFURLED'** — a talk on the state flags of America, by Gerry McCavera. 2 p.m. Feb. 17. The Chelsea. 295 South Ave., Fanwood.

**AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY** — group will hold a program on "Design Critique," presented by Christine Brenner. 1 p.m. Feb. 19. Scotch Plains Library, 1927 Bartle Ave.

**LA LECHE LEAGUE** — meeting of the breastfeeding and information support group. 9:30 a.m. Feb. 19. Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 E. Lincoln Ave. (908) 889-0019.

**CHARITY BALL** — to benefit Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care in Linden, and honoring Arthur Hynes of Hynes Jewelers in Cranford. 7 p.m.-midnight Feb. 21. L'Affaire, Route 22 East, Mountainside. \$50. For tickets or more information, call (908) 486-0700.

**WINTER BEACH PARTY** — featuring children's performer Yosi. 10:30 a.m. Feb. 21. Westfield Memorial Library, 550 E. Broad St. Sign-up begins Feb. 7 at the Children's Desk. For more information, (908) 789-4080.

**PANCAKE SUPPER** — traditional Shrove Tuesday event at All Saints Episcopal Church. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 24. 559 Park Ave., Scotch Plains. RSVP at (908) 322-8047.

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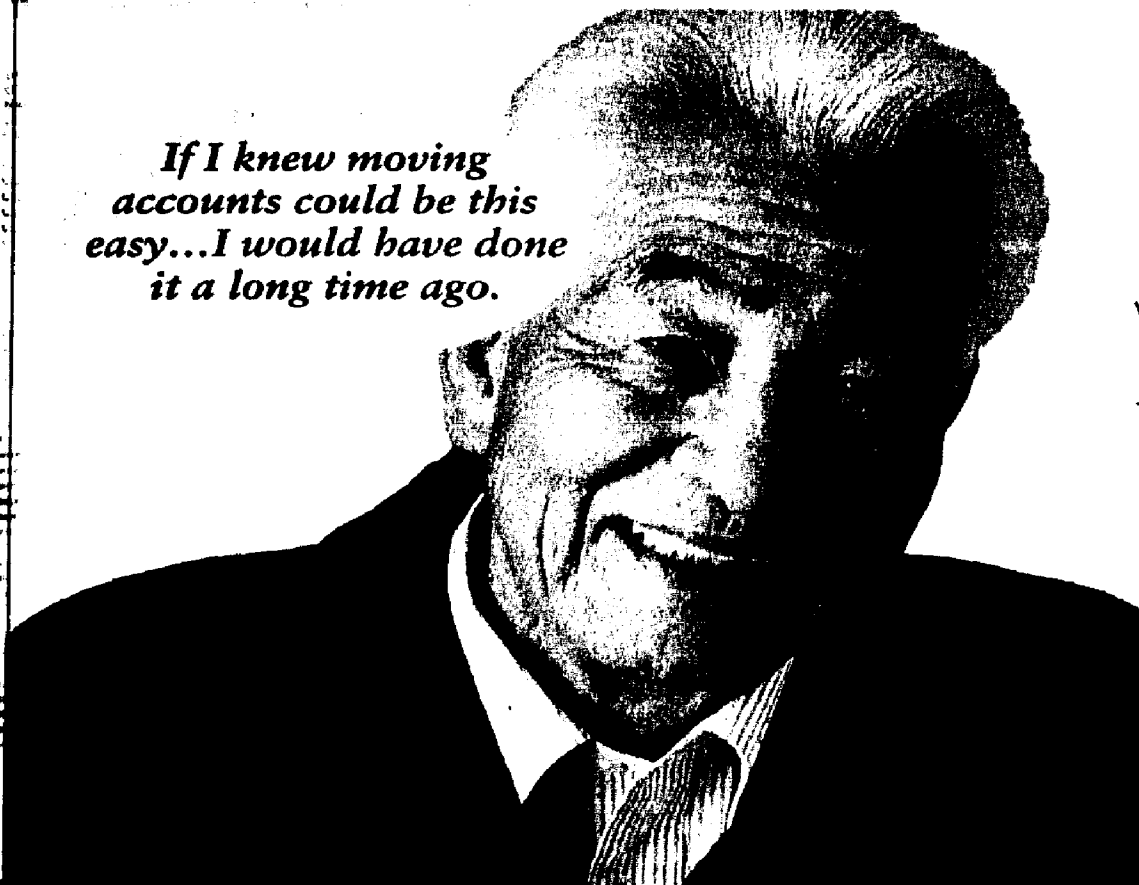
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# Community Life

## Briefs

### Talk will discuss how to find God in dark places

WESTFIELD — At 7 p.m. Sunday, Rabbi Niles Goldstein will speak at Temple Emanu-El on finding hope in the heart of darkness.

Goldstein will discuss if it is possible to find God at places of discomfort. He is the founding Rabbi of The New Shul in Greenwich Village. He has written articles that appeared in Newsweek and the New York Times and is also the author of "God at the Edge."

The evening will include Goldstein's personal experiences dealing with the darker side of the soul.

Temple Emanu-El is located at 765 East Broad St. For further information, call Carolyn Shane at (908) 232-6770.

### Parkinson's group to discuss hypnotherapy

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Parkinson's Disease Support Group meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month in the Christian Lounge of the Parish House at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Ave.

Persons with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers are invited to attend the next meeting on Monday. Psychologist Wallace Smith, vice president for academic affairs at Union County College, will discuss the possible effects of hypnotherapy on the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

The meeting is free of charge. For more information call Barbara Ringk at (908) 322-9214.

### Scrapbook program for Genealogical Society

WESTFIELD — "Organizing Your Scrapbook" will be the topic of Christine Guido at the general meeting of the Genealogical Society of the West Fields from 10 a.m.-noon Feb. 14 in the Meeting Room of the Westfield Memorial Library, 550 East Broad St.

Guido's program will be of special interest to everyone who would like to sort and organize all their pictures, articles, letters and other valuable information into a scrapbook that would best tell a genealogical story of their ancestry and descendants.

Guido, who appeared last year on the show "Family Historian," is currently working in three scrapbook stores where she teaches basic techniques and layout courses. She also runs a small business related to scrapbooking where she creates layout kits and diecut embellishments.

The program is open to the public at no charge. For further information call Bob Miller at (908) 233-6360.

### United Fund nears its fundraising goal

WESTFIELD — The United Way of Westfield has raised \$617,837, or 88 percent of its goal of \$700,000 for the 2003-2004 campaign.

"When you think about giving, remember that every donation to the Westfield United Way makes a difference because someone is counting on your help. The United Way is the best way to help the most people — people you may never meet but who deeply appreciate your support," said Rich Jagger, campaign chairman.

Contributions may still be sent to 301 North Ave. West, Westfield, NJ 07090.

### Women's Club learns floral arrangements

WESTFIELD — Naomi McElynn of KaBloom on Elm Street will demonstrate flower designs for members of the Woman's Club of Westfield at its general meeting Monday at the First Congregational Church, 125 Palmer St. The program will begin at 1 p.m. immediately following the Woman's Club's 12:30 p.m. business meeting.

Guests are welcome to join the demonstration of floral arrangements. Interested persons should telephone (908) 654-3946 for more details.

Hostesses for the reception which follows McElynn's program will be the members of the Woman's Club of Arts Creative Department, under the direction of Marjorie Wieseman.

## For area churches, last Sunday was Souper

By BRAD BISHOP  
STAFF WRITER

Last Sunday, many area residents were busy watching an entertaining football game and the unexpected halftime antics. But before settling in to enjoy America's secular holiday, many spent their Sunday morning raising money for the needy in an annual event called the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Since 1990, local, national, and international church groups have raised more than \$20 million for various charitable organizations during the event, which is held on Super Bowl Sunday. The event was first held at a church in South Carolina but today has expanded to include 10.5 million churches. Last year 12,000 participants in the event and raised more than \$3.5 million.

During the event, young church members collect donations in large soup pots as congregants file out of Sunday services. Congregants typically are asked to leave one dollar and bring a non-perishable food item on the morning of the game. Items have been donated to homeless shelters, soup kitchens, food banks, international missions, and chapters of Habitat for Humanity.

Eileen Spittler, director of children's Christian education at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Westfield, was involved in the event at her church. She said about eight kids participated, collecting 300 cans of soup and raising \$800. The money will be given to Grace's in Plainfield, while the soup cans will go to the Westfield Food Pantry and St. John's Episcopal Church in Elizabeth.

"What I like about the project is that all of the funds raised stay in the community," Spittler said. "The national organization helps with ideas, advertising and posters, but the money goes to (beneficiaries) at the congregation's choice." — Eileen Spittler

The Cranford United Methodist Church participated in the program for the first time this year, according to Robin Hoy, director of Christian education. She said the church learned about the Souper Bowl by reading a Dear Abby ad which advertised the program.

"It went very well and it's a great event," Hoy said. Her church raised nearly \$300 for the Free Meals program, which benefits the homeless in Plainfield.

Hoy said that 10-15 kids in the church's youth group set up outside the front doors of the



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Neil Pratt, 14, and Gillian Clark, 13, both of Scotch Plains, collect donations from parishioners in soup pots as part of the "Souper Bowl of Caring" event Sunday at First Baptist Church in Westfield.

church and collected the money in about 15 minutes. She said the success of the event will definitely encourage the church to continue the program in the future.

The First Baptist Church in Westfield used the money it collected this year to feed a local resident in an entirely different way. The church chose to renovate the first floor kitchen of a

handicapped woman in Westfield. Thirteen members of the church, both adults and younger parishioners from the youth group, completely gutted and renovated the kitchen in one day.

"It's a pretty awesome venture when you think about it," said Rev. Jeremy Montgomery, minister of local outreach.

Seventeen churches participat-

ed in the program across Westfield, Cranford, Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

For more information on the program, contact the national organization at (800) 358-SOUP or check the website at [www.souperbowl.com](http://www.souperbowl.com). Area churches are still collecting money and nonperishable food as part of the program.

## Children's Specialized will offer parenting workshops

MOUNTAINSIDE — Children's Specialized Hospital will offer a four-part parenting workshop series March 11, 18, 26 and April 1. Each workshop will be held at Children's Mountainside facility, 150 New Providence Road, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Cecelia Hall, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Board-Certified Diplomate in Clinical Social Work, will present the program.

Information can be found in libraries, on the Internet and television, but the special value of a parenting workshop lies in the energy, interaction and realistic application of the selected information. The workshop will focus on topics related to: the value of play, parenting styles, behavior management/discipline, for example, and will explore areas of interest for the parents who participate.

The workshop is intended for early childhood interests, including pre-school and early school age children.

A registration fee of \$45 for the series is required. For information or to register, call (908) 301-5488.

An affiliate member of the Robert Wood Johnson Health System, Children's Specialized Hospital is the largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital in the United States. The hospital provides specialized care for children with chronic illnesses as well as evaluation and treatment for common childhood developmental concerns at 10 sites statewide including inpatient hospitals in Mountainside and Toms River.

Children's cares for patients from birth to age 21, providing a wide array of medical, developmental, educational and rehabilitative services.

The hospital offers centers of excellence in Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Dysfunction, Educational and Rehabilitation Technology, Respiratory Care and Ambulatory Services.



## Students learn about trees at St. Bart's

Students from Mrs. Palm's fourth-grade class at St. Bartholomew Interparochial School in Scotch Plains recently welcomed Dean Talcott, Master Tree Steward from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H Program. Talcott presented the program "Tree Care and Appreciation" as part of the Catholic Schools Week activities at the school. As part of the program, the students learned about varieties of trees, tree growth and development, and took a "Tree Quiz Bowl" to test their knowledge about trees.

## Inspired by local child, company launches effort to help charity

CRANFORD — Area residents can buy a birthday card online from Early Bird Publishing, and you can strike a blow against cystic fibrosis at the same time.

Early Bird Publishing, an independent greeting card company based in the township, is donating 50 cents for every card bought online at [www.earlybirdpublishing.com](http://www.earlybirdpublishing.com) to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The foundation funds research into the disease and works to raise public awareness.

Owned and operated by John Hartnett, Early Bird Publishing launched its Cards for Charity program recently as a way to help the family of a Cranford third-grader who suffers from cystic fibrosis.

"Curtis is a classmate and friend of my daughter Annabelle. He's very funny, a talented athlete and on a very personal level, he epitomizes the need to support research efforts to cure this disease," said Hartnett. "I spoke to his parents about starting this project and they put me in touch with the Greater New Jersey Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, where they were very supportive in helping me get started."

Triggered by a genetic defect, cystic fibrosis causes the body to produce an abnormally thick mucus that coats the lungs and that can turn even the most basic cold into a life-threatening lung infection. The

disease also can prevent crucial enzymes from reaching the digestive tract, leaving afflicted children small for their age and unable to thrive.

Cystic fibrosis affects 30,000 children and adults in the United States. Another 10 million Americans unknowingly carry the gene for cystic fibrosis without ever showing symptoms themselves.

Customers participating in the program can choose from two different lines of humorous, original greeting cards. Categories range from birthday and anniversary wishes to cards with messages such as "Get well" and "Congratulations," to announcements about new babies and moving plans.

"We publish cards designed to meet the needs of people seeking a more sophisticated but good-natured line of humorous cards," said Hartnett. "In other words, we're funny for everybody."

Participation in the program requires that customers have a working account with the online payment system PayPal, available at [PayPal.com](http://PayPal.com). Customers need to name the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in the note portion of the PayPal form as they send an order, via e-mail, to [info@earlybirdpublishing.com](mailto:info@earlybirdpublishing.com).

Hartnett plans to extend the Cards for Charity program to include other charities as well. He can be reached at (908) 497-1612.

## Winning essays, art are selected

WESTFIELD — On Jan. 19, a community-wide service was held at the First United Methodist Church to honor Martin Luther King Jr.

Westfield Public School students were awarded prizes for essays, poems and art that reflected this year's theme, "Breaking the Cycle of Violence."

The Westfield High School winners were: Essay category, first place, Miriam Becker-Cohen; second place, Alissa Eisenberg; third place, David Shottland.

In the Poetry category, the winner was Rachel Charatan. The Art winner was Maggie Lee.

In the Intermediate Schools the Essay winners (all from Edison Intermediate School) were: first place, Montana Metzger; second place, Ravi Netravali and Josh Gribbin; third place, Danielle Gillyard and Dominique Gillyard.

In the Poetry category, first place, Drew Pecker, Edison; second place, Amanda Garfinkel, Roosevelt. The Art winner was Maddie Tiedrich, Edison.

In the Elementary Schools, Essay winners (all from McKinley School) included: first place, Mary Brown; second place, Tiara Lee-Harrington; third place, Geena Gao.

The Poetry winner was Danielle Fields, Franklin. The Art contest winner was Nicholas Calello, McKinley.

Prizes for the contest ranged from a computer and printer for the first place winner at the high school level to savings bonds in \$50, \$100, \$200, \$300 and \$500 denominations at the various grade levels and categories.

Tenth grader Miriam Becker-Cohen, who won the computer and printer for her essay, wrote, "While it may take a tragedy to understand the existence of hatred, it takes much more to learn the proper way of dealing with the hate that feeds the perpetrator."

Her essay also included this thought: "I believe that the cycle of violence starts in the home. Children learn violence from becoming victims or witnessing hostility."

She advocated that teenagers "take peaceful approaches on a personal scale and said "the only way to halt the continuation of violence is to break the cycle through strength and unity."

**Film symposium opens this month**

The new film "The Agronomist" from director Jonathan Demme, shown speaking at right, is one of the movies slated for inclusion in the "Filmmakers Symposium" opening Feb. 23 at the Loews Mountainside on Route 22 East. The series screens new works from prominent directors and actors before they are in wide release; appearances by prominent figures in the film industry add to the excitement. For more information, call (800) 531-9416.



**Heydt presents a demonstration in oils**

The Westfield Art Association will present an oil painting demonstration by Gerry Heydt depicting renditions of snowy landscapes on Sunday. The meeting will be held in the Community Room of the Municipal Building at 425 East Broad St., Westfield, from 2-4 p.m.

Capturing the effects of light, color and atmosphere, Heydt's landscapes are painted during snowy weather, from the windows of her house or inside her car. She has been working in oils for 15 years and has achieved great results working directly and spontaneously with the full effects of color available with oil paint.

Heydt earned a degree in fashion illustration from Stephens College in Columbia, Miss. and an master's in drawing and print-making from the Instituto Allende, affiliated with the University of Guanajuato in Mexico.

She studied at the Pratt Graphics Center in Manhattan, where she worked on her master's thesis on making inks from print etchings.

In 1988 she began to study oil painting with Jim McHinley at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts and continued with Sam Adoquei at both the N.Y. Academy of Figurative Art and the National Academy of Design in New York.

In the past few years her work has been shown at many juried shows and she has also exhibited at the Windsor Gallery in Colt's Neck, the Salmagundi Club in New York City and the Somerset Art Association, as well as NJ Center for Visual Arts in Summit, Watchung Arts Center, The National Arts Club and The Coryell Gallery in Lambertville. She has also appeared in numerous shows and galleries throughout the metropolitan area.

She is presently affiliated with the Windsor Gallery in Colts Neck and the Newman Galleries in Philadelphia, Pa. Heydt has received awards for oil painting and etching from The Hudson Artist of NJ, Inc., the Guild of Creative Art, the Carrier Foundation and the Pratt Graphics Center in New York. She has been featured in numerous newspaper publications throughout New Jersey.

Heydt will be exhibiting at the Wisner House at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit from March 11-May 12 and will conduct workshops in Cape May from April 21-23 on sketching and April 24-27 in outdoor oil painting.

The meeting is free and open to the public. The room is wheelchair accessible. For more information, contact Tobia L. Meyers at (908) 687-2945.

**Tribute to Sinatra leads a list of hot shows at the UCAC**

At 8 p.m. Feb. 20, the Union County Arts Center in Rahway will present "My Way - A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra."

No one can dispute the influence Sinatra had on popular music, or that he helped etch memories into the hearts and minds of millions. "Old Blue Eyes" recorded more than 1,000 songs, many of them familiar tunes like "Summer Wind" and "Love and Marriage."

Highlights from the crooner's extensive discography are the focus of "My Way," conceived by David Grapes and Todd Olson.

There are almost 60 songs in this show. The four multi-talented cast members, backed by three stellar musicians, invite the audience into the heart of Sinatra's music.

All tickets are \$35 and may be purchased online at www.UCAC.org, by calling the box office at (732) 499-8226, or in person at the box office located at 1601 Irving St. in Rahway. Handicapped seating is available.

Then, at 8 p.m. Feb. 21, the UCAC will present "Richard Nader's Doo Wop Reunion Tour" featuring Lou Christie, Emil Stucchio and the Classics, and The Chiclettes.

Who could forget the falsetto of Lou Christie soaring across the country with the number one song of 1966, "Lightning Strikes"? Christie first struck the charts at the age of 19 with the 1962 million-seller, "The Gypsy Cried." A certain magic happens the

moment the Classics step onto the stage. The Classics released their first million-selling recording of "Til Then" in the 50s. The flawless harmonies of Scott LaChance, Al Contrera and Teresa McClean are made even better by the outstanding original lead voice of Emil Stucchio.

Completing the lineup are New York's The Chiclettes, performing their classic girls group tribute. The Chiclettes take the audience on a musical journey through the history of female rock 'n' roll.

Tickets are \$40, \$35, \$30 and may be purchased online at www.UCAC.org, by calling (732) 499-8226 or in person at the box office at 1601 Irving St. in Rahway. Handicapped seating is available.

A musical tribute children's show to Martin Luther King Jr. returns to the Union County Arts Center at 3 p.m. Feb. 22. Audiences will come to know Martin Luther King Jr. anew in a production that conveys both the sensitivity and foresight of this heroic leader.

All tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at www.UCAC.org, by calling (732) 499-8226 or in person at 1601 Irving St. in Rahway. Handicapped seating is available.

The newly renovated UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St. in Rahway, two blocks from the New Jersey Transit train station. Local restaurants are within walking distance of the theater and represent the various cultures that are part of the district.

**Happy Valentine's Day**

**Merrymen will sing for local women's clubs**

At 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, in the Social Hall of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, the Woman's Club of Fanwood will host the Woman's Club of Scotch Plains for refreshments followed by a joint meeting and a Valentine-themed program of love songs especially compiled

and sung for them by the Merrymen, a group of senior gentlemen who belong to the Old Guard of Westfield.

Margery Palmer, president of the Fanwood Club, stated, "Our Fanwood Club ladies are delighted to be able to share this very upbeat program with the ladies

of the Scotch Plains Club. We each meet monthly on the second Wednesday, and it seemed logical to join forces occasionally for special occasions such as the Merrymen.

As explained by Mike Shepnew of Scotch Plains, contact person for the Merrymen, "The Old Guard of Westfield was established in 1933. We are men, mostly in our 70s or 80s, who enjoy various activities."

"This Feb. 11 program is exactly what the Merrymen like best to do, as we have chosen to sing instead of being sedentary. We give about 25 programs a year, which combined with weekly practices make a sizeable

commitment of our personal time, but the comradeship is great. We firmly believe that music has enriched the quality of our lives," Shepnew said.

Both the Women's Clubs of Fanwood and of Scotch Plains are members of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs. They are committed to civic and social service as well as fellowship.

For further information about this joint meeting call Fanwood Club Program chairman Barbara Couphos at (908) 322-7892 or Mike Shepnew of the Merrymen at (908) 233-0572.

**UCC's Theater Project in a 'Flirt'-atious mood**

The Theater Project, Union County College's professional theater company, will present "Flirt" by Marie Trusits at 3 p.m. Sunday in the atrium of the student commons at 1033 Springfield Ave. in Cranford. This staged reading of the original play is part of The Theater Project's Playwrights Development Workshop, which presents a script-in-hand performance of a new play each month, October through May. Each performance is followed by a lively discussion between audience, writer, director and cast. The workshop is led by Artistic Director Mark Spina.

Trusits is both a playwright and actor and has performed for 20 years in theatre and film. An earlier version of "Flirt" was accepted into the Samuel French Playwriting contest in 1999. She has also written a play titled "The Acting Thing" which was produced by two off-off Broadway companies. She is presently working on a film titled "Mountain Gap."

Admission is free, thanks to the support of The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Union County College Foundation, a HEART Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the generosity of Mr. J. Edward Cecala.

**Jerseyaires Chorus provides a memorable Valentine's Day**

The Rahway Valley Jerseyaires Barbershop Chorus, a nonprofit musical and educational organization, is now in its 11th year of performing Singing Valentines for that special person.

Send a musical Valentine that your sweetheart or someone special will never forget. A barber-shop quartet, dressed in formal attire, will sing a love song serenade at a location of choice.

The recipient will also receive a special chocolate candy, a lovely flower and picture of the

event. This service will be available Feb. 13-15 for \$50, with other dates accommodated if possible.

"Availability of quartets is limited so reserve your serenade now," said Ken Friedlander, president of the R.V.J.C.

For more information or to arrange the time and place for your singing valentine, call (908) 272-1503 or the hotline at (888) 480-0901. Alternately, email lugeman@msn.com or visit http://www.geocities.com/rvjerseyaires/ on the web.

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The upcoming concert of the Musical Club of Westfield features Jenny Cline on flute and George Toenes, clarinet.

## Musical Club show set for Wednesday

The fourth concert of the Musical Club of Westfield will be held 1 p.m. Wednesday at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield.

The first two compositions in this concert were written originally for virtuoso wind instrumentalists.

Jenny Cline of Westfield, the flutist, will perform "Concerto for Flute" by Otar Gordelli. She will be accompanied on the piano by Mary Beth McFall of Roselle.

Clarinetist George Toenes of Westfield will perform C.M. von Weber's "Grand Duo Concertante for Clarinet and Piano." McFall is not a piano accompanist in this piece but an equal partner. This composition was written for Germany's number one clarinetist, Heinrich Baermann in 1816.

Pianist John Blasdale of Whippany will perform "Arabesques No. 1 in E Major" by Claude Debussy, and "Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue" by J.S. Bach.

Suzanne Beeny Jones of Hackensack will sing "Flammende Rose," and "Susse Stille." Both of these compositions are by G.F. Handel, and have flute obligatos played by Jenny Cline. Mary Beth McFall will be at the piano.

Jones will also perform a selection from Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro."

The "Hungarian Dance Suite No. 1" by Johannes Brahms will be performed by Jenny Cline, George Toenes, and Mary Beth McFall. Program chairperson is Clarissa Nolde.

Refreshments will be served. The public is invited.

## Arts Guild presents cooperative project, 'A Poet in Harlem'

At 8 p.m. Feb. 27, the sixth season jazz series at The Arts Guild of Rahway presents pianist/composer Vince diMura and his acclaimed ensemble The George Street Project in the concert premier of a new spoken word piece "Jazz Opera: A Poet in Harlem" with music by diMura and libretto by Nuyorican poet Willie Perdomo.

Tickets for this event are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Tickets are now on sale at The Arts Guild of Rahway at 1670 Irving St. at Seminary Avenue in downtown Rahway; call (732) 381-7511 for tickets and information.

This concert version is partly funded by a grant from the Union County Arts Foundation and is a co-production with the Puffin Cultural Forum in Teaneck, where the program begins Feb. 7.

"A Poet in Harlem" is taken from Perdomo's 1996 publication, "Where a Nickel Costs a Dime." The program will be augmented with a special tribute to Billie Holiday and with dramatic readings of poems by Pulitzer Prize winner Yusef Komunyakaa and Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison.

A veteran performer and composer, diMura has showcased his musical gifts in recitals at concert halls throughout North America, Canada, and Latin America. His performance schedule

"A Poet in Harlem" is taken from Perdomo's 1996 publication, "Where a Nickel Costs a Dime." The program will be augmented with a special tribute to Billie Holiday and with dramatic readings of poems by Pulitzer Prize winner Yusef Komunyakaa and Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison.

has taken him from Aguascalientes, Mexico to Seattle, Wash. and to hundreds of venues in the New York/Metropolitan area.

He was recently awarded a 2000 Fellowship in Jazz Composition from the Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation/New Jersey State Council on the Arts. diMura's most recent CD, "Imperfect Balance," is currently available on the Internet through Amazon.com and CDnow.com.

Perdomo is the author of "Smoking Lovely," just released in October. His work has been included in several anthologies including "Metropolis Found," "The Harlem Reader," "Poems of New York," "Bum Rush," and "Def Poetry Jam." His work has also appeared in "The New York Times Magazine," "Bomb," Russell Simmons' "One World Magazine" and "Pen America."

A few years ago, diMura heard Perdomo at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, and immediately bought his first book, "Where a Nickel Costs a Dime."

After the two met each other in the Spring 2002, diMura asked for and received permission to set much of the book as a jazz opera. The opera is organized into a series of tableaux, the titles of which are taken from the poem "Prophet Born in Harlem," which was written for James Baldwin.

These tableaux are bookended by extended opening and closing sections, which include the dedication, a ballet about the cover of the book, and the first and last group of poems.

Interspersed within the eight tableaux are three recitatives that describe the main character of the opera, "The Poet." But other characters abound. Audience members meet street preachers, hustlers, junkies, Caribbean witches, even Billie Holiday and Lester Young show up in the fabric of these tableaux.

Performers for a "Poet in Harlem" are: Vince diMura (piano/composer), Ralph Bowen (tenor sax), Kyle Sutton (narrator), Eric Ebengay (keyboard), Dan Fabricatore (bass), Chris Brown (drums), Anne Darie and Charlisa Consuelo (back up vocals), with special guest New Jersey jazz diva Carrie Jackson.

## Area students enjoy Excellence in Arts

When 19 students, four teachers, and an administrator from The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison participated in the Excellence in the Arts workshop day at Lawrenceville School in, they pretty much knew what to expect. After all, some of their teachers were presenters for the day-long conference, and their Headmaster, Chris Williamson, had served on the committee to help put it all together. They had heard about it for weeks.

For theater buffs like Matthew Darwin of Scotch Plains, the day proved to be an extension of one of the things he likes to do best: perform. Being in the improvisation workshops early in the day proved fun for the junior, who has held leads in the Wardlaw-Hartridge plays and musicals.

The students did the acting exercise, "Whose Line is It Anyway?" Darwin and the others in the class were told by the presenter of the session, "It is hard to just jump into things with people we don't know, but in the next workshop, we'll create something for our performance later." And that's just what they did.

Students in the fields of choral music, dance, instrumental music, theater, videography and visual arts got to do exercises, rehearse, and then perform in front of their teachers and peers throughout the day.

For Wardlaw-Hartridge freshman Amanda Loder, who was there

for the choral music aspect, the best part of the day was "the chance to meet new people and to perform with them."

For some of the older teens in the vocal group like Wardlaw seniors Ryan Meier of Cranford and Valerie Pusavar, it wasn't anything new because for the last two years, they have performed with the Regional Chorus of New Jersey after auditioning and making the mixed chorus and the women's chorus respectively.

An offering that isn't normally featured at this type of conference, videography, was team taught by a film and video teacher from Fairleigh Dickinson University, New Jersey Network, and a freelance producer and programmer. Four students from Wardlaw took advantage of those sessions and were thrilled to see the short video piece they brought with them projected on a massive screen.

Various instrumental groups broke off into specific ensembles. South Plainfield resident Jennifer Garner, a senior, participated in the flute ensemble which rehearsed and performed "America the Beautiful" and "Renaissance for a New Millennium."

For Head of School Chris Williamson, one of the organizers of the event, the day was the "culmination of time, energy, and effort on the part of a number of people to bring attention to the arts in a special way."

## 'Great God Brown' is on the stage in Elizabeth

The Elizabeth Playhouse will present "The Great God Brown" by Eugene O'Neill from Feb. 6-March 7. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.

General admission is \$10; students and seniors, \$6. The Elizabeth Playhouse is located at 1100 East Jersey St., Elizabeth. For reservations call (908) 355-0077. The website is www.elizabethplayhouse.com.

"The Great God Brown," a short play, introduces the major theme that would dominate O'Neill's outpouring of work for

the next 20 years. The story follows the lives of two friends from youth to old age, Billy Brown, the "Great God" of the title and his best friend, Dion Anthony. Brown is the good-natured plodder. Dion is the dissolute genius. They compete endlessly for the same woman, jobs, status in the world and Dion always wins, but it means nothing to him.

This play is done with the brilliant use of masks — when a character is masked he is social and phony; when he takes the mask off, he speaks from the fullness of his heart.

## 'Smokey Joe' hits the stage this Friday

The Cranford Dramatic Club (CDC) brings the Broadway hit revue "Smokey Joe's Cafe" to its stage for three weekends, beginning Friday, Feb. 6.

Director Shayne Austin Miller and Producer Elizabeth Howard have assembled an outstanding band and cast of singer/dancers to present this Tony-award winning show.

Featuring nearly 40 of the classic songs of Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, the production is sure to be highly entertaining and is appealing to music lovers of all ages.

Leiber and Stoller wrote music for many of the premier entertainers of the 50's and 60's. Songs in the show include such hit standards as "On Broadway," "Love Potion #9," "Stand by Me,"

"Neighborhood," "Kansas City," "Charlie Brown," and many more.

CDC's newly-renovated theater, including a new lighting system and new, acoustically-friendly auditorium ceiling, provides a perfect setting for the evening's entertainment.

"Smokey Joe's Cafe" runs Fridays and Saturdays, Feb. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21. For tickets, call the box office at 908-276-7611. The theater is located at 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford.

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## Austen McGregor

**WESTFIELD** — Austen "Sandy" McGregor, 90, died Jan. 29, 2004 at his home in Chatham Township.

Mr. McGregor was born in Newark. He lived in Westfield and Upper St. Clair, Pa., before moving to Chatham Township in 1962.

An attorney by training, Mr. McGregor was the corporate counsel of American Standard Inc. for 20 years and retired in 1983. He earlier was the vice president of labor relations for the Crucible Steel Co. in Pittsburgh, Pa. He began his career with the Manhattan law firm Milbank, Tweed, Hope & Hadley.

Mr. McGregor held a bachelor's degree from Yale University and a law degree from the Yale Law School. He was a member of the New York State Bar Association, the New York City Bar Association,

the Yale Club of New York and the Service Corps of Retired Executives.

During World War II he was an attorney with the Navy's Office of General Counsel. Mr. McGregor saw wartime combat as a naval lieutenant in Europe and was awarded a Silver Star.

Surviving are his wife, Adeline "Mickey"; four daughters, Margaret Hoopes of Washington, Patricia Dunphy of Red Bank, Elizabeth Harrison of Flemington and Jayne of Wilkesboro, N.C.; two sons, Douglas E. of Chatham and James M. of Middletown; 11 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

A memorial Mass was held Saturday at Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church in Chatham Township. Arrangements were by Wm. A. Bradley & Son Funeral Directors in Chatham.

## Nicola Labbate

**WESTFIELD** — Nicola Labbate, 73, died Jan. 29, 2004 at Union Hospital.

Mr. Labbate was born in Monteferrante, Italy, and settled in Westfield when he came to the United States in 1968. He had lived in Cranford since 1969.

He was retired from Construction Specialties Inc. in Cranford. Mr. Labbate was a former member of the Elks lodge in Cranford.

A brother, Domenico, is deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Mira Massa Labbate; a son, Vincent of Scotch Plains; a daughter, Frances of Cranford; a brother, Giuseppe of Roselle; and a sister, Maria of Italy.

A funeral Mass was held Monday at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church in Cranford. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Funeral Home in Cranford.

## Arlene Franciscus

**WESTFIELD** — Arlene Heath Franciscus, 52, died Jan. 29, 2004 in Middlesex.

Born July 29, 1951 in Doylestown, Pa., she was a daughter of the late Leonard Francis and Eleanor Heath.

Mrs. Franciscus lived in Westfield before moving to Middlesex in 1977. A 1969 graduate of Westfield High School, she was a past president of the

Middlesex Junior Women's Club and a vice president of Innovative Educational Programs in Basking Ridge.

She was a co-founder of Meals on Wheels in Middlesex and a volunteer with the Fresh Air Fund.

A brother, Leonard Heath, died in 1957.

Surviving are her husband of 34 years, Charles Patrick; three sons, Sean Patrick, Michael Scott and Daniel James; a daughter, Joanne Leigh; two brothers, Robert Heath of Scotch Plains and Raymond Heath of Knoxville, Tenn.; and two sisters, Jeanne Webb of Lawton, Okla., and Norma Cotter of Salisbury, Md.

A memorial service was held Monday at the Presbyterian Church in Bound Brook.

Arrangements were by the Middlesex Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to the American Cancer Society.

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## Obituaries

### Michael Rossi; police chief in Scotch Plains

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — Michael Rossi, 85, a former police chief in this township and officer in police organizations statewide, died Saturday at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Mr. Rossi joined the Scotch Plains Police Department in 1946. He became police chief in 1977 and held that post until his retirement in 1983. As a sergeant in 1960 he received the first police commendation from the Township Council for his part arresting three suspects in an attempted robbery of a service station.

Mr. Rossi also was the only person to be president of Policemen's Benevolent Association Local 83 and a PBA delegate in the same year. He was president of the Union County Police Chiefs Association in 1981 and served on the executive board of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. In addition, he was on the Police Training and Education Committee and the Uniform Crime Committee of the state association.

As an Army soldier at the Schofield Barracks in Hawaii he survived the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor that promoted the United States' entry into World War II. Mr. Rossi saw wartime combat in

Guadalcanal, New Georgia and the Philippines, attaining the rank of staff sergeant. He was awarded a Silver Star and five combat medals.

He was a founding member of the Scotch Plains Chapter of UNICO as well as a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10122 and American Legion Post 209.

Mr. Rossi was born in the Bronx and had lived in Scotch Plains since 1939.

A son, Michael S., died in 1988. Also deceased are a son-in-law, Richard Turash; and three daughters, Yolanda Grimalizzi, Lea Linfante and Ermelinda Ceccarelli.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Mineo Rossi; two daughters, Patricia Smith and Linda Turash; a son, Frank, a current member of the Township Council; a sister, Eleanor Esposito; five grandchildren; and 21 nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was held yesterday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Donations may be sent to Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 325, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

### Ruth Hellander

**WESTFIELD** — Ruth J. Hellander, 76, died Jan. 30, 2004 at her home.

She was born Feb. 16, 1927 in North Dakota and had lived in Westfield since 1966.

Mrs. Hellander was a registered nurse who graduated in 1949 from the nursing school at St. Joseph's Hospital in Fargo, N.D. She was a member of the Women's Club of Westfield; the Questers, also in Westfield; and the Altar Rosary Society at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church.

Deceased are three brothers,

Melvin Johnson, Herman Johnson and Clifford Johnson; and a sister, Laura Ostley.

Surviving are her husband of 53 years, Arthur O.; two daughters, Mary Sombic and Jean Wickes; four sons, Richard, John, James and Robert; and a sister, Julia Kelly.

A memorial Mass was held Tuesday at Holy Trinity Church.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Colonial Home. Donations may be sent to Holy Trinity Church, 315 First St., Westfield, NJ 07090.

### Zofia Lubiak

**WESTFIELD** — Zofia Szweb Lubiak, 63, died Jan. 30, 2004 at her home.

Born in Bojanow, Poland, she lived in Passaic and Jersey City before moving to Westfield more than 30 years ago.

Mrs. Lubiak retired in 2002 after 15 years as a caregiver at the Early Childcare Youth Center in Rahway.

Surviving are her husband of 40 years, Jurek; six daughters, Elizabeth Lubiak McFarland, Wanda Lubiak Schneider,

Marianne Lubiak Baxter, Krystyne Calabrese, Linda Lubiak Wilde and Michelle; three sisters, Anelia Wolny, Maria Sierpina and Hannah; and five grandchildren.

Services were held Tuesday at the Krowicki McCracken Funeral Home, Linden, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Our Lady of Czestochowa Cemetery, Doylestown, Pa.

Donations in her memory will be accepted at the funeral home.

### Douglas Forbes

**WESTFIELD** — Douglas Forbes, 76, died Feb. 1, 2004 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

He was born in Lambertville and had lived for many years in Westfield.

Mr. Forbes was with Westinghouse Corp. for 38 years, retiring in 1992 as a vice president of regional operations in Morristown. He was a member of the 200 Club of Union County and the Echo Lake Country Club.

He was an honorary member of

Policemen's Benevolent Association Local 126 in Mountainside.

His wife, Elizabeth Duggan Forbes, is deceased.

Surviving are three sons, Malcolm, John and Andrew; a daughter, Anne; and a brother, Ian.

Services were held Wednesday at the Gray Funeral Home. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Donations may be sent to Scholarship Fund, 200 Club of Union County, 222 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

### Salvatore Barletta

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — Salvatore Barletta, 89, died Feb. 1, 2004 at his home.

Born in West Virginia, he lived in Newark and Bloomfield before moving to Scotch Plains in 1989.

Mr. Barletta retired in 1981 after five years as a bottler at the Pabst brewery in Newark. He earlier worked 35 years at the P. Ballantine & Sons brewery in Newark.

His wife, Elvira, died in 2003. A sister, Sarah Bianco, and two

brothers, Vito and Frank, are deceased.

Surviving are two sons, Salvatore and Patrick; a daughter, Rochelle Torella; a brother, Joel; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services will be 9 a.m. today at the Rossi Funeral Home, 1937 Westfield Ave. A funeral Mass will follow 10 a.m. at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, 2032 Westfield Ave. Burial will be in Hollywood Memorial Park, Union.

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## Howard Ruopp

**WESTFIELD** — Howard Ruopp, 86, died Feb. 3, 2004 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

He was born in Brooklyn and had lived in Westfield since 1954.

Mr. Ruopp retired in 1974 after 30 years as a chemical engineer with NL Industries in Perth Amboy. He held a master's degree in chemical engineering from the Polytechnic University in Brooklyn. He received a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Cooper Union.

A past president of the Old

Guard of Westfield, Mr. Ruopp was an Army Air Corps captain in World War II and a volunteer at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. He was a member of the Cooper Union Alumni Association and a parishioner of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church.

His wife, Miriam D., died Jan. 7, 2004.

Surviving are a son, Howard J. of Westfield; and a daughter, Michele M. of Plainfield.

Private arrangements were by the Gray Funeral Home,

## Louis Kovacs

**FANWOOD** — Louis Kovacs, 79, died Feb. 1, 2004 at his home.

Born in Hungary, he came to the United States in 1951 and lived in Newark before moving to Fanwood in 1961.

Mr. Kovacs retired in 1981 after 30 years as an accountant with Peterson Steel Co. in

Union. He received a bachelor's degree in accounting from Seton Hall University in 1956.

Surviving are his wife, Lilli Bender Kovacs; two nephews, a grandniece and three great-grandnephews.

Services will be 11 a.m. today at the Rossi Funeral Home, 1937 Westfield Ave., Scotch Plains.

## Carol L. Johnson

**WESTFIELD** — Carol L. Johnson, 73, died Feb. 2, 2004 at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., she lived in Westfield before moving to Delaware Township in 1974.

Mrs. Johnson graduated from the Columbia University School of Nursing.

Surviving are her husband, Kenneth; a daughter, Janet; a brother, Robert Rhodes; and a grandchild.

Private arrangements were by the Holcombe-Fisher Funeral Home in Flemington.

Donations may be sent to Hunterdon Medical Center Foundation, 2100 Wescott Drive, Flemington, NJ 08822.

## Mae Butler

Mae Butler, 103, died Feb. 2, 2004 at the Hunterdon Care Center in Flemington.

Born in Brooklyn, she was a daughter of the late Frank and Minnie Fitzpatrick.

Mrs. Butler lived in Kenilworth and North Branch before moving to Whitehouse Station in 1980. She was a member of the Branchburg Senior Citizens Club and the Altar Rosary Society at St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church.

More recently Mrs. Butler was a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Whitehouse Station.

Her husband, Claude, died in

1979. A grandson, Jim Sexton, is deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Claudette Petrozelli and husband Joseph of Whitehouse Station; eight grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was Thursday at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Route 523, Whitehouse Station. Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery, Brooklyn.

Arrangements are by the Kearns Funeral Home in Whitehouse. Donations may be sent to East Whitehouse Fire Company, P.O. Box 151, Whitehouse, NJ 08888.

## Helene Vale

Helene R. Kolakowski Vale, 85, died Jan. 29, 2004 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Bayonne, she lived in Elizabeth before moving to Cranford in 2001.

Mrs. Vale retired in 1982 after 30 years as a teacher at the nursing school of Elizabeth General Hospital. She graduated from the Bayonne Hospital nursing school and received a bachelor's degree in nursing from Seton Hall University.

She was a member of the American Nursing Association and the American Association of Retired

Persons.

Her husband, Bernard V., is deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Rita of Morris Plains; two sons, Bernard Jr. of Toms River and Jerry and wife SueEllen of Edison; a sister, Carrie Carhart of Keyport; and four grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Monday at St. Genevieve Roman Catholic Church, Elizabeth, following services at the Krowicki McCracken Funeral Home in Linden. Entombment was in the Good Shepherd Chapel Mausoleum at St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

## Berniece Gilligan

Berniece M. Williams Gilligan, 71, died Jan. 31, 2004 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division.

Born in Elizabeth, she lived in Hillside before moving to Kenilworth in 1958.

Mrs. Gilligan was with the Star-Ledger newspaper for 22 years and retired in 1992 as a circulation manager based in Cranford.

A brother, Donald Williams, is deceased.

Surviving are her husband of 49 years, Thomas J.; four sons,

Thomas J. Jr. and Michael R., both of Kenilworth, Robert and wife Diane of Kenilworth and Kevin and wife Nancy of Colonia; a daughter, Cynthia of Clark; a brother, Thomas "Sonny" Williams; a sister, Carol Prescott; and seven grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday at the Higgins & Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, Westfield, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

## Timothy C. O'Connor

Timothy C. O'Connor, 55, died Jan. 26, 2004 at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston.

Born in County Cork, Ireland, he lived in Roselle Park and Roselle before moving to Kenilworth in 1979.

Mr. O'Connor was a United Parcel Service driver for 30 years based in Kenilworth and Bound Brook. He was a shop steward with Teamsters Local 177 in Hillside and received a UPS award for 30 years of safe driving.

Surviving are his wife, Joan

Siobhan Cullinane O'Connor; his mother, Hannah; two sons, Timothy and Kenneth; a daughter, Siobhan Ford; three brothers, Donie, Gerard and Finbar; three sisters, Davern, Patricia Fitzgerald and Esther O'Brien; and two grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Friday at St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Opacity Funeral Home. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Donations may be sent to the Kenilworth Rescue Squad.



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# Sports

## MURPHY'S LAW

### Wake me up when it's March

By DANIEL MURPHY  
THE RECORD-PRESS

Well, we have finally reached it — the time of year where, like southbound summer traffic on the Garden State Parkway, our sports world grinds to a screeching halt.

The NFL season is over, the NBA season is at its duller, the NHL is puttering along, we still have over a month until March Madness, two months to The Masters and we are still a couple of weeks away from the most inspiring phrase in the English language — pitchers and catchers.

February is the sports equivalent of the summertime television schedule where good shows are on television, but because they are repeats they bring little juice to the table. We bounced straight from a thrilling postseason in baseball to the stretch run of the NFL's regular season and a playoff season that topped baseball's tenfold.

We were lucky enough to be treated to one of the most entertaining Super Bowl Sundays I can remember. The game was phenomenal — part defensive struggle, part offensive explosion, filled with controversial coaching decisions, big plays, clutch performances and chokes.

There was Janet and Justin which doesn't need anything more to be said about it, but has saved John "Kick It Out of Bounds" Kasay from a ton of ridicule.

And then, of course, there was Team Dream's dramatic, and dare I say thrilling, 6-0 victory over Team Euphoria in the first (and hopefully not last) Lingerie Bowl.

Super Bowl Sunday left us with plenty to talk about, but not an entire month's worth. So now what?

The Pro Bowl? The Pro Bowl is like the Survivor reunion episode. Sure, it's got some of our favorite characters and there may be a firework or two, but everybody is really just happy to be there, trying to get along without getting hurt and just hoping to get their face out there one last time so their agent can get them in a deodorant commercial.

Instead we are left trying to fill the void by inventing stories, like ESPN.com's "Ultimate Standings," a ranking of the best franchises in sports.

Somehow this list decided that the San Antonio Spurs are the best franchise. How is that possible? How is it possible that the Spurs are No. 1 while the Yankees are No. 28? I hate the Yankees, but I have to admit they're better than the 28th best franchise. The Minnesota Wild hockey team (I had to look that up), which has been in existence for four years, was ranked 11th. What? A franchise that has been around four years is higher than the Yankees and the New England Patriots?

These are the kinds of things we're subjected to when there is nothing else going on. Some high school football players made up their minds weeks ago where they were going to college but held off until Wednesday, signing day, to announce on national television where they were going. The sad thing is we needed them to do this because there had to be something to put on ESPNEWS during the day.

February is like starting a round of golf on a gorgeous summer day, after knocking the cover off the ball on the driving range, but having to wait 15 minutes before every shot and having to hear to the bad jokes of some random hacker you got paired with to fill out your foursome.

There are great sport moments looming right in front of us, like a distant exit on the parkway — the first day of the NCAA Tournament, Opening Day, the NFL Draft — but for the moment we're stuck in miles of traffic with a buddy in the backseat singing Shania Twain tunes.

## Blue Devils sink competition



Westfield's Sam Gurdus placed third in the 100 butterfly and swam on the winning 200 medley relay team as the Blue Devils won the Union County championship for the fifth straight season Friday.

GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE RECORD-PRESS

### Westfield sweeps county titles for fifth consecutive season

By DANIEL MURPHY  
THE RECORD-PRESS

The Westfield High boys and girls swim teams continued their domination of Union County this weekend, easily outscoring their competition to win both championship meets.

The boys squad won eight of the 11 events and had all 14 swimmers that competed score points to win the title for the fifth straight year and the 46th time in the last 47 years. The Blue Devils scored 346 points, more than twice as many as runner-up Scotch Plains (171).

The girls team took a different route to the title, winning just the opening 200 yard medley relay and the 100 yard breaststroke, but had plenty of depth to score 285 points and win the championship for the 12th straight year. Governor Livingston was second with 199 points and Scotch Plains finished in third place, scoring 179 points.

Seniors Ryan Bartholomew and Chris Heinen led the boys squad, each winning two individual events and joining Kevin Hobson and Dan Chabanov to win the 400 yard freestyle relay. Bartholomew completed a four-year sweep of the 50 freestyle, winning in 22.37. He completed his first two-title day when he edged Oratory's Grant Moryan by .37 in the 100 free in a lifetime best 49.38.

"In the last 25 years there have only been a handful of guys to win

an event four times," said Westfield Head Coach Bruce Johnson. "You have to be a little lucky and very good, especially in the 50 because that event leaves little margin for error."

Bartholomew was the favorite to win the event the last two years, but won as the fifth seed his freshman year and the third seed his sophomore season. His two closest competitors this season didn't compete in the 50, choosing other events, allowing Bartholomew to focus mainly on the 100, where he entered as the fourth seed.

Heinen was victorious in the 500 free (5:11.24) and 100 butterfly (54.21). They were the first victories for the senior at the county championships.

Pat Daurio won the 200 individual medley in 2:06.9 and also placed second in the 100 breaststroke, being edged by John Closs of New Providence by .09 seconds.

Luke Baran, Andrew Prunesti, Sam Gurdus and Daurio won the 200 medley relay in 1:46.21 and Josh Schoenfeld, Dave Hedman, Brandon Cuba and Tim Kolenut won the 200 free relay in 1:36.55. One of Westfield's most impressive races was Prunesti's third place finish in the 500 where he dropped 23 seconds of his previous best in just his third time swimming the event, finishing 5:20.65.

"We won all three relays with 12 different kids," said Johnson. "That's a good sign of depth. Those



Emily Barnes helped contribute to the depth the Westfield girls swim team used to capture its 12th consecutive Union County championship.

GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE RECORD-PRESS

are guys that we can use when we get to states. It gives us some maneuverability down the road.

"We just wanted to go out and swim some good times and see where we were at and we had a lot of good times. This group hasn't stopped working. I don't have to say anything to them, I just write the workout on the board and they go and do it."

The girls squad was sparked by a victory in the opening 200 medley relay, a 1-2-6 finish by Jackie Delafuente, Amanda Dickson and

Callie Meserole in the 100 breaststroke and second place finishes by Kirsten Selert in the 50 free and Kyle Fraser in the 100 butterfly. Becky Fallon, Delafuente, Brittany Reyes and Selert led the medley relay to the gold with a 1:56.81 clocking.

Westfield made its biggest splash in the 100 breaststroke where Delafuente won her first county title in 1:10.79, touching out her teammate Dickson, who finished in 1:11.49. Meserole finished in 1:14.77 as the Devils scored 38

points in the race. Delafuente added a fifth place finish in the 500 free (5:47.81), Selert placed third in the 100 free (58.66), Fallon was fourth in the backstroke (1:05), Kylie Fraser was fourth in the 200 IM (2:22.88), Suzanna Fowler took third in the 200 free (2:05.96) and Danielle Heffernan took fourth in the 100 free (58.82).

Westfield also placed second in the 200 free relay (1:46.25) and third in the 400 free relay (3:56.82).

## Raiders shooting for first UCT title

By DANIEL MURPHY  
THE RECORD-PRESS

Roselle Park has won the Union County Tournament each of the past seven years. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High wrestling team has yet to win one, facts the Raiders are planning to change those this weekend.

After defeating the Panthers head-to-head Jan. 24, Scotch Plains enters this weekend's Union County Tournament as the favorite, hoping to crown as many as six champions and end Roselle Park's stranglehold on the county title.

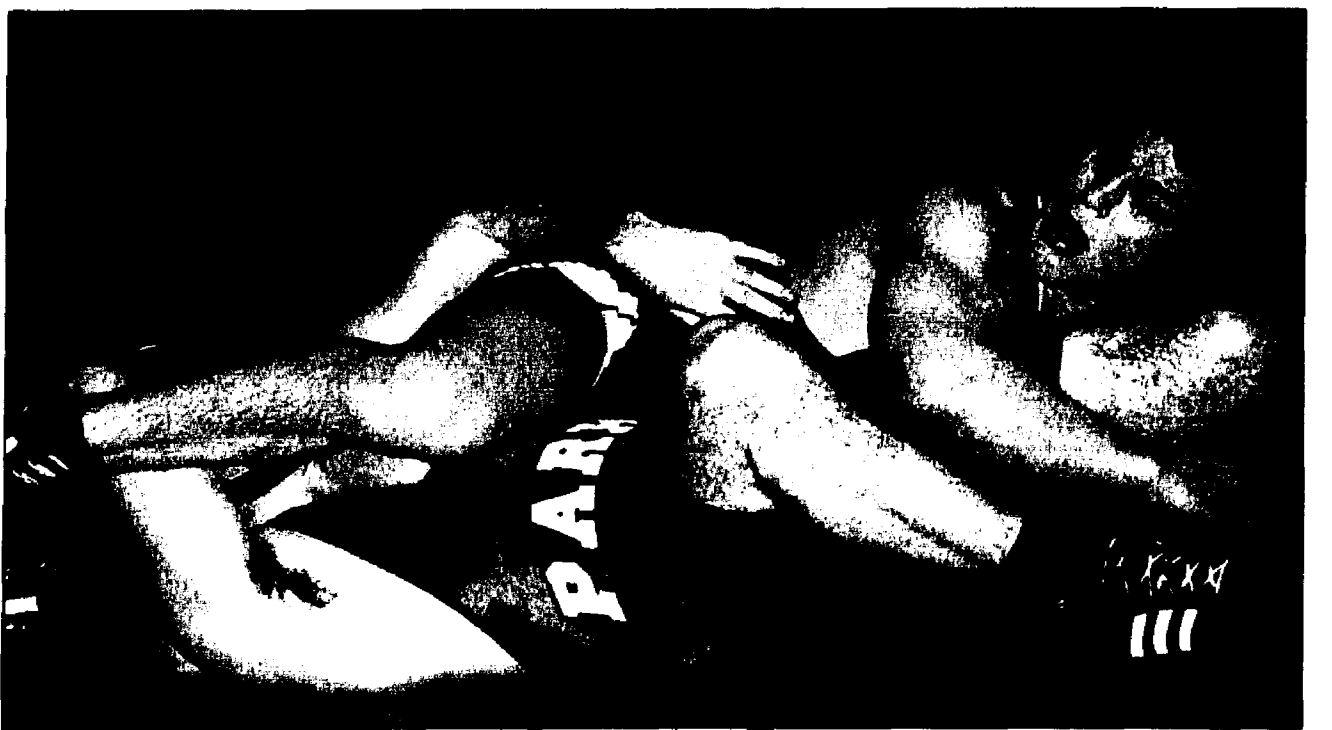
Competition begins 5 p.m. tonight at Union High School and

resumes 10 a.m. tomorrow, with the finals slated for 3:45.

"We're very excited," said Scotch Plains Head Coach John Scholz. "We can't wait for it. The guys are ready for it. Coming off some big wins, especially beating Roselle Park, adds fuel to the fire."

Even though the Raiders had more finalists and champions than any other team last year, Roselle Park placed 11 of its 14 wrestlers in the top four to outscore Scotch Plains 257-220.5. The Raiders know it will come down to not the stars of the squad but the depth of the team to win the title.

"It's not the guys that are expected to be in the finals that I'm worried about," said Scholz. "It's



Scotch Plains' Andrew Silber is the favorite to take home the 171 pound title this weekend at the Union County Tournament as the Raiders look to win their first team title.

JOHN FEI/PRESS CORRESPONDENT

the other guys that I'm concerned about. We need guys who may lose early to keep going and wrestle back as far as they can. Roselle Park has been very good at that over the years and that is what we're going to need to do. Hopefully all the planets line up the right way for that to happen."

Derek Francavilla (125), Stephen Mineo (130), Eric Connolly (145), Andrew Silber (171) are all favored to win their weight class. Charlie Bachi (189) and Marc Fabiano (215) also stand strong chances of coming home with gold. Mineo, Bachi and Silber won titles last year, while Francavilla and Pedro Coyt (152) placed second. Connolly and Fabiano each placed third.

Andrew Loomis (heavyweight), Patrick Mineo (135), Ronnie Ferrara (119) are also expected to score big for the Raiders.

"It comes down to matchups and who you're going to see when," said Scholz. "There is some great competition in the county."

"The guys have been working very hard and they're ready for the test. It is something that has never been done at Scotch Plains and they'd like to be the team to do it."

Some of that competition will come from Westfield. The Blue Devils are led into the tournament by seniors Lee Tomasso (152) and Rob Mench (103). Tomasso was named the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler for the upper weights last year after win-

ning the 145-pound title with four pins. Mench placed second to Rahway's Darrion Caldwell, but will be the favorite to win the title this time around. Sam Kramer (112) should also have a strong tournament for Westfield. Tom DelDuca and Chris Johnson will likely miss the meet with an injury.

"Lee is wrestling really well right now," said Westfield Head Coach Glen Kurz. "It took him a little bit of time to get going this season but he seems to be peaking at the right time. If (Mench) wrestles well he should be able to handle everyone. Sam is capable of winning the whole thing. If he manages his weight well and comes in feeling good he'll be tough to beat."



Westfield's Sam Kramer expects to challenge for the 112 pound title at the Union County Tournament.

GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE RECORD-PRESS

# Cocozziello sparks Devils past Linden

The Westfield High boys basketball team rallied in the fourth quarter behind 13 points from senior Jan Cocozziello to knock off Linden 54-49 Tuesday in Linden.

Cocozziello scored 13 of his 16 points in the final frame as the Blue Devils outscored Linden 22-16 for their 10th win of the season. Joe Korfmacher added 11 points for Westfield and Tyshon Blackmon scored nine. The Blue Devils faced Livingston yesterday and are next scheduled to take on Dickinson Feb. 11.

**Westfield (54)**  
Hayes 1-0-0-2, Cocozziello 6-1-1-16, Korfmacher 4-1-0-11, Bryant 2-0-3-7, Blackmon 3-0-3-9, Hearon 1-0-0-2, Power 2-1-0-7. **Totals: 19-37-54.**

**Westfield 13 9 10 22 - 54**  
**Linden 8 8 17 16 - 49**  
**Scotch Plains 60, Westfield 56** — The Blue Devils led by five points entering the final period, but Scotch Plains rallied behind senior guard Sean Fuller to knock off the Blue Devils 60-56 Saturday. The Raiders Derrick Caracer sprained an ankle in the first quarter but Scotch Plains shared the scoring load in his absence, with four players scoring in double fig-

## WHS WRAP

ures. Mike Johnson scored 14 points, Fuller finished with 13, Lance Thomas had 12 and Mike Walker scored 11 points.

Westfield was led by Jan Cocozziello with 13 points and Eric Hayes with 11. Terrence Bryant added 10.

**Westfield (56)**  
Hayes 1-3-0-11, Cocozziello 5-1-0-13, Korfmacher 3-0-0-6, Bryant 2-2-0-10, Blackmon 4-0-0-8, Hearon 0-1-0-3, Power 1-0-0-2, Simmons 0-0-0-0, Venezia 0-1-0-3. **Totals: 16-8-0-56.**

**Scotch Plains 20 12 10 18 - 60**  
**Westfield 19 13 15 9 - 54**  
**Westfield 73, Cranford 34** — Westfield extended a four-point halftime lead into a 28-point lead two minutes into the fourth quarter Jan. 29, cruising to a 73-34 win over Cranford.

The Blue Devils took control of the game three minutes into the third quarter when they took advantage of a Cranford technical foul for a seven-point possession and a 32-21 lead. All five Westfield starters reached double figures, led by Eric Hayes with 14 points. Terence Grier paced the Cougars

with 19 points.

**Westfield (73)**  
Hayes 3-1-5-14, Cocozziello 2-2-2-12, Korfmacher 4-0-3-11, Bryant 3-1-4-13, Blackmon 5-0-0-10, Hearon 1-0-0-2, Power 1-0-2-4, Venezia 1-0-0-2, Gerkens 1-0-0-2, Bondard 0-1-0-3. **Totals: 21-8-16-73.**

**Cranford (34)**  
Drechsel 1-1-0-5, Markowitz 1-0-0-2, Caprio 2-0-0-4, Gner 3-3-4-19, Brown 1-0-0-2, Gunning 1-0-0-2. **Totals: 9-4-4-34.**

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Linden jumped out to a 22-8 halftime lead before downing the Blue Devils 40-15 Tuesday. Lauren Sinnenberg led Westfield with seven points.

**Westfield (15)**  
ElKoury 0-0-0-0, Sinnenberg 3-0-1-7, Fietkiewicz 1-0-0-2, Chaznow 1-0-0-2, McGrath 0-0-1-1, Simmons 0-0-1-1, Pena 1-0-0-2. **Totals: 6-0-3-15.**

**Linden 12 10 6 12 - 40**  
**Westfield 4 2 5 - 15**  
**St. Dominic 52, Westfield 22** — Lauren Sinnenberg scored eight points for Westfield in a 52-22 loss to St. Dominic Saturday.

**Westfield (22)**  
El Koury 1-0-0-2, Sinnenberg 2-0-4-8, Fietkiewicz 3-0-1-7, McGrath 1-0-0-2, Simmons 0-0-1-1, Judd 1-0-0-2, Chaznow 0-0-0-0, Alexander 0-0-0-0, Read 0-0-0-0, Flannery 0-0-0-0. **Totals: 8-0-2-22.**  
**St. Dominic 12 18 12 10 - 52**  
**Westfield 3 7 5 7 - 22**

**Cranford 52, Westfield 25** — Cranford outscored Westfield 17-0 in the second quarter to build a 32-6 halftime advantage and defeat the Blue Devils 52-25 Jan. 29. Meg Brady paced Cranford with 11 points and Lauren Sinnenberg scored 13 for Westfield.

**Cranford (52)**  
Mitchell 0-1-0-3, Brady 4-1-0-11, Montalvo 4-0-0-8, Flanagan 1-0-0-2, Levonas 3-0-0-6, Minitelli 1-0-0-2, Koellner 2-0-1-5, Dolan 1-0-2-4, Belden 0-0-0-0, Rudmeyer 1-0-0-2, Porter 4-0-1-9. **Totals: 21-2-4-52.**

**Westfield (25)**  
El Koury 1-0-0-2, Sinnenberg 6-0-1-13, McGrath 1-0-0-2, Judd 1-1-0-5, Flannery 1-0-0-2, Zucker 0-0-1-1, Simmons 0-0-0-0, Fietkiewicz 0-0-0-0. **Totals: 10-1-2-25.**

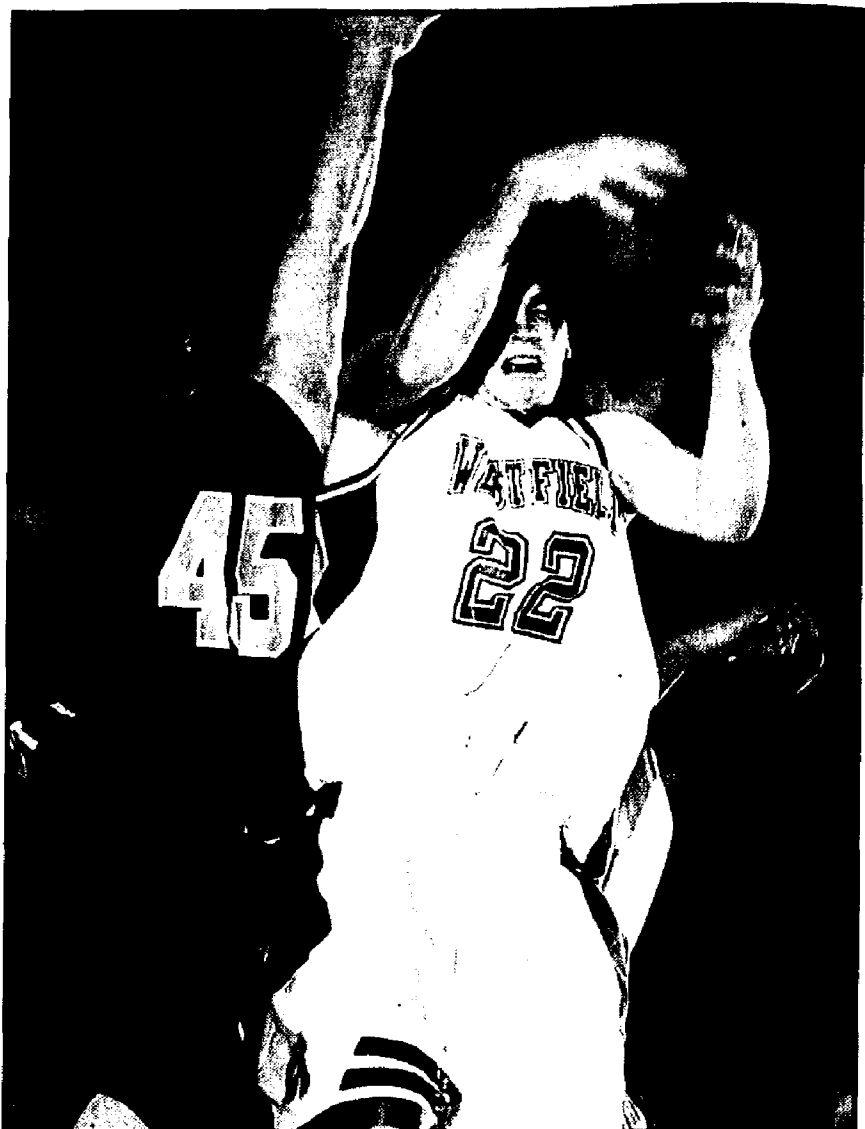
**Cranford 15 17 15 5 - 52**  
**Westfield 6 0 8 11 - 25**

## WRESTLING

Union edged Westfield 36-33 Friday.  
112: Kramer, W, dec. Lockwood, 20-4 (TF 5:50)  
119: Duffy, U, pinned Kamel, 3:48  
125: Guimada, U, dec. MacKay, 5-0  
130: Jacangelo, U, dec. Hewitt, 5-1  
135: Boyd, W, dec. Gomes, 9-1  
140: Josh Nazario, U, pinned Whitney, 3:41  
145: Mueller, U, pinned Corea, 1:54  
152: Del Duca, W, dec. Lowe, 6-5  
160: Tomasso, W, pinned Jose Nazario, 1:35  
171: Von Linden, U, pinned Willard, 3:51  
189: Johnson, W, dec. Aheam, 6-5  
215: Cox, U, pinned Cruikshank, 1:14  
HWT: Gismondi, W, pinned Okereke, 2:53  
103: Mench, W, pinned Simpson, :17

## ICE HOCKEY

Alex Regeinstreich had two goals and an assist for Westfield in a 7-3 loss to Verona Monday.  
**Montclair Kimberly 4, Westfield 3** — Westfield fell 4-3 Saturday when Montclair Kimberly scored the game-winning goal with one second remaining. Sal Esposito and Brent Davis scored third period goals for the Blue Devils (1-10-2).



GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE RECORD-PRESS  
Joe Korfmacher scored 11 points to help the Blue Devils upset Linden Tuesday and scored 11 in last week's win over Cranford as Westfield earned a berth in the state tournament.

# Cameron wins two golds as Raiders place third

Led by two victories from Amanda Cameron, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High girls swim team scored 179 points to finish third at the Union County Tournament Saturday in Elizabeth.

Cameron won the 100 free in 56.10 and the 200 free in 2:01.90, then anchored the 200 free relay to a first place finish. She was the first Scotch Plains swimmer since Dana Berkowitz in 2000 to win two events. Meral Akyuz, Jullian Murphy and Kristen Henkels swam the relay with Cameron.

Murphy placed fifth in the 100 backstroke (1:06.23), followed closely by teammate Katie Kosenick in sixth place (1:06.88). Scotch Plains was second in the 400 free relay (3:54.51) and fourth in the 200 medley relay (2:00.73).

## BOYS SWIMMING

The Scotch Plains boys swim team finished second in the county with 171 points, behind Westfield. Jon Sheffield was second in the 100 butterfly in 56.31 and fourth in the 200 freestyle in 1:59.25. Mike Sheffield placed fourth in the 100 fly in 57.45. David Hauptman was second in the 50 free (23.77) and fifth in the 100 free (52.61). Mike Fagna was sixth in the 100 back in 1:03.92.

## SP-F WRAP

Scotch Plains was also second in the 200 free relay (1:38.7), third in the 200 medley relay (1:50.44), and sixth in the 400 free relay (3:56.02).

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Shabazz freshman guard Alray Blackmon buried a three-pointer at the buzzer to lift the Bulldogs to a 62-60 upset of Scotch Plains Tuesday.

Lance Thomas scored 17 points for the Raiders and Michael Johnson scored 11. The Raiders were playing without Derrick Caracer, who missed the game due to a sprained ankle. Scotch Plains will take on Camden today in Trenton as part of the Prime Time Shootout and will face Rahway tomorrow in the Bernoskie Games.

## Scotch Plains (60)

Thomas 4-1-6-17, Johnson 4-1-0-11, Fuller 2-0-0-4, Ford 1-0-1-3, Lockery 2-0-0-4, Walker 4-0-2-10, Gates 0-1-0-3, Gilliam 4-0-0-8. **Totals: 21-9-9-60.**  
**Shabazz 13 16 7 26 - 62**  
**Scotch Plains 14 14 10 22 - 60**  
**Scotch Plains 60, Westfield 56** — The Blue Devils led by five points entering the final period, but Scotch Plains rallied behind senior guard Sean Fuller to knock off the Blue Devils 60-56 Saturday. The Raiders Derrick Caracer sprained an ankle in the first quar-

ter but Scotch Plains shared the scoring load in his absence, with four players scoring in double figures. Mike Johnson scored 14 points, Fuller finished with 13, Lance Thomas had 12 and Mike Walker scored 11 points.

Westfield was led by Jan Cocozziello with 13 points and Eric Hayes with 11. Terrence Bryant added 10.

**Westfield (56)**  
Hayes 1-3-0-11, Cocozziello 5-1-0-13, Korfmacher 3-0-0-6, Bryant 2-2-0-10, Blackmon 4-0-0-8, Hearon 0-1-0-3, Power 1-0-0-2, Simmons 0-0-0-0, Venezia 0-1-0-3. **Totals: 16-8-0-56.**

**Scotch Plains 20 12 10 18 - 60**  
**Westfield 19 13 15 9 - 54**

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
Scotch Plains grabbed a one-point lead over their arch rival and No. 1 team in the state early in the third quarter, but Shabazz rallied right back and eventually knocked off the Raiders 74-57 Tuesday.

Jenny Burke scored 13 points, Hillary Klimowicz and Elizabeth DeCataldo had 12 and Maura Gilloly scored 10 for Scotch Plains (10-5). Shabazz was led by 27 points each from Matee Ajavon and Shahida Williams.

**Scotch Plains (57)**  
Russell 4-0-0-8, Klimowicz 6-0-0-12, Burke 5-1-0-13, Gilloly 2-2-0-10, DeCataldo 1-3-1-12, Feeley 1-0-0-2, Friess 0-0-0-0. **Totals: 19-4-1-57.**  
**Shabazz 16 16 25 17 - 74**  
**Scotch Plains 14 14 8 21 - 57**

## SPORTSCENE

### Bernoskie Games

RAHWAY — The Fourth Annual Bernoskie Games, featuring some of Union County's finest basketball talent, will be held on Feb. 6 and 7 at Rahway High School, 1012 Madison Ave. Proceeds from the Bernoskie Games are given to the Rahway High School Student Scholarship Program. On Feb. 6, the Bernoskie Games will open with the Lady Crusaders of Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark traveling a mile down Westfield Avenue to face the host Rahway squad for a 5 p.m. contest. In the second game of the evening, the defending Union County Champion Roselle Catholic girls team will take the floor at 6:30 p.m. against Cranford. At 8 p.m., the Cranford boys team takes on Roselle Catholic in the featured clash of the night. Cranford is led by one of New Jersey's best guards in junior Terrence Grier, who averages well over 20 points per game. The Lions are one of the top teams in Union County. The Saturday schedule will thrill any bas-

ketball fan and draw spectators from throughout New Jersey. In the 6 p.m. opener, powerful Linden will take on neighboring Roselle in a clash that always brings out the best in both teams. In the 8 p.m. finale, Rahway will host Scotch Plains-Fanwood, a team that has garnered national attention because of a pair of talented sophomores, Derrick Caracer and Lance Thomas. Caracer, a 6'9" power-house in the paint, is rated as the nation's top sophomore player, while Thomas, a slashing 6'7" swingman, rates in the top 40. Tickets for the Friday night games, priced at \$5, and the Saturday night double-header, priced at \$10, are available in advance by calling Lewis at (732) 396-1196; Bernoskie Games Chairman Peter Kowal (732) 574-8457; or Bob Gregory, chairman of the Merck Volunteer Focus Group, at (732) 594-4535.

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# Church finds success with pastor

When the search committee of the Osceola Presbyterian Church, located on Raritan Road in Clark, went looking for an interim minister, it didn't take them long to see that the Reverend Diane Curtis of Basking Ridge would be a good fit for the community of believers.

The church's motto, "You're a stranger here but once" is echoed in Curtis' friendly and nurturing manner. As a second career minister, she brings a wealth of experience to the pulpit.

A former geology professor in California, her midlife training for the new calling was at Princeton Theological Seminary, Fuller Theological Seminary, and the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

This wife and mother of two teenage boys has a strong faith that she shares with everyone. "As a pastor, I believe I am called by God to minister to people by nurturing them in their faith, by directing them to Jesus Christ, and by equipping them to be ministers to each other and in the world in which they live," Curtis said.

Since her involvement with the church in December, Curtis has been working with small groups to enable the congregants to feel comfortable in sharing their beliefs with friends,

family and neighbors. The Thursday night Bible study group has standing room only attendance and deals with the Bible's view of practical, everyday living.

Another group of which she has become an integral part is the Outreach Committee that works to invite people to visit the Osceola Presbyterian Church as well as join the church. Since she has served other churches in the area as an interim minister, she knows the importance of maintaining the congregation's trust in a time of transition.

Reverend Curtis' present calling, filling in the vacancy left by Pastor Roy Sharrett's retirement, involves a number of things. "It is a joy for me to plan and organize new ministries, empower and encourage others as they serve, especially during the transitional time between installed pastors," said Curtis.

According to the Elizabeth Presbyterian protocol, a search committee must complete a church profile before it can accept dossiers from candidates who would like to be considered for the pulpit of the church, which serves members from Clark, Cranford and the surrounding areas.

# Rembisz certified as Senior Advisor

WESTFIELD — Town resident Jeffrey S. Rembisz, a CSA with Northwestern Mutual in Summit, completed a comprehensive course on priority senior issues Jan. 12.

The course was conducted by the Society of Certified Senior Advisors, a national organization that has trained more than 14,000 professionals in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Successful participants complete a thorough examination to earn the Certified Senior Advisor designation. Rembisz has taken this educational initiative to become a professional leader in meeting the key needs and issues concerning senior citizens.

Professionals in the fields of medicine, insurance, investments and recreation require a broad spectrum of information to serve the needs of seniors. Be they financial, medical or social, senior concerns are different from other age groups. The Society of Certified Senior Advisors keeps

the professional abreast of all these issues by providing education, monthly updates, support and marketing assistance regarding new developments, practices, and research about senior citizens.

In the history of the world, two-thirds of all people who have lived past the age of 65 are alive today. In the United States, seniors (age 65 and older) number 35 million and will continue to increase, lead-

ing a shift in population distribution by age never before seen. This demographic shift requires an educated response in how professionals work with the challenges and opportunities seniors face.

As a Certified Senior Advisor, Rembisz will participate annually in continuing education provided by the Society. The CSA membership will ensure that he remains an informed professional for senior citizens.

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### Serving up some home cooking

Jefferson School Principal Jeannette Munoz prepares and serves a gourmet dinner for the Hughes family of Westfield. Pictured with Munoz is Michael Hughes, who helped choose the menu. At last year's Comedy Night, a fundraiser sponsored by the Jefferson School PTO, the Hughes family won the prize at the silent auction. Munoz donated the gift of a home-cooked dinner, which she prepared especially for the winning family. The theme for this year's fundraiser is That 70's Party. The event is scheduled for 8 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Grand Centurions in Clark. The evening will include a show, hors d'oeuvres, a D.J. and dancing, a silent auction and raffles.

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### YMCA sponsors ski trip

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA is sponsoring a ski trip to Mountain Creek on Feb. 17. YMCA membership is not required for this trip. The trip is open to all youth, teens and adults. An adult must accompany students in grades seven and below. The bus will depart the Y at 7 a.m. and will return at 6 p.m. The trip costs \$49, which includes transporta-

tion and a lift ticket. Adult chaperones who are non-skiers ride free. Participants must register for the trip by Feb. 9 at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, 1340 Martine Ave. Mountain Creek has built the best skiing, snowboarding and snowblading experience in the northeast. For more, call (908) 889-8880.

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# Real Estate

## Take precautions to protect your home from winter's fury

Winter's severe wind chills and arctic blasts have settled in with a vengeance. Without proper care, snow, ice, falling temperatures and water runoff can wreak havoc on your home, say the insurance specialists at the AAA New Jersey Insurance Agency. But with a few protective steps, you can help minimize the effects of winter's fury.

"During winter months, constant snowmelt can saturate the ground, and water will likely end up in your basement," said Steve Hnath, the agency's senior vice president of insurance services.

While proper landscaping and irrigation are a large part of preventing water

damage, there are a few steps homeowners can take to help prevent water damage. First, avoid piling compost leaves, soil or discarded Christmas trees against exterior walls. And keep tree branches trimmed at least seven feet away from your house.

Also, now is a good time to remove that vine that's been creeping across your home's exterior — it's more brittle in the winter. If left alone, the vine will grow into every nook and cranny in your home's exterior and create openings for water to seep in.

In addition to water damage, the harsh winter elements can cause power outages, busted water pipes and more. AAA offers

the following tips to help homeowners prepare for the next winter storm:

— Make sure the insulation in your basement and attic is still in good condition. If necessary, wrap basement pipes and hot-water heaters with special "insulating blankets" to prevent the pipes from bursting.

— Check the caulking and weatherstripping on doors and windows to ensure they haven't dried out.

— If you're using a space heater, keep it at least three feet away from any combustible materials, including drapes, carpeting and furniture. And don't drape gloves, socks or other clothing over a space heater to dry.

— Check all battery-powered equipment such as flashlights and portable radios to be sure they will function properly if you need them. Keep spare batteries and flashlight bulbs on hand.

— If you have a snow blower, check the charge on its battery. Don't wait until you have 10 inches of snow in your driveway to discover that it needs replacing.

For more severe storms, it may be wise to make sure you have adequate supplies prior to the storm's arrival. These items include sand and ice-melting chemicals, bottled water, warm clothing, blankets or sleeping bags, non-perishable food and all essential medications.

"After a storm, you should report any downed power lines to the proper authorities," said Hnath. "As soon as it's safe, check the exterior of your home to be sure it hasn't been damaged. And remember to clear all snow and ice from your driveway, steps and walkways. If you fail to do so, and someone falls and injures themselves on a walkway in front of or leading up to your home, you may be held liable."

The AAA New Jersey Insurance Agency, a wholly owned subsidiary of the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, provides all lines of personal and business insurance to the residents of Essex, Morris and Union Counties.

## Sank-Davis named top Sales Agent at Burgdorff

WESTFIELD — Anne Sank-Davis, a Burgdorff ERA Realtor at the Westfield office, was recently honored for the third time in 2003 as agent of the month.

Sank-Davis was awarded in May 2003 with Listing Agent of the Month, and was named top Sales Agent twice during the year, in the months of September and December 2003.

Sank-Davis has received many distinguished awards and is a member of the New Jersey Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence Sales Award for 2002, having earned the Bronze Level.

Sank-Davis was also awarded the Million Dollar Sales Club in 1999-2001. She was also a member of Burgdorff's Presidents Club 2000-2002, and has received her Seniors

Real Estate Specialist designation (SRES).

She has been a New Jersey real estate professional for five years and resides in Scotch Plains. Contact Anne Sank-Davis at her direct line (908) 233-6313 or email her at Anne.Sank-Davis@burgdorff.com

George Kraus, vice president/manger of the Westfield Office, stated, "We are extremely proud of the production that Anne has achieved; her high energy, great instincts, and market knowledge have put her at the top of the industry."

The Burgdorff ERA Branch office is a full-service real estate center located at 600 North Ave. West, Westfield.

For real estate assistance, or to inquire about a career in real estate, call the office at (908) 233-0065. Visit

www.burgdorff.com to learn more about the Westfield Office and the market area served, individual Web pages for each sales associate, electronic listings and directions to the Burgdorff ERA office.

Founded in 1958, Burgdorff ERA is the nation's top producing ERA real estate firm in sales dollar volume. The company consists of 740 sales associates and 16 offices.

The international ERA real estate network includes more than 2,500 independently owned and operated brokerage offices with more than 28,000 brokers and sales associates in



ANN SANK-DAVIS

all 50 of the United States and 28 other countries and territories. Burgdorff ERA is a member of the NRT family of companies.

## Elizabeth Bataille wins another honor

WESTFIELD — Elizabeth Bataille, a consistent top achiever in the Burgdorff ERA Westfield Office, has been honored for the fourth time in the past year as agent of the month.

Bataille was named three times this year as Listing Agent of the Month — in February, March and most recently in December 2003 — and was also awarded in November 2003 with the honor Sales Agent of the Month.

A New Jersey native, Bataille is eager to share her personal

knowledge of the area with clients. As a resident of Union County, she can give firsthand information about local school districts, neighborhoods, commuting, shopping, recreation and more.

The opportunity to help others find the perfect home is just one of the many reasons Bataille has found her calling as a Realtor. Her caring, respectful service is combined with integrity and professionalism.

Bataille was named to the prestigious 2003 President's Council at Burgdorff ERA's annual awards

luncheon held in March of this year. This is the company's highest honor, given to the top 17 agents based on production.

Bataille was also a member of the New Jersey Association of Realtors (NJAR) Circle of Excellence Sales Award from 1989 through 2002 and achieved Bronze Level in 1989-96 and Silver in 1997-2002.

She also attained the Burgdorff ERA Awards for Leaders Circle in 1999-2003, President's Elite for 2003 and the Distinguished Sales Club in 1999-2003.

Contact Bataille on her direct line at (908) 518-5294 or email her at Elizabeth.Bataille@burgdorff.com.

George Kraus, vice president and manager of Burgdorff ERA's Westfield Office, said, "Elizabeth's most recent accomplishment is another example of her continuing commitment to conduct her business with the highest professional standards. Everyone benefits from her expertise — the company, the office, and most importantly, her clients."

## Ahmed Selim joins RE/MAX of Cranford

CRANFORD — RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Cranford has welcomed Ahmed Selim as its newest sales associate. Selim specializes in the listing and sale of residential and commercial properties in Central New Jersey.

"I joined RE/MAX because it offers state-of-the-art technology, continued education, and an unparalleled referral network," said Selim, a resident of Garwood. "RE/MAX allows me to make my own decisions from marketing my listings to managing my business, giving me greater freedom to do what works best for my clients."

Selim has been licensed for two years and was previ-

ously affiliated with Luxor Associates. Prior to his career in real estate he worked in accounting.

Selim is married with three sons. To contact Selim, call RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Cranford at (908) 276-7440

With 163 franchise offices and over 2,400 real estate professionals, RE/MAX of New Jersey continues to be one of the leading real estate organizations in the state. Since its inception in 1985, RE/MAX of New Jersey has experienced record-breaking growth in both franchise sales and sales associates and has surpassed all previous sales records.

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**UNION COUNTY MORTGAGE RATES**

| Program  | Rate  | pts  | %dn | tip | APR   | Program   | Rate  | pts  | %dn | tip | APR   | Program   | Rate  | pts  | %dn | tip | APR   | Program   | Rate  | pts  | %dn | tip | APR   |
|--|-------|------|-----|-----|-------|---|-------|------|-----|-----|-------|---|-------|------|-----|-----|-------|---|-------|------|-----|-----|-------|
| <b>A Custom Mortgage 800-259-9510</b>  |       |      |     |     |       | <b>First Rate Mortgage 800-887-9106</b>   |       |      |     |     |       | <b>Lighthouse Mortgage 800-784-1331</b>   |       |      |     |     |       | <b>Partners Mortgage 888-RATE-SALE</b>  |       |      |     |     |       |
| 30-yr. Fixed   | 5.000 | 1.50 | 5%  | 35  | 5.218 | 30-yr. Fixed  | 5.625 | 0.00 | 5%  | 45  | 5.687 | 30-yr. Fixed  | 5.500 | 0.00 | 5%  | 30  | 5.510 | 30-yr. CRA  | 5.000 | 0.00 | 3%  | 60  | 5.290 |
| 15-yr. Fixed   | 4.375 | 1.00 | 5%  | 35  | 4.672 | 15-yr. Fixed  | 4.875 | 0.00 | 5%  | 45  | 4.910 | 15-yr. Fixed  | 4.750 | 0.00 | 5%  | 30  | 4.780 | 15-yr. Fixed  | 4.625 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 4.670 |
| 30-yr. Jumbo   | 5.625 | 0.00 | 5%  | 35  | 5.732 | 30-yr. Jumbo  | 5.875 | 0.00 | 5%  | 45  | 5.910 | 20-yr. Fixed  | 5.250 | 0.00 | 10% | 30  | 5.310 | 30-yr. Jumbo  | 5.500 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 5.540 |
| CODI   | 1.870 | 0.00 | 5%  | 35  | 4.880 | 31 ARM  | 3.750 | 0.00 | 10% | 45  | 3.810 | 10-yr. Fixed  | 4.375 | 0.00 | 5%  | 30  | 4.410 | 15-yr. Jumbo  | 4.750 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 4.790 |
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| <b>A. American Res. Mortg. 800-566-8470</b>  |       |      |     |     |       | <b>First Savings Bank 732-726-5450</b>  |       |      |     |     |       | <b>Loan Search 800-591-3279</b>   |       |      |     |     |       | <b>Penn Fed. Savings Bank 908-719-2468</b>  |       |      |     |     |       |
| 30-yr. Fixed   | 5.500 | 0.00 | 5%  | 30  | 5.620 | 30-yr. Fixed  | 5.750 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 5.752 | 30-yr. Jumbo  | 5.625 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 5.650 | 30-yr. CRA  | 5.000 | 0.00 | 3%  | 60  | 5.010 |
| 30-yr. Fixed   | 5.250 | 1.00 | 5%  | 30  | 5.320 | 15-yr. Fixed  | 5.000 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 4.755 | 25-yr. Jumbo  | 5.500 | 0.00 | 10% | 60  | 5.540 | 30-yr. Jumbo  | 5.625 | 0.00 | 10% | 60  | 5.640 |
| 30-yr. Jumbo   | 5.750 | 0.00 | 10% | 30  | 5.810 | 10-yr. Fixed  | 4.625 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 4.880 | 71 ARM Jbo  | 5.250 | 0.00 | 10% | 60  | 5.290 | 30-bkly. Jbo  | 5.625 | 0.00 | 10% | 60  | 5.650 |
| 15-yr. Fixed   | 4.750 | 0.00 | 5%  | 30  | 4.820 | Reverse your rate for 30 days while you shop. Ask about our "Great Start Program" as little as 1% down. Visit our Website at <a href="http://www.firstsavings.com">www.firstsavings.com</a> |       |      |     |     |       | 71 ARM Jbo  | 5.000 | 0.00 | 10% | 60  | 5.030 | 15-yr. Jumbo  | 5.000 | 0.00 | 10% | 60  | 5.030 |
| 15-yr. Jumbo   | 5.125 | 0.00 | 10% | 30  | 5.238 | *Refi, Purchase, Consolidate Now! *Free Approval! *No Doc Loans! *M-F 9:30-6:00, Sat & Sun 9-5:00   |       |      |     |     |       | 101 ARM Jbo   | 4.625 | 0.00 | 10% | 75  | 4.441 | 30-yr. Jumbo  | 5.625 | 0.00 | 10% | 60  | 5.650 |
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| 30-yr. Fixed   | 4.375 | 2.25 | 5%  | 30  | 4.658 | 30-yr. Fixed  | 5.625 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 5.650 | 30-yr. Fixed  | 5.500 | 0.00 | 5%  | 45  | 5.510 | 30-yr. Fixed  | 5.625 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 5.710 |
| 15-yr. Fixed   | 4.250 | 2.25 | 5%  | 30  | 4.674 | 30-yr. Jumbo  | 5.625 | 0.00 | 10% | 60  | 5.650 | 15-yr. Fixed  | 4.750 | 0.00 | 5%  | 45  | 4.820 | 15-yr. Fixed  | 4.875 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 4.980 |
| 30-yr. Jumbo   | 5.375 | 2.25 | 5%  | 30  | 5.593 | 15-yr. Fixed  | 4.875 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 4.910 | 30-yr. Jumbo  | 5.750 | 0.00 | 5%  | 45  | 5.830 | 30-yr. Jumbo  | 5.750 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 5.890 |
| 30-yr. FHA/VA  | 5.000 | 2.25 | 3%  | 30  | 5.251 | 5-yr. ARM   | 4.500 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 4.440 | 15-yr. Jumbo  | 5.125 | 0.00 | 5%  | 45  | 5.230 | 30-yr. Jumbo  | 5.750 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 5.890 |
| 5/1 ARM  | 3.250 | 2.50 | 10% | 30  | 3.440 | 10-yr. ARM  | 5.375 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 4.810 | 1-yr. ARM   | 1.950 | 0.00 | 10% | 45  | 4.460 | 31 ARM  | 3.750 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 3.890 |
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| 30-yr. Fixed   | 5.500 | 0.00 | 5%  | 45  | 5.620 | 30-yr. Fixed  | 5.625 | 0.00 | 5%  | 45  | 5.750 | 30-yr. Fixed  | 5.625 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 5.632 | Check mortgage rates daily at: <a href="http://www.nj.com">www.nj.com</a><br>Updated 10:00pm Monday thru Friday |       |      |     |     |       |
| 15-yr. Fixed   | 4.875 | 0.00 | 5%  | 45  | 5.060 | 15-yr. Fixed  | 5.000 | 0.00 | 5%  | 45  | 5.130 | 15-yr. Fixed  | 4.875 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 4.881 |   |       |      |     |     |       |
| 30-yr. Jumbo   | 5.750 | 0.00 | 5%  | 45  | 5.800 | 30-yr. Jumbo  | 5.750 | 0.00 | 10% | 45  | 5.880 | 30-yr. Jumbo  | 5.750 | 0.00 | 5%  | 60  | 5.770 |   |       |      |     |     |       |
| 30-yr. FHA/VA  | 5.500 | 0.00 | 3%  | 45  | 5.920 | 15-yr. Jumbo  | 5.125 | 0.00 | 10% | 45  | 5.250 | 31 ARM  | 3.625 | 1.00 | 5%  | 60  | 3.632 |   |       |      |     |     |       |
| Interest Only  | 1.750 | 0.50 | 10% | 45  | 4.000 | 20-yr. Fixed  | 5.375 | 0.00 | 5%  | 45  | 5.500 | Home Equity Rates Start at 4%   |       |      |     |     |       |   |       |      |     |     |       |
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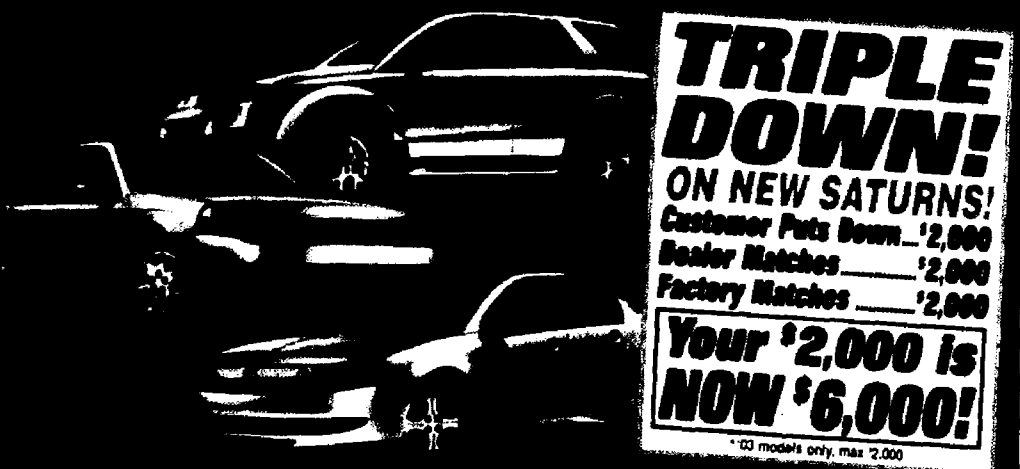
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# IMMEDIATE DISPOSAL SALE OF 200 BANK VEHICLES



**TRIPLE DOWN!**  
ON NEW SATURNS!  
Customer Pays Down... \$2,000  
Dealer Matches... \$2,000  
Factory Matches... \$2,000  
**Your \$2,000 is NOW \$6,000!**

# Pay Only ONE DOLLAR DOWN And Take Over Payments From THE BANK!

Saturn of Union and Saturn of Green Brook have over 200 vehicles on their lots to dispose of immediately and all you do is pay one dollar (to make it legal) and then take over the payments directly from the bank. These are brand new Saturn vehicles and over 100 used cars, trucks, vans and SUVs brought here courtesy of the bank and Saturn of Union and Saturn of Green Brook have been contracted to sell them immediately!

**ONE DOLLAR IS ALL YOU PAY DOWN TO TAKE OVER THE PAYMENTS FROM THE BANK.**  
Do you want a \$129 payment with \$1 down? Do you want a \$150 payment with \$1 down? Do you want a \$180 payment with \$1 down? Well it can happen with these vehicles!  
The bank owns these cars, trucks, vans and SUVs - Saturn of Union and Saturn of Green Brook are the sites they have selected to sell them. And remember, THESE ARE NOT BANK REPOS - these are brand new and used vehicles shipped here from around the country made possible by the bank to dispose of immediately. Bring ONE DOLLAR for the bank and bring Saturn of Union and Saturn of Green Brook your trade.

| NEW & USED CARS, TRUCKS, VANS AND SPORT UTILITIES AVAILABLE... |                        |                        |                        |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| L-Series... \$1 DOWN   | Malibu... \$1 DOWN     | Integrates... \$1 DOWN | Rangers... \$1 DOWN    |
| Comets... \$1 DOWN   | Silverados... \$1 DOWN | Ions... \$1 DOWN       | Grand Am... \$1 DOWN   |
| 5-10's... \$1 DOWN   | Tahoes... \$1 DOWN     | Mustangs... \$1 DOWN   | Integrates... \$1 DOWN |
| Blazers... \$1 DOWN  | Cadillac... \$1 DOWN   | Explorers... \$1 DOWN  | Breezes... \$1 DOWN    |
| Astras... \$1 DOWN   | L-Series... \$1 DOWN   | Auroras... \$1 DOWN    | Vues... \$1 DOWN       |
| Suburbans... \$1 DOWN  | Accords... \$1 DOWN    | Tacomas... \$1 DOWN    | Impalas... \$1 DOWN    |
| Centros... \$1 DOWN  | Chiefs... \$1 DOWN     | Minis... \$1 DOWN      | Integrates... \$1 DOWN |
| Prisms... \$1 DOWN   | Scorpios... \$1 DOWN   | Sonatas... \$1 DOWN    | Westeros... \$1 DOWN   |
| Unitans... \$1 DOWN  | Mits... \$1 DOWN       | Cruzes... \$1 DOWN     | Home Cars... \$1 DOWN  |

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**888-291-4156**  
270 Route 22 West • Green Brook, NJ 08812  
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### PARALEGAL

Boutique law firm on Morris Ave. ([www.gdnlaw.com](http://www.gdnlaw.com)) in Union seeks commercial paralegal. Litigation & transactional matters. We will train you. Warm & friendly env. E-mail resume, salary req. & phone # with avail to [gdn@gdnlaw.com](mailto:gdn@gdnlaw.com). No faxes please.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Great opp'ty to grow with home health agency in Chatham, NJ to start. 20 hrs./wk. Must be organized, computer literate with excellent phone and people skills. **973-701-9332**

### DRIVER/CLEAN-UP

FT for growing construction co. Must have clean driving record and be responsible. Union County Area. Call **908-233-2225**

### DRIVER

Union City area. Mon-Fri. 9am-5pm. \$9/hr. Call **908-624-0490**

### OFFICE

Front desk, keyboard knowledge essential. Good people skills, perfect diction and grammar. FT, PT flex. Cranford. **908-272-2080**

### TELLER

Entry Level. Great benefits. New Providence. Fax resume to **908-771-8048**. AFS Credit Union

### PSYCHIC Tarot Card Spiritual Reader

**MRS. D ★**  
★ GUARANTEED TO HELP YOU FIND HAPPINESS & PEACE OF MIND. STOP THE CONFUSION & DISAPPOINTMENTS. **908-789-3043**  
Call for Free Sample Reading

### TRANSPORTATION NEEDED

Summit to Exit 33, Rt. 78. M-F. Will Pay. Please Call Barbara **908-723-1889**

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### CHILD CARE

FT. In my Scotch Plains home for 3 children. Start ASAP. M-F 8am-7pm. Live-out. Must have own car, clean driving record & excel. ref. Fluent English speaking req'd. **908-232-6121**

### CLERICAL

Busy Scotch Plains office. PT. Billing, real estate license preferred. Call **908-480-2038**

### DENTAL FRONT DESK/ ASSISTANT

General practice in Cranford. Tues-Sat. Benefits. Exp. pref. Please call **908-272-5703** or fax resume to **908-789-3157**

### FLOOR CARE PERSON

For cleaning co. 2-3 nights/week. Must know about shipping, waxing and buffing. We are looking for a leader who can run a crew and be completely responsible. \$10.75 to start. Union County area. Cleaners also needed. Call **908-851-9075**

### LEGAL SECRETARY

FT. Min 2 yrs exp. as a legal secretary in a law firm required. Able to work w/min supervision, diary, handle client contact, calendar and files. Must know Word or Word Perfect. Knowledge of Litigation/P/W/C/Dictation. **908-232-7000**

### LEGAL SECRETARY

5 attorney personal injury firm in Scotch Plains. Top skills required. Great place to work. Please call Myra at **908-322-7000**

### CHILD CARE

After 3pm. for 2 children. T, Th, Fri. 11hrs/wk. Must have car & DL. **908-232-9313**

### CLEANERS

2-11:30PM M-F. NJ Lic. or must. Westfield area. Drug test. \$9/hr. + bens. **908-230-3443**

### HAIRSTYLIST

With some following for modern Westfield Salon. Call **908-232-2325**

### LEGAL SECRETARY

FT. \$12-\$14/hr. Driver & references required. Great family. **908-232-2273**

### RECEPTIONIST/ ADMIN. ASST.

Busy accounting firm seeks front desk phone rep & admin support. Great job with great pay! Fax: **973-618-0801** or email [jgms@rwcps.com](mailto:jgms@rwcps.com)

### RECEPTIONIST/ ADMIN. ASST.

Westfield insurance agency immediate opening. Accurate typist/ pleasant phone manner. Word 2000. **908-854-1300**

### RECEPTIONIST

PT evenings in a busy Physical therapy office in Linden. Organizational and customer service skills a must. Medical ins. Background a plus. Fax resume to Renee @ **908-587-0667**

### RECEPTIONIST

Busy doctor's office in Union Co. 2 afternoons per week. Fax resume to **908-241-1172**

### RECEPTIONIST

For busy chiropractic office in Westfield. Looking for outgoing personality, detail oriented & computer exp. M-Tu 3-7:30. **908-928-9051** or fax resume **908-928-1001**

### RECEPTIONIST

Transportation Care Co. Clark, NJ  
**Driver P/T**  
Personable, individual w/ clean driving record to transport clients in company vehicle. Daytime hours. English & map reading skills required.  
**1-800-675-9522**  
Ask for Mr. Charles

### SMALL JOBS ONLY

Quality Work. Rates. Rates. 28 yrs exp. Bob **908-241-8807**

### RICHARD GERBER

No job too small. Exc. work. Reasonable. **908-527-9226** Call **908-400-0636**

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### TUTOR

Springfield Learning Academy seeks a responsible, enthusiastic person to tutor Reading, Math & Study Skills. Great kids, proven program, thorough training. Afternoons, 3pm-5pm. 2-4 days per week. Call **Simone Miller 973-467-0636**, or email [yinclear@hotmail.com](mailto:yinclear@hotmail.com)

### LEGAL SECRETARY

FT. Salary based on experience. Call **908-273-7777** or fax resume **908-273-0323**

### MANICURIST

Upscale salon in Summit/Short Hill area looking for a manicurist FT/PT. Knowledgeable in LCN. Paid vac., health benefits & commission avail. Please call **908-232-0224** or **973-744-4145**

### MORTGAGE ASST.

Min. 1 yr. exp. as processor or paralegal. Will be involved in all phases of loan process w/ local mortgage banker based in Clark. Professional work env., health bene., comp. salary. Please fax resume to **732-815-7838**.

### NANNY LOCATOR.COM

Find a Nanny or Family. Visit us on the web @ [www.nannylocator.com](http://www.nannylocator.com) or Call: **1-800-706-7747**

### OFFICE ASST.

20-30 PT afternoon flex hrs. in busy corp. office of growing company. Comp. savvy, exp. in QuickBooks. A/P, A/R helpful or good math skills. Various duties, clerical and admin. Fax resume and salary requirements to: April **908-272-1172**.

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**Full Time and Part Time**  
**Kiamie Agency, Inc.**  
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W/Union County Printer seeks full time pressperson for Hemada 2 color, 37 1/2 hrs. per week, 1/2 day Fridays, benefits, experienced only. Call **(908)272-0254**

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All nationalities/Lic. Bonded  
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### CAREGIVER

For the elderly. English speaking, exc. ref. **908-317-0172**

### CHILD CARE

In My Loving Scotch Plains Home. State licensed & insured. Exc. Ref. **908-789-8418**

### CLEANING LADY

Eng. speaking, organized w/good refs. Own trans. Call **908-686-6054**

### EUR. LADIES provide live-in/live-out companionship/care for SENIORS. **908-931-1941**

### EXP. CAREGIVER

looking for live in or out position to care for elderly or home bound Car & refs. **908-337-7462**

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call Bogusia **732-283-3963** after 6pm or Cell **732-887-5369** day. Refs. avail.

### HOUSECLEANING

By Portuguese lady, gd. refs., Ed. prices **973-491-0737**

### HOUSECLEANING

Refs. own trans. **908-272-0258**

### Polish Women

Clean your house apt. Call **908-347-1702**

### PORTUGUESE LADY

will clean your house or office. Own Trans. Good refs. Call **908-964-8728**

### CERAMIC TILE

Top quality. Free est. **908-301-1716**  
No job too small!

### Aaron Dan

25 yrs. exp. Careg. requal. trngs. bkge. 973-379-6865 or 201-650-1030

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STK# 31917A VIN# T015046 AUTO  
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**'99 TOYOTA COROLLA LE**  
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AC BLUE 91485 MILES  
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**'00 NISSAN ALTIMA**  
STK# 31284A VIN# Y0151283 AUTO  
AC SILVER 89183 MILES  
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**'96 HONDA ACCORD**  
STK# 40378A VIN# T033388 AUTO  
AC BLACK 61033 MILES  
**\$6,995**

**'98 TOYOTA COROLLA LE**  
STK# 40251A VIN# K234757 AUTO  
AC PEARL 82589 MILES  
**\$6,995**

**'98 ACURA TL 2.5**  
STK# 40824A VIN# Y020172 AUTO  
AC SILVER 19306 MILES  
**\$6,995**

\$995 OR LESS!

**'98 HONDA ACCORD**  
STK# 40378A VIN# T033388 AUTO  
AC BLACK 61033 MILES  
**\$8,995**

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| <p><b>2002 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, 33,000 miles. VIN#2F166652<br/><b>\$22,995</b></p>   | <p><b>2002 FORD EXPLORER XLT</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, 3 seats, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, 34,000 miles. VIN#2F166652<br/><b>\$19,995</b></p>             | <p><b>2001 NISSAN PATHFINDER SE</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, moonroof, 32,000 miles. VIN#1N811977<br/><b>\$18,995</b></p>  | <p><b>2003 MITSUBISHI GALANT ES</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, 9,000 miles. VIN#3M615222<br/><b>\$12,995</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>2001 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS LS</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, abs traction, 49,000 miles. VIN#1M848812<br/><b>\$11,995</b></p>                                 | <p><b>2000 JAGUAR S-TYPE</b><br/>V8, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, heated seats, moonroof, only 37,000 miles. VIN#XJ5730016<br/><b>\$22,995</b></p>      | <p><b>2003 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LS</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, 17,000 miles. VIN#3C8366631<br/><b>\$21,895</b></p>   | <p><b>2003 CHEVY IMPALA</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, 17,000 miles. VIN#1G8G92435<br/><b>\$13,995</b></p>                             |   |
| <p><b>2002 DODGE INTREPID ES</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, 33,000 miles. VIN#2D888211<br/><b>\$10,995</b></p>                                    | <p><b>2001 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, only 16,000 miles. VIN#1J1165543<br/><b>\$14,995</b></p>        | <p><b>2001 FORD EXPLORER SPORT</b><br/>2 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, only 18,000 miles. VIN#1F125542<br/><b>\$12,595</b></p>  | <p><b>2000 CHEVY S-10 EXTRA CAB</b><br/>Auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, 18,000 miles. VIN#Y1092043<br/><b>\$9,995</b></p>   |   |
| <p><b>2001 VOLVO S-80 T-6</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, heated seats, moonroof, only 21,000 miles. VIN#V1V29954<br/><b>\$24,995</b></p> | <p><b>2001 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN</b><br/>Sport, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, power door, 20,000 miles. VIN#1C333482<br/><b>\$14,995</b></p>   | <p><b>2001 CHRYSLER TOWN &amp; COUNTRY LXI</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, power doors, power tailgate, heated seats, only 27,000 miles. VIN#1C933482<br/><b>\$18,975</b></p> | <p><b>2003 DODGE CARAVAN SPORT</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, dual air, dual doors only 15,000 miles. VIN#3D861542<br/><b>\$17,995</b></p>                                 | <p><b>2001 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, 17,000 miles. VIN#1G8G92435<br/><b>\$12,995</b></p>    |
| <p><b>2000 TOYOTA RAV-4</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, moonroof, only 35,000 miles. VIN#YF869512<br/><b>\$14,995</b></p>                 | <p><b>2003 FORD EXPLORER XLT</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, 3 seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, dual air, only 19,000 miles. VIN#3F661131<br/><b>\$22,995</b></p> | <p><b>2001 FORD WINDSTAR</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, 3 seats, dual air, 30,000 miles. VIN#10591152<br/><b>\$11,995</b></p>  | <p><b>2001 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, heated seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, 35,000 miles. VIN#1J059122<br/><b>\$21,995</b></p> | <p><b>2001 DODGE DURANGO SLT</b><br/>4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, 3 seats, dual air, 38,000 miles. VIN#1D8S1594<br/><b>\$18,995</b></p> |

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**CHEVY BLAZER LT '95** - 4x4. leather. all power. 6 CD player. asking \$6,000. 732-382-0895 after 4 pm.

**CHEVY SUBURBAN 1500 LS '00** - Very good cond. 29K mi. \$20,000. 908-654-7150.

**FORD EXPEDITION XLT '97** - black. 71K mi. loaded. leather seats. VCR/Video. 6 CD changer. 3rd seat. great cond. \$13,000/obo. 908-654-3969.

**Ford Explorer '91** - Eddie Bauer 4wd. 190K. loaded. great mechanical cond. \$2,300. 908-322-8257.

**FORD EXPLORER LIMITED '94** - Auto. 115K mi. all power. CD. auto. owner. \$4,380. 908-686-2845.

**SUZU Trooper '94** - 4WD. manual. dark blue. exc. cond. 103K. \$4,450. Call 908-232-3464.

**DODGE RAM 1500 2002** - black conversion Van. tan leather int. w/wood grain. Stereod pkg. 12K. like brand new. \$33,000. 732-340-1985.

**FORD WINDSTAR LX '99** - 65K mi. loaded. mint cond. asking \$6,300. Call 908-522-0811.

**CHEVROLET VENTURE MINI VAN '03** - 5 pass. 55K mi. great shape. asking \$10,000. Make a reasonable offer. 908-277-0363.

**CHEVY VENTURE EXT. '01** - 7 pass. all power. loaded. runs great. good cond. 34K mi. \$15,000. o/b/o. 908-686-5699.

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SAL. Feb 7, 9:30-11:30am (Snow Date Sunday)  
271 Pembroke Rd., Mountaintide (Off Rt. 22 W or New Providence Rd. to Apple Tree to Force to Sale). Complete contents of home filled with turn. brca-brac + LOADS MORE! Mahog. Desk. 50's DR. BRs. LR. TV. Art. Books. Tools. 2003 Cadillac Seville STS. All Must Go!

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\* BY LORI PALMER \*  
Sat. Feb 7, 9:30-11:30am (Snow Date Sunday)  
271 Pembroke Rd., Mountaintide (Off Rt. 22 W or New Providence Rd. to Apple Tree to Force to Sale). Complete contents of home filled with turn. brca-brac + LOADS MORE! Mahog. Desk. 50's DR. BRs. LR. TV. Art. Books. Tools. 2003 Cadillac Seville STS. All Must Go!

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- Cruise Control
- Leather Interior
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**\$34,295**

Price incl. \$2760 Thomas discount, \$4000 customer rebate & \$1000 owner loyalty rebate if qual.

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- Power Trunk
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- AM/FM Stereo CD
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- Tilt Wheel
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**2001 Ford Focus ZX3 Coupe \$8995**

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**2002 Mercury Sable \$11,995**

V8, automatic transmission, power steering, brk/wind/locks/mir seat, AIR, AM/FM stereo CD, tilt, cruise control, r def, tint, 22,846 mi, STK #3P105. VIN #2G651271

**2001 Mercury Mountaineer Monterey SUV \$19,995**

V8, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks/seats/trunk, AIR, AM/FM stereo CD, tilt, cruise, r def, tint, leath, moonrft, 17,421 mi. STK #3P109. VIN #1UJ10794

**2003 Mercury Grand Marquis LS \$19,995**

V8, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, tilt, cruise, r def, tint, leath, 19,109 mi. STK #3P102. VIN #3XG650966

**1999 Lincoln Navigator 4x4 \$22,995**

V8, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo CD, tilt, cruise, r def, leath, moonrft, chrome whls, 53,806 mi. STK #4N7A. VIN #XJL28997

**2002 Lincoln Town Car Signature \$23,995**

4 dr. V8, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, tilt, cruise, r def, tint, leath, 30,364 mi. STK #3P112. VIN #2Y633771

**2003 Mercury Mountaineer AWD \$27,995**

V8, automatic transmission, power steering, str/brk/wind/locks/seats/trunk, AIR, AM/FM stereo CD, tilt, cruise, r def, tint, leath int, only 8512 mi. STK #3P129. VIN #3ZJ24916

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# Automotive/Classified

## How to beat the stress of renting a car

(ARA) - If you're traveling by plane in the coming months, chances are you'll be renting a car when you land. Driving an unfamiliar vehicle in an unfamiliar city in winter weather conditions can be stressful. But with a little foresight, you can be prepared and relaxed.

**Before You Go**  
Your safety preparations should begin when making your rental reservations. While you want to get a good deal, you also want a good car. Web sites such as that operated by Consumer Reports can provide information on car safety ratings. "Your insurance company may also have safety statistics on various makes and models," says Jeff Beyer, senior vice president and chief communications officer of Farmers Insurance.

Rent a car that is suited to your needs. If you are traveling with a family of four and lots of luggage, a compact car may not have enough room. Also, make any special requests when you arrange your reservation. For example, if you know you will need a child's car seat for your two-year-old, be sure to reserve one early -- don't expect one to be available on the spur of the moment when you arrive to pick up your car.

**When You Pick Up Your Car**  
Check the contract to make sure you're getting the rate

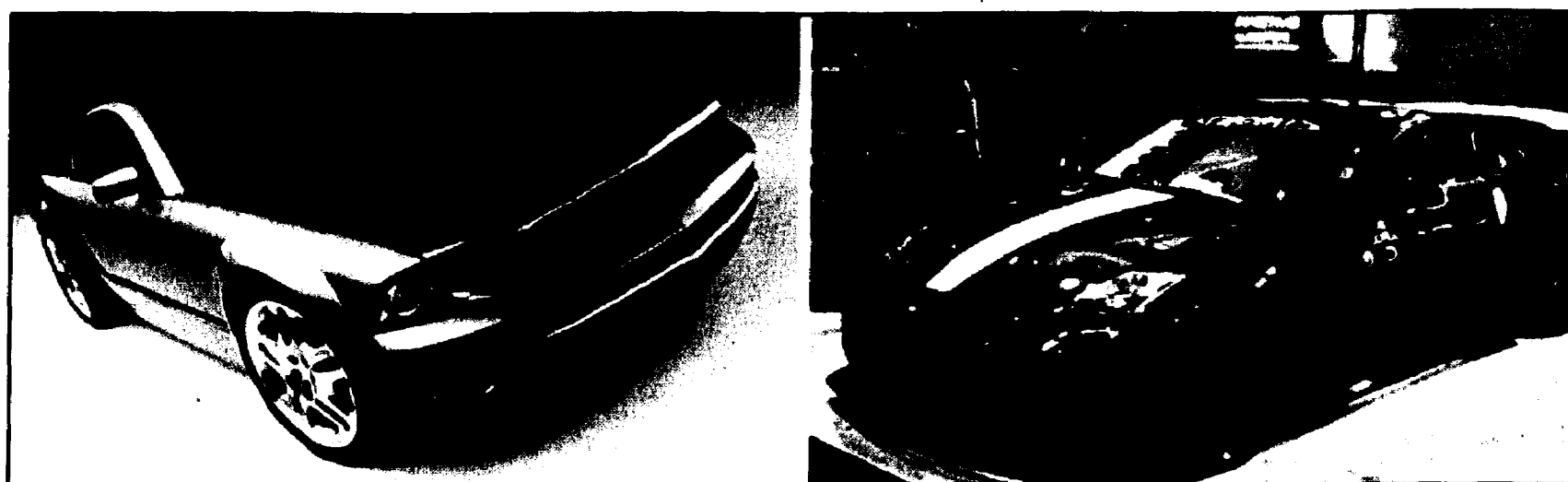
and the car you were promised when you made the reservation. Ask the agent what to do if the car breaks down. If you're not sure how to get to your destination, request a map and driving directions from the agent.

Once at the car, do a quick check for any damage; if you spot anything significant, call it to the attention of the rental company before you take the car off the lot, so you won't be penalized for damage you didn't cause.

**Before You Leave the Lot**  
Familiarize yourself with the car: be sure you know how to work the headlights, turn signals and interior lights. Check the windshield wipers to make sure they work and that there is washer fluid; you don't want to get caught in rain or snow with bad wipers.

Adjust the seat and mirrors. Check the seatbelts; is there one for every passenger? Are they easy to latch and unlatch? If you like to listen to the radio as you drive, tune in a local station that meets your tastes before you hit the road.

**Enjoy Your Visit**  
Because rental cars are attractive targets for thieves, remove all valuables from the car when it is parked, if possible. If you have to leave your luggage or other property in the car, lock it in the trunk, out of sight.



The 2005 Ford Mustang and the 2005 Nissan 350 are two examples of contemporary concept cars.

## Concept cars coming back in style

(NAPSI) - It's auto show season. That means it's also time for comparison-shopping if you're in the market for a new car or truck, or want to gawk at the latest concept cars from here and abroad.

Concept-car styling exercises have been stars of the show circuit since the '50s, when GM put bubble-topped, jet-fighter-inspired dream machines in its "Motorama" exhibits. Back then some dream cars became real-the Corvette was a Motorama car-but more often they were used to

introduce styling elements that might appear on later models.

Concept cars have changed over the years. Many of today's dream cars are thinly disguised prototypes of eventual production models. That this new breed of concept cars is more "real" is both a blessing and a curse. If you're really turned on by a prototype, you may be able to drive one some day.

Well, you don't have to wait. There were 1,500 "concept" vehicles on display at SEMA Show in

Las Vegas. Some, like Ford's Mustang GT and the Hummer SUT, were factory-built sneak peeks of future models. But others were grassroots dream machines based on current production vehicles. These cars could be built right now, not sometime in the future, using performance parts and accessories available today.

For example, American Racing Equipment mounted its newest wheels-measuring 28 inches in diameter-on a Hummer H2 and

earned the distinction of having the biggest production rims at the show. Other Hummers were so radically low they literally scraped the ground.

Sports cars more to your taste? The SEMA Show was full of winged Nissan 350Zs, turbocharged Mazda Miatas, and a V-8 powered Ford Focus that previewed an engine conversion kit coming next year.

Sport-compact performance is the hottest automotive enthusiast segment going.

## Internet site can help you find proper vehicle

(NAPSI) - A new Web-based tool is helping seniors, people with disabilities and caregivers to more easily identify vehicles that can best handle specific mobility needs. Through a series of questions, the tool lets customers choose which vehicles are most appropriate for them.

By guiding customers through an Internet-based process to

help them make more informed purchase decisions, the GM Mobility Advisor furthers the company's commitment to customers with mobility needs. This online application helps customers select vehicles by asking them a series of questions about their accessibility needs. Based on their responses, they are apprised of potential GM vehicle solutions.

"Quality information that addresses specific needs, placed in the hands of the consumer, will allow them to make good decisions to keep them more independent, mobile and active," said Mark Hogan, group vice president, Advanced Vehicle Development.

"The information provided will enable the customer to select a vehicle that better

meets their needs and provides a valuable service for seniors, people with disabilities and caregivers," said Jim Kornas, director of mobility product development.

The GM Mobility Advisor was developed in a combined effort between General Motors, iCan, AIC and XFI. To learn more, visit [www.gmmobilityadvisor.com](http://www.gmmobilityadvisor.com) or [www.gm.com](http://www.gm.com).

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**NEW 2003 VENTURE LT EXT**  
SAVE \$7,955  
**\$22,495**  
INCLUDED MULTI-DISCOUNT OF \$1,800, \*1000 GM LOYALTY, \*700 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE, \*400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. Power Sliding Door, Side Rear Door, Mirror System, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass, Rear Seat Audio Controls, Cruise Ctrl, Venture LT Equip. Group, 26492000, VIN#2G226486, MSRP \$30,445.

**NEW 2003 EXPRESS CARGO VAN**  
SAVE \$7,560  
**\$17,795**  
INCLUDED MULTI-DISCOUNT OF \$1,410, \*1000 GM LOYALTY, \*700 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE, \*400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. GVW Rating 7,500 lbs., Auto, V6, Rear Side Cargo Ramp, High Back Bucket Seats, Fixed Glass-Side and Rear Windows, Professional Equip. Group, 26492001, VIN#2G226486, MSRP \$25,355.

**NEW 2003 SUBURBAN 1500 4WD**  
SAVE \$2,463  
**\$31,076**  
INCLUDED MULTI-DISCOUNT OF \$10,915, \*1000 GM LOYALTY, \*700 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE, \*400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. V8, Auto, Electric Window Sunroof, 17-speaker/27-disc, Leather Bucket Seats, High Back Bucket Seats, Steering Wheel Mounted Controls, AM/FM Stereo w/CD Player, Bose Speakers, 26492075, VIN#2G226486, MSRP \$42,530.

**NEW 2003 SILVERADO 2500HD EXT**  
SAVE \$8,016  
**\$20,995**  
INCLUDED MULTI-DISCOUNT OF \$1,000, \*1000 GM LOYALTY, \*700 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE, \*400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. 2500, V8, Auto, Deep Tinted Glass, Elec. Rear Window Shutter, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass, Bose Speakers, 13 Professional Equip. Group, 26491816, VIN#2G226486, MSRP \$28,011.

**NEW 2003 ASTRO VAN**  
SAVE \$7,338  
**\$19,995**  
INCLUDED MULTI-DISCOUNT OF \$1,100, \*1000 GM LOYALTY, \*700 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE, \*400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. V6 w/Power-Drive, Auto, High Back Bucket Seats, Sunroof, Bose AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass, 13 Professional Equip. Group, 26492000, VIN#2G226486, MSRP \$27,333.

**NEW 2003 IMPALA SEDAN**  
SAVE \$8,301  
**\$16,495**  
INCLUDED MULTI-DISCOUNT OF \$1,101, \*1000 GM LOYALTY, \*700 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE, \*400 COLLEGE GRAD REBATE. V6, Auto, Cassette 17-speaker Sunroof, Side-Impact Protection System, AM/FM Stereo w/CD & Cass, 13 Professional Equip. Group, Cruise Ctrl, Overhead Console, Alum. Wheels, 6-Speakers, Driver's Side Air Bag, 26491816, VIN#2G226486, MSRP \$24,796.

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**NEW 2004 AVALANCHE 1500**  
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