

# Record-Press

Serving Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood

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## Welcome home

Mike Diaz is congratulated at home plate by his teammates after scoring a run for the Westfield Post 3 Senior American Legion baseball team in a recent game. Westfield has won 10 of its last 12 games to position itself for a berth in the postseason. For story see Sports, Page C-1.



## The right exit?

The Westfield-based Pick an Exit is finding out all about the music industry the hard way. The band has undertaken a grueling touring schedule, trying to build an audience and land a record contract. See their story on Page A-10.



## Scouts honor Lestarchick

Boy Scout Troop 33 in Fanwood-Scotch Plains recently dedicated a bench at the Fanwood Nature Center in memory of Walter Lestarchick, the late Board of Education employee and father. For the story, see Page A-10.

## REMINDER

## Classic car show back in Westfield

The next Classic Car Show will take place from 6:30-9 p.m. Wednesday along Elm and Quimby streets. In addition to the cars, a DJ will be on hand and there will be games and other entertainment options available. For more, call (908) 233-3021.

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# Council introduces referendum language

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Town Council introduced an ordinance that will establish a non-binding referendum over the town's proposed redevelopment project.

At its regular meeting Tuesday night, the council endorsed a revision of the referendum language it debated a week earlier. On top of a few grammatical and syntactical changes, the council added additional language at the conclusion of the question, which clarifies the nature of the project's risk to taxpayers. Should the

ordinance be passed upon final reading the referendum question, officially, will read:

"Shall the town of Westfield issue approximately \$10,000,000 of general obligation bonds to fund the construction of a parking structure on municipal parking lots 1 and 8 between Prospect and Elm Streets, which would contain approximately 500 total parking spaces and which bonds would be supported by revenue derived from parking fees and mixed use redevelopment fees resulting from approximately 19 residential units and approximately 3000 square feet of retail

space, and, if necessary, the levy of ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable property within the Town of Westfield?"

The council wrestled with the referendum language at a conference session last week. At that meeting, some council members wanted a simpler question that did not redundantly spell out the risks of a general obligation bond; others wanted the wording of the question to thoroughly inform residents about the risk of increased taxes to subsidize the project as a last resort.

At Tuesday's meeting, the council introduced the ordinance by a 7-1 vote, with

Councilman Larry Goldman voting against establishing the non-binding referendum.

"When we get the results in November, what does it tell us?" Goldman said, noting that if the project is approved by voters, the council would be compelled to pursue the project, but if not, the vote only means the public has rejected a specific redevelopment proposal.

Goldman said the council had determined long ago that a parking deficit existed downtown, and said council mem-

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## Summer concert series gets underway in Westfield

Westfield's Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival summer concert series had its 2004 debut Tuesday night. At left, Sonny Kenn of Stringbean and the Stalkers ventures down the neck of his guitar; while below, Ron Kraemer and the Hurricanes jam to their brand of jump blues and swing. Weather permitting, musicians will perform at various downtown locations on Tuesday nights through Aug. 31. Shows will begin at 7 p.m.; to find a roster of performers, check the Downtown Westfield Corporation's website at [www.westfieldtoday.com](http://www.westfieldtoday.com).



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Redevelopment process going well, Mayor Mahr says

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

FANWOOD — While officials are continuing to solicit sentiments about downtown redevelopment from various stakeholders, Mayor Colleen Mahr said leaving the borough's designated redevelopment zone untouched is out of the question.

"I don't think the status quo is an option," Mahr said. "What we've heard in the last nine months is that people want to see... the undeveloped land on Second Street redeveloped."

During her successful election campaign last fall, Mahr argued that the previous administration pursued a rash course with respect to its redevelopment policy, bypassing the critical public input phase of the process. Borough voters proved sympathetic to that point of view, supporting Mahr by a 3-2 margin in

an election many saw as a referendum on redevelopment.

In her first six months in office, Mahr has sought to build a broader base of support for redevelopment. In April, she announced the formation of the Downtown Redevelopment Advisory Committee, and last month the borough hired consultant Schoor DePalma to guide the committee through the process.

At the Fanwood Street Fair last month, the committee joined borough officials at an information booth devoted to redevelopment. Residents completed surveys and contributed comments and ideas on the issue. Mahr termed the booth a "tremendous success" due to the volume of interest the informal counter attracted.

Last week, Mahr and other borough officials met with the

(Continued on page A-2)

# Westfield creates new committee on traffic safety

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Members of the Town Council are hoping the formation of a committee made up of residents and town officials will be able to make streets safer for pedestrians and motorists traveling throughout town.

The council unanimously approved the formation of the Westfield Citizen's Traffic Safety Advisory Committee at its regular meeting Tuesday night. The committee will consist of six residents, including one resident from each ward and two addi-

tional at-large seats for Westfield residents.

The newly-formed committee will also include a council representative from the Public Safety, Transportation, and Parking Committee, and representatives from the police department and the town's Department of Public Works.

"During the campaign I was thinking about how often when talking to people they said they were interested in traffic safety and overwhelmingly considered it a problem in the community," said Councilman Mark

(Continued on page A-2)

# Town will pursue grant for sidewalk near McGinn School

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township is hoping to secure a grant from the Department of Transportation's Safe Streets to School Program to construct a sidewalk along the southeastern side of Evelyn Avenue.

The project, which would be paid for by funds from the Transportation Trust Fund Act, would cost an estimated \$29,000 to complete. The Township Council agreed to apply for the project at a meeting on Tuesday, following the advice of Township Manager Tom Atkins, who said the project meets state criteria and has a good chance of gaining approval.

Evelyn Street borders Fanwood on the south side of town, and according to Atkins, is used by as many as 30 school children traveling to and from McGinn Elementary School each

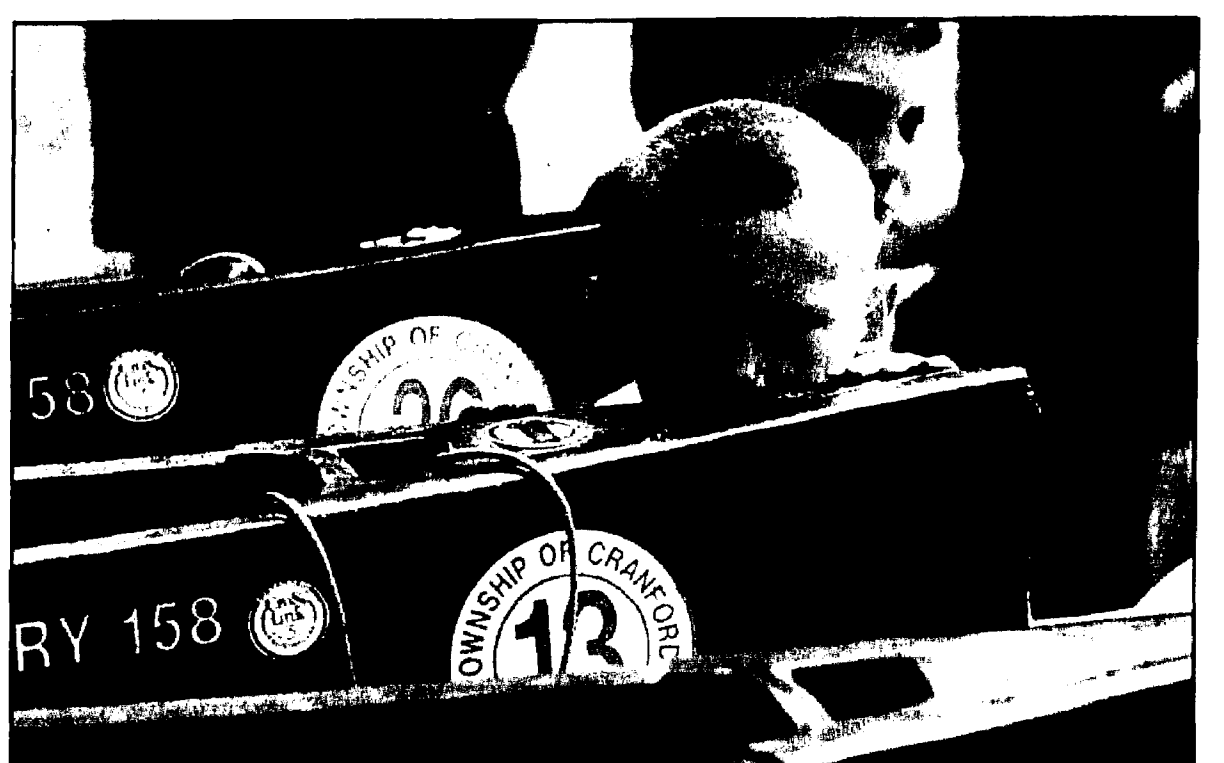
day. No sidewalk exists along the roadway, unlike Trenton Avenue, which runs parallel to Evelyn Street and is similarly used by pedestrians walking to McGinn from Martine Avenue.

Evelyn Street, Roosevelt Avenue, and Trenton Avenue are used as three segments of a semi-circle for parents dropping off and picking up children at McGinn from Martine Avenue.

A police department memo indicates that children walking along the street are crossing the busy roadway at unmarked crosswalks. The memo argues that constructing a sidewalk and striping crosswalks at all intersections would "dramatically increase the safety of our residents in that area."

The memo further points out that Evelyn Street borders Kramer Manor Park, which is used by many residents who live

(Continued on page A-2)



JOHN FEI/CORRESPONDENT

## A stern glare

As part of the annual Independence Day celebration at Nomahegan Park, canoe races were held at the Cranford Canoe Club. Competitors of all ages rowed their vessels into the Rahway River in search of a first, second, or third place trophy. Above, 9-year-old Matt Smith launches into an intense pre-race psychological preparation routine.

# Stormwater rules could raise costs

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD PRESS

### SCOTCH PLAINS

Members of the Township Council got a preview Tuesday night of how they might be affected when new state-mandated stormwater management regulations take effect.

The new regulations will require municipalities to update some procedures, and will also require communities to file annual progress reports. The changes will be administered by the state Department of Environmental Protection but have their origin in regulations established at the federal level.

According to township engineer Ed Gottko, by April 2005 the council will have to pass a series of seven ordinances governing stormwater pollution problems such as pet waste, litter control, improper waste disposal, feeding of wildlife, yard waste, and illicit connections into the township's storm sewer system.

The township will also have to name a stormwater management coordinator, step up inspections and cleanups of catch basins, and

keep more detailed records for inclusion in the township's annual report.

Gottko said while there will be a significant cost for municipalities to comply with the new regulations, that number cannot yet be quantified because most communities don't yet know how much additional manpower or new equipment will be necessary to reach compliance.

Township Manager Tom Atkins said he was attempting to determine whether Scotch Plains can meet the new regulations with salaried staff, or whether the township would be better off hiring an outside consultant to help it meet the new regulations.

"It's obvious there's a tremendous cost involved," said Mayor Martin Marks, noting that the regulations include not only the costs of physical improvements to the township's stormwater management system, but also ongoing management costs.

At the same time, said Gottko, "all this does now is start to formalize what you might have already been doing in the past," explaining that the township is probably ahead of many municipalities because it contracted Killam Associates to conduct a

study of township streams several years ago.

Costs related to meeting the regulations will be borne by the township, as state funds will not be made available for a federally mandated program.

There may also be an enforcement component to the new regulations. Once the township has cleaned up its own waste disposal practices, it can begin to identify whether some residents are disposing waste into the stormwater management system.

Attorney Doug Hansen said the township may not have the legal authority to investigate whether residents are pumping basement water into the stormwater system. If that's the case, township officials may have to wait until a property is sold, including investigation of waste disposal as part of its building inspection process.

Gottko said basement water should be disposed onto residential properties, so it can dissipate through the soil and recharge the groundwater.

"There is a public education component to this," Gottko said. "People will need to recognize that putting oil into a catch basin is not something you should do."

# Westfield creates new committee

(Continued from page A-1)

Ciarrocca, who was elected to his first term last fall and came up with the idea for the committee. "We need to maintain focus on this issue."

The committee will gather information to identify specific traffic safety problems and locations, review solutions, and make recommendations. But Ciarrocca said he wanted the committee to enhance the way safety issues are communicated to town residents.

"The way you get people to reduce speed is by education and changing people's driving habits," Ciarrocca said.

Traffic safety has been a frequent topic at public meetings for much of the past year, and

was one of the major issues debated by candidates for town council during last November's election. Sensitivity to hazards along town roadways has only intensified since, as two pedestrians were killed within a week in December when they were struck by cars.

Currently, town officials are enlisting residents to monitor traffic speeds in their own neighborhoods with radar equipment. The town has also been gathering data gained by radar-equipped speed display signs currently on loan.

According to Councilman Jim Foerst, one of the committee's first tasks could be to review a recent study conducted by Wilbur Smith and Associates, which identified eight town loca-

tions in serious need of traffic improvements.

Forming the committee, he added, would allow town officials to more easily incorporate the perspectives of residents into the decision-making process.

"I know what's important to me, but not necessarily what's important to everyone else," Foerst said. "This committee will help us to manage the number one quality of life issue in town."

Ciarrocca said he hoped to put the committee together over the summer and begin work on traffic issues early in the fall. Anyone interested in volunteering should send a name, address, phone number, and email address for consideration to mciarrocca@westfieldnj.net.

# Redevelopment process going well

(Continued from page A-1)

Fanwood Business and Professional Association (BPA) to solicit opinions about redevelopment from the business community. Surveys were handed out at the BPA meeting, and Mahr said she was pleased with the turnout and dialogue established by the gathering.

"Overall, those who spoke (at the meeting) were very interested in what is going to go on," Mahr said. "They are anxious to have things settled as far as the future goes," she added, noting that she was pleased to learn that many in the business com-

munity said they would be "active participants in the process."

Mahr added property owners within the redevelopment zone had also been contacted, and would be invited to participate in private sessions with the redevelopment committee later this month.

"We feel by the end of July we will have made initial contact with all three entities," Mahr said, referring to residents, business owners, and property owners. "I think that's pretty significant — this is a process we want to be thorough but we also want to keep it on the fast track."

The borough's designated redevelopment zone lies between South Avenue and LaGrande Avenue, and between Martine Avenue and Second Street.

"We're hoping to get a better face on stores along Martine Avenue," she explained, adding she hoped to attract "a better mix of stores" for Fanwood's downtown.

"Development is happening (downtown)," she continued, noting the ongoing Planning Board hearings over a mixed-use project down the street from the redevelopment zone on South Avenue. "We want to move forward."

# Council introduces referendum

(Continued from page A-1)

bers are elected to make tough, informed decisions.

"I see (the referendum) as an abdication of responsibility," he said.

Councilman Peter Echausse said while he normally isn't in favor of relying on a referendum to decide divisive issues, he believed the nature of the risk a general obligation bond places on taxpayers warrants a statement

of support or opposition from residents.

"This is the one issue where a referendum is the proper thing to do," Echausse said. "I get the feeling we'll have a clear indication from voters about how they feel about this."

Mayor Greg McDermott said the council would not be able to provide detailed specifications or financials for the project for a while — perhaps as long as 120 months. A few weeks ago, McDermott had hoped to present that information to the public, much sooner than that.

He said specifics would be internally discussed between the council, developer, and bond counsel over the course of the summer, but did say there would "not be a lot of revision to the final site plan" as spelled out in the referendum question.

The council is expected to formally approve the referendum language during a public hearing to be held at its next regular meeting in August.

# Sidewalk

(Continued from page A-1)

in or near the neighborhood. Atkins proposed constructing a sidewalk of about 800 to 1,000 feet in length, stretching from Jefferson Street to Roosevelt Avenue along Evelyn Street. He said trees, shrubs, and other right-of-way issues preclude extending the proposed sidewalk all the way down to Martine Avenue.

Mayor Martin Marks, in commenting on a grant application the council supported without extended comment, requested that District 22 representatives be made aware of the township's application.

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# AARP plans a pair of trips

WESTFIELD — The next general meeting of the Westfield Chapter No. 4137 of the AARP will be held Sept. 13 in Assembly Hall of the Presbyterian Church. The club is planning the following day trip and multi-night tour which will take place during the autumn months.

Trips and Tours Chairperson Marie Stauder, (908) 889-6769, is taking reservations for a bus trip to Chicago and its nearby areas for six days and seven nights, Oct. 10-16. It will include most meals, and one dinner at the renowned Tommy Gun's Restaurant plus a guided tour of Chicago, the Navy Pier, the

Art Institute, cruise on Lake Michigan, a visit to Harrah's Casino, a private organ concert and tour of the famous Rialto Square Theater. The cost is \$483 for double occupancy; \$632 for single.

A trip is planned for Sept. 29 to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse for a deluxe luncheon and to see the comedy "Any Wednesday." The cost is \$58 and includes the meal, the show, all gratuities, and the bus ride. The bus will leave Westfield at 10 a.m. and return at approximately 4:30 p.m. For reservations or more information, members and non-members may call (908) 232-1362.

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# Commentary

## What now in the downtown?

Several weeks ago, after months upon months of deliberation, the Scotch Plains Township Council rejected a proposal to establish a Special Improvement District in the downtown. Funded by a special assessment on commercial properties in the area, the SID would have been run by a board representing various downtown interests and overseen by a manager who would, among other tasks, serve as an advocate for the downtown. The creation of a SID has been used in more than 70 other municipalities across the state, including many in Union County, to boost central business districts, and the members of the council all expressed support for the district. But faced with a startling lack of support from store owners and their landlords, and even a persistent opposition campaign, the council did the only thing it could. There's no point in establishing a district designed to be of, for and by the downtown stakeholders if those stakeholders aren't prepared to embrace it.

Now, with the SID off the table for the foreseeable future — in all likelihood, until a new generation of business and property owners takes the reins — it is not at all clear what the township will do. As shown in a story in this paper last week, there are no other serious options on the table. Councilwoman Nancy Malool may have been embittered by the failure of her pet project, but there is truth to what she had to say: "If I thought anything else would work, I would have pursued it. I saw it as a last resort — I'm at a loss."

Among the counterproposals that have been offered is Democratic mayoral nominee Andrew Baron's suggestion to bring in a retired executive to manage the downtown on a volunteer basis. Baron has also advocated better relationships with organizations such as the Union County Economic Development Corporation and increased use of college interns to seek more grants and market the downtown.

Some of these measures have the support of, and may have originated with, the SID's opponents. Unfortunately, they are no substitute for the creation of a special district — in fact, they are exactly the sorts of things that should be done in addition to the creation of a SID. Given the competitiveness of the commercial environment, overseeing and advocating for a quality downtown is a full-time job — just ask the SID managers in Cranford, Westfield and elsewhere. In the case of Scotch Plains, where the downtown is in need of maintenance but of a major upgrade, the job is greater.

It's important for downtown supporters to keep their goals in perspective. Scotch Plains will never draw national chains as Westfield has. And there are major physical challenges — the lack of a grid, the fact that the municipal building and parking lot occupies what would otherwise be some of the best commercial property in the downtown. But the status quo isn't acceptable either, and the establishment of a SID was the best way to make progress.

The SID opponents didn't want to shell out for the venture, and in some ways it's hard to argue with that position. But having defeated one proposal, it's incumbent on them to offer an alternative, not just half-measures. What's their solution?

## The Record-Press is here for you

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

Call Editor Gregory Marx at (732) 396-4219 with story suggestions, questions or comments. For sports, call Daniel Murphy at (732) 396-4202.

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

Our fax number is (732) 574-2613.

Our e-mail address is [union@njpublishing.com](mailto:union@njpublishing.com).

### Deadlines

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

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

### Correction policy

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



Letters to the editor

## Westfield's BASH deemed a success

### To The Record-Press:

The 2004 Project Graduation party enhanced the successful BASH tradition by attracting some 85 percent of Westfield High School seniors to this substance-free post-graduation event.

A total of 307 seniors enrolled and attended the annual all-night party at Ricochet Racquet Club for an exhilarating evening of sports, music and entertainment.

The Class of 2004 distinguished itself as one of the better dancing classes in several years, as this throng of lively seniors enjoyed performances by two WHS bands — a BASH first — the Space Toasters and Whistlestop Jackson. Their rousing performances kept everyone's energy at a peak even as dawn was breaking.

The event was, once again, a safe, sober and fun

way for seniors to mark the end of their high school experience.

Thank you again to all the Optimists and spouses, parents, teachers, friends, local businesses, clubs, professionals and corporations who supported this event and made it happen. Thanks also to the Class of 2004 who through their actions enhanced the reputation of BASH as the best party alternative for Westfield High School graduates.

Our best wishes go out to the Class of 2004 for an enjoyable summer and a rewarding new phase of life.

**RUSS FINESTEIN and JAY BOYLE**

**Project Co-Chairmen**

**DOUG MILLER**

**President, Optimist Club of Westfield**

**BRUCE KAUFMANN**

**Westfield Recreation Director**

## Resident urges support for troops

### To The Record-Press:

The Adopt-a-Platoon Soldier Support Effort (AAP) is a nonprofit organization managed nationwide by volunteer mothers. They ensure that United States service members, deployed around the world in all branches of the military, are not forgotten and to promote patriotism in our schools and communities.

To keep our military personnel a bit safer, AAP created projects that meet the need of military requests, establish special projects for holidays, and assign individual morale-lifting mail support to soldiers deployed around the world. At the present time, the AAP is desperately in need of Americans who will step forward to support a U.S. service member deployed overseas!

If you would like to support the troops via the AAP and stand behind those who defend the free-

doms of our country, please visit the website at [www.adoptaplatoon.org](http://www.adoptaplatoon.org) and support an American hero. The AAP carefully screens potential supporters and makes personal contacts for security purposes. You can visit the AAP website or contact the organization via ground mail at: AAP, P.O. Box 574, Kingston, NH 03848. Please send all information necessary to contact you such as mailing address and day and evening phone numbers.

If you'd like a deployed U.S. soldier to be adopted in your name or a care package sent for you, a tax deductible donation can be sent to: AAP HQ, P.O. Box 234, Lozano, TX 78568.

Please, won't you stand up America and continue the traditions of our country by standing behind the troops?

**LYNN CASTALDO**

**Garwood**

## Needle programs have serious flaws

### To The Record-Press:

A growing drug problem throughout New Jersey is reflected by the alarming increase in the amount of intravenous drug users contracting diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis C. As a result, public health authorities and law enforcement agencies are searching for methods of reducing cases of these diseases and intravenous drug use in general. Some private advocates, including billionaire hedge fund operator George Soros, have advocated a government sponsored distribution of clean needles to intravenous drug users in an attempt to curb this problem. This idea, however, poses some serious issues that shed doubt about the actual benefits of this proposed program.

As needle exchange programs (NEPs) offer no direct deterrent to intravenous drug use, cities that have adopted the program have actually seen an increase in drug related activity. Since drug use diminishes good judgment and socially acceptable behavior, many cities, including Baltimore, that have adopted the program found increasing rates of crime. As common sense would dictate, this increase in crime can diminish local property values. Additionally, cities like Vancouver and Montreal have actually experienced dramatic increases in HIV cases after instituting needle exchange programs. In fact, a 1995 National Research Council Institutes of Medicine survey reported that 39 percent of intravenous drug addicts in Vancouver continued to share needles after a needle exchange program was implemented. Vancouver, which distributes over two million clean needles annually, saw AIDS cases among drug addicts rise from 2 percent to 27 percent after the program began. Not only does this place a burden on the infected individuals, but it places a burden on the state which often has to pay for medical care of these individuals. This medical cost can be astronomical as the average lifetime cost of treating one HIV-infected person is \$195,188.

Since needle exchange programs are not available for federal block grants, all funding would have to be done directly by the state; thus imposing an additional burden on taxpayers.

Unfortunately, needle exchange programs address the addict's need for drugs, not the need for

treatment. "Addicts need an opportunity for 'no needles' rather than 'clean needles,' says Jeanette McDougal of Florida, a recovering addict and opponent of needle exchange programs.

The programs seem hypocritical in that the government gives drug users the utensils for committing illegal acts. Additionally, needle exchange programs violate New Jersey state law, which requires a prescription to possess hypodermic needles or syringe. This hypocrisy undermines the efforts of law enforcement agencies that are trying to crack down on the drugs and drug-related criminal activity.

Needle exchange programs send a negative message to children that intravenous drug use is acceptable since the government provides the needles. However, children become affected in much more serious ways as well. Since needle exchange programs allow intravenous drug users to continue their addiction, they create a great amount of dangerous physical waste as infected, sometimes bloody needles are often left on the streets and playgrounds where children play. On Feb. 11, 2001, for instance, a 6-year-old stabbed five children with a discarded syringe he found on a playground in Glade View, Fla. Some may remember the discarded needles on our shore years back.

Not only will these needles seriously injure children, but the state, along with individual municipalities, may face liability if these injuries occur on public property. Once again, the burden of this program will eventually fall on the taxpayers. Advocates of needle exchange have said that drug use will never go away and we must do whatever we can to prevent the diseases it spreads. However, they neglect to inform the public that, according to a recent study by the University of Pennsylvania, more intravenous drug users die of an overdose than do from a drug-related disease. Instead of unsuccessfully trying to stop drug-related disease, perhaps more efforts should be made to halt drug abuse in general.

While needle exchange programs are well-intentioned, they consistently lack the results that could be shown if funds were better spent on drug awareness and treatment programs.

**THEODORE J. ROMANKOW**  
**Union County Prosecutor**

## Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

## There are very few sure things

There's no place I would rather be on a hot summer afternoon than watching the thoroughbreds race at Monmouth Park.

Kissed by the sea breeze just a few miles from the Atlantic in Oceanport, Monmouth Park is cooler than the melting mall parking lots of Central Jersey. It's incredibly well-maintained, the people are remarkably courteous and there's the unmatched excitement of 10 horse races a day.

But what I like most about Monmouth Park is trying to figure out which horse is going to win. I'm not a big bettor — in fact, it costs me more to play a round of golf than a day at Monmouth Park. My joy comes from cashing a \$2 win ticket on a 7-1 overlay that beat the even money favorite by a nose.

On the day before a trip to Monmouth, I always buy *The Racing Form*, perhaps the world's most useful newspaper. For \$5 an issue, *The Racing Form* has all the information you need to make an informed bet with your hard-earned money. The performance of each horse in its last 10 races is listed in exquisite and exact detail. Times, money won, jockey records, etc. are given without bias or interpretation; it's the task of the horseplayer — each with a unique and "infallible" system — to find within that dense thicket of numbers the winning combination of factors. It's an exercise in mental discipline of listening to the numbers talk to you.

No one wins all the time at the track. Like casinos, the survival of racetracks depends on more people losing than winning. The best horseplayers may only win a third of the bets they place; yet, if they place shrewd bets, they can expect a higher return on their investment than leaving the money in a bank or, in a far riskier gamble, the stock market.

I have always been convinced that gambling on the horses at Monmouth Park is a far more honest practice than playing the stock market; in fact, I haven't been shocked by the revelations in the past few years about the financial scandals in some of the country's largest corporations. Investing a stock is not much different than betting on a horse. The major difference is that you probably have access to better information about the horse than about the corporation.

*The Racing Form* does not lie or use incomprehensible accounting rules to boost a mediocre horse's performance. It just gives the unadulterated facts. But in the stock market, unless you're willing to lose yourself in mountains of SEC filings, you're generally have to rely on experts (market analysts, CEOs, your barber, etc.) to choose a stock. You're at the mercy of people whose objectivity is always in doubt and they tend to shade the truth from the harshest light.

Take the big rise in Internet stocks in the late 1990s. No good horse player would have ever invested in those companies. If it doesn't make sense to bet on a horse with a losing record, then why invest in a company that hasn't made any money? A good horseplayer knows you only bet on a horse with a good track record. Yet, buoyed by what Alan Greenspan quite accurately called "irrational exuberance," millions invested in the stocks of these Internet firms and other high-tech firms without taking a moment to use the same common sense that \$2 bettors use every summer afternoon at Monmouth Park.

Any horseplayer will tell you there is no sure thing (though some things are surer than others). We forgot that lesson when the stock market climbed to unrealistic heights; now we are paying for not listening close enough to the numbers.

*Jersey Boy is on vacation this week. A version of this column has previously run in this space.*

## Record-Press

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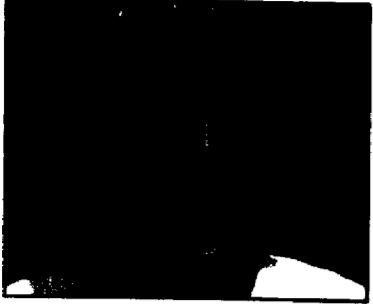
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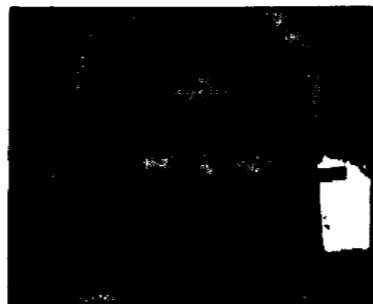
**CARL JUERS**  
visiting Cranford

He should not be tried by the Iraqis, nor should we try him. To try someone with a jury comprised of the person's victims doesn't lend the trial to legitimacy or fairness.



**TONY TORRO**  
Cranford

It's all according to how long it takes. If the trial takes place a year from now, then yes, there can be a fair trial. But if they do it right now, all anyone is going to remember is the recent past.



**JULIO RUSS**  
Westfield

I think he will get a fair trial — Iraq is a progressive Arab country, and they are going to show they are capable of handling it. Last week (at Saddam's first hearing) they let him speak his mind.



**JEAN KOENIG**  
Cranford

I think they'll be fair... because they know the world is watching. Personally, I don't care about him — whatever he gets he deserves.



**AIMEE COSCARELLO**  
North Plainfield

No, (the trial) would be mayhem.



**MARK COSCARELLO**  
North Plainfield

No — he cannot get a fair trial, that would cause more uproars.

# Meyn attends youth forum on medicine

SCOTCH PLAINS — Ashley Meyn of Scotch Plains attended the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine (NYLF/MED) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania June 20-29. Having demonstrated academic achievement and an interest in a career related to science and health, Meyn joined more than 360 outstanding high school juniors and seniors from across the United States at the Forum. Meyn learned first-hand from medical professionals about medical ethics, the global effects of infectious disease, genetic research, public health and many other subjects relevant to the field.

"The National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine offers students like Ashley Meyn a behind-the-scenes look of what it takes to become a medical professional," said Donna Snyder, executive director of NYLF. "The curriculum for the Forum on Medicine complements the classroom experience and allows its participants to gain an understanding of how to get to where they want to be within the universe of medicine."

Brian Strom, M.D., from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, set the tone for the event by discussing what it takes to succeed as a physician. "Medicine is a profession, not a job," he told the students. "You need to be bright to handle the schooling, but hard work and determination is the key to success." He concluded by telling the students, "If you do not graduate, our country will have one less physician and in return will suffer from not having you in the field."

Throughout the program, Meyn and fellow students experienced problem-based learning in a series of intense and stimulating simulations, many exercises of which are faced by students in medical schools throughout the country. NYLF/MED culminated in the Public Health Symposium, in which students developed programs to directly impact their communities on the issues of adolescent health, care for the elderly and chronic disease, among others. The goal of the exercise was to encourage the students to develop

# Ragoza attends a forum for young leaders

WESTFIELD — Local resident Ryan Ragoza joined 200 middle school students throughout the United States at the Junior National Young Leaders Conference (JNYLC) from June 26 to July 1 in Washington, D.C.

Ragoza was nominated to represent Roosevelt Intermediate School based on his outstanding academic achievements and demonstrated leadership potential.

Ragoza will be entering eighth grade at Roosevelt in the fall. He is a Distinguished Honor Roll student and participates in the Gifted and Talented pilot program.

He's been active in the Destination Imagination creative problem solving tournament for three years and plays spring and summer baseball.

# STAR Center helped many find work after 9/11

After helping more than 4,000 people get jobs, job training or assistance in finding a job, the STAR Opportunity Center closed its doors June 30.

"Over the last 30 months The STAR Opportunity Center helped thousands of people who lost their jobs after the 9/11 terrorist attacks," said Freeholder Chairman Angel G. Estrada. "It built an impressive record of employment services when people needed them most."

The center, founded by the county's freeholder board, was funded with a \$3.2 million National Emergency Grant to assist those in the airline industry or in airline-related industries impacted by events of Sept. 11, 2001. It opened its doors in January 2002.

The STAR Center was located adjacent to Newark Liberty International Airport, one of the nation's faster-growing airports and a major passenger and cargo facility. The airport generates thousands of jobs in the region, jobs that were severely impacted by the attacks.

The center offered professional,

## County news

comprehensive job training and placement services, along with social services, to help people who needed employment immediately.

Training in new skills was provided, as well as help for those who wanted to start their own business. Job services included assessment, case management, guidance with self-directed job searches, resume writing classes, ESL training, interview techniques, financial planning and psychological counseling.

"Our staff, from the Union County Department of Human Services, Division of Workforce Development Operations, is to be commended for their efforts in helping the men and women who were affected most by those tragic events to put their professional lives back together," added Estrada. "In most cases, people found jobs that paid the same or more than the jobs they lost."

The STAR Center helped many workers find new jobs with local businesses such as Interbake, Anehuser Busch, Dollar-Rent-A-Car, Fortunoff, CompUSA, Pathmark, Marshall's T.J. Maxx,

Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Oxford Health, Viacom, New Jersey Transit and the Boards of Education in Elizabeth and Linden.

Many of the people served at the STAR Opportunity Center lost more than their jobs as a result of Sept. 11. Many mourned the sudden and violent deaths of co-workers and friends. Because of this unique circumstance, Union County provided grief counseling from the beginning of the program through Project Phoenix, a counseling service for survivors of Sept. 11. Grief counselors were based at Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth.

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# When these teenagers take the stage, 'Anything Goes'

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center's Summer Musical Program presents a Westfield Young Artists Cooperative Theatre (WYACT) production of Cole Porter's quintessential 1930s musical comedy, "Anything Goes."

This singing, tap-dancing production, featuring over 50 talented young performers, musicians, and theater technicians from throughout New Jersey and New York, will premiere 7 p.m. July 16 in NJPAC's Victoria Theater. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$14 for children (under 14), and may be purchased by telephone at (888) GO-NJPAC or at the NJPAC Box Office at 1 Center St. in downtown Newark.

"Anything Goes" will perform at NJPAC for nine performances only, running through July 25. This production is made possible in part by the Turrell Fund and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Differing greatly from last summer's serious musical drama "West Side Story," for which WYACT was awarded the International Award of Excellence by Music Theatre International, "Anything Goes" is

an exuberant, energetic tap-dancing romp. This light hearted tale unfolds on a luxurious cruise-ship, packed with lovable characters, slapstick comedy, extravagant tap numbers and Cole Porter's timeless showtunes, including "Friendship," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "Blow, Gabriel, Blow," "You're the Top," "All Through the Night," "De-Lovely," and, of course, "Anything Goes."

The original "Anything Goes" premiered on Broadway on Nov. 21, 1934, starring the legendary Ethel Merman as the glamorous evangelist, Reno Sweeney. Other characters include the pensive gangster, Moonface Martin, the love-struck Billy Crocker, and the debutante Hope Harcourt. This production of "Anything Goes" looks to recapture the effervescent atmosphere of the cruise ship, the wildly entertaining personalities of the characters, and the experience of 1930's musical theater.

"Anything Goes" features music and lyrics by Cole Porter. NJPAC/WYACT is using the 1962 revised version of the script, with a book by Guy Bolton, P.G. Wodehouse, Howard Lindsay, and Russel

Crouse. This production features scenic design by J. Wiese, costume design by Debra Reed, lighting design by Brenda Dolan, sound design by Mike Sinclair, with musical direction by Ilene Greenbaum and choreography by Sherry Alban. "Anything Goes" is directed by WYACT's co-founder and artistic director Cynthia Meryl.

The principal cast for this production of "Anything Goes" includes Lindsay Rose Sinclair from Westfield as Reno Sweeney, Ariel Frankel as gangster Moonface Martin, David Margittroyd as Billy Crocker, Tara Haight as Hope Harcourt, Jon Christian Hoche as Sir Evelyn Okaley, Christina Vivencio as Mrs. Harcourt, and Keyon Richardson from Rahway as Elisha J. Whitney.

The rest of the ensemble includes Stephanie Allen, Adam Biner, Brittany Blackwell, Nicole Dolgin, Jacob Esformes, Elaine Gutierrez, Jaelyn Ingoglia, Joey Izzo, Jennifer Kujawski, Jill Kurzner, Travis Love, Christine Marquet, Christina Masklee, Samuel McDonald, Kaya Nakamura, Lauren Palmeri, Jennifer Peddicone, Kyndell Pierce, Brittany Servidio, Meggie Siegrist, Kaitlin Soltys, Esley Tate, Joey Tierno, Edward Tolve, Noel Torres, and Caitlin White.

Following its engagement at NJPAC's Victoria Theater, this production of "Anything Goes" will tour to the historic Algonquin Arts Theater in



PHOTO BY WARREN WESTURA

Pictured from left are (first row) Brittany Blackwell of Roselle Park, Jill Kurzner of Springfield, Kyndell Pierce of Union, Adam Biner of Scotch Plains, (second row) Jennifer Kujawski of Westfield, Michael Gleason of Scotch Plains, Lindsay Rose Sinclair ("Reno Sweeney") of Westfield, and Keyon Richardson of Rahway.

Manasquan, performing there from July 30 through Aug. 8.

The NJPAC/WYACT collaboration enables talented youth from New Jersey and beyond to receive the highest quality theater-arts education possible, all at no cost to the participants. These aspiring actors and musicians are provided with the unique opportunity to embrace active roles in a professional theater environment, regardless of their economic backgrounds. Performers and technical stu-

dents from across the region jump at the chance to participate in NJPAC and WYACT's professional-level theatrical productions, which sell out every year to enthusiastic audiences.

Many of the cast members have had the pleasure of taking part in previous NJPAC/WYACT productions. Those actors and musicians speak of their experience with great respect and adoration: Union County resident Kyndell

Pierce, a second-time participant, says that "Overall, working with NJPAC and WYACT has been such an enlightening experience, I can't wait to do 'Anything Goes.' I know it will be as good as the other shows."

This program is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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The Westfield Community Band, under the direction of Elias J. Zareva, will complete their series of summer concerts in the park 7:30 p.m. July 15 in Mindowaskin Park in Westfield.

A band favorite being featured during the concert will be Edwin Goldman's "On the Mall," a great favorite of New Yorkers who went to concerts "on the mall" in Central Park during the mid-1920s. Goldman was often thought to be the second John Phillip Sousa.

The evening will bring an encore performance of the "Three Solitaires" featuring Tom Duncan, Joel Van Tine and Glenn Parisi on trumpet.

The band will also perform "Gypsy Dance" from the opera "Carmen," "Procession of the Nobles" by Rimsky-Korsakov and "Morning, Noon and Night in Vienna" by Frederick Von Suppe.

All events are free to the public and it is suggested that the

audience bring lawn chairs or blankets. In the event of rain, the concert will be held at the Westfield Presbyterian Church in the Assembly Hall, in the main sanctuary.

The Westfield Recreation Department's Summer concert series will continue on Thursday, July 22nd with the Westfield Community Swing Band, "Nostalgia."

The Westfield Community Band's Summer Concert Series is sponsored by the Westfield Recreation Department. For more information, please contact (908) 789-4080.

Prior to the show on the July 15, the band continues its summer concert series 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 8 in the park.

On July 8, a highlight for the evening will be the performance of "Concertino" by Cecile Chaminade. "Concertino" features Helen Bartolick, a resident of Garwood and 14-year-member of

the band. Bartolick enjoys this selection, as "its chromaticism flows easily, yet has playful, expressive melodies."

Having realized how much she enjoyed playing the flute, she wanted to learn as much as she could about music. Once her youngest child went off to school, Bartolick went back to school to receive a bachelor's degree in music at Kean University.

Bartolick is married with three children, maintains a private flute studio and is working toward certification to teach music within the public schools.

The band will also perform "Beguine the Beguine" by Cole Porter, Sinatra in Concert and Leroy Anderson's "Sandpaper Ballet."

The evening's concert will feature a second set of "Chums" within the band, as Steve Mason and Gregory Grispart present a pairing of "Two Little Chums." Mason, a resident of Edison, is a 23-year-

member of the band. A graduate of the University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music, he is in the manufacturing field, as well as a substitute music teacher. Mason also performs in the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra, Summit Chorale, and Presbyterian Church in Berkeley Heights.

The performance will bring another member of the band to take the baton as guest conductor. Bob Vitkowsky, a 10-year-veteran of the band, will lead the band in "Bandology" by Eric Osterling. Vitkowsky is a retired teacher who started performing music in high school and continued playing in the United States Army Band for several years. He performs with the Westfield Dixie All Stars, the Montclair Community Band, the Chautauqua Community Band and the Thursday Morning Brass Ensemble in Chautauqua New York. He also performs on the string bass for various club performances.

## Sign up now to take part in ENCORE performance

Improv, dance, dialects, and auditioning techniques are only a few of the classes campers will experience at Stars of Tomorrow Performing Arts Camp's ENCORE Program. Classes are taught by highly-trained individuals in their respective fields.

Registrations are currently being accepted for ENCORE. Campers may register for one or two weeks from Aug. 2-13. Camp is held at the air-conditioned Cindy Smith Dance Studio, 98 North Ave., Garwood.

Daily improv classes are designed to show the camper the art of spontaneous self-expression as an individual or within a group. Campers learn to work together in harmony and gain the confidence in themselves they need to speak and perform in front of an audience. Dance classes allow campers to physically express the art of theatre through body movement.

To register, call (908) 276-5053 and ask for a copy of the 2004 Anniversary Brochure or visit [www.StarzOfTomorrow.com](http://www.StarzOfTomorrow.com).



"Balloon Art" is one of the many elective classes offered at Stars of Tomorrow Performing Arts Camp this July. For more detailed information about the August program, ENCORE, visit the website at [www.StarzOfTomorrow.com](http://www.StarzOfTomorrow.com) or call (908) 276-5053. Spaces are limited; so campers are encouraged to register early.

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**Teatro Sí comes to Westfield**

Teatro Sí, the premiere Hispanic theater arts company in New Jersey, will present Poets' Corner: Donde Vive La Poesía at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Galeria West in downtown Westfield.

Residents are invited to come enjoy a lively evening of bilingual spoken word along with the passionate sound of Spanish guitars with host Meriel Martinez Moctezuma.

The monthly event brings a selection of prose and poetry in English and Spanish, as performed by talented artists from the tri-state area. The shows also include performances of classic Latin American music by guest musicians, as well as appetizers and refreshments for all in attendance.

Galeria West is located at 121 Central Ave. in downtown Westfield. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or reserved in advance by calling Teatro Sí at (908) 301-9496.

**Send us your news!**

We want to include news of your arts and entertainment event into the Prime Time section of the Cranford Chronicle and Record-Press.

There are numerous ways to get your information to us: mail it to 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ 07066; fax it to (732) 574-2613; or email it to [union@njnpublishing.com](mailto:union@njnpublishing.com). Items should arrive by Friday for the following week's edition.



# 9 Scouts earn Silver Award

WESTFIELD — Nine girls from Troop 402 recently earned the second highest honor in girl scouting, the Girl Scout Silver Award. They are Amanda Barone, Danielle Bercovicz, Caroline Fallon, Katherine Goellner, Elizabeth Harbaugh, Angela Kerins, Jaclyn Kirna, Katherine Lee and Kristian Wendel. Under the leadership of Pat Barone, Barbara Harbaugh, and Liz Fallon, these girls spent three years as Cadette Girl Scouts working towards their goal.

Amanda Barone, Danielle Bercovicz, Caroline Fallon, Angela Kerins and Katherine Lee worked together on their project to coordinate the annual Girl Scout Service Day. After extensive planning, the event was carried out successfully with approximately 150 Girl Scouts attending. They made numerous crafts for donation to local charities including Mobile Meals of Westfield, Runnells Hospital, Children's Specialized Hospital, Westfield Center-Genesis ElderCare and St. Helen's Church for Raphael's Life House and Sr. Pat's Cancer Camp for children. The girls chose this project because it was an opportunity to contribute to the many worthwhile charities in the area.

Kirna's project involved planning and implementing a Mommy and Me overnight camping trip for Brownie Troop 766. She spent over 40 hours on her project, which involved leader and parent meetings, a Rescue Squad trip for the girls to learn about first aid and camping safety, planning menus, camping lists and activities, running a pre-



Nine girls from Troop 402 in Westfield recently earned the Girl Scout Silver Award.

camping Brownie meeting, preparing for the completion of four "try-its," and making 18 "buddy burners." Under her guidance, 16 girls and their moms enjoyed their first ever overnight camping trip. Kirna chose this project because of her love of teaching children and her desire to share one of her favorite parts of being a Girl Scout — the camping experience.

Wendel worked on her project with Troop 538. Together they held an in-gathering which more than 240 Brownies attended. The implementation of the project involved teaching the Brownies a craft and centered around teaching them about proper nutrition and how to exercise and stretch Wendel before doing sporting activities. The girls also learned about expressing their feelings. Kristian chose this project because she felt that the in-gathering would teach these girls more about what it takes to keep a healthy mind and body.

Elizabeth Harbaugh ran a

first-grade Brownie troop for her project. She spent over 35 hours planning and implementing all aspects of the troop. Under her guidance, Troop 345 learned new songs and games, earned four "try-its," and performed five community service projects. Harbaugh also wrote a play about dental health which was performed by the troop, recorded, and given to a nursery school as a teaching aid. She chose this project because she enjoys working with children and wanted to make Girl Scouting for these young girls the wonderful experience it has been for her.

Katherine Goellner chose to help animals for her project. She used an assortment of fabric that she had to make small pillows and fish shaped cat toys. She spent numerous hours making the toys, including cutting and stuffing the fabric fish with cotton and plastic bags. When she finished, Katherine donated them to the Linden Animal Shelter, which was grateful for

the donation. Katherine chose this project because of her love for animals and her desire to help those which were in need.

# Boro gets state grant to renovate its courts

FANWOOD — Mayor Colleen Mahr recently announced that Fanwood is the recipient of a \$5,000 Statewide Livable Communities Grant towards "improvements and renovations to the LaGrande Park Tennis Courts."

According to Linda Caminiti, chairwoman of the Fanwood Recreation Commission, "These tennis courts are widely used by Fanwood residents and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Tennis team and are an integral part of our community and our parks."

"These courts have not had any significant resurfacing work or improvements in more than a decade, and we are pleased that we are able to continue to bring improvements like this to our parks," Caminiti added.

In awarding this grant, Mahr noted that the Department of Environmental Protection has acknowledged the importance of the borough's work in maintaining parks and keeping up with the demand for open space facilities.

Commissioner Bradley Campbell went on to state, "I commend you for your work and stewardship in meeting the environmental challenges you face on a local level."

Construction on the courts is scheduled to begin later this year following the completion of the Recreation Department's summer instruction Tennis Camp program.

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SUSAN MENDELSON, MSW, LSW

# High schooler is headed for USC program

SCOTCH PLAINS — Faye Xu, daughter of Mr. Lei Xu and Ms. Yuli Chen of Scotch Plains, and a junior at Union County Magnet School, has been selected to participate in the Resident Honors Program at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. This fall, Faye is one of 21 students selected from a nationwide search to participate in this highly-competitive early entrance honors program.

Faye has been awarded a Dean's Scholarship from USC. She will be enrolled in the Thematic Option Program, an interdisciplinary honors program which has been nationally recognized as one of the finest honors programs in the country.

At Union County Magnet High School, Faye was involved in extracurricular organizations ranging from the math team and the bridge building team to the community service club and National Honor Society.

In addition, Faye has won many awards as an accomplished pianist, including the grand prize at the Piano Teachers Society of America competition, where she played at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

A budding architect, Faye won the New Jersey Institute of Technology's Women in Technology Leadership Award and has already been certified by the American Design Drafting Association.

"RHP is an excellent opportunity for high school juniors who are academically ready for the challenges of college and who are mature enough to get a head start on their college career," said Dr. Penelope Von Helmolt, director of the program.

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# Community Life

## Briefs

### Chorale members reunited at church

WESTFIELD — Four former members of the Westfield High School Chorale were reunited on June 27, 2004, when they provided the music for the Sunday service at The First Baptist Church of Westfield.

Under the direction of William R. Mathews, the church's Minister of Music and the choir director at WHS, the quartet sang a prelude and various selections throughout the service to support the day's theme of "the good-byes and hellos of life." The Rev. Dr. Darla Turlington officiated and provided reflections. The singers joined the congregation at a reception after worshiping.

The quartet was comprised of rising college sophomores: Soprano Martha Strickland, who attends Azusa Pacific University; alto Christine Pirot of Clemson University; tenor Christopher Lynn of The University of Richmond; and bass Tyler Patla of Duke University.

Each of the singers was a 2003 graduate of Westfield High School and a member of the New Jersey All-State Chorus. The students' continuing efforts towards community service and volunteerism in their hometown were evident and appreciated by the congregation.

### Committee sponsors first trip for seniors

SCOTCH PLAINS — The first trip subsidized by the Scotch Plains Senior Citizen Advisory Committee will be on Aug. 11, when participants will travel to Port Jervis, N.Y. for an enjoyable meal and entertainment.

This cost for this inaugural event is \$30 per person. Non-residents of Scotch Plains can register, if space permits, at a cost of \$32.

Registration started in the Recreation Office at the municipal building on July 6 for residents and will begin July 12 for others. A choice of entrée of either top round of beef, chicken marsala or broiled haddock should be made at registration.

There will be time for a shopping tour of area stores before the entertainment, featuring Rich Wilson, will commence. His performance includes the music of Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Elvis.

The bus will leave from the rear of the municipal building on Park Avenue at 9 a.m. and return about 5:30 p.m. Seniors looking for a pleasant afternoon of good food and memorable entertainment are urged to sign up and be part of this trip.

### Applications sought for proceeds from gala

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Mayor's Charity Gala will be accepting applications from not-for-profit organizations wishing to apply for the funds raised by the Mayor's Gala.

Organizations residing in or which benefit the residents of Scotch Plains will be given priority consideration. Applications are available at the municipal building in the Recreation Office, Room 113.

Nomination information may also be sent via e-mail to ahalperin@scotchplainsnj.com.

### Church set to host 'Lava Lava Island'

WESTFIELD — Children who have completed kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to explore Lava Lava Island at the First Baptist Church of Westfield's Vacation Bible School, running 6:30-8:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, July 26-30.

The VBS program offers Bible lessons, crafts, puppet plays, songs, and snacks, as children move in small groups among various exploration stations.

The five-day program is free. For more information or to receive a registration form, phone the church office at (908) 233-2278 or e-mail first.baptist.westfield@verizon.net.

The church is located at 170 Elm St.



## Hoping to hit it big



PHOTOS COURTESY PICK AN EXIT  
The members of aspiring young band Pick an Exit commit to a grueling touring schedule to promote their music, but once on stage, they're full of energy. At left, vocalist and pianist Evan Statton belts out one of the band's songs, while above, James Reber strums away at his bass. The band has no illusions about the industry, but its members are hard at work to build an audience for their music.

## Westfield-based band hones its skills with a heavy touring schedule

By BRAD BISHOP  
THE RECORD-PRESS

Driving across the country in a wobbling, unreliable van might sound like an amusing vacation to some. But for the young members of Pick an Exit, a promising local band, the journey was equal parts hard work and devotion to craft.

After playing 21 shows in as many cities during the month of June, the Westfield-based band finally returned home to catch its collective breath. Life on the road can be tough, but all things considered, members said, the tour was a success.

Most of the planning and booking for the tour was done by pianist and vocalist Evan Statton, who plans to raise money for the "I Have A Dream" charity in Plainfield, which helps children from low-income areas go to college if they can attain their high school diploma.

"There are a lot of kids who don't feel the need to graduate high school when they don't have the financial capability to go to college," said guitarist Brian Chiger. "The program is very inspiring for a lot of kids."

Statton said booking shows across the country is easier when you are working in conjunction with a charity. Venue managers, he said, often jumped at the chance to get involved with a band associated with a good cause.

But merely booking shows isn't enough to make a tour successful, band members said, particularly when you are playing in a dingy bar for a disinterested or nonexistent crowd.

"Most bands are built by playing empty bars," said bassist James Reber. "Gradually, you fill up the bars, and you go from there."

"Being on tour is really exhausting — it's hard, because often you play to nobody, sell no merchandise, and wind up scraping around for change to pay tolls," said drummer Dave Napiorski.

For Napiorski, the tour was an improvement from the previous summer, when his band was forced to abandon their plans after their van died.

"Last summer was a good learning experience, it was pretty rough," Napiorski said. "I was expecting things like that to happen (this time) and they did."

Their struggling '89 Ford Econoline van broke down six times along the way, and in one unfortunate incident, lost its connection with a trailer somewhere outside of Denver.

"The van was ugly on the outside, and ugly on the inside," Statton joked.

But along the way, Pick an Exit had its share of bright moments. In Utica, the band drew more than 20 people and band members were subsequently surprised to find themselves occasionally recognized by concertgoers. At another venue, what looked like a lost evening spent playing in front of a mohawk, tattoo, and motorcycle crowd became a memorable show when an admirer told them she was from the Rockabilly Hall of Fame.

It's not surprising that Pick an Exit would attract such interest. Although the band's sound is decidedly modern rock, it has its delicate, languid moments, which are dominated by Statton's piano.

"There's definitely a place for piano in contemporary rock," Statton said, noting that his band's sound was inspired in part by piano-based bands like Ben Folds Five and Something Corporate. "I figured if they can do it, I can do it, and that's what I did."

At shows, the band plays selections from its first two EPs, "John Cusack Used To Be My Hero" and "Unsatisfaction Drives Us," and sometimes spontaneously incorporates audience requests. Many of the band's recorded songs were written by Statton, who during Pick an Exit's first months as a band took to emailing his ideas back and forth to Napiorski for revisions.

Although Statton initially wanted to do the band's vocals, he found his voice inadequate. But after interviewing 33 uninspiring singers, the band decided to give Statton one more try after he took voice lessons.

"He surprised us, really blew us away," said Napiorski. "We have gone full circle with our singer."

Selecting a guitarist was also an arduous process, as the band has suffered through a revolving door of 15 different musicians. All four members of Pick an Exit agreed that finding a good guitar player isn't as easy as one might think.

"Everyone knows a few chords," Statton said, "but very few can do anything else."

The group knows enough not to look at the music industry through rose-colored glasses, and each of its members is looking for a day job to pay the bills. Said Chiger, "I got my college degree, and within weeks I find myself practically unemployed, in debt, working at a summer camp and liv-

ing in a trailer — what happened?"

But even as the band members were still in the recovery process a day after returning from a tour that stretched over five weeks, they were excited about the response they received from crowds across the country. And the enthusiasm evident in the way they describe music is matched only by the energy you can hear in their recordings.

Playing in suburban New Jersey — a part of the country not exactly overflowing with music venues — is a benefit, they said, since the state has a thriving music scene that escapes the notice of some.

"New Jersey has an incredibly vibrant underground music scene," said Napiorski. "There are literally tons of bands — it's a wonder anybody gets shows," agreed Statton.

Besides playing local commercial venues, he said many bands rent out VFWs, churches, or just put on shows in rented basements. It adds up to a supportive environment that allows young musicians to cut their teeth in performance.

Statton said the band hopes to use whatever venues are available to get more experience performing in front of a crowd, and eventually get signed by a record label. He joked that getting signed was somewhat similar to impressing college admissions staff, constantly trying to boost the band's resume.

Pick an Exit is scheduled to play tomorrow night at Club Krome in South Amboy. For more information about the band, including future tour information, check their website at [www.pickanexit.com](http://www.pickanexit.com).

## Troop 33 honors memory of Scout's father

FANWOOD — Boy Scout Troop 33 of Fanwood-Scotch Plains honored the late Walter Lestarchick on June 27, dedicating a new park bench in the Fanwood Nature Center in Lestarchick's memory.

A local resident and father of Scout Chris Lestarchick, Walter had generously pitched in with his son and the rest of the troop on many service projects within the community.

Speaking at the ceremony attended by over 50 scouts and family, Troop Committee Chairman Carl Swenson recalled Lestarchick's desire to help the community he grew up in. He and Chris were a familiar site at the Fanwood Recycling Center, where they would work double shifts together.

In recognition of Lestarchick's cheerful participation in many troop events, the Scouts wanted to remember him in a special way, according to Scoutmaster Dave Northrup.



Boy Scout Troop 33 recently dedicated a bench to the memory of the late Walter Lestarchick at the Fanwood Nature Center.

"The boys chose two men of honoring his memory: Troop 33 families contributed to the local scholarship fund established in Walt's memory and they chose to place a bench in the Nature Center made entirely of recycled plastic," said Northrup.

"Last summer, Walt and Chris worked together with the troop on an Eagle project that refurbished the trails, cleared fallen branches and cleaned the stream that runs through the center."

The bench will be engraved in memory of Walter Lestarchick. It was assembled and installed by

the Borough of Fanwood Public Works Department. Arrangements for the bench were carried out with the support of its director, Ray Manfra.

The site of the bench, in the "boardwalk" section of the center, near the bird observation area, was selected and prepared by Nature Center Commissioner Dean Talcott.

Said Northrup, "It is our hope that this beautiful location will be visited by the community and that they will be reminded of what Walter meant to us. We plan to continue to work with the cen-

ter to improve it and see it as a place to meet and enjoy nature."

Walter Lestarchick was an alumnus and employee of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District who died in a tragic collision during a December 2003 snowstorm. He is survived by his son, Troop 33 member Christopher, and his wife Karyn Steele.

Additional donations to the Walter Lestarchick Scholarship Fund are welcomed through the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 123, Fanwood, NJ 07023.

## Car show is set for Wednesday

WESTFIELD — The next Classic Car Show will take place Wednesday, July 14, from 6:30-9 p.m. along Elm and Quimby streets. Residents are invited to come for the cars, the music, and the entertainment, and stay for a meal at one of the outstanding downtown restaurants, many of which now offer dining al fresco. Also, don't miss out on the chance to win generous prizes from the local merchants — the June event featured offerings from Douglas Cosmetics, Quality Portraits of Mountainside and New Norris Chevrolet.

In addition to the display of cars, visitors at the June event were treated to classic "cruising" tunes provided by DJ "Cruisin' Eddie," family activities, and prize drawings. The hula-hoop contest drew a crowd of courageous youngsters while Eddie had the rest of the crowd searching their pockets and purses for an unusual selection of items in order to draw a prize from a grab bag of goodies.

The Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce organizes the monthly events in partnership with Big Top Cruisers Car Club and through the generosity of local merchants. For more information, please contact the Chamber at (908) 233-3021.

# Sports

## MURPHY'S LAW

### Better to be heard than seen

By DANIEL MURPHY  
THE RECORD-PRESS

As a lifelong Mets fan, there are few things sweeter than watching them sweep the Yankees over the weekend.

Sure, I'd rather win a World Series or even just a divisional title. But for right now, stealing bragging rights from Yankee fans is sweeter than a double hazelnut mocha latte.

As much as I'd like to say I was glued to my television, jumping up and down and cheering wildly with every Mets run or Jorge Posada strikeout, I was

not. I was having a much better time listening to the games on the radio, pounding on my steering wheel and honking my horn.

It was hard finding time this weekend to pop down on the couch and watch the Mets outclass the Yankees for three glorious days at Shea Stadium.

Instead I found myself spending most of the time in the car, listening to WFAN's Gary Cohen and Harry Rose.

At one point during Friday night's game, while I was creeping down the Garden State Parkway wondering how in the world so many people could be licensed drivers, Cohen and Rose talked about the symmetry between lying on the beach or barbecuing on a holiday weekend and the sounds of baseball game chiming through the radio in the background.

They couldn't have been more right. I immediately remembered playing on the beaches of Breezy Point as a kid, listening to Dwight Gooden mow down hitter after hitter and being able to walk from jetty to jetty without missing a single pitch because everybody on the coastline was listening to the same game.

Cohen and Rose went on to joke there is probably more people listening to the games stuck in traffic on holiday weekends than lying on the beach, but the point had already been made — there is something special and unique about listening to baseball on the radio.

The pace of the game is just slow enough where you don't have to hang on every word. Whether lying on the beach or stuck in traffic, your mind doesn't have to be focused solely on the action. You can drift into relaxation listening to the waves pound the shore or flip off the person next to you as horns blare without losing your grasp of what's happening on the diamond.

Baseball is the only sport you can really listen to on radio. The Jets and the Giants announcers do a good job but you have to see the hits and the jukes to appreciate what is actually transpiring. It's much easier to describe a mammoth Barry Bonds home run on the radio than a jaw-dropping Barry Sanders touchdown run. Both hockey and basketball really need to be seen to understand exactly what's going on and to appreciate the skill involved.

But with baseball you've seen every play transpire a hundred times and there is a certain pleasure in conjuring the images your own way in your mind's eye.

And the radio announcers are superior to the television broadcast teams.

Cohen and Rose are far better than anything television can offer. I loved growing up with Tim McCarver announcing Mets games, but the pairing of him and Joe Buck on Fox is more annoying than informative or entertaining. If I wanted to hear bad comedy instead of listening to Joe Buck, I'd watch VH-1's Best Week Ever. Fran Healey is downright painful to listen to and Tom Seaver can be draining.

While baseball struggles to hold on to many of its traditions, being able to relax to the sounds of the game — whether on the beach, behind the wheel or at the office — is a big reason why it still remains the national pastime.



## All-Stars set for bowl

By DANIEL MURPHY  
THE RECORD-PRESS

Since his senior season at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School ended, Tim Karis has been itching to get back on the football field and start hitting people again.

While the LaSalle-bound Karis will have to wait a few more weeks before his college football career begins, he's getting a head start on the season as a member of the Union County All Star squad in this year's Snapple Bowl.

"It feels really good to go out there and hit people again and it feels good to get hit," said Karis. "I'm getting fired up to play football again."

Scotch Plains will be well represented at the Snapple Bowl this year as Karis is joined by teammates Mark Giannaci, Kyle Baker, Rob Maroney and Charlie Bach. Westfield will be represented by Jan Coccoziello and Montel Glasco. Scotch Plains' Travis Boff competed in the North-South game last week.

The game, which pits Union County All-Stars against Middlesex County All-Stars, helps raise funds for the Children's Specialized Hospital and the Lakeview School for Cerebral Palsy in Edison.

It is scheduled for 7 p.m. July 15 at East Brunswick High School. Union County evicted the series 5-5 with a 13-0 shutout win last year.

"It's great getting one last shot to play with my teammates," said Karis, who will play defensive end in both college and Thursday's game. "It's great to have that experience of going through practices and going through the game together one last time, even if we're not playing together on the same side of the ball."

In addition to getting one last chance to play with old teammates, and an opportunity to play with old rivals, perhaps the most memorable part of the whole experience will be Monday's visit to the Children's Specialized Hospital in Fanwood. Each and every year the visit with the children is a moving and memorable experience for the players.

"People have told me that the look on the kids faces when you walk in is great," said Karis. "They love it. They look at you like you're professionals. It's a great feeling."

But when kickoff rolls around Thursday winning the game and keeping the bragging rights in Union County will be the main focus.

"The game is for charity, but you still want to go out there and beat the (heck) out of them," said Karis. "There is a lot of pride. You don't really lose anything if you lose the game, but if you win it makes for a much better story you can tell in the future."

## Post 3 making playoff push

By DANIEL MURPHY  
THE RECORD-PRESS

After a slow start to the summer campaign, the Westfield Post 3 Senior American Legion squad has been tearing the cover of the ball and is making a run at a playoff berth.

After starting the season with three losses, Westfield has won 10 of its last 12 behind an explosive offense to improve to 10-5 on the season and move into contention for one of Union County's three postseason slots.

Westfield has four regular season games remaining, on the road against league-leading Roselle Monday and home against Rahway Tuesday, Berkeley Heights Wednesday and Linden Thursday. All games are scheduled to begin at 5:45. The top two teams in the county get automatic bids while the next four squads play off for the final slot.

"If we win the games we should win we should make it," said Head Coach Bob Gordella. "We started out shaky and we've been up and down, but we're putting things together now and putting together wins."

Westfield registered two big wins this week, knocking off Scotch Plains 14-3 and Union 8-6. Westfield scored 11 runs in the first two innings to build an insurmountable lead and defeat Scotch Plains in five innings.

Monday, playing without two key players, Westfield again built an early lead and held off Union for an 8-6 victory. Westfield scored four times in the first inning, added a run in the second and Alex Zierler sealed the win

for Westfield with a three-run home run with two out in the fourth inning. Brandon Cuba went the first five innings for the win and Billy Hearon sealed the victory with two innings of relief work.

"That was a huge win," said Gordella. "We didn't have Mike Murray or Mike Diaz but we still went out and scored eight runs to win. That was the biggest win of the year."

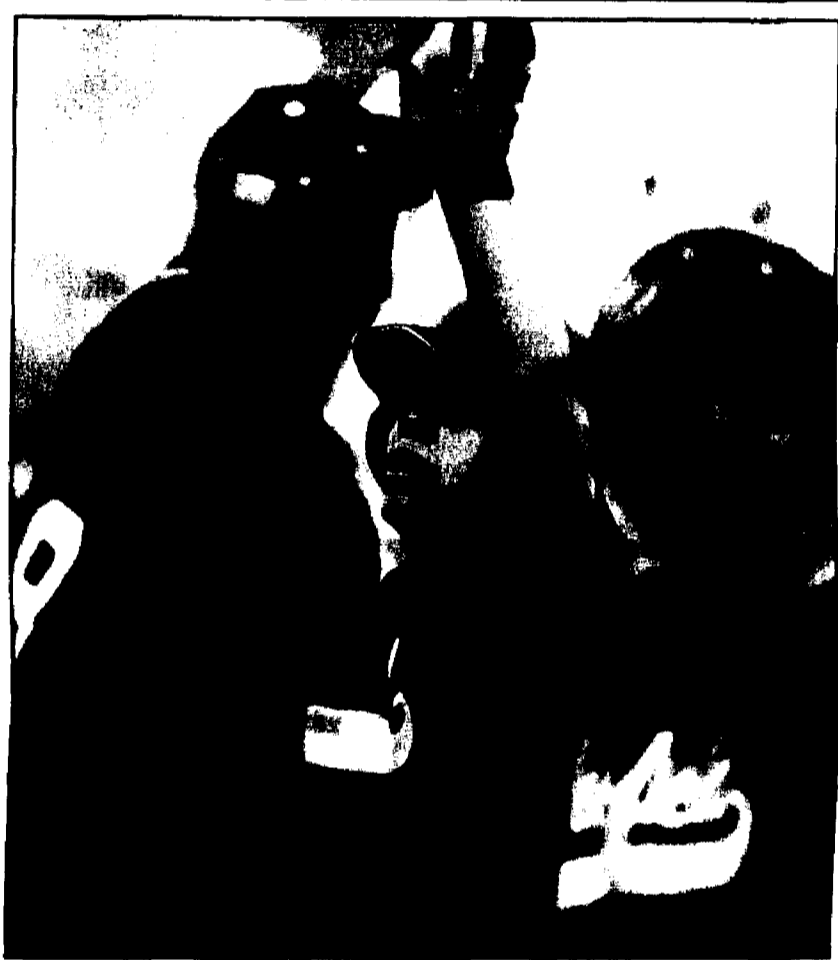
Westfield has been keyed this summer by a lineup that can explode at any time. Murray has led the offense, batting over .600 according to Gordella, with four home runs in 10 games. He hit a monstrous home run against Roselle earlier in the season.

"He's much better than anybody else every time we step on the field, on both sides," said Gordella. "His home run against Roselle was the farthest I've ever seen a high school kid hit a baseball. It went into the top of threes over the 387 sign. That's a far shot for a pro."

Outfielder Craig Ellis has also been smacking the ball with regularity, batting over .400 and first baseman Zierler has been a standout with the stick as well. Cuba has provided quality depth in the pitching rotation behind Hearon and Diaz has gotten hot at the plate recently.

"We're scoring a lot of runs," said Gordella. "We can pour it on. Its nice knowing you can score four or five runs in any inning. At any time it can happen."

In addition to Zierler, Ellis and Cuba, several other youngsters from Westfield's county championship junior varsity squad have made significant contributions,



NICOLE DIMELLATHE RECORD-PRESS

The Westfield Senior American Legion squad has won 10 of its last 12 games to position itself for a berth in the playoffs. Above, Sam Kim dives back into first base in a close loss last week to Roselle. Below, Mike Diaz is congratulated by his teammates after scoring a run.

including Josh Gerkens, Jay Anderson, Chris Hild and Pierce Gaynor. The youngsters have blended in with the veterans from the varsity squad, which also includes Sam Kim, Ken Wichoski, Matt Calvarusso and Steve Meyer.

"The young kids are getting a good look and getting their time," said Gordella. "We're moving people in and out. And we have some seniors that are really helping us out."

It didn't start out that way as the two groups took some time to gel. After Westfield dropped the

first three games Gordella took the team to J.J. Billiards for a bonding session and Westfield has been on fire ever since.

"I don't know what kind of effect it has had but we've been playing much better since," said Gordella. "I'm trying to get them used to playing with one another and to play together as a team and get used to winning and losing together so when the varsity season comes along they don't have to go through that. This is a really talented group and they can make a lot of noise the next couple of years."

## SPORTSCENE

### CAMPS

#### 'Baseball Like It Ought To Be' camp

There is still limited space available for the final session of the "Baseball Like It Ought To Be" camp in Westfield July 6-9.

The camp, open to boys and girls entering grades 4-9, will not be held Monday of that week because of the July 4 holiday weekend, but the sessions on Tuesday through Friday will be extended one-half hour each day until 12:30 p.m.

Walk-up registration will be allowed before the 9 a.m. start of camp Tuesday morning behind Edison Intermediate School on Rahway Avenue.

For camp information or for a brochure and application, contact Westfield varsity baseball coach Bob Brewster at (908) 232-8049 or [biobrew@comcast.net](mailto:biobrew@comcast.net) or contact Larry Cohen at (908) 889-0097 or [nehocrat@yahoo.com](mailto:nehocrat@yahoo.com).

#### Hyatt Hills Summer Golf Camp Program

The Hyatt Hills Golf Complex has instituted a summer camp for younger golfers who wish to learn or improve their golf game. The camp is co-ed and will accept candidates from age 8 to 17. Each camp is limited to 32 students.

Camp will be separated into two groups according to age and ability.

Beginning and intermediate players will be taught basic fundamentals of golf, grip, stance, balance, and rhythm and set-up routine. Emphasis will be

placed on full swing, short game, rules, etiquette and the values of golf.

Advanced players will review the fundamentals of the swing. Emphasis will be placed on scoring, trouble shots, specialty shots, mental preparation and on course strategy.

Repeating campers will receive a special curriculum.

Quality golf instruction will be conducted by experienced golf instructors with a low four-to-one student to instructor ratio. There will be on course play with golf professional.

Five day camps run Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Lunch and two snacks are included in each day and a shirt, hat and bag tag will be provided.

The all-inclusive cost is \$349 per student with a half-day camp, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., available for \$209.

Students may enroll for one week or up to eight weeks. The camp will begin July 5 and run through Aug. 27, the last week beginning Aug. 23.

The Hyatt Hills Golf Complex is one of the finest facilities of its kind. It includes 3,216 yards of scenic beauty and challenge golf for players of all levels; a 40-station driving range and a beautiful 18-hole miniature golf course.

For more information call Bill Castner at 1300 Raritan Rd., Clark, or call (732) 669-9100.

#### Raider Soccer Camp

The 12th annual Raider Soccer Camp will once again be held at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School this summer.

Two sessions of the camp will be

held at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. The first will run from July 5-9 and the second from July 26-30. The camp is open to boys and girls in grades K-11. Players are grouped by ability level and range, beginner to advanced, along with a separate goalkeepers program.

The Raider Soccer Camp has developed a coaching and training philosophy called Select Soccer, which is based on European and South American methods of coaching. The camp will provide a unique soccer environment in which players aspire to learn and gain confidence while playing the game of soccer.

The camp features professional, college and high school coaches and players with experience at all levels and ages. The Dutch Soccer Academy is under the direction of Roger Bongaerts and Pascal Clerigo. Bongaerts and Clerigo will serve as co-directors of the Raider Soccer Camp along with Coach Tom Breznitsky, head boys soccer coach at Scotch Plains. Bongaerts, a resident of Netherlands, holds a Dutch KNVB "B" license and a USSF coaching license. He serves as an international scout for Arsenal FC of the English Premier League.

Heading up the Lady Raider program on a full-time basis this year will be Nickie Kelly, a four-time All-American from Georgian Court College who plays professionally for the Jersey Stallions women's team. The Lady Raider program will be geared to provide a soccer environment in which girls not only learn

but also gain confidence while playing the game of soccer.

For more information and a free brochure call Coach Breznitsky at (908) 322-6102 or email him at [Raidercamp@comcast.net](mailto:Raidercamp@comcast.net)

#### Girls lax camp

Westfield girls lacrosse and Cranford girls lacrosse are partnering with Academy International to bring high quality lacrosse to the community this summer. Girls from 7 to 17 years of age are encouraged to attend this weeklong training academy staffed by top players and coaches from Australia, the UK, and the US.

The Academy will be held the week of Aug. 9 through Aug. 13, 5-8 PM at Sherman Field in Cranford, NJ. Players will be grouped by age and ability and assigned a qualified international coach as they learn new skills, develop effective teamwork and above all have fun! This great event concludes with a player's verses coaches game, award ceremony, and pizza party.

Academy International will offer coaching for beginners to advanced, so everyone is invited. Space is limited, so for discounts and to ensure a place in the academy, register early! This is an excellent opportunity for our players to learn from wonderful role models and its right here on our own local field.

For a brochure or for more information, call one of your local Coordinators, Lois Hely at 908-233-3960, Skip Murray at 908-451-0955 or call 1-888-529-3827. To register on line go to [www.academyinternational.net](http://www.academyinternational.net)

## Westfield Blue advance

The Westfield Blue 10-year old baseball team advanced in the Roselle Park Tournament with a 7-4 weekend win over Westfield White.

Blue fell behind early 4-2 but scored five unanswered runs late in the game to move on. Sam Meyer blasted an opposite field double in the fifth inning to score Kevin Smith and Jack Colwell and put Westfield ahead to stay. In the top of the sixth inning, Blue added two insurance runs on consecutive RBI doubles by the hot hitting Kell Dolan and Liam Devin. Kevin Smith picked up the win for Blue with two innings of perfect pitching. Sam Eliades and Sam Meyer made nice defensive plays at second and first to help keep White in check. Christian Burgdorf gained the save by holding White scoreless over the final two frames.

Blue then had a let down and dropped an 11-9 game to Mountainside. Keegan Hess led the hitters for Blue with a triple and three RBI. Jake Greenberg had two hits and Justin Cafiero added two hits and pitched a perfect last inning for Blue in a game called after just five innings on account of darkness. Mark Hartzell hit several hot shots for Blue.





# Real Estate


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Ruth has been in business since 1997. Throughout her hard work and determination she has acquired her Broker's License. Ruth is very well respected for her knowledge and has been awarded with CENTURY 21 Centurion Award and Million Dollar Club, NJAR Bronze Million Dollar Club and many others. Her professional way in how she conducts her Real Estate business makes it a pleasure to work with her. These qualities amongst many others make her a perfect candidate for her new position. She is fully Bi-Lingual and available for all of your Real Estate needs. Give Ruth a call at 908-351-6800!

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## McWilliams is already a top agent

**WESTFIELD** — Darlene McWilliams joined the Westfield office of Burgdorff ERA in April of 2004 and has already made her mark

with 12 listings and a dollar volume of over \$4 million. Included in the months production was the exciting Grand Opening of Queen City Court. This beautiful cul-de-sac offers a wonderful combination of single family and duplex style living in the heart of Plainfield.

George Kraus, vice president/manger of the Westfield Office, stated, "Darlene has been a wonderful addition to our office this year and has taken advantage of our cutting-edge training and focus sessions to help her clients and expand her own production."



**DARLENE MCWILLIAMS**

You may contact McWilliams at her direct line (908) 233-2863 or email her at Darlene.McWilliams@burgdorff.com

view individual Web pages for each sales associate, electronic listings and directions to the Burgdorff ERA office.

The Burgdorff ERA Westfield Office is a full service real estate center located at 600 North Ave. West. For real estate assistance, or to inquire about a career in real estate, call the office at (908) 233-0065. Visit on the web at www.burgdorff.com to learn more about the Westfield office and the market area served and

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 more than 29,100 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 30 other countries and territories.

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UNION COUNTY MORTGAGE RATES											
Program	Rate	pts	wdn	lip	APR	Program	Rate	pts	wdn	lip	APR
<b>Aapex Mortgage</b> 800-344-2739						<b>E Mortgage Management</b> 877-793-1400					
30-yr. Fixed	5.500	2.00	5%	30	5.780	30-yr. Fixed	6.125	0.00	5%	45	6.210
15-yr. Fixed	4.875	1.75	5%	30	5.300	15-yr. Fixed	5.500	0.00	5%	45	5.610
1-yr ARM	3.000	1.00	5%	30	5.730	20-yr. Jumbo	6.375	0.00	5%	45	6.410
30-yr. Jumbo	5.750	1.25	5%	30	5.960	1-yr ARM	1.950	0.00	10%	45	1.990
15-yr. Jumbo	5.000	1.88	5%	30	5.440	5/1 ARM	4.750	0.00	10%	45	4.790
<b>A Custom Mortgage Sol.</b> 800-259-9510						<b>First Savings Bank</b> 732-726-5450					
30-yr. Fixed	5.500	2.00	5%	30	5.680	30-yr. Fixed	6.250	0.00	5%	60	6.252
15-yr. Fixed	4.875	2.00	5%	30	5.090	15-yr. Fixed	5.625	0.00	5%	60	5.629
30-yr. Jumbo	5.875	1.00	5%	30	5.980	10-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	5%	60	5.130
5/1 ARM	4.500	1.50	5%	30	4.710	Reserve your rate for 30 days while you shop. Ask about our "Great Start Program" as little as 3% down. Visit our Website at www.firstsavings.com					
<b>American Home Mortgage</b> 800-924-9091						<b>Investors Savings Bank</b> 800-252-8119					
30-yr. Fixed	5.875	0.00	5%	60	5.890	30-yr. Fixed	6.250	0.00	5%	90	6.251
15-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.00	5%	60	5.290	30-yr. Jumbo	6.250	0.00	20%	90	6.251
30-yr. Jumbo	6.000	0.00	5%	60	6.040	15-yr. Fixed	5.500	0.00	5%	90	5.501
1-yr. int only	2.250	0.00	5%	60	3.500	5-yr. ARM	5.000	0.00	5%	90	4.766
5/1 ARM	4.500	0.00	5%	60	4.220	10-yr. ARM	5.750	0.00	5%	90	5.353
<b>Blue Bell Mortgage Grp.</b> 800-542-3363						<b>Kentwood Financial</b> 800-353-6896					
30-yr. Fixed	6.000	0.00	20%	30	6.009	30-yr. Fixed	5.875	1.00	5%	30	6.000
20-yr. Fixed	5.750	0.00	20%	30	5.750	15-yr. Fixed	5.250	1.00	5%	30	5.380
15-yr. Fixed	5.375	0.00	20%	30	5.386	30-yr. Jumbo	6.000	1.00	10%	30	6.130
10-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	20%	30	4.884	15-yr. Jumbo	5.375	1.00	10%	30	5.500
<b>Call Dan Deon @ ext. 116 for Expert Service. Direct lender - no Broker Fees. Licensed PA, NJ &amp; DE.</b>						<b>Northeast Financial Corp.</b> 800-922-0606					
Information provided by The National Financial News Services. Rates are valid as of July 2, 2004. Contact lenders directly for APR's, additional fees and services. Conforming quotes based on \$120,000 loan with 20% down with no PMI. Jumbo quotes based on \$350,000 all applicable loan fees included. Loan amounts may affect rates. Lock-in period in days. Borrowers should compare the specifics of various loan arrangements. Check rates daily on the Internet at www.nj.com. © 2003 NFNS. LENDERS WISHING TO PARTICIPATE PLEASE CALL 800-939-NFNS.						30-yr. Fixed 6.000 0.00 5% 30 6.060 15-yr. Fixed 5.375 0.00 5% 30 5.435 5/1 ARM 5.000 0.00 5% 30 5.060 30-yr. Jumbo 6.250 0.00 5% 30 6.340 5/1 Jumbo 5.250 0.00 5% 30 5.340 All Labor ARM Programs Available					

## Carol Tener again receives recognition

**WESTFIELD** — Carol Tener, a top-producing sales associate from the Burgdorff ERA Westfield office, was recently awarded inclusion into the prestigious Burgdorff ERA President's Council for 2004.

her professional, compassionate, and approachable demeanor when serving her clients. She has been a member of the NJAR Circle of Excellence every year since 1992, 1993, and 2000-2003.

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 ranks 13th in the company.

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 statement, "Extraordinary Professionals Exceeding Expectations."

During the recent Burgdorff ERA Annual Awards Breakfast, Tener was recognized by Burgdorff ERA President Pat Hoferkamp for outstanding sales production for the year 2003.

Tener's fine reputation is marked by

"Carol is an elegant and courteous sales associate, whose commitment to service excellence knows no bounds," said Hoferkamp.

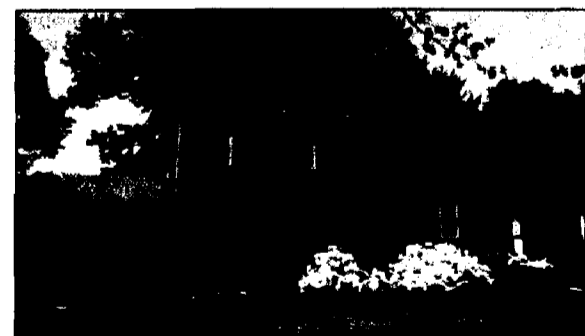
"She continually strives to exceed the expectations of her clients, and in so doing has earned the respect and admiration of real estate professionals throughout the industry. She is an invaluable asset to our company."

To contact Tener, call (908) 233-2243, email Carol.Tener@burgdorff.com, or visit the Westfield office at 600 North Ave. West.

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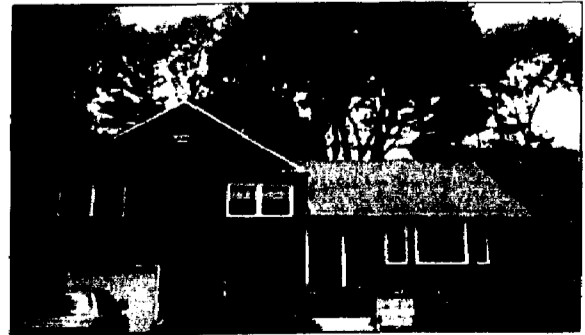
**FANWOOD** \$449,900  
 Cul de sac setting, walk to all schools. 4 bedrooms, 2.1 baths, family room. WSF0439



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**UNION** \$429,900  
 Orchard Park colonial. 3 bedrooms, 2.1 baths, living room fireplace, formal dining room, wonderfully finished rec room. WSF0594



**WESTFIELD** \$499,000  
 Impeccable 3 bedroom, 1.1 bath renovated home at end of cul de sac. Family room with fireplace, new furnace, cac and more. WSF0412



**WESTFIELD** \$649,000  
 Gracious updated 4 bedroom colonial close to NY transportation. Living room fireplace, formal dining room. WSF0484



**WESTFIELD** \$729,900  
 Wychwood charm abounds. 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with 1st floor den, formal dining room with corner cabinet, cac & more. WSF0435

## Grace Figueredo joins Burgdorff in Westfield

**WESTFIELD** — Burgdorff ERA recently announced that Grace Marie Figueredo has joined the company as a sales associate in its Westfield office, located at 600 North Ave. West.

A top-producing New Jersey real estate sales associate, Figueredo recently received the New Jersey Association of Realtors' Circle of Excellence Bronze Award for her sales production during 2003. She is a member of the Greater Union County Association of Realtors and Middlesex Board of Realtors. Figueredo is a former business owner and has experience in the banking industry.

As a longtime resident of Roselle Park and a Union County native, Figueredo can offer advice about local schools, transportation, housing, communities and more. She is married with three children and volunteers at her children's school and sports program.

The Burgdorff ERA Westfield Office is a full-service real estate office. For real estate assistance, or to inquire about a career in real estate, call the office at (908) 233-0065.

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

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 <p><b>NEW 2003 CHEVROLET VENTURE EXT LS</b> \$18848 PER MO. 48 MOS</p>	 <p><b>NEW 2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER</b> \$23189 PER MO. 48 MOS</p>	 <p><b>NEW 2003 CHEVROLET TAHOE 4x4</b> \$28763 PER MO. 48 MOS</p>

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**JULY 10TH IS A UNION COUNTY POLICE DEPT SAFETY CHECK (RAIN DATE JULY 17TH)**

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\$19,495

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\$36,995

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**2000 Buick LeSabre**  
V6 automatic transmission, pwr str/brk/windlocks/trunk/seat, AIR, AM/FM stereo, int. cruise, tilt, rear def, 62,242 miles, STK #4P4A, VIN #YU227099

Automatic! \$10,995

**2003 Mercury Grand Marquis LS**  
4 dr. V8, automatic transmission, pwr str/brk/windlocks/trunk/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD, int. r def, tilt, cruise, leather, 22,111 mi, STK #4P43, VIN #X6E21302

Automatic! \$19,995

**2001 Lincoln Continental**  
4 dr. V8 auto trans, pwr str/brk/windlocks/trunk/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, int. cruise, tilt, leather, moonroof, 25,896 mi, STK #4P42, VIN #Y645774

Certified! \$19,995

**2003 Ford Escape XLT 4x4**  
V6 auto trans, pwr str/brk/windlocks/trunk/seat, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD, int. cruise, int. r def, alum whls, 15,275 mi, STK #4P35, VIN #3B85695

4x4! Auto! \$19,995

**2001 Lincoln Town Car Signature**  
V8 automatic transmission, pwr str/brk/windlocks/trunk/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo cassette, leather, moonroof, 36,509 mi, STK #4P38, VIN #1Y715096

Certified! \$21,995

**2004 Mercury Grand Marquis LS**  
V8 automatic transmission, pwr str/brk/windlocks/trunk/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD, tilt, cruise, r def, int. leather, 15,229 mi, STK #4P45, VIN #X660919

Automatic! \$21,995

**2002 Mercury Mountaineer AWD**  
V8 automatic transmission, pwr str/brk/windlocks/trunk/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo w/5 disc CD chng, int. cruise, r def, leather, 15,692 mi, STK #4P39, VIN #2J1212479

All Wheel Drive! \$23,995

**2003 Mercury Mountaineer AWD**  
V8 auto trans, pwr str/brk/windlocks/trunk/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD, leather, moonroof, 23,383 mi, STK #4T795A, VIN #J1J302951

All Wheel Drive! \$25,995

**2003 Lincoln Town Car Signature**  
4 dr. V8 auto CD transmission, pwr str/brk/windlocks/trunk/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD, int. r def, tilt, cruise, leather, 21,173 mi, STK #4P47, VIN #3Y694812

Certified! \$28,995

**2003 Lincoln Aviator AWD**  
V8 auto trans, pwr str/brk/windlocks/trunk/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo w/5 disc CD chng, int. cruise, r def, int. leather, 16,982 mi, STK #4N28, VIN #J2J20500

All Wheel Drive! \$36,995

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# Automotive/Classified

## Chrysler 300 creates 'buzz'

PRNewswire — AutoVIBES, a monthly automotive study from Harris Interactive and Kelley Blue Book Marketing Research tracking new vehicle nameplates, reveals that the 2005 Chrysler 300 is creating the most buzz of the 41 vehicles currently being tracked.

Two Nissan vehicle launches — the Armada and Titan — were in the top 5, with the Cadillac SRX and Pontiac GTO also making the list.

"Relatively little was known about Chrysler's 300 until it hit the showroom with a bang," said Charlie Vogelheim, executive editor and vehicle expert at Kelley Blue Book. "It's no surprise that the 300 is No. 1 because it has been embraced by car buyers and the press alike. Chrysler hit a home run with the 300."

The 300, which AutoVIBES has been tracking since January, began climbing in the study's ranking when it hit showroom floors in early April. It jumped from No. 14 during its pre-launch period to No. 3 in April and reached the top spot in the May wave of the study.

"Nissan's two launches have generated a lot of attention, and they have done a good job of getting the word out about those vehicles," said Vogelheim. "It remains to be seen whether that buzz will translate into sales that will meet industry expectations."

The top five were determined using survey data collected among in-market new

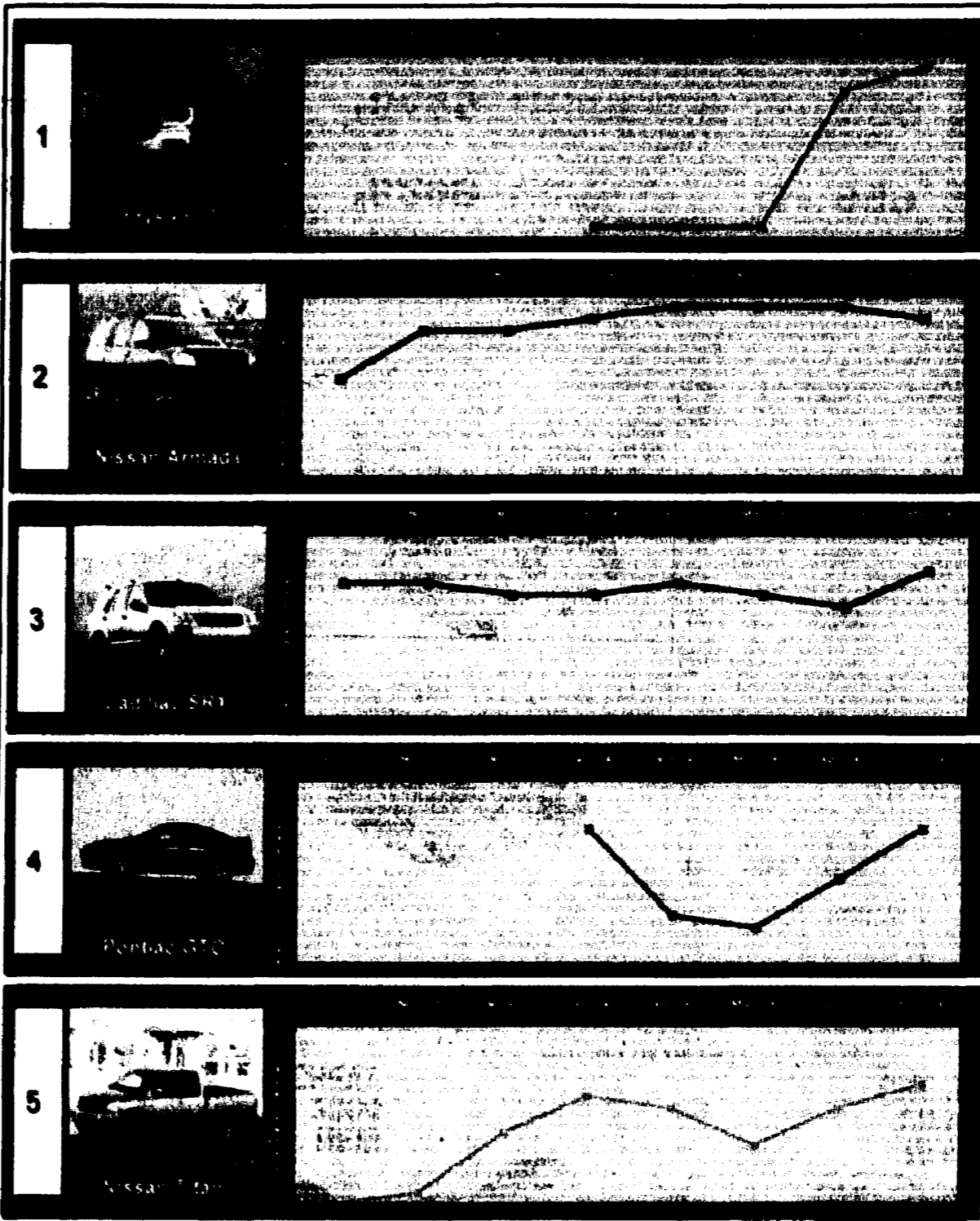
vehicle shoppers (within 12 months from a new purchase or lease) during May 2004. Factors that were taken into account were the awareness, favorability, and attribute ratings associated with each vehicle. All vehicles tracked in AutoVIBES are "new" nameplates. Redesigned models were not considered.

"Because AutoVIBES takes a monthly snapshot of consumer attitudes, it allows vehicle advertisers, marketers and OEMs to see the effectiveness of their consumer outreach campaigns in real time to better determine which messages are resonating with vehicle buyers," said Scott Upham, senior vice president of Automotive & Transportation Research for Harris Interactive.

AutoVIBES is a monthly survey of approximately 2,000 U.S. adults ages 18 and over who plan to purchase or lease a new vehicle within the next 12 months.

The survey is conducted the third week of each month for five days on Kelley Blue Book's Web site. The study was designed and analyzed jointly by Harris Interactive and Kelley Blue Book Marketing Research.

These data were weighted by age, sex, race, education, income and region, and propensity weighted to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online, to reflect the total U.S. adult population of in-market vehicle buyers.



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## Certification guarantees quality work

METROCREATIVE SERVICES — When it comes to maintaining a vehicle, no one wants service that isn't up to par.

The independent, nonprofit National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence was established to help improve the quality of vehicle repair and service through the testing and certification of repair and service professionals.

Today, there are more than 400,000 technicians and parts specialists with current ASE credentials. These certified professionals work in every segment of the automotive service industry: car and truck dealerships, independent garages, fleets, service stations, franchises and more.

Certification, however, is not for life. To remain certified, those with ASE credentials must be retested every five years. ASE-certified professionals usually wear blue and white ASE insignia and carry credentials listing their areas of expertise, while employers and shop owners often display their technicians' credentials in the customer waiting area. Consumers should look for facilities displaying the ASE Blue Seal of Excellence sign.

Consumers benefit from ASE certification. It is a yardstick that can help measure the knowledge and skills of individual technicians as well as the commitment to quality of the repair facility employing ASE-certified professionals.

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DOWN PAYMENT: \$3,000  
DOUBLE DOWN: \$6,000  
VIN #47334814, 4 DR, 4 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s, cd, cruise, \$10,200. Includes \$4000 owner loyalty rebate, if qual., \$1000 Olds owner loyalty rebate, if qual.

**\$7,200**

### NEW 2004 CHEVY MALIBU

MSRP: \$20,230  
DOWN PAYMENT: \$3,250  
DOUBLE DOWN: \$6,500  
VIN #4F221892, 4 DR, 4 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s, cd, cruise, leather, sunroof, includes \$4000 owner loyalty rebate, if qual., \$1000 Olds owner loyalty rebate, if qual.

**\$10,480**

### NEW 2004 CHEVY TRACKER 4WD

MSRP: \$22,260  
DOWN PAYMENT: \$3,750  
DOUBLE DOWN: \$7,500

**\$12,010**

VIN #46902780, 4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks, cd, cruise, roof rack, keyless entry. Includes \$5000 owner loyalty rebate, if qual., \$1000 Olds owner loyalty rebate, if qual.

### NEW 2004 CHEVY IMPALA

MSRP: \$22,445  
DOWN PAYMENT: \$3,500  
DOUBLE DOWN: \$7,000

**\$12,145**

VIN #49437173, 4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/l/mirrors, cass. Includes \$4000 owner loyalty rebate, if qual., \$1000 Olds owner loyalty rebate, if qual.

### NEW 2004 CHEVY VENTURE

MSRP: \$25,275  
DOWN PAYMENT: \$4,000  
DOUBLE DOWN: \$8,000

**\$13,275**

VIN #4D226773, 4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrors, cd, cruise, alum whls, 7 passng, OnStar, keyless entry. Includes \$5000 owner loyalty rebate, if qual., \$1000 Olds owner loyalty rebate, if qual.

### NEW 2004 CHEVY MONTE CARLO LS

MSRP: \$26,675  
DOWN PAYMENT: \$3,500  
DOUBLE DOWN: \$7,000

**\$16,175**

VIN #49319720, 2 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrors/seats, cass/cd, cruise, sunroof, leather, alum whls, alarm/sec sys, XM radio. Includes \$4000 owner loyalty rebate, if qual., \$1000 Olds owner loyalty rebate, if qual.

### NEW 2004 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 4X4

MSRP: \$32,050  
DOWN PAYMENT: \$4,250  
DOUBLE DOWN: \$8,500

**\$19,300**

VIN #42330462, 4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, p/s/ABS/winds/lks, cd, cruise, roof rack, bluetooth, alarm/sec sys. Includes \$5000 owner loyalty rebate, if qual., \$1000 Olds owner loyalty rebate, if qual.

### NEW 2004 CHEVY TAHOE LS 4WD

MSRP: \$40,735  
DOWN PAYMENT: \$5,500  
DOUBLE DOWN: \$11,000

**\$24,235**

VIN #41263635, 4 DR, 8 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrors, cd, cruise, roof rack, 3rd row seat, trailer pkg. Includes \$5000 owner loyalty rebate, if qual., \$1000 Olds owner loyalty rebate, if qual.

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'96 BUCK REGAL CUSTOM  
VIN #T1478436, Stk #14339A, 4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrors/seats, cass/cd, cruise, leather, alloys, 41,587 mi. Very Low Miles. **\$5999**

'95 CHEVY CAPRICE  
VIN #SR166415, Stk #14264A, 4 DR, 8 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/b/winds/lks/mirrors/seats, cass, 54,297 mi. **\$6499**

'95 CADILLAC CONCOURS  
VIN #SU268470, Stk #14323A, 4 DR, 8 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/b/winds/lks/mirrors/seats, cass, leather, chrome whls, pearl white, 73,011 mi. **\$7499**

'01 TOYOTA ECHO  
VIN #10165288, Stk #14342A, 4 DR, 4 cyl., auto, a/c, am/fm, 38,779 mi. A gas miser. **\$7799**

'02 CHEVY PRIZM  
VIN #Z2413919, Stk #14286A, 4 DR, 4 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrors, am/fm, alum whls, 21,711 mi. **\$8299**

'97 CADILLAC SEVILLE  
VIN #VU841159, Stk #14218A, 4 DR, 8 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrors/seats, cass, leather, chrome whls, 73,787 mi. **\$8499**

'02 SATURN L200  
VIN #ZY503458, Stk #14316A, 4 DR, 4 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrors, cass, 22,591 mi. **\$10,499**

'02 FORD E250 CARGO VAN  
VIN #2HA28305, Stk #14325A, 2 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, am/fm, 50,765 mi. **\$14,999**

'01 CHRYSLER 300M  
VIN #1H630066, Stk #14343A, 4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrors/seats, cass/cd, cruise, moonroof, leather, chrome whls, 46,857 mi. **\$14,999**

'02 CHEVY 8-10 CREW CAB PICK-UP 4WD  
VIN #K2158877, Stk #14328A, 4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrors, cass/cd, cruise, alloys, 11,771 mi. **\$18,799**

'02 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE SE81  
VIN #24188627, Stk #14344A, 4 DR, 6 cyl., supercharged, auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrors/seats, cass/cd, cruise, moonroof, leather, chrome whls, heads-up display, 32,559 mi. **\$19,599**

'01 CHEVY CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE  
VIN #15112425, Stk #14345A, 2 DR, 8 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrors, cass/cd, cruise, leather, chrome whls, 3,627 mi. **\$32,999**



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