UCT splash-down

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood and

Westfield girls swimming teams

Center in Elizabeth. Last year, the Raiders and Blue Devils tied for the

proved once again that they have a flair for the dramatic, as for the sec-

ond straight year the county championships came down to the final event Saturday at Dunn Athletic

championship, but Scotch Plains got

son-opening dual meet. For more on the UCT, see Sports, Page C-1.

the better of Westfield in their sea-

Teachers raily

in Scotch Plains

The members of the Scotch Plains-

Fanwood Education Association ral-

lied last week outside the high school

to show support for their union dur-

ing ongoing contractual negotiations.

See the story on Page A-3.

Boys Chorus

to sing at UCC

The young singers of the Newark

Boys Chorus will join with the veter-

an North Jersey Philharmonic Glee

Club for a special Black History

Month concert at Union County

College Feb. 16. For more on that

arts and entertainment scene, see

Library presents

sweet potato tales

Children ages 4 and up can hear sto-

"Queen Nur's Sweet Potato Tales,"

beginning at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at

the Westfield Memorial Library. For

ROFX

Commentary**A-6**

Community LifeB-1

Real Estate.....C-3

MAKEDANI SI SINGSAN DAN MENUNCAN DI SENASI SANDI

more information, call (908) 789-

ries in the African oral tradition during

Prime Time, Page B-3.

event, as well as the rest of the local

REMINDER

Spending up nearly 5 percent in budget proposal

By ANNA BOODANOWICZ

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS - Municipal spending for the 2006 budget may increase about 4.95 percent, according to the proposed municipal budget presented by Township Manager Tom Atkins at the Township Council conference meeting Tuesday night.

The proposed appropriation increase comes to about \$1 million, according to the budget report. However, 95 percent of that, or \$985,586, is made up of unavoidable expenses, said Atkins. "Those costs are pretty much beyond your control," he told council members.

With the revenue side of the budget not yet finalized, officials did not offer an estimate at what sort of tax hike the spending

increase would lead to.

The bulk of the spending increase stems from areas such as gasoline, workers compensation, utilities, the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority, the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), and police and fire retirements. "Many of the increases are mandated by higher levels of government," said Atkins in the

"The township as the employer must make a large contribution to PERS this year," said Atkins. The total appropriation for that category for next year will be \$83,000, he said. The township's obligations for group health insurance account for the largest increase, a hike of \$235,923.

The spending increase last year was about 4.6 percent, said council members,

and was also largely made up of mandated expenses. But according to the presentation, township officials fear the increase in 2007 "could be in the neighborhood of \$1.2 million, and possibly by 2008 the figure could increase to over \$1.5 million," due to mandates from the federal Environmental Protection Agency and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection that have been placed on the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority, of which the township is a member.

The council will be asked to adopt a new capital improvement ordinance within the next two months for roadway and storm sewer improvements, said Atkins, "There might even be some funds included for some asphalt sidewalk work," he

Property taxes have been causing prob-

lems for municipalities throughout the state, and Scotch Plains is no exception, said Atkins. In New Jersey, property taxes comprise about 45 percent of the total tax burden, 15 percent above the standard in most other states, he added.

Our residential property taxes feel the strain. Hopefully this top priority of residents of Scotch Plains will be fairly and thoroughly addressed within the next year," said Atkins.

Although Mayor Martin Marks has been "one of the top leaders in the state emphasizing the need for reform," Atkins said, "whether or not any substantive and productive reforms take place remains doubtful."

The budget will be reviewed over the course of several meetings, the first of which will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 23.

'Anthrax letter' was intercepted at local post office

Envelope had been addressed to J. List

By ANNA BOQDANOWICZ

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — An Asbury Park man was arrested by the FBI Friday on charges he mailed about 200 fake anthrax letters in 2005, including one that was intercepted at the Westfield Post Office and had an interesting addressee: the infamous-murderer John List.

Federal agents from the Newark field office of the FBI apprehended Derek Brodie at approximately 6 a.m. Friday morning at his apartment on Deal Lake in Asbury Park. He was arrested for "creating and mailing letters claiming to conthe biological agent anthrax," according to a statement by the law enforcement agency. None of the letters were found to contain the deadly bac-

The letters all contained a white sheet of paper with the word "Anthrax" written in multicolored block letters, according to the FBI. A total of about 20 letters were intercepted at the Westfield and Freehold Township post offices, each with no return address. The letters were mailed "in or about May 2005 to June 2005," according to a statement released by the agency.

Westfield Postmaster Kenneth Brown said the letter addressed to List was intercepted and then investigated by a postal inspector. It was subsequently passed on to the FBI, he added. Brown said the letter seemed suspicious and added he believed an employee "saw through the let-

ter" and saw the word "Anthrax." In a crime that stunned the area, List murdered his wife, mother-in-law, and three children in November 1971. List fled, took the alias "Robert Clark" and eventually married a woman in Colorado. He was finally arrested 18 years later thanks to an anonymous tip in 1989 from someone who had seen an episode featuring him on the television show "America's Most Wanted." He is currently serving a life sentence at Trenton State Prison. On June 7, 2005, one of

Brodie's letters reached a hospi-

(Continued on page A-2)

Science Day in Scotch **Plains**



BROOKS CRANDALL/



Coles Elementary School in Scotch Plains hosted a Super Science Saturday over the weekend, with more than 16 exhibits related to the development of scientific inquiry, several hands-on experiments and guest visits from Early Man, Galileo, Louis Pasteur, Einstein and Florence Nightingale. Students had the opportunity to learn about dinosaurs, Egyptology, medieval times, locomotion, geology, dentistry and human health, and to visit the school's Rain Forest or participate in an experiment at the Behavioral Science Center. Above left, Albert Einstein (played by Dominick Bratti) describes the theory of relativity to Ray Osterman. Above right, Samantha and Sophie Brand get a physics lesson. See more pictures from the program on Page A-2.

Council reviews development rules

By GREG MARX

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — New municipal regulations designed to stem the spread of "McMansions" and improve conditions around work sites should be up for consideration shortly, Jim Foerst, chairman of the Town Council's Code Review and Town Property Committee, said at Tuesday's conference meeting.

Foerst said the council should soon see a draft ordinance setting new regulations for floor-area ratio in residential development, including visual guides to make the rules clearer to builders and homeowners. In conjunction with an ordinance passed last year to limit residential building height, the restrictions "hopefully will knock out the majority of what we consider to be the McMansion phenomenon," Foerst said.

The Code Review committee is also working on new regulations that would require better fencing

especially those involving excavation. The fencing rules would be an effort to improve the aesthetics and safety of job sites, Foerst said. That ordinance could potentially be in effect by the time warm weather returns in April, and the town intends to let developers know before then that the

new rules are in the works. Additionally, the committee is contemplating regulations for the placement of port-a-johns at work sites, which have sometimes caused complaints from neighbors due to their visibility. While it is not always possible to move portable toilets to the rear of a property, "I think a lot of it will be alleviated if we can do something with regard to the screening, Foerst said.

He also mentioned two other draft ordinances which will be referred to the Board of Adjustment for comment. The first would offer clarity regarding "through-lots," or properties

around home construction sites, which border on two parallel streets. Because the properties essentially have two front yards, the building envelope is unduly restricted, Foerst said. The second ordinance to be considered by the board would loosen restrictions on the construction of second floor additions over an existing front

> Finally, Foerst led a brief discussion about the township's new plan to comply with the state's affordable housing regulations. Under the state's "growth share' standard, a new affordable unit must be created for every eight market-price units. The council will soon see a draft ordinance that would require developers of large residential-only projects to meet the requirement on site. Developers of mixed-use projects would be allowed to meet their commitment in other ways permitted by the state, and builders of smaller projects would make a payment proportional to their obligation.

Special ed costs cause concern for board

By ANNA BOQDANOWICZ

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS - School district officials presented the instruction and special services portion of the proposed 2006-2007 spending plan at the first of several budget meetings on Feb.

While increases in those areas are expected, local officials were especially concerned about the impact of proposed state regulations which they said could drive up special education costs even further.

More than a dozen parents attended the meeting, much to the appreciation of board members who have been stressing community attendance during budget meetings.

The district's proposed special education costs for next year are \$12.4 million, said Director of Special Services Thomas Beese, up from \$10.7 million in the current year. That number includes expenses for the resource center, students with autism and speech problems, pre-school disabled students, tuition and transporta-

But the proposed changes to the state special education code could greatly affect the budget by requiring more special education teachers. Currently, special education classes are divided by age ranges. The proposed changes to the code could narrow the ranges, requiring more special education teachers. The numbers given during the presentation did not reflect those possible changes, Beese said.

Superintendent Carol Choye said the proposal worried her. "It is very costly... hiring two teachers instead of one," she said. "And that doesn't even count the cost of furniture.'

board Other members expressed their frustration with the prospect of new state requirements in the absence of additional financial aid. "The state mandates it but does not fund (special education programs)," said board member Thomas Russo.

"It would help a lot more if they fulfilled more of their obligation," said board secretary and business administrator, Anthony Del Sordi. "I hope enough people will speak up in opposition (to the state's proposed changes)," he

Board members also said other programs might have to be cut to deal with the cost of the proposed changes. Beese said state changes to the special education code might not be heard until August.

With the district planning its budget to comply with the regulations now in place, Beese told board members an additional "two-and a half special education teachers and tuition are basically the only increases" in special services expenses over the cur-

Special education is always a complicated topic when it comes to building a budget, said board members. "We are often critical of

(Continued on page A-2)

Record-Press and sister papers available online!

Beginning this week, readers of the Record-Press can find stories and advertisements from their hometown newspaper on the Web at www.nj.com/recordpress.

The Web site will feature most of the content found in each week's print edition, including news, sports and community life stories, as well as obituaries, editorials, letters to the editor and the police log.

Occasionally, material may be posted to the site that is omitted from the print edition due to lack of space. New stories will appear

on the site at 5 p.m. every Thursday.

The Web site also features resources for readers, including information on how to submit photographs and press releases, send a letter to the editor, subscribe to

Record-Press. For information about

a classified ad or contact the staff of the content from the Record-

advertising on the site, call

Publishing family. As of this the paper, place week, the site will also feature Press's sister publications, the Cranford Chronicle and the Suburban News.

(732) 396-4404.

The main nj.com site is

already home to some of the

state's major daily newspa-

pers, such as The Star-Ledger

and Jersey Journal, as well as other weeklies in the NJN

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Campus notes

Several residents were named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg,

They are Daniel B. Deegan of Scotch Plains, a freshman majoring in biology in the College of Science; Shawn D. Doyle of Scotch Plains, a junior majoring in general engineering in the College of Engineering; and Anthony S. Agresta of Westfield, a junior majoring in electrical engineering in the College of Engineering.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

Numerous area residents were named to the dean's list for the fall semester at the University of Delaware after maintaining grade point averages of 3.33 or better.

They are Danielle Hirschhorn,

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Malina Marie Milonnet and Michelle Elizabeth Trimpin of Fanwood; Kathryn Ann Benski, Stephen Alexander Carroll, James Christopher Healy, Kimberly Ann Lorenzini, Jessica Ellen Neuringer, Rebecca Erin Novorro and Hana Celia Pardon of Scotch Plains; and Leah Ann DiMatteo, Kayli Hana Spialter, Alexandra Wende Devlin, Deanna Goldner, Andrew Gregory Baum, Brian Robert Flynn and Bryan Kevin Schneider of Westfield.

Two local students enrolled in the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University were named to the dean's list for the fall semester. To qualify for the honor, students must achieve at least a 3.4 grade-point average

The students are Daniel Banker of Scotch Plains, a junior majoring in information management and technology; and Alex Regenstreich of Westfield, a sophomore majoring in information management and technology.

Scotch Plains resident Theodore Francis Sensor was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Sensor is a 2004 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, He is the son of Tim Sensor and Connie Sobon Sensor of Scotch

Sean Richard Callahan of Westfield was named to the dean's list for the fall semester at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C. The son Mr. and Mrs. Richard John Callahan, he also earned a Gold Star for a grade-point average of 3.7 or higher.

Roofing Job

Special ed costs cause concern for board

(Continued from page A-1)

the cost of special education, but really we are being critical of the way special education is being funded," said Russo. Last year the district spent 18 percent of its budget on special education, said board member Betty Anne Woerner.

The district's proposed increase in out-of-district tuition costs is \$749,232, leading to a total proposed cost of \$4.7 million. Of that, nearly \$4.4 million is being proposed for special education, with the remainder for vo-tech pro-

In response to the high cost of out-of-district programs, Beese said a new in-district special eduction program is being proposed for the 2006-2007 school year. Although some board members said they were pleased to hear of the addition, others said such services could be both a blessing and a burden. About 21 new students moved to the district last year and were enrolled in

the special education program, school officials said. Board members said that although such a number is impressive, 'you also have to think that's a significant cost when it (the program) gets too big."

When board members questioned the proposal to add 2.5 special education teachers to the budget, Beese said the need was even higher than what he was asking. "We need more than what I'm asking," he said. "I am not requesting enough teachers, quite honestly."

One area of tuition that left several board members frustrated was the fee the state dictates to be spent on students in "state facilities." These are students who are incarcerated or otherwise in state facilities, said Beese. There are currently five students who fit this description in the district, and the proposed cost of their tuition for 2006-2007 is \$109,020, "We're supposed to be paying just the educational portion... and this is what the state is telling us it costs?" said

The board also continued its review of the entire budget, which calls for an increase of 5.48 percent, or \$3.6 million. About 50 percent of the proposed \$69.8 million budget is for classroom programs, said assistant superintendent Margaret Hayes. That section includes teacher salaries, textbooks, and athletics programs.

In a review of the curriculum and instruction budget, Hayes said many new textbooks are being proposed, and "the majority are for replacement" and to deal with increased enrollment. Science courses in particular require a steady replacement in textbooks because of constant new discoveries and research, said Hayes. Although textbooks do not make up a large portion of the budget, Hayes said their value exceeds their cost.

"(The textbook section) is very important, although the dollar amount pales in comparison to some other items on the budget," she said.

The issue of class sizes was brought up again by Scotch Plains resident Clancy Warren, who said she came to remind the board about parent concerns. Warren thanked Del Sordi for meeting with school administrators to discuss the problem. "It's good to be heard," she said, and asked what else parents could do.

Choye said it was important for parents to vote this year, and again said that defeating the budget would not solve parents' concerns about class size, but would only make them

"(Voting down the budget) will not help with class size," she said.

"And it will not affect negotiations (with the teacher contract)," added Russo.

"My concern is we have 5,300 students... 800 parents voted (last year)," said Choye.

The next budget meeting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. March 2. The Board of Education will meet tonight at 8:00 p.m. for an agenda meeting.





BROOKS CRANDALL/ CORRESPONDENT

At the Super Science Saturday held over the weekend at Coles School in Scotch Plains, Florence Nightengale (played by Margaret Ames, at left) enlightens children on some of the many innovations ploneered by the most famous nurse in history. Above, Ciara McParland helped deliver an anatomy lesson.

'Anthrax letter' intercepted at Wf. post office

(Continued from page A-1)

tal in Freehold. The mail room was shut down and several workers were decontaminated as a precaution, according to the agency, which added, "An additional 19 letters were located in an outgoing mailbox at 200 Deal Lake Drive, Asbury Park." About 200 additional letters from Brodie's Deal Lake address in the same format have been intercepted since June 10, authorities

According to the FBI, the letters were addressed to people in "all levels of government agencies, media personalities, actors

and actresses, businesses, and a hospital." A letter addressed to "President George Bush, Abilene, TX" was intercepted from the same outgoing mailbox on or about Sept. 21.

The investigation was conducted by the Joint Terrorism Task Force of the Newark field office of the FBI, the United States Postal Inspection Service, the United States Secret Service, the New Jersey State Police and the Office of the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey. The letters were tested by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, with negative results for anthrax.

When FBI agents searched Brodie's apartment they allegedly found 11 additional letters in the same format, with one sealed and ready to be mailed. Blank envelopes, colored pencils, a hole-punch and papers with handwritten names of some of the individuals to whom the letters were addressed were also found, authorities said.

"The arrest made today showcases the continued commitment of law enforcement in its efforts to protect the American public from threats that emanate from within and beyond our borders," said Special Agent in Charge Leslie G. Wiser Jr. "This arrest

should serve as a warning to anyone who would put the public in danger through their own irresponsible actions."

According to the criminal complaint against him, Brodie was interviewed by law enforcement agents on Nov. 14, 2005 and admitted sending the letter to the president and preparing the 11 more found in his apartment, as well as "two additional letters to the King Abdullah of Jordan and the Russian Interior Minister.'

Brodie's initial court appearance before Judge Mark Falk was in Newark at 11:30 a.m.

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What's there to watch on local television?

on proper treatment of stroke

FANWOOD — What would you do if you thought you were having a stroke?

That's the subject of Mayor Colleen Mahr's monthly television show for February. Recently the mayor taped her interview show at Overlook Hospital to learn about the newest life-saving emergency stroke treatments, which are now available in the hospital.

Mahr's special guest on the half-hour show is Dr. Shalini M. Bansil, who speaks about the critical three hours when revolutionary new drugs can be administered to save lives. Bansil is one of the leading authorities on stroke prevention and treatment in the

The program offers advice about what to do and what not to do. Many people mistakenly believe that stroke victims should immediately take a full-size aspirin, and then call 9-1-1. Bansil strongly advises stroke victims not to take an aspirin, but to simply call the local first aid squad. If able to, patients should ask to be transported to a hospital that offers a specialized stroke treatment unit.

In many cases, taking an aspirin would be the worst thing to do, said Bansil, who cautions patients about self-medication. There are different types of strokes, and the patient should be thoroughly evaluated before any medications are given.

Strokes are the third leading cause of death in the United States, but new drugs and procedures have given hope that more

The mayor's show, "Inside Fanwood," can be seen on Fanwood's municipal access cable Channel 35 at 8 p.m. Feb. 9, 9 p.m. Feb. 11, 8 pm. Feb. 13, 9 p.m. Feb. 15 and at 8 p.m. Feb. 17. Channel 35 can be seen in Fanwood, Scotch Plains and Westfield by Comcast subscribers.

Mayor Mahr's program focuses | Blue Devils TV36 presents 2 new programs in February

WESTFIELD - Now airing on Westfield High School Blue Devils TV36 through February 28 are two new productions.
Superintendent William Foley's budget presentation to the

public on Jan. 30 titled "Understanding the Numbers" is on the Blue Devils TV36 schedule through the end of the month. Foley described how tax dollars are currently allocated in the local school budget, discussed the decision-making process and constraints that the district faces in developing a budget and answered many questions about the budget itself.

This taping is being shown on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Thursdays at 2:30 and 10:30 p.m., Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 4:30 p.m.

Also, a new video entitled "Westfield High School - A Tradition of Excellence," produced by the high school staff, highlights the many features of the school. The program also includes footage on the town of Westfield and other schools in

Many sequences in the high school video were first shown to the Middle States Accreditation Committee, which unanimously renewed Westfield High School's accreditation earlier this year. The schedule for "Westfield High School - A Tradition of Excellence" is: Tuesdays at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Thursdays at 2 and 10 p.m., Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., and Sundays at 4

Westfield Board of Education meetings will continue to be shown on Tuesdays at 8 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m., Thursdays at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m., and Sundays at 10 a.m. For a complete schedule of Blue Devils TV programming, check the Westfield Public Schools Web site at www.westfieldnjk12.org.

DPW director DiNizo steps down after 13 years on the job

By ANNA BOODANOWICZ

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Walter DiNizo has been working since he was 13 years old. And now, at age 60, DiNizo is finally getting a break, having retired last week from his post as the township's director of public works after 13 years on the job.

A hard-working mentality was instilled in DiNizo during his childhood in Westfield. His father was a painting contractor, and young Walter often helped his father on the week-

"I really appreciated my family instilling some of the work qualities in me," he said Tuesday morning, speaking by phone from his home at Seaside on the Jersey Shore.

DiNizo joined the public works department in Union County 20 years ago. He then became director of public works and facilities at Mountainside, and finally moved to Scotch

Plains in 1992. But there was a lot of work waiting for DiNizo when he arrived.

There were a lot of retirements within a two- to five-year period," he said. Finding replacements was a challenge, but DiNizo says he is pleased with the new members he hired and has seen grow throughout the years. "The people we hired since 1996... now it's rewarding to see them working and con-tributing," he said. "They're a very, very talented group of peo-

Replacing 30-year-old equipment was another challenge in the early 1990s, he said, but one that was met within five years. And implementing a new road resurfacing program was another one of DiNizo's first goals something he is proud to say was soon accomplished. thought it was more cost effective (than what was being done)," he said.

There was certainly no danger of ever running out of work

that. During his tenure, "We probably have gone through every (natural) disaster except an earthquake," DiNizo said, citing a tornado on Labor Day in 1998, Hurricane Floyd, the Blizzard of '96, and one year that included 18 different ice and snow storms in the early

Learning the in's and out's of the township was another challenge, albeit an unexpected one. "I thought I knew everything about Scotch Plains," said DiNizo, adding several family members live in town. Still, he laughed, "I got lost a few times."

But it was not long before DiNizo knew the township inside out, learning all the challenges the large department faced. "The biggest challenge has been trying to accommodate the residents," he said. "Some people like what you're doing, and some don't."

But the sense of helping those residents also happens to

- Mother Nature made sure of be one of DiNizo's favorite parts of the job. "The increase in service level to residents" is something he ranks at the top of his list of accomplishments.

> Though he plans to continue being involved in the township, DiNizo says he will greatly miss the people he worked with in Scotch Plains.

> "I'll miss the people I worked with in the department, the people who supported me in the town council, and the people who taught me, like (township manager) Tom Atkins," he said. DiNizo said he may continue to work part-time for the township "to help as needed," and to offer some help with plans for repairing and renovating the municipal building and the public works building. Another job in public works is not out of the question either, he said - "As long as it is closer to home.

Asked about advice for new director Charles Cerami, who will take over the job on Feb. 13, DiNizo said it is important to

pay attention to the ideas of the young new very talented people" in the department.

And just as DiNizo benefited from the help of those around

him, he suggests the same for the new director. "Learning is very important... I'm sure he will need all the help he can

Township set to hire attorney

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Township Council will appoint Brian Levine as the township attorney for 2006 at its meeting on Tuesday. The position has been vacant since the sudden tragic death of Douglas Hansen on Dec. 9, 2005.

Levine, who has been the municipal judge since April 2001, was interviewed in January along with several other candidates. Before becoming judge, he was the township prosecutor for about 18 months. Levine is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Boston

University School of Law. He was designated as a certified civil trial attorney in 2003 by the New Jersey State Supreme Court and is a partner in the firm Brenner and Levine in Somerville.

One of Levine's primary responsibilities will be the oversight of litigation. "He also has some well-rounded experience in areas of law that will work quite harmoniously with assistant township attorney, Larry Woodruff," said township manager Tom Atkins.

In a statement, Atkins said, "the council felt that the team of Mr. Levine and Mr. Woodruff would be a very balanced one with excellent experience and outstanding knowledge to represent and protect the interests of the residents and taxpayers of Scotch Plains.

Teachers rally outside high school

By ANNA BOQDANOWICZ

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS - Almost 300 members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association rallied in front of the high school Feb. 1, marching back and forth and urging the Board of Education to agree to a new teachers' contract.

Sporting signs reading "No contract, still working, always caring" and chanting "Fair contract now," the teachers and other employees marched from 3 to 4 p.m. They have been working without a new contract since June 30, when their prior contract expired. The SPFEA's 465 members include teachers, paraprofessionals and secre-

After several meetings with a state mediator, the association and the school board issued a statement in December saying they were moving to the fact-finding phase of negotiations. A meeting with a factfinding mediator has been scheduled for March 1, said SPFEA Barbara McGuane.

The dispute has centered around salaries and health insurance, with the board looking for concessions from the association, such as contributions to the cost of premiums, that would bring the cost of

benefits down. On the afternoon of the rally, several association members wore red in support of union unity and others brought their children to the picket line with them. Cars drove by, some honking in support.

Feelings amongst residents have been mixed regarding the dispute, with some supporting

Residents

to run for

Board of Ed

can file

at 302 Elm Street.

a.m.-9 p.m.

STILL WORKING ALWAYS CARINO

An SPFEA member holds a sign expressing the association's position during last week's rally at the high school.

the teachers and others urging the board to stay firm in its stance. More than a dozen letters have been sent to the Board of Education by concerned parents over the past few months, most expressing support of the board's stance.

But teachers have argued they want "fair and comparable" salaries and benefits. And McGuane said many parents do not even know the teachers have been working without a

No Motivation

Lack of Confidence

Frustration with School

Weak Basic Skills

SAT/ACT Prep

PRIVATE TUTORING FOR

AT/PSAT/

ACT PREP

new contract.

"People are telling us they really don't know (there is no new contract yet)," said McGuane Tuesday. "Every time parents see us picketing they say, 'What's up?" "We just want to make our-

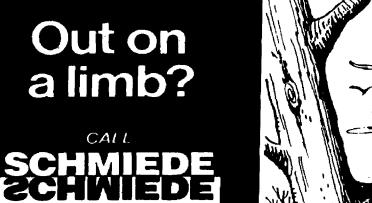
selves more visible," she added.

Picketing has occurred regularly at local schools in recent months, but the association called the rally to bring all its members together at one place 'for our own unity... to keep our spirits up," said McGuane.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood is

one of four districts in the county where teachers are working without a new contract. Garwood, Contracts in Plainfield and Roselle are also unsettled. At a Board of Education meeting the day after the rally, district officials said teacher salaries and benefits have made up 56 percent of the district's expenses in recent years, consistent with the average throughout the state.

With the annual school board election on the horizon, McGuane said she hopes parents do not vote down the budget, no matter how they feel about the negotiations. "If they do (vote down the budget), that will hurt the kids ... staff will be cut and class size will go up," she said. "I don't like when people threaten to vote down the







TREE EXPERTICO.

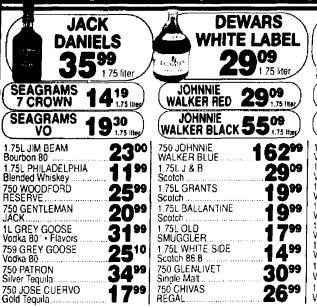
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699

WESTFIELD - Residents interested in becoming a candidate for the Board of Education can obtain petitions at the Board Secretary's office Petitions need to be signed and delivered to the Board Secretary Robert Berman by Monday, Feb. 27, 2006. The annual school election will be held April 18, 2006 with extended voting hours from 6 The term for an elected board member is three years. Each year, three positions become available as a result of expiring terms. Those school board members whose terms are expiring this year include Anne Riegel, Beth Cassie and Kimberly Rhodes. At a recent Rhodes announced she does not intend Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the board office. The School **Board Candidacy Kit includes** information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures, and the role of the school board

Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process, and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the

meeting,

to seek re-election.

Obituaries

George J. Ross; received Bronze Star

WESTFIELD - George J. Ross, 87, died Feb. 5, 2006 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Elizabeth, he lived in Westfield the last 51 years.

Mr. Ross was the assistant plant manager for Kentile Flooring in South Plainfield for 30 years before retiring in 1983.

An Army Air Force veteran of World War II, he was awarded the Bronze Star while serving as a staff sergeant with the 9th Air Force in England, France and the Rhineland.

Julius Lantz

Darrin.

WESTFIELD — Julius Jacob-Adam Lantz was born and died Jan. 28, 2006 at St. Peter's University Hospital in New

Brunswick. He is survived by his parents, Crisol Howard of Plainfield and

grandparents, Jacque and Lidia Howard of Plainfield and Gail and Kenneth Lantz of Westfield.

Graveside services were held Friday in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Charles S. Crow Jr.

WESTFIELD - Charles S. of Peace Lutheran Church in Crow Jr., 80, died Feb. 6, 2006 at his home in Newtown, Pa.

Raised in Highland Park, he lived in Westfield for 38 years and then Jefferson, Maine before moving to Pennswood Village in Newtown in May 2004.

Mr. Crow was an engineer and manager at Public Service Electric and Gas in Elizabeth and Newark for 39 years.

He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

Mr. Crow studied electrical engineering at Rutgers University, graduating with honors in 1949. In 1957, he received his master's degree in electrical engineering. again with honors, from the Newark College of Engineering (now New Jersey Institute of Technology). He was a member of the Plainfield Engineer's Club.

While they lived in Westfield, Mr. Crow and Alice Christine Henne, his wife 57 years, were members of Redeemer Lutheran Church, After moving to Maine, they were active members of Prince

and 7-9 p.m. Thursday. Kenneth Lantz Jr. of Westfield; and

He was a member for 55

years of Loyalty Lodge F&AM

in Union and a longtime mem-

ber of Azure Masada Lodge

vears. Ann: two daughters.

Noreen Saunders and Elaine

Malayter; a brother, Charles;

and four grandchildren. He is

predeceased by a grandson,

Friday at the Dooley Colonial

Home, 556 Westfield Ave.,

Westfield. Visitation will be 2-4

Services will be 11 a.m.

Surviving are his wife of 64

F&AM in Cranford.

Mr. Crow was also involved in a number of volunteer projects in Maine, including an AARP tax aide program and the Clary Lake Association. He also served on the board of directors of the Sheepscott

Valley Health Center and was a member of the Maine State Museum and the Round Top Society for the Arts. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Charles S. Crow III;

two daughters, Patricia C. Koch and Heidi C. Crow; a sister, Eleanor Crow Houyeux; and six grandchildren. He is predeceased by a son, Donald A. Services will be 10:30 a.m.

Friday at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Interment will be in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield. Arrangements are by the Dooley Colonial Home, Westfield.

Donations may be made to the Make-a-Wish Foundation, 1034 Salem Rd., Union, NJ 07083 or the Westfield Rescue Squad, 335 Watterson St., Westfield, NJ 07091.



David Sutter of Lancaster Ltd. is retiring after 21 years in business downtown.

Lancaster Ltd. is closing up shop

WESTFIELD — After more than two decades as the owner of Lancaster Hallmark Ltd., David Sutter has decided to close the downtown store and retire "on his terms."

'It's been a wonderful 21 years," said Sutter Monday, taking a quick break from the hectic activity surrounding the store's closing sale, which began Feb. 2. "The town's been wonderful

Though Sutter's tenure lasts "only" two decades, Lancaster Hallmark Ltd. has actually been in business for 45 years. The Elm Street store was opened in 1961 and later purchased by Westfield resident Bob Haines in the early 1970s. Sutter, a former Hallmark executive, purchased the store in 1985 and the building in

Sutter said that most of all, he will miss the area residents he has come to know through the years. "I'll miss the people, the customers... they've been wonderful to me," said Sutter. "I've watched the kids grow up." He has been a part of many families' cherished moments, providing wedding invitations and birth announcements.

Still in good health, Sutter said this is the right time for him to give up his business. "You have to pick a good time to retire," he said. He

stressed that "not being forced out" but moving on to a new phase of his life "on his own terms."

A member of the Downtown Westfield Corporation promotions committee, Sutter has several plans for his future — and they involve remaining involved in the community in several capacities.

Sutter said he plans to renovate the two upstairs apartments in the building. He will lease the first floor space only to retailers. "We have enough banks in town," he said, and also noted there is already a plethora of local restaurants. And in addition to his business interests, he plans to remain active as a volunteer.

When it came time to close the store, Sutter said he wanted to do it the right way. To accomplish this goal, he called in the professional marketing team of GA Wright from Denver, Colo. "If you want a professional sale, you hire professionals," he said.

On the personal side, Sutter, who is married and has two grown daughters, said he plans to travel and spend more time with his family.

In a statement, Sutter said he "has derived great pleasure and satisfaction serving (my) customers and the community. (I) will miss them

Arrivals in downtown Westfield

The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) has recently welcomed the following new businesses to the Westfield's shopping, dining, and service district:

Eileen Fisher, where "Every Body is Beautiful," is moving to 9 Elm St. and closing its store at the Short Hills Mall.

Just Bead Yourself, offering "unique jewelry made by you," is moving to 254 East Broad St., in the former locations of The Jewelry Box store and Gecko Kids studio in the Rialto Theater building.

- Kiehl's, an old-fashioned apothecary style store for skin and hair care that was founded in 1851, has opened its only free-standing store in New Jersey at 132 E. Broad St.

- Blue Mercury, a luxury apothecary and spa store, opened recently at 82 Elm St.

 Blue Water, a fine sea and land dining experience, opened recently at 235 North Ave. West.

And Splash of Thai, Westfield's only Thai restaurant, has opened at 321 South Ave. West.

There have also been several announcements about recent closures. In addition to the closing of Lancaster Ltd. due to the owner's retirement (see story at left), Sam Goody, located at 123 Quimby St., is closing its store due to the recent Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing by the chain owner, Musicland Group, Inc.

And Gecko Kids, located at 113 Central Ave., has closed its downtown location but will be offering its educational services in schools going forward.

WACC plans series of events for business owners

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce invites all local business people to a series of upcoming events.

From 8-9 a.m. Wednesday, business people from throughout Union County will gather at the NJ Business and Industry Association (NJBIA) Employer Legislative Committee Breakfast held at the Galloping Hill Inn, 325 Chestnut St., Union. Visitors will get briefed on the latest legislation and reg-

ulations affecting business while they enjoy breakfast and connect with area business leaders.

The next Chamber Speed Networking meeting will take place from 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m. Feb. 16 at the Chamber office, located at 173 Elm St., on the third floor of the Bank of building. America

Chamber's Speed Networking meetings provide businesspeople with an opportunity to network to find a client, mentor or strategic partner.

The meetings will be offered in March, also, and will be facilitated by Debra Hirsch, a business and personal coach, who will lead the group through exercises and activities designed to add depth and variety to the networking process. WACC members can participate for \$12 and non-members for \$15. Seating is mited so please call to r participation.

The Small **Business** Development Center, North Fork Bank, and the Chamber have teamed up to offer an informative workshop, "Unlocking the Power of Your Employees," from 6:30 -8 p.m. Feb. 22 at North Fork Bank, 138-142 Central Ave. Attendees will be able to immediately start implementing strategies designed to improve employee productivity and retention. There is no fee to attend, but call the Chamber to confirm your attendance.

For more information, check the Chamber's Web site at www.WestfieldChamber.com or call (908) 233-3021.

Moms to get nutrition tips

FANWOOD Wednesday meeting, the Union County chapter of Mothers & More will host Len Glassman, a certified personal trainer, who will speak on exercise and nutrition for the whole family.

Glassman, the owner of Personal Best Fitness Center in Garwood, will offer tips on how to incorporate fitness into a busy lifestyle and how to make exercise fun for the whole family.

The meeting is open to the public and will be held at 8 p.m. at the Fanwood Recreation Center, located in Forest Road Park. Refreshments will be provided.

The meeting will also be an opportunity for interested persons in the area to find out more about the Chapter's activities, which include mom and tot outings, mom's night out, play-groups, a book club, a craft club and more.

Mothers & More is a national, non-profit organization that champions the value of all mothers' work to our society, paid and unpaid, within and outside of the home. For more information about this meeting or the organization, call Stacy at (908) 928-9841 or Marilyn at (908) 568-2633 or log on to mothers andmore.org.

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Radio Shows What's New in the World of Infectious Diseases.

The University Hospital in Newark

Dr. Patricia Kloser talks about Ilinesses you can catch on public transportation, while traveling or through risky social behaviors. Saturday, Feb. II on WMTR I250AM at 9:30AM This is a call-in show!

Time is Brain Dr. Adnan Qureshi talks about the two main types of stroke and the potential for recovery. Sunday, Feb. 12 on WFDU 89.1 FM HealthLink Radio at 8:30AM or at www.TheUniversityHospital.com



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Police: Guard was assaulted by teenager

Police Log

WESTFIELD

Police arrested 18-year old South Bound Brook resident Matthew R. Tuck Friday and charged him with third degree aggravated assault of a Beadleston School security guard.

Tuck hit the security guard repeatedly in the chest and abdomen, according to Sgt. Scott Rodger. Tuck was processed and released on his own recogni-

Police charged Wall resident Zachary Rosenberg Friday with possession of under 50 grams of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Rosenberg was subsequently released on a summons pending a Feb. 8 court date.

Police charged Cranford resident Emilia Laface with driving while intoxicated Saturday. She was subsequently released.

Westfield residents Frederick Cooper Jr. and Kyle Clark were charged with possession of marijuana Saturday.

A Carleton Road resident reported his car was burglarized sometime over the weekend.

A Clark Street resident reported his car was stolen sometime between Feb. 3 and Feb. 5, while parked in a South Avenue municipal lot.

A Delaware Street resident reported an unlawful entry into her 2000 Ford minivan Monday, with \$30 in change stolen. On the same day, a Connecticut Street resident reported an unlawful entry into his 2003 Ford minivan. Im that case, a "Rent" DVD and \$15 cash was

A Boynton Avenue resident reported an unlawful entry into her 2001 Lexus SUV Monday. The contents of her car were strewn about the car, but nothing appeared to be missing, she told police. Another resident of 1600 Boynton Avenue reported someone entered her locked car and stole her wallet, cell phone and credit cards Tuesday.

In addition, a Boynton Court resident reported an unlawful entry into her 2000 Ford Focus Monday. The contents of her car were rummaged through, but nothing appeared, she told police.

Christopher Boals was stopped by officers Tuesday after he allegedly attempted to hide from them by ducking into a group of bushes. After Boals was identified, police discovered open warrants in his name. He was also allegedly found to be in possession of cocaine and burglary tools after a search.

After being stopped for motor vehicle violations, Roselle Park resident Morie Clastiel was charged Tuesday with possession of under 50 grams of marijuana and possession of drug parapher-

SCOTCH PLAINS

Police charged 35-year old Plainfield resident Alex Paredes with driving while intoxicated Saturday. Paredes was issued a summons for DWI and careless driving and was subsequently released to a family member.

A resident of Country Club Lane reported being the victim of theft Saturday when he left his vehicle in front of his house and someone removed a tire.

A patron of a Route 22 restaurant reported being the victim of theft Saturday when he parked his car in the lot and an unknown suspect broke the window and stole a cell phone and charger valued at \$300.

A resident of Harding Road reported being the victim of harassment Feb. 2 when a cleaning woman verbally harassed him after they argued over the quality of work she performed.

A resident of Willow Avenue reported being the victim of harassment Friday when an individual who rode past her on his bike yelled at her.



The Rake and Hoe Juniors participated in a safari to adventure at Duke Gardens in January. Members and their brothers were fascinated by the dinosaur topiary they saw in the topiary garden, one of 11 gardens to be seen there.

Juniors enjoy Duke Gardens safari

WESTFIELD — The Rake and Hoe Juniors brightened the doldrums of winter with a trip to Duke Gardens on Jan 21. Brothers and moms of the Juniors also joined in the fun of the "Children's Safari Adventure Game", an interactive tour with a guide. This proved to be an imaginative way of teaching kids about plants and flowers by becoming insects or animals in the garden. The Juniors explored the 11 indoor display gardens and had a great time.

Tours take place every Saturday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and children must be accompanied by an adult. For more details or to purchase

tickets, contact Duke Gardens in Hillsborough at

Membership in the Junior club is rising fast due to the innovative and exciting programs coordinated by Rake and Hoe member Alice Cowell. Currently, the Junior members are preparing for the State Flower Show run by the Garden Club of New Jersey, "A Floral Odyssey," to be held Feb. 16-19 at The NJ Convention and Expo Center in Edison. Visit the Web site www.macevents.com for more information.

To join the Rake and Hoe Juniors, contact

said Foerst.

ing March 6.

ing body of this town wants noth-

ing but to promote the business

corridor of Central Avenue... but

a better building that is smaller,"

promise by prohibiting medical

offices on the first floor, and

would also reduce some of the

residential units from two to one-

bedroom units, decreasing the

away from making this work,"

said board Chairman Vincent

Wilt. The applicant will revise

the designs and present a scaled-

down building at the next hear-

"We're probably five spaces

size and parking deficit.

"At the end of the day we want

Rapuano said he would com-

we want to do it responsibly."

Pam Kolb at (908) 233-3596.

Board: Proposed building is too big Foerst disagreed, "The govern-

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD Ralph Rapuano came before the Planning Board Monday for a second hearing on his proposal to demolish the buildings on three lots on Central Avenue and construct a three-story, mixed-use building in their place. After several hours of testimony that centered mostly on parking deficits and building mass, the hearing was continued to March 6, as members requested revised drawings to scale down the building once again.

The issue of shrinking the proposed building has been brought up several times over the past few years. Rapuano originally had Planning Board approval in 2002 to renovate the existing structures into a 14-unit mixeduse building, but said he realized the building had to be demolished and built from scratch instead. He came back to the Architectural Review Board in 2004 with plans for a larger building that included about 20 residential units in 2004, but was asked to make it smaller.

The current proposal has eight apartments each on the second and third floors, underground parking and about 9,000 square feet of retail space for four stores or offices on the first floor. Variances are required for parking, building height, and yard

Representatives for the applicant had been asked to speak with the county after the first hearing to see if there were plans to widen Central Avenue, a county road, in the area of 430 to 510 Central Ave., the location of the proposed building. At Monday's hearing, the representatives told board members the county expressed no immediate interest in widening that area of the road.

Rapuano's planner Ken Bowers testified Monday night and explained his calculations for the parking deficit, which had differed from those of town planner Blaise Brancheau, at the last hearing. Bowers said the application provides 22 spaces underground in the parking garage for the residential units, and 23 spaces for commercial space on a surface lot in the rear. Each apartment is allowed one spot, with the six additional spots allowed for guests or extra cars,

said Bowers. He said his calculations, which rely on studies of transit neighborhoods, showed a parking deficit of about 14 spaces without counting any on-street parking. Bowers added there were six onstreet parking spaces available on Central Avenue, reducing the deficit to eight. Statistics from

the 2000 census showed one of households in Westfield have one car, while 4 percent have none, said Bowers, arguing the residential parking provided would be sufficient. About 50 percent of people who would live in the building would likely drive to work, said Bowers, and others would walk to the train station or downtown. "So that demand (of parking spaces) is often overstated," he said.

Regarding the building's size, Bowers said a smaller building would create financial difficulties and would not allow for an underground parking garage, which would result in more impervious coverage because those parking spots would have to be provided above ground.

But board members said they did not understand how the benefits of the application outweighed the detriments caused by a large parking deficit and the mass of the building. "So you feel the ordinance is improperly written requiring that amount of parking?" asked board Vice Chairman, Robert Newell.

"No, I feel this application does it better," said Bowers, adding the zone allows mixed-use buildings and is designed to promore retail space. Construction at the site should foster a downtown atmosphere, said Bowers.

"You're saying the benefit of this building is it might be a cornerstone of the business district and then people can walk to other (locations)," said Jim Foest, the Town Council's liaison to the Planning Board. Bowers agreed, and said the building would promote more business for the Central Avenue area, which is run-down in places. But Foerst said if that were the case, then the parking demand would intensify, causing a larger parking

Other concerns arose over the rise in the parking deficit if medical offices were allowed on the first floor. Medical offices would cause about a 44-space deficit, according to Brancheau.

Board members also had a problem with the mass of the building and again asked the applicant to consider reducing the size. "Would you agree all the violations could be reduced or gone if you went to a smaller building?" asked board member Darielle Walsh. Bowers agreed, but said, "It would be a very dif-

ferent building, economically." Rapuano, who owns several other buildings in the Central Avenue area, spoke about his hopes for a continued revitalization of the area. "For whatever reason, the political body of this town has not considered that (a priority)," said Rapuano.



grant. It offers three full productions a year, script development workshops, staged readings of new plays, bilingual productions for children and young playwright competitions. The public is invited to attend

Spina's presentation. The club's business meeting is at the Masonic Lodge on Central Avenue. A tea will follow the program. For information, call (908) 789-1045.

WESTFIELD - Mark Spina

will speak at the Monday meeting of the Woman's Club of Westfield at

1:30 p.m. following the club's business meeting.
Spina is founding artistic direc-

tor of the Theater Project, a semi-professional theater at Union County College, and the Eugene

O'Neill Center's National Theater

Institute. Founded in 1944, the

Theater Project is an award-win-

ning member of the New Jersey Theater Alliance and the recipient

of the Geraldine Dodge Foundation

Enjoy a Thai dinner with the Welcome Club

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Welcome Club will enjoy its monthly dinner on Feb. 22 at Thailand

Restaurant in Clark.
The WWC aims to extend a friendly welcome to new people moving into the area and to those in the area that have experienced rccent life changes.

If interested in joining or to learn more about the club, contact Lorian Botsakos at lorianbotsakos@yahoo.com.

Social club to hear about Helping Hands

WESTFIELD - The next meeting of the Holy Trinity Sr. Social Club will be at 1:30 p.m. Monday in the school gym. The speaker will be Eileen Fox, who heads up the Helping Hands volunteer group at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church.

Fox will explain how volunteers help seniors by supplying rides, running errands or helping with small chores around the home. This service is available to Holy Trinity parishioners only.

Refreshments will be served after the general meeting. St. Valentine decorations will be displayed on the tables, making for a festive mood The next trip for the club is

planned for Doolan's in Spring Lake. The feast of St. Joseph's will

Club news

be celebrated then.

Director will speak to

Woman's Club of Wf.

Explore the life of Mary Todd Lincoln

SCOTCH PLAINS — The public is invited to attend the 12 O'Clock Club luncheon and program Tuesday at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, when actress-storyteller Laurie MacDonnell-Gaulke will impersonate Mary Todd Lincoln.

Vistors will learn about the impact this woman had on the lives of her family and the Washington, D.C. community during a pivotal time in our nation's history. Was she, or wasn't she, a strong, capable First Lady in the White House years? What was she really like?

The 12 O'Clock Club, a gathering of senior citizens, meets at noon on the second Tuesday of each month in Ryno Hall of Willow Grove, 1961 Raritan Rd., across the street from the Scotch Plains south side firehouse. The facilities are handicap accessible. Following a 10-minute time of devotions and a substantial meal, there is always interesting program. Newcomers are welcome.

To make reservations call (908) 232-5678 or (908) 889-6661 by Feb. 10. The luncheon donation is \$5.

Newcomers plan a Welcome Tea

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Newcomers Club invites new residents and those who have been through a recent lifestyle change such as a marriage, a new baby, or change of employment to attend the annual February Welcome Tea. It will be held at 8 p.m. Feb. 16 at a member's home. Contact Lee Robertson if interested at (908_ 889-7860 or leesquaw13@yahoo.com.

At the Welcome Tea, current club members will highlight the year's upcoming activities such as book discussions, playgroups, Bunko, pot luck lunches, toddler adventures and scrap booking.

The Newcomers Club, a nonprofit social organization, offers daytime and evening activities for women and their children. For more information about the club or the upcoming Welcome Tea, see the Web site at http://scotchplains.com/ newcomers/.

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Westfield Pediatric Dental Group

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Fellow, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, NJ Spec. Lic. #2487

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Commentary

New Jersey's fiscal mess

With school and municipal budgets in the news lately, homeowners could be forgiven for hiding their wallets. Several local boards have revealed spending proposals that include substantial, if hardly record-setting, increases, meaning that property taxes will surely rise again in 2006.

But the budget troubles at the local level are trifling compared to the mess that has afflicted our state government. And while municipal and school representatives are, to a considerable extent, at the mercy of external pressures, our state officials have no one but themselves to blame for their current mess.

As The Star-Ledger reported earlier this week, the state's finances are among the worst in the nation, in a league with Michigan, Louisiana and Mississippi. That's one state that's been devastated by the demise of the auto industry and two others that were poor even before the double-barrel blast of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. New Jersey, meanwhile, is among the country's most affluent states, home to an economy that continues to perform at or above the national average. Still, the deficit for 2006 has been estimated at somewhere between \$3.7 and \$5.5 billion - in the neighborhood of 15 percent of the total budget. By July, Gov. Jon Corzine and the Democrat-controlled Legislature will have to find a way to close that hole without resorting to the gimmickry the state has relied on in

Explanations for this sad state of affairs abound, but there's no getting around one central fact: For years, the state has tried to spend more money than it takes in, and that's not a sustainable pattern.

Compared to our neighbors, New Jersey has a high rate of taxation at the local level (property taxes) and a low rate at the state level (sales and income taxes). High taxes at the local level are understandable, because of our relatively robust local governments and the elevated cost of getting things done in an affluent region. But low taxes at the state level don't make sense, because we also have a robust — or as some might say, corrupt and bloated — state government. Eventually, something has to give.

Making matters worse is the fact that New Jersey is truly in need of property tax reform that distributes the overall tax burden more equitably. But instead of taking on reform — which would probably mean raising the income tax — the state has been cutting rebate checks to homeowners. On the campaign trail, Corzine promised to boost rebates by \$550 million. But the rebates, while welcomed by individual taxpayers, are just a prop to a broken system. And by digging the deficit even deeper and making the state's financial position more precarious, they make it more difficult to undertake real reform.

A comprehensive review of how to provide and pay for government services in New Jersey is long overdue. Maybe this latest crisis will finally force our elected officials to have that discussion. But first, they'll need to spend the next five months practicing austerity, and making up for years of fiscal irresponsibility.

The Record-Press is here for you

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

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

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

Our fax number is (732) 574-2613.

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

Deadlines

The deadline for submitting articles and press releases

to The Record-Press is 5 p.m. Friday.

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

Correction policy

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



Record-Press

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Advertising Director		
Editor		
Sports Editor		

301 Central Avenue, Clark, NJ. 07066

President	Thomas II. Krekel	908-782-4747
Senior V.P. Operations	Joseph Glotoso	908-575-6759
Controller	Margaret M. Gorke	UNR.7R2_4747

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Letters to the editor

Feedback sought on school budget

To The Record-Press:

The Board of Education is now well into our process for developing the proposed 2006-2007 school district budget. Our goal is to construct a budget that the community can ultimately support. The budget needs to address our educational priorities, deal with government mandates and cope with cost areas that are difficult to manage.

Can we craft a "perfect" budget that meets all needs and pleases everyone? Wishful, but unlikely. We are committed to creating a reasonable budget that meets many needs at a fiscally responsible level of spending.

The board's role in the process is to review the proposals made by the administration, judge priorities and continue to look for ways to maximize the benefits we get from the resources we have. Since the beginning of January, we've held weekly meetings to publicly discuss the first draft of the budget. We've already heard from administrators about employee benefits, utilities, capital projects, curriculum, special education, athletics and fine arts. Upcoming areas include technology, guidance and personnel.

What is the community's role in the process? We want you to ask us questions and voice your opinions during the development process so we'll have the opportunity to consider your requests and address your concerns before we determine the final budget. This dialogue will help us create a budget that meets the needs of our children while reflecting unavoidable compromises. By mid-March, our budget process will be almost over; we have a final budget hearing in late March to approve the actual budget that will go the voters on April 18.

How can you become informed about the budget? Board meetings are taped and shown on Channel 36, information will be posted on our Web site at www.westfieldnjk12.org and presentations will be held at school meetings. We invite you to contact the board at boe@westfieldnjk12.org or Dr. Foley at wfoley@westfieldnjk12.org to share your feedback or con-

ANNE RIEGEL President

Resident: Big house is 'an eyesore'

To The Record-Press:

I read with interest your article about the home construction on Midway Avenue in Fanwood. I drive past that house every day to and from work. I have always been amazed at how big it is and how oddly constructed, and at the unusual shape of the lot. I have wondered as to how that was allowed to happen. the conclusion seems to be that if you just keep building and blaming it on an architect's poor calculations, you can keep going with your lawyer's help! I feel sorry for the people that have to live around that ongoing construction site. It is an eyesore.

I think our communities of Scotch Plains and Fanwood should be up in arms about some of the

huge homes that are being built on small lots, which are out of scale for the lots and make the other homes in the neighborhood look like shacks. Some of the houses are so large that they seem to peer down on the rest of the houses in the neighborhood. Our communities are losing their charm and character and are becoming sites for large boxes, often built close to the road and with no back yard.

It shouldn't all be about who can turn over the property for the biggest buck. Huge and ugly is still huge and ugly. Isn't there something that can be

CYNTHIA NEWMAN Scotch Plains

Error on school data was repeated

To The Record-Press:

With the recent release of the School Report Card by the NJ Department of Education, it is evident that student performance in the Westfield Public Schools is high. In addition to School Report Card data, The Star-Ledger's article on Feb. 2 included information that the paper had reported in August. In August, The Star- Ledger incorrectly reported Edison Intermediate School as not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress for Unfortunately, the same error was repeated.

Edison Intermediate School in Westfield met all No Child Left Behind requirements for the 2004-05 school year. The school met all standards for every sub-group and for the entire school. To meet Adequate Yearly Progress, a school has to meet pro-

ficiency in all 40 sub-groups, including students who are classified in special education programs, those students with English as a second language, etc.

Because special education students did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress standard in 2003-04, but did meet it in 2004-05, the entire school is in "Hold" status. It is incorrect to say that Edison did not meet all requirements in 2004-05.

For more information on standardized test scores of both Edison and Roosevelt Intermediate Schools, you may refer to the "Superintendent's Message" on the Westfield Public Schools Web site at www.westfieldnjk12.org.

WILLIAM J. FOLEY Superintendent Westfield Public Schools

Westfielders came to aid of family

To The Record-Press:

The following letter was recently sent to the McKinley School PTO in appreciation of their efforts in the Katrina Direct Relief Drive held in November. Dear Westfield Friends,

Words cannot begin to express our gratitude for your kindness and generosity. Some things that your thoughtfulness has made happen for our family include:

— helped two college students switch schools and set up housing;

 replaced flooded furniture, clothes and kitchen bought Christmas gifts for kids whose parents

provided care for uprooted, traumatized pets;

- helped pay exorbitant gasoline and dry-cleaning bills:

 cleaned yards of fallen trees and debris. We hope this gives you an idea of the many ways those gift cards meant so much to us and made our holidays special. It is truly amazing the way your community has reached out to us in this time of need. Our sister Wendy is very fortunate to be in such a wonderful town surrounded by people who care. We are certainly not the "city that care forgot" because of folks like you.

Once again we send our heartfelt love, thanks, appreciation and best wishes for the New Year. With our sincerest regards,

The Williamson Family New Orleans, LA

Toy drive boosted center's efforts

To The Record-Press:

Through donations, the Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care is able to provide toys to children who have or had a family member in our hospice program or attend Camp Starbright, our bereavement camp. While this gesture may seem small, the impact it has

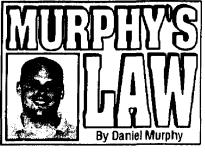
on our families is immeasurable. For families with young children, the bereavement process often becomes a struggle to cope with feelings of grief while maintaining some sense of normalcy in the child's life. During the holidays, this balance is

especially difficult. Thanks to the Cranford Fire Department Toys for Tota Drive, the Center for Hope was able to provide 12

families with presents for the holiday season. We are appreciative of the hard work of the entire Cranford Fire Department, under the direction of Fire Chief Leonard R. Dolan III, and especially Fire Investigator Dean Russamano who coordinated the efforts of Toys for Tots. We would also like to recognize the generous residents whose donations allow the Fire Department to provide such a wonderful service to the community.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all those who helped to bring the joy of the holiday season to the children of Center for Hope Hospice &Palliative Care.

Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Scotch Plains



What's so super about it?

I've never been one to turn down good food, beer, football, gambling or scantily-clad women on television. So, if you roll all of those things into one package, I should have been in heaven on Sunday.

And, between the party I attended and the Burger King and GoDaddy.com commercials, I pretty much was in heaven during the Super Bowl.

But I wasn't quite floating on a cloud while stuffing my face with chicken wings. The reason? Well, let's just say that on Monday morning when I was reading about the game, I was overjoyed to hear it called one of the ugliest games of all

I was glad to learn I didn't miss anything.

I had spent the roughly four hours between kickoff and confetti staring at a 50-inch, highdefinition version of the game and saw more of John Madden's noise hairs than I had ever hoped.But when you're at a 🔈 Super Bowl party, the Super Bowl itself becomes secondary.

Most everybody's attention during the game was focused on what outrageous scenarios had to occur to win the box pool, who was a "Grey's Anatomy" fan and how (and why) Keith Richards is still breathing.

As I thumbed through the newspaper I remembered little about the game. I remembered Seattle blew a couple chances, the refs were bad and Pittsburgh had a nice gadget play that went for a touchdown. But it took me a few minutes to recall the clock management issues and Jerramy Steven's butterfingers. And it wasn't until then that I found out who won the MVP.

I spend most Sundays watching football games by myself because I'm the only person I can tolerate being around most Sundays, I shout at nobody but the television and dream make that fantasize — about having my own Telestrator.

I enjoy being around knowledgeable fans when I can find them. I love to debate play calling, strategy and Roethlisberger vs. Manning. It's just a matter of finding people whose football knowledge I respect. On most Sundays, except for a couple text messages or halftime phone calls to a few trusted football minds, I enjoy as little human interaction as possible.

But for the biggest game of the season, the most important game of the season, everything changes. You have to have plans. Everybody has to have plans. Even people who never watch football have to have plans. It's like a rec league basketball game — everybody gets to participate.

It's the rough equivalent of New Year's Eve - another day my introverted personality yearns to spend in a quiet setting with a small group of people, instead of being in an overpriced bar with hordes of annoying drunks (even if I am sometimes part of that horde).

But if you're a fan of the game, the Super Bowl isn't for you. It's the same reason l stopped playing fantasy football. The results and the ingame chess matches didn't matter anymore. All I ended up caring about were the stats, and I needed to get back to enjoying the game.

Watching the Super Bowl at a party is a good time. But we're very fortunate that most Super Bowls are ugly, noncompetitive and just not very good - because we probably wouldn't notice if they were.

Daniel Murphy was sports editor of the Record-Press and Cranford Chronicle from 1999-2004, winning five New Jersey Press Association awards for his writing. He currently lives in Arlington, Va. You can email him at danielmu rphylaw@yahoo.com.

Briefs

JCC presents flea market for kids

SCOTCH PLAINS - The JCC of Central NJ will be holding a "Tchochkes and Treasures" flea market for kids from 2-4 p.m. Feb. 26.

Kids in grades 2-8 are welcome to reserve a table from which they can sell their gently used books, video games, toys and more. The sellers get to keep all of the proceeds from their sales. All participants must be accompanied by an adult and provide their own change for

The deadline for reserving a sale table is Feb. 22. Only 27 tables are available. To reserve a table or for more information, contact Jodi Baxter at (908) 889ext.

jbaxter@jccnj.org.
The JCC of Central New Jersey is located at 1391 Martine

WNC to honor Natalie Lark

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Neighborhood Council will hold a brunch honoring longtime employee/volunteer Natalie Lark from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Feb. 20. The brunch will take place at the council office, located at 127 Cacciola Place.

The prices for the brunch are \$7 for seniors, \$10 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 8 years of age. Call the WNC to make a reservation at (908) 233-2772 by

Lark was employed by the WNC for several years as senior coordinator. Due to a loss in funding dating from January 2005, Lark and other employees were dropped from the payroll. Since then, she has continued to work as senior coordinator on a volunteer basis.

Lark's work is emblematic of the organization's volunteer base. Since funding was cut, people of the community have volunteered to mow the grass, shovel snow, fix broken windows and keep the center clean. WNC officials also expressed thanks to the teens of PANDA for their volunteer services, the Westfield Fire Department, St. Paul's Church, Bethel Baptist Church, and the town of Westfield for continued support.

Donations are appreciated and may be sent to: Westfield Neighborhood Council, 127 Cacciola Place, Westfield, NJ

Grace Church offers program on Narnia

WESTFIELD Church of Westfield will present a program on "The Deeper Meaning of The Chronicles of Narnia" by Gradie Frederick.

The event will be held at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the church, 1100 Boulevard. For more information, email narnia@gracewaves.net, call (908) 2222-0322, or visit http://gracewaves.net. church's Web site is www.westfieldni.com/gopc/.

Refreshments will be served. The program is free of charge.

Church to host fellowship luncheon

SCOTCH PLAINS - The missionary ministry of St. John's Baptist Church invites local residents to a love and fellowship luncheon at 11 a.m. Saturday at the church, 2387 Morse Ave.

The spiritual menu will consist of praises, worship and testimonial. The guest speaker will be Deaconess Doris Bryant, president of the women's auxiliary of Christian Fellowship Missionary Baptist Association. She is from the Zion Hill Baptist Church in

Lunch will be served. For more information, call (908) 232-

Explore God's wonders at First Baptist Church

WESTFIELD — The First Baptist Church of Westfield, located at 170 Elm St., continues its kids' programming with an outer space theme from 7-8 p.m. Feb. 15 with "God's Wonders in

Certified school teacher and church member Katie Virzi will lead grade school children through hands-on experiments related to rockets and planets. The class is open to all students from kindergarten through fifth grade, and parents are welcome

to stay and observe. The \$10 materials fee covers supplies used in the class. If you would like to bring your child, phone the church office at (908) email firstbaptist.westfield@verizon.net.



Author Louise Borden (center) poses with, from left, Tyler Debbie, Una Heinzerling, Siniah Wallace and Ming Bauer during a recent visit to McKinley School.

Children's book author visits McKinley School

WESTFIELD - Renowned children's book author Louise Borden visited with the students at McKinley Elementary School recently to share with them stories of her life as a writer. Borden spent the entire day at McKinley, greeting each age group in the school's Performing Arts Center and entertaining them with stories about her writing experience, which she compared to their own experiences starting out as young authors.

Borden brought slides that involved a trip she took to Europe to research her book, The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey. In this non-fiction book, Borden tells the fascinating story of how the well-known children's book authors escaped the Nazi occupation of France by traveling from Paris to Spain on bicycle. They were not able to take very many belongings, but the manuseript for the beloved Curious George book made it into their

Borden is the author of many picture books and has also written historical fiction about such subjects as the American Revolution and World War II. She has also written several picture book-biographies, including Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman, which she wrote with Mary Kay Kroeger, and Sea Clocks: The Story of Longitude.

In 2000, her book Good Luck, Mrs. K, a school story about a third-grade class and their teacher, won a Christopher Award.

During her visit, it was clear that Borden enjoys her writing and research and was more than eager to share with the children at McKinley. She frequently visits schools to speak about her writing, having visitied over 500 schools across the coun-

Later in the day, before leaving McKinley, Borden spent time autographing copies of her books for the McKinley students. It was a special "Author Day" at McKinley and one the kids won't soon forget!

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Youth volunteer with Mobile Meals

WESTFIELD - Many young people from around the area gave up part of their vacation time this past holiday season to volunteer with Mobile Meals of Westfield, helping to deliver meals to residents in need.

Mobile Meals expressed thanks to the following student and parent volunteers for their hard work and dedication: Emily Lubin, Jake Lang, Mrs. Lang, Rob Castelo, Aimie Schaefer, Chelsea Moxley, Evan Eisenberg, Lauren Eisenberg, Lisa Eisenberg, Garth Sandiford, Mike Sandiford, Morgan Sandiford, Rob Costelo, Lindsay Tishberg, Rence Feldman, Samantha McCarthy, Elizabeth Shannon, Kristen Koepfler, David Warner, Maresa Hughes, Arielle Wegbrite, Taylor Manetti, Kim Berke, Sara Birkenthal, Chris Shearer and Stephen Koepfler.

These students got up early, reported to work at 8:30 a.m. and stayed until 11. Everyone pitched in to make the dessert, prepare the sandwiches, wrap the bread and pack the lunch. They also filled the hot food containers and packed the goodies for delivery. More than 425 meals were prepared and delivered by these volunteers over the five-day period.

Mobile Meals is always in need of volunteers



Many local students gave of their time over the holiday break to volunteer for Mobile Meals of Westfield. Pictured are several student volunteers helping Mobile Meals' cook, Margaret Cox (center), prepare and pack meals for delivery.

to pack or deliver meals in Westfield and the surrounding communities. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities at Mobile Meals, call (908) 233-6146 or send an email to MobileMealsWestfield@hotmail.com

Red Cross will offer lifeguard classes

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross, in collaboration with the JCC of Central New Jersey and the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, is offering a lifeguard training course.

Individuals 15 years of age and older are eligible. The course teaches students the

skills and knowledge needed to on Martine Avenue. prevent and respond to aquatic emergencies and provides them with a Lifeguard Certificate upon successful completion. It also includes certification in CPR for the Professional Rescuer and First Aid. The course will be held at JCC of Central NJ and the YMCA, both

There will be three different sessions held. The first session will run through Feb. 28. The second session will run from April 3 through April 26. The third session will run from May 11 through May 25.

Call (908) 756-6414, ext. 10 to register or for more information.



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This week

THURSDAY

FEB. 9 GENEALOGY TALK — Steve Yautz will address the Genealogist Society of the West Fields. 1 p.m. Westfield Memorial Library, 550 East Broad St. (908) 276-7104.

THE RIC

THE RIGHTS CATHOLICS HAVE — and The Rights they Should Have." A talk by the Rev. Patrick Connor for Voice of the Faithful of Union County, 7:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 1 East Broad St., Westfield. For information, www.votfnj.org.

FRIDAY

FEB. 10 TALK BY BISHOP LEROY HOLMES — the executive director of the Community Network in Roselle will discuss his life's work of assisting prisoners. 7:30 p.m., preceded by potluck supper at 6:30. Osceola Presbyterian Church, 1689 Raritan Road, Clark. Open to the public. (908) 276-1279.

GREAT AMERICAN BAKE

SALE - the Club Mid After School program at the Westfield Y will participate in this national program to stamp out childhood hunger. 4-6 p.m. 220 Clark St., Westfield. (908) 233-2700,

SATURDAY FEB. 11

RESOLUTIONS SCRAP-**BOOKING EVENT** — the allday program in Fanwood will feature mini-classes throughout the day and an opportunity for

drop-in participants. Register early at (908) 889-5954 or mm_scrappers@comcast,net. DANCE VALENTINE'S AND DINNER — hosted by the Sunday Nite Youth Group at the

First Baptist Church, 170 Elm

St., Westfield. 6-8:30 p.m. \$25. (908) 233-2278. QUEEN NUR'S SWEET POTATO TALES — children age 4 and up can hear stores in the African oral tradition, 10:30 Westfield Memorial Library, 550 East Broad St.

(908) 789-4090. LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP **LUNCHEON** — a program hosted by the missionary ministry at St. John's Baptist Church. 11 a.m. 2387 Morse Ave., Scotch Plains. Open to the public. (908) 232-6972.

SUNDAY

FEB. 12 'A DAY AT THE THEATER'

check out Jesus Christ Superstar at CDC Community Theater in Cranford, along with the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council. \$30. (908) 232-3236, ext. 1221.

VALENTINE'S DAY PRO-GRAM — kids can make crafts at the Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield. 2-4 p.m. (908) 232-

MONDAY

FEB. 13

WOMAN'S CLUB MEET-ING - the Woman's Club of Westfield will hear a talk by Mark Spina of the Theater Project at Union County College. 1:30 p.m. Masonic Avenue, Central Westfield. Open to the public. (908) 789-1045.

SENIORS CLUB MEET-ING - Eileen Fox of Helping Hands will speak to the Holy Trinity Sr. Social Club. 1:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church.

TUESDAY FEB. 14

PARK SCHOOL TOUR residents can tour the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Middle School. 9 a.m. (908) 889-4918.

WEDNESDAY FEB. 15 MEDICARE PART D TALK

 Conrad Nadell will explain the new drug benefit program to the HAZAK group of Congregation Beth Israel, 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains. 1 p.m. Free for members, \$2 for non-members. Register at (908) 889-1830.

STROKE RISK ASSESS-MENT — Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center staff will be on hand at the Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Ave. 7 p.m.

(908) 322-5007, ext. 204. 'GOD'S WONDERS IN SCI-**ENCE**' — the kids' programming continues at the First Baptist Church of Westfield. Open to grades K-5. \$10. 7-8 p.m. 170 Elm St., Westfield. (908) 233-2278.

HELPING CHILDREN TO SUCCEED' — a program for parents of special education students, hosted by CHILD of Scotch Plains-Fanwood. 7:30 p.m. Park Middle School, Scotch Plains. For

more, go to www.childorgspf.org.
HEALTHY LIVING FOR

THE WHOLE FAMILY — a talk by personal trainer Len Glassman for the Union County chapter of Mothers & More. 8 p.m. Fanwood Recreation Center, Forest Road Park. (908) 928-9841.

THURSDAY

FEB. 16 POETRY READING Garwood poet Amanda Berry will read selections from her new chapbook, Second Sight. 8 p.m. Patricia Kuran Arts Center, Watson Road, off Martine Avenue, on the grounds of Fanwood Borough Hall. (908) 889-7223.

VIÖLET SOCIETY WORK-SHOP — the county chapter of the African Violet Society will host a program led by Jan Riemer. 1 p.m. Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Ave. Open to the pub-

WELCOME TEA - the Plains-Fanwood Scotch Newcomers' Club invites new residents and those who have been through a recent lifestyle change to join them. 8 p.m. at a member's home. For more, call (908) 889-

leesquaw13@yahoo.com.
ROUNDTABLE DISCUS-SION - the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and PTA Council will discuss topics of interest in an informal setting. 7:30 p.m. Park Middle School. (908) 889-4918.

FRIDAY

FEB. 17
'LIFE BEFORE SUPER-MARKETS' — a slideshow/lecture presented by Hollace Hoffman for the Westfield Historical Society. 7:30 p.m. Community Room of the Westfield municipal building, 425 E. Broad St. (908) 233-6360.

SATURDAY

FEB. 18 COLLEGE CARAVAN — a chaperoned visit to four Pennsylvania universities, led by the JCC of Central NJ. Runs through Feb. 20. (908) 889-8800,

COMING UP HONORING NATALIE

LARK — the Westfield Neighborhood Council will pay tribute to a longtime employee and volunteer. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Feb. 20. \$10, with reduced prices for seniors/children. RSVP

by Feb. 15 at (908) 233-2772. PRESIDENTS' DAY PRO-**GRAMS** — with the kids home for the day, the JCC is offering various offerings from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 20. (908) 889-8800, ext. 235, 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch

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Parents urged to be on lookout for pediatric asthma

Fall and winter are the peak seasons for childhood respiratory infections such as nasal congestion, coughing and wheezing. During this season, parents are encouraged to pay special attention to a child who has persistent or lingering cough after a cold or has

frequently recurring episodes of respiratory symptoms. The possibility of asthma should be strongly considered, according to Sushmita Mikkileni, M.D., director of the Division of Pediatric Pulmonology at Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel



Presented by William Bell, R.P.T. A HEAVY BURDEN

Being overweight poses a number of health issues, one of which may have escaped the attention of parents. It is the fact that overweight and obese children recover more slowly from ankle eight and obese children report greater symptoms six months after an ankle injury. In fact, the overweight children (ages 8 to 18) were more than twice as likely as the non-overweight study participants to report pain with activity, persistent swelling, and weakness. In light of these findings, over-weight and obese children should be targeted for close follow-up and rehabilitation after an acute ankle injury.

This is one more reason for anyone to keep his or her weight within normal Children have high energy require-

ments because they are growing. sprains. New research shows that over- However, like adults, if they take in more energy in the form of they use up, the extra energy is stored in their bodies as fat. To schedule an appointment for physical therapy, contact BELL REHABILITATION & SPORTS MEDICINE at (908) 272-5955. We are conveniently located at 777 Walnut Ave in Cranford. Auto Insurance Claims our specialty, and we will submit your bills for compensation. No faults & Medicare. New patients are welcome.

P.S. According to the study mentioned above, children's risk of experiencing long-term ankle probwww.williambellrehab.com Medical Center.

Asthma is the most common childhood disorder, responsible for many missed school days and hospitalizations, and Mikkileni points out that many children suffer frequent and repeated respiratory problems often mistaken for common cold symptoms before being diagnosed with asthma and receiving the correct treat-

"Most people think of asthma as an illness associated only with wheezing. Asthma often conjures up an image of a person clutching at their throats in severe respiratory distress." Although these symptoms may occur in severe asthma, the majority of people have mild to moderate asthma, she says.

The most common symptom of asthma is coughing. In fact, coughing can be the only symptom of asthma in children, said Mikkileni.

'Coughing and/or wheezing after exercise or at night are other symptoms associated with asthma. Besides respiratory infections, allergies can also trigger asthma.'

Research shows that household pets, particularly cats

and dogs, and dust, cockroaches and rodents also can pose a year-round trigger for asthma. Ragweed pollen and mold spores are common triggers in the fall, whereas grass and trees can trigger spring allergies. Cold air and exercise, considered nonspecific factors, can trigger asthma symptoms as well. And smoke is an irritant which makes asthma

"All asthma triggers cause inflammation of the airway lining - an increased mucus production that blocks the airway, causing spasms of the muscles surrounding the airway. This squeezes the airway lining shut," said Mikkelini. "Coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath are caused only when there is a lot of blockage of the airways. But even if there are no symptoms, it is possible to have ongoing inflammation of the lungs."

Anti-inflammatory medications must be taken regularly to control inflammation and asthma symptoms even if a child is symptom-free. "Once asthma is diagnosed, if a child has daytime asthma symptoms more than twice a week or nighttime symptoms more than twice a month, regular use of anti-inflammatory medications is recommended," she said. "Bronchodilator medications are used to relieve blockage only when the child has worsening of symptoms. In addition to taking medications, avoidance of triggers is important in managing asthma.'

For children affected by asthma, parents and physicians must work together to develop and follow a written plan for managing asthma on a daily basis as well as during flare ups. It is important to know the medications prescribed and why they are prescribed.

"Being empowered to manage one's own — or your child's - disease improves quality of life for the entire family," said Mikkileni.

For more information on pediatric asthma care, call Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center at (800) THE-BETH or visit The Pediatric/Adult Asthma Coalition of New Jersey Web

site at www.pacnj.org. Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, is a 673-bed regional tion, cardiac surgery, robotic

referral teaching hospital with specialized programs including heart and kidney transplantasurgery, oncology, and maternal/child health services. Children's Hospital of New Jersey treats ill and injured children from newborn through adolescent years, including more than 30 pediatric specialties.

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Community Life

Briefs

Club Mid members join bake sale effort

WESTFIELD — The members of the Westfield Area Y's Club Mid After School program will be participating in the Great American Bake Sale to help end childhood hunger in America from 4-6 p.m. Friday in the lobby

of the Y building at 220 Clark St.
The Great American Bake
Sale is co-presented by Parade
Magazine and Share our
Strength, one of the nation's
leading anti-hunger organizations. Now in its third year, the
event encourages all Americans
to take a stand against childhood
hunger by hosting bake sales in
their communities. Proceeds are
submitted to Share Our Strength
and distributed to the nation's
most effective childhood hunger
organizations annually.

The Club Mid program is for sixth to eighth graders and meets Monday through Friday from 2:45-6 p.m. Participants enjoy sports, the Cardio Arcade, computer lab access, team building, leadership activities, community service projects, life skills, cooking and homework

On Thursday and Friday, the teens will be baking various items for the sale. In addition, several Y staff members will be baking to support the event.

For more information, call Chrissy Krasovsky at (908) 233-2700, ext. 270 or e-mail ckrasovsky@westfieldynj.org.

Colonial valentines at Miller-Cory House

WESTFIELD — Love is in the air this weekend at the Miller-Cory House Museum, where local families can enjoy a Valentine's Day celebration from 2-4 p.m. Sunday.

2-4 p.m. Sunday.
Evelyn Kennelly will demonstrate how early Americans made valentines, and a variety of lovely valentines will be on display. Children will be able to make two valentine crafts to take home and give to that special someone. Light refreshments will be served.

The 18th-century farmhouse, located at 614 Mountain Ave., is staffed by docents dedicated to bringing the past to life. The museum's gift shop carries a wide variety of colonial reproductions, toys, crafts, cookbooks and educational materials.

Future programs include "A Spot of Tea" on Feb. 26 and "Maple Sugar Sunday" on March

For more information about the museum, its calendar of events or volunteer opportunities, call the office at (908) 232-1776.

Wilson families compile their favorite recipes

WESTFIELD — The families of Woodrow Wilson School have recently published a cookbook of favorite recipes. The book contains over 275 "tried and true' recipes gathered from the elementary school community. Recipes include modern dishes such as smoked salmon bruschetta, spaghettini with peppers, proscuitto and herbs, red snapper with a mustard crust and a caramelized pear tart with sweet whipped cream. The collection also includes updated classics such as mustard-glazed pork tenderloins, carrot souffle, Oriental cole slaw and peanut butter pie.

The Wilson Family Favorites cookbook is priced at \$15 per copy and is available at the Town Book Store, 255 East Broad St., as well as Tiffany Drugs, 1115 South Ave. West.

Some residents can get free tax help

SCOTCH PLAINS — Federal and state income tax forms will be prepared free of charge for senior citizens, and disabled and low income persons at the following locations from February to April by appointment: Scotch Plains Library, 1927 Bartle Ave., (908) 322-5007; St. Helen's Parish Center, 1600 Rahway Ave., Westfield, (908) 232-1867; Westfield Community Center, 558 West Broad St., Westfield, (980) 232-4759.

A form must be filed to obtain a homestead or tenant rebate, even if you have no taxable income.

Cardholders now have access to 43 more libraries

WESTFIELD — Westfield Memorial Library cardholders can now borrow books from 43 other libraries in Union and Middlesex counties. Recently, the library became a member of the Middlesex, Union Reciprocal Area Libraries (M.U.R.A.L.), a consortium of libraries in those two counties that work with one another to share resources.

"Since no library collection can meet the needs of all of its patrons; it is helpful to have access to the resources of multiple libraries" said Library Director Phil Israel

libraries," said Library Director Phil Israel.
Participating in M.U.R.A.L. permits
Westfield cardholders to check the online
card catalogs of other M.U.R.A.L. libraries
to determine the status of a desired item. If
it is on the shelf, the person can go directly
to the participating library to borrow the
item.

It will still be possible to request materials via the state's inter-library loan program, but cardholders may find that the

Westfield library joins regional consortium

reciprocal borrowing privileges that M.U.R.A.L. affords are preferable to waiting the several days or weeks for an interlibrary loan.

Each participating library sets parameters on what they permit non-residents to borrow. Before traveling to an out-of-town library, patrons are encouraged to call to find out what restrictions apply. Libraries will not permit someone with fines and other library obligations in their hometown library to register as a non-resident until those obligations have been satisfied.

The library's programs this week include, for the children:

Preschool Story Time — kids from 3½ to 5 years old can visit at 10 a.m. Tuesday or 1:30 p.m. Wednesday to listen to stories and do an activity.

Mother Goose Group — Walking tod-

dlers up to 2½ years with caregiver will enjoy rhymes, songs, movement activities and stories from 10-10:20 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 16

Baby Rhyme Time — Babies who are not yet walking and their caregivers participate in rhymes, lap bounces, songs, and claps from 10-10:20 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17. Book Discussion: The Enormous

Crocodile — At 4:45 p.m. Monday, kids are invited to join with other young readers in a discussion of this zany book by Roald Dahl.

Valentine's Day Party — Wear some-

thing red to this celebration at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday. Children from kindergarten through third grade will hear stories, do an activity and enjoy refreshments.

Programs for adults include:

Puzzled by the Internet I — At 10 a.m.

Tuesday, this beginners' class will cover basic skills such as how to use a browser, Internet addresses, selecting a search engine and printing from the Internet. This is the first of a two-part session. Puzzled by the Internet II meets 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21.

Sundance Film Festival: Ruby in Paradise — Enjoy this award winning film at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Through some poor choices, including ones involving men she dates, Ruby learns some hard lessons that force her to develop inner strength and confidence.

TGIF: Made of Wood: Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy -- At 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, learn about the life of the brilliant actor, radio entertainer and ventriloquist.

For more information, call (908) 789-4090, visit the library's Web site at www.wmlnj.org or stop by the library at 550 East Broad St. for a copy of the quarterly newsletter.

Ringing in the New Year



Becker and her pupils at the JCC Preschool in Scotch Plains found an especially colorful way to cele-**Chinese New** Year — by making a class-sized dragon and parading it around the building. Registration for the 2006-07 preschool and kindergarten classes are ongoing, and the JCC will host an open house at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. For more information, contact Nancy Kovacs at (908) 889-8800, ext. 204 or nkovacs@ jccnj.org. The JCC of Central New Jersey is located at 1391 Martine

Teacher Tassie

2 teens will attend leadership conference

SCOTCH PLAINS — Two township teens have been selected to participate in the National Young Leaders State Conference from Feb. 9-12 in Princeton.

The local participants are Jeremy Busch, an eighth grade student at Terrill Middle School who was recommended for the conference by his sixth grade science teacher, Ms. Ginny Conway, and Patrick Clancy, a freshman at Seton Hall Preparatory School in West Orange, who was nominated by Mrs. Christiano, his eighth grade math teacher last year at Terrill. An honors student and athlete, Patrick resides in Scotch Plains with his parents, Pat and

Carol Clancy, and younger brother, David.

Themed "Courageous Leadership," the conference is designed to help attendees take an introspective and highly personalized assessment of their leadership skills and abilities.

Throughout the four-day program, participants will build a working "toolkit" of strategies to help them dream, create, and implement plans that will change how they view their role as leaders in their communities.

"The steps each person takes in discovering his or her own leadership strengths can be a very personal process," said Mike Lasday, executive director of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC), the organization that sponsors NYLSC. "The National Young Leaders State Conference will help students get at the heart of their innate talents and skills, and will also help them identify how best they can serve within their communities."

The NYLSC curriculum focuses on an introspective and highly personalized assessment of each participant's leadership skills and abilities. The students will be challenged to step forward in a manner that is decisive and confident, to grasp the concepts of leadership that will be taught and to act upon their

dreams of making a difference in the world while maintaining the courage of their convictions.

The Congressional Youth
Leadership Council is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational
organization. Founded in 1985,
the Council aims to inspore
young people to achieve their
full leadership potential. More
than 400 members of the U.S.
Congress serve on the CYLC
Honorary Congressional Board
of Advisors. In addition, more
than 40 embassies participate in
the Council's Honorary Board of
Embassies.

For additional information, visit the organization online at www.cylc.org.

Society explores life in an earlier age

WESTFIELD — "Life Before Supermarkets" will be the topic of Hollace Hoffman during a slide show/lecture for the Westfield Historical Society at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17 in the Community Room of the Westfield municipal building, 425 East Broad St.

In her program, Hoffman, a former director of the Trailside
Nature and Science Center in
Union County, will return to colonial times and show life as it was
long before the development of
large supermarkets and before the
choices of tremendous quantities
and variety of goods that are now
available to most Americans.

In those days, when a man often hunted alone, he was far different from contemporary American men, who may have to use cell phones to get directions from their wives in order to locate the right aisle and shelf in the

Through her talk and pictures, Hoffman will show there was a time when forest and field provided housing, food, medicines, tool handles, dyes and more. She will show how early farmers utilized nature's storehouse to supplement meals from cultivated crops and domestic animals. Many old-time crafts, machinery and tools will

also be shown.

Originally from Massachusetts,
Hoffman came to New Jersey to
attend graduate school at Rutgers
and received a degree in plant
ecology. She worked for Somerset
County as a park naturalist and
then for Union County as the
director of the Trailside Nature
and Science Center before retiring.
She is currently the coordinator of
Operation Archaeology for the
county, a program for fifth graders.

The public is invited to attend at no charge, and light refreshments will be served at the end of the program. For any questions regarding the program, call (908) 233-6360.

'Mozart' visits with students at Franklin

WESTFIELD — Students at Franklin Elementary School recently enjoyed a musical performance and dramatized character portrayal of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart by Dennis Kobray of Meet the Musicians in Millburn.

Donning his powdered wig and period costume, Kobray brought the story of the child prodigy to life. He not only shared the history of the famous classical musician, but stressed important values such as continued hard work, practice and determination by which Mozart was able to achieve success.

After enjoying Kobray's live piano performances as well as recorded excerpts of Mozart's famous symphonies and concertos, students sang "Happy Birthday" and presented "Mozart" with balloons to mark the 250th anniversary of his birth, which occurred on Jan. 27, 1756.

The event was sponsored by the Franklin PTO Cultural Arts Committee.



Franklin Elementary Students enjoyed a live musical performance and character portrayal of Mozart by Dennis Kobray of Miliburn.

Film takes harsh look at the food industry

WESTFIELD — Deborah Koons Garcia's award-winning documentary *The Future of Food* will be shown at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the First United Methodist Church, 1 East Broad St.

The Future of Food, which premiered to sold-out audiences at Film Forum in New York City last September, offers an investigation into many aspects of the proliferation of genetically-modified foodstuffs on grocery shelves around the county. GM ingredients can be found in meat, fish and dairy products and are especially prominent in processed foods, including more than 75 percent of soy products, over half of corn products and virtually all canola products.

No one knows what the longterm health and environmental impacts of this change will be, but the documentary raises questions and provides intensive examination of some key areas. According to the Christian Science Monitor, "There is a stunning revelation in almost every scene."

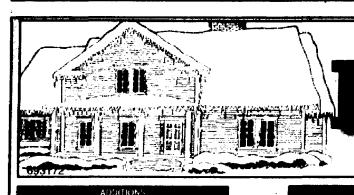
With on-scene locations ranging from Canadian Saskatchewan prairie to remote fields in Oaxaca, Mexico, the film features interviews with affected farmers, as well as scientists, agricultural and policy experts and consumer advocates. The movie takes a critical view of the corporate biotech industry, particularly Monsanto, and the push for globalization.

The filmmaker, Deborah Koons Garcia (widow of Grateful Dead of founder, Jerry Garcia) offered to debate Monsanto corporate representatives in any public forum of their choice when they challenged the facts of her film.

"Everything in The Future of Food has been very carefully documented," said Koons Garcia. "In making the film we relied on a tremendous group of prestigious advisors from many walks of life; including scientists, professors and farmers. It's disingenuous for Monsanto to allege that the movie is not telling the truth without backing up the claims."

There will be a post-film discussion and refreshments. The church's parking lot is accessible from Ferris Place, off Prospect Street; enter by the side door.

This film is sponsored by
Union County Peace Council, The
First United Methodist Church of
Westfield, and Word Out! For
more information call Diane at
(908) 233-7344 or e-mail unioncountypeacecouncil@gmail.com.



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NJWA to play at **Green Lane**

The NJWA Concert Band will perform a concert at 2 p.m. Sunday at the YM-YWHA of Union, 501 Green Lane. The NJWA, affectionately

known as the Green Lane "House Band," is directed by Howard Toplansky, author of the Essentials of Bassoon Technique.

Toplansky, in a constant quest for different band music, has made worldwide connections with Russian conductors and is particularly looking forward to the band playing the "Slavic Woman's Farewell March" by Vasily Agapkin. Composed in 1912, this song reflected the concern about the impending Balkan war. Although the war never materialized, the visions of Slavic soldiers parting from their wives and families struck a chord with the populace and later this piece became the most popular military march during Word War I, when new words were written for it.

Nonetheless, the piece was prohibited from being performed at the victory parade in 1945 because of political feuding. However, by 1957 "A Slavic Woman's Farewell" appeared in the movie *The Cranes Fly*. By the 1990s many well-known Russians petitioned Boris Yeltsin to adopt The Slavic Woman's Farewell" as the national anthem of the new Russia. In 1996 the Russian antiwar film Prisoner of the Caucasus used as the piece as its main theme. To this day the march evokes strong feelings even though another official Russian hymn has been adopted as the national anthem. In fact, the march has given its name to a brand of vodka.

In addition to this march, "The Lamb's March" by Sousa and "The Leshetinsky Kovar March" by Stolc will be featured during the Sunday concert. The band will also feature waltz music by Kalman, highlights of "Exodus" by Gold, the haunting "I Will Wait for You" by Legrand, Brahms' "Hungarian Dance #5," the everpopular ragtime feature "One for the Road" by Morath, and a mix of

For more information, call (908) 964-1793 or e-mail njwa-



The students at the Newark Boys Chorus School will be featured in a Feb. 16 Black History program at Union County College.

Newark Boys Chorus to sing at UCC

On Feb. 16, in observation of Black History Month, Union County College will be hosting an evening of beautiful music, soul food, and an African-American market during the third annual Frederick Douglass birthday cele-

The celebration will be held from 5-9 p.m. in The Victor M. Richel Student Commons and the Roy Smith Theater on the college's Cranford campus at 1033 Springfield Ave. The highlight of the evening will begin at 7 p.m. when The Newark Boys Chorus will gather with the veteran North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club to perform songs such as "This Little Light of Mine" and "Let There Be Music.'

Prior to the musical performance, attendees will have the opportunity to sample soul food for a fee of \$5 and shop in the African-American market in the Victor M. Richel Student Commons. The market will consist of vendors and crafts and will end at 6:45 p.m.

The Newark Boys Chorus School (NBCS) was originally founded as the New Jersey Symphony Boys Choir in 1966. The original chorus was formed with the New Jersey Symphony,

"Dance of the Snowflakes" in their production of Tchaikowsky's Nutcracker. James R. McCarthy who undertook the task and found 66 "angels" for use in the production. On Dec. 26, 1966, the chorus joined the New Jersey Symphony and the Garden State Ballet in a complete production of Nutcracker.

The chorus's debut performance was so successful and received such critical acclaim that additional performances were demanded, which ultimately led to the opening of the Newark Boys Choir School on Sept.15, 1969. In September 1972, the school adopted the name Newark Boys Choir, and later became the Newark Boys Chorus School.

The more mature North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club was established in 1939 by Delores Collins Benjamin. The young male singers were all from Newark's old Third Ward. The Philharmonics saw singing as a powerful cultural artifact. During the early years of the glee club, singing was used as

a vehicle for expression and a manly ritual. It was a way to preserve style, discipline, and camaraderie. It was also a way to keep alive old traditions from the time of slavery and at the dawn of African-American freedom. The club's current music director is J. Hamilton Grandison and the assistant director and accompanist is Philip Field.

The Glee Club has appeared in programs that included Harry Belafonte, Smokey Robinson, Ben Vereen, and Savion Glover. Some of their more recent performances were at the White House, Lincoln Center, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Smithsonian Institution, the National Cathedral and the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Newark

This evening of celebration on Feb. 16 is free, with the exception of the food charge, and members of the public are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Dr. Lawrence Hogan at (908) 497-4235 or Hogan@ucc.edu.

Wf. Art Association to visit with Parker at Palmer Museum

The Westfield Art Association has reserved Sunday for a visit with the photographer Robert A. Parker at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave.,

Springfield. Parker is featured in a current exhibition, "New Jersey Images" at Palmer Museum. He will on hand from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday to answer questions about his works. If members bring a small photo. Parker will also offer them some helpful



ROBERT A. PARKER

Parker is a self-taught photographer who belongs to the Tri-County Camera Club, where he has picked up many hints over the years. He has traveled around the country doing portraits and write-

ups and was writer and editor for Corporate World. Winning a prize in Americus magazine was his first step into entering many photographic shows. Parker won prizes in magazine competitions such as Photography and Travel, Adventure, and Saturday Review, which encouraged him to have numerous exhibits

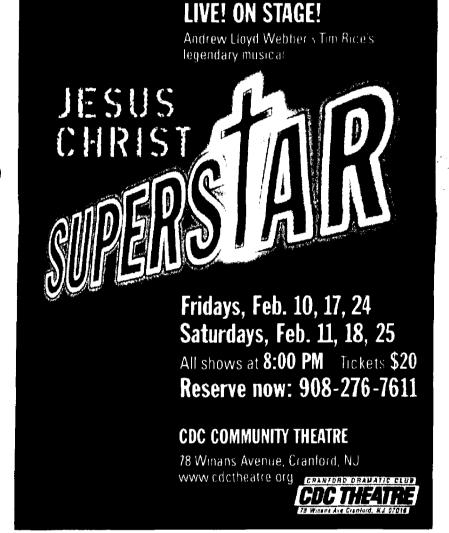
Parker's subject matter varies from natural habitats to manmade architecture, from athletic events to still life, from quiet portraits of birds or animals to blurred action photos. His on-location shots range from Giants Stadium to Cape May, Sussex County in winter to summer at the Jersey Shore.

Grouping these photographs into one exhibit has allowed Parker to show how varied the photographic possibilities are all over the Garden State. He likes to capture an entire scene but also employs the use of close up or zoom lenses to isolate an eye catching pattern, whether it be a man-made or natural creation.

He has shown in many group and juried shows in Winchester, Mass.; Watchung: Hackensack; Bergen Museum of Arts and Science; Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside; the Meadowlands Center for the Arts and the Kodalux Gallery in Paramus.

For directions and other open hours, call the library at (973) 376-4930 or Tobia L. Meyers at (908) 687-2945.







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Jesus Christ Superstar opens this Friday at CDC in Cranford Jesus Christ Superstar, the Tony Award-win-

ning Broadway musical by composer Andrew loyd Webber and lyricist Tim Rice, opens Friday at the CDC Community Theatre in Cranford for a three-weekend run.

The two-act rock opera features high-powered choreography and an energetic score, including several hit songs such as "I Don't Know How to Love Him," "Everything's Alright" and the title Bong. The show was the first collaboration for Lloyd Webber and Rice, who later worked together on Evita and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The musical tells the story of the last lays in the life of Christ.

CDC's production team has updated the setting of the musical to place it in a modern urban environment. Veteran CDC producer Elizabeth Howard heads up a team stocked with talent from around the area. Howard herself has many awardwinning productions under her belt, having produced virtually every musical at CDC over the last several years. Director Jeffrey Fiorello has extensive directorial experience at area theaters and is a veteran performer who has been seen at EDC in Smokey Joe's Café and Kiss Me Kate. Music director Joe Elefante also is well known throughout New Jersey, having served as musical director for dozens of area theatres, high schools and colleges, as well as heading up the Joe Elefante Big Band, a 17-piece jazz orchestra that performs at Cecil's Jazz Club in West Orange. He is also on faculty at the Paper Mill Theater School and the NJPAC Jazz for Teens program. The

show's choreographer, Q, studied with the Princeton Ballet and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and has performed in and choreographed countless highly regarded area produc-

The 30-person cast blends CDC regulars with a large group of talented performers who are newcomers to CDC but have an impressive list of credentials elsewhere in the area. Scotch Plains resident Juan Pascual, who portrays Jesus, has performed extensively in NYC and internationally and is co-founder of the Little Opera Company in Westfield. Husband and wife Jeffrey Jackson and Kathleen Campbell Jackson take the roles of Judas and Mary Magdalene. In addition to local and national stage performances, Kathleen originated the role of Sybil Vane on both the cast recording and staged reading of the Dorian Graybased The Flowering Thorn and has appeared on film in the musical, Frankenstein. Jeffrey, an award-winning writer and director, was one of three co-authors of the Frankenstein musical. Playing other lead roles are area veterans Frank Andrews, Bobby Selig, Jeffrey Dopson, Brian Merrill, Leo da Silva, Melissa Loderstedt, and Aimee Mitacchione.

Jesus Christ Superstar will be presented on Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. through Feb. 25. Tickets are \$20 on a reserved seat basis and can be obtained by calling the box office at (908) 276-7611 or online at www.cdctheatre.org. The CDC Community Theatre is located at 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford, off of Centennial Avenue.



Kathleen Campbell Jackson, Jeffrey Jackson and Juan Pascual in *Jesus Christ Superstar* at CDC Community Theatre.



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Auction planned at UCC

The Union County College Foundation and the UCC Alumni Association will co-host an art auction benefit on Friday, Feb. 17, in The Victor M. Richel Student Commons on the college's Cranford campus, located at 1033 Springfield Ave.

Ross Galleries of Holbrook, N.Y. will conduct the auction, which will feature more than 150 custom framed and matted works of art, lithographs, watercolors, original oils signed by the artists, documented sports memorabilia, pottery and estate jewelry. Featured artists will include Wooster Scott, Delacroix, Chagall, Ansel Adams, Boulanger, Neiman, Shaviko and Fauchere.

Tickets for the event are \$15 each or 2 for \$25 and include wine and cheese, hors d'oeuvres, desserts and coffee. All attendees will be included in a drawing for a custom-framed piece of art. Funds raised by the event will support the UCC student scholarship fund.

The art preview will begin at 6 p.m., with professionals on hand to answer questions. The fast-paced live auction will start at 7 p.m. The majority of the art will have opening bids ranging from \$45 to \$300. Opening bids are generally 50 percent less than framed gallery prices.

For tickets or further information, contact the UCC Foundation office at (908) 709-7505 or uccfound@ucc.edu.

WCB seeks musicians

The Westfield Community Concert Band, under the direction of Maestro Thomas Connors (above), is preparing for their 94th Season of musicin Westfield,

This year, the community band is initiating a spring concert performance to be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 2 at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield. This summer, the band will continue with their tradition of summer concerts on the gazebo in Mindowaskin Park. Concerts are scheduled to take place on Thursdays from June 22 to July 20 at 7:30 p.m.

In preparation for those concerts, the band is seeking experienced musicians on the trumpet, oboe, bassoon, and keyboard/percussion to fill potential vacancies. Musicians must be available for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Community Room in the Westfield Municipal Building along with the above: noted concerts.

This season marks the second season of concerts under the direction of Connors, who is director of instrumental music studies and assistant professor of music education at Kean University.

Interested musicians should contact Connors at (908) 737-4327. For future concert updates, go to the band's Web site at www.westfieldcommunityband.com.



Modern day gladiators

My job is great. I get to go to great sporting events and share what I see with you, the faithful readers. Sure, the deadlines can be tight and there always seems like there is not enough space or time to fit everything in, but usually I am happy with the sports pages every week and from the feedback I receive, most of you are too. Sure, I get my share of silly complaints, but that is part of the job and I am more than happy to deal with it. I also get plenty of praise, which is necessary to feed the ego machine. But I personally find that my job is most rewarding to me when I get to learn something.

Or when I get to experience something new.

I was able to get some time last weekend to go out to the Union County Tournament for wrestling. For those of you who have never been to a big wrestling tournament before, I suggest giving it a try. Even if you don't like or understand the sport, it is something everyone should experience at least once. There are some things you just have to experience yourself to believe. I have been to plenty of dual meets before, but my schedule has not permitted me the luxury of sitting through a full blown tournament before.

Tournaments are a completely different animal. Packed into a poorly lit and poorly ventilated gym, an arena that harkens back to an ancient tournament awaits those who enter. Four mats are set up, ringed with spectators, officials and score keepers. Wrestlers move on and off the mat in between matches, speaking to friends on various teams and family members waiting for them in the stands.

In no other sport have I seen athletes go from joking around in the hallway with a rival only to ten minutes later to be seriously embroiled in an attempt to dislocate each others arms. I have never seen an atmosphere where the game face flash on and off faster than the Roadrunner on a gallon of Starbucks coffee.

The tournaments themselves are frenetic throwbacks to age old competition. The temperature is hot and humid and tinged with the smell of perspiration. The raucous noise from the crowd and the coaches and the wrestlers combined with the sounds of the matches gives one a glimpse into what the old gladiator fights must have been like.

Matches run nonstop as coaches dash from mat to mat, sometimes coaching wrestlers on opposite ends of the floor. The MC doesn't have time to take a breath, as a steady stream of results mix with the announcement of the next match and the on deck opponents. It is the closest thing to a four ring circus you will see in high school sports.

There is something so absurdly cool about Westfield coach Glen Kurz screaming instructions to wrestlers competing on mats nowhere near each other. Or Brearley coach Brian Luciani leaping to his feet in his immaculate suit to congratulate a triumphant Bear exiting a match.

What stuck out to me, was the enormity of it all. The sheer mass of people. And the organization involved in such a meet is staggering. I've written columns before, praising athletes and coaches and parents and all of that remains the same. But what I wanted to highlight this week was the incredibly hard work of the support staff that make tournaments like this possible. From the people selling tickets and scorecards to the custodians who help set up the mats and try to keep the place ventilated, to the numerous stat girls who scurry from match to match with their little notebooks and pencils. Not to mention the announcers and

scorekeepers. It takes an astonishing amount of time and effort to make events like this possible, and it is not only the athletes and coaches that

deserve kudos. Russ Crespolini can be reached at 732-396-4202 or at rerespoli-

Westfield splashes SP-F to take UCT

By DAVID LAZARUS

CORRESPONDENT

The Scotch Plains Fanwood and Westfield Girls Swimming teams proved once again that they have a flair for the dramatic as for the second straight year the Union County Girls Swimming Championships went down to the final event. Unlike last year when a dramatic victory by the Raiders propelled them from second to a first place tie, the Blue Devils extended their slim one point lead with a victory in the 400 yard freestyle relay that brought them a 306-299 triumph Saturday at Dunn Athletic Center in Elizabeth.

Westfield claimed its 14th consecutive county championship and exacted sweet revenge for last years' tie and a 92-78 loss to Scotch Plains Fanwood in the season opener.

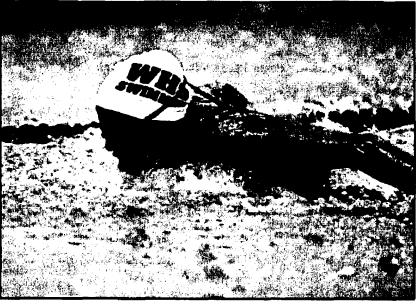
In the pivotal relay, Kylie Fraser gave Westfield the lead

with a strong first leg, and Brittany Reyes, Elizabeth Hawkins and Alexi Kuska extended it as the Blue Devils finished in 3: 45.47 to win easily. The Raider foursome of Brittany Larkin, Melissa Helock, Rebecca Fox and Jillian Murphy, had entered the meet with a faster qualifying time than Westfield but finished a badly beaten second in 3:49.65.

It was Westfield's fourteenth consecutive county championship, but their first outright crown since 2003 after the Blue Devils and Raiders shared it last

Scotch Plains Fanwood coach Jess Hulnik, while disappointed, took the defeat in stride. "I am pleased with the way the girls swam. Obviously we would have liked to have won, but now its time to look ahead to the states."

Last season the Raiders won their first Group III championship.



ALEX CENA/SHALERIDGE.NET The Westfield Blue Devil girls swim team took home their 14 con-

secutive county title last week. "It's pretty hard to top a counevents. ty and state championship. We would be more than happy to equal last year's success, but it

won't be easy," said Hulnik. "We knew coming in that it was going to be a close race," Westfield Coach Jaime Ruszala

In the opening meet the Blue Devils were missing Kuska, who recently returned from injuries.

"They beat us at the dual meet at the beginning of the season but our kids have grown up a lot since then," said Ruszala, who added that both teams were missing some key performers.

"She was an important swimmer for them to get back, especially with the she swam in the meet," noted Hulnik.

"Alexi just got back into the water about a month ago coming off of leg surgery which is amazing," said Ruszala. "We thought it might come down to the final relay, and that was the best relay I've ever seen. They were awesome."

In at least two events, the 200 freestyle and 100 backstroke, the meet had the look of a dual match with all six swimmers from one of the two teams.

Murphy was the individual star of the meet, winning the 50 and 100 yard freestyles, defeating Union Catholic freshman Nicole Colucci by less than a second in each race.

The Raigers won three of the first four races to take a 115-114 good feeling about this group. I lead. By the end of the meet, the

The Raiders, who won six of the 11 events also got first place performances from Larkin, who swam 2:05.27 in the 200 freestyle, Mary Henkels who won the 100 backstroke (1:02.63) and Helock repeated in the individual medley in 2:16.35.

Helock has also been fighting injuries this year and has missed several meets.

"All things considered, Melissa swam well. She won the 200 IM and placed second in a very close race in the 100 fly and performed well on the relays," said Hulnik.

Larkin, Helock, Fox and Murphy also combined to set a county championship record of 1:43.84 in the 200 free style relay.

Other standouts from the meet for the Raiders included freshman Kim Rizzo who took second in the 200 freestyle, Rebecca Fox who took third in the 100 breaststroke and, Kate Kosenick and Kate Johnson who were third and fourth in the 100 backstroke.

In addition to the 400 freestyle relay, Westfield took the 200 medley relay behind Fraser, Katie Morgan, Reyes and Kuska. Kuska also placed first in the 500 freestyle in 5:20.55.

Hulnik is confident her team can meet the challenge of defending their title.

Blue Devil boys take UCT

By DAVID LAZARUS

CORRESPONDENT

Even before the Westfield High School boys swimming team put the finishing touches on a seventh straight title last Friday at the Dunn Center, coach Bruce Johnson was thinking ahead to another date in February.

"This is nice, but it's all relative to how we do on February 20," said Johnson of the Blue Devils' 49th title in 50 years.

Feb. 20 is the date of the Public A sectional final when Westfield is hoping for a rematch against fourth ranked Bridgewater-Raritan, which beat the Blue Devils last year and routed them earlier this season.

"Bridgewater is a lot faster than last year and has four tremendous stars, so we will need everybody peaking to beat them. The county meet was a good start. Almost all of our times were season bests and that's what has to continue," said Johnson.

Westfield's 304 point performance, which included seven first place finishes, was far more dominating than last year when they had only one victory but relied on depth. Oratory, with Westfield resident Grant Moryan, winning two events and anchoring two other winning relays finished second with 184 points, followed closely by Scotch Plains Fanwood with 180. Union Catholic, led by Scotch Plains resident Brian O'Donnell was sixth with 78

Daurio and junior P.J. Harley joined Moryan as double winners. Daurio won the 200-yard individual medley (1:59.62) and 100yard backstroke (1:01.06), easily winning by about five seconds in both events. Harley's victories came in the 200- and 500-yard freestyles when he unseated the defending champion Bill Haley of Oratory in both events,

Freshman Chris De La Fuente won the 100 butterfly, junior Luke Baran won the 100 back-stroke and Brandon Cuba, Daurio, Baran and Matt Blutfield combined to take the 200 medley relay for Westfield

Moryan won a great battle with Cuba of Westfield in the 50-Yard Freestyle and also took the 100-Yard Freestyle. He also brought Oratory home in both

"He is an amazing talent. I would have loved to have had him at Westfield," said Johnson. "We only won one relay, but our best relay swims were on the two relays that finished second to Oratory.

Daurio, Westfield's top star, is rounding into top form after missing several weeks in January when he had a shoulder problem.

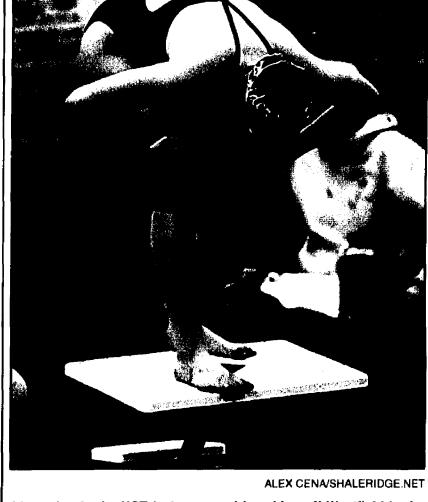
"Pat is actually ahead of schedule from last year. His county meet times were both faster this year than last year and he actually went 1:57.99 in the IM vs. Lawrenceville, which would've broken the county meet record if he'd done it Friday night. He had nobody pushing him Friday though," said Johnson. "But he's fine and we're looking for him to erupt at Individual States and get the school breaststroke record," added Johnson.

In January, the Blue Devils faced five of the state's top seven teams and state prep champion Lawrenceville, losing by some lopsided scores in what Johnson referred to as a "death march," but the coach remains unfazed.

"The losses have had nothing but a positive effect on kids," said Johnson. "They would rather swim fast against a St. Augustine, \mathbf{St} . Lawrenceville or Mountain Lakes than swim bad and win a meet against a weak team by 100 points. They're honor roll kids and they know the setup. All that matters is swimming fast, and being your best in February. They're swimming their fastest, and now it's February.' Johnson can feel good about

the future with the performance of. underclassmen like Baran, Harley, and Phil Anton, sophomores Matt Green, Matt Blutfield, and freshmen DeLaFuente, Matt Morgan and Max Blum who all scored points

'We're a better team than we were last year," Johnson said. "We were a good team last year but not a great team. Right now, we're a really good team but it remains to be seen if we'll be a great team. We'll find out February 20."



After tying in the UCT last year, and knocking off Westfield in the season opener, the Raiders were looking to win this year's tournament outright.

SP-F had taken first in six stay healthy. Blue Devils, Raiders on 'track'

By DAVID LAZARUS

CORRESPONDENT

A year after dominating the local cross country, indoor and outdoor track scene, the Scotch Plains Fanwood and Westfield Girls Indoor Track teams are trying to rebuild their young squads to overtake the reigning queens, Cranford, Plainfield and Summit.

Led by Seniors Emily MacNeil and Annie Onishi, Westfield swept the major indoor titles and was second to the Raiders in Cross Country. Scotch Plains Fanwood's dominance in cross-country and distance running was fueled by seniors Mary Shashaty, Laura Harrison and Liz Elko. while Michelle Regg,, Kat Berka and Katie Zaleski helped the Raiders duplicate Westfield's feat in outdoor track, sweeping the individual and relay titles. At the recent Union County Track

Championships the Blue Devils girls were unable to defend their title, finishing fourth with 25 points and were trailed closely by the Raiders with 23.5.

'We came into the season knowing we had big shoes to fill from graduation," said Westfield coach Jen Buccino. "We're improving as the season goes along.

Scotch Plains Fanwood coach Jeff Koegel was also realistic about his teams chances, but optimistic as well "We haven't had great showings in the championship meets, but I think the girls have shown a lot of development in terms of how they approach their training and their races," said Koegel. "We have a bigger nucleus than we did last spring in the track events, which will enable us to fill our relays out with fresh people in the big meets.'

Leading Westfield with a second place finish was high jumper Emily Perry, who cleared 5'0, which equaled her personal

"She has been consistent at 4' 10" and has hit 5' a few times," said Buccino. "She has also been doing well in the sprints and hurdles this season."

The Blue Devils also were second to the Raiders in the mile relay with a foursome of Christina Obiajulu, Tessa Schaaf, Jo Ann Mathew and Stephanie Cortinhal finishing

the 880 Obiajulu was fifth in the 440 and Caitlin Berkowitz added a sixth in the

Although not a newcomer. Objaiulu has been a big surprise in the 400. "She came in much more confident after her experiences during her freshman seasons of winter and spring track and has been quite an asset this year," said Buccino

Buccino has also been pleased with the progress of newcomers such as high jumper and hurdler Schaaf and distance runner Kim Legones, who switched from basketball. The teams' top cross-country runner Ravenna Neville, and another former basketball player, Rose Driscoll has also had impressive debuts in the middle

Rose Driscoll joined her sister Meg, Wisler and Corinthal to run a strong 10:03 for the 3200-meter relay to just miss the Meet of Champions. JoAnn Mathew, an experienced outdoor track runner has given the Blue Devils more depth in the sprints and Mary Kate Luker also traded in basketball shoes for flats for the first time, and was an asset to the shuttle hurdle squad as well as the sprinting team.

Other key veteran contributors have included Meg Driscoll, Catherine Cognetti, Corrine Parkinson and Ayn Wisler in the middle distances, and Jen Danielsson and Berkowitz in the long distances, Marlena Sheridan and Emily Perry have been the top hurdlers, co-captain Ali Fleder has paced the sprints.

The Raiders top team this winter has been the mile relay, which in addition to winning the Union County race also qualified for the Meet of Champions with a fifth at the Group III relays. Koegel believes the team has the capability to drop at least three seconds off their time if they are in a competitive heat.

The veteran team, which won the Group III Section 2 outdoor title last spring includes three holdovers; Samantha Gates, Danielle Vena, and Meaghan Kelly as well as Kim Appezzato, who missed all last sea-

son with injuries. "Kim has returned to form very well this

in 4:35. Cortinhal also grabbed a third in winter. She has come a long way in terms of running tough in her races and focusing herself on track," said Koegel, "She earned her spot back on the 4 x 400 and has run a few strong legs since then,'

Appezzato contributed a fifth place in the county 880 race. The Raiders best cross country runner, sophomore Cassy Valdes has continued to improve with a second place finish at the Union County two mile in 12:21 and also qualified for the Meet of Champions with an 11:53.57 at the Group III championships. Fellow sophomore Cathy Harleys, the Raiders number two cross country runner added a fourth in the Union County two mile and has excelled in her first indoor track season. Harley was a key performer for the state champion swim team last year.

"I think our distance program in general is improving. Cassy and Cathy both ran strong races at counties," said Koegel who also has two impressive freshmen Brittney Veeck and Emily Carow. "All four are very young and inexperienced, so as they get into the racing mode, they should develop. Brittney just missed placing in the mile, and that was only the second time she ever ran one," said Koegel.

Koegel is also hoping to get contributions from juniors Allie Hoynes O'Connor and Sam Carow, who are both returning from injuries. Soccer players Alana Bencivengo and Julie Meurer add depth to the middle distances and Koegel will be looking to see what they can both do in the 1600. "Not including Allie and Sam, I have seven girls who are contributing on a varsity level," said Koegel. "I am excited about what we are going to be able to do in the spring. Keep in mind also that I don't have any senior girls there.'

Strong young talent and healthy returning talent has give Koegel plenty of reasons to smile. "Getting Tina Olsson out in the winter has helped our short sprinting. We have a lot of new girls who will be able to contribute to the team over the next few years," The Raider coach said. " Our high jumping is improving steadily as well. Overall, I would say this lets me view our future in a very positive light.'

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Mike Venezia.

SPORTSCENE

Boys Hoops

Linden 87. Westfield 34 Sophomore Desmond Wade steered Linden to a 45-19 halftime lead with 13 of his 21 points in Linden last week. He finished with 13 steals, 12 assists and eight rebounds and did not play in the fourth quarter. Jerry Jones scored 14 points and Charles Miller had 13 in the

victory. Westfield got 10 points from

Shabazz 81, Scotch Plains 76 DaShon Barrino paced a 17-12 over-

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time period for Shabazz with eight of his 22 points in Newark last week. Sean Young forced the OT for Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 64-64, on a basket with two seconds remaining in regulation. Junior guard Greg Bayard hit for a career-high 34 points, 19 in the second half to power Scotch Plains comeback. Teammate Brian Dougher finished with 15 points.

Linden 49, Scotch Plains 39

L.J. McGhee scored eight of his 18 points in the fourth quarter to pace a 10-6 showing for Linden in Linden last week. The senior finished with seven

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Westfield 58, Roselle Catholic 53

Tied at 43-43 after three periods, Westfield took command as junior guard Mike Venezia threw in eight of his game-high 18 points in the final quarter of the John Butch Kowal Scholarship Tournament in Rahway over the weekend. Aldo Fleurintine led Roselle Catholic with 14 points.

> Scotch Plains-Fanwood 56, Gov. Livingston 39

Leading by five points at the intermission, Scotch Plains pulled away as senior forward Robert Lewis tossed in all of his 10 points in a 22-8 third quarter in the John Butch Kowal Tournament in Rahway over the weekend. Ryan Kelly paced Gov. Livingston with 12 points.

Girls Hoops

Westfield 56, Linden 44 Erin Miller collected 23 points, nine assists and three steals and Danielle Infantine added 12 points and eight rebounds for Westfield, which claimed a 32-15 halftime lead in Westfield last week. Deonna Overton paced Linden with 23 points and 14 rebounds.

Shabazz 58, Scotch Plains 34

Iasia Hemingway scored a game-high 28 points and added 11 rebounds to power Shabazz, in Scotch Plains last week. Scotch Plains, which was seeking its ninth straight victory, received nine points from Jackie Law and Allie

Westfield 15, Roselle Catholic 14 Erin Miller scored on a driving layup with six seconds remaining in overtime to lift Westfield to a 15-14 victory over Roselle Catholic in a defensive struggle

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yesterday at the John Butch Kowal Scholarship Games over the weekend in Rahway.

The loss dropped Roselle Catholics record to 8-9 and kept the school from qualifying for the state tournament as teams needed to have a record of .500 or better after yesterdays games.

Sophomore Danielle Infantino and junior Katie Cronen each had seven rebounds for Westfield.

Hockey Wrap

Montgomery 3, Westfield 1

Michael Tuosto scored 3:17 into the first to give Montgomery a 2-0 lead at the Woodbridge Community Center. Jimmy Bender pulled Westfield (6-7-4) within 2-1 at 8:57 into the third before Mike Yetter scored an empty-net goal for Montgomery (16-1), winner of 15 straight. Ian Healey made 16 saves for Montgomery and Eric Zagorski stopped 36 shots for Westfield.

Swim Wrap

Westfield Area Y Boys' A Swim Team Drenches Metuchen-Edison

In the next to last dual meet of the season, the Westfield Y Devilfish Boys' A Team extended their winning streak by drenching the Metuchen-Edison Y Boys' A Team, 126-82. Paul Casazza, who is Director of Competitive Aquatics and the Head Coach at the Westfield Area Y, leads the Devilfish Swim Team.

In the 8 & Unders, Jack Rose won the 50 Free and 25 Back, Andre Benz placed 1st in the 25 Breast and 3rd in the 25 Fly, Ryan Daniel garnered 1st in the 25 Fly and 2nd in the 25 Breast, Angelo Dente earned 3rd in the 25 Breast, and Jordan Hickman achieved 3rd in the 25 Back. The team of Daniel, Benz, Rose, and Griff Morgan won the

100 Medley Relay. In the 9 & 10s, Matt Daniel won the

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100 IM and the 50 Fly, Anthony Gurrieri garnered 1st in the 100 Free and 50 Breast, Luke McGrery placed 1st in the 50 Back and 2nd in the 100 IM, Max Shin garnered 2nd in the 100 Free and 50 Fly, Tyler Lessner tied Shin to get 2nd in the 50 Fly and got 3rd in the 100 Free, Garrett Williamson earned 2nd in the 50 Breast, Aram Barmakian earned 2nd in the 50 Back, Daniel Myers placed 3rd in the 100 IM, and David Adsit achieved 3rd in the 50 Breast. The team of McGrory, Shin, Daniel, and Gurrieri won the 200 Medley Relay.

In the 11 & 12s, Daniel Pesin won the 50 Fly and the 50 Back, Michael Rizzo achieved 2nd in the 50 Fly and 3rd in the 200 IM, Sean Clark got 2nd in the 100 Free and 3rd in the 50 Breast, Ryan Hobson earned 2nd in the 50 Back, and Matt Trinkle placed 3rd in the 50 Fly.

In the 13 & 14s, Matt Meserole won the 200 IM and the 100 Back, Larry Zhang achieved 1st in the 100 Breast and 100 Fly, Mike Oster placed 1st in the 200 Free and 3rd in the 100 Back, Matt Morgan earned 2nd in the 200 Free and the 100 Breast, and Jon Kosenick garnered 2nd in the 100 Back and 3rd in the 200 IM. The team of Meserole, Morgan, Zhang, and Oster won the 200 Medley Relay. In the 15-18s, Kevin Smith won the

200 Free and the 200 Fly, Luke Baran earned 1st in the 100 Back and 3rd in the 200 Free, Matt Miller garnered 2nd in the 200 Free and the 200 Fly, Phil Anton got 2nd in the 100 Breast and 100 Back, Mike Fragna placed 2nd in the 200 IM, and Brian Pesin achieved 3rd in the 200 IM. The team of Baran, Anton, Matt Blutfield, and Fragna won the 200 Medley Relay.

Gymnastics

Competing in their first meet of the season at the Madison Area YMCA on Sunday, January 15, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA (FSPY) A and B Division gymnastics teams earned a

number of top awards.
In the 13 and under age group,
Samantha Mazzucco and Sarah VanBuskirk were competing at the A Division level for the first time. Mazzucco earned 3rd place finishes on vault and uneven bars, w VanBuskirk placed 4th all-around. while

Gina Pelosi was the top scorer for the FSPY A Division 14 and over gymnasts, taking home the 2nd place allaround ribbon, along with top honors on vault and floor exercise, 3rd place on balance beam and 4th place on uneven bars. Jenna Skoller placed 2nd on the uneven bars and 4th on vault, balance beam and all-around. Another first-time

A Division gymnast, Patty Matejek placed 2nd on balance beam. Performing for the first time at the B Division level, Katie Buchbinder, Kaitlyn Frey, Lisa Matrale and Alexa Uvino competed in the 12 and under age group, with Buchbinder taking first place on balance beam. Top scorer for the FSPY team, Alivia DeMaria earned the 2nd place all-around award, as well as 1st place on floor exercise, 3rd place on vault and 4th place on uneven bars. The 4th place ribbon on vault went to

balance beam and floor exercise. The 3rd place all-around ribbon went to Kristen Schmicker, who also placed 1st on floor exercise and 2nd on vault. very first time, Allison Zeller earned the Competing on all four events for the 4th place ribbon for her all-around per-formance. Victoria Shack received 3rd place honors on balance beam, posting a personal high score. Kelsey Herbig competed in three events, putting in a particularly strong showing on vault, while Allison Lasher performed solidly on vault and uneven bars. Open Registration is currently underway at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA for the Early Spring Session. At

Olivia Dunham who is just back from an

Among the six veteran gymnasts competing in the 13 and over age group, Hannah Kronick was awarded 18t place

all-around honors, as well as 3rd place on uneven bars and 4th place on vault,

the Y's Martine Avenue facility, the gymnastics program includes parent-toddler and preschool classes, as well as progressive skills classes for school-age girls. Baton twirling is offered on Wednesday evenings and cheerleading on Saturday mornings at the Grand Street facility. Birthday parties are also available. Please call (908) 889-8880 for more information about any of these

Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA 'C' Team Opens Season On Saturday, January 21, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA 'C' team

competed in its first gymnastics meet of the 2006 season. While this meet did not include a team competition, the FSPY team, consisting of five secondyear competitors and five new members, turned in solid performances to begin the competitive season.

In the 10 and under age group, Zoe-Nicole Stein took first place honors in the all-around competition, placing first on floor exercise, second on uneven bars and vault, and fourth on balance beam. Kacie Bumiller finished second allaround, earning first place ribbons on uneven bars and vault, as well as second place on floor exercise and third place on balance beam. Lauren Lockfeld was awarded third place allaround, finishing first on balance beam and third on both vault and uneven bars. Marissa DiBella turned in solid routines on balance beam, floor exercise, and vault, on which she earned a personal best score.

Jackie Fabricatore topped the 11 year old age group, competing for the first time in several years. In addition to placing first all-around, Fabricatore earned first place honors on floor exercise and balance beam, and second place honors on vault. Leya Quinones won the second place all-around ribbon, placing second on the uneven bars and floor exercise, and fourth on balance beam. Competing for the first time, Danielle Rosenblatt turned in strong performances on both vault and balance beam.

In the 12 and over age group, three new team members performed admirably on vault and beam to contribute to the team's efforts. Michelle Rogoff earned first and second place honors on vault and balance beam, respectively. Joelle Pisauro won the second place award on vault, while Jamie Rubenstein performed well on both events in her first gymnastics meet.

The team's next competition will be on February 26th at the Madison YMCA, where the girls will compete alongside the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA 'A' team. The Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA offers gymnastics classes for children of all ages. Please call 908-889-8880 for more information.

Softball

Veteran St. Bart's Mens Softball League Signup

League veterans should submit their applications for this year by February 18, 2006. After that date new players will be accepted where veterans did not

submit their applications. Applications are available for men, a minimum of 30 years old, who want to join a great softball league. They may be picked up in Scotch Plains at Standard Pest Control or Sideline Sports and in

Fanwood at Family Investors Company. Year 2006 will mark the league's 28th year. The league started with 4 teams and has grown to 10 teams. Much of the league's success can be attributed to the fact that new teams are chosen

each year during a draft ala the NFL's college draft. There are a few more openings for

children or adults who would like to be paid scorekeepers. If interested, phone Nick Barattucei at 908-322-8649.

If any players would like to help; write weekly league articles please contact Dean Talcott at 908-322-6577 or by email at deantalcott@comcast.net.

If you have any questions about the, league call Commissioner Dom-Lawrence at 908-322-1697 or Publicity.

Chairman Dean Talcott. T-Ball

Westfield Area Y offers instructional indoor T-Ball league

The Westfield Area Y is proud to offer an indoor instructional T-Ball. league for boys and girls ages 4-6. Volunteer coaches needed. Players will meet for 40-minute practices that will rotate between Tuesday and Thursday evenings and one-hour games rotating between Saturday and Sunday after-

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Children must be registered by: The league begins on

March 6th. Saturday, March 11th. Volunteer conches are needed to helpmake the league successful.

For more information, call or e-mail-Jennifer Hessberger, Sports Director, 908-233-2700 x258 or e-mail jhessberger@westfieldynj.org.

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Pending sales down; expectations up

Pending home sales continue to decline but are expected to recover in the months ahead, according to the National Association of Realtors. The Pending Home Sales Index, based on contracts signed in December, was down 3.0 percent to a level of 116.4 from 120.0 in November, and is 5.5 percent below December 2004. Pending sales have trended steadily down from a record index of 129.2 last

The index is based on pending sales of existing homes. A sale is listed as pending when the contract has been signed and the transaction has not closed, but the sale usually is finalized within one or two months of signing. An index of 100 is equal to the average level of contract activity during 2001, the first year to be examined, and was the first of five consecutive record years for existinghome sales.

David Lereah, NAR's chief economist, said momentum in the housing market shifts slowly. "Changes in the over-

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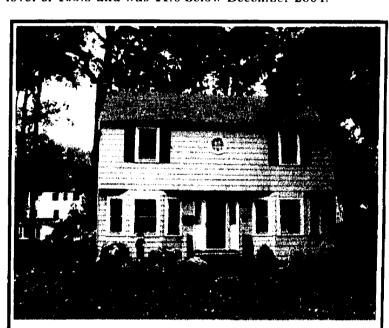
throughout the country.

all direction of the housing market are akin to a large ship making course corrections - it takes some time for the driving factors to materialize as a change in the sales level," he said.

"In many recent transactions we're looking at a delayed effect of mortgage interest rates that peaked in November but are now lower than expected. Mortgage applications have trended up in recent weeks, so we shouldn't be surprised to see pending home sales rise in the next couple months.

Even with an upturn in sales, Lereah expects the housing market to stay below last year's record. "We're going through a period of adjustment. As home sellers recognize a return to more normal rates of price growth, some that have been holding out for higher prices will be more willing to negotiate terms that are acceptable to buyers but still provide them a solid return on their investment."

In the Northeast, the index increased 1.5 percent to 90.7 but was 11.1 percent below December 2004. In the South it rose 2.3 percent to 135.9, 4.1 percent above December 2004. The index in the West fell 8.1 percent to 117.1 in December and was 11.8 percent lower than a year ago. The index in the Midwest dropped 9.3 percent to a level of 105.8 and was 11.0 below December 2004.



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Cranford

Move right in and enjoy this wonderful charming Cape Cod style home located in the Unami Park Section of town. This home features six rooms, including living room, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen, three bedrooms and two and one-half baths. The finished basement offers a family room as well as an office.

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Elegant and Enchanting, this 1910 Colonial Revival home, known as the A.I. Nichols House occupied the entirety of what is now Nichols Court. Woven into Fanwood's history, the interior spellbinds you with exquisite chestnut trim, grand entry hall, leaded glass windows, Butler's Pantry, custom built-ins and hardwood floors. Beautiful antique artistry blends today's conveniences including central air conditioning. A possible guest suite, marvelous cul-de-sac location plus the convenience of being minutes from town, school, and NYC trains, enhance the allure of this majestic homeOffered at \$799,900

For additional information or a private tour of this home, please contact:

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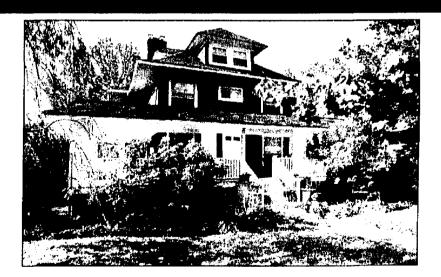
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30 BROWN TERRACE CRANFORD

Cranford... Nestled on a dead end street; this four bedroom home is located within minutes to schools, parks, and bus transportation. Boasting an open and airy floor plan, this home's living room (24'x14') with its cathedral ceiling, corner fireplace, and oversized picture window is perfect for formal entertainment. The grade level family room (23'x16') is ideal for more casual recreation. The master bedroom has its own full bath and walk-in closet. 3 more bedrooms, an eat-in kitchen and dining room round out this wonderful home.

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CASUAL ELEGANCE

Cranford... Ideally located near downtown and NYC train. Boasting an excellent open floor plan, this lovely 5 bedroom residence is filled with period details including a corner fireplace, fluted columns, alcoves with window seats, and high ceilings. Honed granite counters, a center island, and sunny breakfast nook add function, as well as style to the recently renovated eat-in kitchen. And to top it all off, this home has a finished basement with a family room, updated powder room, laundry room and storage room.

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NEW LISTING!

Scotch Plains... Conveniently located on a cul-de-sac, this cute and clean home is located within minutes to NYC transportation. Boasting four bedrooms, this expanded Cape Cod offers a flexible floor plan. A first floor bedroom could easily double as a den or office and the eat-in kitchen opens to the family room and deck which overlooks a wonderfully deep backyard. Well porportioned bedrooms and a full basement provide plenty of room for playing and relaxing.

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DANA HUTCHINSON



CINDY MCGRATH



Agents obtain senior certification

Properties Jersey Westfield sales associates Dana Hutchinson, Cindy McGrath and Ellen Murphy were recently awarded the Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES) professional designation by the Senior Advantage Real Estate Council.

As Seniors Real Estate Specialists, the sales associates are specifically trained to help seniors make informed decisions about selling a family home, buying rental property, managing capital gains and estate tax implications of ownreverse mortgage, moving to a senior community and other pertinent issues.

"By taking the time to obtain the SRES designation, Dana, Cindy and Ellen have proven their desire to better serve the specialized needs of their senior clients," said Marge Cuccaro, manager Prudential New Jersey Properties' Westfield office. "Each of these sales associates is dedicated to providing the

very best customer service. Named Prudential New

Jersey Properties' Westfield office's 2004 Sales Associate of the Year and Sales Associate of the Month for June 2005, Hutchinson specializes in residential properties in Westfield, Cranford, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside, and Summit. A lifetime resident of Union County, she has spent the last 14 years in Cranford. She attained Silver Level membership in the New Jersey Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence in 2004 and was also appointed to Prudential Real Estate's prestigious President's Circle.

A real estate professional for more than three years, McGrath is a lifetime resident of

WESTFIELD - Prudential ing real estate, obtaining a Cranford. She is a member of the National, New Jersey and Greater Union Associations of Realtors as well as the Garden State Multiple Listing Service. A consistent top producer, McGrath has been honored by Prudential Real Estate's 2004 Honor Society and Prudential New Properties' 2004 Multi Million Dollar Club and was named the Westfield office's Sales Associate of the Month for January 2005. She specializes in marketing homes throughout Union County.

Specializing in new and resale residential real estate, Murphy is a member of the Greater Union County Association of Realtors and the Garden State and Middlesex Multiple Listing Services. A lifetime Union County resident, Murphy is an expert on area communities, including Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside and Cranford. Before joining the real estate industry, she spent 20 years in retail and education sales. A consistent producer, Murphy was named the Westfield office's Sales Associate of the Month for the months of February, March, April, October

and December 2005 Hutchinson, McGrath and Murphy can be reached at the Westfield office of Prudential New Jersey Properties, located at 215 North Ave. West, or by phone at (908) 232-5664.

Burgdorff is collecting donated prom dresses

WESTFIELD — The Burgdorff ERA Westfield office is once again a designated drop off point for the non-profit organization Catherine's Closet, Inc., which collects donated gowns for inner-city girls to dress in style and elegance for their proms.

The Burgdorff ERA Westfield office, located at 600 North Ave. West, will collect the Catherine's Closet dresses through March 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Catherine's Closet asks that donated prom dress be less than two years old, cleaned,

preferably worn once, and fashionably up-to-date. "For the past three years, we have helped Catherine's

Closet with this important cause, and we must thank the Westfield community for their continued assistance," said George Kraus, vice president and manager of the Burgdorff ERA Westfield office. "The prom is one of the most memorable events for young men and women. It is only fitting that we provide closet space

"The prom is one of the most memorable events for young men and women...We are happy to assist Catherine's Closet."

— George Kraus

for dresses that will be worn for such a special occasion. We are happy to assist Catherine's Closet.'

Catherine's Closet honors the memory of Catherine Johnson, a senior, who was tragically killed by a 14-year old in a stolen vehicle. Catherine was an honor student and valedictorian of her class at Clifford Scott High School in East Orange. She was aspiring to be a doctor. Catherine was buried in her prom dress. In an essay she once wrote Catherine said, "People will know my name not for fame or fortune or out of Vanity, but they will know me because I have helped someone.'

Over 5,000 girls in New York / New Jersey benefited from Catherine's Closet, which has helped to provide designer dresses from Armani, Ralph Lauren, and Jessica McClintock. A new development for the organization is that it incorporates community service and entrepreneurial skills. Fourteen students have received \$1,000 scholarships for completing 60-100 hours of service with the organization.

For more information call the Burgdorff ERA Westfield office at (908) 233-0065. Catherine's Closet now works with over 225 schools and organizations. To learn more about Catherine's Closet, visit www.catherinescloset.org, or contact Dr. Sandra Kessler by phone (973) 628-1818 or email at sandy@catherinescloset.org. Charitable contributions can also be made to: Catherine's Closet, Inc., P.O. Box AR, Paterson, New Jersey,

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2003 HONDA ACCORD EXLVG 4DH W/Novi 20.999 6 cyl. auto, ps. pt.4Bb, a c. aur. fins sc. CD, ps. pm. pl. adalas, dis wipers, p-tanub, p-tx-ots, i plass, sp. wheels, ult, r/del, craise, stroof, leather, silver. /fin rvall, 38,940 miles, sch /8003XA, vin/AA025999 4 MOJEE AT SIMILAR SAVINGS

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4 cyl, auto. ps. p/ABS. a/c, am/fm/st/CD. pw. pl. pm. radlals. dly wipers. Uglass. p/trunk. tll. r/de4. cruise. s/rool. silver, war/fm avail, 21,642 miles, stks/9944. vim/2/0732/65. 4 MORE AT SIMILAR SAVINGS

/st/CD, pw. pl. pm t/glass. till, t/del,

AWD SUV Automatic

mipi, wardin Sik#80111A. avail. 26,355 vin#20.668605. HE TOTAL OF THE HARMANDE 2003 HONDA ACCORD EXI, VB 4DR 2003 HONDA ACCORD EXLV6 2DR 120.999

b cyl. ann. ps. pABS. art. am/Initist CD ps. pl pm. radials. div where, p/trimle pi-seats (r.plass, sp. wheels, tilt ridde (r.mse, stroof leather, blue war/fin art. 27/203 (miles. srk-88/0084, sin-14/018907 THE SAME TENNES \$23.999 2605 HONDA ACCORD EXIL 2DR W/NAVI \$23.999 2003 HONDA ODYSSEY EXLADR W/NAVI \$23,999

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.4DX lara ps. p. ARN.a.c. and mwill pacy i pn. mbals. By when with primary organic probable, idi. n. 2d. ander, over 6 water in a mark organic mail 1242 miles is \$400.054, mp. \$400.000.

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pkg, premium pkg. MSRP: \$43,000. \$2995 down payment + \$399 1st mo + \$400 sec dep +

\$595 bank fee = \$4389 due at lease signing + all taxes & MV fees. Total pymnts/cost/resid-

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signing + all toxes & MV fees. Total pyrmits/cost/residual: \$21,576/\$31,066/\$52,122...

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GRAND MARQUIS LS

V8, auto trons, owr str/brk/wind/locks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo coss, lithr, cruise, t/gls, tilt, r del, 63,590 mi, SIX #5P101A, VIN #1X691270

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V8, auto trans, pwr str/brk/winsl/locks/sts, AIR, AM/FM steteo CD, DVD player, lith; moonif, cruse, tilt, r del, t/gk, dual cirbags, 17,468 mi, STK #5P24, VIN #42J7551

'02 LINCOLN LS SEDAN

V6, auto trons, pwn sh/blk/wind/focks/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo (D, thir, moonf, cruise, 66,301 mi, STK #6P5, VIN #2Y646223

'05 MERCURY IONTEGO PREMJEI

V6, outo trans, pwr str/bck/wind/locks/htd seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo CD, cruise, 1/gk, life, moond, 16,454 mi, STK # 6P7, VIN #56624846

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05 LINCOLN

V8, pute trans, pwn str/ABS/wind/locks/min/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo (D, Ithr, cruise, N1, 1/gb, r def, 14, 138 mi, STK #5976, VIN #5Y6Z4388

\$25.995

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4 dr, V8, outo 00 trons, pwr str/brks/wind/locks/ seats/ trusk, or, t/gls, 1/del, titl, cruise, C0, chrome whis, moonif, litir, 60,402 mi, Stlut SP92A, VIN42Y634152.

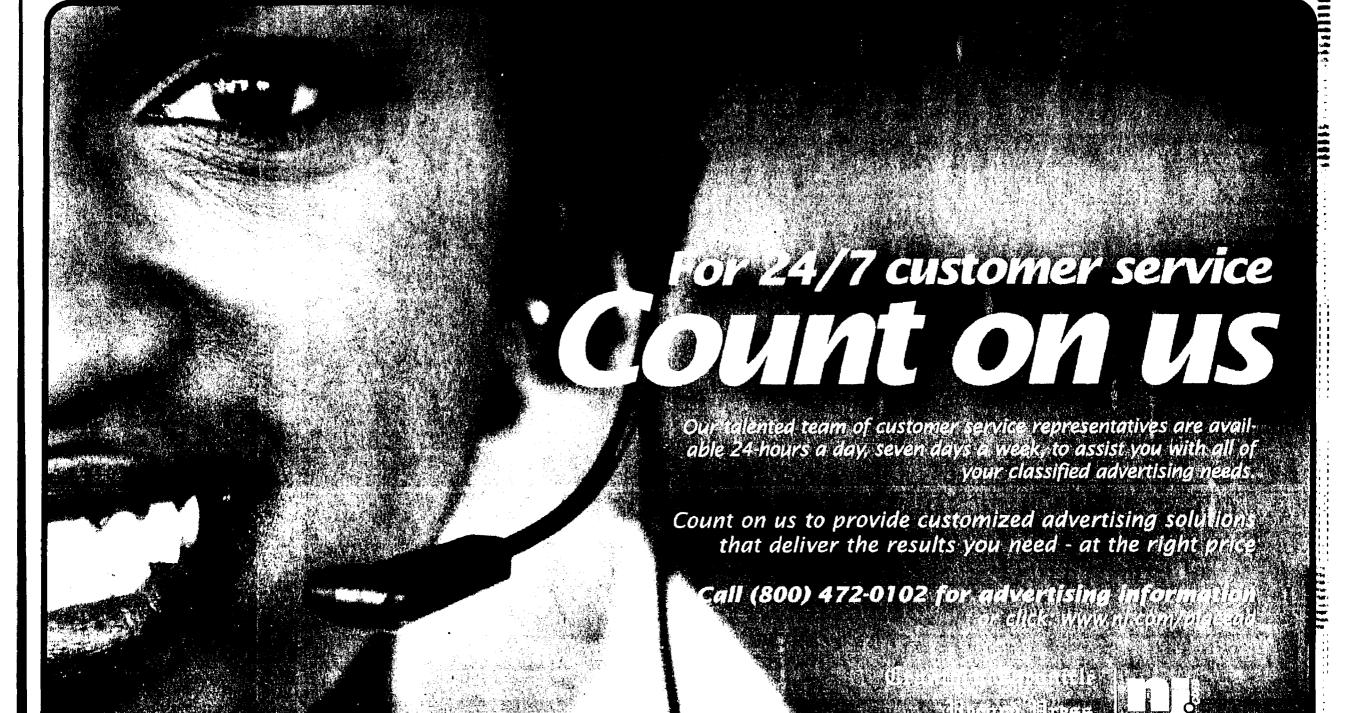
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4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, feather, tilt, cruise, cd, heated seats, alloy

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Automotive/Classified

Production milestone for Toyota

On Feb. 2, Toyota announced it has reached the 15 million mark in North American production. The milestone marked 20 years of manufacturing in North America, supported by a \$16 billion investment in North American operations.

"This is a great accomplishment for Toyota in North America," said Seiichi Sudo, president and CEO of Toyota Motor Manufacturing North America, Inc. "This milestone has been reached because of the total team effort given. Every member of the manufacturing and design team has contributed to this phenomenal growth and success. I also want to thank our suppliers, sales teams, and our loyal customers who have contributed to making Toyota one of the most popular brands in America and Lexus the most popular luxury

Toyota operates 12 vehicle manufacturing, powertrain, and components facilities in North America. The company says it will continue to further its commitment to build vehicles in North America with two more plants under construction - in San Antonio, Texas and Woodstock, Ontario.

Toyota now manufactures 10 vehicles in North America: Avalon, Camry, Corolla, Matrix, Sequoia, Sienna, Solara, Tacoma, Tundra, and Lexus RX330. Production of the Camry Hybrid begins in the fall of 2006 in Kentucky, and the RAV4 in 2008, in Ontario.

Toyota first began conducting business in North America in 1957 and began manufacturing parts in 1972 in California. In 1986, Toyota expanded operations to manufacture vehicles in a joint venture with GM at New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. in Fremont, California. Toyota now directly employs 27,000 jobs in manufacturing, and there are an additional 95,000 supplier jobs dedicated to Toyota business in North America. | totaled 12,746 units, an increase



Chrysler is counting on the new Dodge Caliber to make a big impact in the compact market.

Chrysler off to strong start in '06 With new products coming, January sales rise 5 percent over 2005

With the company poised to of 26 percent over January 2005 launch a record 10 new products sales of 10,112 units and contin-

this year, Chrysler Group last week reported January 2006 U.S. sales increased 5 percent, to 155,465 units. January 2005 sales were 148,111 units. All figures reported have the same number of selling days this month versus January one year

"We strengthened our leadership position in key segments such as minivans and large cars with our sales in January," said Gary Dilts, Chrysler Group senior vice president of sales. 'Our car business is up 20 percent, and our LX products are up 62 percent. The Dodge Caliber (began) production (Feb. 1) and gives us a strong entry into the small car segment with an attractive price starting at \$13,985. We are now a full-time car player."

Sales of the Chrysler 300

uing its leading position in the luxury large car segment, eclipsing its closest competitor by a 2to-1 margin. January marks the 20th month the Chrysler 300 has surpassed the 10,000 units sold mark since its world introduction in 2004.

The Chrysler PT Cruiser posted sales of 11,406 units, an increase of 45 percent compared to previous year sales of 7,887 units. Since its introduction in 2000, the PT Cruiser has sold nearly 975,000 units worldwide.

Jeep brand sales rose 8 percent to 29,773 units in part on the strength of the Jeep Wrangler which posted sales of 3,830 units.

Chrysler Group minivan sales continue to be driven by the Dodge Caravan, which posted sales of 16,273 units, an increase of 18 percent over January 2005 sales of 13,797

Dodge Charger sales continue to grow and rose 26 percent month over month to 8,023 units, compared to sales of 7,137

units in December 2005. Dodge Neon sales declined 70 percent to 3,347 units as the unit sells down briskly in preparation for the launch of the Dodge Caliber, which officially began production at the company's Belvidere assembly plant

"Consumer confidence has increased two consecutive months, interest rates have stabilized and inflation remains in check while other economic indicators are showing positive trends," said Dilts. "The 10 new products we are launching will be a catalyst for sales growth in a strong and competitive market this year.'

Chrysler Group finished the month with 550,816 units of inventory, or an 85-day supply.

GM announces construction of new hybrid transmission

on Feb. 1 that the first lightduty integrated hybrid transmission to be designed and built in the U.S. will be produced at GM's Baltimore transmission plant. The new two-mode hybrid transmission will go into production next year and will initially be used in GM's all-new full-size SUVs, the Chevrolet Tahoe and GMC Yukon. The vehicles will be assembled at GM's Arlington, Texas plant.

other U.S. The only designed and built hybrid transmission from a major auto manufacturer is also produced by GM. A heavy-duty two-mode transmission for urban transit buses began production in 2003. GM has provided 388 hybrid propulsion systems, designed and built in Indianapolis, Ind. for transit systems in 29 cities in North America and Yosemite National Park. GM begins 2006 with orders for an additional 216 hybrid bus systems.

GM will invest up to \$118 million to upgrade its GM Powertrain transmission facility in Baltimore for building a new, rear-wheel drive twomode hybrid vehicle transmission. The investment will create up to 87 new jobs, according to the company.

"Our two-mode transmission is a leap forward in hybrid technology and a key part of GM's unique strategy to offer several different hybrid systems in a range of the highest city fuel economy in popular vehicles," said GM their segment. The trucks Chairman and CEO Rick became available nationally as Wagoner. "Our multi-pronged

General Motors announced hybrid program is in addition to our many other efforts to minimize the impact of our cars and trucks on the environment, including the 1.5 million GM vehicles already capable of using ethanol/gasoline blended E85 fuel, and our cutting edge advances in hydrogen fuel-cell technology.

Two-mode hybrid technology uses a variable transmission with two electric motors and two hybrid modes of operation. The addition of a second mode to the drive system improves efficiency and reduces the need for exceedingly large electric motors. The second mode is used mostly when the vehicle is at higher speeds, such as on the highway, so fuel economy will be optimized in both city and highway driving.

The technology's advantages include: capturing electrical energy through regenerative braking, shutting the engine off (and fuel) at idle and during deceleration, and providing an all-electric launch and drive capability.

GM is launching a broad range of hybrid models, providing customers with several levels of fuel economy savings at different price points on vehicles from cars to full-size SUVs. GM already builds and sells the industry's first and only hybrid pickups, the Chevrolet Silverado Hybrid and the GMC Sierra Hybrid, which use a light hybrid system and deliver the highest city fuel economy in of the 2006 model year.





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Chevy Malibu LS 2000 121K, 4dr. auto, very 121K, 4dr, auto, very good cond, navy blue ext. neutral cloth int. fully equip, all power, AM/FM cass/cd. Orig. owner, well maintained. \$5,000 080. Call 908-232-6729

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Dodge Grand Caravan, '90, 7 pass., V6, auto, full pwr., runs great, must sell, \$750, obo. 908-925-9874 after 5

ORD WINDSTAR '96-White, 76M, great shape, must sacrifice. \$4000. 201-277-1937.

GMC SAFARI SLT '96 - AWD. 65K, Exc. Cond., Loaded, One Owner, \$680C 908-789-2416

Pontlac Transport SE '96- 7 passenger, front/rear ac, runs great, \$2000 908-296-0183

Toyota Previa - minwan, '93, 175K miles, fully loaded, excellent cond., 1 owner, extra winter tires, \$2500. **908-464-6027** TOYOTA SIENNA LE 00'-

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1999 GMCYUKON utomatic. 6 cylinder, pistaering, pibrakes, Axiomatic, 6 cylinder, pisseering, pibrakes, air cond. pisotions, keyfess, dual airbags, buckets, cruise, tirt, tint, amitim, 100,167 mäes, Stika?294330

1999 BUICK PARK AVENUE Automatic, p/steering, p/brakes, air conditioning, p/windows, p/tocks, p/mirrors, teather, 49,411, miles, Vin4X4551269, Stk#651269B

2001 FORD TAURUS SES Automatic 6 cylinder, pisteering, p/brakes, air conditioning, p/windows, alloy wheels, 56,320 mt, Vin#1A293749 Stk#P4170. 2003 CHEVY MALIBU LS

Automatic. 6 cylinder, pisteemig, pibrakes, ar cond. proptions, keyless, dual airbags, buckets, chuse, tilt, thit, amilm, 32,222 miles, Stkill\$717940. 2001 PONIAC GRAND PRIX GT Automatic, 6 cylinder, pistaering, pibrakes, air conditioning, phendows pilocks, p. mirrors, leather, 53,212, ma, Vin#16166134, Stk#166134U 2003 PONTIAC GRAND AM SE Automatic: 4 extender pristeering, pribrakes, air conditioning, privincous priodis, primitions, amiltim od player, 34,218 ms. Vin830191431, SbuRP4158

2001 BUICK REGAL LS Automatic, 6 cylinder, pisteering, pibrakes, ar conditioning, pilyindows pilocks, pilmirrors, 32,008 m., Vin#11234693, Stx#P4128 2001 FORD EXPLORER XLS Automatic, 40L 6 of Index pisteering in brates, at conditioning, of windows in pillocks, in pilm mores, 65,950 mil. Nint 1ZA12934 Stk RA129343

2005 CHEVY CAVALIER Automatic 2.21,4 cyllip seering pibraves, ar conditioning chimbons ip locks, pilminos, 4 door, amith, od payer, 29 656 mil Vina5 196559. Stuff4149

2002 FORD TAURUS SE Automatic 6 cyknder, pisteering, p/brakes, ar conditioning, biknocks pillocks pimirrors 37,725 m. Vir #24253672 Stik#P4171 2002 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX SE Automatic, 6 cylinder pisteering, prorakes, ar conditioning, privindows prilocks in printers, 25,915 mi. Vin#2F203113 Stk#P4177

2004 DODGE NEON SXT Automatic 4 cyander, o steering ip brailles, air conditioning, pllyindows, pllocks plimitrors, 4 deor lain, timistereo, 30,415 mil. VinABB74256, StickP4182 2003 BUICK CENTURY Automatic, 6 cylinder, pisteering intrakes ar conditioning pilkindows process or mirrors i am fitti stereo i 51 614 milli vint 31143075 i Schill P4194

2004 DODGE NEON SXT Automatic 2004 cythodripisteering pibrakes, ar conditioning pilwindows pilocks ip transis od prayet 28 856 m. VY#4D593816 StuP#164 2001 FORD WINDSTAR SEL Automatic 6 cyander, pisteering pribrakes ar conditioning privingows procks in mirrs, leather 57,556 mir Vina 18864491 SIVAP3345,

2002 BUICK LESABRE CUSTOM Atomatic 3 St. 6 cylinder pisteering, pibraries, ar conditioning pilwindows or locks in pilmirrors, 28 742 mill Vint 24122499, St. 41224998 2002 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX Automatic 6 cylinder, pisteering ipibrakes, ar cond. piloptions ikeyless, dual airbags, buckers, cruise 1,11,1nf, amifm, 25,329 miles, Sixkn1674810

2003 CHEVYTRAILBLAZER Automatic 6 cylinder pisteering porales air condi proptions keyless dua airbags ibucitets, cruise, tilt, tirt, amitm, 43,195 m, es. Str./1942130 2003 FORD EXPLORER XLT Automatic. 4 DL 6 cylinder pisteering, pibrakes, ar conditioning, piwndows pilocks ip microssis 38,388 m., Vine 3UAB 3215 StweP4034 2005 CHEVY UPLANDER LS

Automatic 6 chander, pisteering prorakes, air conditioning, privindows p. ocks. primitrors 17,141 miles V.n#50217914. Stk#P4081

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3id your Sts. MSRP: \$24,450. Bland on a 27 month closed and lease. Total due at inception \$3500 (includes \$267 lidown payment, I is month gayment, 50 rel sec depost; \$700 bank Tex) Total of lease payment; \$3,483 kpz. 12,000 ml @ 20 Mersories. Residual \$11,491.50. (Price includes \$3000 Lagra Cosh, \$1000 Bonus Cosh, \$500 Military Rebate, \$500 largeted Direct Moiler (Must have to



2002 Chevrolet Cavalier LS VIN/27288558, Blue Metalic, Auto. 4-Cyl, 2-2L, 4-Dr. P/S/ABS, P/Winds/ Lcks/Mrrs, Keyless, Dual Air Bags, A/C, AM/FM/CASS/CD, 39,117mi.

2003 Mitsublshi Lancer ESVIN/3U017327, Rio Red Pearl, Auto, 4-Cyl. 2.0L, 4-Dr, P/S/B, P/Winds/Lcks/Mrrs. Dual Air Bags. A/C. AM/FM/ CASS/CD. R/Def, 33,357mi.

VIM#6C123637, Auro w/00, Y-8, SUV, 4YID, P/S/ABS, A/C, P/Winds/Lcks/Mirs, Buol/Side Air Bogs, R/Def/Wpt, 7 Pass. Sts, AM/FM/CD. MSRP: 532,265. Based on a 27 month closed end lease. Total due at inception 53500 (includes 52601 down payment, 1st month payment, SO ref sec deposit, S700 bank fee) Total of lease payments 55,373-tax. 12,000 mi. @ 20 thereafter. Residual S19,681.65. (Price includes S1000 Lease Cash, S1000 Bonus Cash, \$500 Military Rebate, \$500 Targeted Direct mailer (must have to Qual) & \$1,000 Lease Loyalty Rebate if Qual.)



VMM/6UMO1950, June, V-6, 4.02, 4WD, P/Mmdr/Ldcs, Name Heards, 3-of Name Ses, AM/FAL. MSRP-532,9955. Resent on a 24 mounth classed and leave. Teach fine of broughten 53294 (includes \$5500 drawn parement, 1st meeth payment, 50 and sec depends, 5575 hank fee) lottel of lease payment 5474-4888. 10 5000 mil. 62 7.07 Memoryles. Residued (\$519,773. One) for participated SSR 5447 Guiden Discount, \$5000 (consumer Regide & \$500 Feed FMCC Release & Guide.)



NEW '06 FORD

FOCUS

VIN#6W167908, Auto, P/S/ABS, 4-Cyl, P/Winds/Lcks, Dual/Side Air Bags, A/C, AM/FM/CO. MSRP:517,425. (Price includes 52000 Consumer Rebate & \$1437 Dealer Discount if Qual.)



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VIN466054399, Auto, 3.4L, V-6, AWD, A/C, P/Sts, T/Gls, Cruise, Dual Air Bags, AM/FM Stereo. MSRP: \$26,445. (Price includes \$1000 Factory Reborte & \$2457 Dealer Discount if Qual).







VIN46R162332, Auto, 4-Dr, SUV, V-B, P/S/ABS, Cruise, Tilt, R/Del, Keyless, P/Winds/Lcks/Mrrs, Roof Rk. MSRP: \$47,760. (Price includes \$5500 Rebotte & \$7,272 Dealer Discount if Qual.)

1 YEAR 12K/MI WARRANTY INCLUDED W/ PURCHASE

2002 Ford Explorer XLS\$9,988 VIN/2ZA25980, Gold Metallic, Auto, 6-Cyl, 4.0L, SUV, P/S/B, P/Winds/Lcks/Mirs, Dual Air Bags, A/C, AM/FM/ CD, Cruise, Tilt, R/Del, Alloys, Lugg Rk, 77,600mi.

2005 Ford Focus ZX5VIN-SR134903, Gray, Auto, 4-Cyl, 5-Dr Hatch, P/S/ABS, P/Winds/Loks/Hid Mrrs, Dual Air Bags, A/C, AM/FM/CD, R/Det, Tilt, Cruise, Sun Rf, Htd Frt Sts, R/Det, 4,689mi. 2004 Mazda3 S VIN441142238, Silver5-Spd Man Trans, 4-Cyl, 4-Dr, P/S/B, P/Lcks/Mirs, Dual Air Bags, A/C, AM/FM/CD, R/Del, Till, Cruise, Alloys, R/Del, 29,895mi.

2003 Volkswagen Golf EL. \$13,988 VIN/34006232, Indigo Blue Pearl, 5-Spd Man Trans, 4-Cyt, 3-0: Hatch, P/S/B P/Winds/Lcks/Mirs, Dual Air Bags, A/C, AM/FM/CD, R/Def, Till, Cruise, R/Def, 13,702mi 2002 Volkswagen Passat GLS
VIM2P344244, Gray Metallic, Auto, 4-Cyl, 4-Dr, P/S/B, P/Winds/Lcks/Mrs, Dual/Side
Air Bags, A/C, AM/FM/CD, R/Del, Tilt, Cruise, R/Del, Sun Rt, Alloys, 20,888mi.

2005 Ford Focus ZXW \$14,588 VIN45W239362, Black, Auto, 4-Cyl, 2.0L, 4-Dr Wagon, P/S/ ABS, P/Loks/Mrrs. Dual Air Bags. A/C, AM/FM/ CD, R/Del, Till. Cruise, R/Del, Sun Rl. Alloys, Lugg Rk, Trac Ctrl. 6,516mi.

LES 1 YEAR 126 ME WARRANTY PONTIAC 2003 Ford Explorer XLT\$14,888 VINF3UB25563 Beige Auto. 6-Cyl. 4.0L. SUV. P/S/ABS PAVinds/Lcks/Mrrs. Dual Air Bags. A/C. AM/FM/CASS/CD, R/Det, Tilt, Cruise, R/Det, Lthr, Alloys. Sun Rt. Trac Ctrl. 47,584mr 2003 Volkswagen Jetta GLS
VN/3M118133 Black Auto, 4-Cyl. 4-Dr. P/S/ABS, P/ Winds/Lcks/Mr/s, Dial Air Bags
A/C, AM/FM/CASS/ CD, R/Def, Tilt, Cruise, R/Def, Lthr, Sun RI, Trac Ctrl. 27.672rm. 2003 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 4x4 \$17,988 VIN#3C541069, Auto. 6-Cyl., 4 Ot., SUN, P/S/ABS, P/Loks/ Mrrs, Dual Air Bags, A°C, AM/FM/CASS/CD, R/Det. Tilt. Cruise, R/Det. Lthr. Sun Rt, Alloys, Trac Ctrl. Lugg Rix, 29,973mi.

2003 Ford Expedition XLT VIM/3LC29222, Auro, 8 Cyt, 5 4L, SUV, P,SVABS, P, W.ndsyl.cks/Hid Mirs, Dual Air Bags, A/C, AM/FM/ CASS/ CD, R-Del, Titt, Cruise, R/Del, Lthi, Sun Rt. Tiac Ctrl, 3rd Row Sts, 31,271mi

*Unless otherwise specified by dealer. Pre-owned vehicle coverage delers according to vehicle make. *Price includes \$1000 Oldsmobile Owner Loyalty Rebate. Savings off MSRP on select models, savings in lieu of rebates. See dealer for details. Price(s) include(s) all costs to be paid by a consumer except for lic, reg fees and taxes. All vehicles sold cosmetically as is. Pics for illust purps only. Not resp for typos. Ad supercedes all previous offers, is a coupon and must be presented at purchase. Valid thru 2/28/06/.

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Six #E6545, VIN #67624759, 4 cyl, manual 5 spd, a/c, p/s/b, cd lift, bkt seats, floor mats, body side mold

ings rear somete, ash tray/lighter MSRP, 518 65. Lease price includes 5000 lactory tebras, 51783 due at incegrion (includes 5031 down + 51571st mapayment + 5695 Bank fee + 50 Security Deposit) plus tags and taxes. Total pymis/residual. \$6123/\$7260, Includes 12N mi per yr w/. 20s thereafter.

Stk #06246, VM #51215510, B cyl, auto, smokers pkg. 12,000 GVM, camper mirrors locking rear axel, tilt wheel, cruise control, 11ft USV body. MSRP. \$40,805. Price includes \$9630 deal-

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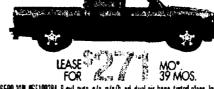
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Stk #16996, VIN #69126727, 6 ryl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w/l, cd tilt, cruise, dual air bags, ABS, traction control, II pkg. MSRP \$22,090. Lease price includes \$1000 factory rebate. \$2921 due at inception (includes \$2027 down + \$380 1st and payment + \$685 Bank fee + \$0 Separity Deposity plus lags and taxes. Total pyrits/residual: \$7761/\$13,033, Includes 104 ini per yr w/.25¢ thereafter.

TRAILBLAZER NEW 2006 CHEVY

LEASE SOO MOTOR SON MOS. Sik #E7130, VIN #62258040, 6 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w/l, cd, till, cruise, sun roof, roof rack, dual air bags, alloys, running boards, a., season tires, bose sound system, LS Pref'd equip pkg, satellite radio, 6 cd. MSRP. \$30,745. Price includes \$2000 factory rebale. \$1426 due at inception (includes \$437 down + \$299 is i mo payment + \$695 Bank (ee + \$0 Security Deposit) plus tags and taxes. Total pymts/residual: \$11,661/\$18,800, includes 104 mi per yr w/.25¢ thereafter.

NEW 2006 CHEV



Str M6590, VIN M65109784, 8 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b, cd, dual air bags, timted plass, locking rear axel, tow pkg, VII, all season tires, spare tire lock, bench sean, MSRP, S30, 112. Lease price includes \$3000 factory rebate, \$1995 due at inception (includes \$1079 down + \$771 ist mo payment + \$695 Bank fee + \$0 Security Deposit) plus tags and laxes. Total pymts/residual: \$10,569/\$15,925, Includes 10K

NEW 2005 CHEVY CORVETTE



Stk #D6394, VIN #55135400, 8 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w/l/mirrs/seats, cd, tilt, cruise, dual air bags, transparent removable root, polished alum. Wheels, on star, navigation, Bose speaker system, 251 perform. Pkg, 158 pref 'd pkg. MSRP: \$54,905. Price includes \$5906 dealer discount.



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\$3585 SRK ALGZZBA VI**II AVM**Z42736, 5 spd, 4 cyl, a/c, p/s/b/, AM/FM/Cass, rill, dual air bags, as is 116,032 mi *GO CUFFY CAYALIED Sik #16314A VIN #77357481, 4 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b, dual air bags, bkt seats, 75,530 mi. As is 3335 S4 FORD CROWN VICTORIA Stk #16113A VIN #RX184130, 40R, Ø cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w/l, tilt, cruise, dual air bags, alloys, 4785 '94 DUICE PARE AVENUE DETRA

Stk #16169A VIN #RH627776, 4 CR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds /iks/mirrs/seats, cass, sunr[leather, alloys, 95,873 mi ⁵7905 **'02 POUTIAC SUNFINE** Stk #16142A, 2 DR, 4 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/b,am/fm stereo, a/s tires, 43,668 mi. \$9985 ***03 GRFVY MALEO** Stk /16119A, VIA /34/15675, 4 DR, 6 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/winds/lks, cd, tift, cruise, 41,020 mi.

'OT POUTTAC AGO ITARA ETT
St. 1/6/824 VIN 1/0245/00, 4 OH, 6 CM, auto, a/c, p/s/ABS /mods/As /mirts, cd, alloys, a/s tres, 7 passenger, 67,367 mir.

Stuf 16243A, Vinu57515763, 4 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/b, am/lm, cd, dual air bags, cloth int., all season, remainder lactory warranty, 11,023 mi.

Sk #600AA vin 65116070, 4 OR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds /ks/mins, cd, ambags, alloys, a/s tires, 79,100 mi \$13535 104 POUTTAC CRAND PRIX 6TZ Stk #15035A, YIN #4117094, 6 cvl, avio, s/c, a/s/b/w/l, cd, till, craise, sun rool, dual air bays, chrame, 42,636 mi \$13885

Stk #16241A, VIN #11708141, 6 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w/l, cd, tilt, cruise, sun rool, leather, dual air bags, 47,351 mi. \$13888 STAFF GODIA VINJSF I 16070, 4 DR. 6 cyl., auto, a/c.p/s/ABS/ winds/ lks/nivrs, am/fm, cd, dual air bags, cloth int, alloy whis, all season, remainder factory warranty, 28,096 mi.

\$14788 Stk 1627NA Vin 59166186, 4 PR, & cel. auto. a/c. o/s/b/winds/ks. am/lm. cd. dual air bags. cloth int. all season. remainder factory warranty, 10,210 mi.

15965 '02 CORYY TRAILDIAZER LT. Spk #15058A, VIN #72179789, 6 cvl, auto, 4K4, a/c, p/s/b/w/ l/sts/ mirrs, cd, till, cruise, dual air bags, alloys, 55,878 mi 19588 THE CREVY TRAILBLAFER LE 484.

STUTIOZABA Vind5210408.4 DR, 6 cyl., auto, a/c, p/s/b/winds/lks, am/lm, cd, lugg rack, dual air bags, cloth int., alloy whis, all season, remainder lactory warranly, 23,305 mi.

\$20,885 *** CRAPTY SUBSEQUENT LT

Std. #16341A, Vin #36109413, B cyl. auto. 4X4, a/c, p/s/b/w/i /seats /mins, cd, lift, cruise, dual air bags, feather, alloys, rool rack, \$2,565 mi.

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\$22,895

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