

Record-Press

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Friday, December 31, 2004

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Board upholds town's decision to fire sergeant

By GREG MARK
and BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township's decision to terminate police Sgt. James Cassidy due to sexual harassment allegations and claims he had sex with a female officer while on duty has been upheld by the state's Merit System Board.

The members of the Merit System Board unanimously agreed on the action at a Dec. 15 meeting, modifying a recommendation by administrative law judge Jesse Strauss that Cassidy be demoted to patrolman but reinstated with back pay.

Cassidy was fired in March 2003 after an internal investigation and closed disciplinary hearings were conducted over the course of 2002.

Township Manager Tom Atkins made the decision to fire Cassidy upon the recommendation of hearing officer Robert Czech, who was brought in to conduct the investigation for the township.

Township officials received a letter Monday notifying them of the decision, though the Merit System Board must still take formal action and issue an opinion explaining its ruling at a later date. Henry Mauer, the board's director of practice and labor relations, confirmed the decision in a

phone call last week. The board's next meeting is Jan. 12.

"It confirms that the decision to terminate him was the correct one," said Atkins. "...We thought we did it correctly, we thought we did what we needed to do."

Though Strauss in November recommended Cassidy be reinstated, the judge also found the testimony against the officer to be credible and wrote that Cassidy was guilty of "unbecoming conduct" and "neglect of duty." Relying on those factual findings, the board decided termination, rather than demotion, is an appropriate penalty.

Tim Smith, Cassidy's attorney, would

not comment directly on the decision, which he had not seen as of Monday. But once the board formally upholds the termination, Smith said, he will file a motion for reconsideration. If that is not successful, he will file an appeal in state court.

"We're going to follow this through," Smith said, adding, "This termination was an injustice and a travesty."

Smith maintained Cassidy is innocent of the charges of harassment and sex on the job, and questioned the judge's factual findings. And though his client is currently engaged in a number of lawsuits against the township, he said Cassidy wants to return to his post in the police department.

2004: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Development, taxes and war overseas were big issues in past year

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

In a year in which newspaper headlines chronicled major international events and a contentious presidential election campaign, area residents were also tuned into local public affairs. Major policy initiatives reached their conclusion in Westfield, Scotch Plains, and Fanwood, and America's ongoing military efforts were deeply felt in local communities.

In Westfield, the town's redevelopment project dominated headlines, culminating in a startling town-wide vote in November. Scotch Plains residents debated the merits of creating a special improvement district (SID) to revitalize the downtown; voters there also cast ballots for mayor and a council seat on Election Day, following a lively debate over taxes and downtown revitalization. And an election, downtown redevelopment, and a municipal budget crisis filled the agenda in Fanwood under first-year Mayor Colleen Mahr.

January: As the year began, Westfield Mayor Greg McDermott charted a course for downtown redevelopment, drawing parallels between Westfield's hot-button issues at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries. He pledged to proceed with a redevelopment plan that was "both financially and aesthetically beneficial" to the town. McDermott also identified pedestrian safety measures as a priority.

In Fanwood, Mahr assumed office alongside two newly-elected Democrats to the Borough Council. At the borough's reorganiza-

(Continued on page B-1)



NICOLE DIMELLA/THE RECORD-PRESS
Westfield resident Sam Weiss, a National Guardsman stationed at the Westfield Army, plays with his daughter Cadence, then 8½ months, at a "Support the Troops" rally in June. The members of Weiss' battalion were deployed this year to serve in Iraq.

District likely to drop rankings

By MATT DEBOAN
CORRESPONDENT

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Board of Education unanimously approved on first reading a policy change that would eliminate the reporting of class rank on high school students' transcripts beginning in the 2007-2008 school year. The final vote on the proposed change will be conducted at the Jan. 27 board meeting.

At the Dec. 21 meeting, high school Principal David Heisey presented the board with arguments against using the class rank system. Heisey said college admissions counselors are no longer viewing class rank as an important factor in the admissions process.

He referred to a recent report by the National Association for College Admission Counseling that stated that 47 percent of public and private high schools no longer report class rank.

Heisey said that the ranking system could cause students to take certain courses with the purpose of boosting their class rank rather than enrolling in classes they would enjoy. "Students should take classes for the pleasure of learning," he said.

Board member Lance Porter agreed that class ranking can cause competitive students to lose sight of the goals of education.

"Students may take courses to pad their rank and do what they have to do to get that extra thousandth of a point," he said.

Heisey said a committee made up of students and guidance counselors investigated the pros and cons of the ranking system before making its recommendation. Student reaction to the proposed elimination of class ranking has been positive, he added.

Heisey cited Harvard dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid William Fitzsimmons in asserting that the focus on class rank is diminishing among competitive colleges.

"The truth is, oftentimes there are no meaningful differences whatsoever between someone who is number one and someone who is number 81," said Heisey, quoting Fitzsimmons.

Class rank is convenient for

(Continued on page A-2)

Changes in works for clean-up program

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Mounting costs could inspire significant changes to the township's spring bulky waste clean-up program, officials said at a meeting last week.

In what has become a township ritual during June, residents comb through their basements and attics, hauling unwanted sofas, refrigerators, and other large appliances onto the side of the road for pickup. But administering the program has become costly, and

township officials are considering converting the program to a user-based system.

According to Township Manager Tom Atkins, the program cost taxpayers \$184,000 in 2003, or roughly \$26 dollars per household. But for a variety of reasons, the cost of the program leaped to \$296,000 in 2004, or \$41 per homeowner, he said. Atkins estimated the program could carry a price tag of \$400,000 to \$500,000 in a few years.

"The question is, should the community continue the service in the form it's been in?" Atkins asked at the Township Council's con-

ference meeting Dec. 21.

Contractors are no longer submitting competitive bids to run the Scotch Plains program, said Public Works Supervisor Walter DiNizo. And residents are leaving more trash in front of their houses than in previous years, with much of it is coming in from outside of town, officials said.

In 1997, contractors collected 1,300 tons of bulky waste in Scotch Plains, but this year the figure climbed to 1,874 tons. The DPW

(Continued on page A-2)

Gr. 8 sports to continue, at least for spring

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Board of Education has decided to fund middle school baseball and softball programs this spring, despite growing concerns about the impact of recently imposed spending caps.

At its regular meeting Dec. 21, board members re-opened a debate over middle school sports, which have been cut and reinstated several times during recent years. The program was cut two years ago and restored prior to the current school year.

The board decided to allocate funds for the spring program during the last budget

process, but board members cautioned the public that eighth-grade sports could be removed from the 2005-06 budget. Though middle school sports have the enthusiastic support of many on the board, several are reluctant to start up a program that could be eliminated shortly afterward.

Middle school sports are currently funded at \$40,000. School officials expect 70 to 80 students to participate in baseball and softball this year.

Board member Kim Rhodes said the school district should follow through on funding the spring sports because the community voted for it by approving the budget last April.

"The community and the kids want it," she

said. "... If we don't provide (funding) there is going to be a severe backlash."

Besides baseball and softball, the district offers middle school field hockey and wrestling, and will offer cross-country.

The looming specter of S-1701, a recently-enacted state law that limits school district spending, concerned board member Julia Walker. Because the district doesn't yet know the full effect of the law, it shouldn't make promises to the community it may not be able to keep, she said.

"If we can't bring the budget in beneath the cap, I'm going to recommend we cut

(Continued on page A-2)

School district is making progress on its new website

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — During a recent update of progress on school technology goals, district officials unveiled the basic format of the district's planned new website.

At the conclusion of its Dec. 21 meeting, the Board of Education approved a \$17,300 software license agreement with Midwest Internet Consulting Group, an Illinois based-service provider.

According to Superintendent William Foley, school officials considered six companies that specialize in developing and maintaining websites, but settled on Midwest because their system offers the most available memory at the lowest cost. Other companies charged at least \$25,000 for the service and offered smaller

amounts of storage space.

Foley added that the Midwest system is very user-friendly, so teachers won't have to learn complicated programming languages such as HTML to upload information onto the website. And the district received a positive response from other districts working with the company, he said.

Currently, the school district's website is merged with a community website that is maintained by resident Daryl Walker. Though grateful for Walker's efforts, board members and residents have been concerned for some time that the site is cluttered with unnecessary information, and that important school information is difficult to find. The existing website is available at www.westfieldnj.com.

Maintenance of the new website will carry an annual cost of about \$3,400, offi-

cialists said. The district will purchase a server from Midwest, which will ship the server with the website's software included. The server will be installed and maintained at Westfield High School.

When the new website is brought online early in 2005, the district will not be hiring a webmaster. Instead, Foley said, he has developed an organizational chart that establishes a structure and governs rules.

The site will include departmental news, individual teacher pages and other school information. School administrators hope it will allow users to download school forms, PDF files, graphics and video and audio files, though individual files will be limited to 5 megabytes each.

In recent weeks, officials have expressed interest in making student grades available online for parents, but

Foley said he wasn't sufficiently comfortable with website security to include that information.

Several board members suggested the website should include larger video files such as board presentations or class lessons, but Foley said he wanted to keep the system simple in the first years of operation. Also, he said, large files are difficult to download using the dial-up connections that many residents still rely on.

Resident Gary McCready suggested the board ensure the system has an appropriate backup, so it can be easily restored if it crashes or is sabotaged by hackers. And big pieces of video, he added, could be transmitted by acquiring a separate server that would be made accessible by a link from the new website.

"This is long overdue, and very exciting," said board member Arlene Gardner.

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He's one of ours

Former Scotch Plains-Fanwood football standout Nathan Jones is enjoying his rookie season on the Dallas Cowboys and will be in uniform against the Giants Sunday night at Giants Stadium. See Sports, Page C-1.



Franklin students take the express

Kindergartners at Westfield's Franklin Elementary School formed a human train and headed to the school library for a reading of "The Polar Express." See the full picture inside on Page A-5.



Stable announces a new series

A series of programs titled "Beyond Just Riding," and open to both novices and advanced riders, begins Jan. 8 at the Watchung Stable. For more, see Page A-3.

REMINDER

Grab some grub with the guys

The men from First Baptist Church of Westfield will meet for "Grab with the Guys" 6:45 a.m. Tuesday at the Scotchwood Diner on Route 22 East in Scotch Plains. Newcomers are welcome to attend, either in a business suit or blue jeans. For more information, call (908) 233-2278 or e-mail firstbaptist.westfield@verizon.net.

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Changes in works for program

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has received complaints about trash being dumped on homeowners' lawns, abandoned by outside residents who know the township's system is not governed by weight limits.

At the same time, tipping fees are increasing in Union County. According to the Union County Utility Authority, a new five-year agreement with Waste Management will result in a 53 percent increase in costs for the service. The cost spike is the result of diminishing landfill capacity in the Northeast, according to a letter written by UCUA Executive Director Joseph Spatola.

In the five years between the UCUA's bulky-waste disposal contracts, large landfills such as the Meadowlands and Fresh Kills landfills have closed or are no longer accepting county trash, so more large waste is being shipped to Pennsylvania.

Other counties — such as neigh-

boring Middlesex — have lower tipping fees because they have their own landfills, said UCUA attorney Jonathan Williams.

The end result is an increasingly expensive program in Scotch Plains, and an increasingly unfair program, too, said Mayor Martin Marks.

"Because (the program) is built into the property tax base, people have been paying for spring clean-up based on the assessed value of their house and not based on the amount of debris in front of their house," Marks said.

As an alternative, councilwomen Nancy Malool and Carolyn Sorge have been exploring the possibility of shifting spring clean-up to the user-based system currently in place in Westfield and Cranford. In those communities, residents pay for permits based on the volume of the bulky waste they leave in front of their homes.

Neighbors can pool their resources for permits, which cost between \$50 and \$100 for 750

pounds of trash. Because homeowners would be paying directly for disposal of their waste, they would be more cognizant of illegal dumping, said DiNizo.

Though the township would probably collect branches, limbs, and brush during April or May, disposal of vegetative waste would largely fall on homeowners in a modified program. Atkins is hoping that Westfield will allow Scotch Plains residents to dispose of vegetative waste at the Conservation Center off Lamberts Mill Road.

If the council approves the program change in the beginning of the year, permits would have to be sold sometime before April, and residents "would need to think ahead and get their homes in order," Marks said.

Acknowledging that the bulky-waste program is among the township's most popular, Marks affirmed his interest in maintaining the service.

"We are committed to spring clean-up, but with costs skyrocketing...we need to find a better and more cost-efficient way to do it," Marks added.

From a tax perspective, the program accounts for the equivalent of three tax points, officials noted. But in a complex municipal budget process that will see increases in other line items, residents shouldn't expect a corresponding decline in their property tax bill, said Malool.

If we change the program, "taxes won't go down, but they won't go up three points more than they would have," Malool said.

Moonglowers play benefit concert

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Jazz Band, the Moonglowers, will perform at a Jan. 19 fundraiser at Nantina's in the Park restaurant in Belleville.

The event will raise money for the Robert Luongo ALS fund, which was started by Luongo's long-time friend Phil Cuzzi, a Major League Baseball umpire, as an educational trust fund for Luongo's daughter Dominique, now 10. Vincent Turturiello, the supervisor of fine arts at the high school and director of the Moonglowers, has known Luongo and Cuzzi since their childhood days in Belleville.

Luongo, an all-state football star at Belleville High School who played his college ball at Harvard, died in March 2004 at the age of 49 from the effects of ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), more commonly referred to as Lou Gehrig's disease. It is a neuro-degenerative disease that

attacks nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. ALS causes a person to lose the brain's ability to initiate and control voluntary muscle movement. In its latter stages, the person becomes totally paralyzed, yet mental capabilities are still intact.

The Moonglowers are the oldest jazz band in New Jersey, having started in 1936. Featured musicians at the benefit will be Steven Voelker on tenor saxophone, Casey Hoynes-O'Connor on alto saxophone, Justin Rowinski on trombone, and Michael Sheffield on percussion. Featured vocalists will be Nick Mond and Lauren Perrotta.

Tickets can be purchased for \$60 by emailing Phil Cuzzi at pcuzzi@optonline.net or calling Joe Zarra at Nutley High School at (973) 661-8832 or Danny Vitello at Printing Techniques at (973) 667-2606. Make checks payable to "Robert Luongo ALS Fund" and mail to 32 Mapes Ave. Nutley, NJ 07110 as soon as possible.

District likely to drop rankings

(Continued from page A-1)

college admissions committees looking for a means to compare students at a given high school, but every high school has different ranking systems and varying levels of student achievement. The system makes it easier for colleges to dismiss prospective students who aren't in the top tier of their class, even if they have solid grade point averages. Heisey asserted that a student's academic credentials should speak for themselves.

However, he said that if certain colleges require class rank in order for a student to be considered for admission, the high school will provide it. He also said that students and their par-

ents will be able to request their class rank through the guidance department.

The high school will still use GPAs to determine the valedictorian and salutatorian, the students ranked number one and two in the class, who each give speeches at graduation.

Neighboring high schools have already stopped reporting class rank on student transcripts. Westfield, Summit, Governor Livingston and New Providence high schools have all eliminated the system.

Westfield High School Principal Robert Petix said the school studied class ranking and determined that the colleges were using the system to eliminate potential students despite

the academic differences all high schools have.

"A student could be ranked number 25 in our school but be number one in another school," Petix said.

Westfield does not name a valedictorian or salutatorian, but instead recognizes a group of students with exemplary academic achievement. Petix said this practice was not connected to the elimination of the class ranking system, but instead was adopted when parents contested who was entitled to the title of valedictorian.

Gr. 8 sports

(Continued from page A-1)

eighth-grade sports (in future years)," said Superintendent William Foley.

Echoing those sentiments, board member Beth Cassie said she was concerned starting and then eliminating the middle school baseball and softball programs could have a disruptive effect.

But board members ultimately decided to follow through with funding, even if that means the program has a life of just one year.

"We need to let people know that things may be changing next year," said board member Alice Hunnicut. "The budget process is going to be very difficult this year."

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County will offer a series of clinics at Watchung Stable

"Beyond Just Riding" is the title of a new series of winter clinics being offered at the Watchung Stable. Sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, the winter clinics will be held on Saturdays and Sundays from Jan. 8 through Feb. 27, 2005.

Patrons from age 9 through adult are invited to register for as many clinics as they would like. Each "Beyond Just Riding" session will last two hours, and will focus on one of a variety of horse and horsemanship topics offered in new and exciting ways. Classes have been designed for specific riding levels and ages, with some open to all levels of expertise, including people who have never ridden before. The clinics will be held in the barn or the lecture area of the stable.

The winter clinics are being offered as follows:
Jan. 8: 1-3 p.m., Braiding Clinic, intermediate and

advanced.
Jan. 9: 9-11 a.m., Riding in Harmony With Your Horse, intermediate and advanced.

Jan. 9: 1-3 p.m., Behavior of the Horse, advanced-beginner through advanced

Jan. 15: 9-11 a.m., Who the Heck is George Morris?, intermediate and advanced.

Jan. 15: 1-3 p.m., Basic Equine Science, all welcome.

Jan. 16: 9-11 a.m., Learn How To Groom & Tack Up, all adults only.

Jan. 22: 9-11 a.m., Course Design and Jumping Clinic, intermediate and advanced.

Jan. 22: 1-3 p.m., What It Takes to Own a Horse, all welcome.

Jan. 23: 9-11 a.m., Bits and Pieces, advanced-beginner through advanced.

Jan. 29: 9-11 a.m., Riding and Safety Basics, beginner through intermediate.

Jan. 30: 9-11 a.m., Conformation and Colors of the Horse, advanced riders only.

Feb. 5: 9-11 a.m., Lets Go To an Outside Show!, advanced rid-



The "Beyond Just Riding" sessions begin Jan. 8 at the county stable in Mountainside.

ers only.
Feb. 6: 9-11 a.m., Grooming and Tacking of the Horse, beginner through intermediate.
Feb. 12: 9-11 a.m., How to Draw Horses, all welcome.

Feb. 12: 9-11 a.m., Horse Evolution and History of Riding, all welcome.

Feb. 13: 9-11 a.m., Anatomy of the Horse, intermediate and advanced.

Feb. 19: 9-11 a.m., Legs and Lameness, intermediate and advanced.

Feb. 20: 9-11 a.m., Boots and Bandaging, intermediate and advanced.

Feb. 20: 9-11 a.m., Basic Horsemanship 101, all welcome.

Feb. 26: 9-11 a.m., Body Clipping, intermediate and

advanced.
Feb. 26: 9-11 a.m., Basic Tack, beginner and advanced-beginner.
Feb. 26: 1-3 p.m., Body Clipping, intermediate and advanced.

Feb. 26: 1-3 p.m., Extended Grooming, advanced-beginner through advanced.

Feb. 27: 9-11 a.m., Introduction to Horses, all welcome.

Space is limited and in-person pre-registration is required at the Watchung Stables, located at 1160 Summit Lane in Mountainside. The cost is \$20 per person for each two-hour clinic.

For further information, call the Watchung Stable office at (908) 789-3665.

Duff receives Y's award for distinguished service

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA has named Joseph Duff as its 2005 Distinguished Service Award recipient.

A longtime resident of the township, Duff has devoted considerable time and effort to the YMCA and the community for the past 36 years. He sat on the YMCA board of directors for many years, serving as president from 1970 to 1973, and later served as chairman and vice chairman of the YMCA board of trustees.

The New Jersey YMCA State Alliance recently recognized him as the "2004 Adult Volunteer of the Year" for the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA.

"Joe has given a lifetime of

service, not only to our YMCA but to the community," said Karin Dreixler, executive director of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA. "He truly deserves this recognition."

After serving on active duty with the United States Navy from 1952-55, Duff continued in its active reserves for the next 25 years, rising to the rank of captain. He spent nearly 30 years with Bristol-Myers Squibb, retiring in 1993 as director of marketing research services.

Duff currently serves as president of the board of trustees for the Scotch Plains Library and as a trustee and treasurer for the Senior Citizens Housing Corporation in Scotch Plains.

Movie shown at library

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library will close at 3 p.m. Dec. 31 and will be closed on Jan. 1, and Jan. 2. The following events will be held during the week of Jan. 3:

At 7 p.m. Jan. 4, members can enjoy a viewing of the Portuguese film 'Central Station.' Set in a Rio de Janeiro train station, the story centers around Dora, a sour-faced woman who offers her letter-writing skills to those eager to communicate with their loved ones. But Dora fails to mail the letters

she crafts, which greatly impacts one young man's future. Dora's journey with this young man leads her to find faith and a family of her own. The film is rated R and in Portuguese; 113 minutes. Register at the Circulation Desk.

On Jan. 7, the library hosts "Frank Sinatra: His Life in Song," followed by a discussion about the beloved performer. The program will be held at 1:30 p.m.; light refreshments will be served.

For more information, call (908) 789-4090.

Moms group will meet Jan. 5

WESTFIELD — The Union County Chapter of Mothers & More will hold its first meeting of 2005 at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Westfield YMCA, located at 220 Clark St.

The meeting, open to the public, will be an opportunity for mothers in the area to find out more about the chapter's activities, which include mom and tot outings, mom's night out, playgroups, a book club, a scrap booking club and more.

This meeting will also feature an opportunity to swap any odd and unwanted Christmas gifts cluttering up the house. Interested persons may bring up to three new or gently-used items of any value to swap. One mom's junk may be another mom's treasure.

The chapter holds meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the YMCA. For more information, call K.C. at (908) 789-8626 or Kim at (908) 889-2286 or

log on to the website located at http://www.geocities.com/mothersandmore10.

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D. Hercel rises to rank of Eagle

SCOTCH PLAINS — Township resident Dennis M. Hercel Jr. was presented with the rank of Eagle Scout at Boy Scout Troop 104's Court of Honor on Dec. 20 at All Saints Episcopal Church.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank presented by the Boy Scouts of America and is earned by fewer than 10 percent of the boys who join Scouting.

Attending the ceremony were Martin Marks, mayor of Scotch Plains, and Colleen Mahr, mayor of Fanwood.

Hercel joined Troop 104 in September 1997. Since that time, he progressed through the Boy Scout ranks and earned 23 merit badges. He also was Senior Patrol Leader for more than a year.

To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Hercel was required to

perform a community service project. He created and issued electronic identification files for children. Photos and personal information were placed on floppy disks, which were given to parents for use in missing- or abducted-child emergencies.

To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Hercel was required to perform a community service project. He created and issued electronic identification files for children.

During his time with the Boy Scouts, Hercel accompanied the troop on many trips and activities, including camping at

Gettysburg and Valley Forge, Pa., and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Hercel also spent one week every summer for seven years at Sabbatis Adventure Camp, Long Lake, N.Y.

Hercel, a freshman at Union County College, plans to pursue a mechanical engineering degree. He also is employed at the Liberty Science Center as an interpretive associate, where he began as a volunteer more than four years ago. Hercel also works part time in the organization's engineering department.

He is a certified scuba diver and a car enthusiast, and has taken flying lessons.

Boy Scout Troop 104, which has been active for almost 50 years, is sponsored by All Saints Episcopal Church in Scotch Plains.

AARP will meet on January 3

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Area AARP Chapter 4137 will hold its next general meeting Monday. This meeting will take place in the newly renovated Presbyterian Church Assembly Hall on the corner of Broad Street and Mountain Avenue. Ample parking spaces are available at the rear of the building. Guests and potential members are invited.

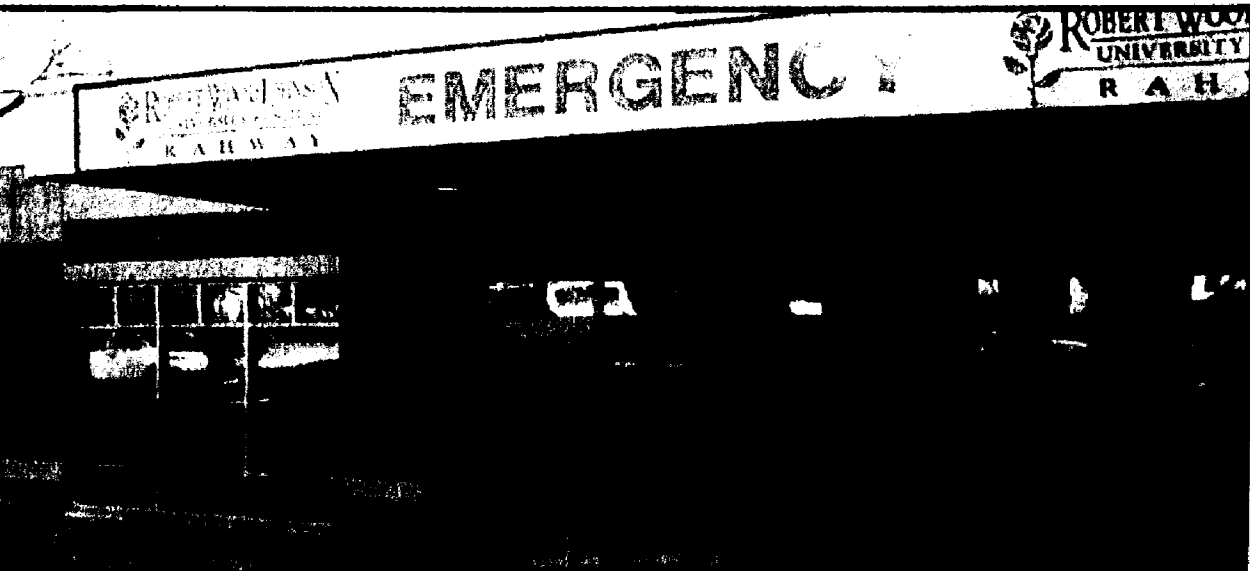
The social period with refreshments will begin at 1 p.m., and a brief business meeting will be held later. Members are reminded that annual dues of \$5 are now due.

The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Fontaine Gatti, who will show a slide program titled "A Once in a Lifetime Trip to Egypt." She has been in the travel field for 38 years and is a member of the Circumnavigators Club by virtue of going around the world in nine days. While in Delhi, India, she helped take care of children at the Orphanage of Mother Theresa. Gatti is also active and holds positions in several local organizations. A question-and-answer period will follow.

Community Service Chairman Skeets Kuzmuk has requested members to donate canned and boxed grocery items to benefit homeless and needy adults and children. Costume jewelry in good condition is sought for patients at Runnells Hospital. The Handwork Group would like to have donations of wool of any kind or color with which to make scarves, hats, shrugs, and lap robes for patients in hospitals and nursing homes.

The next day trip will be to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse for a luncheon and to see the comedy "George Washington Slept Here." This farce by Moss Hart and George Kaufman was a hit show on Broadway for many years. A choice of five entrees will be offered. The cost will include 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, the cost or other information, members and non-members may call (908) 232-1362 or purchase a ticket at the Jan. 3 meeting.

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Runnells Hospital hosts support group for caregivers of Alzheimer's patients

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — Those who feel alone with the difficulties of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's are invited to become a part of the Caregiver and Alzheimer's Family Support Group

at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County. Individuals who share the same difficulties get together for the comfort and knowledge that is found in a support group.

The group's meetings, which are open to the community, are held in the Family Conference Room at Runnells, 40 Watchung Way, on the third Thursday of each month from 1 to 2 p.m.

The meetings, facilitated by Liz Carabuena, LSW, a Runnells Specialized Hospital licensed social worker, are free of charge for all attendees.

"Things are not as difficult when you are part of a group where you can voice your concerns, express your feelings, share information and get the support that only those who have walked in your shoes can give," said Union County Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, liaison to Runnells Specialized Hospital. "The Caregiver & Alzheimer's Family Support Group at Runnells shares information on the disease, researches updates, practical care techniques and a list of community resources. An especially important part of the meeting is the time set aside for participants to discuss the frustrations they feel in caring for those with Alzheimer's disease."

Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County sponsors the meetings in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association - Greater New Jersey Chapter, an organization committed to easing the burden and finding a cure for Alzheimer's, the nation's fourth leading fatal disease among adults, afflicting some four million Americans.

For further information on this wheelchair accessible program or to attend, call (908) 771-5828.

The Caregiver & Alzheimer's Family Support Group at Runnells schedule for 2005 follows: Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

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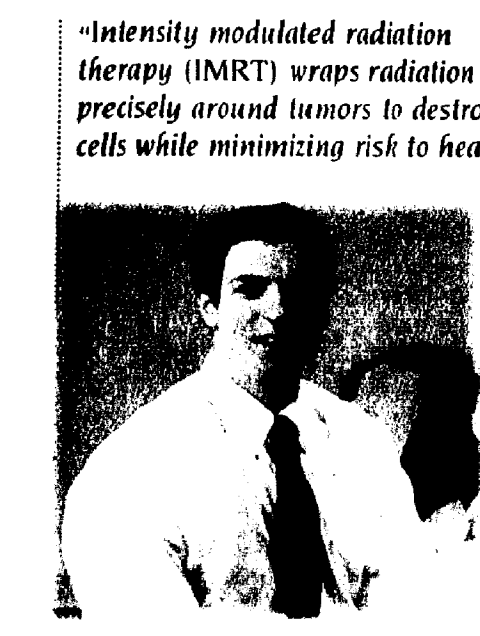
Vendor sales are planned at Runnells

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — The Volunteer Guild of Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County will sponsor vendor sales throughout 2005. The sales will feature items ranging from books and cellular accessories to jewelry, sweaters and a Christmas boutique. All sales are held in the multi-purpose room of the facility, located at 40 Watchung Way. Most sales are held on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and are handicapped accessible.

The upcoming vendor sales are: Jan. 6-Uniform Sale, Jan. 20-Music Lovers, Feb. 3-H & S Sheets, Feb. 17-Books are Fun, March 3-In The Bag, March 17-House of Silver, March 31-Topical Solutions, April 15 (Friday)-A & S Shoes (sneakers), April 28-Coleen's Baskets, May 12-Creative Accessories, May 26-Cellular Accessories, June 9 - S & S Trading, Sept. 15- Sid's Kids, Sept. 29- Reese Jewelry, Oct. 13 - Home Products, Oct. 27 - Gadget Lady, Nov. 10- Jeff's Sweaters, Dec. 8-Impulse Items (toys), Dec. 15- Christmas Boutique.

The Volunteer Guild and the Office of Volunteer Services of Runnells Specialized Hospital are always interested in recruiting volunteers, both adult and junior (age 14 and up). Flexible hours and a variety of opportunities exist with resident contact as well as performing other tasks. Anyone who would like further information about volunteering or the above listed events should call the Office of Volunteer Services at (908) 771-5847.

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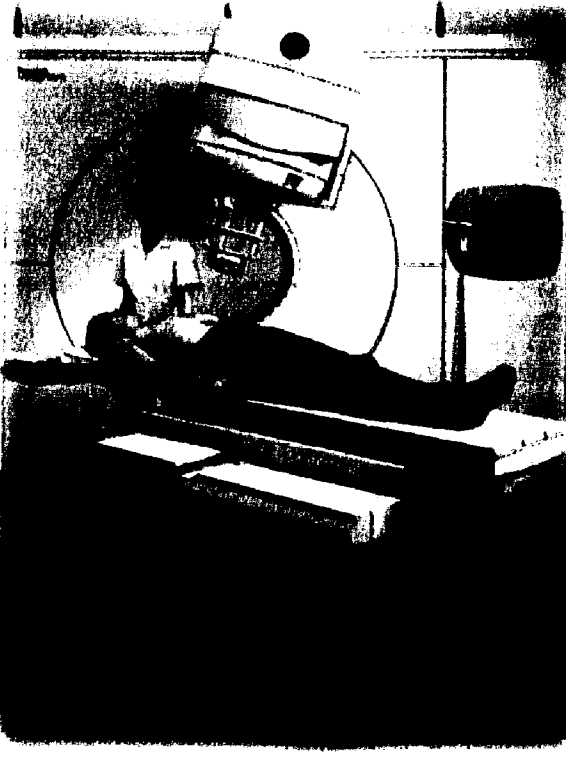


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Community Life

2004 in review: Looking back on the year that was

(Continued from page A-1)

tion meeting, she pledged to build consensus before proceeding with redevelopment. She also announced her intention to secure Transit Village status for the borough, and to pursue extraordinary state aid to bring home property tax relief.

Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks set downtown revitalization and passing a tight municipal budget as priorities for 2004. Marks endorsed forming a special improvement district (SID) in the downtown and pledged to enact a budget less burdensome on taxpayers than the 18-point increase the township saw in 2003.

The year began with tragedy when 19-year old Michael Charnatz, a Westfield High School graduate, committed suicide at Rutgers University. Charnatz was president of the senior class, a four-year player on the football team, and a member of the National Honor Society. "He was an athlete and a scholar, and a pleasure to know," said Principal Robert Petix.

And following a contentious hearing in which a proposal to expand its parking lot was denied, Westfield's Temple Emanu-El closed its doors for several days after receiving an unspecified threat. The case was investigated by the FBI and Union County Prosecutor's Office, and was widely reported in the national media.

Also, Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School announced its intention to replace its Indian head logo after receiving a letter urging schools do to so from New Jersey Commissioner William Libera.

February: After more than a year of pursuing the possibility, officials from Scotch Plains and Fanwood abandoned the idea of establishing a municipally-run jitney service in the two communities. Officials from both communities said the costs of maintaining a bus service were too great to justify the investment.

A long-awaited traffic study evaluating Westfield's redevelopment project by engineering firm Edwards and Kelcey was released to the public. Though the study suggested redevelopment would worsen traffic congestion at several already overstressed intersections, "vehicle delays are generally not expected to increase significantly," the report found.

In Fanwood, the Borough Council introduced a budget calling for the highest property tax increase in the borough's history at a special meeting. Mayor Colleen Mahr insisted the 11 percent tax hike would be scaled back when the state announced its awards for extraordinary aid during the summer.

March: Franklin Elementary School in Westfield had a special visitor for the annual Read Across America Day. Dina Matos McGreevey, wife of then-Gov. James McGreevey, stressed the importance of reading to an attentive group of fourth grade students.

Developer HKT Nassau released a preliminary financial model that suggested Westfield's twin redevelopment projects would not require a contribution from taxpayers. The projects were slated to include 98 residential units and more than 12,000 square feet of retail space.

At a press conference, Mayor Colleen Mahr announced the formation of a steering committee to determine the best course for Fanwood's downtown redevelopment. The new mayor declared her intention to put the borough's redevelopment plan with developer Landmark Communities "on hold."

The Westfield Board of Education announced its intention to fund a turf field and new track at Gary Kehler Stadium by placing the project before voters.

April: In a shake-up at the Scotch Plains Police Department, Chief Marshall

Nelson and Capt. John Shebey retired, taking with them a combined 65 years of law enforcement experience. To replace them, then-Lt. Mark Zyla was promoted to chief and then-Lt. Brian Mahoney was promoted to captain.

Governing bodies in Westfield and Scotch Plains adopted their 2004 municipal budgets. In Westfield, homeowners saw an average tax increase of \$210, an increase of about 15 percent over 2003. The news was better for Scotch Plains homeowners, who saw the municipal portion of their property tax bill rise by about \$48, or an increase of about 3 percent over the previous year's spending plan.

Voters also approved the school budget in both Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools. Fifty-six percent of Westfield residents cast ballots in favor of a \$71.7 million budget, approving a tax increase of 6 percent, or about \$342 for the average homeowner.

would place an unwanted tax burden on their business interests.

A section of Fanwood was placed on the state register of historic places, the payoff of years of hard work by the Historic Preservation Committee. Historic status provides added protection for properties included in the designated area: the Fanwood Park Historic District was later placed on the national register.

June: The Westfield Town Council scrapped its plans for redevelopment on the south side and announced that a proposed structure on the north side would be placed before residents in a non-binding referendum. The move came after more than a year of constant opposition by many Westfield residents, who objected to numerous technical, financial, and aesthetic problems caused by redevelopment.

The Town Council also endorsed an age-restricted 35-

construct a 14-unit residential building with an underground parking lot at the corner of Lenox Avenue and Elmer Street.

There was good news for Fanwood taxpayers in the middle of the month, when the Borough Council announced an award of \$250,000 in extraordinary aid. Combined with a homeland security grant to offset the property tax burden, the average borough homeowner saw a tax increase of only about \$15 on the municipal portion of his or her property tax bill.

Scotch Plains native Scott Goldblatt was named to the U.S. Olympic swimming team for the second time, after winning a silver medal at the 2000 games. Goldblatt, who now lives in Kansas City, learned to swim at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA and grew into a world-class swimmer at the Berkeley Aquatic Center in Berkeley Heights. Goldblatt was part of

Council passed a resolution endorsing the financial plan. Test scores were strong once again in Westfield schools.

Nearly 98 percent of general education students achieved proficiency in language arts, while about 90 percent achieved the same distinction in mathematics. At the same time, school officials and community members voiced concern about lagging scores for minority and special education students. The following month, officials would announce that general education students scored at a virtually identical rate of success in Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools.

October: Residents came out in force to contribute their vision of downtown redevelopment in Fanwood. In the first of three public forums, residents urged borough officials to limit residential units, and urged the Borough Council to scale back the overall size and scope of any potential project. A nationwide shortage of flu

The victory ensured that Scotch Plains Republicans will retain exclusive control over the township's governing body.

Fanwood Democrats tightened their grip on the Borough Council, as Kathy Mitchell and Joe Higgins were elected to three-year terms. The Democrats retained 4-2 control over the council and also hold the mayor's seat, which ensures they will set Fanwood's agenda for the next two years.

Regionally, Westfield resident Steve Brozak was soundly defeated by incumbent Mike Ferguson in a race for New Jersey's Seventh U.S. Congressional seat. Democrats, however, retained full control over the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, though voters in local communities preferred their Republican opponents.

An administrative judge ruled that Scotch Plains was wrong to fire a male police officer who faced sexual harassment charges from another officer. The judge ruled that former Sgt. James Cassidy should have instead been given a six-month suspension for his actions, should be reinstated, and awarded back pay. But the case was subsequently referred to the Merit System Board, which in December overturned the judge's decision and upheld the township's actions. A formal ruling from the board is expected in early 2005.

The Westfield Planning Board approved a new mixed-use building on East Broad Street, which will include on-site parking, eight condominium units, and about 1,000 square feet of ground floor retail. The board also granted the same developer approval to convert unused office space into condominiums at the PNC Bank building on North Avenue.

On Veterans Day, Westfield High School senior Kevin Devaney unveiled a new Korean War memorial off North Avenue near the Route 28 traffic circle. The memorial, part of Devaney's Eagle Scout project, was erected with the assistance of the town's Department of Public Works and numerous local businesses.

December: Four local teenagers spread more fear than holiday cheer when they left a path of destruction through central Union County over Thanksgiving weekend. By the beginning of the month, 18-year old Anthony Bora of Linden, David Koeses, 18, of Fanwood, and two 16-year-olds from Scotch Plains and Fanwood were arrested for acts of vandalism totaling at least tens of thousands of dollars of damage, according to police.

Authorities said the four were involved in a vandalism spree that had been ongoing for several years — the four allegedly smashed vehicles with baseball bats and tossed objects through windows. The investigation in the case is continuing.

In Westfield, voters narrowly approved upgrades at Kehler Stadium in a Dec. 14 bond referendum. The \$1.4 million project, which was approved by just 75 votes, will result in construction of a turf field and synthetic track at the facility. The project, which the school district will pay for by issuing 10-year bonds, will cost the average homeowner about \$18 per year. Nearly \$200,000 in contributions has already come in from local sports organizations.

And while the redevelopment question was settled in Westfield, another controversy sprung up over a high-profile, though smaller-scale, development in Scotch Plains. Residents along Cooper Road began organizing to oppose construction of a house on the "Cooper Road Island," a tract of land between the road's lanes. Residents organized a protest rally and plan opposition to the project when the hearing gets underway in January.



Warm weather is just a memory now, but in August these Westfield boys, participants in the town's recreation program, were decked out in tee-shirts and shorts as they climbed the backstop at Tamaques Park to watch a kickball game.

NICOLE DIMELLA/THE RECORD-PRESS

er. In Scotch Plains and Fanwood, voters put their stamp of approval on the \$63.5 million budget, which carried a tax hike of \$384 in Scotch Plains and \$229 in Fanwood.

May: Robert Cleary, a 5-year-old boy afflicted with adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD), died on May 5. The community rallied around the Fanwood youth in the final stages of his illness, raising money to help pay for his medical care. Earlier in the year, the Policemen's Benevolent Association sponsored a senior bus trip to Atlantic City as a fundraiser.

Amid increasing nationwide call-ups, the New Jersey National Guard announced that members of the 250th Signal Battalion, which is based at the Westfield Armory, would be deployed in Iraq. Deployment for the unit, which specializes in communications, was expected to last 18 months.

Early in the month, reports surfaced about an assault at Edison Intermediate School, which left a 13-year old student severely injured. According to the school district, one student struck another in the stomach with such force that it ruptured another boy's spleen. The attacker was subsequently arrested.

The Scotch Plains Township Council delayed a final vote over creating a SID downtown after an extended public hearing. Downtown property and business owners came out in force against creation of the district, arguing that the downtown management entity

unit condominium building proposed by Ward O'Donnell Property Development.

A fire tore through two downtown buildings in Fanwood, both of which were located in the borough's designated redevelopment zone. Mutual aid assistance from 12 municipalities were required to bring the blaze under control. Authorities said the fire was caused by malfunctioning electrical wires in the rear of a South Avenue building, home to a psychic readings business.

Despite a clear desire to approve it, the Scotch Plains Township Council voted 4-1 against establishing a SID downtown. After two full public hearings, council members said they could not create a SID without the support and endorsement of the business community.

Scotch Plains police investigated the township's first homicide in seven years. Around 11 p.m. June 22, police found 26-year old Taji Pile of Plainfield lying along the side of Rahway Road, suffering from gunshot wounds. The next day, Pile died at University Hospital in Newark. At the end of 2004, the murder case remained unsolved.

July: Two substantial building projects were withdrawn from consideration in Westfield. On South Avenue, developer Joseph Buontempo withdrew a plan to build a mixed-use building including 4,000 square feet of ground-floor commercial space and seven apartment units. And developers John and James Caldora abandoned a plan to

a gold medal-winning 4x200 freestyle relay team in August.

August: The Westfield Town Council adopted language for a non-binding referendum over redevelopment amid continuing opposition by residents. The referendum was scheduled for Election Day in November, and residents pledged to fight the project until the vote.

In Fanwood, Downtown Advisory Committee Chairman Joe Higgins was named to the Borough Council to replace Michael Brennan, who retired to focus on expanded career responsibilities. Higgins, a Democrat, was also placed on the ballot for the November election to the council.

Also in Fanwood, the Planning Board approved a substantial mixed-use building at the corner of South Avenue and First Street. By a 6-1 vote, the board approved a plan to erect a three-story building including 10,000 square feet of commercial space and 12 condominium units.

September: Tragedy struck the Westfield community again when 17-year old Lisa Novick died Sept. 2 of complications arising from surgery. Novick, a senior at Westfield High School, played clarinet in the marching band and sang in the high school choir. She was a member of the National Honor Society and the yearbook committee.

Also in Westfield, representatives from Desman Associates presented a revised financial plan that included across-the-board parking fee increases to offset costs for the town's redevelopment project. Later in the month, the Town

Richard A. Charlton

SCOTCH PLAINS — Richard A. Charlton, 72, died Dec. 23, 2004 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born in Staten Island, he lived in Scotch Plains before moving to Neshanic Station in 1972.

Mr. Charlton was first vice president of investments for Wachovia Securities and an assistant branch manager for that firm. An investment counselor for 44 years, he also taught investment courses to adult school students in Somerville.

He was an Army veteran of the Korean War and a member of the Raritan Valley Country Club in Bridgewater.

Surviving are his wife of 30 years, Marjorie Deas Charlton; a daughter, Lucy Tayane and

husband Mouloua of Colorado; five sons, Richard Jr. of Hillsborough, Mark and wife Bettina of Maryland, Danny and wife Angelique of Indonesia, Steve of High Bridge and John of Colorado; a daughter-in-law, Marie of Montgomery; a brother, William J. and wife Barbara of New York state; a sister, Roberta Smith of Scotch Plains; six grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held Tuesday at the Branchburg Funeral Home. Committal was in St. Bernard Cemetery, Bridgewater.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to a charity benefiting medical research. To send a condolence, visit www.branchburgfuneralhome.com.

Andrew D'Amico

SCOTCH PLAINS — Andrew S. D'Amico, 83, died Dec. 24, 2004 at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington.

Born in Brooklyn, he lived in Scotch Plains for 48 years before moving to Califon in 1997.

Mr. D'Amico retired in 1980 after more than 30 years as the owner of Dependable Refrigeration in Brooklyn. He was a coach and manager for girls softball with the Scotch Plains Recreation Commission. As well he was a swimming team official at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA.

He was an usher for Masses at Immaculate Heart of Mary

Roman Catholic Church, where Mr. D'Amico was a member of the Holy Name Society.

A son, Leonard, died in 1995. A daughter, Margaret, died in 1957.

Surviving are his wife, Anna R. Spinale D'Amico; two sons, Joseph and Christopher; three daughters, Annette Degraw, Marianne Candiloros and Rosalie; a brother, Leo; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Tuesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Obituaries

Dorothy Kitt

SCOTCH PLAINS — Dorothy Bollinger Kitt, 88, died Dec. 22, 2004 at her home in Lebanon.

Mrs. Kitt was born in Bethel, Pa., and lived in Annville, Pa., before moving to Scotch Plains in 1962. She had resided in Lebanon since 2002.

A past president of the Woman's Club of Fanwood, Mrs. Kitt was a retired teacher in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school system. She graduated from West Chester State College and formerly was a teacher in Lebanon County, Pa.

She was a deaconess of the Fanwood Presbyterian Church as well as a member of the Fanwood Garden Club and the Sierra Club. Her husband, Alexander, died in 2000.

Surviving are a sister, Esther Trauger of Annville; two nieces and a nephew.

Services were held Monday at the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Burial was in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

Mariola Kochowski

WESTFIELD — Mariola Kochowski, 44, died Dec. 25, 2004 at her home.

Born in Poland, she lived in New York City and Scotch Plains before moving to Westfield in 1998.

Ms. Kochowski was a senior fashion designer in the Manhattan studio of Liz Claiborne, where she worked 11 years. She earlier worked in Manhattan for the Oscar de la Renta and Lauren Hansen studios.

She graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan.

Surviving are her fiancé, Walter Dillman; her parents, Walter and Genowefa; three sisters, Christine Greenwald, Halina Gryz and Gracie; and two brothers, Richard and Michael.

Services were held Wednesday at the Memorial Funeral Home, Fanwood, followed by a funeral

Mass at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

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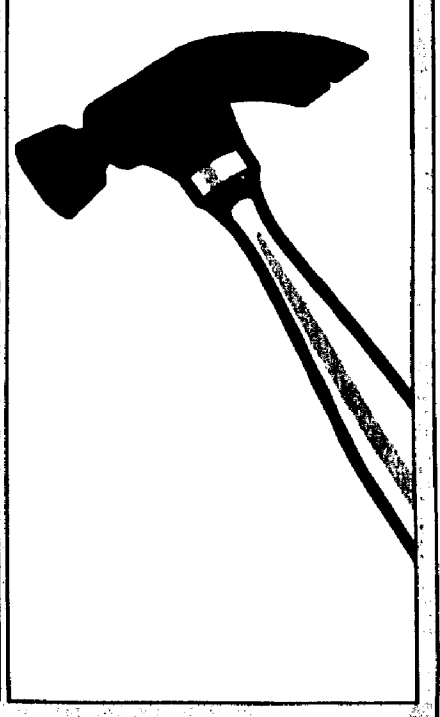
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Real Estate

Many programs exist to help you purchase a home

By **WILLIAM COLLINS**
ERA QUEEN CITY REALTY

It's only natural that the home-buying process comes with many anxieties. For many people, one of the biggest is wondering how to afford a home at all. But this is often due to misconceptions which keep the customer from methods that could make it possible, but may be less well known. With the right information, you can set aside much of your concern about affording a down payment and financing a new home. The knowledgeable customer and the right Realtor can shift the focus from saving money to saving much worry.

The 2002 Fannie Mae National Housing Survey revealed widespread assumptions holding back potential homeowners needlessly. One of the biggest is that buyers need 20 percent of the purchase price ready as a down payment to purchase a home. But today several specialized mortgage programs require little or no down payment.

A Veteran's Administration (VA) Loan lets eligible military personnel finance up to 100 percent of a home, even if their credit is imperfect. An FHA Loan requires less than 3 percent as a down payment. There are also Community Lending Programs that let homebuyers who meet local

HUD median-income guidelines pay \$500 or 1 percent of the purchase price, whichever is less.

In addition, mortgage products are available specifically for the self-employed and for those with bad credit scores (including, in the latter case, CreditWorks, a mortgage program that comes with debt-management counseling). Another advantage to keep in mind is not just the discounts you can gain going into a home purchase, but the ones you can obtain from making the purchase itself — over a third of those who answered the Fannie Mae survey didn't know that mortgage interest is tax-deductible, but it's a benefit that can substantially relieve your financial

concerns.

The survey also found many people believing that housing lenders are legally required to give the best possible loan rates; actually, many factors influence a range of rates offered by various lenders, so there's no substitute for shopping around and doing your homework.

Of course, there is more than one way to make sure it gets done. Qualified professionals can lead you through the maze of options to the most efficient and economical solution for you. The professionals at ERA Mortgage can help you determine your financial abilities and meet your financing needs.

ERA Mortgage offers more than 100

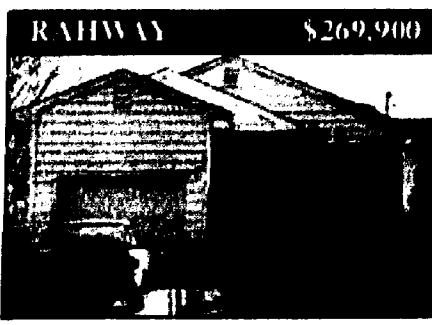
products, including loans designed especially for first-time homebuyers or even clients who have recently had a bankruptcy. This range covers the array of programs mentioned above, and some other helpful options that are unique to ERA Mortgage.

Whichever way you proceed toward your homeownership dreams, it's good to know they can become reality sooner than you think, and important to get the best guidance you can. If you believed your couldn't afford to buy, information like the facts above are something you can't afford not to have.

Williams Collins is a realty associate with ERA Queen City Realty in Scotch Plains.

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Accomplished Natko joins Burgdorff in Westfield

WESTFIELD — Burgdorff ERA recently announced that Sherrie Natko has joined the company as a sales associate in its Westfield Office, located at 600 North Ave. West.

Natko has been a top-producing New Jersey real estate sales associate since 2001. She is a member of the Greater Union County Association of Realtors, New Jersey Association of Realtors and Garden State Multiple Listing Service.

Her high production levels include \$5 million for the months of June and July 2004, with sales totals of over \$9 million to date this year.

An award-winning

Realtor, she ranked among the top 8 percent of all sales agents nationwide at her previous real estate company, where she achieved the Sales Associate of the Month award several times.

A resident of Westfield for eight years, Natko is married with two children. She is active in the community as a co-chair of Westfield's Temple Emanu-El's New Member Committee. She also serves on the Temple's board of trustees.

Before moving to Westfield, Natko held various marketing positions in the retail and cosmetics industries and for philanthropies. She is fluent in French.

Natko received her bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

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.

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



SHERRIE NATKO

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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CRANFORD - Be the first to see this sprawling 8 room Split Level in Brookside section. Lr w/pl, DR, EIK, 2nd floor offers MBR w/bath, plus 2brs and full bath. Ground level includes Family room w/wet bar, 1/2 bath and office/br. Full bsmt, 2 car tandem garage. Call for EXCLUSIVE showing! Asking \$638,900



CRANFORD - New to market. 9 room Ground entry Split Level offering family room, laundry room, 1/2 bath. Living rm, FDR, EIK. Four large BRs including Mbr w/bath plus full bath. Finished bsmt, 2 car garage, private yard. Near Orange Ave. schools and pool. Won't last! Asking \$549,900



RAHWAY - Great Starter Colonial with 6 rms, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, recently remodeled kitchen and bath, Lr w/pl. Private yard with deck. Call to see today! Asking \$259,900



CRANFORD - Custom 8 rm, 4 BR home. 1st floor offers Lr w/pl, FDR, newer EIK, Fam rm, Master BR, full bath. 2nd fl includes 3 brs, full bath. Sauna rm, laundry rm and office in bsmt. Not a drive-by! Asking \$569,900

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Coldwell awards scholarship to Checchio

WESTFIELD — Michael Checchio, son of Sue Checchio, sales associate with the Westfield office of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey and Rockland County, N.Y., received the company's \$1,000 annual scholarship and is currently attending the University of Maryland as a finance major in the highly-respected Smith School of Business.

"Michael is doing very well at the university and

expects to complete his first semester with all A's and B's. Smith is a highly competitive school, and we are so pleased about his accomplishments," said the proud mom. A resident of Westfield, Sue Checchio has been a full time real estate professional since 1988.

U.S. News and World Report ranked Smith as number 18 in finance (2004), and The Wall Street Journal/Harris Interactive Guide to Business Schools

(2004) ranked Smith number one by management consulting industry recruiters in the technology, telecommunications and Internet industry.

Each year, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey and Rockland County, NY recognizes academic excellence among their full-time sales associates' and employees' families by awarding a scholarship to a deserving high school student.

For more information

about buying or selling real estate in the Union County area, call Sue Checchio at the Coldwell Banker Westfield office at (908) 233-5555. Or look up her website at www.suechecchio.com. The office is located at 209 Central Ave. in Westfield.

View the company's listings on the Internet at www.ColdwellBankerMoves.com. For a no-obligation mortgage pre-approval, call Coldwell Banker Mortgage at (888) 317-5417.

Seniors can be very savvy about real estate

(NAPS) — According to a recent survey, seniors are more tech savvy and independent than often portrayed and many use that technology when shopping for real estate.

That's just one of the key findings in a recent survey that also revealed:

— Most seniors are looking to purchase single-family homes by a wide margin over homes in retirement communities and

— Most seniors are not looking to relocate to far-away, so-called "retirement meccas."

The survey of more than 1,300 people, age 55 and over, conducted for ERA Real Estate, revealed that the Internet is an essential tool in researching potential properties during their home-buying process. It was selected by the survey's respondents as the second-most-popular home-buying



A growing number of mature adults are said to be using the Internet to begin their search for their next residence.

research method, just behind physically "touring potential neighborhoods." The survey also indicates that adults 55 and older continue to be an economic force in the real estate industry, especially in the second-home market.

ERA Real Estate has long recognized the importance of understanding the needs of the senior market. For years, the company has offered extensive and in-depth training to its sales associates on how they can play a vital role in serving mature customers.

In addition to this training, the company meets the needs of senior consumers by offering a variety of products and services designed to ease potential stress and anxiety often present during the home-buying and selling process. Its Sellers Security Plan offers sellers a guaranteed sale price and closing

date. Through ERA Mortgage, the company offers a variety of highly flexible home financing options—many designed to meet the specific needs and lifestyles of senior consumers. And to ease concerns about additional costs after purchase, the ERA Home Protection Plan protects consumers against potential expensive repair or replacement costs.

According to Brenda W. Casserly, president and COO of ERA Franchise Systems, Inc., the survey offered evidence for the belief that seniors represent a unique market segment with particular needs. Often, she believes, these needs are best met by qualified, experienced real estate professionals who have been properly trained to service the senior market.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.era.com.

UNION COUNTY MORTGAGE RATES

Program	Rate	pis	up	APR	Program	Rate	pis	up	APR	Program	Rate	pis	up	APR	Program	Rate	pis	up	APR		
Absolute Mortgage Co. 877-606-RATE	30-yr. Fixed 5.375 0.00 5% 30 5.410	15-yr. Fixed 4.750 0.00 5% 30 4.770	30-yr. Jumbo 5.625 0.00 5% 30 5.640	5/1 Int only 4.625 0.00 5% 30 4.640	3/1 Int only 4.375 0.00 5% 30 4.390	American Federal Mtg. 888-321-4687	30-yr. Fixed 5.000 1.88 5% 30 5.239	15-yr. Fixed 4.500 1.63 5% 30 4.529	30-yr. Jumbo 5.750 0.00 5% 30 5.779	5/1 ARM 4.250 1.25 5% 30 4.339	Main Line National Mtg. 877-876-3600	30-yr. Fixed 5.375 0.00 30% 30 5.310	20-yr. Fixed 5.250 0.00 30% 30 5.060	15-yr. Fixed 4.750 0.00 30% 30 4.690	30-yr. Jumbo 5.625 0.00 30% 30 5.690	The Rahway Savings Institution 732-587-1525	15-yr. Fixed 5.000 0.00 5% - 5.060	3/3/30 ARM 4.250 0.00 5% - 4.803	5/1/30 ARM 4.375 0.00 5% - 5.021	5/5/30 ARM 4.375 0.00 5% - 5.353	7/1/30 ARM 4.875 0.00 5% - 5.151
Apex Mortgage 800-344-2739	30-yr. Fixed 5.000 2.00 5% 30 5.234	15-yr. Fixed 4.375 2.00 5% 30 4.772	30-yr. Jumbo 5.250 1.00 5% 30 5.466	15-yr. Jumbo 4.625 2.00 5% 30 4.837	1-2% fees, 10% financing, Jumbo loan specialists, weekend hours, 100% stated, 100% investment	Investors Savings Bank 800-252-8119	30-yr. Fixed 5.750 0.00 5% 90 5.759	30-yr. Jumbo 5.750 0.00 20% 90 5.759	15-yr. Fixed 5.000 0.00 5% 90 5.010	5-yr. ARM 4.500 0.00 5% 90 4.900	10-yr. ARM 5.125 0.00 5% 90 5.134	New Millennium Bank 732-729-1100	30-yr. Fixed 5.625 0.00 5% 30 5.630	15-yr. Fixed 5.125 0.00 5% 30 5.130	5/1 ARM 4.875 0.00 5% 30 5.470	30-yr. Jumbo 5.875 0.00 5% 30 5.880	Summit Federal Savings 732-968-0665	30-yr. Fixed 5.750 0.00 20% 75 5.795	15-yr. Fixed 4.750 0.00 20% 75 4.811	10-yr. Fixed 4.500 0.00 20% 75 4.582	10-yr. Fixed 3.875 2.00 20% 75 4.375
A Custom Mortgage Sol. 800-259-9510	30-yr. Fixed 5.000 0.00 5% 30 5.160	30-yr. Fixed 5.250 0.50 5% 30 5.350	15-yr. Fixed 4.375 2.00 5% 30 4.790	MEA ARM 1.000 0.00 5% 30 3.900	A-D Credit 30/20 Combo, 90% LTV in Chapter 13, 100% LTV 1 day-out of BK, No Doc to \$1M	Lighthouse Mortgage 800-784-1331	30-yr. Fixed 5.375 0.00 5% 30 5.369	15-yr. Fixed 4.750 0.00 5% 30 4.869	10-yr. Fixed 4.500 0.00 5% 30 4.588	30-yr. Jumbo 5.625 0.00 10% 30 5.713	20-yr. Fixed 5.125 0.00 5% 30 5.241	Partners Mortgage 888-RATE-SALE	30-yr. Fixed 5.125 2.00 5% 60 5.170	15-yr. Fixed 4.500 2.00 5% 60 4.540	30-yr. Jumbo 5.375 2.00 5% 60 5.420	15-yr. Jumbo 4.875 2.00 5% 60 4.920	Check mortgage rates daily at: nj.com	Updated 3:00pm Monday thru Friday			
American Home Mortgage 800-924-9091	30-yr. Fixed 5.375 0.00 5% 60 5.300	15-yr. Fixed 5.000 0.00 5% 60 5.010	30-yr. Jumbo 5.625 0.00 5% 60 5.660	Interest Only 3.375 0.00 5% 60 4.160	5/1 Jbo ARM 4.625 0.00 5% 60 4.360	No Broker fee, Condit Fee, Orig Fee, Commit or Appl Fee! No Cost Refi Avail! Close at Home!	Loan Search 800-591-3279	30-yr. Fixed 5.500 0.00 5% 45 5.547	15-yr. Fixed 4.750 0.00 5% 90 4.811	7/1 ARM Jbo 4.875 0.00 10% 90 5.085	5/1 ARM Jbo 4.375 0.00 10% 75 5.075	Peapack-Gladstone Bank 908-719-6555	30-yr. Fixed 5.750 0.00 5% 45 5.859	30-yr. Jumbo 6.000 0.00 5% 45 6.074	15-yr. Fixed 5.000 0.00 5% 90 5.120	15/30 balloon 5.500 0.00 5% 90 5.592	9/1 fixed int only 4.125 0.00 5% 90 5.160	Everything Jersey			
Information provided by The National Financial News Services. Rates are valid as of December 22, 2004. Contact lenders directly for APR's, additional fees and services. Conforming quotes based on \$120,000 loan 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.																					

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Sports

He's one of our own Nathan Jones thrives as a Cowboy in the NFL

By CHAD HEMENWAY
THE RECORD-PRESS

DALLAS, TX - No doubt about it - former Scotch Plains-Fanwood football standout Nathan Jones has defied the odds.

To start, making it to the National Football League is a long shot for the most talented athletes in the nation and Jones is a 5-foot, 8-inch, 185-pound defensive back that made his name as one of the nation's top collegiate return men out of Rutgers University.

The Dallas Cowboys took a chance on Jones in the seventh round - the final round - of the 2004 NFL Draft. With confidence and football smarts, Jones earned a spot on the Cowboys' roster and is playing professional football.

"I've worked hard," Jones said from Dallas last Thursday during a phone interview. "People always questioned my

height and my weight but I always knew I had the talent to play on this level and I thank God for that blessing."

At the time of the draft, analysts said Jones showed strong, quick burst of speed to close in on receivers and diagnosed plays well but questions surrounded his footwork and coverage abilities.

"I just needed a shot to prove myself and surprise some people," he said. "The Cowboys gave me that shot and I don't think they regret it."

Many of Jones' family and friends will surely be at Giants Stadium this Sunday night to watch #33 when the Cowboys take on the Giants.

"They've been to my games - like Philadelphia and Baltimore," Jones said. "It's great to have them there to support me. I'll be able to come home some because it doesn't look like we're making the playoffs."

Thus far this season Jones has been in on 28 tackles from his defense back post, getting in the game mostly when the team is in a "Nickel" defense, at term used to describe when five defensive backs to defend likely pass plays. He has also made two tackles on special teams and returned two kickoffs for 43 yards. Second-year running back ReShard Lee usually handles the return duties.

"I think (the coaching staff) knows I can handle the returns and hopefully they'll put me back there more," Jones said. "I'm just happy I'm getting this opportunity on an organization like this - America's Team."

The awe of the NFL seems to be gone for Jones. It has to be. There is no room to admire a receiver he grew up cheering for, like Jerry Rice (Jones was a 49ers fan), when he has the responsibility of making sure Rice doesn't catch the ball.

In fact, on Monday night Dec.

6 in front of a national audience, Jones got the opportunity to do just that. While playing Seattle, Jones covered Rice as the Seahawks were in inside the Cowboys' 20 yard line. In the end zone, Rice tried making a move on Jones but Jones held his ground though the ball was already in the air in their direction. Rice mauled Jones and threw him to the ground to make the touchdown reception. It was arguably offensive pass interference and the type of non-calls future Hall of Famers like Rice have earned throughout their careers.

"Oh yeah, that was definitely on him," Jones chuckled. "I knew I wasn't going to get the call."

So much for being in awe of one's idols. Rice definitely wasn't going to take it easy on Jones because Jones rooted for him as kid.

And, after all, Jones is an idol all his own now.



PHOTO COURTESY DALLAS COWBOYS WEEKLY
Former Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders running back/defensive back Nathan Jones is seeing a lot of playing time during his rookie year in the NFL on the Dallas Cowboys.

1483...and counting

Klimowicz second quarter lay-up sets all-time scoring record against Linden

By CHAD HEMENWAY
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS - On Dec. 21 center Hillary Klimowicz sunk a lay-up to give the Lady Raiders a 28-10 lead over Linden and was fouled for a three-point play.

Her teammates slapped her hand. The crowd applauded like they have for Klimowicz many times over her high school career.

But this particular lay-up was much more special. With the shot, Klimowicz hit 1,483 points and took over as the all-time leading basketball scorer - girls or boys - at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

"I know it's hard to believe but I had no idea when we were playing that that shot was the one," Klimowicz said. "When I lined up to take the foul shot somebody said something and I thought, 'Oh, I guess that was it. Cool.'"

There was little fanfare. In

fact, the announcement Klimowicz had taken over as the school's scoring champ wasn't made until halftime - when both squads were tucked away in their locker rooms getting their respective pep talks.

"I guess it was better that way," Klimowicz modestly said. "I think it was more important for us to get the win and I wouldn't have wanted to stop the game or anything."

The team entered the game 0-2 after dropping games against Shabazz and Immaculate Heart - two of the state's top teams. But the Lady Raiders dominated Linden and came away with a 51-29 victory.

After scoring nine points and swatting away six Linden shots in the first half, Klimowicz added eight more points and another block before being pulled from the game with just over 3:30 left and the team comfortably ahead 51-23. Klimowicz beat the mark

previously held by William McCoy, who accumulated 1,482 points during his high school career from 1983-86. His name accompanies others that make up the school's elite on a banner above the basket. Setting the record in just the third contest of her senior year, Klimowicz has plenty of time to add to the point total that will soon be next to her name on the same banner.

"I'm just going to have to keep going strong so that it gets harder and harder to get it after I am done," she laughed. "It's just a great feeling that when I come home to visit I'll be able to look up at that banner and see my name and remember all the good times I had."

The 6-foot, 3-inch senior center has already signed a letter if intent with the Hawks of St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, PA.

A quick start earns important first win of season

After coming up short in the first two games, it was important for the Lady Raiders to get a notch in the win column before heading to the West Coast last weekend for the Surf and Slam Hoop Classic in San Diego on Tuesday.

Using a nice mix of inside passes to Klimowicz and 5-foot, 10-inch junior Lauren Benovenigo, as well as outside shots from senior point guard Jenny Burke, shooting guard Elizabeth DeCataldo and forward Maura Gillooly, Scotch

Plains jumped out to a 20-6 first quarter lead and led 33-13 at the half.

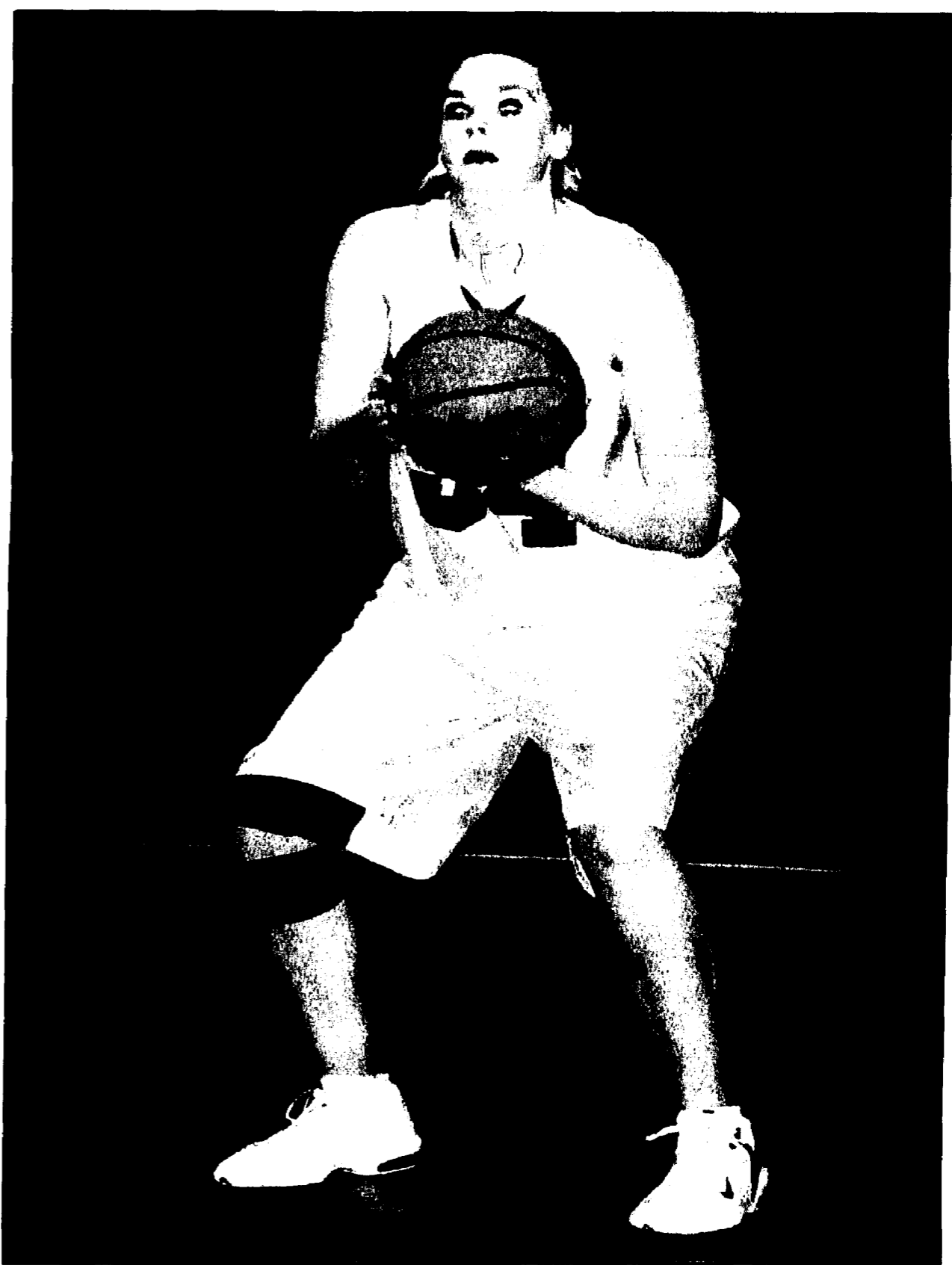
"We definitely needed this win under our belts," said first-year head coach Lori Gear McBride after the Linden game. "This was a chance for us to work on some things and I think we're beginning to really improve and get a grasp of the system."

"We used the press a little bit more and we're learning to rotate out," she said.

Gear McBride said she is try-

ing to bring a new style of play and attitude to the Lady Raiders' game and the first two games were clear indications of the new system's growing pains. The team is attempting to make outlet passes to get better looks. Intensity is also a factor in the new system. Aggressiveness and team spirit is being learned.

"We're boxing out, rebounding more - communicating on the floor and yelling from the bench," Klimowicz said. "I don't know if we did that much last year."



CHAD HEMENWAY/THE CHRONICLE
Senior center Hillary Klimowicz lines up a free throw shot just after hitting a lay-up that put her atop the all-time leading scorers in Scotch Plains-Fanwood girl's or boy's basketball.

Smith, deep girl's squad, anchor track teams

By DAVID LAZARUS
CORRESPONDENT

SCOTCH PLAINS - Raiders' football star Sean Smith and the fall girls cross country team are the cornerstones of optimism for thin but talented Scotch Plains indoor track teams.

Smith, in his first football season, used his speed and athleticism to become quarterback Dan LaForge's top receiving threat. Now he said he is healthier than he was a year ago at this time when he was recovering from a stress fracture while training for cross country.

"Except for a few bruises, I feel pretty good right now," said Smith. "I am starting from a much higher fitness level."

On the girls' side, things are considerably more balanced with coach Jeff Koegel's deep cross country team, fresh from winning their first Union County

title. They look to add indoor track trophies and improve on their second place finish in the county relays on year Jan. 3 at Dunn Athletic Center in Elizabeth.

"We definitely think we can win the relays," said Koegel. "We came in second in the county relays last year with no



WINTER TRACK PREVIEW

seniors and without scoring in the shuttle hurdles, team high jump, and team shot put. We've worked on making up for those deficiencies."

Smith will be high jumping in every meet and running the 55-meter high hurdles. In the high jump he teams with Iceberg Bryant to give the Raiders a

good threat to win the high jump relay at many meets. Smith's third event is likely to be a middle distance between 400 and 800 meters.

Sophomore Kyle Rowbotham will join the relay team, but Koegel said the coaching staff has not decided on the other relay personnel.

The 400 relay would likely be completed by sprinter Nehemiah Burney-Porter and either James Alfano or Tom Ventura. Sophomore Adam Biner and junior Josh Zinman are set to join them.

Senior Teddy Acosta, is the top shot-putter and could top 50 feet this year after just missing the milestone a year ago. Tom Pennella, an outstanding pole-vaulter, is also the leading hurdler.

Depth is no problem on the girls' distance side where Koegel has senior cross country mainstays Mary Shashaty, Laura Harrison and Liz Elko - who are

joined by sophomore sensation Samantha Gates and dependable Allie Hoynes-O'Connor as well as Kim Appezatto to form several strong relays.

Outdoor long jump champion Amanda Bobyack and star triple jumper Michelle Regg will contribute on the sprint and hurdle relay teams.

Sprinter Danielle Vena and freshman soccer star Alana Bencivengo have been improving in the hurdles and will combine with Meaghan Kelly and Regg to form the shuttle hurdle relay team.

Bobyack joins Gates and the above-mentioned hurdlers to try and defend the surprise four by 200 championship they won a year ago.

Kat Berka will once again be the top shot-putter and Kaitlin Carman and Carlene Bronikowski will be the high jump team.

SPORTSCENE

WESTFIELD

Boys Basketball
Westfield 59, J.P. Stevens 28 - In the first round of the John Butch Kowal Tournament in Rahway Sunday, Eric Hayes scored 16 points and Mike Venezia chipped in 13 for the Blue Devils. Bryan Power had nine points. Westfield's defense forced J.P. Stevens to commit 267 turnovers.

Wrestling

Rahway 63, Westfield 11 - The Blue Devils were forced to forfeit seven matches Dec. 22. Andrew Shaffer won a 12-0 decision at 162 pounds. Mark Boyd won 14-5 at 160 and Dan Whitney defeated his man 5-3.

Hockey

Cranford 5, Westfield 3 - Craig Esposito, Brent Davis and Brian Davidson scored for Westfield Dec. 22.

SCOTCH PLAINS

Wrestling

Scotch Plains 39, Parsippany Hills 31 - Heavyweight Marc Fabiano got the Raiders started off right by pinning his opponent in 3:07 Dec. 23 in Parsippany but the Par Hills took the next four matches to go ahead 20-6. The Raiders came back when 140-pounder Pat Mino won by tech fall (15-0, 5:26). Anthony Ferrante defeated his man 11-1 at 145 and A.J. Watson won by pin in 3:31 in the 152-pound match. Steve Mino won by forfeit at 135. Nick Giannaci won his match at 215 by pinning his opponent in just over a minute.

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<p>Announcements 118</p> <p>Disclaimers The Suburban News, Cranford Chronicle & The Record Press reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject any classified advertising at any time and will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. The Suburban News, Cranford Chronicle & The Record Press liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error and will not be liable for failure to publish an ad.</p> <p>Lost & Found 135 Found small dog in Cranford 908-272-4836</p> <p>Personals 140 Johnny "Fish" Edwards of Elizabeth/Brooklyn. Sorry we lost touch, contact me (Nickie) at 803-286-0095 / maevas02@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Personals 140</p> <p>PSYCHIC TAROT CARD Gifted Spiritualist ★MRS. D★ 1 Visit Will Solve Your Disappointment! She has been Gifted to Give Blessings & Cleansings 1/2 price. 908-789-3043</p> <p>*TAROT CARD & PSYCHIC READINGS ★BY SUZAN★ Guarantees to regain broken relationships & resolve all problems of life. CALL FOR ONE Free Question 908.272.9781</p>	<p>Employment 202</p> <p>Child Care 202</p> <p>BABYSITTER Needed for 2 children Monday-Friday from 3:30pm-6:00pm in Scotch Plains; non-smoking env., must have a car. \$120/wk. Call 908-232-2029</p> <p>BASKING RIDGE-NANNY, 3 days/wk \$12-\$14/hr, 908 766 2669 www.NannyLine.com</p> <p>F/T Nanny wanted - Live In. Must have new born exp. Great salary, March start, call 908-654-4134</p> <p>NANNY For 5 year old Mon. Fri. in Chatham, English, own car & references required ★973-768-0444★</p> <p>NANNY FT In my Chatham home. New born & 2 yr old. Must have Div's Lic. refs. & speak English. 973-665-0341</p>	<p>Employment 202</p> <p>NANNY WANTED - Westfield family seeks experienced, physically active loving nanny, to care for toddler boy, 3 - 4 days, per week in our home. Fluent English. References Required. Call 908-232-4230</p> <p>PART TIME MW, Before & After School supervision for 12 year old girl. Valid DL & References. English speaking. College students welcome. 908-233-9406</p> <p>Employment Services 220</p> <p>*****MODELS***** Want to be placed with a top NY agency? 15-ys exp., worked w/Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren, Versace, adults/child, Keith & Barb 908-391-4767</p>	<p>Drivers 230</p> <p>Drivers, CDL "A" - 1 LOCAL DRIVER Excellent Pay & Benefits Home Even Night OTR Positions Also Available 800-441-1473 www.deckerttransport.com</p> <p>General Help 240</p> <p>Customer Service Representative/Recruiter to handle inbound and outbound calls, order entry. Candidates must possess excellent communication skills, alpha numeric data entry and PC knowledge. Excellent benefits, EOE. Include customer service in subject line. Fax or Email resume with Salary requirements to: 732-205-8371 employment@peergroupinc.com</p> <p>Full Time Start off the New Year on a winning Team. Taylor Rental Center, Berkeley Heights, is looking for young, energetic customer service personnel. Immediate opening 908-464-9111</p>	<p>Export/Import Operations Intl. freight forwarder requires operations person w/2-3 yrs. exp. Competitive salary and benefits package. Mountainside. Please fax resume, 908-789-4906</p> <p>FT DENTAL RECEPTIONIST Needed for busy surgical office. Must be experienced, multitasked, self motivated & computer literate. Great working conditions. Send resume to: Fax 908-789-1729.</p>
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UJA 2005 Campaign Passes \$13 Million Mark On Super Sunday, Dec. 5

WHIPPANY — The Alex Aidekman Family Jewish Community Campus. With activities for all members of the family — from making calls to sorting cards, donating blood to donating clothing — the

nearly 900 volunteers all shared a passion for community and continuity and throughout the day demonstrated The Power of One Day.

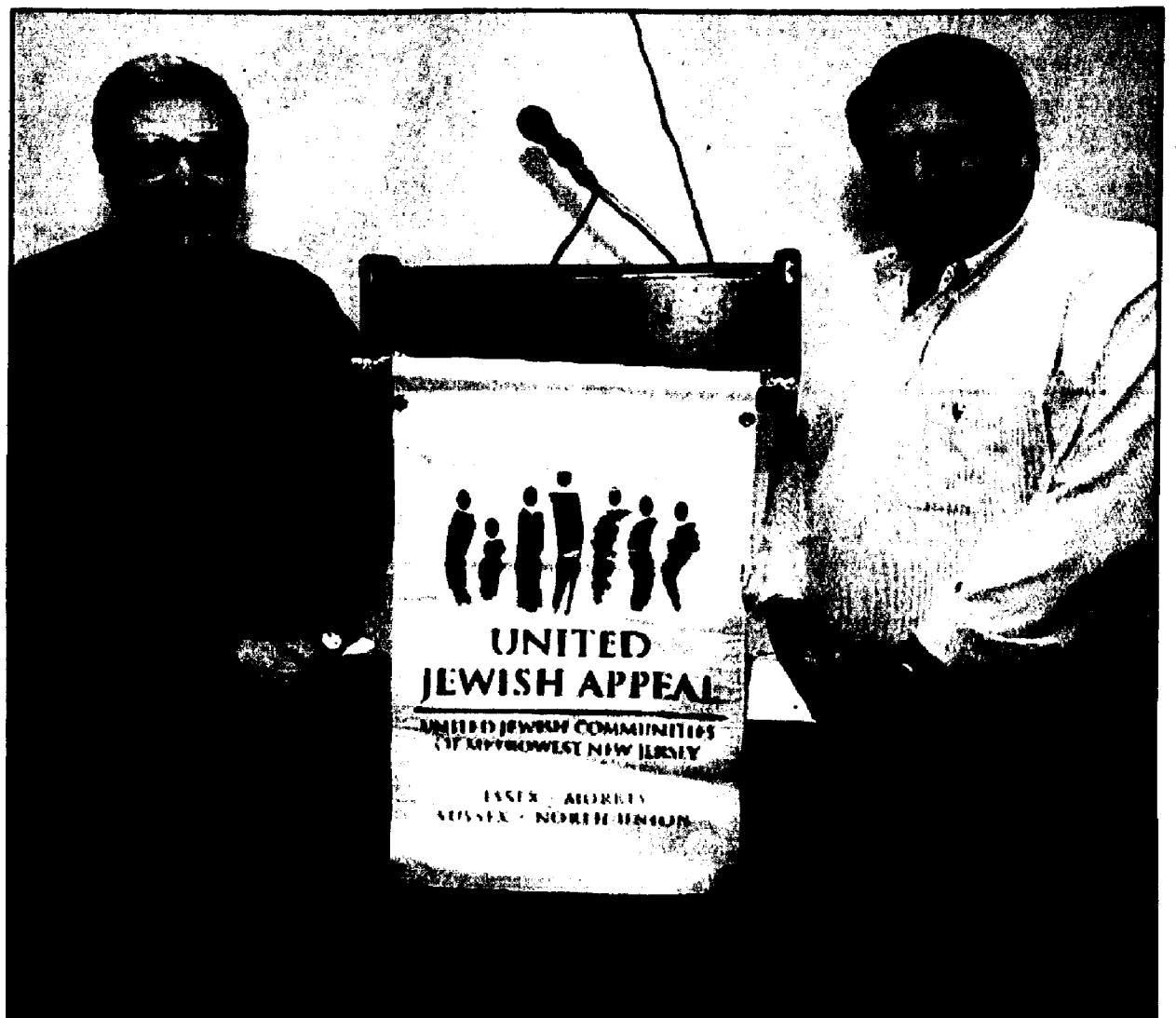
Super Sunday, the single largest source of funds for UJA, the fundraising arm of United Jewish Communities of MetroWest NJ (UJC), provides money to support educational, family, vocational, recreational, and social opportunities in the local community, in Israel, and around the world. Among the funded programs available to anyone in Morris, Essex, Sussex, and northern Union counties are: Jewish Vocational Service; the JCC Early Childhood Center; cultural arts programs featuring speakers, performances, and exhibits; and Jewish Family Service.

Along with the phonathon, the Aidekman Center was bustling with a blood drive; an Israeli marketplace of crafts, jewelry, and foods; and volunteers collecting clothing and food for distribution locally and in the UJC MetroWest sister city of Cherkassy, Ukraine. The Blood Center of New Jersey reported that 47 people participated in the drive.

With so much going on, Super Sunday is a true family activity. Special pro-



NEW JERSEY ACTING GOVERNOR RICHARD CODEY was one of the many dignitaries making calls on behalf of the UJA Campaign to friends, neighbors, and other community members. More than 800 volunteers and dignitaries participated throughout the day in a variety of ways.



DOUGLAS AUTO GROUP, with dealerships in Summit, is the corporate sponsor for Super Sunday. Peter, left, and John Liebman of Douglas Auto Group have made visiting the Super Sunday phone room an annual event. Throughout the day, eight cars from the Douglas Auto Group fleet were on display on the Alex Aidekman Family Jewish Community Campus, Whippany.

grams for children and teens include a JCC Swim team swim-a-thon, choir performances during lunch and dinner, and all day babysitting services. Adults could make phone calls to their neighbors, friends, and colleagues or help in various other volunteer capacities. And seniors helped with a special thank you project to show gratitude to those who make a gift to the 2005 UJA

Campaign during Super Sunday.

Douglas Motors of Summit is, for the second consecutive year, serving as the corporate sponsor of Super Sunday. Douglas, which has Infiniti, Volkswagen, Buick, and Ford dealerships in Summit, displayed eight new model cars on the Aidekman Campus during Super Sunday for visitors and event participants

to inspect.

The Power of One Day correlates with the UJA Campaign theme, The Power of One Gift. Every person has the ability to help in so many ways, including volunteering during Super Sunday or giving one gift that can help meet so many needs.

For a photo gallery of all the Super Sunday excitement, visit www.ujcnj.org.

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2001 MINI TOURER ACURA 7 Pass. 4-dr. 6-cyl. auto trans. AC, p/steer/brakes/locks, cruise, moon roof, roof rack, leath. inter, AM/FM/Stereo/Cass., 41,763 mi. Vin #H514750 WAS \$31,995. 12 TO CHOOSE FROM! Asking \$27,995	2002 3.2 TL ACURA 4-dr. 6-cyl. engine, auto trans. AC, p/steer/brks, t/glass, rear defrost, cruise control, leath. inter, moon roof, AM/FM/Stereo Cass., CD-Compact Disc Player. 47,337 mi. Vin #2A024449 Asking \$19,999	'01 RSX CONVERT. BMW 2-dr. 4-cyl. 5-spd. man. trans. AC, p/steer/brks, t/glass, r/del. cruise leath. inter, console, fold down seat. AM/FM/Stereo Cass. CD-Comp. Disc Player. 36,036 mi. Vin #1EX21018 Asking \$37,999	2001 INTEGRA ACURA 2-dr. 4-cyl. engine, auto trans. AC, p/steer/brks, rear defrost, cruise control, moon roof, fold down seat, AM/FM/Stereo/Cassette, CD-Compact Disc Player. 48,753 mi. Vin #1S007361 Asking \$13,885
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2001 BUICK LESABRE 4 dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, only 31,000 miles. VIN#14289477	2004 MITSUBISHI LANCER ES 4 dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, only 9,000 miles. VIN#46019210	2002 INFINITI G-20 4 dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, moonroof, alloy wheels, only 32,000 miles. VIN#2T504235	2004 CHEVY IMPALA 4 dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, only 12,000 miles. VIN#49350753	2002 HONDA CIVIC EX 4 dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, p/locks, p/seats, leather, heated seats, tilt, cruise, cd, abs, only 10,000 miles. VIN#2H157326
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2002 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS LSE 4 dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, wood package, only 27,000 miles. VIN#2X616125	2001 FORD ESCAPE XLS 4 dr. 4x4, V-6, auto, air, ps, pb, pw, p/locks, tilt, cruise, alloy wheels, 43,000 miles. VIN#1F688178	2004 SAAB 9-3 4 dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels only 22,000 miles. VIN#41010694	2003 BUICK PARK AVENUE 4 dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels only 22,000 miles. VIN#34109746	2002 BMW 525i 4 dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, p/locks, p/seats, leather, heated seats, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, 33,000 miles. VIN#1A218500
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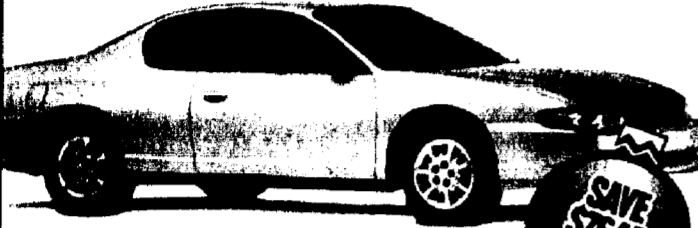
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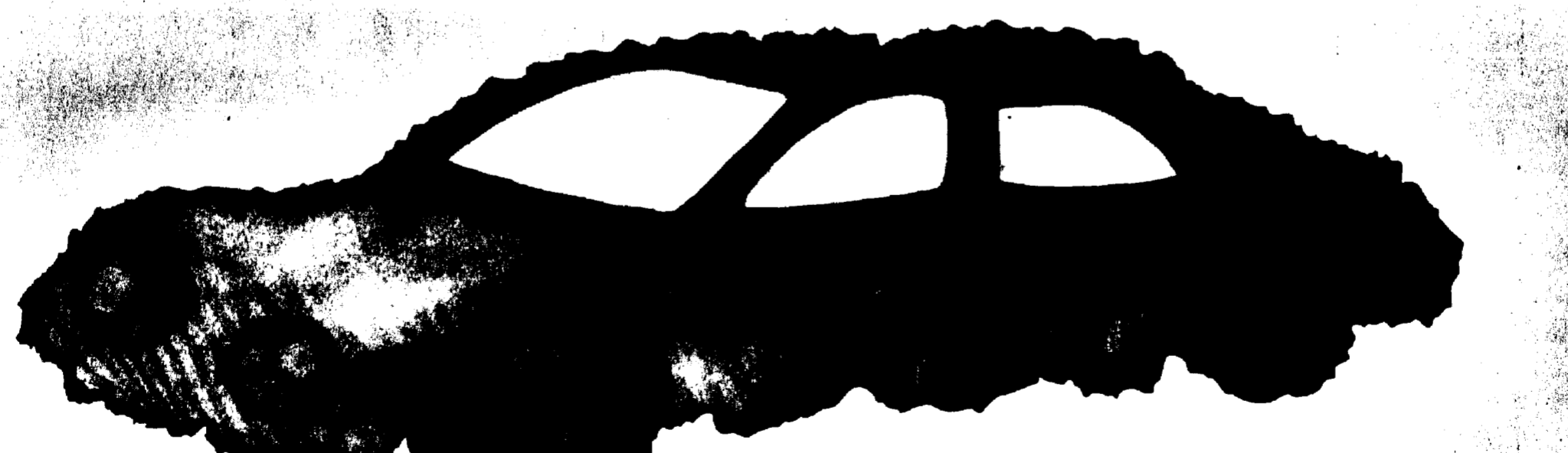
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SATURDAY SERVICE HOURS 8am-12pm

Prices incl. all costs to be paid by consumer except lic., reg. & taxes. Pics for illus. purp only. Not resp for typos or omissions. Excl. prior sales. This ad supersedes previous ads. *Qualifications for rebates: Oldsmobile Loyalty reb. - Must be a current owner/lessee of an Oldsmobile product; Military reb. - Must show proof of military status; GMAC Finance Allowance - Must finance through GMAC. †Subject to availability, while supplies last. **Retail value \$99.95. See dealer for details.

Various small ads for furniture, electronics, and services. Includes items like Emerson piano, Knabe console, electronic game table, and various home appliances.

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 mi. Certified 5 yr/100,000 mi. warranty until 5/31/07
 \$16,995

'99 Saab 9-3 Convertible
 SA #1019VIN #X07058127. 4 cyl. auto. a/c. p/bw/leather
 ar/bags, back top, silverbeige leather, 45,900 mi.
 Engine for sale!
 \$16,995

'01 Saab 9-5 SE V6 Wagon
 SA #1029VIN #13079196. 4 cyl. auto. a/c. p/bw/leather
 ar/bags, front heated seats, sunroof, graybeige leather, 55,150 mi.
 Certified 6 yr/100,000 mi. warranty until 7/19/07
 \$17,995

'01 Saab 9-3 SE Convertible
 SA #1010. 4 cyl. auto. a/c. p/bw/leather/ar/bags
 heated seats, OnStar, cd. silvergray leather, 67,800 mi.
 Engine for sale!
 \$18,995

'01 Saab 9-3 SE Convertible
 SA #1018VIN #17009511. 4 cyl. 5 sp. a/c. p/bw/leather/ar/bags
 ar/bags, blue top, whitegray leather, 49,925 mi. Certified
 5 yr/100,000 mi. warranty until 4/20/06
 \$25,995

'01 Saab 9-3 SE Convertible
 SA #1017VIN #17015874. 4 cyl. auto. a/c. p/bw/leather/ar/bags
 ar/bags, premium pkg., heated seats, greengray leather,
 32,100 mi. Certified 5 yr/100,000 mi. warranty until 7/20/06
 \$26,995

'01 Saab 9-3 SE Convertible
 SA #1022VIN #1701876. 4 cyl. auto. a/c. p/bw/leather/ar/bags
 ar/bags, premium pkg., heated seats, blackbeige leather,
 37,600 mi. Certified 5 yr/100,000 mi. warranty until 10/20/06
 \$26,995

'04 Saab Arc Sedan
 SA #1024VIN #11047517. 4 cyl. auto. a/c. p/bw/leather/ar/bags
 ar/bags, sunroof, heated seats, blackgray leather, 922 mi.
 Original MSRP \$34,130
 \$28,995

'04 Saab Aero Sedan
 SA #1027VIN #11028413. 4 cyl. auto. a/c. p/bw/leather/ar/bags
 ar/bags, cold weather pkg., gray/black leather, 9320 mi.
 Original MSRP \$36,190
 \$28,995

'04 Saab Arc Wagon
 SA #1016VIN #1301122. 4 cyl. auto. a/c. p/bw/leather/ar/bags
 ar/bags, premium pkg., sunroof, leather, 5020 mi. bluebeige
 leather Original MSRP \$39,460
 \$28,995

MADISON HONDA

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE Sedan Automatic \$16,999
 2002 HONDA CRV EX 4X4 SUV Automatic \$17,999
 2002 HONDA ODYSSEY EX Minivan Automatic \$19,999

Model	Price	Key Features
2001 HONDA CIVIC EX 4DR	\$12,999	4 cyl. auto. ps. p/bw. a/c. sun/moonroof, 16" alloy wheels, 1/100,000 mi. warranty, 5.0 liter, 21,130 miles, 4/28/04, vin#1HGBH6240U01159284
2001 HONDA PRELUDE ZDR	\$13,999	4 cyl. auto. ps. p/bw. a/c. sun/moonroof, 16" alloy wheels, 1/100,000 mi. warranty, 20,843 miles, 4/28/04, vin#1HGC82824
2003 HONDA ACCORD EX V6 2DR	\$18,999	6 cyl. auto. ps. p/bw. a/c. sun/moonroof, 16" alloy wheels, 1/100,000 mi. warranty, 43,261 miles, 4/28/04, vin#1HGBH6240U01159284
2001 HONDA CRV LX 4DR	\$13,999	4 cyl. auto. ps. p/bw. a/c. sun/moonroof, 16" alloy wheels, 1/100,000 mi. warranty, 26,060 miles, 4/28/04, vin#1HGBH6240U01159284
2002 HONDA CRV EX 4X4 SUV Automatic	\$17,999	4 cyl. auto. ps. p/bw. a/c. sun/moonroof, 16" alloy wheels, 1/100,000 mi. warranty, 26,060 miles, 4/28/04, vin#1HGBH6240U01159284
2002 HONDA ACCORD SE	\$16,999	4 cyl. auto. ps. p/bw. a/c. sun/moonroof, 16" alloy wheels, 1/100,000 mi. warranty, 26,060 miles, 4/28/04, vin#1HGBH6240U01159284
2002 HONDA CRV EX	\$17,999	4 cyl. auto. ps. p/bw. a/c. sun/moonroof, 16" alloy wheels, 1/100,000 mi. warranty, 26,060 miles, 4/28/04, vin#1HGBH6240U01159284
2002 HONDA ODYSSEY EX	\$19,999	6 cyl. auto. ps. p/bw. a/c. sun/moonroof, 16" alloy wheels, 1/100,000 mi. warranty, 26,060 miles, 4/28/04, vin#1HGBH6240U01159284

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Grid of car offers with images and prices: Buy For \$18,226 NEW 2004 CHEVROLET IMPALA, Buy For \$19,172 NEW 2004 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO LS CP, Buy For \$19,490 NEW 2004 CHEVROLET TRACKER SPORT, Buy For \$21,149 NEW 2004 CHEVROLET COLORADO Z71 4X4, Buy For \$22,713 NEW 2004 CHEVROLET BLAZER 4WD, Buy For \$26,849 NEW 2004 CHEVROLET DUALY 3500 REG CAB, Buy For \$27,942 NEW 2004 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500 LS EXT CAB, Buy For \$28,091 NEW 2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT 4WD, Buy For \$28,250 NEW 2003 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 2500 EXT CAB

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Prices include all costs to be paid by the consumer except for licensing, registration and taxes. Prices available on in-stock units only. 0% financing on select new vehicles in stock, to qual buyers, must have primary lender approval, in lieu of rebates. Offers cannot be combined with any other offer. Photos used for layout purposes only. Not responsible for typographical errors. All offers & rebates subject to change without notice. All offers expire 72 hours after date of publication.

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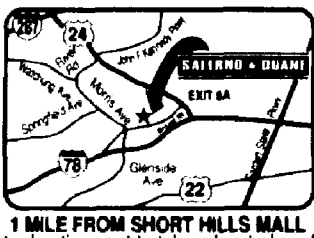
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SAVE \$8646

VIN #49435403, Stk #C3372, 4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/b/winds/ks/mirrs, cd, cruise, MSRP: \$22,645. Includes \$3500 factory rebate, \$750 military rebate & \$1000 Olds owner loyalty rebates if qual.

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SAVE \$7546

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\$7999

\$13,999

\$12,999

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NEW 2005 CHEVROLET TANDE LS 4X4

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\$29,999

NEW 2005 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4X4

SAVE 8431

VIN #5Z2210976, Stk #D545 6, 4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/ks/mirrs, cd, cruise, roof rack, alum whls, onstar, MSRP: \$32,430. Includes \$2000 factory rebate, \$750 military rebate, \$1000 GMAC rebate & \$1000 Olds owner loyalty rebate, if qual.

\$23,999

NEW 2004 CHEVROLET Suburban 1500 LS 4WD

SAVE 13,556

VIN #4G286856, Stk #C3268, 4 DR, 8 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/ks/mirrs, cd, cruise, lugg rk, alum whls, MSRP: \$42,555. Includes \$5000 factory rebate, \$750 military rebate, \$1500 GMAC & \$1000 Olds owner loyalty rebate, if qual.

\$28,999

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SAVE 6596

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\$15,999

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