Recurd-Aress



Lance Thomas' dunk over Daryl Martin highlighted the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High boys basketball team's 75-51 win over Rahway in the first round of the Union County Tournament Tuesday. The Raiders will face defending champ St. Patrick's in the quarterfinals 8 pim. tonight. For the story see Sports, Page C-1.



The lessons of community service

Kimberly Angus, left, and Emma Hand were among the Westfield students at the high school's community service fair last week. The event was designed to introduce students to the many opportunities for volunteer activity in the area. For the story, turn to Page B-1.



Stepping crime in its tracks

The Westfield Woman's Club and a pair of auto dealers are among the first sponsors for an effort to put up new signs in support of the Union County Crime Stoppers initiative. See the story on Page A-6.

Beach party at the library

The Westfield Memorial Library hosts a beach party for kids featuring children's performer Yosi 10:30 a.m. Saturday. Registration is ongo-ing at the Children's Desk in the library. For more information, call (908) 789-4080.

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Some skepticism voiced about traffic study

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD - Some members of the Town Council expressed skepticism Tuesday about a traffic study that concludes the construction of parking decks and retail and residential complexes at South Avenue and Prospect and Elm streets would not significantly affect the local roadway system.

The proposed construction is part of a

major redevelopment effort initially begun to address a shortage in downtown park-

While there would be additional traffic in Westfield as a result of the redevelopment projects, it would likely be represented by about one additional vehicle per minute during peak travel hours, according to Scott Parker of the firm Edwards and Kelcey, which conducted the study.

Parker said Edwards and Kelcey analyzed the potential effects of redevelopment at 26 intersections, and conducted traffic counts at 19 of those intersections. With the exception of the intersection between Central Avenue and South Avenue, and the easternmost egress of the existing South Avenue parking lot, the firm recommended only minor changes to the town's roadways.

The firm recommended establishing a permanent left-turn only lane for eastbound traffic on South Avenue. This step would at least maintain the level of efficiency currently seen at the intersection of Central and South, Parker said.

Also, Parker suggested eliminating a left turn option at the easternmost parking deck exit, a step which would channel traffic toward the intersection between South Avenue and Summit Avenue, where

there is an existing traffic light. Council members expressed concerns about the study, many of which had been

(Continued on page A-2)

NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Frank Thorne works on his next cartoon at his attic office at his home in Scotch Plains.

Cartoonist still hard at work

By BRAD BISHOP

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — In a period of life when many artists begin to slow down, cartoonist and writer Frank Thorne is working more than he

Last August, Thorne released his second volume of illustrated memoirs, entitled "The Crystal Ballroom." The book describes Thorne's coming of age in 1946, when he was more a musician than an illustrator, and the title refers to a gutted merry-go-round house in Keansburg

"The Crystal Ballroom" is a sequel to Thorne's earlier work, "Drawing Sexy Women," in which he told the story of his life as a writer and an

And his career as a visual artist is impressive, even if his works aren't for everyone. Thorne began working on comic books in 1948, largely due to the encouragement of a teacher, Margaret Burke. At the time, he was considering taking his musical talents on the road, but Burke encouraged him to attend art school.

Thorne's first work was with Standard Comics, and after graduating from art school he drew the Perry Mason newspaper strip for King Features. Thorne later contributed stories to Flash Gordon, Jungle Jim, The Green Hornet,

and other comics throughout the 1950s. But his most popular work was for Marvel comics, when Thorne drew Red Sonja between 1975 and 1978. The well-known character first appeared in the pages of Robert E. Howard's "Conan the Barbarian" pulp novels. Thorne redefined the character, according to one fan's website, giving her a sensual look he would refine with characters he created later in his life.

"My life changed with Red Sonja," he said. "I never realized I had a talent for drawing females.'

The character of Red Sonja fits — in fact, may have helped to codify - the often-imitated persona of a powerful, sensual woman driven to revenge after suffering as the victim of an unspeakable crime. Her character's strength and sexuality are strongly linked.

Thorne left Marvel comics and Red Sonja in 1978 to create another female warrior, Ghita of Alizzar. The character's sexuality illustrated Thorne's evolving interest in the subject of erotic art. Later in his career, he continued drawing women in magazines like Heavy Metal, High Times, The National Lampoon, and Playboy.

With such a racy resume, one might be surprised to learn that Frank Thorne is more of a jolly old philosopher than a sex-obsessed pornographer. Instead of working in a dim, shadowy attic cluttered with pictures of women, Thorne's studio is a bright, cheerful little room adorned with endless rows of paperbacks and shelves overflowing with art collections.

(Continued on page A-2)

Parents, teachers upset by conditions at Evergreen School

By BRAD BISHOP

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS - A group of concerned parents and teachers associated with Evergreen Elementary School voiced their concerns about physical problems at the school before the Board of Education Thursday night.

According to teacher Lynn Sanders, roof leakage has caused ceiling tiles to collapse and damaged floors. Sanders said some of the fallen tiles are coated with an unidentified black substance. She said the damage has not been repaired for weeks and added that some of the school's windows are functioning inappropriately, crashing down without warning.

students."

"The conditions constitute a health hazard parents, teachers, and students, Sanders said.

Parent Lisa Germano | said that in one section of the school

broken floor tiles have been replaced only by a yellow caution sign. She said the sign has been in place for more than a week without any indication work had been done.

In the first grade wing, four ceiling tiles have come down leaving open gaps behind. PTA President Pat Krema said that on wet days, water drips through the openings and into the hallway.

In addition to requesting that the board take steps to repair the damage, Sanders called for an independent investigator such as the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to determine whether the water damage has caused mold problems in the school. Sanders questioned the validity of a safety test conducted in October 2003 on the grounds that mold counts were taken on an unusually warm day when the school's doors were left

Board Administrator Anthony

Del Sordi said test results did not indicate that Evergreen has mold or asbestos problems. He defended the integrity of the test, noted that OSHA does not conduct mold tests, and attributed the leakage problems to the unusually high amount of precipitation the area has seen over the course of the school year.

Krema said past repairs may have increased absences by teachers and students, particularly in the fall of 2002, when a multi-purpose room was constructed and bathrooms were renovated. She said first graders had sinus and respiratory problems during that period.

Del Sordi said officials are checking the school's ventilation

system to make sure it is func-"The conditions constitioning correctly. tute a health hazard for He said that repairing damparents, teachers, and age to the first grade wing is the board's top — Lynn Sanders priority, but said Evergreen teacher that a long term solution has yet

to be decided upon.

Board president Lance Porter said consultants are trying to determine the extent of the repairs Evergreen will require.

"A little tar and a patch is not going to fix the problem," said Ralph Difuso, parent of an Evergreen student. He said the falling tiles indicate that repairs to the ceiling may be part of a long-term project.

member Edward Board Saridaki said ceiling replacements cannot be done with people in the building, as the noise, dust, and debris generated in the course of repairs represents a health risk by itself.

'If we can do things to improve the atmosphere for now, I recommend we do that" and save the major improvements for the summer, he said.

Calls to Porter and Del Sordi seeking further comment after

(Continued on page A-2)

Technology a priority in coming school budget

By BRAD BISHOP

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Costs related to technology will represent one of the largest items on the 2004-05 budget, according to a presentation at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting by the school district's technology supervisor, Carol Swann Daniels.

The total technology budget will rise about 14 percent to \$1,662,470, representing an increase of \$208,863 from the 2003-04 budget. Although the 14 percent rise represents the second highest cost increase from a percentage standpoint, board president Arlene Gardner said technology must be a priority for the school district.

"If you look back at the community survey, (technology education) is way up there in terms of

importance," Gardner said. Salaries related to technology will be approximately \$665,621. Technology staff includes computer technicians, network managers, supervisors, and secretaries.

Some concerns were raised about costs related to technology training. At Westfield High

School, teachers will receive one full day of orientation for new laptops, and some board members thought the \$15,000 price tag for that training was unnecessary. The laptop computers have new features such as CD burners and an updated operating system, but some felt those improvements may not warrant a training ses-

Other costs include instructional supplies such as software, cables, and floppy drives. The total instructional supply budget was set at just over \$110,000. Administrative support, which encompasses services, supplies, training and certification, will cost a total of \$83,515.

The total district budget is currently projected at \$71.7 million, or about a 5.99 percent increase, just under the anticipated stateimposed cap of 6 percent.

In New Jersey, school districts are permitted to increase their budgets by about 3 percent annually, but districts with increasing enrollment issues like Westfield can allow up to a 6 percent increase.

School district budgets must

(Continued on page A-2)



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

What's he got up his sleeve?

Mark "The Magician" Zacharia, a Scotch Plains resident, asks Nicholas D'Adamo to help him show he isn't hiding anything up his sleeve during a performance Tuesday. The trick was part of a performance Zacharia put for children at the Children's Specialized Hospital School Program in Fanwood.

County unveils new 211 line

County news

Services: access to health insur-

ance programs, resources and

information about Medicare and

Medicaid, maternal and child

health issues, medical information

lines, mental health assistance,

addiction services, support groups

cial assistance, access to job train-

ing programs, transportation

assistance and education pro-

- Employment Services: finan-

and crisis intervention;

Union County residents now have access to information about human services by dialing 2-1-1, in an initiative implemented at no charge to taxpayers.

Residents can dial 2-1-1 any time for information on a wide range of human and social services. Operators are bilingual and use TTY services for deaf or hard of hearing residents. Operators also have resources to help residents who speak languages other than English and Spanish.

"There is a world of programs available to help people in need, but many people don't know where to look for this assistance," said Freeholder Angel G. Estrada, Chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. "This initiative creates a single point of entry for residents.'

Some of the services that the 211 line will cover include:

banks, clothing closets, shelters, rental and utility assistance; Physical and Mental Health

- Basic Needs: access to food

grams; Aging and Disabilities Services: adult day care, meals at senior centers, meals on wheels, respite, home health care, transportation and homemaker servic-

Children, Youth Families: child care, after school programs, family resource centers, recreation programs, mentoring, tutoring and protective services.

"In the past, people in need

have called government agencies. telephone operators, even their local police," said Estrada. "Now, this initiative gives them a onestop source for information. The people who answer this line have been trained to connect people to services in their local area.

The 2-1-1 Info Line initiative is partnership between Union County Government and the United Way of Greater Union County. The United Way and Union County government will split the \$135,000 cost of the service. The county's share will be covered by grant dollars.

"Every hour of every day, someone in our community needs essential services, from finding substance abuse assistance to care for an aging parent or a child," said Elisse Glennon, Chief Executive Officer of the United Way of Greater Union County. "In many cases people end up going without these necessary and readily available services because they do not know where to start."

Fire departments get federal aid

Westfield and Scotch Plains will each receive money as part of the Assistance to Firefighters program from the Department of Homeland Security.

Westfield will receive \$133.920 and Scotch Plains will receive \$117,360 for fire operations and firefighter safety.

Westfield Administrator Jim Gildea said that the grant was good news for the town, and will be applied toward Westfield's 2004 capital budget.

"This grant program, appropriated by Congress, will continue to provide the fire service with the equipment and training necessary for first responders to fulfill their mission," said Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security.

The 31st round of the grants provides more than \$18 million to help local fire departments

fund the purchase of firefighting equipment, fund firefighter health and safety programs, enhance emergency medical services programs and conduct fire prevention and safety programs, according to a press release from the Federal **Emergency Management Agency.**

Eighteen municipalities in New Jersey will receive approximately \$1.4 million, or 7 percent,

of that money.

DECA students headed to state competition

SCOTCH PLAINS — The students spent the day preparing Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA Chapter, an association of marketing students, participated in its annual Regional Competition on Jan. 6 at

and presenting their business skills to judges of 14 different team or individual event categories.

Of the large number of high school students that competed, 51 Middlesex County College. DECA of them walked away with awards

that qualify them to attend the DECA State Conference. This annual event will be held in Cherry Hill Feb. 26-28. DECA advisor Dan Margolis said, "Taking 97 students to regionals and having over half of them qualify for states is quite an achievement.

Of the 25 individual awards, Margolis was especially proud of first-year DECA students, who won 12 of them. Outstanding competitors included Hospitality Services team Ted Sensor and Josh Kay, E-Commerce Decision Making team Chris D'Annunzio Jason Krueger, and Marketing Management individual Mike Hessemer — all won first place awards for their role plays

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FDIC

Cartoonist still hard at work

(Continued from page A-1)

And he has a long, flowing white beard, which, combined with his long hair and spectacles, makes him a dead ringer for an offduty Santa Claus. His unique appearance still hasn't made him as much of a success in the United States as in places overseas.

"In Europe, you're more of a star if you're an artist." he said. "The paparazzi meet you at the airport and they put you on television right away... You come back with a swelled

One of his European fans was legendary Italian filmmaker Federico Fellini. One of Fellini's letters of appreciation, in fact, is mounted on the wall outside Thorne's studio.

Outside his work in comic books, Thorne frequently contributes single frame cartoons to Playboy. Publisher Hugh Hefner typically keeps about eight cartoons as inventory, and has expressed interest in three comics Thorne has recently submitted.

Although he grew up elsewhere in New Jersey, Thorne has been a Scotch Plains native for 53 years. He is the proud father of four children and 10 grandchildren, and just became a great-grandfather.

Thorne is a born storyteller; in one hour he described a private dinner he had with the mayor of Philadelphia, told of playing a gig with Ray Coniff at the Pennsylvania Hotel, and recounted a story about his relationship with an Iranian neighbor who became a valued friend during the hostage crisis between 1979 and 1980.

When the neighbor's house was vandalized, Thorne brought over a bottle of wine as a gesture of goodwill, and the resulting friendship became an opportunity. The neighbor eventu-

ally became the wealthy owner of a local car dealership, and Thorne ended up illustrating the dealership's advertisements.

His storytelling qualities make Thorne perfectly suited for fiction writing. Currently. Thorne is developing a futuristic trilogy associated with his Ghita of Alizzar character. titled "Nymph, Sprite, and Sylph." The books tell stories from the perspective of a wizard (a character Thorne has himself played in photographs), a half-human creature who adores Ghita, and a story from the perspective of Ghita herself.

Thorne is also involved with a project closer to home. In 1950, when he was just beginning his artistic career, he was commissioned by the Elizabeth Daily Journal to illustrate a comic history of Union County. The strip ran for 173 days, and Thorne is restoring many of those comics and plans to present them in one volume, which will be titled "The Illustrated History of Union County."

In the process of restoring the strips Thorne had to confront different cultural attitudes of the time and consider changes to some of the content. For example, in one strip black characters were referred to as 'Negroes." and Thorne feels some descriptions of Lenape Indians were insensitive and inac-

Proceeds from the project will benefit Trinitas Health Foundation in Elizabeth. "It's the noblest enterprise I've been involved with," he said.

Thorne will appear at Barnes and Noble in Clark on Tuesday to sign copies of "The Crystal Ballroom" and discuss his work and career. He will appear at 7:30 p.m. at the bookstore, which is located at 1180 Raritan

Skepticism voiced about study

(Continued from page A-1)

voiced by residents who oppose the project. Some residents believe the addition of parking decks would exacerbate the traffic problems downtown, and question the impartiality of Edwards and Kelcey, which is part of the design team assembled by developer HKT Nassau.

"I can't believe 560 extra spots will generate that little impact," said Councilwoman JoAnn Neylan, referring to extra parking spaces which would be created at the South Avenue site.

Councilman James Foerst questioned whether retail development would generate more new traffic than the firm suggested. Edwards Kelcey's report indicates retail space would likely be of a local neighborhood character, and would consist largely of busi-

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nesses geared to service commuters.

Parker said that dry cleandelicatessens, or cafes might open in the retail locations, although he acknowledged his area of expertise was in analyzing traffic counts.

Sal Caruana, councilman for the first ward, had a different concern. Caruana said that the project's financing could be jeopardized by a reduction in vehicles using on-street parking meters.

"The project we're contemplating is very revenue-sensitive," Caruana said.

In addition to the two major recommendations related to intersections, the study recommends traffic calming measures on Boulevard and Summit Avenue. Both streets are sometimes used as an alternative to Central Avenue and have seen vehicles traveling at 45 miles

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VISIT ANTHONY MICHAEL HAIRCUTTERS

per hour and higher as a result.

Parker said that adding stop signs and narrowing both streets combined with retiming traffic signals on Central Avenue may encourage drivers to avoid Boulevard and Summit Avenue.

Few residents addressed the council after the presentation. as Mayor Greg McDermott announced that a second presentation, designed to incorporate public input, will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

The town is also awaiting a peer review of the Edwards and Kelcey study, which is currently being conducted and should become available within a few

The text of the traffic study is available at www.westfieldredevelopmentproject.com.

Technology a priority

(Continued from page A-1)

be presented to the county superintendent by March 11. The final budget will be presented to voters for approval April 20.

The Board of Education will continue to analyze budget items at upcoming regular public meetings. On Tuesday, the board will consider co-curricular activities, including fine arts and sports costs. Co-curricular and athletic costs are expected to rise by a manageable increase of 1.74 percent and 2.68 percent, respectively.

Evergreen School

(Continued from page A-1)

the meeting were not returned. Krema said a meeting including administration; parents, and teachers has been scheduled for the beginning of March. But for the next few weeks, teachers, students, and school employees will have to be patient while officials come up with a solution.

Record-Press A Penn Jersey Advance, Inc. newspaper NJN Publishing @ 2004

Record-Press (USPS 006-049) is

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

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TANNING

WWII-era flag is returned to squadron

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD - An artifact from World War II, a German Nazi flag, has been returned to a local museum dedicated to the regiment that captured it.

The flag was captured shortly after the 117th Cavalry Regiment - which included soldiers from Union County landed in southern France as part of Operation Anvil in August 1944. The 117th was part of the "Essex Troop," and was involved in operations which took place in the European theater, North Africa, and the United Kingdom.

Members of the 117th stenciled their names on the flag, which came home with one of the soldiers and was lost to history. That soldier, a carpenter, put the German artifact to practical use over the years, tying together logs with strips he cut from bright red sections of the flag. The remainder of the flag was left hanging in his barn.

Florida resident Michael Armstrong, who was a child when he met the soldier, realized the historical significance of the flag and pressed the soldier for details. Eventually Armstrong acquired the flag as a gift, and he kept it for about 55 years.

But recently, Armstrong contacted the 117th Cavalry Association, and offered to return

the flag to the association. He said "the flag needs to be with the unit that captured it.'

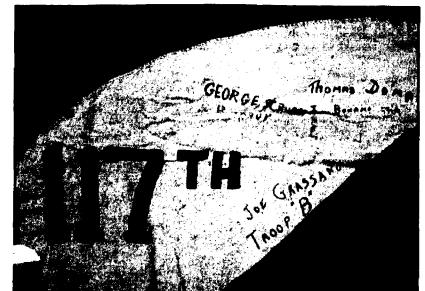
Christopher Sands Cranford serves as the association's secretary, and plans to mount the flag in the "Heritage Room," a museum dedicated to the 117th's long and colorful history. The Heritage Room is located in the Westfield Armory on Rahway Avenue.

"We're lucky to get it back," Sands said. "We need to let people know what these people went through, and the flag gives peo-ple an idea of what (they) did."

The flag will join other captured German World War II artifacts already on display, such as a silver Nazi flag staff, mess kits, medals, a Weremacht arm band and an officer's belt buckle. Whether the captured items are powerful symbols like flags or arm bands, or discarded everyday items like spoons, forks, or buttons, it is likely they were acquired at great sacrifice.

The 117th was a cavalry unit that was still using horses in 1939, but within four years evolved into a fully mechanized force capable of moving 1,000 miles in two days, guarding the most important Allied leaders of the period and confronting battle hardened German tank units such as the 11th Panzer.

Sands said that the 117th was involved in difficult combat operations against the German 19th



A Nazi flag, captured by members of the 117th Cavalry Squadron. was recently returned to its home at the Westfield Armory.

Army during Operation Anvil, when the flag was captured. In four days the unit captured over 2,500 German prisoners and destroyed more than 1,000 vehicles. The 117th played a major role in stalling the movement of an entire German field army.

The unit received the Croix de Guerre from the French government for its actions at St. Laurent-sur-Mer for capturing a strongly held position by a determined enemy. And, more recently, the unit was honored for its bravery in defending Montlimar

The 117th guarded most of the important Allied leaders of the time when they traveled behind the front lines. Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Charles DeGaulle, and the King of England were under the protection of the 117th at various points of the war.

"They were that good," Sands

The Heritage Room is not open to the public, but the flag and other artifacts pertaining to the 117th Cavalry can be viewed by contacting Sands at (908) 272-

Tentative agreement reached on SID rates

By BRAD BISHOP THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS - At its 19th regular meeting Tuesday, members of a steering committee exploring the feasibility of establishing a special improvement district (SID) in the township tentatively agreed on a method for assessing commercial properties in the proposed district. But with the proposal set to be presented to affected property owners on Thursday night, differences of opinion remained among committee members.

The committee tentatively settled on a six-tiered assessment method, with each assessment level assigned to a predetermined flat rate. Properties valued between \$1 and \$100,000, for example, would be assessed the lowest rate of \$250 annually. Properties valued higher than that figure would be assessed based on an incremental scale ranging between \$550 and \$2,000. The assessment method establishes a maximum tax of \$2,000 for properties valued at more than \$2 million.

That assessment method would provide the SID with a total budget of \$78,350 in its first year, which nearly matches the \$80,000 figure the committee used for initial budget discus-

Members of the committee agreed that while the flat rate system brought more equity into the assessment method, some properties still might be assessed more than they would receive in

benefits from being in a SID. Committee member Seymour Stein owns both retail and office space in Scotch Plains, and. argued the office space should be

parative values of the property. "Why am I paying the same for an office building as I am for a retail building?" Stein asked.

assessed at a lower level than the

retail space regardless of the com-

He also objected to the inclusion of some Front Street properties in the first year of assessments, since other Front Street properties were not scheduled to be assessed in the initial year of

Council liaison Nancy Malool said the Front Street properties, while included in the proposed SID, would not be assessed in the first year because they were not given adequate notice of their inclusion within the district.

The committee subsequently voted to remove four properties from the first round of assessment, in the interest of fairness to Front Street property owners.

Although some questions over assessments remained unresolved, the committee was set to to present the flat rate method to property owners at Thursday's meeting, with the understanding that the issue will be revisited in future discussions.

More parking changes planned around schools

By BRAD BISHOP

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Officials are planning to change parking restrictions on Church Street to improve a dangerous situation for children near Park Middle School.

At a conference meeting Feb. 10, Lt. James Rau told the Township Council that students being dropped off on the north side of Church Street have to cross to the south side to access a manned crosswalk on Park Avenue. Rau said the situation is dangerous because of the amount of traffic near the intersection of Park and Church in the morning. A student was hospitalized in September

after being struck by a motor vehicle in the area.

Mayor Martin Marks said an ordinance will be introduced Tuesday to change current no parking restrictions from the south side of Church Street to the north side. Marks said the change will require parents to drop kids off on south side of the street, which will ensure that students do not have to cross Church Street on the way to its intersection with Park Avenue. Also, he said, the south side is safer because it has a sidewalk.

Marks stressed that changing the parking restriction is an interim solution.

We will try this, and educate

parents about the traffic pattern we're looking for," he said, acknowledging that the change may create an awkward travel route for some parents during a time when the area sees heavy

> "It's a very busy area even without the school there," he said. "Park Avenue is a major thoroughfare for traffic moving north to south, so logistics are difficult no matter what solution we choose," he said.

Marks said that changing the parking restriction is the least invasive option available to the council. Other solutions, such as building a sidewalk on the north side of Church Street or making Church a one-way street in the eastbound direction, would be difficult to enact. Building a sidewalk would require the removal of trees and affect property owner's lawns, while establishing a one-way route

on Church Street would require state approval.

Also, the council is planning to establish a two-hour parking limit on both sides of the street on Concord Road, which is near Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Marks said some students have been parking all day on the narrow road, which is not meant to handle parking on both sides of the street.

An ordinance introduced Feb. 10 and scheduled for a public hearing at the council's Tuesday meeting will establish the two hour parking zone from the intersection between Concord and Old Farm Road to a point about 300 feet south.

Marks said that the spring time creates the biggest parking crunch at streets near the high school, as juniors turning 17 are now eligible to drive and park on streets in the vicinity of the high school.

Weather disrupts gas flow

By BRAD BISHOP

THE RECORD PRESS

FANWOOD — A gas line problem is responsible for disrupting traffic on the way to Route 22 for township residents over

A NUI Elizabethtown Gas repair crew was at the corner of South Avenue and Terrill Road on Friday, Feb. 13 and again Tuesday. Spokesman Chris Reardon said the trucks were on site to determine the source of gas flow problems at the Sun Tavern. The problem was related to a pressure problem in the

street," he said. During this time of year, snowmelt and rainfall can result in water disrupting gas lines. Reardon said after the crews exca-

vated the gas line in the street, it was determined that installing

a drip line was necessary to pull the moisture out of the gas line. Reardon said the operation was a fairly common procedure and did not involve a gas leak. He said he expected the procedure to be completed on Tuesday, and gas line service to the Sun Tavern would operate at a normal capacity after work was completed. Reardon also said that gas line problems were not reported by any other residences in the area.

Ed Fund plans wine tasting

WESTFIELD — The Education Fund of Westfield will hold its inaugural Wine Tasting and Auction Fundraiser March 20 at the James Ward Mansion. The event will and cheeses sponsored by Town & Country Fine Wines & Spirits Marketplace and light fare provided by local stores. A silent auction will feature sport and theater tickets, a Westfield YMCA membership and a variety of other items donated by Westfield merchants.

The Education Fund of Westfield is a non-profit organization formed in 1991 whose purpose is to be a catalyst for the generation and allocation of resources to enhance the programs for students of the Westfield Public Schools. The fund seeks to be a partner of the schools and the community in the pursuit of excellence.

The organization provides an

on-going, centralized source of additional funds and resources to assist the public schools in maintaining and enhancing the quality of education in Westfield.

Education Fund has allowed teachers at all grade levels to purchase new equipment and materials used in their classrooms. Additionally, grants have provided funds for many larger school-based projects. The fund has raised and distributed over \$150,000 in grants to the Westfield Public Schools.

Tickets are priced at \$75 per person. Checks payable to "The Education Fund of Westfield" may be sent to The Education Fund of Westfield, P.O. Box 2221, Westfield, NJ, 07091-2221. For further information please email edfundwinetasting@comcast.net, or call (908) 317-9813.

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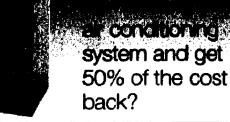
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Commentary

Let's hear it for skepticism

At a meeting Tuesday night, some members of the Westfield Town Council expressed skepticism about a traffic study that concluded the proposed redevelopment projects will have a limited impact on downtown traffic. That skepticism is a good thing, both in terms of restoring public confidence in the controversial project and in ensuring that the ultimate project is most beneficial to the town.

Skepticism about a project of this magnitude is always a good thing, of course. It's always important for public officials to consider worst-case scenarios, and to be sure not to promise something to the public that can't be delivered.

But it seems especially warranted in this case. The representatives from Edwards & Kelcey, not public officials and not local journalists, are the traffic engineering experts, but nonetheless the report's conclusion — that the creation of hundreds of parking spaces, thousands of square feet of retail space and many apartments in downtown will not generate much new traffic but will instead reorient existing traffic — strains credulity. To quote a saying you might have heard once or twice, "If you build it, they will come.

The possibility of increased traffic is not necessarily reason to scrap the project. Westfield has a true parking crunch, and the decks are needed to alleviate it. And South Avenue will surely see more construction in the future; the redevelopment process, used correctly, is actually a way for the town to play a greater role in the way that construction is planned. But claims that the project will be all sugar and no vinegar are simply hard to take seriously.

Fortunately, the Town Council has already made a commitment to put that claim to the test. Officials are awaiting a peer review of the Edwards & Kelcey study, conducted by a firm that has no connection to the proposed development. It's important for that review to be independent and thorough, and for the firm in question to be given the time and money to do the job right. What's needed is not just a quick audit of the Edwards & Kelcey report — no one doubts the firm is honest and capable — but a new look at the issue, and an examination of the assumptions behind the conclu-

When all that is done, if the conclusions are the same, it will be time to trust the experts and move ahead with the project. Until that time, it's better to remain skeptical.

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.

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

The deadline for submitting letters to the editor is 10

'a.m. Monday.

Correction policy

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

Letter policy

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

Photographs

We welcome submitted photos — color or black-and-white — of community events. Individuals in the photos should be identified and clearly visible. If you would like a reprint of a photograph taken by a staff photographer that appeared in The Record-Press, call the photo department at (908) 575-6708 for a reprint request form.



Record-Press

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News: Phone: 732-396-4219 Fax: 732-574-2613 Circulation: 1-800-300-9321 Advertising: 732-396-4404 m Classified: 1-800-472-0102

Record Press (USPS 006-039) is published on Iriday by SJS Publishing , 301 Central Well, Clark, SJ 07066 (908) 575-6660. Second class postage paid at Cranford, \$10°016. POSTMASTER please send changes to \$JS Publishing Fulfillment office. 10 Box 609, Somerville, \$J 088°6, Subscription rates by mail, one year within 1 nion. Commy \$1°, out of county \$20, out of state \$24. To subscribe call 1-800-300-9321.



Letters to the editor

Oil delivery accident was avoidable

To The Record-Press:

As the owners of an oil company in Union County for many years, we would like to express our heartfelt sadness for the very serious accident that happened to the Mojica family home in Hillside a few weeks ago.

As reported in The Star-Ledger on Feb. 11 by Bob Braun, another fuel oil company had mistakenly delivered fuel oil directly into the open basement of the Mojica home instead of to the correct house up the street. While this was a terrible accident, it was also absolutely 100 percent avoidable and should never have occurred.

Haven't we all experienced wrong deliveries of mail or a package left at our home that should have been delivered to our neighbor? When this oil driver inadvertently went to the wrong address, it should have been absolutely impossible for the driver to deliver the fuel oil directly into an open basement. Why? Because the former homeowners apparently had converted to natural gas and removed the old oil heater and the old basement oil tank but had, unbelievably, left the oil fill pipes connected into the basement from the outside. So, unfortunately, the oil driver assumed that it was okay to deliver because he thought he was at the right address. There

AL SPINELLI

Cranford

I hope early, I hope tomorrow it

starts. We paid our dues in

January so I think we deserve it

MARTHA DESMOND

Cranford

Late - the groundhog saw his

early this year.

should not have been an oil fill pipe still on this property, and therefore, the driver would never have been able to make this oil delivery.

When a homeowner converts from oil to natural gas heat, it is required that permits and inspections be made by the local Township officials. Part of the required permit is the proper removal of the fuel oil tank and the associated

Even if the former homeowner had installed the gas heat themselves, the new homeowners must have had to secure a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) and this problem should have been discovered before they even moved into their new home.

We would encourage all homeowners who have converted to gas heat or purchased a home with gas heat to take the time to investigate and determine that all permits were taken and that the oil tank (whether in the basement or outside underground) has been properly addressed or removed according to local building codes.

Hopefully, this will prevent any future accidents of this type from happening to other unsuspecting homeowners.

CLINTON and PETER CRANE

By the time you read this, I will be sunning on a beach in Rio

Jersey Boy

Mike Deak

and sipping a sweetly powerful rum punch served by a thonged-waitress named Lola. The party lasts all day and I've already prepaid my ransom to the gangsters who kidnap Americans for a living. I take a look at Sugarloaf Mountain and all my previous rhapsodic thoughts about the sylvan glades of the Watchungs vanish, especially as I watch Lola unwrap the straw to my drink.

Who needs

the lottery,

anyway?

All that will be true, if I had won the Mega Millions lottery Tuesday night. In fact, flanking me on the beach at Rio are the rest of the employees of NJN Publishing who have also won the lottery. (The women are being served by a thonged-waiter named Fernando, known about these parts as "The Bull.") If our pooled numbers hit this week for \$177 million, I don't know who will be around to publish next week's newspaper. Quite frankly, with Lola and Fernando tending to our every need, who needs the excitement of school board meet-

Of course it's not going to hap-

There is a better chance of me taking Brittney Spears to my cousin Stanley's wedding at the Keansburg VFW Hall (I'm still waiting for a call back). The chances are also better that all of Central Jersey will be pulverized in an instant when a long-forgotten asteroid smashes into Route 22. Despite those incomprehensible odds that defy logic, we still waste our hard-earned dollars on MegaMillions.

Plunking down five bucks in the office pool for the lottery is the stuff of which dreams are made. It's really a form of cheap are allowed to fantasize about a life free from financial pressures. You don't have to worry about fighting the ceaseless Central Jersey traffic every day. You don't have to worry about the mortgage or the relentless MasterCard bill that never seems to go down. Instead, you've earned your freedom from the pressures and demands of everyday life and you've received a voucher to be oiled by Lola or Fernando.

But the truth remains that no matter how much we like to complain — and I'm convinced that the cell phone industry thrives because it gives everyone the instant ability to complain to someone else — chances are we would not chuck our jobs or responsibilities if we won the lot-

Well, sometimes the math just won't allow it. For example, we've taken the cash option here at NJN Publishing. That means the jackpot is reduced to about \$177 million; after Uncle Sam takes his piece of the pie, we're left with only \$100 million to divide among the 50 shareholders. That means each of us only ends up with \$2

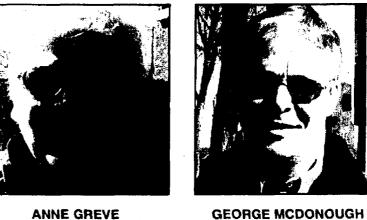
million. But that's based on the hope there's only one winning ticket. If there are, for example, three winning tickets, we end up with about a measly \$330,000. Given the high cost of living in Central Jersey, that doesn't buy much. Instead of having rum punch on the beach at Rio, we may be only able to afford a six-foot hoagie on the boardwalk at Keansburg.

But even if \$330,000 was enough to launch a new life, chances are most of us wouldn't do it anyway. Despite all the complaining and the kvetching, basically most of us are relatively happy in our lives. Sure, there are the occasional speed bumps that slow down the journey, but most of us do not lead lives of quiet desperation. We find happiness in things that surprise us - like a summer heat wave in the middle of April, the return of flowers and the rebirth of all life with the flourishing of spring. This is the stuff that keeps us going.

But it would still be nice to meet Lola.

An article in last week's edition about the Westfield Rotary Club's Philhower Fellowship for outstanding teachers gave the incorrect deadline

by March 12. They should be sent to Charles Philhower Fellowship Committee of the Westfield Rotary Club, c/o Office of the Superintendent of Schools, 302 Elm St., Westfield, NJ 07090.



ANNE GREVE Cranford

WILL SPRING COME EARLY OR LATE THIS YEAR?

Late, just because it's been so cold and March is always a crazy month.



RACHEL GIROWE Connecticut, visiting sister in Cranford

Early, because it feels like spring today (Monday).



Cranford

Global warming is going to

make warm weather come ear-

lier every year. Pretty soon we

won't have a winter anymore.

MORGAN MCDONOUGH Cranford Early, because it's sunny out.

Correction

for nominations. Nominations must be submitted

Charles D. Stapp; furniture executive

frogmen with a Navy underwater demolition team in World War II.

He transferred to the Naval

Reserve after the war and held

the rank of lieutenant junior

grade on his retirement from the

He was an elder of the Presbyterian Church in Westfield

as well as a member of the Echo

Born March 12, 1923 in

Birmingham, he was a son of the

late Frank J. and Eunice Darby

Stapp. Mr. Stapp lived in

Westfield, Allenhurst, California,

Costa Rica, Birmingham and

Atlanta, Ga., before moving to

Stapp, died in 1956. His second

wife, Nancy Nagle Stapp, died in

1994 after 34 years of marriage. A

Surviving are a daughter,

Stephanie Mannino of Westfield:

three sons, Charles K. of Freehold,

Darby of Richland, Wash., and

Bryan of Northville, Mich.; a sis-

ter, Virginia Bryant of New

Orleans, La.; 12 grandchildren;

four great-grandchildren; and

Mountain Ave. Arrangements are

by Einan's Funeral Home in

A parishioner of St. Francis of

Assisi Roman Catholic Church in

Brant Beach, Mr. Orrico was an

Army Air Forces veteran of World

years, Lillian Sczurko Orrico; two

sons, John of New York state and

David of Pittstown; two daugh-

ters, Karin Teeling of Milford and

Susan Neustadt of Manahawkin;

two brothers, Frank of Gillette

and Charles of Springfield, Va.;

today at St. Francis of Assisi

Church, 4700 Long Beach Blvd.,

Manahawkin. Donations may be

sent to Barnegat Light First Aid

Squad, P.O. Box 112, Barnegat

years, Nicholas R.; two sons, Peter

and wife Judy of Palm Beach

Gardens, Fla., and Nicholas Jr. and

wife Cindy of Wappingers Falls,

N.Y.; two daughters, Caren Sellers

and husband John of Mission Viejo,

Calif., and Denise Sellers and hus-

two brothers, Samuel Impastato of

Buffalo and Charles Impastato of

Oceanside, Calif.; seven grandchil-

A memorial Mass was held

Arrangements were by the

Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home in

Jupiter. Donations may be sent to

Hospice of Palm Beach County,

5300 East Ave., West Palm Beach,

Surviving are two sisters, Margaret Giannie and Ana Elizabeth Toth, and a brother,

Evan T. Williams, all of Westfield.

A memorial service was held

dren and five great-grandchildren.

Saturday at St. Patrick Church.

A funeral Mass will be 11 a.m.

Arrangements are by the Thos.

Shinn Funeral Home in

and four grandchildren.

Brant Beach.

Light, NJ 08006.

Surviving are his wife of 48

A memorial service will be 11

at

140

many nieces and nephews.

tomorrow

Presbyterian Church,

brother, James, is deceased.

His first wife, Carol Koos

Club and

military in 1958.

Lake Country

Kennewick in 1996.

Allenhurst Beach Club.

WESTFIELD — Charles Darby Stapp, a former executive with a major owner of New Jersey furniture stores, died Jan. 21 in Kennewick, Wash., at age 80.

He began his career with the Koos Brothers furniture stores after World War II; the company was founded by the father of Carol Koos, whom Mr. Stapp met and married while on wartime shore leave. He became president of Koos Brothers in 1960 and held that post through the company's 1970 merger with Huffman Boyle Furniture that formed Huffman Koos. He left in 1971 to found the Manor House furniture stores in California and Nevada.

Mr. Stapp served as president of the National Retail Furniture Association in 1967. A former president of the Community State Bank in Linden, he was the treasurer of the Union County Republican Committee and the chairman of its finance committee. He also owned an orchid farm in Costa Rica and was the president of the New Jersey Home Furnishings Association.

He received a degree in business from Howard College (now Samford University) Birmingham, Ala. The National Conference of Christians and Jews presented Mr. Stapp with its Brotherhood Award in 1966.

Mr. Stapp was stationed in the South Pacific as one of the first

Sabbott J. Orrico

Richland.

War II.

FANWOOD Sabbott J. Orrico, 77, died Feb. 14, 2004 at his home in Loveladies.

Born in South Plainfield, he lived in Fanwood and Bridgewater before moving to Loveladies in

Mr. Orrico was on the faculty of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School in Scotch Plains for 32 years and retired in 1990 as its vice principal. He earlier was a teacher for four years at Roosevelt School in South Plainfield.

He received a bachelor's degree from Florida Southern University in 1950 and a master's Seton Hall degree from University. Mr. Orrico was a member of American Legion Post 209 in Scotch Plains, the Long Beach Island Kiwanis Club and the AARP chapter in Long Beach Island.

Marie Colarusso

SCOTCH PLAINS — Marie Joanne Colarusso, 76, died Feb. 12. 2004 at the Hospice of Palm Beach County in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Born Nov. 21, 1927 in Buffalo. N.Y., she was a daughter of the late Vincent and Carmela Sansone

Mrs. Colarusso lived in Scotch Plains before moving in 1987 to Jupiter, Fla. She retired in 1987 after 17 years as a Municipal Court clerk in Scotch Plains and Mountainside.

She was a parishioner of two Catholic Roman churches, Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Scotch Plains and St. Patrick parish in Juno Beach, Fla.

Surviving are her husband of 55

Virginia Westfall

WESTFIELD — Virginia L. Westfall, 79, died Feb. 12, 2004 at her home in Port Charlotte, Fla. Mrs. Westfall was born Oct. 7,

Westfield and Hampton, Va., before moving to Port Charlotte in 1976. She was a volunteer with Meals

1924 in Rahway. She lived in

on Wheels and a member of the Port Charlotte Garden Club.

Monday at the Kays-Ponger/Royal Palm Funeral Home in Port

Charlotte. Arrangements were by the National Cremation Society, Port Charlotte Chapter.

Loraine Frey

SCOTCH PLAINS — Loraine Kuleck Frey, 78, died Feb. 14, 2004 at the Father Hudson House in Elizabeth.

Born in Scranton, Pa., she lived in Newark before moving to Scotch Plains in 1954.

Mrs. Frey was the retired office manager for Team Plastics in Garwood. She graduated second in her Class of 1943 at Central High School in Newark. Her husband, Robert F., died

Surviving are a daughter, Homeless, 905 Water Jacqueline A. Haley of Cranford; Plainfield, NJ 07060.

sons, Robert J. of Nederland, Colo., Jeffrey P. of Arlington Heights, Ill., and Gregory J. of Scottsdale, Ariz.; a sister, Lydia Haushalter of Vernon; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service will be 11 a.m. tomorrow at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 75 S. Martine Ave., Fanwood.

Arrangements are by the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Donations may be sent to Interfaith Council for the Homeless, 905 Watchung Ave.,

George L. Mejia

FANWOOD — George L. Mejia, 98, died Feb. 15, 2004 at the Masonic Home of New Jersey in Burlington.

Born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, he lived in Fanwood for 50 years before moving to Burlington in

Mr. Mejia retired in 1970 after 40 years as an accountant with W.R. Grace Steamship Lines in Manhattan. He was a past master of Atlas Pythagoras Lodge 10, Free & Accepted Masons, of which he was a member for 54 years.

He also was a member of Corinthian Chapter 57, Royal Arch

A brother, Gonzalo, and two sisters, Maria Isabel Tinajero and Sara, are deceased.

Surviving are his wife of 59 years, Marie Coquet Mejia of Cranford; two daughters, Cecilia Rubira and husband Guillermo of Guayaquil and Nancy Brownlee-Biro and husband Joseph of Cranford; eight grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Services were held yesterday in the chapel at the Masonic Home of New Jersey Arrangements were by the Peppler Funeral Home in **Obituaries**

William Ogle

SCOTCH PLAINS - William Lodge 126, Free & Accepted Ogle, 80, died Feb. 13, 2004 at his

Born in Newark, he lived in Irvington before moving to Scotch Plains in 1962.

Mr. Ogle was with Windsor Auto Glass in Westfield for more than 35 years and retired in 1988 as a manager. An Army veteran of World War II, he was held in a German prisoner of war camp for eight months.

He was a member of Orient

Masons, in Elizabeth.

Surviving are his wife of 44 years, Dolores Heim Ogle; a son, William L.; four daughters, Susan McNally, Teri Dyer, Joyce and Kathleen; and six grandchil-

Private arrangements were by the Rossi Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to Children's Cancer Research Fund, 4930 W. 77th St., Suite 364, Minneapolis, MN 55435.

Anna Freund

WESTFIELD — Anna L. McConnon Freund, 82, died Feb. 9, 2004 at the University Medical Center at Princeton.

Born in Newark, she was a daughter of the late Joseph and Ann McConnon.

Mrs. Freund lived in Westfield and Branchburg before moving to Hillsborough in 2001. A registered nurse, she was on hospital staffs for 45 years with 30 of those years at United Hospitals Medical Center in Newark.

Three brothers, Leo McConnon, McConnon and McConnon, are deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Eileen Howard and husband Jim of Hillsborough; two grandchildren; and her dog, Poe-Billy.

Services were held Friday at the Mount Carmel Church in Somerset. Burial was in Franklin Memorial Park, North Brunswick. Arrangements were by the Gleason Funeral Home in

Philip Ferrara

Somerset.

SCOTCH PLAINS — Philip R. Ferrara, 85, died Feb. 16, 2004 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Scotch Plains and lived in the township all his

Mr. Ferrara was a mason contractor with his own firm in Scotch Plains. He was an Army veteran of World War II.

A brother, Paul, and two sisters, Lucy DeFrancesco and Angie Hall,

are deceased. Surviving are his wife, Concetta Mannino Ferrara; four daughters, Arlene Keeney and husband James of Marathon Key, Fla., Barbara Hall and husband Mark of Unionville, Pa., Phyllis LaBaw and husband Scott of Tampa, Fla., and Cindy and husband David Platt of Dublin, Ohio; four sisters, Jo Beaty, Laura Shockey, Jean Waldron and Clara; and six grandchildren.

Services will be 11 a.m. today at the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Ave., Fanwood. A funeral Mass will follow at noon at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, 2032 Westfield

Donations may be sent to Runnells Hospital Volunteer Therapy Guild, Activities Department, Attn: Patricia Scott, 40 Watchung Way, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922.

Carole Breed

WESTFIELD — Carole Breed. 59, died Feb. 16, 2004 at her home in Sea Bright.

Born in Elizabeth, she lived in Westfield before moving to Sea

Mrs. Breed was the manager of the Northern Monmouth District office for the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services, located in Red Bank. She earlier worked for DYFS in its Plainfield District office.

She was active in the Youth Incentive Program, a statewide project that coordinates services for troubled children and their families. Mrs. Breed also helped establish the Keansburg Resource Network of 25 agencies that provide referrals for free services. A member of the Red Bank Art Alliance and the Pottery Guild of New Jersey, Mrs. Breed cooked

Egyptian and Portuguese meals that were auctioned for charity. Her father, Albert Farinha, is deceased.

Surviving are her mother, Ann Farinha; a son, Douglas; a daughter, Susan; and a sister, Joan King.

Services will be 11 a.m. today at the John E. Day Funeral Home, 85 Riverside Ave., Red Bank. Burial will be private.

Donations may be sent to Parker Family Health Clinic, 211 Shrewsbury Ave., Red Bank, NJ

Dorothy Gibbs

WESTFIELD — Dorothy C. Crimmins Gibbs, 89, died Feb. 11, 2004 at the Medical Center of Ocean County in Brick.

Born in Belleville, she lived in South Orange and Westfield before moving to Brick in 1990.

Mrs. Gibbs retired in 1968 as an executive secretary with Public Service Electric & Gas Co. in Newark. She graduated from the Drake Business College in Orange.

She was a former member of the Altar Rosary Society at Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church in South Orange.

Deceased are her first husband, Michael Dunn; her second husCrimmins and Alfred Crimmins; and a sister, Florence Zaydowicz. Surviving are two sisters,

band, Herbert: two brothers, David

Elizabeth Reppin and Margaret Coughlin; a brother, John Crimmins; and many nieces and

A funeral Mass was held Tuesday at St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church in Brick. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the O'Brien Funeral Home in Brick. Donations may be sent to St. John's Food Kitchen, 22 Mulberry St., Newark, NJ 07102 or the Herbertsville Rescue Squad.

John H. Claus Jr.

FANWOOD — John H. Claus Jr., 84, died Feb. 16, 2004 at the Country Arch Care Center in Pittstown.

Born Nov. 24, 1919 in Plainfield, he was a son of the late John H. and Freda Phistner Claus.

Mr. Claus lived in Fanwood before moving to Clinton Township in 1972. A charter member and past president of the New Jersey Purchasing Managers Association, he was a retired purchasing manager with Rhone Poulenc in Cranbury. He earlier was a pur-chasing manager with Chelsea Fan & Blower in Plainfield.

He held an associate's degree in business administration from Union County College and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Florida Southern College.

A former member of the Clinton Township Board of Education, Mr. Claus sang in the choir at the Clinton Presbyterian Church. He also was a member of the Flemington Presbyterian Church and was stationed in Australia with the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II.

Surviving are his wife of 44 years, Betty Reiss Claus; a daughter, Julie C. Hensler and husband Ronald of Annandale; a son, John A. of Alpha; a sister, Doris L. of Jamesburg; and two grandchildren. Services will be 11 a.m. today at

the Martin Funeral Home, Route 31, Clinton. Burial will be in View Mountain Cemetery, Cokesbury.

Donations may be sent to

Parkinson's Disease Foundation, 710 W. 168th St., New York, NY 10032 or National Parkinson Foundation, 1501 N.W. Ninth Ave., Miami, FL 33136.



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Club collects phones for battered women

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains Junior Woman's Club is joining corporations, small businesses, and individuals in the national "Donate a Phone/Call to Protect" campaign to collect old wireless phones which provide domestic violence victims with a lifeline in an emer-

The program, started by the Wireless Foundation, Motorola and National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, is designed to collect old wireless phones and refurbish, reprogram, and distribute them to victims in need. To date, thousands of people across the country have donated their phones. Unfortunately, there are an estimated four million domestic violence victims each year, so more phones are needed.

The club will be collecting phones from Feb. 21-28 at the Scotch Plains Public Library, the Scotch Plains YMCA, the Scotch Plains JCC and Valley National Bank at 1922 Westfield Ave.

For more information on the Donate a Phone/Call to Protect campaign, call (1-888) 901-SAFE or visit www.donateaphone.com. For more on the collection, call (908) 490-0164.

Church hosts discussion on themes in film

WESTFIELD — St. Helen's Church will present another installment of "Visions in the Dark: Spiritual and Moral Themes in American Film" Monday. In their eighth appearance at the church, film buffs Jim Caffrey and Tom Repasch will use film clips and discussion to explore the values and spirituality found in popular American

The films in focus this year are "To Kill a Mockingbird" (1962), "Bend It Like Beckham" (2002), and "Finding Nemo" (2003). All are welcome to attend and admission is free. For those who haven't seen them, the films can be rented at local video stores and viewed prior to the evening. Popcorn and beverages will be provided.

The program will be held at the Parish Center of St. Helen's Church, 1600 Rahway Ave. (at Lamberts Mill Road) starting at 8 a.m. Parking is available in the church's parking lot. For further information, call (908) 232-1214.

Yiddish classes offered at the JCC

SCOTCH PLAINS - Have you ever regretted not learning that "secret language" your parents and grandparents spoke when you were a child? Do you know some Yiddish and crave to learn more? Now is your chance "lern zikh Yidish" (learn Yiddish) — the heart and soul of Eastern European Jewish heritage - in a fun, "heymishe" (relaxed) setting.

Briefs

The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring has announced that regist tration is now open for the 10week spring semester of Yiddish classes, to be held at the JCC of Central New Jersey, 1391 Martine Ave.. Two levels will be offered: Yiddish for Beginners, for those who know "gornisht" (nothing) or just "a bis!" (a little bit), 7:30-9 p.m. Wednesdays beginning March 3; and Intermediate Yiddish for those who have completed Yiddish for Beginners or its equivalent, 7:30-9 p.m. Tuesdays, beginning March 2

The course fee is \$145 (\$130) for members of The Workmen's Circle or the JCC). Class size is limited, so register early.

For more information, contact Martin Schwartz, director, Workmen's Circle New Jersey Region, (908) 289-3003 or via email: jersey@circle.org.

Business group will meet Monday

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Business and Professional Association will meet Monday at 6:30 p.m. at The Chelsea at Fanwood, 295 South Ave.

Jennifer Ricci, Executive Director of The Chelsea will be the group's host for the evening. If planning to attend, call Peter at (908) 322-1800.

Historical groups plan annual meeting

WESTFIELD — The Planning Committee for the Spring Assembly of the Westfield history societies has announced that the group's annual meeting will be held 8 p.m. April 21 at the First Baptist Church on Elm Street: Introductory music will start

about 7:45 p.m. This assembly is the yearly gathering of the community's five history organizations: Genealogical Society of the West Fields, the Miller-Cory House Museum Volunteers, the Westfield Chapter of the Daughters of the American Westfield Revolution, the Historical Society, and the West Fields Chapter of the Sons of the

American Revolution. The Historical Society is the host association this year, represented on the committee by its president, Donald Mokrauer. Other committee members are Bob Miler of the Genealogical Society and the Historical Society John Lawson of the SAR, Mary Ellen Lawson of the DAR, and

Pat D'Angelo of Miler-Cory. The program will announced as soon as plans are complete. The feature presentation will be followed by refreshments, and the public is invited at no charge.



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Union County Crime Stoppers seek sponsors for new signs

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Woman's Club, Blue Streak Motors of Roselle and Ron Posyton of Maguire Cadillac are three of Westfield's first sponsors of a municipal sign fundraising program created by Union County Crime Stoppers, in coop-

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eration with the Union County Police Chiefs Association and Union County Traffic Officers Association.

The funds are needed to replenish monies used to reward anonymous callers for assisting local law enforcement in solving

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crimes and catching the perpetrators. The program, now celebrating its 20th year, has helped solve over 200 violent felony

The Union County Crime Stoppers Board, which includes business interests, private citi-

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zens, the media and law enforcement, pay anonymous cash rewards of up to \$5,000 for information that leads to the arrest and indictment of criminals in homicides, armed robberies, burglaries, aggravated assault, and other violent crimes.

Posyton, who serves as Crime Stoppers chairman, is the only board member whose identity is known to the public. "Our organization works with law enforcement and the media to help catch the criminals," he said. "A caller can call our TIPS' hotline around the clock. We don't need the person's name, only the information. The caller is assigned a number, and, when a reward is given, that person simply gives that number to a bank teller and collects the cash. I like to say that crime doesn't pay, but we do.'

The TIPS hotline is manned by the Union County Prosecutor's Office during regular business hours, and at all other times by the Union County Police Department.

Additional sponsors are needed for specified signs that will be posted on major thoroughfares in all 21 Union County municipalities. These metal signs contain the Crime Stoppers logo and TIPS telephone number. A separate sign designating the sponsor will be posted below each sign.

Current sponsors include businesses, organizations and individuals. The sponsors can specify which municipality the

\$200 TA

Union County Chairman Ron Posyton, third from left, leads the pack in the official hanging of one of the first brand new Crime Stoppers program signs that will soon be popping up throughout the county as part of an effort to raise money to pay for tips in solving violent crimes. Standing with Posyton are, from left, Westfield Police Captain Robert Compton and Detective John Cuzzo, and Ruth Positan, Nita McHugh, Marjorie Wieseman, and Sally Brown, all officers of the Westfield Women's Club. Richard Edge of Westfield's Department of Public Works is shown putting up the sign. Sponsorships are available for businesses that want to make a taxfree donation in order to assist local law enforcement with a fund that pays cash rewards for anonymous tipsters that provide police with information to catch and prosecute criminals.

sign will be located in. The signs signs for a one year period, with are being posted on existing signposts on key roadways identified by the local police departments, in cooperation with the local Departments of Public Works, and the Union County Sheriff's Office S.L.A.P. program.

The first year sponsorship costs \$250 for one sign for a oneyear period, or \$500 for three a maximum of one sign per selected municipality. The signs can be renewed annually for

Anyone wishing to sponsor a sign is asked to call the Crime Stoppers TIPS hotline at 908-(654-8477)654-TIPS Chairman Ron Posyton at 908-889-9028.

4900 1.75 liter 2499 709 1.75 liter 1.75 lite GORDONS KETEL ONE 3109 Vodka 80° 31,75 km DANIELS 3399 WHITE LABEL 31,75 Her CANADIAN 4 799 CLUB 175 Inn LEEDS JOHNNIE SMIRNOFF 999 1.75 Mar JOHNNIE 3200 WALKER RED 321.75 Inex Vodka 80° - Gin Vodka 80° 1.75L CUTTY 1.75L GREY GOOSE 1.75L BEEFEATER 4701 Vodka 80 159 1.75L ABSOLUT 75L WHITE HORSE 1.75L SEAGRAMS GIN Citron • Mandrin Regular • Lime Twist. 1.75L CANADIAN (\$3.00) 1 390 75L BLACK & WHITE 1.75L STOLICHNAYA 1.75L FLEISCHMANNS 1.75L FLEISCHMANNS PREFERRED. 1.33.00 1 2 750 TANQUERAY 10 .75L TANQUERAY .75L JOHN BEGG 24** Sterling Vodka 80 1.75L SKYY 1.75L CLAN Gin. MacGREGOR 1.75L BACARDI 750 GLENFIDDICH 1.75L SVEDKA O • Limon Single Malt. 1.75L MALIBU RUM 10** 1.75L WOLFSCHMIDT 22* 13" Coconut WALKER BLACK Vodka 80 1099 1.75L JOSE CUERVO 1,75L GORDONS

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THURSDAY FEB. 19

This week

WELCOME TEA — annual event of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers' Club. To attend, call (908) 889-6035.

FRIDAY

A CRUISE ON THE RHINE AND MOSELLE — slide show and lecture by Fontaine Gatti for the Westfield Historical Society. 7:30 p.m. Westfield Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St.

SATURDAY FEB. 21

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. L'Affaire, Route 22 East, Mountainside. \$50. For tickets or more information, call (908) 486-

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

'JUMP-OFF' - second social event for middle-school students planned by the youth of the Westfield-Mountainside Ministerium. Open to junior high

students at 7:30 p.m. Program begins 8 p.m., all must arrive by 8:30. Free. Westfield YMCA, 220 Clark St. (908) 233-2278.

SUNDAY

FEB. 22 MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL -

for the Joseph Nugent Sr. Association of Union County. 3-7 p.m. Knights of Columbus Council 253, Union Avenue, Elizabeth. \$20 admission includes food, beer, soda, wine and the 2004 membership dues. For information call Maureen Dowling at (908) 206-9107, Knights of Columbus at (908) 355-2253 or Kevin Dowling at (732) 594-1763.

PATRIOTIC SUNDAY — at the Miller-Cory House Museum. Learn the origins of "Yankee Doodle Dandy" and more about America's fight for independence. 2-4 p.m. 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield. (908) 232-1776.

MUNDAY

FEB. 23 VISIONS IN THE DARK -

discussion spiritual and moral themes in American film. Begins 8 a.m. St. Helen's Church, 1600 Rahway Ave., Westfield. (908) 232-

BUSINESS GROUP MEET-ING — gathering of Fanwood Business and Professional Business and Association, hosted by Jennifer Ricci of The Chelsea. 6:30 p.m. The Chelsea at Fanwood, 295 South Ave. To register, call (908) 322-

SHADY REST COUNTRY CLUB — a talk about the onetime "black cultural oasis" by Lawrence Hogan, professor of history at Union County College. 7:30 p.m. Union Catholic High School, Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains. Hosted by the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains (908) 889-

TUESDAY

FEB. 24

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.

'CHANCEMAN'S BROTH-ERS AND SISTERS' — video presentation on James Gregory, the first black police officer in Morristown, and the area's black community, at the meeting of the Historic Soceity of Scotch Plains and Fanwood. 8 p.m. Fanwood train station. (908) 232-1199.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE MEETING — of the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, which is seeking additional volun-teers. 7 p.m. 116 South Euclid Ave., Westfield. (908) 654-9445, ext. 25.

SATURDAY FEB. 28

WINTER CARNIVAL indoor event for kids age 4-11 host-ed by Osceola Presbyterian Church of Clark. 1-5 p.m. Feb. 28. 1689 Raritan Rd. in Clark.

COMING UP

JUDAISM IN AMERICA - a pictorial history presented by Temple Emanu-El. 7:30-9:30 p.m. March 3 at the temple, East Broad Street, Westfield. \$5. (9973) 467-

THE RETURN OF ANTI-SEMITISM — a talk by Gabriel Schoenfield, senior editor of Commentary, on his book of the same title. March 4. \$8. Temple Emanu-El, East Broad Street, Westfield. (908) 929-0048.

GLOBAL FOLKTALES storyteller Ron Sopyla and his shadow puppets entertain kids with traditional folktales. 10:30 a.m. March 6. Wesfield Library, East Broad Street. Registration begins Feb. 21. (908) 789-4090.

PANCAKE DAY Children's Fair, annual event to raise scholarship funds sponsored by the Westfield Rotary. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. March 6. Westfield High School, Dorian Road. \$6 tickets available from any Rotarian and at **PURIM CELEBRATION —**

kids drew in costumes, play games and win prizes at the JCC of Central New Jersey. Noon-4 p.m. March 7, 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. \$5 per family. (908) 889-8800, ext. 235 or 218. WINE TASTING — and auc-

tion fundraiser, inaugural event for the Education Fund of Westfield. \$75. James Ward Mansion, East Broad Street, Westfield. (908) 317-MUSEUM TRIP -- bus outing

to see "Manet and the Sea" at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, sponsored by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Arts Association, Leaves Scotch Plains municipal building 8:30 a.m., returns 5 p.m. March 30. \$42, pay by Feb. 29. (908) 232-2631



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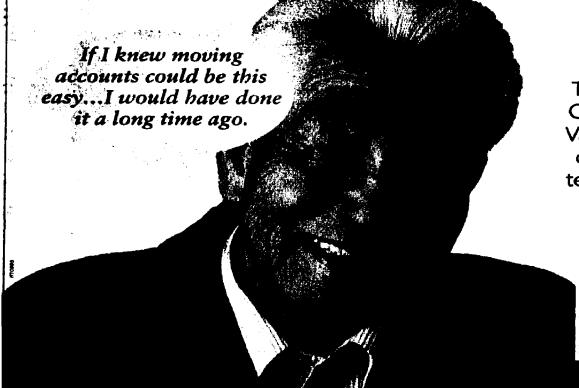
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Community

Briefs

Miller-Cory presents a 'Patriotic Sunday'

WESTFIELD — From 2-4 p.m. Sunday, the Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Ave., will present a program titled "Patriotic Sunday."

Visitors will learn about the origins of the song "Yankee Doodle Dandy." The song was very popular with British soldiers, and was sung to taunt the colonial militia during the Revolutionary War. However, as the war's tides turned, the colonists adopted "Yankee Doodle" as their fight song. There are many versus to the song, and each has a different meaning.

The program will also include facts about George Washington and "behind the scenes" patriots from New Jersey. The program is ideal for children and families.

Admission to the museum is \$2 for adults, 50 cents for students and children under six years of age are admitted free of charge.

On Feb. 29, 2-4 p.m., the muse-um has rescheduled Snowflake Sunday for Children. The program was cancelled in January due to inclement weather.

For information call (908) 232-1776. The office is open weekdays from 9 a.m.-noon.

Arts Association plans trip to Manet exhibit

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association's spring bus trip will be on March 30 to the Philadelphia Museum of Art to see the "Manet and the Sea"

The show will be the first to explore the marine paintings of Edouard Manet and his contemporaries, including such impressionists as Claude Monet, Auguste Renoir and Berthe Morisot, who were deeply influenced by Manet's beautiful and challenging views of the sea.

The bus leaves from the Scotch Plains municipal building parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and returns around 5 p.m. The cost of the trip is \$42, which includes the bus, admission, exhibit tickets and audio tour cassette. Payment must be received by Feb. 29, as ested by the museum.

For reservations and further information, call Anne Gibbons at (908) 232-2631.

Puppeteer presents traditional folktales

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library invites children ages kindergarten and up to a special performance of "Folktales from Around the World."

Kids can watch and learn as storyteller Ron Sopyla and his amazing shadow puppets perform traditional folktales at 10:30 a.m. March 6. Children will be fascinated by Sopyla's simple but entrancing puppetry technique, and will be able to try their skills at home. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library.

In-person registration is required and begins Feb. 21 for Westfield Library cardholders. Space permitting, registration for those children who are not Westfield Library cardholders will begin on Feb. 28.

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

Church hosts pancake supper

WESTFIELD --- All are welcome to attend the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Westfield's First United Methodist Church from 6:30-9 p.m. Tuesday.

The event, which is a fundraiser for the Education Ministry's scholarship fund, features live music throughout the evening provided by a Dixieland jazz band.

The menu includes plain and pecan pancakes with flavored whipped cream, ham, fruit, juice, coffee, tea and water. The kitchen will close at 8 p.m. to allow every-

one to relax and enjoy the music. The charge is \$5 per person, with a \$15 maximum per family.

First United Methodist Church is located at 1 East Broad St.. For more information, call the church office at (908) 233-4211.



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Kimberly Angus, 14, and Emma Hand, 15, fill out an "opportunity list" for Sunrise Senior Living at the community service fair at Westfield High School Feb. 11.

Learning the meaning of service

By BRAD BISHOP

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Westfield High School Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) held a Community Service Fair on Feb. 11 at Westfield High School, at which local organizations and students gathered in the cafeteria to further their goals of volunteerism.

Twenty-eight different organizations set up tables along the perimeter and through the center of the cafeteria. Organizations displayed literature, pictures, and other information on their tables, and had staff members on hand to answer students' questions about volunteerism.

The event was set up to get students involved in their communities, according to Meg Hayden, a PTSO member who co-chaired the

"I believe volunteerism is a vital aspect of character development," Hayden said, adding the event "is vital for the preservation of the needed services these organizations provide.

A wide variety of volunteer organizations participated in the fair. Work opportunities included websites, children's sports programs, landscaping, helping animals, event planning, theatrical lighting, assisting the elderly, and

Sheraine Arbitsen chaired the event last year, and was amazed at the amount of organizations which set up shop at the high school. She said last year's event had about half the

participation she saw this year. "It was a very good turnout," she said. "I'm blown away by the number of organizations that came.'

This year, Arbitsen was involved in the fair as a member of Catherine's Closet, a non-profit group which provides prom dresses for underprivileged girls, mentorship, and scholarship opportunities. She said 15 to 20 girls who attended the fair signed up to volunteer for her organization, and one of the girls volunteered

Arbitsen said kids who give back to their communities at a young age become lifelong

"Volunteering is one of the few jobs you can work where you get a 'thank you' at the end of



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Westfield Rescue Squad Recruiting Chairman Reid Edles mans a table at the community service fair.

the day," she said.

Haven Hospice has never used volunteers before, but decided to participate in the community fair this year, according to Carol Rebovich, who works for the organization. She said high school students can brighten the lives of patients.

"It can be like visiting with a grandmother or grandfather," she said. "Both (students and patients) can gain from the experience."

Rebovich said the hospice is looking for people who speak foreign languages and have musical talents; one student she met at the fair expressed interest in playing the piano to enter-tain hospice patients. "It's refreshing to see young people get excited about something like this," she said.

Author to discuss New Jersey's best homes and gardens

Memorial Library will host author Caroline Seebohm at 7 p.m. March

Seebohm, a former staffer at House & Garden magazine, recently wrote "Great Houses and Gardens of New Jersey," an exclusive look into the most magnificent and private homes and gardens in New Jersey. This special event is free to Westfield Library cardholders, and registration is now open at the Circulation Desk.

Seebohm will discuss her book and will be available for book signing. "Great Houses and Gardens of New Jersey" will be on sale that evening at a reduced price.
From centuries-old farmhouses

to woodlands planted with native plants to formal French and English style gardens, this book captures the diversity and splendor of New Jersey's own private gardens and architecture. More than 200 color photographs by Peter C. Cook capture each primany of which have never before been photographed.

Seebohm and Cook take readers on a private tour of a pre-revolutionary Dutch farmhouse that could have sprung from the coast of Devon in England; a brick-patterned house that vividly expresses the originality and exuberance of the region's early builders and craftsmen; a collection of native stone buildings reminiscent of Bucks County, Pennsylvania; and an Arts and Crafts house with contributions by New Jersey's innovative Gustav Stickley.

The 20th century is equally well represented with works by masters such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Robert Venturi, Michael Graves, and Richard Meier.

For more information, call 908-789-4090, visit the Library's website at www.wmlnj.org or drop by in person at 550 East Broad St. for a copy of the library's quarterly

Local students can 'Jump-Off' Saturday

WESTFIELD — The second "Jump-Off" event planned by and for local young people will be held 7:30-10 p.m. Saturday. The Westfield-Mountainside

Ministerium is actively addressing how all area congregations can provide a unified response to growing concerns about current high-risk social practices among

The objective is to provide a safe, supervised event that brings youth together to reinforce the 'positive choice" message. The Westfield YMCA has made its facilities available for this effort. The hope is that, as a jointlyplanned cooperative effort by the youth for the youth, the experience will unite the community and promote positive alternatives.

On Oct. 12, 2003, seven congregations successfully hosted the first "Jump-Off" event, which 185 senior high students attended.

Now, the success of that event has prompted the congregations to host an event for the middle school students, utilizing the leadership of the senior high students.

The doors open for the Junior High Jump Off at 7:30 p.m., and the evening program, including extreme games and free time, begins at 8. Snacks, drinks, and pizza will be available throughout the evening. No one will be permitted to enter after 8:30, and there is no admission charge.

A closing awards ceremony at 10 p.m. will wrap up the evening, with dismissal at 10:30. All middle school youth from the Westfield area are welcomed and encouraged to attend this event.

For more information, contact Rev. Jeremy Montgomery, (908) 233-2278 at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, or Linda Christopher at the Westfield Y, (908) 233-2700.

Schoenfeld to speak at Temple Emanu-El

WESTFIELD — As part of Jewish Heritage Month at Temple Emanu-El of Westfield, the Men's Club and Sisterhood will present a pictorial representation of 350 years of Judaism in America from 7:30-9:30 p.m. March 3. A wine and cheese buffet will be included. The event welcomes both congregation and community, and the cost for the entire event is \$5 per person. For information call Ron Goldberger at (973) 467-

In addition, the Men's Club

will hold its annual paid-up membership dinner on March 4 starting at 6:30 p.m. Following dinner, Gabriel Schoenfeld, senior editor for Commentary magazine, will discuss his highly acclaimed new book "The Return of Anti-Semitism." The cost for the event will be \$8 for congregation and community; there will be no charge for Men's Club members.

For more information, call Jonathon Bass at (908) 929-0048 or jjbass@comcast.net.

Reservations are recommended.

Filmmaker wins award for promotional video

SCOTCH PLAINS - A promotional video produced and directed by Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School teacher William McMeekan Jr. was recently honored by the 2003 Aegis Awards as among the best promotional/sales productions in North America.

The Aegis Awards are the video industry's

creating

face glamour."

premier competition for peer recognition of outstanding video productions and nonnetwork TV commercials. Other 2003 winners include PBS, MSNBC, The Discovery Channel and

News 12 New Jersey. Created for the New York fashion boutique Henri Bendel, McMeekan's video features a behind-the-scenes look at the store as well as vignettes of New York City and greetings from celebrities and fashion designers including Lisa Ling, Iman, Vanessa Williams and Betsey

Johnson "The fashion world lends itself very easily to video," said McMeekan, "The challenge is creating something unique and engaging for viewers beyond the surface glamour."

The award-winning video served as the centerpiece of Henri Bendel's 2002 holiday window display, playing to thousands of people daily as they passed by the Fifth Avenue store's display

"The fashion world In 2002 lends itself very easily to McMeekan was a finalist in the video. The challenge is Aegis Awards something for his documentary feature unique and engaging for about the viewers beyond the sur-Westfield Fire Department, "Catching Fire: — William McMeekan Jr. A Day In The

window.

Life of Westfield's Bravest." Most recently, he has served as the cinematographer for the upcoming spy-thriller "As Cool As Jennifer," as well as appearing in the Touchtone Pictures film "Ladder 49" staring John Travolta and scheduled for release in October.

Currently McMeekan is producing and directing a documentary on window designer Simon Doonan.



'Music Meets the Presidents' at St. Bart's

Students at St. Bartholomew Interparochial School celebrated Presidents' Day with a concert, "Music Meets the Presidents," by the Solid Brass Quintet. The concert featured a narrated history of the presidents from George Washington to John F. Kennedy accompanied by American patriotic music and marches from the various historic eras. The Solid Brass Quintet specializes in performing teaching concerts which combine musical selections with instructional narratives on the featured music and instruments. This concert marked the fourth in an annual series of concerts that the Solid Brass Quintet has performed at the school.

Crescent hosts handbell special

Crescent Concerts' annual Handbell Choir Festival will feature six area groups performing individually and together 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Avenue in Plainfield.

Festival director Susan Lippincott, a well-known handbell director and clinician in Central Jersey, will direct bell choirs from the Dunellen Presbyterian Church, the First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge, the New Brunswick Presbyterian Church, the Wesley Methodist Church of South Plainfield and the Wilson Memorial Union Church of Watchung.

They will be joined by the Crescent Avenue Memorial Handbell Choir Trumpeter Mark Cox of the Wilson Church will assist in the concert.

Festival coordinator Donald Kalbach of Middlesex, who has served as director of the bell festival twice in the last 20 years, pointed out that the combined bell choirs will offer music that can be used by each individual group during the liturgical year. These selections include "O Worship the King," "When Morning Guilds the Skies," "Grazioso," by Arnold Sherman, "Symfonia," by Bach, "The River," and "Battle Hymn of the

The concert will be the culmination of a four-hour clinic and rehearsal that will be held in the afternoon. According to Kalbach, spending a day working with other bell ringers "sharpens everyone." He added that the participating bell choirs look forward to the bell festival as a goal that raises the quality of their music making.

Admission to the concert is free; however, a goodwill offering will be taken. For concert information call the church office at (908) 756-2468 daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The church and sanctuary are handicap accessible.

Funding for the concert has been made possible in part by the New Jersey Council on the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

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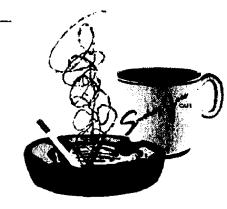
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DaVinci's Notebook performs in Westfield

The Coffee with Conscience Concert Series of Westfield will present laugh-riot DaVinci's Notebook in concert at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 East Broad St., Saturday night. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m., the concert begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$12. All net proceeds will be donated to the Interfaith Council for the Homeless.

Next month's featured act, We're About Nine, will open the

DaVinci's Notebook is less a musical group and more like a ride at a theme park. Many bands are musically captivating. Some bands are hilariously funny. Other bands are full of charm and personality. Then there's DaVinci's Notebook they're all of the above, and they do it without instruments.

This award-winning, a cappella quartet from the Washington, D.C. area has been described as "Bobby McFerrin and Weird Al" Yankovic colliding on stage.' They have drawn comparisons to Barenaked Ladies with their inspired original material, clever parodies and high-energy, absolutely-anything-goes live performances.

DaVinci's Notebook shows regularly feature on-the-spot requests, audience participation, improvised lyrics, conga lines, and the occasional Britney Spears imitation.

Greg "Storm" DiCostanzo. Richard Hsu, Bernie Muller-Thym and Paul Sabourin all met

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DaVinei's Notebook is, from left, Bernie Muller-Thym, Greg "Storm" DiConstanzo, Paul Sabourin and Richard Hsu.

while singing in a pickup doowop group during the summer of 1993. Quickly realizing their common interest in pursuing wilder and more adventurous musical directions, they "seceded" from the larger group, reforming as DaVinci's Notebook. The foursome spent the next several years evolving and developing their style.

Their first big break came in 1997, thanks to a Washington Post article detailing their victory at the Mid-Atlantic Harmony Sweepstakes, a competition for a cappella groups. The article caught the attention of NBC's Today show staff, who produced

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a feature segment about the then-still-part-time group.

For more information about DaVinci's Notebook, visit http://www.davincisnotebook.com

The Coffee with Conscience Series is a 10-show series running from September-June at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield. The concerts are being recorded for broadcast by Westfield's TV-36. Residents of Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside can

DaVinci's Notebook shows regularly feature on-the-spot requests. audience participation, improvised lyrics, conga lines and the occasional Britney Spears imitation.

view each month's concert on Fridays at 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m.

The series supports the following charities: The Eric Johnson House in Morristown, the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, the Names Project (more commonly known as the AIDS Quilt), Habitat for Humanity and the Community Food Bank of NJ. Each concert benefits one of these charities.

The series is made possible in part by a HEART Grant (Heritage, Education, Art -Reaching Thousands) from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and private dona-

For more information about the series, or ways to get involved with the series, call Ahrre Maros, owner of Ahrre's Coffee Roastery in Westfield at (908) 232-8723, or visit www.coffeewithconscience.com. Volunteers are always appreci-

Lecture focuses on history of Tanzania

"Discover Tanzania, Past & Present" is a slide show and lecture focusing on the history of Tanzania and a discussion of the role the East African country played as a port of departure for the sale trade in Africa in the 1600s and 1700s.

It has been noted that when most African Americans trace their ancestor's history, their roots are traced back to West Africa. But the West African port, the Gold Coast, was merely one of the many slave markets where slaves were auctioned to the highest bidder before starting their journey to Europe, The Caribbean Islands, and North America. Many of the slaves came from countries and ports all over Africa; from the

north to the south, east and west. Slides will also be shown about present day Tanzania to illustrate how it has changed since the slave trade days and the role it plays in

The slide show will be presented by Ally Mongo, a native of Tanzania. Currently a Recreation Specialist for the Division of Parks and Recreation of the City of Rahway, Mongo attended high school in both Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and in Europe before coming to America. He continued his education at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck.

Mongo is also a world class marathon runner who has attended numerous major meets during his career. He has been a member of the Recreation Department since 2001.

The Arts Guild of Rahway is a non-profit arts organization located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway, NJ 07065. For more information call (732) 381-7511, e-mail: artsguild1670@earthlink.net, or visit our website at www.rahwayartsguild.org.

CDC adds extra show for 'Smokey Joe's'

The Cranford Dramatic Club has announced that it is adding an additional performance to its final weekend of "Smokey Joe's Café," due to strong ticket demand.

The extra show is slated for this Sunday at 3 p.m., with performances also scheduled for 8

p.m. Friday and Saturday. 'Smokey Joe's Café," with music and lyrics by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, was nominated for eight Tony Awards on Broadway and represents the premier rock and roll songwriters of the pre-Beatles era.

The show is based around 40 songs that are timeless and are recognizable by all — and were sung by some of the greatest performers of that era: "Hound Dog," "Love Potion #9," "Yakety Yak," Stand By Me" and "Jailhouse Rock" among them.

The musical opened on Broadway on March 2, 1995 and closed on January 16, 2000. Its 2,036 performances made it the longest running musical revue in Broadway history.

Directed by Shayne Austin Miller and produced by Elizabeth Howard, the Cranford show features an experienced cast of highly-talented singers and dancers and a band that features professional musicians such as Kathy Goff, who served as the percussionist in national and international touring companies of

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"Smokey Joe's," and jazz recording artist Joe Elefante, whose band has recorded several CDs. The band was assembled and is directed by bassist Mitch Kolesaire.

Due to the popularity of the show, patrons are encouraged to reserve tickets in advance by calling the box office at (908) 276-7611. Tickets are \$18, with an additional discount for seniors. The club is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford.

Café Z hosts open mic and folk concert

The Café Z Coffee House, a folk performance series, will continue 7 p.m. Sunday in the Social Hall of Zion Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Elm and Esterbrook Avenues in Rahway.

Café Z takes place on the third Saturday of each month and includes an open mic followed by a featured performer at approximately 8:15 p.m. The \$5 admission includes refreshments. The intention of this project is to promote local performers and songwriters and to expand the folk music audience in this area.

The featured performer Saturday will be Kathy Moser. Information on Moser can be found on her website,

www.kathymoser.com, or on Zion's website, http://www.zionlutherannj.org/cafez.htm.





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Instructors are sought for summer workshops

SCOTCH PLAINS — Pending approval by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education, the school district will conduct its 22nd season of the Creative Summer Workshops, June 28 – July 30. The coming season will see an expansion to a five-week program and will introduce the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Summer Instrumental Music School for students entering **Grades 4-12.**

The SP-F Summer Workshops will operate daily during mornings across a four-hour period. There will be no workshops July 2 and 5.

At this time qualified instruc-tors with either New Jersey elementary or secondary teaching certification are being sought for both the Creative Summer Workshops and the SP-F Summer Instrumental Music School. Also, a certified school nurse is being recruited.

Prospective candidates should forward a letter of interest. resume, and copy of teaching certification by Feb. 23. Credentials should be sent to Cynthia S. Mendelson, Coordinator of Continuing Education/Community School, Administrative Offices of the Board of Education, Evergreen Avenue & Cedar Street, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076.

The Creative Summer Workshops encompass a variety of enrichment experiences for young people in Grades K-12. Areas include arts/crafts, astronomy, aviation, book talks, cartooning, chemistry, communications/TV video, computer experiences, creative writing, critical and creative thinking, games, journalism, keyboarding, magic, nature study, rocketry, story telling and/or puppetry, study skills, theater arts, vocal music, and world languages and cultures.

Terrill students to get insight into the market

SCOTCH PLAINS - As a part of it's young investors education initiative, Smith Barney recently announced three of Ms. Londino's top math classes of Terrill Middle School are among the list of schools to participate in the firm's sixth annual "Take Your Parents to School Day" program.

The program will be held over the course of three days next week, from Tuesday to Thursday. For the first two days of the program, teachers will focus on a curriculum of financial literacy and the importance of fiscal responsibility. On the final day of the program, Smith Barney financial consultant, Thomas J. Beattie will bring the financial markets to life for both the students and their parents and introduce the Smith Barney National Stock Portfolio Contest.

The Smith Barney National Stock Portfolio Contest allows classroom teams to create a hypothetical investment portfolio consisting of five shares of stocks selected from a list provided by the firm.

The contest runs for 12 weeks, during which students from all participating schools can track their portfolio's performance online through the firm's Young Investors Network SM Web site at www.smithbarney.com/yin/home.htm

The winning portfolio will reflect the largest percentage increase in value over the 12-week contest period. Each student in the winning class will receive one share of Citigroup stock at the recent closing stock price of \$48.92.

Society will learn about 'Chanceman' Gregory

SCOTCH PLAINS — February is Black History Month, a time to remember the accomplishments and struggles of many great black Americans.

Washington Carver, Sojourner Truth, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Shirley Chisholm and Martin Luther King Jr. are just a few of the giants who leap to mind. Americans remember the painful Civil War that emancipated black Americans. Then, while the right to vote was estbalished, another limiting standard emerged: "separate but equal." Martin Luther King Jr. would set the context for the passage of the civil rights laws in the 1960's under President Lyndon B. Johnson.

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significantly impact their communities. One such man was James "Chanceman" Gregory, who lived in nearby Morris County prior to the passage of the civil rights laws. He became the first black police officer in Morristown in 1934. His life, symbolized the desire to be recognized simply as citizen, friend and neighbor.

The Historic Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood will show the video "Chanceman's Brothers & Sisters: The Origins of the 20th Century Morris County Black Community" at the monthly meeting Tuesday. All are invited to

The meeting starts at 8 p.m. and is held at the Fanwood train station on North and Martine Avenues. Fellowship and refreshments fol-low. Call President Richard Bousquet at (908) 232-1199 for further information.p

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Leukemia & Lymphoma group seeks volunteers

Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is looking for volunteers to help make their events bigger and better than ever. The society is holding its Volunteer Committee meeting 7 p.m. Feb. 24 at its Westfield office, 116 South Euclid Ave. The meeting will allow volunteers to learn about upcoming society events. express their ideas and meet other volunteers.

Some of the Society's spring and fall events include:

"Taste of the Towns" on May auction. The top male and 13, an enchanting evening for the whole family featuring a wide variety of cuisine from local restaurants, plus music, entertainment and auctions.

The presentation of "Man and Woman of the Year" on June 6. All candidates who vie for the title of 2004 Man and Woman of the Year agree to use their leadership skills to conduct their own fundraising campaigns for the society over an eight-week period. The event finale will feature an exciting Chinese

female candidates with the most funds raised are the winners and will be featured on two full-sized billboards in New Jersey.

"Light the Night Walk," occurring on several occasions from Sept. 18-Oct. 17. This is a one- to three-mile walk to celebrate and commemorate lives touched by blood cancers. Held at seven locations throughout northern New Jersey, participants carry illuminated balloons - white for cancer sur-

vivors, red for supporters.

For each event planned, the society needs volunteers to assist with public relations, logistics, auction prizes, recruitment and sponsorship. Each volunteer may choose the area he or she specializes in and can work on their own schedule.

For more information or to sign up for a meeting call the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at (908) 654-9445, ext.

Police Log

WESTFIELD

Officers arrested a 16-yearold female after a high speed chase through Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, and Plainfield on Feb. 12. The girl, a passenger, exited an SUV with a male passenger at the corner of Leland and St. Marks in Plainfield. The male suspect was able to escape and has not yet been apprehend-

The driver of the vehicle, also a male, then accelerated ahead another block and abandoned the vehicle. He, too, escaped from the scene.

The chase, which involved speeds of up to 80 miles per hour, began at the corner of Summit and South avenues in Westfield when officers ran a random check on the license plate of a 2003 Toyota Highlander. The officers determined the vehicle had been reported stolen from New Brunswick, and attempted to pull the vehicle over. At that point the stolen vehicle began to accelerate, and the chase began.

The case remains under investigation. The girl arrested in the incident was released to a responsible party.

Kyle Halvin of Westfield was arrested and charged with eluding a police officer and the unlawful taking of a motor vehicle Feb. 11.

A further check revealed outstanding warrants out of Westfield, Scotch Plains, Plainfield, and Roselle.

On Saturday, officers arrested Caroline Villegas of Plainfield

in the 100 block of Central Avenue for allegedly shoplifting from a local business.

Officers arrested a 17-yearold iuvenile at Lenox Avenue and Elmer Street for possession of a prohibited weapon Saturday. The juvenile was transferred to a responsible party.

Officers arrested Luke and Joseph DiMatteo Wisniewski, both of Westfield. and a 17-year old juvenile for possession of cocaine at Lenox Avenue and Chestnut Street Sunday.

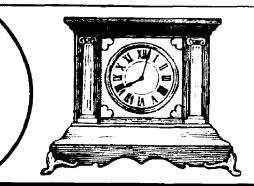
The subjects were arrested after a motor vehicle stop. DiMatteo and Wisniewski were released on their own recognizance, and the juvenile was released to a responsible party.

SCOTCH PLAINS

John Pierre, 22, of Roselle was arrested and charged with identity theft and theft Feb. 12. The arrest stemmed from an investigation conducted by Detective Brian Donnelly.

A Princeton Avenue resident reported credit card fraud Feb. 13. The victim's credit card was used to make several purchases without his permission.

On Saturday, a Winchester Drive resident reported that sometime after 9 a.m. someone entered the resident's home and removed jewelry from the master bedroom. A rear door was found standing open when the owner returned home.



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Enjoy it now, Yankee fans

THE RECORD PRESS

It was a typical, relaxing weekend before my sports world was rocked to its foundation with news of one of the most unbelievable trades in my lifetime.

It seemed to come completely out of the blue, without warning or clue. In the blink of an eye the entire landscape of the league changed.

Kicking back and watching some college hoops I saw this crawl across the bottom of my screen: Atlanta Hawks get Michael Doleac, Joel Przybilla, 2005 second round

.What? Atlanta actually traded for two white guys? Has any team in the NBA done this in the past 25 years? It was unbelievable. I was shocked.

I was also delighted to hear the Knicks had acquired Tim Thomas and Nazr Mohammed, further solidifying themselves as a legitimate threat to end the Nets' stranglehold on the Eastern Conference title, but forcing me to (momentarily) take back all of the bad things I said about Isiah Thomas.

Isiah has completely revamped the Knicks lineup and turned them into not only a contender, but a team that is fun to watch and is making Nets fans nervous. I didn't like losing Doleac because he was a quality shooter off the bench and a great compliment to Stephon Marbury. But, with Allan Houston returning to the mix soon, the Knicks are ready to make a surge up the standings and if Tim Thomas can begin to scratch his vast potential, the Garden will be rocking late into the playoffs.

But, unfortunately, this story was lost behind a grosser display of overindulgence than a tour of Donald Trump's gold-plated apart-ment — Alex Rodriguez joining the Yankees.

This trade has been the most talked about transaction I can remember. Nothing has generated this much national debate since tastes great vs. less filling

The trade has become a lightning rod for debate, conjecture, panic and despair, providing a bounty of opportunities for procras-tination through emails and phone

I spent the better part of two days talking fellow Mets fans off the ledge, but finding it difficult to offer anything to feel good about. I've tried in vane to poke holes in Yankee fans' euphoria, but have yet to be successful. Yankee fans have always been way too cocky and this trade sent their collective ego through the stratosphere.

I've asked Red Sox fans if I can join their bandwagon, but have been shunned time and time again (apparently they are still bitter about something that happened in 1986, but I thought we had buried that hatchet with the Jimmy Fund games). Instead I'm going to creep behind the Sox bandwagon, stalking from a safe distance like

ুর্মই a Mets fan, there are three positive aspects of this trade.

Golhum.

First, it was exactly what we needed to spice up the doldrums of February. Talks about NCCA bubble teams and all-star snubs can only hold your attention for so long. Pitalers and catchers are beginning to report but I have a hard time finding soft-tossing exciting.

Secondly, the Yankees have now

become a team that you either hate or love. There is no longer an inbetween, if there ever was. You're either in or vou're out. You can't be neutral. Both the Red Sox and Yankees have excellent squads and their 19 meetings during the regular season are going to feel like 19 Game 7s. If and when they meet in the playoffs it will be one of the best playoff series of all time. The impact this trade will have, not only on the Yankees but on baseball in general, is awesome.

Finally, and most importantly, when the Yankees lose, it will feel 100 times better than when Arizona beat Mariano Rivera in Game 7 in 2001 or watching Florida celebrate at Yankee Stadium last year. Seeing the depression of Yankee fans after failing to win the World Series with the best lineup in baseball history will be a better feeling than anything baseball can offer.

Except for seeing A-Rod in a Mets jersey.

3-3. Totals: 16-2-10-45.



GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE RECORD-PRESS Lance Thomas' emphatic jam over Rahway's Daryl Martin helped spark a third quarter run that led the Raiders to a 75-51 win over the Indians in the first round of the Union County Tournament. Scotch

Raiders soar past Rahway

Face St. Pat's in quarterfinals tonight

By DANIEL MURPHY

THE RECORD-PRESS

ELIZABETH — With a long regular season finally complete the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High boys basketball team was excited and relieved to finally get tournament play underway Tuesday.

And if they didn't have enough motivation already for Tuesday's Union County Tournament showdown with Rahway, the Indian's Daryl Martin provided a little bit extra Tuesday morning.

Martin was quoted in the Star Ledger saying he was looking forward to playing the Raiders, then St. Patrick's in the second round.

Instead it will be Scotch Plains who will take on St. Patrick's in the quarterfinals 8 p.m. tonight at the Dunn Center in Elizabeth, after eliminating Rahway 75-51 Tuesday night, avenging a 64-52 loss to Rahway Feb. 7.

"What really got us (fired up) was they started talking smack in the paper," said Thomas. "We didn't talk. We just came out and played."

Derrick Caracter sat out the first encounter with an ankle injury, but came back Tuesday to score 16 points on 8 of 10 shooting, grab 17 rebounds and block five shots. Lance Thomas, who scored 25 in the previous meeting, torched the Indians again, scoring 26 points on 12 of 20 shooting and grabbing five boards. Senior Mike Walker was strong on the boards and chipped in with 10 points.

The victory sets up a show down with top-seeded St. Patrick's 8 p.m. Friday in quarterfinal round at the Dunn Center in Elizabeth.

"That is a game we thought we'd see more in the semis or final," said Head Coach Dan Doherty. "But the county tournament goes through them. They're good, well coached. They're young, but they're very talented. It's unfortunate it's the quarterfinals, but if you want to win this tournament you have to go through St. Patrick's."

After a regular season that was as scrutinized as any in the state, and included a five-game losing streak at the beginning of the month, the Raiders are excited to finally start playing for the championships they've had their sights set on since the summer.

"People are going to criticize us whether we win or lose," said Thomas. "People are always going to have something to say about us. We just want to come out and win. If we win what can people say?

"Everybody is taking this real serious, taking care of their bodies, everything it takes to get ready."

"We've told the kids this is what it's all about," said Doherty. "This is what people will remember you by. They don't remember you by your regular season."

Tuesday, the Raiders trailed by three points with 5:34 remaining in the first half, but then Thomas scored on four straight trips, and a bucket by Mike Johnson capped a 10-3 spurt that put the Raiders back in front by four points. The Raiders extended the lead to eight before Daryl Martin hit a running three pointer at the buzzer to make the

(Continued on page C-2)

Blue Devils prepare for battle with B-R

"Anything can happen.

— Bruce Johnson

It has the potential to be

a rollercoaster meet.'

For the Westfield High boys and girls swim teams the regular season has been little more than a tune-up, as their sights have always

Plains takes on St. Patrick's tonight in the quarterfinals.

been focused on the middle of February. After two-and-a-half months of swimming one of the most competitive schedules in the state the Blue Devils have finally reached the time of year they've been waiting for anxiously since the first practice of the season.

The second-seeded boys team kicked off its state tournament yesterday when it took on Watchung in the semifinals of the Public North II-A tournament.

The top-seeded Blue Devils' girls team begins its state tournament run today when it takes on the winner of Wednesday's meet between fourth-seeded North Hunterdon and fifth seeded Warren Hills.

Scotch Plains girls squad was seeded second in Public North II-B and swam against Holmdel Wednesday. The semifinals are scheduled for today and the sectional final

will be Tuesday. Scotch Plains boys team defeated Chatham 94-76 Tuesday in the first then, adding depth to go along with its top and forth. There are two or three events round and faced top-seeded Holmdel yester- swimmers and expects to be in a dog fight where they could go 1-2 and there two, three day in the semifinals.

Both Westfield squads are expected to meet the team they opened season against, Bridgewater-Raritan

Monday at the Lincoln School in Bayonne. The girls squad defeated Bridgewater in the opener and will be the favorite to

take home the sectional title Monday. The semifinals are slated for Thursday with the state final scheduled for Feb. 29 at the College of New Jersey.

breaststroke in 1:07.11.

The boys squad dropped the season opener to Bridgewater, falling 90.5-79.5 Dec. 2. Ryan Bartholomew won the 50 free in 22.42 and Chris Heinen won the 200 free in 1:50.87 and 100 fly in 56.21. Sam Gurdus won the 100 Westfield has improved a great deal since

with Bridgewater Monday.

"Anything can happen," said Head Coach cruise into the sectional final where they'll Bruce Johnson. "It has the potential to be a rollercoaster meet."

Johnson believes both teams will get their fare share of victories and believes it will come down to battles for second and third place, and will be decided by the depth of each team. Westfield totaled 3512 power points in the first

meet with Bridgewater, but tallied 3863 against St. Joes Jan. 17 and 3773 against Lawrenceville in the final meet of the regular season. Bridgewater was seeded first on the strength of a 3946 power point score.

"It could come down to the outside lanes," said Johnson. Those are going to be the guys that decide it. We've gotten a lot stronger since the first meet, but so have they.

"The wins should be split. It will be back and maybe for where we could go 1-2. There could be a lot of major score shifts."

Westfield has thrived in these situations in the past, often getting clutch performances from an unexpected hero. The entire Blue Devil squad will be shaved for the meet, hoping for an extra edge.

"Hopefully that trend will continue," said Johnson. "You never know. You have a 45minute window to make what you've worked all season for happen. But lots of times kids like that pressure and the adrenaline boost they get from it."

The relays will be critical, with Bridgewater currently holding faster times in all three. The backstroke, individual medley and 100 and 200 freestyle races could also be turning points in the meet.

"Hopefully we'll have good swims and it will make it all worthwhile," said Johnson. "Win or lose, you just hope you swim as fast as you can. That's the most you can ask.'

MacNeil places fourth, helps Devils set record

Annie Onishi, Miriam Becker-Cohen, Meg Driscoll and Emily MacNeil set a new school record in the process of winning 4x800 relay at the Varsity Classic at the 168th Street Armory in New York Feb. 9.

Westfield finished in 9:33.1, clocking the second-fastest time in the state this season, and beating the school mark on 9:35.6 set in

Onishi split 2:20.6, followed by a 2:30.6 fromBecker-Cohen, a 2:24.5 from Driscoll and a 2:17.4 anchor from MacNeil.

MacNeil placed fourth in the Group 3 800 meter run Sunday, running 2:21.03. Westfield was also fifth in the 4x400 relay in 4:10.53.

BOYS BASKETBALL Terrance Bryant scored 13 points to help the Blue Devils top Hudson Catholic 48-43 Friday.

Westfield faced Summit in the first round of the Union County Tournament Wednesday. The winner faces the Elizabeth-Roselle

winner tomorrow.

WESTFIELD (48)

Hayes 4-0-1-9, Cocozziello 2-0-5-9,

Korfmacher 1-0-0-2, Bryant 5-1-0-13,

Blackmon 3-0-0-6, Hearon 1-1-1-6, Power 0-0-

WHS WRAPUP

HUDSON CATHOLIC (43) Ta. Brown 5-0-3-13, Ty. Brown 1-0-0-2, Philips 0-0-1-1, Carvajal 1-4-0-14, Mihalinec 1-0-1-3, Morales 1-1-0-5, Smalls 1-0-3-5. Totals: 10-5-8-43.

14 8 16 10 - 48 Hudson Catholic 12 6 15 10 -- 43 Westfield 72, Dickinson 53

Jan Cocozziello poured in 25 points as Westfield toppled Dickinson 72-53 Feb. 11. Terrence Bryant added 18 points for the Blue Devils.

Westfield (72)
Hayes 3-0-3-9, Cocozzielio 10-1-2-25, Korfmacher 3-0-0-6, Bryant 6-1-3-18, Blackmon 4-0-0-8, Power 1-0-0-2, Venezia 1-0-0-2, Gerckens 1-0-0-2. Totals: 29-2-8-72. Dickinson (53)

Blount 3-1-2-11, Hairston 2-4-2-18, Jackson 0-0-1-1, Smalls 3-0-0-6, Evelyn 1-1-2-8, Rouse 1-1-0-5, Ihenakwe 2-0-0-4. Totals:

Dickinson 17 13 10 13 - 53 WRESTLING

Somerville won the first six matches on its way to defeating Westfield 60-18 Saturday. 119: Sutphen, S, dec. Kramer 7-6 125: Nally, S, won by forfeit.

130: Ferris, S, pinned Hewitt, :55 135: Bolorny, S, pinned Boyd, 3:05 140: Kraska, S, pinned Whitney, 2:45 145: Spinelli, S, pinned Israelow, 5:52 152: Tomasso, W, pinned Distano, 3:32

Westfield 22 16 14 20 - 72

171: Willard, W, pinned Holderbaum, 2:14 189: McDonald, W, pinned Bruno, 3:25 215: Pichiello, S, dec. Cruikshank, 5-3 HWT: Miller, S, pinned Gismondi, :25 103: Risuvuto, S, won by forfeit.

112: Vanderhoof, S, pinned Kamel, :58. Linden 49, Westfield 21 -Linden won eight straight matches from 171-125, three by forfeit, to defeat Westfield 49-21 Feb. 11.

140: Principato, L, pinned Corea, 0:51 145: Israelow, W. dec. Renderos, 7-6 152: Tomasso, W, pinned Meikle, 1:11 160: Shaffer, W. pinned Absolu, 4:28

171: Sieczkowski, L. dec. Lewis, 8-6 OT 189: Dutto, L, pinned Saggio, 3:27 215: Loperena, L., dec. Cruikshank, 12-6. HWT: Orr, L, pinned Gismondi, 3:00 103: Rodriguez, L, won by forfeit. 112: Pisarski, L. dec. Kamel, 9-1.

119: Celestin, L. won by forfeit.

125: Cooper, L, won by forfeit.

130: Hewitt, W, pinned Morek, :48 135: Horzepa, L, dec. Boyd, 13-6 GIRLS BASKETBALL Union knocked Westfield out

of the Union County Tournament in the preliminary round 53-21 Saturday. Westfield (21)

Elkoury 1-1-0-5, Sinnenberg 2-0-2-6, Fietkiwicz 1-0-0-2, McGrath 0-0-1-1, Judd 1-1-0-5, Pena 1-0-0-2. **Totals: 6-2-3-21. Union** 16 13 11 13 - 53

Westfield 8 0 4 9 - 21



GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE RECORD-PRESS Tyshon Blackman and the Westfield High boys basketball team has been on a roll recently. The Devils faced Summit in the first round of the UCT Wedneday.

Raiders top Mendham, fall to P'burg

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High wrestling team reached the semifinals of the North Jersey Section 2, Group 3 tournament Tuesday, but fell to powerhouse Phillipsburg 41-18.

The Raiders scored a 46-24 win over Mendham in the first round, behind falls by Andrew Silber, Andrew Loomis, Eric Connelly and Yoav Nudell.

Silber and Connolly each won

both of their matches by fall.

Philipsburg 41, Scotch Plains 18

171: Silber, S., pinned Crouse, 1'28

189: Bachi, S. dec. J. Duffy, 10-8 215: Kopesky, P. pinned Fabiano, 1.51 HWT: Pierson, P. dec. Loomis, 3-2. 103: Gregory, P. dec. DeNichilio, 13-0 112: Todd, P. dec. Gano, 5-2. 119: Au, P, dec. Ferrara, 16-0 (TF 4:17) 125: Varga, P, pinned Olsen, :23 130: S. Mineo, S. dec. Stilo, 6-0 135: Norrett, P. dec. P. Mineo, 4-2. 140: Connolly, S, pinned Crounce, 4:26 145: Ahart, P, dec. Watson, 6-1. 152: Coyle, P. dec. Coyl, 12-0 160: M. Duffy, P. dec. Nudell, 9-1. Scotch Plains 46, Mendham 24

171: Silber, S. pinned Robinson, 1:40 189: Bachi, S, won by forfeit 215: Fabiano, S. dec. Tishman, 9-3 HWT: Loomis, S, pinned McNulty, 3:24

8am 6pm

Sundays till 4pm

112: Gano, S. dec. McCluskey, 4-3 119: Hall, M. dec. Ferrara, 7-1 125: Freda, M. pinned Olsen, 2:57 130: S. Mineo, S. dec. Hall, 16-1 (TF 3:11) 135: P. Mineo, S. dec. Mastrobruno, 17-2 (TF

140: Connolly, S. pinned Panicone, :37 145: Conover, M, pinned Watson, 3:21. 152: Coleman, M, pinned Coyl, 3:38 160: Nudell, S. pinned Grego, 3:42 Plains Scotch Bridgewater-Raritan 21 -

Scotch Plains cruised to a 53-21 win over Bridgewater Raritan Saturday.
125: Rvggini. B, pinned Gibbs, 3:40
130: S Mineo, S, won by forfeit
135: P. Mineo. S, dec. Rirwensky, 6-0
140: Connelly. S, won by forfeit. 145: Watson, S. pinned Hercky, 2:45 152: Flood, B. pinned Melendez, 3:36 160: Coyt. S. pinned Fischer, 2:54 171: Silber, S. won by forfeit. 189: Bachi, S. pinned Johnston, :39 215: Dragon, B. dec. Fabiano, 5-2

HWT: Loomis, S. won by forfeit. 103: DeNichilo, S. dec. Conkin, 14-0

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112: Boemio, B. pinned Gano, 1:12 119: Ferrara, S. dec. Liss, 10-2. Scotch Plains 64, Elizabeth 10 — Scotch Plains won the final 10 matches to easily defeat Elizabeth 64-10 Feb. 11.

166: Silber, S, pinned Maples, 5:43 215: Michel, E, pinned Glannaci, 3:52 HWT: Loomis, S, won by forfeit. 103: Suquan, E, dec. DeNichilo, 9-1. 112: Gano, S, dec. Orgada, 6-2. 119: Olsen, S, dec. Jimenes, 13-6. 125: Ferrara, S, pinned Murray, 1:18 130: Francavilla, S, pinned Sessoms, 2:35 135: S. Mineo, S, dec. Mollyk, 15-0 (TF 2:39) 140: P. Mineo, S, pinned Lloyd, :37 145: Connelly, S, dec. Davis, 15-0 (TF 1:47)

152: Melendez, S, pinned Lorjuste, :52 160: Coyt, S, pinned Johnson, :47 171: Nudell, S, won by forfeit. **GIRLS BASKETBALL** The Scotch Plains girls basketball team advanced to the quarterfinal round of the Union County Tournament with a 56-23 win over 16th seeded New

Providence Monday. Hillary Klimowicz recorded a double-double, scoring 12 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Jen Russell nearly did the same, scoring 11 points and grabbing nine boards. Maura Gillooly and Jenny Burke each had 10 points.

Scotch Plains faced ninthseeded Johnson in the quarterfinals yesterday, with the winner meeting the Rahway-Oak Knoll winner Tuesday in the semifi-

Scotch Plaine (56)
Russell 5-0-1-11, Klimowicz 6-0-0-12,
Burke 5-0-0-10, Gillooly 1-2-2-10, DeCataldo 2-0-0-4, Feeley 1-0-2-4, Friess 1-0-0-2, Zazzalli 1-0-1-3. **Totals: 22-2-5-56.**

0-2, Russo 1-0-0-2, Alberse 1-0-0-2, Kania 2-0-2-6, Andres 1-0-0-2. **Totals: 9-0-5-23**, Scotch Plaine 23 13 13 8 - 56 New Providence 2 7 8 6 - 23

Scotch Plains 56, Lincoln 31 - Hillary Klimowicz had eight of her 18 points in the second quarter as Scotch Plains built a 27-13 lead on its way to a 56-31 win over Lincoln Friday. Jenny Burke and Jen Russell each scored eight points for the Raiders.

SCOTCH PLAINS (56) Russell 4-0-0-8, Klimowicz 9-0-0-18, Burke 4-0-0-8, Gillooly 2-1-0-7, DeCataldo 2-0-2-6, Makely 1-0-0-2, Benovengo 1-0-1-3, Zazzalli 1-0-1-3, Kaye 0-0-1-1. Totals: 24-1-5-

LINCOLN (31) Sneeney 1-0-0-2, Goodman 1-1-0-5, Miller 0-1-0-3, Boyd 5-0-0-10, Anderson 4-0-3-11, Harper 0-0-0-0, Jordan 0-0-0-0, Detancey 0-0-0- 0, Totals: 11-2-3-31.

Scotch Plains 15 12 18 11 — 56 Lincoln 7 6 8 10 — 31

BOYS SWIMMING

Scotch Plains defeated Chatham 94-76 in the first round of the North Jersey Section 1, Public B tournament Tuesday. David Hauptman and Mike Sheffield each won two races. 50 yard free: David Hauptman, S, 24.18 100 free: Daveid Hauptman, S, 52.17

PLEATED SHADES

ROMAN SHADES

CELLULAR SHADES

200 free: John Sheffield, S. 1:57.34 500 free: Sturm, C. 5:19.02 100 breast: Mike Sheffield, S, 1:09.38 100 fly; Mike Sheffield, S, 57.06 100 beck: Sturm, C, 58:56 200 IM: McShane, C, 2:18:47 200 free relay: S (Jon Sheffield, Deryck

JOHN FEI/RECORD-PRESS CORRESPONDENT Elizabeth Decataldo and the Scotch Plains girls basketball team reached the quarterfinals of the Union County Tournament with a

Middleton, Mike Miller, David Hauptman),

56-23 win over New Providence.

400 free reley: Chatham, 3:56.1 200 medley reley: S (Mike Franga, Deryck Middleton, Mike Sheffield, David Hauptman),

TRACK

Brian Kopnicki placed fourth in Group 3 in the 3200 meter run Sunday, finishing in 9:51.88. The girls 4x800 meter relay team placed sixth in the group in

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Raiders had their biggest win of the regular season Feb. 11, knocking off 10th ranked Plainfield 74-71 behind a 33 point performance from Derrick Caracter, snapping a five-game losing streak.

Sean Fuller's three-pointer with 44 seconds remaining put

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the Raiders up 69-66. Plainfield scored to cut the lead to a point, but Marteise Gilliam drained two free throws for a 71-68 edge.

Caracter scored 15 of his 33 in

the final quarter, Gilliam fin-

ished with 15 points, hitting all nine of his free throw attempts and Fuller added 12 points.

Caracter 9-1-12-33, Thomas 3-0-1-7, Johnson 0-2-1-7, Fuller 3-2-0-12, Gilliam 3-0-9-15. Totals: 18-5-23-74.

Plainfield (71) Gordon 4-2-12-26, Carnegie 3-1-0-9, Martin 1-2-4-12, Hart 3-0-1-7, Patterson 2-1-0-Barnes 0-1-0-3, Lyles 1-0-0-2, Wade 1-0-3-Totals: 15-7-20-71.

Scotch Plains 12 20 18 24 - 74 Plainfield 11 20 14 26 - 71

(Continued from page C-1)

score 31-26 at the break.

After pushing the lead to six points, Thomas scored consecutive hoops, the second a breakaway jam over Martin, that sparked a 12-5 run to end the third quarter and put the Raiders in front 50-37. A 12-4 run to open the fourth quarter put

the game out of reach.
"I think we just kind of wore them down," said Doherty. "We got used to the pressure and we picked up our defense. They played a very good first half and we just picked it up a little (in the second). They're a

very good team." Rahway was effective with a half-court trap in the first half, but in the second half, with Caracter and Thomas helping the guards

break the pressure, Scotch Plains was able to attack the hoop. "We've done a lot better with that," said Doherty. "That was our achilles heel. We've worked at it in

practice and have gotten a lot better at it." Scotch Plains (75) Caracter 8-0-0-16, Thomas 12-0-2-26, Walker 3-0-4-10, Fuller 1-1-0-5, Johnson 4-0-0-8, Lockery 1-0-0-2, Gates 1-0-0-2, Gilliam

2-0-0-4, Ford 0-0-2-2. Totals: 32-1-8-75.
Rahway (51) Martin 4-5-1-24, Johnson 3-0-1-7, Martin 3-0-2-8, Inbignusun 1-0-2-4, Clarke 1-0-0-2, Johnson 3-0-0-6, Johnson 0-0-0-0. **Totals:**

Scotch Plains 13 18 19 25 - 75 Rahway 12 14 11 14 - 51

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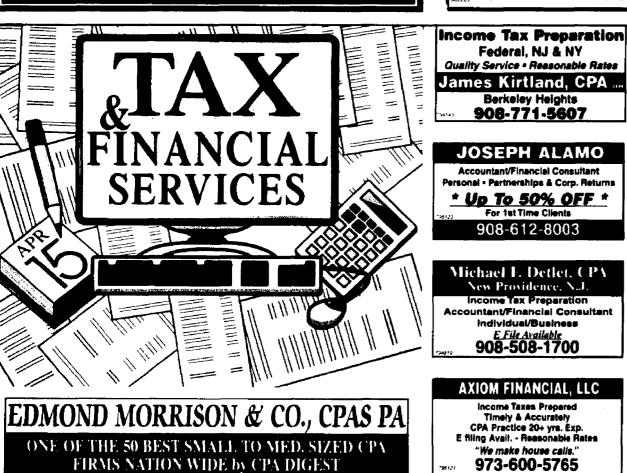
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Real Estate

Surprise! Boring, dull concrete can be the key to brighten up your home

(ARA) - Concrete - it's practical, stur- the cost of installing real stone or other reds, greens and even hues of purple. ly and has been used in the construction of buildings since the early Roman times. However, let's face it — few of us would argue that most concrete patios, driveways, walkways and garage floors are attractive. In fact, more than likely, they're drab, dull, even boring. But, as many homeowners and do-it-yourselfers are discovering, through the use of decorative finishing concrete treatments, those gray, cold outdoor slabs can take on a unique, stylish look that reflects homeowners' particular tastes.

Why Decorative Concrete Treatments?

Decorative concrete treatments, such as staining and stenciling, have gained in popularity during the past few years, although the idea of decorative concrete is not new. Concrete stamping tools have been around since the early 1950s, and concrete coloring has been in existence even longer. However, the selection of finishes, colors and textures have grown, offering homeowners more options when choosing to add a little comph to their outdoor décor.

According to Pete Donati, product manager for H&C Stain, a leading manufacturer of concrete care products, the desire for concrete décor among homeowners is an extension of their interior design-sense. 'Consumers want the ability to express their own style, not just inside their homes, but on the exterior, as well. Concrete décor is emerging as a newly discovered form of easy-to-complete landscape design that allows homeowners to 'dress-up' something as mundane as a bare concrete driveway."

Donati goes on to say that in addition to adding beauty to a home's exterior, decorative concrete allows homeowners to create vibrant colors and intricate designs at half

natural materials. "Rather than spending thousands of dollars on replacing concrete walkways, patios or driveways, at a cost of approximately \$6 a square foot, the same beautiful effect can easily be accomplished by using decorative techniques on existing concrete."

DIY-Friendly Decorative Concrete Treatments

The majority of decorative techniques involve changing either the color or pattern of a concrete surface, or both. The most common treatments make concrete appear more like expensive material such as tile, cobblestone, brick and keystone. These illusions can be accomplished through a number of applications. The following are two of the easiest and most popular DIY treatments:

- Staining: If you're looking to add some pizzazz to your dreary driveway, patio or garage floor, or cover up some unsightly oil stains, staining will serve to change the color or look of your concrete, as well as add lasting protection against the outdoor elements. In several simple steps, you can transform an outdoor concrete surface into a colorful creation.

In most cases, you'll begin by cleaning the area with a concrete de-greaser to help alleviate oil and grease spots. After rinsing off the de-greaser, you should apply an etch cleaner. This step should make the surface feel like 120-grit sandpaper and allow the stain to easily soak into the con-

After waiting for 24 hours, you can apply the first coat of stain with a brush or roller. A second coat can usually be added after the first coat of stain dries for at least another 12 hours.

Today, concrete stains span the color spectrum. They're offered in colors ranging from traditional browns and grays to racy

- Stenciling: If you want to take staining one step further, stenciling is the simplest way to place brick or stone patterns on a concrete surface. Stencil templates can be purchased in rolls of water-resistant plastic. The "stone" pattern is created by rolling the template out on the concrete and applying a spray base color through the stencil, much like the staining procedure.

Stencils come in a variety of patterns, including cobblestone, herringbone, hexagon tile and natural stone. Cost varies by pattern, but Donati adds that in addition to the staining costs, most stencil systems cost between approximately twenty to twenty five cents per square foot.

Helpful Decorative Concrete Treatment Tips

Although decorative concrete projects are very do-it-yourself-friendly, if you're thinking about incorporating color or patterns into an upcoming concrete project, there are some tips that will help you successfully accomplish your goal.

First, know that no colored slab will perfectly match any color chart. Expect some slight variations in coloring, even when working with newly poured concrete. If you are working with new concrete, be sure to let it cure for 30-45 days before attempting to stencil or stain the surface.

Once completed, your new concrete creation will require some maintenance to keep it looking its very best.

Continued weathering can make concrete colors appear faded, so make sure you reseal your colored or stenciled concrete every two to five years after the initial application. Following these tips will help to ensure you can enjoy your concrete artwork for years to come.

Two Burgdorff associates receive 'Gold' recognition

WESTFIELD — Two associates from the Burgdorff ERA Westfield office recently earned the New Jersey Association of Realtors® (NJAR) Circle of Excellence Sales Award-Gold for production of over \$15 million and 25 units minimum in 2003. They are Carol Tener and Joyce Taylor.

Tener has been a member of the NJAR Circle of Excellence every year since 1984, achieving the Gold Level in 1992, 1993, and 2000-2002. She is also a member of the prestigious Burgdorff ERA President's Council. Recognizing only the top 17 sales associates out of Burgdorff's over 700 member sales force, membership in the Burgdorff ERA President's Council is the company's highest and most distinguished honor.

Tener's fine reputation is marked by her professional, compassionate, and approachable demeanor when serving her clients. She was the first-ever recipient of the distinguished Ritz Award, which is bestowed upon the Burgdorff sales associate who best personifies Burgdorff's vision Extraordinary statement, Professionals Exceeding Expectations.'

'Carol's leadership is a tremendous asset to Burgdorff ERA," said George Kraus, vice president and manager of the Westfield office. She has a keen understanding of the real estate market as well as an innovative approach to marketing. Her dedication to customer service exceeds industry standards and continues to impress even the most discriminating buyers and sellers."

To contact Tener, call (908) 233email Tener@burgdorff.com, or visit the Westfield office 600 North Avenue

As for Taylor, "Joyce's outstanding sales performance and dedicated service are an example to sales professionals throughout the real estate industry," stated Kraus. Joyce clearly demonstrates Burgdorff ERA's commitment to provide sophisticated, state-of-theart service to every client and offer a level of customer service exceeding real estate industry standards."

Taylor has been a member of the NJAR Circle of Excellence since 1977 and has been a member of Burgdorff ERA's President's Elite,



JOYCE TAYLOR



CAROL TENER

Leaders Circle, and President's Club. Taylor has a reputation for giving 100 percent, and she is a great asset to Burgdorff. Her family-oriented and straightforward approach has earned her many loyal and repeat customers.

Taylor has lived in Westfield for over 38 years. She and her husband Bill have raised seven children, all of whom graduated from Westfield public schools. She is also the proud "Nana" of 20 grandchildren.

To contact Taylor, call her at (908) 233-6417, email her at Joyce-Taylor@burgdorff.com, or visit the Westfield office.

Founded in 1958, Burgdorff ERA is the top producing ERA real estate firm in dollar volume nationally, with 16 offices and over 700 sales associates in New Jersey. The ERA real estate network includes 2,500 independently owned and operated offices in the United States and in 30 countries.

The Burgdorff ERA Web site is located at www.burgdorff.com.

These tips can help lower your heating bills

natural gas customers is getting worse. Families that shelled out an average of \$540 for the 2000 season now face a bone-chilling boost to \$860, the federal Energy Information inside is fresh. Administration says.

nome a "check-up." Here are Institute in Washington on ment. It reduces the what to look for and take care of so your home is ready for those cold north winds.

tested for air leaks. Many think · that windows and doors are the major cause of a home's air leaks. But according to recent research by the Department of Energy (DOE), gaps, cracks and disconnections in the typical home's duct system are much more significant. The DOE states that the typical duct system loses 25 percent to 40 percent of the energy put out by the central furnace, heat or air conditioner. Leaks are usually the biggest problem.

2. Ask your heating contractor to perform an Infiltrometer "blower door" test. The blower door is a computerized instrument originally invented by the Ask your heating con-Department of Energy. It pinpoints where your home's worst which are much easier to

(ARA) — The bad news for air leaks are, and also measures how leaky the overall house is. While most homes are still far too leaky, some are now quite tight, and need mechanical ventilation to ensure the air

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chances of breakdowns in the middle of winter, improves safety, and 1. Have your duct system pays for itself through more energy efficient operation. For a free report: "How to Identify a Good Heating and Cooling Contractor," go www.comfortinstitute.org.

> 4. Install a programmable set-back thermostat. Turning down the thermostat 8 degrees for eight hours a day will save 8 to 10 percent on home heating costs. An easy way to take advantage of these savings is to lower the thermostat temperature while away from home or sleeping. tractor about new models

enture

5. Consider replacing your old furnace or heat pump. Just like a car, heating equipment doesn't last forever. If your system is more than 12 years old, and you are planning to stay in your home 3. Have your heating system more than a few years, many authorities recommend considernied contractor. A tune-up and ing replacing it before it falls per-

more dependable, and can pay for itself through energy savings as it is up to twice as energy efficient.

However, recent research has found that many newly installed systems have energy wasting mistakes. Check out the free report "Tips and Secrets to Buying a New Heating and Cooling System at www.com-



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Automotive/Classified

Keeping lights on cuts auto crashes, studies show

tive way to reduce crashes.

In fact, it is estimated that daytime running lamps has helped drivers avoid more than 750 pedestrian collisions, with children under the age of 12 accounting for nearly half of these avoided collisions.

Daytime running lamps, front lamps that automatically illuminate when a vehicle is started, can increase vehicle visibility for other drivers and pedestrians in a variety of daytime conditions including fog, rain, dusk and bright sunlight, recent studies have shown.

Consider these real-world traffic safety statistics: 71 percent of all vehicle crashes involve two or more vehicles; 59 percent of multi-vehicle crashes are non-rear end crashes, and 74 percent of all crashes occur during daylight, dawn or dusk.

Several studies, including those conducted by the Traffic National Highway Safety Administration, the **Insurance Institute for Highway** Safety and European and Canadian transportation officials, support the safety benefits of daytime running lamps.

A NHTSA technical report released in 2000 found that daytime running lamps reduced fatal single-vehicle pedestrian crashes by 28 percent.

There were 4,808 traffic-related pedestrian deaths in 2002, according to NHTSA.

Cumulatively, NHTSA estimates motor vehicle crashes cost \$230.6 billion a year, about

NAPSI - It's a low-cost, effec- \$820 per person. Daytime running lamps already are mandatory in Canada, and in several European countries.

> An independent study which reviewed police crash reports and vehicle registration data in 17 states, concluded that General Motors customers have avoided more than 37.000 crashes since the company introduced these lamps in 1995. These figures represent as much as a 12.5 percent reduction in daytime multiple-vehicle crashes and up to a 15 percent reduction in vehicle-pedestrian crashes.

> "Daytime running lamps are an economical, effective way to reduce crashes," said Robert C. Lange, General Motors executive director of structure and safety integration. "Nearly all published reports indicate that DRLs reduce multiple-vehicle and pedestrian collisions, potentially saving lives and preventing thousands of injuries."

Running vehicle lights in the daytime does not significantly shorten bulb life. Most systems use high beams that are designated to operate at half their normal power during daylight hours, thereby conserving energy and fuel. Daytime running lights reduce fuel economy only a fraction of a mile per gallon, depending on the type of system used. It's estimated the cost is about \$3 per year for the average driver-less than a penny a day.

Synthetic oils add protection

Americans, your life revolves around your car.

Getting to work, spending a night on the town, traveling for vacations or visiting family and friends (not to mention all those errands) would be impossible without wheels.

We ask so much of our cars, but they don't ask much of us. There are, however, a few very simple, easy things you can do to extend the life of the cars we rely on for so much.

First, drive safe. Obey traffic laws. Use designated drivers when entertaining. Take your time and slow down. Even a small accident will put your car out-of-service for a week or

Second, read your owner's manual — in particular the section on regularly scheduled maintenance. There's no better investment you can make in your

You'll see the returns in the form of fewer major repairs especially if you plan to keep your car beyond two or three years and longer service life. Ultimately, you'll save money.

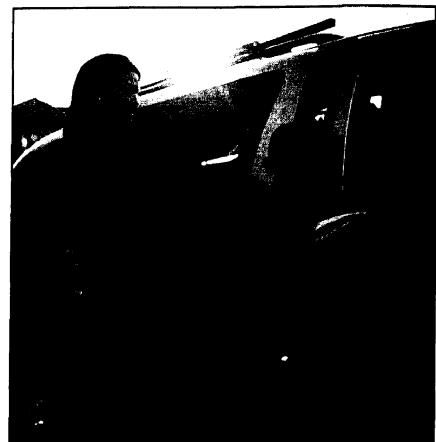
Third, consider using synthetic motor oils. Synthetics offer drivers peace-of-mind every day

ARA - If you're like most because they provide the maximum protection for your engine. And even if you have your oil changed for you, it's easy, since most dealerships, independent repair shops and oil change retailers offer synthetics from manufacturers including Mobil, Red Line, AMSOIL and Castrol.

"Most drivers want to keep their cars as long as possible," says Mike DeBiasi, product manager for Castrol Syntec. "Driving safely, performing scheduled maintenance and using synthetic oils that outperform conventional motor oils is a great triple play for engine and car life."

Recently, Castrol conducted tests under conditions beyond those a car might encounter to demonstrate how synthetic motor oils outperforms conventional oils and ensures the best protection for engines in family cars, SUVs and other passenger

"Given how we all rely on our cars to get us to work, run all those errands and help us visit friends and family," DeBiasi said, "regular oil changes using synthetic oils may be the most efficient and effective way for drivers to protect the vehicles they rely so heavily upon."



Today's busy lifestyle creatures extra stress, and not just on people. The high-demands placed on vehicles can wear the engine down. Synthetic oils, which last long than conventional oil, help combat this

New York auto show unveils new Web site

PRNewswire - With the 2004 New York International Auto Show just around the corner, show producers have already unveiled the first New York debut: www.autoshowNY.com.

The updated Web site offers important show information for industry, press and consumers planning to visit the show.

Consumers can also purchase

advanced tickets online for \$12 and avoid waiting in box office lines. The site also features one of the most comprehensive online new vehicle image databases, show facts and figures, an online shopping area, plus the ever-popular auto trivia quiz.

"Whether you're purchasing tickets, browsing the picture gallery for your next car, or looking for directions to the Javits Center, autoshowNY.com is the place to go," said show director Candida Romanelli.

The site's new vehicle gallery includes photographs, product specifications and technical information about cars and trucks from over 40 vehicle manufacturers, as well as dozens of images of the latest concept

Trivia buffs can test their automotive knowledge and win prizes by entering the daily trivia challenge contest, and the well-organized can map out their visit to the show in advance by checking out the easy-to-view floor plans.

The show opens on April 9 and runs until April 18.



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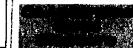
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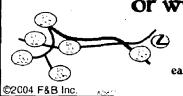
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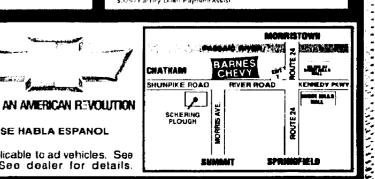








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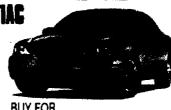
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