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Piece of cake: Board serves up nutrition policy

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Board of Education passed its much-debated nutrition policy last week, though not before eliminating the infamous "cupcake ban" included in earlier drafts of the proposal.

Though board members opted to allow edible birthday treats after all, they stood by earlier comments that the policy will not require immediate changes to the lunch menu, and generally brought the guidelines closer to

the minimum required by the state. The policy was passed by a 6-2 vote with one member dissenting, though board members used a wide range of explanations to account for their votes.

Discussion about the new policy, which is designed to promote better health among students and eliminate "foods and beverages of minimal nutritional value" such as soda and candy, once again drew a large contingent of local residents. After a final round of debate, board members attached a string of amendments

before approving the new rules.

The discussion grew heated at times, as school officials weighed the merits of the policy, which had been revised since the last meeting of the full Board of Education. The board's Policy Committee made some changes in response to strong opposition from the community, including a provision for annual meetings of a sub-committee composed of residents, students and staff who will evaluate and propose changes to the lunch menus. A majority of board members agreed to that amendment.

The board also decided to remove a prohibition on edible birthday treats supplied by parents, which became known as the "cupcake ban" and drew considerable media attention.

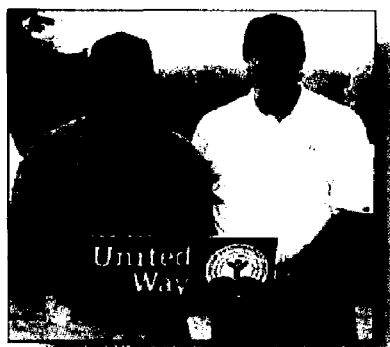
Instead, parents will be allowed to bring in any type of food for school-wide or classroom celebrations, but they "would be encouraged" to follow the policy's nutritional guidelines. The policy had previously said all foods and beverages provided for such events "must comply" with the guidelines. Schools will provide lists of rec- (Continued on page A-2)

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Firecracker Four a big success

The 27th annual Firecracker Four Mile, held at Nomahegan Park in Cranford, attracted 924 runners and many more spectators Tuesday morning. For more pictures and a recap of the race, see Sports, Page C-1.



Golf Classic raises \$32,000

United Way's 2006 Golf Classic, held recently at Shackamaxon Golf & Country Club in Scotch Plains, raised more than \$32,000 to support the organization's efforts in Greater Union County. For more on the event, see Community Life, Page B-1.



Club awards scholarships

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains recently awarded a total of \$19,000 in scholarships to 12 young women. To read about the recipients and the universities they are attending, turn to Page B-4.

REMINDER

Comedy opens at Theater Project

The Lady in Question, a send-up of patriotic thrillers from the 1940s, opens 8 p.m. July 6 at the Theater Project at Union County College. Tickets are \$20, with discounts on Thursdays and for senior citizens and students. Call (908) 659-5189 or visit www.TheTheaterProject.com.

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SINGING THOSE SWEET SOUNDS



The 10th season of the Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz Festival is now underway in Westfield. Sponsored by the Downtown Westfield Corporation, the performances began July 4 and will take place on sidewalks and street corners from 7-9 p.m. every Tuesday through Sept. 5. Bands will be located on Central Avenue in front of The Bombay Company, on the lawn in front of the North Avenue train station, at the corner of East Broad and Prospect streets, on Elm Street in front of the Baptist Church, and at the South Avenue train station. Next Tuesday's performers will include Carrie Jackson (above), as well as Stringbean and the Stalkers, Scott Hunter & The Soul Searchers, the Alfred Patterson Trio and the Chris Colenari Quartet. In the event of rain, the performances will take place on Wednesday.

Court drops charges against Chemidlin

Scotch Plains resident could return home this weekend

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — After weeks of trial postponements and plenty of anxiety, township resident Michael Chemidlin is finally coming back home.

Chemidlin, who has been detained for two months in Sierra Leone on conspiracy charges, was released Tuesday, according to his son, Andrew.

When Michael Chemidlin finally appeared in court in the African country Tuesday,

after a lengthy and frustrating series of delays, the judge dropped the charges because prosecutors did not show up, Andrew said.

The news of his father's freedom came fittingly on the Fourth of July, and Andrew was excited to share the information with his entire family, which had gathered together for the holiday. "We were lucky because all my brothers and sisters were at a family reunion. They were all so excited," said Andrew. "We said 'Let's keep him here this time.'"

"It feels great, but we'll be a lot more relieved when he's back," added Andrew, who has become used to having his hopes let down over the past two months, having waited through almost a dozen trial postponements and one re-arrest after charges were initially dropped in May.

Chemidlin's nephew, Anthony Cinelli, posted an update on a family-maintained Web site, www.freeunclemike.com, with some cautionary but optimistic words. "The decision made by the Magistrate today (July 4) was

another 'released' type decision and not a complete 'acquittal' of charges, leaving the door open for Uncle Mike to possibly be re-arrested," wrote Cinelli. He added, though, "I, personally, don't believe this will happen."

"Let's hope and pray that Uncle Mike will look back on today from the comfort of his own home, from the U.S.A., as his own personal Independence Day, the day he was granted freedom from captivity in Sierra Leone, Africa," wrote Cinelli.

Chemidlin is expected to be back in the country (Continued on page A-2)

Bicyclists ready to ride to raise funds for research

By LESLIE MURRAY
THE RECORD-PRESS

Two men, two bikes, 2,000 miles and a desire to raise money to research an uncommon disease that hit close to home.

Their method may be unorthodox, but when Eyal Wellisch and Jake Brukman left Cranford Monday for a bike trek to Miami, their goal was a noble one: to raise money for research into ichthyosis, a chronic, genetic skin disease that causes dead skin cells to accumulate and form scaly patches that can trap infection and cause a lifetime of discomfort.

Wellisch and Brukman — natives of Westfield and Cranford, respectively — learned of the disease in 2005, when their longtime friend Courtney Shell gave birth to a daughter. The baby, Julia, was diagnosed with

Netherton's Syndrome, an especially rare form of ichthyosis, and the family was thrust into turmoil. But the Shells were able to find emotional support and guidance to the appropriate physicians through the Foundation for Ichthyosis and Related Skin Types (F.I.R.S.T.), a nation-wide foundation that helps victims of the disease and their families.

People afflicted with ichthyosis face a lifetime of challenges, such as overheating because the thickness of their skin does not allow their sweat to reach the surface and cool them effectively. Other complications include limitations on movement, secondary infection caused by splitting and cracking of the skin, and impaired eyesight and hearing.

The valuable assistance (Continued on page A-2)



Cranford native Jake Brukman and Eyal Wellisch of Westfield are on their way to Florida to raise funds for research into a rare skin disease.

Board approves teachers' contract

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — After 18 months of tough negotiations, the Board of Education approved a new three-year contract with the local teachers' union last week, bringing to an end a public dispute that commanded the attention of many parents and other taxpayers.

The 8-1 vote drew applause from the residents in attendance at the board's June 29 meeting.

"It's been a long time coming, and we're very happy the teachers, aides, (and other members of the union) ratified the contract," said Linda Nelson, a Board of Education member and chairwoman of the board's Negotiations Committee.

Representatives for the two sides hammered out the deal early in the morning on June 1, at the conclusion of a nearly 10-hour negotiating session. By a strong majority, members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Education Association voted to ratify the contract last week. SPFEA President Barbara McGuane previously called the deal "the best we could do under the circumstances."

Board President Thomas Russo called the terms of the new contract fair and competitive, and said he was pleased to see the process come to a conclusion. The two sides held 11 initial negotiation meetings, followed by sessions with fact-finders and finally a state-appointed mediator.

"I also want to thank the public and staff. I know it must be frustrating to the public to not know the details," said Russo.

Craig Nowlin was the only member of the board who voted against the contract, (Continued on page A-2)

How you can help

Donations to the New Jersey to Florida Bike Tour for Netherton's Syndrome are being collected now. To make a pledge, or for updates on Eyal Wellisch and Jake Brukman's progress, visit their Web site, www.compactset.com/biketrip/index.html

Tax-deductible donations can also be made directly to F.I.R.S.T. at 1601 Valley Forge Road, Lansdale, PA, 19446 or by calling (215) 631-1411. For more information, visit www.scalyskin.org.

Ready to ride

(Continued from page A-1)

that F.I.R.S.T. provided for their friend inspired Brukhman and Wellisch to do something more to help. They devised a plan to undertake a demanding task in order to encourage donations and show their dedication to the cause — and a six-week long bike trip along the Atlantic coast seemed like a logical choice.

"It's completely insane, essentially," Brukhman said Friday, just days before the two departed. Leaving in July, and traveling about 50 to 60 miles each day, the pair will face high temperatures, unpredictable weather and the natural hazards of wildlife, all while carrying everything they need for the trip on their backs and bikes.

Neither of the men are serious cyclists, and this is the first long distance trip they have attempted. They began training in earnest about two months ago in the heat and hills of Bedminster, hoping that the rough terrain would provide them with a good warm-up.

"That's how dedicated we are," Wellisch added with a laugh. Equipped with a route recommended by the Adventure Cycling Association and about 40 pounds worth of gear on their touring bikes, Brukhman and Wellisch will be facing a long road. They will be camping in tents for most of their month and a half of biking, taking one day each week to rest. "It's not going to be an easy thing to do," Brukhman said.

Their dedication, though, can't be doubted. "There's no question: We're making it," Wellisch said. And they won't forget about their inspiration. The biking duo plan to solicit donations everywhere they stop, asking for assistance and handing out information about ichthyosis along the way.

"I hope that the magnitude of the trip... does get through to people," Brukhman said.

Leslie Murray is a staff writer for NJN Publishing. She can be reached at (732) 396-4205 or lmurray@njinpublishing.com.

Hudak, List receive awards

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Historical Society recently held its annual end-of-year dinner at Echo Lake Country Club. This year's President's Award was given to Letty Hudak for her years of service to the Society.

The Trustees' Award was presented by member Bud Boothe to Betty List for her

ongoing dedication of time and energy to the preservation of Westfield's heritage.

Members in attendance also heard a presentation by David Cowell, president of Advocates for NJ History. Cowell spoke of the importance of preserving the state's historic sites and their value to New Jersey's economic growth.

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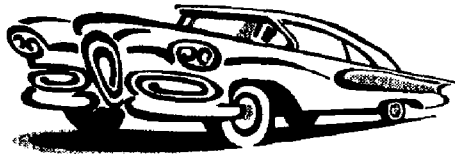
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Board approves teachers' contract

(Continued from page A-1)

saying he could not agree to the increases because they are not in line with raises local residents are receiving at their jobs.

Under the terms of the contract, teachers will get a retroactive salary increase of 4.25 percent for the first year of the contract, which has already passed; 4.75 percent for the coming school year; and 4.5 percent for the 2007-2008 school year. A request for the new salary schedule had not been fulfilled by press time at mid-day Wednesday.

Noting the average salary increase for teachers in Union County is about 4.6 percent, Nelson called the increases "very reasonable."

Secretaries will get a salary increase that is one percentage point higher than teachers, and aides will get two percentage points more than teachers.

But the biggest issue district and union officials faced in negotiations was health benefits and employee contributions.

Calling the traditional indemnity insurance plan "the single biggest waste of money" for the district, board member Donald Parisi urged members of the union to switch to a

Preferred Provider Option (PPO) plan this year. About 40 percent of the members of the union who have health insurance are currently enrolled in the indemnity plan, according to Randall Kanter, the district's director of human resources.

The PPO plan holds many of the same benefits as the traditional plan, said Kanter, but costs the district less because premiums for the traditional indemnity plan increase at a much higher rate. This year, premiums for the traditional plan increased by about 17 percent while the PPO premiums only went up by about 3 percent, said Kanter.

If all the members of the union who currently enroll in the traditional plan were to switch to the PPO plan, the district's savings could be in the range of \$600,000 for next year, said Parisi.

"I think in the 2007-08 school year, the spread will be so large between the two (plans) that if none of the members switch, the extra cost to the district will be nearly \$1 million," he added.

New employees must join the PPO plan. And in order to encourage more members to adopt the PPO, the district will be offering a \$500 stipend this year only to employees who

switch. "We understand this can't be forced, but we're doing our best to encourage it," said Parisi. "It is in your best financial interests (to switch)."

Under the traditional plan, Parisi said, a member would have to pay at least about \$600 for over \$2,000 worth of doctor's visits. But under the PPO plan, those visits could cost around \$200.

The traditional plan is preferred by employees who generate high out-of-network costs, Parisi said.

The contract also includes a change in the sick bank, said Nelson. Previously, employees could elect to contribute their sick days to co-workers with severe illnesses. Under the new contract, employees may donate personal days instead, said Nelson.

"The board appreciates the support of the community," said Nelson. "We wanted to be fair to the employees and to the community, and we also want to recognize the fair and diligent way teachers acted and the respect and cordiality that happened behind the scenes."

Anna Bogdanowicz is a staff writer for the Record-Press. She can be reached at (732) 396-4204 or abogdanowicz@njinpublishing.com.

Piece of cake: Board serves up policy

(Continued from page A-1)

ommed foods.

Craig Nowlin, chairman of the Policy Committee, was the only member of the board who argued to maintain the ban, saying removing it would send an "inconsistent message" to students who are being encouraged to make healthier choices.

But several board members argued the inconsistency actually lay in the fact that occasional cupcakes would be banned while little is yet being done to improve the lunch menus. While the policy contains guidelines about the fat content permitted in cafeteria food, those guidelines will be applied in such a way as to require few changes in the entrée selections.

The abundance of fried and fatty foods in the cafeterias has been cause for concern among some board members and residents alike in recent weeks.

"I think we're being

extremely inconsistent," said board member Sasha Slocum, eliciting a round of applause from residents. "I personally cannot vote for the cupcake ban without changing the lunch menus... The lunches and the meals are what really affects nutrition."

"I would like to focus on lunches, not cupcakes," agreed board member Betty Anne Woerner, who said she was "very disappointed" the Policy Committee had not taken out the ban when "clearly the community didn't want them."

But while residents' dissatisfaction with the district's lunch offerings has been clear in recent meetings, board member Linda Nelson stressed she had not previously heard complaints about school lunches in her years on the board.

Though Woerner called for another amendment to "put more teeth" into the portion of the policy that addresses lunch items,

board members were unable to craft language that would not effectively ban most of the food currently being served. Woerner suggested holding lunch entrees to similar standards as the new restrictions for a la carte items, which limit serving sizes to eight grams of fat.

"I hate to say it, but I think this would virtually eliminate our lunch menus," said district business administrator Anthony DelSordi. "Nothing is eight grams of fat."

And Mark Vidovich, president of Pomptonian, the district's food service company, said even a turkey breast sandwich with mayonnaise on wheat bread would exceed those guidelines.

"I find that (comment) to be fallaciously inappropriate... To serve turkey on a wrap with some mayo — I know that is healthier than popcorn chicken," replied Woerner, who later abstained from voting.

The board adopted other amendments to the policy which left the final result mandating little more than the state requires. One portion was changed to state that "no more than 40 percent of ice creams and frozen desserts shall be allowed to exceed (nutritional) guidelines"; an earlier draft stipulated that all frozen desserts and ice creams would need to meet the policy's nutritional guidelines, which "would prohibit ice cream bars," said board president Thomas Russo.

Russo, a frequent critic of the state and outspoken advocate for local control, voted against the policy on principle. "The state and federal government in my opinion has no business telling us what to serve in our cafeterias," he said. Nowlin cast the second dissenting vote.

Anna Bogdanowicz is a staff writer for the Record-Press. She can be reached at (732) 396-4204 or abogdanowicz@njinpublishing.com.

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Court drops charges

(Continued from page A-1) Saturday, said Andrew, who added the U.S. Embassy is making flight plans and keeping the family posted.

The 57-year old Scotch Plains resident was arrested May 2 for taking pictures of a war crimes court operated by the United Nations and Sierra Leone. Officials in the African nation alleged he was trying to free former Liberian president Charles Taylor, who is charged with 11 counts of war crimes, including supporting rebels in Sierra Leone who were known for cutting off victims' body

parts during the nation's civil war.

Chemidlin and two residents of Sierra Leone, Felix Rogers and Collins Kamara, were initially charged with conspiracy. But Chemidlin and his family have strongly maintained his innocence, calling the charges a "misunderstanding" and saying that he was in Africa to proselytize and was taking pictures to document his trip.

A missionary and former sergeant with the Army National Guard, Chemidlin was released with Rogers and Kamara on the initial charges about two weeks later, after a judge ruled photographing the special court was not illegal and dismissed all but one of the charges. But just one day after that ruling, the three were re-arrested and again charged with conspiracy. Chemidlin was subsequently freed on \$8,000 bail but was barred from leaving the country through the long trial process.

Despite the frustrating and frightening course of events, Andrew and his family members are hopeful they will soon finally be reunited with Chemidlin. "It's going to be great to see him again," he said.

Anna Bogdanowicz is a staff writer for the Record-Press. She can be reached at (732) 396-4204 or abogdanowicz@njinpublishing.com.



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Teacher will be traveling to France on a Fulbright

By **LESLIE MURRAY**
STAFF WRITER

WESTFIELD — With the school year now at an end, many teachers are getting ready to travel over the summer. Adrienne Morrison Bishop is getting ready for a trip, too — but there's something unique about her journey.

The Westfield resident, who teaches French to middle school students at Orange Avenue and Hillside Avenue schools in Cranford, was recently awarded a Fulbright Teacher Exchange grant, which will allow her to spend a year in Reenes, France, teaching English to French middle schoolers. In return, a French teacher, Annie Bertin, will come to Cranford to teach Bishop's students for a year.

"It's a thrill. I can't wait," said Morrison Bishop, who fell in love with French at an early age and spoke the language fluently by the



ADRIENNE MORRISON BISHOP

time she was in high school. On a high school trip to Romania and Czechoslovakia, where she served as a translator for her fellow students, she really became hooked. Morrison Bishop went on to earn her bachelor's degree in French and political science and a master's degree in French

literature from Tufts University; she's since added a master's of arts in law and diplomacy from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at her resume.

As a Fulbright teacher, Morrison Bishop will be one of about 170 people traveling to different points around the globe during the next school year. She will attend an orientation in Washington, D.C. in July, then meet with Bertin for the first time in-person and help her become acclimated to her new surroundings before departing for France in August.

The first to hear of Morrison Bishop's acceptance into the program were her two sons, ages 11 and 14, who will be spending the year in France with her — their first trip outside the country. The boys are "just jubilant" about the news, said their mother. They too speak French and will attend school in Reenes next year.

But the year overseas won't just be a learning experience for Morrison Bishop and her sons — the students she sees in classrooms will learn from it as well, with lessons enhanced by their teacher's firsthand experience.

"When I teach, there are pictures and there are names, but they're flat and my students really can't understand what they're about," Morrison Bishop said. "To add a new dimension to my classroom is so important."

During her time in France, Morrison Bishop said, she plans to gain a "view of contemporary French youth." The coming year, she said, will be a time for her to be a teaching tourist, learning new lessons about the language she loves and herself as a teacher.

"This is the kind of thing all my life I would have liked to have done," she said.

Leslie Murray is a staff writer for NJN Publishing. She can be reached at (732) 396-4205 or lmurray@njn-publishing.com.

POLICE LOG

WESTFIELD

Police arrested Westfield resident Vincent Tomasso Friday on charges of driving while intoxicated following a motor vehicle accident at 704 Forest Ave.

Tomasso allegedly refused an alcohol test and was charged accordingly, police said. He was subsequently released to a sober adult.

The drivers' side tires of numerous vehicles parked on Hyslip Avenue, First Street, West Broad Street, Pierson Street and Coddling Road were punctured Sunday.

A Central Avenue resident reported Saturday that someone had stolen his locked bicycle from the south side train station.

After being stopped for a motor vehicle violation, Antonio R. Martorino was arrested Sunday on a no-bail sheriff's warrant and another outstanding warrant, both out of Edison.

SCOTCH PLAINS

Police arrested 44-year old Fanwood resident Robert Miller June 29 on charges of theft. After an investigation, police concluded that Miller had stolen items from a convenience store.

Miller was transported to police headquarters, processed and released on a summons.

A resident of Hunter Avenue reported being the victim of fraud June 26. She told police someone used her debit card to make purchases totaling \$1,792 from various stores.

A resident of Lake Avenue reported a theft June 26. He said someone took the front license plate of his car, which was parked in front of his house.

A resident of Crestwood Road reported a theft June 29. She said her daughter's bicycle was taken from the bike rack at School One. The bike, valued at \$100, had been left unlocked.

Residents continue to press board for field upgrades

By **ANNA BOGDANOWICZ**
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS

Responding to steady pressure for athletic field upgrades from local residents, the Board of Education said last week a committee would be created over the summer to address the issue.

But while school officials say substantial improvements are in the works — potentially including synthetic turf at the high school football field and School One — the pace of progress has been too slow to satisfy many supporters of local sports programs. Those residents have pushed for playing field improvements at numerous recent meetings, and they were out in force again at the board's packed June 29 meeting, offering their assistance but also prodding the board to act quickly.

"We're here to pledge our support... We're here with man-power, financial power," said Jim Fawcett, president of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Soccer Association. "By next spring, we may have half of our program playing in Edison or Watchung, and quite frankly it embarrasses me as a Scotch Plains native that half of our kids are going out of town to play."

Several residents echoed

Fawcett's thoughts and asked the board to install synthetic turf at some sites and improve field maintenance. Many of those in attendance were part of a group of more than 300 residents who had rallied to the Township Council for field improvements at a recent meeting. At that meeting, Mayor Martin Marks spoke of improvements to township-owned fields scheduled for the near future but noted many fields are owned and maintained by the school district.

"Quite frankly they (school officials) need to be doing a better job," Marks said at that meeting, and added the board and municipal officials will soon meet to discuss field maintenance.

But supporters of field upgrades — frustrated with a growing reputation as, according to one resident, "the armpit of Union County" when it comes to playing fields — asked school board members to step up to bat with improvements as soon as possible.

District business administrator Anthony Del Sordi said that a consultant had recently studied the field at School One, which has been targeted by many residents as a field in need of attention. The consultant "looked at a variety of options," said Del Sordi, who added

there would be further discussion before any decisions are made.

The lack of a decision frustrated one resident, David Bernstein, who previously offered the district a donation of \$25,000 on behalf of the SPFSA to refurbish the School One field. Bernstein, who has been pressing the district for a response over the past month, said initial estimates showed the donation should be sufficient to pay for the needed improvements.

But according to the consultant's analysis, Del Sordi said, "Unfortunately, \$25,000 is barely the tip of the iceberg... It would barely pay for the sprinkler system."

DelSordi said improving the field would cost from \$50,000 to \$250,000 because of a variety of issues, including removing a track that is no longer in use but is still on the site. He added the board's Facilities Committee has recommended getting a group of residents together to "look at the options we have that would be in the best interests of everyone," and said such a meeting will likely occur next month. Members from local baseball, soccer and PAL groups will be asked to attend.

That proposal did not satisfy some of the residents in attendance, who called for immediate improvements, especially when it comes to

field maintenance.

"The point is, the word around town is that the Board of Education has dropped the ball with maintenance," said resident Mark Rogoff. "The point is our fields should not have to be closed in the middle of the year... No one wants to come to Scotch Plains to play on our fields because our fields are terrible."

And Russ Yeager, vice president of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood PAL, said the football coach at Newark's Shabazz High School coach had called the football field "one of the worst fields he's seen."

The comment angered several board members, with board President Thomas Russo calling the coach's remarks unfair because Newark receives more state funding than Scotch Plains-Fanwood. Linda Nelson agreed and added, "I don't make my decisions based on what the Shabazz coach says."

But board members acknowledged improvements are needed, and Russo added there would likely be plans to install turf fields at both the high school and at School One in the near future. "We will address it soon, and it will be my suggestion we handle both of those projects at the same time," he said.

Anna Bogdanowicz is a staff writer for the Record-Press. She can be reached at (732) 396-4204 or abogdanowicz@njpublishing.com

Torah Center leads 'tour' of Europe

WESTFIELD — This summer, the Union County Torah Center will lead a whirlwind "tour" of Europe's greatest cities, as seen from a Jewish perspective.

"Jewish Luminaries in European History," a new series of classes, will be held on four consecutive Tuesdays as part of the summer session of the Jewish Literacy Program. The instructor, Rabbi Mitchell Bomrind, teaches many courses in the Torah Center's adult education program and is known for his unique ability to bring history to life.

The first stop on the tour is Amsterdam. From 8-9 p.m. Tuesday, July 18, participants will be treated to an in-depth exploration of the city as it was in the 17th century. Notable Jews of that time include Rabbi Menasseh ben Yisroel, who had an influential relationship with Oliver Cromwell. This was also the century of the Sabbetai Tzvi debacle; in this class, students will

learn about the effects of that incident on Amsterdam Jewry and its implications even today.

All classes in this series will be held at the Torah

Center, 418 Central Ave. The cost per lecture is \$10. For more information and to register, call (908) 789-5252 or e-mail info@torah-center.org.

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Commentary

Don't gamble with state finances

As this paper went to press at mid-day Wednesday, the state budget impasse was still in place in Trenton, with Governor Jon Corzine and Democratic Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts unable to agree on a spending plan for the new fiscal year. That meant that the unprecedented shut-down of state government, which has resulted in tens of thousands of employees in the public and private sectors being placed on furlough, was also still in effect — with no indication that it would be resolved anytime soon.

Beyond the very tangible financial impact the shut-down will have on many New Jerseyans, it's also an embarrassment on a national scale — everyone knew our state government was bloated and corrupt, but we didn't realize it was quite this dysfunctional. Disturbingly, it seems we've reached this crisis point as much because of a clash of wills and egos as a disagreement about policy. While the dispute does have important substantive roots — Corzine wants to raise the sales tax from six to seven cents per dollar, which Roberts and his supporters in the Statehouse refuse to do — it's become a personal battle, with the two men trading barbed statements in public and waiting for the other to back down. In an already charged atmosphere, that personal animosity has made it harder to reach an agreement.

But that's not to say that our elected officials should come forward with any "compromise" solution. Having dragged the state into this emergency, they need to come out of it with a plan that will equitably distribute the costs of government while putting our state on firmer financial footing. Corzine is deserving of some criticism for the way he's handled this episode — leadership involves actually being able to convince your opponent of your point of view, not just repeating the same speech, no matter how eloquent it is. But he is dead-on in his diagnosis of the state's budget problems: for far too long, legislators have cobbled together an annual spending plan with an eye toward winning political favor, and without regard for long-term financial pain. As a result, New Jersey is facing a billion-dollar deficit while many states are in the black.

Corzine's proposal to raise the sales tax may not be the optimal approach. As Assembly Democrats have pointed out, the tax is regressive and falls disproportionately on the poor, who must spend a greater percentage of their income. But the state's budget problems have become chronic, and in the absence of an alternative proposal to generate recurring revenues or make deep and permanent spending cuts — which doesn't seem likely — the Legislature should adopt the increase.

That increase, though, should be just the first step in a comprehensive overhaul of the state's tax system. Corzine has already agreed to use half the revenue generated by the sales tax for property tax relief. That's encouraging, but what the state really needs — besides more discipline when it comes to spending — is a plan to systematically shift the burden away from property taxes, which also often fall on those with less ability to pay, and toward income taxes. Property tax reform has become a sort of Holy Grail in New Jersey politics, much discussed but never addressed, because it will mean that some people end up paying more than they do now. Still, it's the right thing to do.

Corzine has spoken frequently during the current crisis about political courage and not taking the easy way out. If he truly takes on property tax reform, we'll know he's serious.



Letters to the editor

Garden tour was a great success

To The Record-Press:

We are happy to report that the Westfield Garden Club's recent "The Other Side of the Fence" Garden Tour on June 10 was a great success, thanks to the efforts of many, many wonderful people.

We are especially grateful to the gracious homeowners who opened their beautiful gardens for all to enjoy — Mr. and Mrs. Sal Caruana, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Chermak, Mr and Mrs. E. J. Frawley, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Jester, Mrs. Barbara Mullin, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Pascal, Mrs. Maretta Plant and Susanna Plant, and Mrs. Nancy Priest and David Rogers. Our thanks also to all who attended — for their glowing compliments and for their enthusiastic support of our boutique, plant sale and bake sale.

Special thanks to *Record-Press* for your outstanding publicity, which helped to boost the fine ticket sales at Baron's Drug Store, William's Nursery, Christoffer's Florist, and Irma's Hallmark. A word of appreciation also to Trader Joe's for serving delicious refreshments to all who attended, and to Smith & Hawken for their support.

Many thanks also to our WGC's board members, committee chairmen and members, without whose dedicated efforts we could not have coordinated this event — their total commitment was invaluable.

Established in 1922, the WGC maintains an impressive list of community projects: The club decorates and hangs holiday wreaths on municipal buildings; plants and maintains flower planters at Broad and Elm Street; provides weekly arrangements at Westfield Library; supports the Gene O'Neal Scholarship Fund; maintains plantings in Blue Star Byway at Tamaques Park and in Mindowaskin Park; schedules gardening workshops, open to the public; provides seasonal plantings at Lyons V.A. Hospital; and supports Garden Programs at Rutgers.

The success of this tour will ensure the continuation of these fine projects. Further information about them can be obtained from Jane Curtis, WGC president. Again, sincere thanks to all who helped make WGC's 2006 Garden Tour so memorable.

BETTY LIST and RUTH PAUL
Garden Tour Co-Chairs

Greater scrutiny of county needed

To The Record-Press:

In 2000, I voted for the Open Space Recreation and Historical Preservation Trust Fund referendum. I thought at the time that it was a good thing — to slow urban sprawl, preserve open space and in some way improve the quality of life for residents of Union County. Unfortunately, I did not realize that the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders would choose to spend some of these dedicated funds in questionable ways. The next time I vote on a referendum issue I will not only read the fine print but also take into account our freeholders' past record of unbridled spending and insatiable appetite for photo ops and "good news" publicity.

One way to slow — and hopefully reverse — the growth in spending and continuing increases in property taxes in Union County is for citizens to voice opposition to questionable spending initiatives, no bid contracts, pay to play, nepotism in hiring, unanimous rubber stamp voting in favor of spending propositions brought

before the board, etc. The Union County Watchdog Association (www.unioncountywatchdog.org) and many of our local newspapers have done a good job in identifying and publicizing areas of concern and issues that should be addressed by our elected Union County officials — but more needs to be done because our Freeholders still haven't addressed these concerns.

I urge my fellow Union County residents and taxpayers to take a more active role in the months ahead by providing feedback and direction to our county government representatives. Call, write and e-mail them, and better yet attend and speak up at the freeholder meetings. If our elected representatives continue to conduct business as usual and fail to focus on meaningful and serious reductions in spending, then the voters should consider them unworthy and not return them to office.

JOHN MARQUARDT
Fanwood

Support local fire, rescue squads

To The Record-Press:

Union County is fortunate to have a number of volunteer fire and ambulance squads operating in our towns, in addition to the dedicated paid departments who serve us so well. They are living reminders of values that are well worth preserving.

It has been a long time since every household in our area was expected to keep two water buckets on hand. When the alarm went up, all the neighbors grabbed their buckets and ran to the scene. Everybody knew that they had to act — there was nobody else to fight the fires for them.

Today's volunteer squads help keep this spirit of community action alive. Even as emergency response has become a full-time job in many areas, volunteer squads play an invaluable role in Roselle Park, Berkeley Heights, Fanwood, Mountainside, and so many other communities in our county.

In addition to answering emergency calls, volunteer fire and ambulance squads remind us that life is a 24/7 job. It doesn't stop when we leave work in the evening. When our neighbors need us, we have to be there.

For most of us, that means paying attention to the little things, like checking up on an elderly neighbor, or keeping an eye on our children's playmates. It's nothing like racing off to a fire at three in the morning or responding to an accident scene to help the injured, but it's still part of what makes our communities so great.

But there is a way that every one of us can

give real support to our local volunteer fire and ambulance squads.

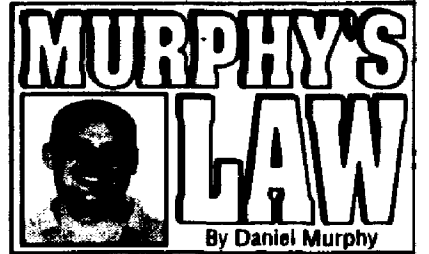
If you have a chance, stop by Clark on Saturday, Aug. 12 and get a close-up look at their brand new fire engine. The Clark Fire Department is having a "wetdown" community celebration to welcome its new 2006 Pierce Quantum Pumper. I had a terrific time at a recent wetdown in Garwood. You could see the pride in the eyes of the firefighters and the entire community.

Just a few generations ago, volunteer firefighters could organize around a handful of people and \$35 for a used fire engine. Today, trucks like the Pierce Quantum cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. That means fund-raising is more important now than ever. And it's something we can all help out with.

It's a wonderful thing to commit the time and training and become a firefighter or an EMT, but that role is not for everyone. Contributing toward new equipment and other expenses is vitally needed to keep the volunteer squads alive. Please call your local Fire Department or First Aid Squad and see how you can contribute to help.

We all appreciate how all of our rescue squads embody the best in all of us. By helping out your local volunteer squad, the next time you see that fire engine or ambulance race by you can be proud to know that a small part of you is riding along with it.

ALEXANDER MIRABELLA
Union County Freeholder Chairman



A soccer convert

When I first moved to Westfield from Brooklyn in 1986, there were a lot of things I found strange — the turned-up collars of everyone's Izod golf shirt, OP shorts, the obsession with renaming the Giants the "New Jersey Giants" and some strange sport called "lax."

I was also dumbfounded by the town-wide obsession with soccer. In Brooklyn we had baseball, basketball and football. That was plenty. I had heard of soccer, and from time to time would see a pickup game at the park, but I can't recall knowing one person who owned a soccer ball, never mind played on a team.

Whether it was playing Little League at Marine Park, Wiffle ball and two-hand touch in the street or stoopball in front of the house, shooting hoops in the driveway or playing CYO basketball for the parish, baseball, basketball and football were all the kids of my block needed. Those three sports kept us active, competitive and content. We had the Mets or Yankees, the Knicks and St. John's, and the Giants (nobody at that time was rooting for the Jets or Nets in my neighborhood). It was enough to play and cheer for all 12 months and four seasons of the year.

But not in Westfield. Suddenly, everywhere I turned somebody was kicking a black and white ball against a fence and wearing some sneaker called Sambas. My classmates weren't just playing soccer in the fall, but in the spring as well. It was the first time I began hearing about some professional team called the Cosmos and this guy called Pele.

Since everybody around me seemed to be playing it, eventually I relented and gave the sport a shot. I played one season in a rec league, decided it wasn't for me, retired my shin guards, accepted that the kids in Westfield were a little off for liking what felt like glorified jogging, and went back to my baseball and basketball teams.

I must admit, though, the sport has slowly grown on me. I've read *Fever Pitch* three times, seen the original movie twice, played hundreds of hours of FIFA 2005 for PlayStation and competed in intramural leagues — and now, I've gotten unexpectedly swept up in the World Cup. I love a good international tournament, and have been known to watch hours of curling during the Winter Olympics, but I didn't expect to care in the slightest about the form of the Portuguese midfielder.

But I find myself cutting out of work for three hours at a time to watch soccer matches between two countries I've never even visited. I scream at the TV over England's inability to score a goal and the flopping of the Italians. I planned my July 4th around the Italy-Germany semifinal.

I still can't stand all the play-acting on the slightest bit of contact. I wish there were more goals, though I've accepted 1-0 decisions as the way of life. And while disappointed in the Americans' performance, I haven't lost a wink of sleep over it (unlike the drafting of Renaldo Balkman).

I wouldn't say I love soccer now — but I get it and I like it and I've enjoyed leaving work at 11 a.m. to watch a match at a bar.

And I'm starting to think those Westfield kids with their turned-up collars and Sambas were a little less weird for liking soccer more than a good game of stoopball.

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 dantemurphy@comcast.net.

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 Joe Serzan at (732) 396-4202.

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Visit us online at nj.com/recordpress.

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

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Service League awards \$38K in donations

SCOTCH PLAINS — At the annual May luncheon of Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League volunteers, Mrs. Mary Graham, chairman of the Gifts and Donations Committee, presented the list of recipients who will receive a donation from the Service League.

League members have worked throughout the year, operating the Thrift Shop located at 1730 E. Second St. This year's donations total \$38,000.

The recipient organizations are: ARC, \$1200; Camp Bret-Endeavor \$100; Center for Hope Hospice, Inc., \$2300; Central NJ Brain Tumor Group, \$500; Children's Specialized Hospital, \$1750; Contact We Care, \$1200; Delphi Team-Student Leadership Conference, \$800; Emanuel Cancer Foundation, \$750; Fanwood Arts Council, \$200; Fanwood Library, \$700; Fanwood Rescue Squad, \$1500; Fanwood-Scotch Plains Girl Scouts, \$500; Flintlocks, BSA, \$500; Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, \$750; Interfaith Council for the Homeless, \$1500; Jump Start Preschool Program, \$500; Mental Health Association of Union County, \$500; Mobile Meals of Westfield, \$500; PAL of Scotch Plains, \$250; Resolve Community Counseling Center, Inc., \$1500; Scholarship Fund for Fanwood and Scotch Plains students, \$14,500; Scotch Plains Library, \$1000; Scotch Plains Welfare Department, \$500; Trailside Nature & Science Center, \$800; Union County Rape Crisis Center, \$500; Westfield Day Care Center, \$500; YMCA of Fanwood-Scotch Plains, \$1000; YWCA Eastern Union County-Battered Wives Program, \$800; and Youth & Family Counseling of Westfield, \$700.

The Thrift Shop will be open during July and August on a summer schedule of 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday in July and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday in August.

For more information or directions to the shop, call (908) 322-5420 during opening hours. For membership information on becoming a volunteer, call the Membership Chairman at (908) 322-8496.



McKinley School Principal Claudia Andreski receives her school's emergency radio system from Sgt. Christopher Battiloro of the Westfield Police Department.

New radio system will connect Westfield schools to local police

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Public School district is now equipped with a new emergency communications system. Prior to the close of school for the summer, Capt. David Wayman and Sgt. Christopher Battiloro of the Westfield Police Department distributed the handheld radios to each of the district's nine principals, as well as to Superintendent William Foley.

In his presentation on their use, Sgt. Battiloro explained that telephones, both conventional and wireless, will remain the primary means of contacting the Westfield Police Department. However, if that primary communications infrastructure becomes inoperable, the radio, which could be described as a sophisticated and more powerful walkie-talkie, would be utilized to report emergencies within the schools. The

radios instantly can reach both the local police and the Union County Police Department.

The pre-programmed radios may also be used as a means for the police to alert the school administrators that an emergency condition exists in Westfield.

The Union County Bureau of Telecommunications developed and implemented the emergency system, which is funded by a United States Department of Homeland Security grant.

In accepting the radios, Foley said, "We appreciate all the support the Westfield and county police have provided our schools, and we're grateful for this new communication system, which assures direct contact and quick response if our telephones fail us in the event of an emergency."

Yang receives college loan from PEO

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Chapter AS of PEO has announced that Kelly Yang, a 2003 graduate of Westfield High School, has been awarded a low-interest educational loan to continue her college studies at Columbia University.

Yang is currently a junior majoring in industrial engineering with a minor in economics. In addition to her academic pursuits, she pursues her musical interests by taking piano lessons, singing in the Bach Society Chorus and playing flute in the Wind Ensemble.

PEO offers the loan program to eligible Central New Jersey women entering their junior or senior year in college or pursuing graduate work. PEO, a philanthropic and educational organization, established the PEO Educational Loan Fund in 1907 to lend money to worthy

women students to assist them in securing a higher education.

The recipients of the loan, which is available in installments totaling a maximum of \$9,000, must be sponsored by a local PEO Chapter. Chapter AS targets up to two women to sponsor each year for this program. The chapter makes its sponsorship selection based on an applicant's financial need, academic excellence, contributions to the community and a commitment to higher education. The International Chapter PEO must then approve the loan application.

Applications are

processed year-round. The average processing time is approximately three months from candidate selection to financing.

Candidates applying for the loan must be either a citizen or legal permanent resident of the United States or Canada.

Eligible participants must have two co-signers for the loan and the applicant may not currently be involved in bankruptcy proceedings or have been discharged from bankruptcy within the last three years.

For further information, visit www.peointernational.org. Interested women should contact Chapter AS to confirm eligibility at asnjpeo@yahoo.com.

NEWS FROM TRENTON

Legislators oppose FAA proposal

Senator Tom Kean Jr., Assemblyman Eric Munoz, M.D. and Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, state representatives from Legislative District 21, have formally registered their opposition to the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Airspace Redesign Proposal.

Along with their letter of opposition, the three legislators, who represent Westfield, submitted to the FAA copies of Senate Joint Resolution 34 and Assembly Joint Resolution 88, which were introduced and sponsored by the District 21 legislative team.

"The FAA is claiming that the most recent, and supposedly best proposal, will effectively reduce the amount of delays experienced at our airports," said Kean. "In actuality, this proposal minimally changes the existing flight patterns while creating noise pollution for an additional 322,000 residents in the New York/New Jersey/Pennsylvania metropolitan area."

AJR-88 was passed by the Assembly on March 2, 2006 with widespread bipartisan support, and SJR-34 awaits review in the Senate Transportation Committee.

"It was very reassuring to see bipartisan support on this issue," said Munoz. "The redesign proposal does not come close to having enough positive benefits to outweigh the increased noise pollution as well as negative effects on the air quality in the area."

"The FAA cannot disregard the public's aversion to noise pollution. In 2001, the FAA itself found that noise pollution was the strongest and most widespread concern raised by the public," said Bramnick. Like his colleagues, he expressed the hope that "the FAA will not come to an abrupt decision, and will continue to research viable options in order to arrive at a conclusion that specifically and effectively addresses noise pollution."

Bill would improve access to epinephrine

The Senate and Assembly Education Committees last month approved a bill sponsored by Senator Tom Kean Jr. and Assemblyman Eric Munoz M.D., and co-sponsored by Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, to improve access to epinephrine for students at risk of life-threatening food allergies.

Peanuts, tree nuts (walnuts, cashews, etc.), shellfish, fish, milk, and eggs commonly cause anaphylactic reactions in those who are allergic. Epinephrine is a drug which counteracts anaphylactic shock, a reaction which can cause suffocation in a matter of minutes.


"This bill seeks to ensure that appropriate safety nets are in place in our schools so that students at danger of life-threatening allergic reactions can — like other children — fully participate in the school experience without fear or risk," said Kean.

"This measure ends any confusion that could have placed a student in jeopardy," said Munoz, who is also a trauma surgeon. "In some people, exposure to a trace amount of a food can cause a severe reaction. This bill protects such students by making sure the medication can be quickly accessed and requiring school districts to designate and train employee volunteers to administer epinephrine if a school nurse is not present at the scene."

Under current law, the designation of delegates by school districts is authorized but not required. The legislation also calls for members of the medical, education and food allergy communities to develop guidelines for development of a policy for the management of food allergies in the school setting.

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MONTH TO MONTH MEMBERSHIPS

Spots still available at YMCA's summer camp



Campers and counselors enjoy lunch together at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA's Camp Weeto-Weewanchu. Designed for children ages 3-5 and held at the YMCA's Union Catholic facility, this camp includes such activities as music, science, arts and crafts, cooking and swim lessons. For information about the limited spots still available for the remaining summer sessions, call (908) 889-5455.

Bansky honored for service to community

WESTFIELD — Ron Bansky, an exclusive agent with Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company, was recently awarded the Agency Hands in the Community (AHIC) Award for his commitment to volunteering in the community through the Westfield Area YMCA.

With this award comes a \$500 grant from The Allstate Foundation that will be directed toward the Westfield YMCA. In addition to being a member of the Westfield YMCA, Bansky serves on the Y's Family and Youth Committee.

Allstate New Jersey, said, "Allstate New Jersey believes that it is very important for corporations to take an active interest in the communities they serve. We are proud to support Ron Bansky in such a worthwhile cause through the Allstate Foundation. The grant from the Allstate Foundation will provide much-needed support for the Westfield YMCA."

Ballinger added, "Through his work with the Children's Specialized Hospital and the Westfield Jaycees, as well as the Westfield YMCA, Ron has shown a great deal of community involvement and commitment. He's truly dedicated to strengthening his community through his many volunteer efforts."

In addition, Bansky's agency will provide additional support to the Westfield Y through a new community donation program being offered through the auspices of Allstate New Jersey. Through Oct. 1, the agency will donate \$10 (up to \$2,000) for each auto quote provided to the members of the organization, as well as to Westfield community

members who wish to support the YMCA chapter.

Bansky said, "As an exclusive agent with Allstate New Jersey, I believe that it's very important for an insurance agency — or any corporate entity — to take an active interest in the communities it serves."

He added, "The financial contribution provides much

"I believe that it's very important for an insurance agency — or any corporate entity — to take an active interest in the communities it serves."
— Ronald Bansky

needed support to this outstanding group."

To generate a donation through this program, call Bansky's agency at (908) 301-0711, mention the Westfield YMCA and stipulate that you would like to make the donation. There is no purchase necessary. The agency is located at 715 Central Ave., Suite 10.

NEWS BRIEFS

Dinoman will visit Scotch Plains Library

SCOTCH PLAINS — Area families are invited to the Scotch Plains Public Library for an exciting trip into the past next week, as Dinoman will be appearing at 10 a.m. July 13. Bob Lisaius, also known as "Dinoman," will use his superior knowledge of fossils to explore the life and times of a variety of dinosaurs. Participants will have the opportunity to examine such items as bugs in amber, petrified wood, gastroliths, and real dinosaur bones. Dinosaur lovers of all ages are welcome to ask questions, make observations, and get an in-depth look at these creatures from the earth's past.

This free program is part of the summer reading activities held at Scotch Plains Public Library for children and their families. The summer events will continue at 6:30 p.m. July 25, when the Traveling Lantern Theater Company offers a live performance of *The Hobbit*, and will conclude 10 a.m.-noon Aug. 2 with a party featuring the Happy Tales Petting Zoo.

The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Ave., one block from Park Avenue in the center of town. For further information or a full schedule of events, call (908) 322-5007, ext. 209 or check the library's Web site, www.scotlib.org.

Moms to hear talk about child development

FANWOOD — At its July 19 meeting, the Union County chapter of Mothers & More will host pediatric occupational therapist Heather Lawrence, who will speak on the appropriate developmental milestones for toddlers, preschoolers and early school-aged children from an occupational therapy perspective. Lawrence will also discuss occupational therapy intervention for children with developmental delays.

The meeting will be held at 8 p.m. at the Fanwood Recreation Center, located in Forest Road Park. The meeting will also be an opportunity for interested persons in the area to find out more about the chapter's other activities, which include mom and tot outings, mom's night out, playgroups, and a book club.

Mothers & More is a national, non-profit organization that champions the value and necessity of all mothers' work to our society, paid and unpaid, within and outside of the home. For more information about the group, call Micheel at (908) 620-3202 or Marilyn at (908) 568-2633, or log on to mothersandmore.org.

Knights host lecture on Opus Dei

SCOTCH PLAINS — The book and film *The Da Vinci Code* have sparked great interest in the subject of Opus Dei. To provide members of the public with insights about this organization, the Knights of Columbus will sponsor a talk about the group from 8-9 p.m. July 24, at the K of C Hall, located at 2400 North Ave., next to Charlie Brown's.

John F. Coverdale, author of *Uncommon Faith: The Early Years of Opus Dei*, will speak about the history and purpose of the organization.

The evening is open to the public.

Gregory takes new role at hospice

SCOTCH PLAINS — Township resident John Gregory, M.D., director of the Palliative Care Program at Overlook Hospital, was appointed by Atlantic Hospice as administrative medical director. In his new role, Gregory will provide medical leadership, clinical expertise and administrative oversight to the hospice team. Gregory will be joining current hospice physicians, Janice Baker, M.D., John Conti, M.D., and Karen Knops, M.D.

Gregory will focus on integrating palliative care principles into the Atlantic Hospice program, enabling the hospice to develop an "open access" philosophy. Open access would permit patients with life-limiting illness with a prognosis of six months or less, who are receiving therapies for palliation, such as radiation therapy, to be eligible for the hospice program. The criteria for hospice admission would change from the traditional approach in which hospice patients discontinue therapies, such as radiation and chemotherapy, to a more open approach in which palliative treatments are considered if appropriate for the comfort of the hospice patient.

Gamers will gather on July 14

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey will hold its Ebay/Online Auction meeting at 7:30 p.m. July 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave.

Also, a LANparty will be held at the Rescue Squad at 6 p.m. July 14. At the party, computer gamers will network PCs to play video games. Games typically played include Battlefield 2, Call of Duty 2 and Unreal Tournament. Players must bring their own computer and cables. Anyone may come and watch, but players are asked to donate \$5.

Go to www.ACGNJ.org for details on the monthly meetings, and to www.NJGamers.com for the gamers' group.

Sign up now for Encore camp

GARWOOD — Improv, dance, dialects, and auditioning techniques are among the classes campers can experience at Stars of Tomorrow Performing Arts Camp's Encore program. Classes are taught by highly-trained individuals in their respective fields.

Registrations are currently being accepted; campers may register for one or two weeks from July 30-Aug. 11.

To register, call (908) 276-5053 and ask for a copy of the 2006 camp brochure. Or, visit the website at www.StarzOfTomorrow.com.

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Community Life

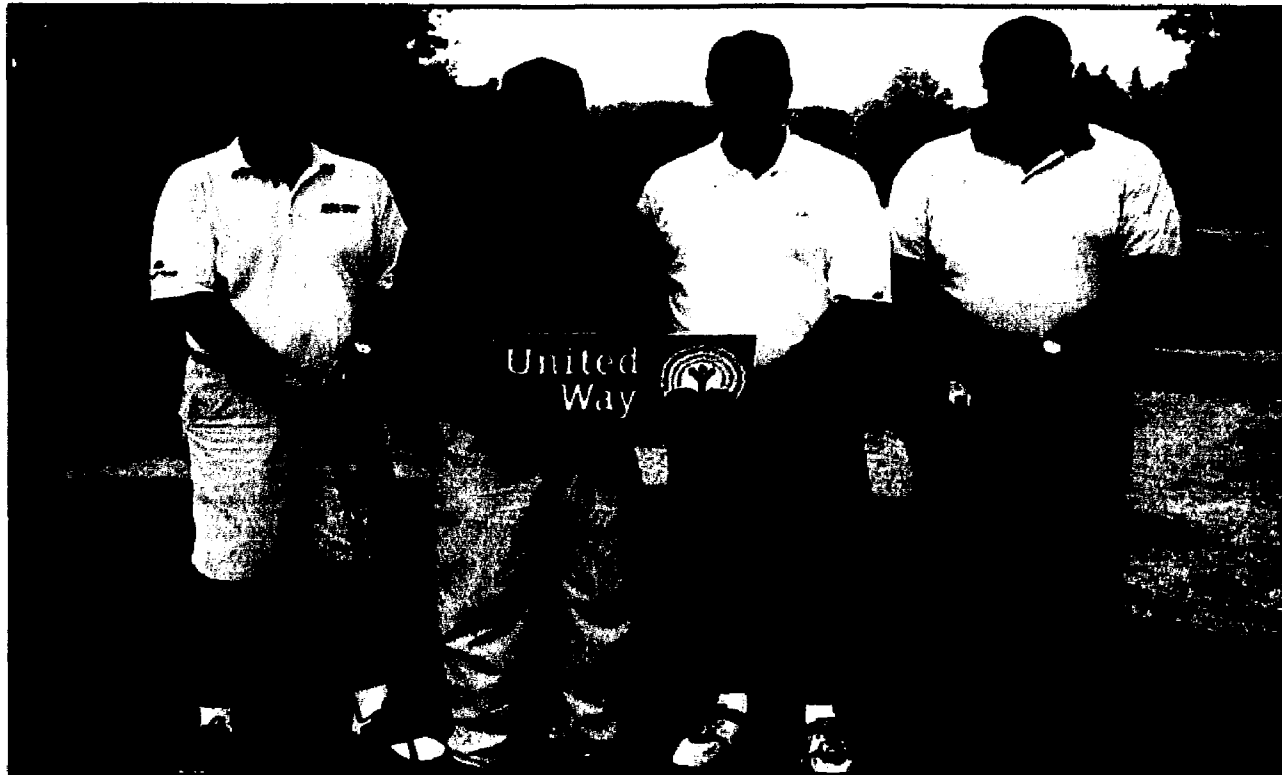
UW Golf Classic raises over \$32K

SCOTCH PLAINS — Nearly 100 representatives from dozens of businesses throughout New Jersey recently hit the golf links at Shackamaxon Golf & Country Club to support United Way of Greater Union County's work in improving local lives and addressing critical community needs.

United Way's 2006 Golf Classic and dinner reception generated more than \$32,000 to support United Way's programs and services. Alpine Aromatics International Inc., a leading manufacturer of fragrance oils headquartered in Piscataway, was the event's presenting sponsor. Other top sponsors included AGL Elizabethtown Gas, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Merck & Company Inc., Schering-Plough Corporation and Survivor Technologies.

"We are delighted that our Golf Classic brought together so many local people and organizations to support our caring community," said Brenda M. Anderson, vice president of operations at Anderson Publishing in Scotch Plains and United Way's 2006 Golf Classic Committee Chair. "It truly is a win-win situation when you have a great event that helps boost United Way programs that have a lasting and dramatic impact on thousands of local people."

United Ways across the country work to develop programs that address the root



From left, Joseph P. Starkey of Schering-Plough Corporation, James W. Horne Jr. of United Way of Greater Union County, Russell Burt of Aflac, and Timothy Williams of AGL Elizabethtown Gas prepare to tee off during United Way's 2006 Golf Classic.

causes of community needs — why problems exist. As such, according to officials with the organization, United Way programs are not just "stop gap" measures, but ultimately preventative ones that bring about lasting change.

The United Way system includes approximately 1,400 community-based United Way organizations. Each is independent, sepa-

rately incorporated and governed by local volunteers. Locally, United Way of Greater Union County develops and supports more than 100 programs that measurably improve the lives of local children and families.

United Way of Greater Union County's Early Learning programs are focused on enhancing the quality of local child care centers to ensure children

are well prepared to learn and succeed in school and in life. Also, the 2-1-1 helpline supports thousands of local families by connecting callers with community resources that can help answer their human service needs.

For more information or to support United Way of Greater Union County, call (908) 353-7171 or visit www.uwguc.org.

THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, JULY 6

'THE LADY IN QUESTION' — opening night of the comedy at the Theater Project at Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. 8 p.m. Show continues Thursday through Sunday until July 30. Tickets are \$20, with discounts on Thursdays and for senior citizens and students. Call (908) 659-5189 or visit www.TheTheaterProject.com.

WESTFIELD COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT — the local musical group will continue its 94th season of performances. 7:30 p.m. Mindowaskin Park, East Broad St., Westfield. Free.

FRIDAY, JULY 7

RUSSIAN CARNIVAL ENSEMBLE — the Brooklyn-based musical group, which blends Russian folk tunes with classical and contemporary sounds, joins the Friday Night Concerts series at First United Methodist Church, 1 East Broad St., Westfield. 7:30 p.m. \$10 donation at the door; \$5 for children and students. (908) 233-4211.

TGIF: JOHN PHILLIP SOUSA — learn about the legendary American composer and bandleader in this program at the Westfield Memorial Library, 550 Broad St. 1:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 8

WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN — Niambi Jarvis, author of 100 *Words of Wisdom for Women: A 31-Day Exercise in Empowerment* and founder of an online community for women of color, will facilitate a workshop based on her book. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Ave. First-come, first served. (908) 868-8437.

MONDAY, JULY 10

RICK RECHT IN CONCERT — the family-friendly musician will perform in a fundraiser for the JCC of Central NJ. The show will be held 7 p.m. at the Harvest Training Center Hall, 96 Myrtle St., Cranford. To purchase tickets through the JCC, email svravn@jccnj.org or call (908) 889-8800, ext. 209.

TUESDAY, JULY 11

'ZELERY' — the Westfield Memorial Library will screen this Academy Award-nominated film about two lovers, a nurse and a surgeon, who join the resistance movement in 1940s Czechoslovakia. 2 and 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

TRIBUTE TO JEWISH AMERICAN COMPOSERS — a concert by cabaret performer Naomi Miller, presented for adults age 60 and up by the JCC of Central NJ. 11 a.m. at Congregation Beth Israel, 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains. \$23 for JCC members, \$30 for non-members. RSVP by calling (908) 889-8800, ext. 207.

SENSATIONAL SOUL CRUISERS — the Summer Arts Festival concert series continues at Echo Lake Park, Mountainside/Westfield, with this Motown group. 7:30 p.m. Free, but audience members are encouraged to bring seating.

LA LECHE LEAGUE MEETING — the breastfeeding information and support group will gather at the playground area at Tamaques Park. 10 a.m. In case of rain, call (908) 233-6513 for an updated meeting location.

THURSDAY, JULY 13

DINOMAN — the children's performer will visit the Scotch Plains Public Library, bringing amber and fossils and life-size dinosaur models. 10 a.m. The presentation is part of the "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales" summer reading program and is open to kids from pre-school through fifth grade. 1927 Bartle Ave. (908) 322-5007.

WESTFIELD COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT — the group will continue its performances at Mindowaskin Park on East Broad Street in Westfield with selections from *The Phantom of the Opera*. 7:30 p.m. Free, but audience members are encouraged to bring seating.

'THE HOBBIT' — a performance by the Traveling Lantern Theater Company, part of the summer reading program at the Westfield Memorial Library. 7 p.m. Suitable for children from Grades K-8. 550 East Broad St. (908) 789-4090.

FRIDAY, JULY 14

CAMPING TRIP — single and divorced parents and their kids are invited on this trip to Promised Land State Park, led by the Westfield Area Y. July 14-16; register by July 10 at (908) 233-2700, ext. 415. \$79 per family. A similar trip open to all families is planned July 21-23. Register for that trip by July 17; the cost is \$92 per family.

LANPARTY — hosted by the Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey. 6 p.m. Gamers will network PCs to play video games; participants should donate \$5 and bring their own computer and cables. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad building, 1916 Bartle Rd.

COMING UP

RAIN GARDEN TOUR — a hands-on, up-close look for kids in Grades 1-4 of the rain garden constructed last year at the Fanwood Memorial Library. 1:30 p.m. July 17. The adult program, "How to Build a Rain Garden," will be held 7 p.m. Aug. 3 at the library. To register, call the Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension at (908) 654-9854.

'ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT BREASTFEEDING' — Sara Youner of the La Leche League will lead this talk for the Holistic Moms Network. 7 p.m. July 18. Hanson House, 38 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For more, visit www.holisticmoms.org.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT — Heather Lawrence will discuss appropriate developmental milestones at this meeting of the Union County chapter of Mothers & More. 8 p.m. July 19. Fanwood Recreation Center, Forest Road Park. (908) 620-3202.

EBAY/ONLINE AUCTION MEETING — hosted by the Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey. 7:30 p.m. July 19. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad building, 1916 Bartle Rd.

OPUS DEI TALK — John F. Coverdale, author of *Uncommon Faith: The Early Years of Opus Dei*, will lead this discussion about the organization, which has drawn attention since the release of *The DaVinci Code*. 8:30 p.m. July 24. Knights of Columbus hall, 2400 North Ave., Scotch Plains.

'THE HOBBIT' — a performance by the Traveling Lantern Theater Company, part of the summer reading program at the Scotch Plains Public Library. 6:30 p.m. July 25. 1927 Bartle Ave. (908) 322-5007.

5K AND PIZZA EXTRAVAGANZA — fifth annual event hosted by the Downtown Westfield Corporation. Race starts at 7 p.m. July 26 at East Broad and Elm streets. Entry fees are \$20 (\$18 USATF members) for pre-registration and \$25 after July 21. To register, visit www.PracticeHard.com.

CAMPING IN COLORADO — the Westfield Area Y invites local families on this week-long trip to Estes Park in the Colorado Rockies. Campers will enjoy hiking, horseback riding and much more. Register by Aug. 3 at (908) 233-2700, ext. 415.

SPIRIT CRUISE LINE TRIP — the Scotch Plains Senior Citizen Advisory Committee sponsors this trip around Manhattan. Bus leaves Scotch Plains municipal building at 9:45 a.m. Sept. 20. Registration opens July 5 for township residents. \$45. (908) 889-2084 or (908) 322-6700, ext. 221.

Scouts enjoy a wild ride at Bowcraft



In what was the final day of school for most, members from many of the communities served by the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council turned out to Bowcraft in Scotch Plains for fun in the sun on June 22. Organized by the Springfield Girl Scout Community for the second year in a row, the event was open to girls throughout the council. The girls came to ride the rides and play the games while rejoicing in the fact that school is over and summer is here. GSWRC provides the Girl Scout experience to nearly 11,000 girls and adults in 24 communities throughout Union, Middlesex and Somerset counties. The council service center and adjoining shop are located at 201 Grove St. East in Westfield. For more information about the council, visit them online at www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.

Library hosts performance of *The Hobbit*

WESTFIELD — At 7 p.m. July 13, the "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales" summer reading theme comes to life at the Westfield Memorial Library, as the popular Traveling Lantern Theatre Company returns with their live production of *The Hobbit*.

Children from kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to see the cherished tale of a home-loving little Hobbit who finds himself on an adventure he could never have imagined. On the way he meets elves, trolls, a wizard and a dragon... and s-s-s-something s-s-s-trange called a Gollum.

Traveling Lantern's mission is to bring classic stories to children, to draw them into an active theater experience, to excite their minds and to tickle their imaginations. The actors use an interactive performance style that involves the children and encourages audience participation like cheering the hero, booing the villain, warning of danger or creating sound effects. The troupe's creative approach to traditional stories includes non-traditional casting that dispenses with social and demographic stereotypes.

The library will be closed for staff training on Friday, July 14, but there will be plenty of other activities over the coming week. Adult programs are free and are open to Westfield Memorial Library or M.U.R.A.L. cardholders. They include:

Zelery — This Academy Award-nominated film will be screened at 2 and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 11. In the movie, a nurse and her surgeon lover join the resistance movement in 1940s Czechoslovakia, but the surgeon flees when the pair is discovered.

Puzzled by the Internet Part One — At 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 12, this hands-on class for beginners will cover basic skills such as how to use a browser, Internet addresses, selecting a search engine, printing from the Internet and some important Web sites. Part two of this class is offered at 10 a.m. July 19.

The library will also host several children's programs, which are open to all full-service Westfield Memorial Library cardholders. They include:

Baby Rhyme Time — Babies who are not yet walking and their caregivers are invited to participate in

rhymes, lap bounces, songs, and claps from 10-10:20 a.m. July 10.

Preschool Story Time — Children ages 3½ to 5 years old will listen to stories and do an activity at 10 a.m. Tuesday, July 11 or 2 p.m. Thursday, July 13.

Mother Goose Group — Toddlers up to age 2½ with a caregiver will enjoy stories, songs, finger plays and movement activities from 10-10:20 a.m. Wednesday, July 12.

Chess — Children and teens are invited to bring a friend and play some chess from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 12.

Snack and Yak — Teens from Grades 6-8 can join their peers for an informal, open discussion of favorite books and authors at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 12 at 7:00. Light refreshments will be provided.

Tots' Story Time — Children ages 2½ to 3½ with caregiver will listen to a story and do an activity from 10-10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 13.

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.

Chinoy again picked to lead dentists' group

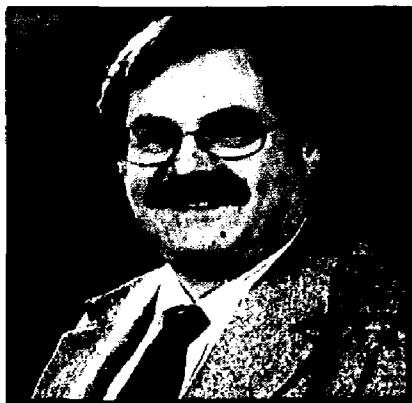
SCOTCH PLAINS - In a recent ceremony at the New Jersey Dental Association's (NJDA) 136th annual convention in Atlantic City, Walter I. Chinoy, DMD, was sworn in as the organization's speaker of the House of Delegates for the 2006-2007 year.

This marks the 16th year Chinoy has served in this capacity, as he builds on his record as the longest-serving speaker in the Association's history.

"It is a great honor to represent organized dentistry in this capacity for this length of time," said Chinoy. "I look forward to helping the association sharpen its focus on attracting new members and continuing to demonstrate value to our current members."

A general dentist in Scotch Plains, Chinoy received his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and his dental degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine. He is a member of the Academy of General Dentistry, American Academy of the History of Dentistry, and the American Institute of Parliamentarians.

Chinoy is a fellow of both the American and

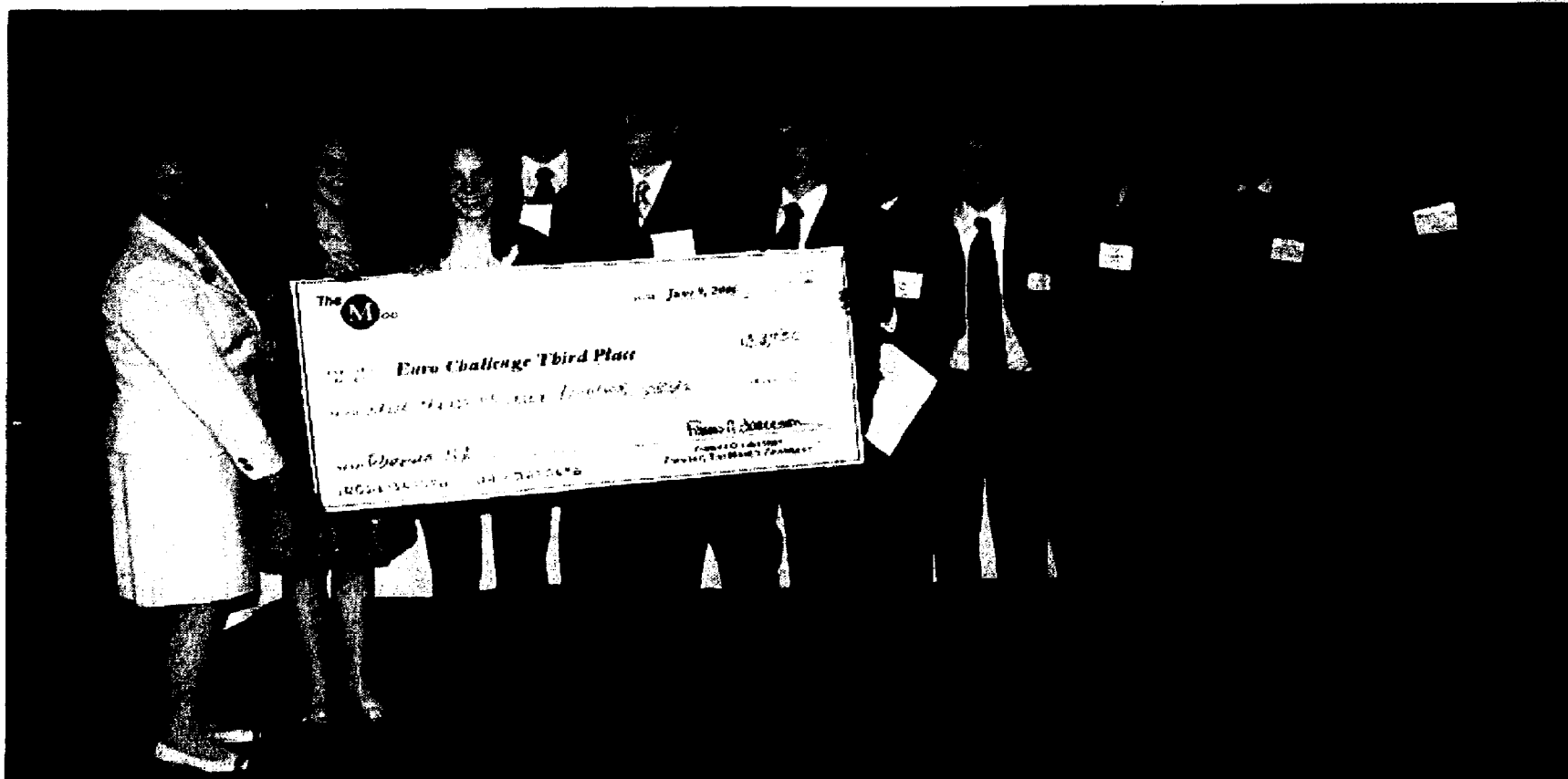


DR. WALTER CHINOY

International Colleges of Dentists and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.

Chinoy is a past president of the Central Dental Society and was editor of its *Bulletin*. He has served as a member of the NJDA Board of Trustees since 1988 and has been a member of the NJDA House of Delegates since 1983. He served for three years on the NJDA Council on Communications and for six years on the NJDA Council on Legislation.

In his spare time, Chinoy is an avid coin collector and serves as president of the New Jersey Numismatic Society. He and his wife, Elaine, live in Scotch Plains with their two sons, Adam and Evan.



On hand for the presentation of the third place scholarship award to Westfield High School's Euro-Challenge Team were Frances Laerson, president of The Moody's Foundation, and WHS team members Jessica Sheft-Ason, Britta Greene, Tainyou Xu, Mark Remlinger, Andrew Calvarusso, Pratik Mehta, Vince Fitzpatrick, and advisor/teacher Thomas Hornish. Also attending were Ambassador Fernando Valenzuela, head of the European Commission's delegation to the United States; and Moreno Bertoldi, an economic and financial counselor and a member of the delegation.

WHS takes third place in Euro-Challenge

WESTFIELD - The Westfield High School Euro-Challenge Team won third place in the first ever Euro-Challenge competition sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the European Union.

The purpose of the competition, held in June in New York City, was to promote an understanding of the role of the European Union and the European Central Bank and their relationship to the global economy. Westfield High was among 10 selected schools from New York City, Long Island, and New Jersey. The New Jersey teams also included Princeton, Montclair and Rumson Fair Haven.

The teams were given 15 minutes to demonstrate their knowledge of the history of the European Union from 1954 through today, the organizational structure of the European Union, the current economic conditions within the Euro-Zone, and the challenges one of

the 10 applicant nations face in adopting the Euro and proposing how to meet those challenges. The task required an oral and electronic presentation followed by a 10-15 minute question and answer period from four judges representing the Federal Reserve Bank, The Moody's Foundation, The ECB, and the Ambassador to the United States from the European Union.

The WHS team consisted of sophomores Britta Green, Jessica-Sheft Ason, Mark Remlinger, Andrew Calvarusso, Vince Fitzpatrick, Pratik Mehta and Tainyou Xu.

Andrew and Vince were "techies" who were responsible for the electronic presentation and publication of *Eye on the Union*, a business newspaper published at Westfield High.

The top four teams received scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$7,500. Westfield won third place and received

a scholarship grant of \$3,750.00.

Thomas Hornish, social studies teacher at Westfield High and adviser for the team, said, "It's simply amazing what young people can do when given the opportunity to take possession of their endeavor."

"This was from the beginning to the end the students' effort, with me on the side coaching and encouraging. It was a privilege to be part of their experience."

Hornish also coaches Westfield High School students each year in The Fed Challenge, an academic program sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of the United States. The intention of that program is to introduce students to the role of the Federal Reserve and its relevance to the U.S. economy. Westfield has been a part of the Fed Challenge since 1999 and has distinguished itself as being among the best in the 2nd District.

La Leche League to meet July 12 at Tamaques Park

WESTFIELD - La Leche League of Westfield, a breastfeeding information and support group, holds meetings on the second Wednesday of each month.

The next meeting will be held at 10 a.m. July 12 at Tamaques Park, off Lamberts Mill Road in Westfield. Participants should meet at the playground area near the tennis courts and bring a brown bag lunch.

Topics of discussion will include "The Normal Course of Breastfeeding and

Avoiding Difficulties" and "Developing a Parenting Style that Feels Right."

New, experienced, and expectant mothers and their children are welcome to come, learn more about breastfeeding, have questions answered and meet other breastfeeding moms.

In case of rain, call Mari at (908) 233-6513 or Arlene at (908) 789-4772 for a revised meeting location.

For more information about La Leche League, visit the Web site at www.laleche-league.org.

Honor students named at Edison Intermediate

WESTFIELD - The following students earned academic honors at Edison Intermediate School for the fourth marking period of the 2005-2006 school year:

Distinguished Honor Roll

Grade 8: Meredith Ambinder, Calvin Antoniewicz, Leslie Bartsch, Zachary Bowman, Emily Budnick, Victoria Cheung, Kevin Clancy, Lacy Cummings, Monica D'Amico, Elizabeth Dennerlein, Andrew Deutchman, Shannon Doyle, Jennifer Eisenberg, Kathleen Esler, Caroline Fahey, Shelley Fussman, Adam Goldberg,

Kate Heffernan, Christopher Heinbokel, Zachary Helfand, Kyle Higgins, Valerie Hoffman, Leslie Holt, Miles Hsu, Rebecca Kape, Michael Kauffhold, Danni Liang, Melissa Littman, Kamil Lupicki, Jessica Margolies, Sara Mitchell, Dylan Moran, Rebecca Morse, Lisa Nehring, Steven Obajulu, Joshua Perlman, Lauren Posluszny, Alison Ricardo, Melissa Riegel, Alicia Rogers, Rebecca Romano, Drew Schapow, Ryan Scrudato, Dylan Simon, Virginia Spinelli, Sarah Spitz, Maxwell St. Lifer, Lindsay Steinbach, Jenna Strauss, Sarah Szollari, Janya Tagat, Rosalba Vasquez, Siyu Xiao.

Grade 7: Amanda Adsit, Paige Alvarez, Taylor Anderson, Patrick Bergin, Siya Bhatt, Jane Braun, Brian Cantor, Juliana Capuano, Ashtyn Chen, Bryan Chen, Alan Chu, Patrick Conlon, Tara Culnan, Gustav Danielsson, Olivia Dunham, Justin Erickson, Anna Fetter, Tzvetelina Garneva, Dana Gottdiener, Rachel Harth,

Evan Hinds, Ravi Jha, Daniel Kerr, Andrew Kirna, Justin Lee, Corey Lipschutz, Joshua Mazon, Colleen McCabe, Jilliana Meola, Philip Mierswa, Dominick Molinari, Amelia Morabito, Sarah Morasso, Kevin Mulvey, Alexis Murphy, Francine Nieva, David Osterman, Michael Pohlring, Matthew Ritter, Kyla Rodger, Allison Rose, Olivia Ryan, Nicole Schneider, Emma Shor, Meghan Suriano, Matthew Tarantino, Angela Tata, Connor Walters.

Honor Roll

Grade 8: Jamie Ackerman, Allison Ammermuller, Elaine Anderson, Nicole Aronson, Zachary Bakhtin, Richard Barber, Megan Boersig, Jonathan Brucia, Heather Callahan, Robert Ciarrocca, Sam Crossland, Samantha Cruz, Brett Denicola, Brandon Dietz, Mary-Juliet Donohue, Kathleen Dooley, Christopher Douglas, Marykate Doyle, Nicole Egnizzo, Steven Fallon, Christopher Fantini, Stefanie Field, Gregory Fortino, Elizabeth Frankola, Meghan

Freudenheim, Alex Furlong, Kevin Furlong, Trent Gabriel, Danielle Gawthney, Brittany Graham, Edward Greener, James Hay, Jakiyah Herron, Anneliese Himmel, Kelly Irving, Sara Koznecki, Kristin Kukis, Su Hee Lee, Rachael Lobo, Rachel McGovern, Marisa Mormile, Hugo Nolasco, Kathleen O'Donnell-Pickert, Andrea Ortis, Kristi Peyton, Nicholas Polak, Lindsay Polka, Megan Pulliam, Jonathan Russo, Philip Russo, Matthew Sanders, Sean Scrudato, Vishal Shah, Nikolay Shargorodsky, Emma Smelkinson, Nicole Spera, Claire Stevens-Haas, Madeline Tiedrich, Christina Tsui, Katherine Venezia, Timothy Werner, Kelsey Wilson, Melissa Wong, Matthew Wronski, Jason Yang.

Grade 7: Valentin Allard, Madeleine Archambault, Max Archambault, Rakhee Barai, Rishi Barai, Christian Barber, Chloe Baron, Rachel Baron, Marissa Boretz, Meghan Boylan, Stephen Buell, Morgan Bungerz, Eric Byer, Jillian Ceasrine, Hoon Byung Chae, Nicholas Chapel, Nicholas Chopey, Daniela Ciampa, Alyssa Conte, Lauren Corcoran, William Cronen, Emma Crossland, Tierny Cummings, Brooke Domino, Elizabeth Driscoll, Brian Duffy, Jeremy Einbinder, Adam Fischette, Steven Forgash, Nicole Frankfort, Alec Friedlander, Catalina Gaglioti, Edison Gao, Alison Glynn, Betsy Goellner, Spencer Goldin, Emma Gross, Courtney Gurkas, Russell Hager, Jagdish Hall, Charlotte Harmer, Alice Hong, John Huber, Rebecca Jackson, Alexander Jedruszczak, Alycia Jhaveri, Nicholas Kapur, Elizabeth Kiefer, Evan Korunow, Benjamin Kraus, Abigail Kwok, Jenna LaRusso, Meredith Latimer, Joseph Leopold, Zachary Lizmi, Benjamin Marinelli, Cara Martone, Juan Mejias, Madison Mone, Megan Nogan, Henry O'Brien, Katherine Ponce, Jennifer Porch, John Randazzo, Bryan Reilly, Matthew Rivera, Gabriella Rivero, Paul Rizkalla, Kyle Rocha, Laura Rogut, Justin Sandler, Christina Scaglione, Olivia Scrofani, Shane Skibitsky, Stephanie Skoller, Connor Slifer, Thomas Snyder, Eric Solomon, Robert Steinfeld, Eric Taylor, Francesca Tilocca, Jamie Toricollo, Samantha Wickman, Justin White, Daniel Wickens, Deborah Wu, Larry Zhang.

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Summit Music Festival presents *Carmina Burana*

The Summit Music Festival will celebrate its fifth anniversary season later this month with Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, one of the most universally acclaimed choral works ever composed, with two performances at Summit's Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple St.

The performances will be held 8 p.m. July 28 and 29. The program will also feature a new work by renowned composer Robert Maggio, commissioned by the festival, entitled "The Voice of the Rain" and set to a poem by Walt Whitman.

Under the direction of artistic director Jason Tramm, the Summit Music Festival will join

forces for this performance with the New Jersey Youth Chorus, New Jersey Percussion Ensemble, and pianists Holly Chatham and Thomas Cuffari. The guest soloists will be Lorraine Ernest, soprano; Matthew Garrett, tenor; and Anton Belov, baritone.

"Carl Orff's monumental choral work *Carmina Burana*, which is set to poems dating back to the 12th century, is one of the most important classical works of our time" said Tramm. "We are thrilled to collaborate with such fine ensembles, all three representing the best of what New Jersey arts scene has to offer. The performances will be truly memorable."

From the time of its premiere in 1937, Orff's setting of secular poetry, based on a collection of 13th century Bavarian poems and songs, has established itself as one of the most popular choral works in the canon. The famous opening chorus, "O Fortuna," has been used in countless film scores including *Excalibur*, *The Doors* and *Natural Born Killers*.

Founded in 2002, the Summit Music Festival choir has presented choral/orchestral masterworks to standing room only crowds and has received a strong critical reception. The choir is chosen by competitive audition every summer and rehearses throughout the month of July.

"I am most proud to announce that during a time when many other artistic organizations are facing dire financial situations, we are in the process of expanding our offerings," said Tramm. "Goals for the near future include adding chamber music performances and building on the tradition of excellence that we have established in our first five years."

In conjunction with the Summit Public Library, the festival will be holding a two-part lecture series during the month of July. The first will be held at 7:30 pm July 13 and will feature Paul Somers, editor of the Classical New Jersey Society. Somers will discuss the role of *Carmina Burana* in popular

culture from its roots until the present day.

The second lecture will be held at 7:30 pm July 20 and will feature Tramm and Noel Werner, minister of music at the Central Presbyterian Church. They will focus on the texts and musical materials used in the creation of the masterwork. Both talks are free and open to the general public.

To reserve seats for the performances on July 28 or 29, call (908) 273-3190 or email info@summit-musicfestivalnj.com.

Suggested concert donation is \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors. For more information and directions, visit www.summit-musicfestivalnj.com.

Sensational sounds at Echo Lake



The Sensational Soul Cruisers will perform Wednesday in Echo Lake Park, at the border of Mountainside and Westfield.

Summer Arts Festival continues with Soul Cruisers

The Union County Summer Arts Festival concert series continues Wednesday, July 12 with a performance by the Sensational Soul Cruisers.

Area residents are invited to attend this free concert, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in Echo Lake Park.

The Sensational Soul Cruisers attract fans of all ages with their combination of Motown classics, four-part harmonies, horns and a soulful rhythm section. They are a complete rhythm & blues, rock and soul ensemble.

A fan favorite at the Summer Arts Festival for several years already, the 11-piece band's show at Echo Lake Park is sponsored once again by the Union County Education Association.

Freeholder Chairman Alex Mirabella urges residents to "bring

the entire family, pack a picnic basket, bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on, and enjoy an evening of sweet soul music in Echo Lake Park with these popular performers."

The Union County Information Van also will be at the concert site, with representatives from Rumlens Specialized Hospital of Union County on hand to answer questions and offer information about health services available to Union County residents.

The other free concerts in the Summer Arts Festival series include:

July 19 - The Fabulous Greaseband (oldies);

July 26 - Amethyst ('80s pop/rock);

Aug. 2 - Yasgur's Farm (Woodstock rock) plus JoBonanno & the Godsons of Soul;

Aug. 9 - Mustang Sally (country);

Aug. 16 - The Nerds (Jersey Shore party band);

Aug. 23 - Ed Palermo Big Band with Rob Paparozzi, sponsored by Schering-Plough Corp.;

Aug. 30 - The Party Dolls, sponsored by ConocoPhillips-Bayway Refinery.

In case of rain, concerts will be held at the air-conditioned auditorium at Cranford High School, on West End Place off Springfield Avenue in Cranford at 7:30 p.m. For up-to-date concert/rain information call the Parks and Recreation hotline at (908) 352-8410 after 3 p.m. on the day of the concert.

For more information about the concert series, call the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities at (908) 527-4900.

WCB concert series continues on July 13

Summer concerts in Westfield's Mindowaskin Park will continue 7:30 p.m. July 13 with a performance by the Westfield Community Band, under the direction of Thomas Connors.

A highlight for the evening includes music from the longest running show in Broadway history, *The Phantom of the Opera* by Andrew Lloyd Weber. *Phantom* tells the story of a mysterious man who lives in the shadows of the Paris Opera House and features well known songs such as "The Music of the Night," "The Phantom of the Opera" and "All I Ask of You."

A second feature for the evening is "The Witch and the Saint" by Steven Reineke, a tone poem for symphonic band based on the novel of the same name by Ulrike Schweikert. "The Witch and the Saint" tells the story of twin sisters in Germany in 1588, born with

extraordinary powers including the ability to see the future.

Additional selections for the evening will include "Prairie Dances" by David Holsinger, "Flight of the Pegasus" by David Shaffer and "Rondo from the Bassoon Concerto" by Mozart.

The band will finish its concert season on July 20, followed by a performance by the Westfield Community Swing Band, "Nostalgia" on July 28.

Mindowaskin Park is located next to the Westfield Municipal Building at 425 East Broad St. The event is free to the public; audience members are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs. In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the Assembly Hall of the Presbyterian Church.

For further information, call (908) 789-4080 or go to the band's Web site at westfieldcommunityband.com.

Actors head into the forest at Kean

Premiere Stages at Kean University continues its 2006 season this month with the world premiere of *Dark Part of the Forest*, a work by Tammy Ryan.

Set in a forest west of Pittsburgh, this psychological thriller chronicles the story of a protective mother whose mind and memory are haunted by a serial killer. The production will be presented in Kean University's Wilkins Theatre, which has been converted into a forest for the run of the play, resembling something from a Grimm's fairytale.

The professional production is directed by Premiere Stages' Producing Artistic Director John Wooten and features an Actors' Equity Association cast and top-notch design team. "The play effectively weaves a thought-provoking and topical story with vivid and frighteningly theatrical fairytales," said Wooten. "Tammy has cre-

ated a work that is deeply moving and will profoundly affect anyone who sees it."

The play runs from July 13-30 in Wilkins Theatre. Tickets range from \$15 to \$25. A special opening night party will also be held on July 13, featuring a champagne reception with the cast and playwright. Call (908) 737-4029 for more details. To order tickets, get on the mailing list, or request a season brochure, call the Wilkins Theatre Box Office at (908) 737-SHOW.

'Russian Carnival' to perform in Westfield

WESTFIELD — An unusual musical event with special interest for string players will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday in the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church, located at 1 East Broad Street in Westfield.

Appearing in a show presented by the Friday Night Classics series will be the "Russian Carnival Ensemble," which was organized in 1997 by the duo of domra-player Tamara Volskaya and her husband, bayanist Anatoliy Trofimov. Soon after the ensemble's establishment, the group became a prominent feature of New York City's musical scene and of Brooklyn community life.

The "Russian Carnival" Ensemble consists of top level professional musicians who contribute to the growing interest in Russian folk music and instruments in America. The group blends Russian, Eastern European, and traditional world folk, as well as classical and contemporary music, in its vibrant performances. The Russian Carnival gives new dimensions to the use of traditional Russian folk instruments by presenting music of different styles through the natural sound of those unusual instruments. The ensemble features a wide variety of Russian folk instruments, such as the bayan and

domras, as well as balalaikas of different sizes and shapes, ranging from prima to bass.

Soon after the Russian Carnival Ensemble was established, the group became a prominent feature of New York City's musical scene and of Brooklyn community life. The ensemble has performed at Trinity and Saint-Peter's Churches, Merkin Hall, and the 92nd Street Y in New York City. In 2000, they were featured at the Hillwood Museum in Washington, D.C. and at a ceremony

hosted by Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan in honor of Hillary Rodham Clinton in New York.

In 2002, the ensemble participated in the "Russian Winter Fest" in Brooklyn, performed for the Russian Ambassador to America, and was featured at the Slavic Festivals at Montclair and Kean Universities.

2004 included a performance at Avery Fisher Hall as part of the "Russian Splendor" program. In February, 2006, the ensemble had a recital

at the Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Hall.

Donations at the door will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and students. The sanctuary is air conditioned, and both the church and sanctuary are handicap accessible. Refreshments will be available at intermission. Ample parking can be found in the church lot accessible from Ferris Place, in nearby lots and on local nearby streets. For more information call the church office at (908) 233-4211 daily from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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F-SP College Club awards 12 scholarships

The College Club of Fanwood- Scotch Plains recently awarded a total of \$19,000 in scholarships to 12 young women...



Recipients of scholarships from the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains are pictured above. From left are (front row) recipients Mary Shashaty, Tara Shashaty and Faye Bi...

This is the 70th year that female students seeking financial assistance to pursue a four-year college degree have been assisted by the club's fundraising efforts...

Cleo Chou, the valedictorian and top female graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, received an award of \$500 in recognition of her academic excellence.

Carolyn L'Heureux, who received \$1,500 and will be a sophomore at James Madison University; Malina Milonnet, who received \$2,000 and will be a senior at the University of Delaware...

Shashaty, who received \$2,000 and will be a junior at the Catholic University of America; Mary Shashaty, who received \$1,000 and will be a sophomore at the Catholic University of America...

OBITUARIES

Margaret M. Boyle

Margaret M. Boyle, 84, died June 29, 2006 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick.

Born in Kingston, Pa., she lived in Westfield, Oradell and Lakehurst before moving to Lincroft five years ago.

A registered nurse, Mrs. Boyle worked at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield, Overlook Hospital in Summit, Genesis Eldercare in Westfield and St. Elizabeth's Hospital, now Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth, before retiring many years ago.

She was a graduate of Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. An Army nurse during World War II, Mrs. Boyle served as a first lieutenant in the European theater.

She was a member of the Rosary Society at Holy Trinity Church and the Catholic Daughters of America Court Trinity 337, both in Westfield, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, Middletown.

Surviving are a son, Jay; a daughter, Molly Aiello, and six grandchildren.

A Mass was offered Monday in St. Helen's Church, Westfield, after the funeral from the Dooley Colonial Home, Westfield. Interment was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Catherine P. Richard

Catherine P. Richard, 93, died June 30, 2006 at her home in Scotch Plains.

Born in Irvington, she lived in Newark before moving to Scotch Plains in 1951.

Mrs. Richard worked in the business department of Prudential Insurance Co. in Newark before retiring many years ago.

She graduated from Drake Business School in Newark.

Surviving are a son, Bill; daughters, Dolores Leigh, Kathy Strauch and Susan Brannon.

Chris K. Warnock

Chris Kyle Warnock, 32, of Scotch Plains died June 29, 2006 in Haven Hospice at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield.

Mr. Warnock is survived by his mother, Sharon Warnock; his stepmother, Marie Himmelberger; brothers, John Putt and Steven Warnock, and his companion, Mary Beth Brannon.

A service was offered Saturday in the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Ave., Fanwood. Interment was private.

Donations may be made to the Occupational Center of Union County, McAuley School for Exceptional Children, or the Special Olympics Basketball Team.

Marjorie L. Voss

Marjorie L. Voss, 86, died June 30, 2006 at her home in Westfield.

Born in New York, City, she lived in Irvington and Union before moving to Westfield 10 years ago.

Mrs. Voss was a medical secretary at St. Michael's Hospital in Newark for many years before retiring.

She was a volunteer with the Newark Food Bank, the Summit Food Bank and the Prison Fellowship out of Rahway State Prison.

Mrs. Voss was a 1947 graduate of the Providence Bible Institute.

Surviving are sons, Robert and Fredrick; a daughter, Margaret, and six grandchildren.

A service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday in the Parkway Wozniak Memorial Home of Clark, 211 Westfield Ave.

Donations may be made to the Westfield-Mountainside chapter of the American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, NJ 07090.

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Tour the rain garden

FANWOOD — In September 2005, a rain garden was constructed outside the Fanwood Memorial Library, located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road. Now, kids in Grades 1-4 can enjoy a hands-on presentation and outdoor tour of the garden at 1:30 p.m. Monday, July 17.

attractive while enhancing ecological health. The organizers' goal is to have the Fanwood Memorial Library's rain garden serve as a model for county residents who are interested in controlling polluted runoff and helping recharge the groundwater.

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Sports

Firecracker runners, fans beat the heat at race

By DAVID LAZARUS
CORRESPONDENT

CRANFORD — In its twenty-seventh rendition, the Cranford Firecracker Four Mile proved to be far from a dud. In fact, a huge race day walk-up swelled the overall finishers to 924, considerably above last year's total. It made for a happy debut for new race director Mike Rokicki, who was also pleased that so many people braved sultry conditions.

"Overall, I couldn't be happier," Rokicki said. "The race day walk-up was very surprising but many people told me they did not care about the conditions. They just wanted to run a race."

Overall race winner Brian Harris of Clinton, N.J., found the conditions far from ideal.

"It was very hot and humid out there," said Harris, who is the store manager at the New Jersey Running Company in Westfield. "I was just running to survive. I'm not sure if I would have been able to respond if someone had made a move on me."

Harris ran the first mile with Michael Rothbart of Livingston, N.J., but broke it open in the second mile and cruised from there in a time far from his best.

"My best times are far behind me but that is the case with many of my friends," said Harris, who was drenched in sweat after the race.

Looking far fresher was the women's second place finisher, 19-year-old Mallory Harlin, of Cranford, who was the top women's finisher from Cranford and fourth finisher overall from Cranford.

"It wasn't too bad out there," said Harlin, a 2004



The twenty-seventh annual Firecracker Four Mile gets underway in Cranford (above). The race's male and female winners, Brian Harris and Heather Gracie, approach the finish line (below).

Cranford High School graduate. "I don't mind running in this kind of weather. This is the best race I have ever run here."

Like many other local runners, Harlin enjoys starting Independence Day the same way.

"My family likes to come here and it's a nice day," Harlin said.

Another recent high school graduate who came back to run was 2004 Westfield High School graduate Deenie Quinn who finished in 27:11, good for ninth in the women's division.

"This is a nice training run for the middle of summer," said Quinn, who finished her sophomore year at Yale.

The top local male finisher



BROOKS CRANDALL/CORRESPONDENT

was 44-year-old Jeff Bryk of Westfield. Bryk finished fourteenth with a time of 23:13. He finished nine seconds ahead of Paul Buccino of Westfield, the track coach at Morristown High School.

The fifth place women's finisher was Cougar senior to be Laura Gallo, who ran 26:47.

"Four miles is a little more than Laura's used to racing, but she is a fantastic runner," Harlin said.

Well behind the top finishers there were numerous other local runners, less speedy but intense nonetheless.

"This is a great way to start the Fourth of July holiday," said 50-year-old Don Hessemer, of Fanwood. "It was too hot to run a fast

time. I'm just glad it's over."

However, the real story of the race continues to be the large numbers of families that came to enjoy all the amenities the race has to offer.

"This is what the Fourth of July is all about," said one runner as his happy young daughter sat on his shoulders awaiting another ice cream sandwich. "I've lost track of the amount of popcorn, cotton candy and ice cream she has had."

"We just moved to the area but this will become part of our Fourth of July tradition," he said.

Former Race Director Art Bilenker, a Jaycee and race benefactor, once again held court after the race and gave out awards to runners who could answer trivia questions, had the strangest jobs, and had the nicest biceps among other things.

"This is nice day for the community. It's a good day for everyone," said Bilenker, a dentist in Cranford.

The race is the major fund raiser for the Cranford Jaycees scholarship fund which awards scholarships to Cranford residents graduating high school, based on community service and academics.

The Jaycees sponsor and volunteer at various events throughout the year including the Halloween parade, the Holiday tree trimming, the children's Holiday party, the pancake breakfast, the pasta night, the mini golf tournament, an NCAA night and NFC/AFC Championship Sunday fundraiser, and the Leonard J. Snyder memorial fishing derby in honor of one of a Jaycee member who died in the terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Atlantic Arsenal playing in national tourney

By JOE SERZAN
SPORTS EDITOR

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Atlantic Arsenal Under-13 boys basketball team is walking in Memphis this week as they take part in the Division I National Tournament in Memphis, Tenn., for the first time. However, the team's road to the Nationals was anything but a walk in the park.

The Arsenal, a Westfield-based AAU team, used the strength of experience to finish second in the New Jersey State Tournament on April 9 and qualified for the Nationals. The experienced Arsenal won two close games by an average of five points each to secure the berth.

"We have a very confident group that plays like a team," said Arsenal head coach Mark Cleere. "We returned twelve players from last year's team and added one, so we had a lot of experience and that helped us this season."

The quest for a trip to the Nationals began back in March, according to the information given on the team website, as the Arsenal took the court against the Central Jersey Hawks. The Arsenal defeated the Hawks, 55-50, in overtime. The Arsenal were led by Conor Skea who had

an all-around great performance with 12 points, 18 rebounds, three assists, two steals and eight blocks. Greg Thomson also had a double-double for the Arsenal, scoring 17 points and pulling down 13 rebounds. Dillon Mahon led the team with three steals. John Serzan and Clayton Johnson were also impressive on defense during the game. Joey Kacmarsky hit two three point baskets and finished with eight points. Sean Siburn and Ryan Murray also contributed to the winning effort.

Despite losing its next game to IWB Elite, the Arsenal moved on to the quarterfinal round to face the Jersey Shore Fliers. The Arsenal got balanced scoring and employed a tough match-up zone to defeat the Fliers 62-56. Scott Miller scored 14 for the Arsenal and Thomson had another double-double with 15 points and 13 rebounds. Skea put forth another solid effort with eight points and nine rebounds. Ryan Hess, Dillon Mahon, and Peter Niotis also contributed during the victory.

After receiving a victory due to Team NJ Elite's forfeit, the Arsenal took to the court against The Playaz in the champi-



The Arsenal pose for a team picture after a hard-fought game. Pictured, bottom, left to right: John Serzan, Joey Kacmarsky, Dillon Mahon, Peter Niotis, Ryan Murray, Scott Miller. Top, left to right: Ryan Hess, Clayton Johnson, Sean Siburn, Head Coach Mark Cleere, Conor Skea, Greg Thomson, Scott Sowinski.

onship game. The Arsenal were down by 21 points at the beginning of the fourth quarter but rallied to cut the lead to two. However, they could not complete the comeback and lost, 72-68, and The

Playaz won their second straight Division I title. Despite not winning the championship, the Arsenal advanced to its first Division I tournament. The team will look to win against competi-

tion from many different states in the national tournament. This will be the Arsenal's third straight trip to the nationals, the previous two being Division II tournaments, most recently held in

Kentucky. Mark Cleere contributed to this story. Joe Serzan is sports editor for the Cranford Chronicle and Record-Press. He can be reached at (732) 396-4202 or jserzan@njpublishing.com.

ST. BART'S MENS SOFTBALL LEAGUE RESULTS

League Standings through 7/1/2006

Angels Division

St. Stephen	6-2
St. Anthony	6-4
St. Blaise	3-5
St. Anne	3-5
St. Nicholas	1-9

Saints Division

St. Luke	8-1
St. Joseph	7-4
St. Jude 5-3	
St. Mark	3-5
St. Aloysius	2-6

Results for week 6/26/06

St. Jude 10, St. Aloysius 9. St. Jude was led by Pat Luongo and captain Tony Perfilio as they won a close game over St. Aloysius. Tony Radice and Booby Guy were strong for Alosius despite the loss.

St. Joseph 14, St. Nicholas 8. It was a team effort for St. Joseph as 10 of the 12 players had at least one hit in the victory. St. Nicholas took the loss despite three hits a piece by Glenn Walz and Ken Blaes.

St. Anne 20, St. Nicholas 11. It was a tough week for St. Nicholas as they took two losses, this time to St. Anne, by a score of 20-11. Tom

Ulichny went 5-for-5 in the win. Joe McEvoy added three hits for St. Anne. St. Nicholas was led by Damon Roth and Jim Killen, who each had multi-hit games.

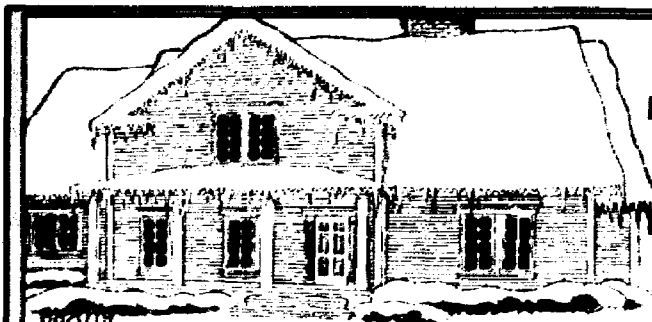
St. Stephen 11, St. Jude 5. Keith Middleton and Tom Rowbotham led St. Stephen to the victory over St. Jude. Harry Semple, Jerry Riepe and Al Rezza had great games for St. Jude, despite the loss.

St. Blaise 22, St. Nicholas 15. It was a slugfest, and St. Blaise ultimately came out on top 22-15 over St. Nicholas. Tommy Staniero and Marty Bernstein each had five hits. Nate

Mangeris also had a strong showing. St. Nicholas got a strong performance from its sponsor Jeff Friedlander in the loss.

St. Luke 7, St. Joseph 2. It was another victory for St. Luke, this time at the expense of St. Joseph. St. Luke was led by Marty Marks and Karl Grossman. Scott Smith was strong for St. Joseph in the loss.

St. Mark 15, St. Aloysius 7. St. Mark got back on the winning track with a win over St. Aloysius. St. Mark was led by Keith Gibbons who had a home run and four RBIs. St. Aloysius was led by Bobby Guy and Rick Wustefeld.



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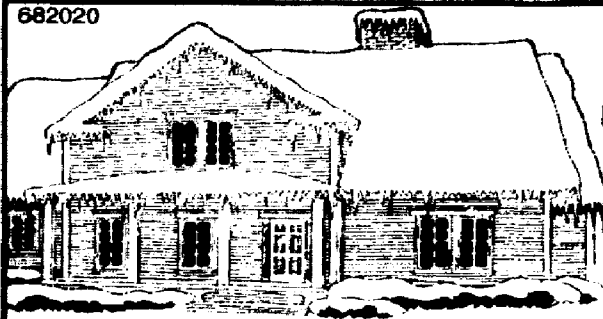
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FRANK GATTO

and Licensed Sales Associates:
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ELLEN MURPHY

Murphy goes platinum for Prudential

WESTFIELD — Ellen Murphy of Prudential New Jersey Properties' Westfield Office was recently awarded the 2005 Quality Service Certified Platinum Award. This award represents the highest level of service achievement and is awarded to sales associates that earn a perfect client service satisfaction rating.

“Ellen is dedicated to giving her clients the best possible service and attention,” said Marge Cuccaro, manager of the Prudential New Jersey Properties Westfield office. “She works tirelessly to ensure her clients are completely satisfied while making sure they reach all of their real estate goals.”

Offered through Prudential New Jersey Properties' relationship with California-based Quality Service Certification, Inc., the certification is earned and maintained by meeting or exceeding a standard of ongoing quality service for each transaction, based on input provided by clients.

Murphy has achieved a perfect customer satisfaction rating, which means 100 percent of her clients were more than satisfied with her service. Additionally, the majority of her clients indicated that they are “very likely” to use her services in the future and “very likely” to recommend her to a friend, neighbor or relative.

Specializing in new and re-sale residential real estate, Murphy is a member of the National, New Jersey and Greater Union County Associations of Realtors as well as the Garden State and Middlesex Multiple Listing Services. In 2005, Murphy earned the Sales Associate of the Month award five times and achieved the Seniors Real Estate Specialist (SRES) designation.

She was also awarded Bronze Level membership in the New Jersey Association of Realtors 2005 Circle of Excellence Sales Club and was inducted into Prudential Real Estate's 2005 Leading Edge Society.

A lifetime Union County resident, Murphy's market area includes the residential neighborhoods of Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside, Cranford and surrounding communities. Before joining the real estate industry, she spent 20 years in retail and education sales.

Murphy can be reached at the Westfield office, located at 215 North Avenue West, at (908) 232-5664 ext. 102.

PJNP offers a seminar for first-time buyers

WESTFIELD — Still paying rent toward an apartment that you'll never own?

Now might be the time to consider buying your first home. Prudential New Jersey Properties is holding a “First-Time Buyers Seminar” to educate local renters that homeownership is easier than you think.

The informative seminar will take place on Saturday, July 15 and will have Westfield sales associates Diane Barabas and Richard Serpe and mortgage consultant Frank Gatto on hand to discuss the process of buying a home and provide answers to all the questions first-time buyers may have.

Attendees can also browse through Prudential New Jersey Properties' inventory of New Jersey homes.

The event will be held at the Westfield office of Prudential New Jersey Properties, located at 215 North Ave. West, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Reservations and more information about the event are available by calling (908) 232-5664.

Summertime Showcase... It's YOUR Move!



Julie Murphy
Sales Associate
908-233-2488
julie-murphy@burgdorff.com



Elaine Demyen
Broker Associate
908-233-6326
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Handsome brick & vinyl split level in move-in condition offers 4 bedrooms, 2.5 updated baths, family room and 2-car garage. \$625,000. Cranford



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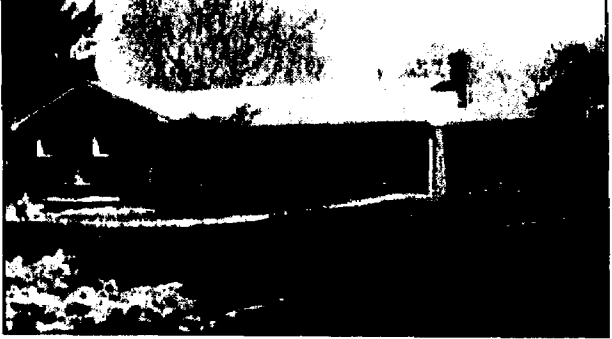
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Immaculate custom ranch. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, eat-in kitchen, formal dining room, huge deck. Beautifully landscaped. WSF0340




WESTFIELD \$599,900

Spacious updated colonial on a cul-de-sac. Beautifully updated kitchen, formal dining room, fireplace, etc. WSF0558




SCOTCH PLAINS \$597,500

Charming 4/5 bedroom home. Large rooms. Eat-in kitchen, fireplace, formal dining room, wood floors. Great property. WSF0527



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Commercial

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RENTALS 419

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WESTFIELD 2 car garage, 2 story, 24x24, auto door opener, Near Westfield Train Station. Avail Immediately 908-232-7324

WESTFIELD - Garage for rent. Avail July 1st. \$700 mo. 908-664-0725

RENTALS 439

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RENTALS 430

RENTALS 430

RENTALS 430

RENTALS 430

RENTALS 430

RENTALS 430

Furniture 500

RENTALS 430

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MORTGAGE GUIDE From Bankrate.com

PURCHASING A NEW HOME? CALL THESE LENDERS TODAY!

TYPE	RATE	PTS	APR	LOAN	TERM	COMMENTS	TYPE	RATE	PTS	APR	LOAN	TERM	COMMENTS	
PRIME FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK	908-719-2488	RATE LOOKS AVAILABLE UP TO												
30-YR FIXED	6.500	1.00	6.600	60	20	0-417	30-YR FIXED	Call For Current Rates	JNB's Low N/A Rates!					
15-YR FIXED	6.125	0.00	6.220	60	20	0-417	15-YR FIXED	Call For Current Rates						
5/1 ARM JUMBO	5.860	0.00	6.090	60	10	0-1M	10/1 ARM JUMBO	5.750	0.00	7.160	60	20	417-650	
30-YR JUMBO	6.360	1.00	6.530	60	10	0-1M	10/1 ARM JUMBO	6.120	0.00	6.720	60	20	417-650	
SUMMIT FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK	732-960-0665	ANY INCOME ANY CREDIT BUY OR												
30-YR FIXED	6.625	0.00	6.678	60	20	160-417	30-YR FIXED	6.125	2.00	6.380	30	20	100-417	
15-YR FIXED	5.750	0.00	5.835	60	20	160-417	15-YR FIXED	5.750	2.00	6.065	30	20	100-417	
10-YR FIXED	5.500	0.00	5.620	60	20	160-417	OPTION ARM	1.000	0.00	6.590	30	20	100-2.5M	
10-YR FIXED	4.860	2.00	5.440	60	20	160-417	5 YR FIX PAY	2.500	0.00	6.590	30	20	100-2.5M	

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15-YR FIXED 6.000 0.00 6.333 30 20 160-417 NAME KNOWN!

30-YR JUMBO 6.130 0.00 6.170 45 5 160-417 FOR 40 YEARS!

20-YR FIXED 6.250 0.00 6.290 45 20 160-417

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15-YR FIXED 6.000 0.00 6.191 30 20 165-417 Community

30-YR JUMBO 6.500 0.00 6.590 30 20 417-650 Bank

2/1 ARM 4.750 1.00 7.130 30 20 165-650 Values

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www.ditech.com ANOTHER

30-YR FIXED 6.500 2.00 6.898 60 20 0-417 LOAN

15-YR FIXED 6.250 2.00 6.900 60 20 0-417 TO DI TECH!

30-YR JUMBO 6.880 2.00 7.190 60 20 359-15M

15-YR JUMBO 6.250 2.00 6.650 60 20 359-15M

Income estimator

Below are examples of the minimum income required for a \$100,000 loan using this week's average interest rates. Taxes and insurance are estimated at \$230 monthly for each loan type.

\$60,000 **6.00%** +0 pts. 1-yr. ARM

50,000 **6.29%** +0 pts. 3/1-yr. ARM

40,000 **6.49%** +0 pts. 5/1-yr. ARM

30,000 **6.83%** +0 pts. 30-yr. Fix

20,000 **6.45%** +0 pts. 15-yr. Fix

10,000

MORTGAGE LENDERS: REACH THOUSANDS OF HOME BUYERS! To appear in this table, call 800-591-6216. To report any discrepancies, call 800-591-6216.

1. FTD: N/A. Rates offered as of 6/29/06. A mortgage banker, a mortgage broker, a lender, a servicer, or a creditor. © Copyright 2006 Bankrate Inc. All rights reserved. Bankrate Inc. is not affiliated with any financial institution. N/A: Not Available. Note: The above rates are not guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Commercial loans are based on an amount of \$100,000. Home loans are based on loan amounts of \$100,000. The 5% down rule also the smallest down payment required for that program. Rates reflect the cost of the appraisal and credit report. Points quoted include loan origination fees. APR calculations include all fees payable to the lender and FPMI. Home Mortgage Lenders' Lock Days: 30-90. Refinance rates may be indicated with an asterisk. *Not including the APR. FHA/Federal Housing Administration's National Automated Clearing House (NACHA) Home Buying and Selling Services Program (HBS). N/A: Not Available. N/A: Not Available. N/A: Not Available. Call for current rates and for a complete list of mortgage lenders. © 2006 Bankrate Inc. To appear in this table, call 800-591-6216. To report any discrepancies, call 800-591-6216.

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2006 LR3

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SAVE OVER \$2000 OFF MSRP

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LEASE **\$345** PER MO FOR 24 MOS | BUY **\$39,995** FOR

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INCLUDES: COLD CLIMATE PKG, SE PREMIUM PKG, 3RD ROW SEATING

LAND ROVER LR3 ADVANTAGES: power, comfort and space

FEATURE	LAND ROVER LR3 SE	LEXUS GX470	MERCEDES ML500	BMW X5 4.4i
STD. V8 ENGINE-HORSEPOWER	300	263	302	315
POWER SUNROOF	Standard plus fixed Alpine Roof over 2nd & 3rd rows	Standard	\$1,290 option	\$1,350 option
AUDIO SYSTEM	AM/FM, Harman-Kardon 6 disc in-dash CD changer, 9 speakers	AM/FM, 6 disc in-dash CD changer, 11 speakers	AM/FM/MP3, single in-dash CD player, 8 speakers	AM/FM, single in-dash CD player 10 speakers
CARGO SPACE	90.3 cu. ft. max	77.5 cu. ft. max	72.4 cu. ft. max	69.0 cu. ft. max
HEAD ROOM 3RD ROW	40.1	36.5	N/A	N/A
LEG ROOM 3RD ROW	36.3	24.9	N/A	N/A

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SERVICE HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 8:00am-6:00pm; Sat. 8:00am-5:00pm

www.paulmiller.com

Price includes all cost to be paid for by a consumer except for taxes, licensing & regist. Must present ad as coupon for advertised price. 124 month lease includes 10,500 mi per year w/20 cents per mile thereafter. Lessee responsible for excess wear, tear & maintenance & subject to their primary lender approval. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. Offer expires 7/6/06.

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BRAND NEW 2006 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:

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- 24 Liner
- Dual Air Bags
- Air/W/W/C/D
- Power Steering
- Power Windows
- Scarlite Radio
- 6 Cylinder
- Air Conditioning
- AM/MP3
- Sunroofs Glass
- Power Windows
- Power Mirrors
- Rear Wipers
- 16 V6 w/OD
- A/C P/S/ABS/C/D
- Traction Control
- Power Door Locks
- Power Mirrors
- 16 V6 w/OD
- A/C P/S/ABS/C/D
- Traction Control
- Power Door Locks
- Power Mirrors

\$171.67 PER MO FOR 39 MOS. LEASE **\$14,170** BUY FOR

BRAND NEW 2006 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Keyless
- Power Windows
- R/Cruise
- Dual Air Bags
- 7 Pts Parking
- Power Mirrors
- Power Windows
- Power Mirrors
- Power Windows
- Power Mirrors
- Power Windows
- Power Mirrors

\$188.75 PER MO FOR 39 MOS. LEASE **\$15,473** BUY FOR

BRAND NEW 2006 CHRYSLER 300 TOURING SEDAN

STANDARD FEATURES INCLUDE:

- 16 V6 w/OD
- A/C P/S/ABS/C/D
- Traction Control
- Power Door Locks
- Power Mirrors
- Power Windows
- Power Mirrors
- Power Windows
- Power Mirrors
- Power Windows
- Power Mirrors

\$320.50 PER MO FOR 39 MOS. LEASE **\$25,916** BUY FOR

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- '05 CHRYSLER SEBRING TOURING** \$12,995 FINANCE \$219.74
- '01 DODGE DURANGO SLT** \$13,895 FINANCE \$241.41
- '01 LINCOLN TOWN CAR SIG** \$14,395 FINANCE \$251.56
- '05 JEEP LIBERTY** \$17,495 FINANCE \$309.67
- '04 NISSAN MAXIMA SE** \$22,695 FINANCE \$415.07

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Automotive/Classified

U.S. automakers pledge to double production of flex fuel cars, trucks

America's automotive companies last week announced plans to double annual production of vehicles capable of running on renewable fuels to two million cars and trucks by 2010.

The production increase by DaimlerChrysler, Ford and General Motors represents the single largest commitment to renewable fuels in the nation's history, officials from the company's claimed.

The pledge toward more flex fuel vehicles that can use E85 ethanol or biodiesel came in a letter to all members of Congress from Chrysler Group President and CEO Tom LaSorda, Ford Motor Company Chairman and CEO Bill Ford and General Motors Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner.

The automotive executives claimed that the letter reaffirms the message the CEOs delivered to

Congressional leadership in May: that renewable fuels can play an important role toward achieving energy security by reducing the nation's dependence on foreign oil.

"We need business and government to work together to enhance the production, distribution and use of renewable biofuels," the CEOs said. "Our hope is that with this commitment, fuel providers will have even more incentive to produce ethanol and other biofuels and install pumps to distribute them."

Today, there are more than 5 million flex fuel vehicles on the road and the three domestic automotive companies will add an additional million cars and trucks in 2006. If all of these vehicles were running on E85, they would displace more than 3.5 billion gallons of gasoline a year, an amount comparable to the yearly gas consumption in a state

such as Missouri or Tennessee, said the executives.

The CEOs also added, "Vehicles alone will not get the job done. To capitalize on this commitment, Congress and the Administration need to continue to promote the production of biofuels, increase incentives for refueling infrastructure, and continue incentives for automakers to produce biofuel vehicles."

"Eventually, we need to get to the point where most Americans have reasonable access to these fuels at a price that is competitive with gasoline," they said. "Without this alternative fuel infrastructure, the U.S. could miss the opportunity to displace gasoline with homegrown and produced biofuels." Currently, there are only about 700 E85 pumps among the nation's 170,000 gas stations.

Hybrid owners can get tax credits

SPRINGFIELD — During 2006, individuals can make energy-conscious purchases that will provide tax benefits when filling out their tax returns next year. These benefits include tax credits for various types of alternative motor vehicles, including hybrid vehicles. The tax credit for hybrid vehicles applies to vehicles purchased on or after Jan. 1, 2006.

The hybrid vehicle certifications currently acknowledged by the IRS and their credit amounts are:

- 2007 Ford Escape Front WD Hybrid — \$2,600
- 2007 Ford Escape 4 WD Hybrid — \$1,950
- 2007 Mercury Mariner 4 WD Hybrid — \$1,950
- 2007 Toyota Camry Hybrid — \$2,600
- 2005 Toyota Prius — \$3,150
- 2006 Toyota Prius — \$3,150
- 2006 Toyota Highlander 4WD Hybrid — \$2,600
- 2006 Toyota Highlander 2WD Hybrid — \$2,600
- 2007 Lexus GS 450h — \$1,550
- 2006 Lexus RX400h 2WD — \$2,200
- 2006 Lexus RX400h 4WD — \$2,200
- 2006 Ford Escape Hybrid Front WD — \$2,600
- 2006 Ford Escape Hybrid 4 WD — \$1,950
- 2006 Mercury Mariner Hybrid 4 WD — \$1,950
- 2005 Honda Insight CVT — \$1,450
- 2006 Honda Insight CVT — \$1,450
- 2005 Honda Civic Hybrid MT and CVT — \$1,700
- 2006 Honda Civic Hybrid CVT — \$2,100

2005 Honda Accord Hybrid AT and Navi AT — \$650

2006 Honda Accord Hybrid AT w/updated calibration and Navi AT w/updated calibration — \$1,300 (without updated calibration, these models qualify for a credit of \$650).

Starting in 2006, this tax credit replaces the tax deduction of \$2,000, which was previously allowed for taxpayers who purchased a new hybrid vehicle before Dec. 31, 2005, for the clean-burning fuel deduction.

The tax credit is only available to the original purchaser of a new, qualifying vehicle. If a qualifying vehicle is leased to a consumer, the leasing company may qualify for the tax credit.

Consumers seeking the credit may want to buy early since the full credit is only available for a limited time. Taxpayers may claim the full amount of the allowable credit up to the end of the first calendar quarter after the quarter in which the manufacturer records its sale of the 60,000th vehicle. For the second and third calendar quarters after the quarter in which the 60,000th vehicle is sold, taxpayers may claim 50 percent of the credit. For the fourth and fifth calendar quarters, taxpayers may claim 25 percent of the credit. No credit is allowed after the fifth quarter.

For more information and a complete listing of all qualified hybrid vehicles as they become available, visit IRS.gov.

Consider the risks when you loan your car

It is common to have a friend or family member ask to borrow your car for a day or an afternoon. Perhaps you have an S.U.V. or pickup that would make someone else's chores much easier. But think carefully before you loan your car to anyone — if the person you do loan your car to is in a serious or fatal car crash and you are sued, your own insurance rate could be affected and your own finances could be at risk.

People are often confused about who is covered under a standard auto insurance policy. Usually, only one or two names are listed in the "Named Insured" section of an auto insurance policy, but that doesn't mean that they

are the only people covered under the policy. In general, auto insurance coverage actually follows the vehicle, not the driver. So if your car is involved in an accident, the car typically receives the full coverage provided by the auto insurance policy, regardless of who is driving. Loaning your car to an immediate member of your family is usually straightforward because you know that person and you have a clear idea of their driving record.

"You really shouldn't loan your vehicle to someone you're not really familiar with. One of the questions I would ask somebody I was loaning a vehicle to would be whether or not they had

insurance coverage," advises Deb Dickens-Hunter of Allstate New Jersey. Even though your policy would likely cover them, the fact that they have their own auto insurance may be an indicator that they are at least cognizant of their driving record. Auto insurance policies normally provide coverage for your car if it is driven by any of the following people:

- You, the "Named Insured"
- Your spouse, as long as he or she lives in your household
- Other family members who are related to you by blood, marriage, or adoption
- A foster child who lives

in your household — A child who is away at school but still considers the address listed on your policy as a permanent address

— Anyone to whom you lend your car

In all of these cases, the person you loan your car to must be a licensed driver. Because these conditions can vary, it is important to check your policy carefully and make sure you understand any limitations that might apply before you allow others to drive your car.

Whenever possible, consider joining in on the trip instead of loaning your car. An impromptu road trip could be the perfect way to help a friend in need.

PLACE YOUR AD 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK AT: **800.472.0119**



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<p>CLARK Garage Sale</p> <p>Saturday July 8th Rain Date Sat. July 15th 9 AM - 5 PM NO EARLY BIRDS</p> <p>9 WHITE PLACE (Exit 135 onto central ave. left at light, Right on Feathered Ln, Left on Acorn Dr., White house on corner)</p> <p>Everything from A to Z. Something for everyone!</p>	<p>CLARK YARD SALE</p> <p>SATURDAY JULY 8th 9 AM - 4 PM NO EARLY BIRDS RAIN DATE JULY 9</p> <p>8 LOCUST GROVE DR Corner of Oak Ridge</p> <p>House hold items, clothing, furniture, jewelry, books, and much more...</p> <p>GOOD BUYS!!!!</p>	<p>CRANFORD MULTI FAMILY GARAGE SALE!</p> <p>FRI., JULY 7th SAT., JULY 8th</p> <p>8 AM - 3 PM</p> <p>115 HIGH ST</p> <p>Household Items, Furniture.</p> <p>Something For Everyone!</p> <p>Too Much To List!</p>	<p>GARWOOD GARAGE SALE</p> <p>JULY 7, 8 & 9 9 AM - 5PM</p> <p>32 3rd AVE. Off North Ave.</p> <p>Lot's of Goodies</p> <p>Glass ware, Clothing, Knick-knacks, Kitchen Items, brand new Christmas items and much more...</p>	<p>LINDEN HUGE MULTI FAMILY YARD SALE</p> <p>FRIDAY JULY 7 SATURDAY JULY 8 & SUNDAY JULY 9 9 AM - 5PM</p> <p>533 HARITAN ROAD Corner of Styles St. At the Winfield Circle</p> <p>House hold items, clothes, toys, sofa, dining room, beds, office desks & supplies and much, much more...</p>	<p>MOUNTAINSIDE GARAGE SALE!</p> <p>SAT., JULY 8th</p> <p>9 AM</p> <p>1585 GROUSE LANE</p> <p>Misc. Household Incl. Garden & Regular Tools, Card Table & Chairs, Linens, Some Furniture, Uniforms, ETC.</p>	<p>SCOTCH PLAINS 2 Family Yard Sale</p> <p>Sunday, July 9th</p> <p>9 am - 3 pm</p> <p>1961 & 1975 Grenville Rd. (Off Lake Ave.)</p> <p>*** Furniture, Toys, Baby Items, Household Items & Much More!</p>	<p>SPRINGFIELD YARD SALE</p> <p>SATURDAY July 8th</p> <p>9 AM - 3 PM</p> <p>23 TULIP RD. (Off Short Hills Ave.)</p> <p>Crib, Stroller, Child desk, Toys, Roll top desk, assorted house items, lawn chairs & cushions, and much more!</p>	<p>WESTFIELD</p> <p>July 8th</p> <p>9am - 4pm</p> <p>217 Elizabeth Ave.</p> <p>Huge Sale!</p> <p>Books, Games, Toys, Bikes, Sporting Goods, Baseball Cards, Household Items, Cookware, Clothes, Luggage, Pet Supplies & more!</p>
<p>CLARK Moving Sale</p> <p>Saturday, July 8th 9 am - 4 pm Sunday, July 9th 10 am - 2 pm</p> <p>30 Whittier Rd. (Off of Valley)</p> <p>Piano, Table & 6 Chairs, Sewing Machine, Mirrors, Patio Set, Living Room Chairs, Entertainment Center, Bookcases, Etc.</p>	<p>CRANFORD GARAGE SALE</p> <p>SATURDAY JULY 8th SUNDAY JULY 9th</p> <p>9 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>122 Roosevelt Ave. (Off Burnside Ave)</p> <p>TV, Stereo, Kitchen, household items, frames, collectible items, comforters, lamps and much more!</p>	<p>CRANFORD YARD SALE</p> <p>SAT JULY 8th 9AM-2PM RAIN DATE 7/9</p> <p>624 Brookside Place- Corner of Brookside Place & Orchard Street</p> <p>Furniture, clothing, household items. All must go!</p> <p>Too much to list!</p>	<p>GARWOOD Huge Yard Sale</p> <p>Saturday 7/8 10am - 4pm No early Birds please</p> <p>Rain date Saturday 7/15</p> <p>414 Willow Avenue Off of Center Street</p> <p>Tools, books, HH items, Kitchen items, stuffed animals, bric-a-brac, collectibles, misc. & much more! Something for everyone!</p>	<p>LINDEN MOVING SALE</p> <p>SATURDAY JULY 8th SUNDAY JULY 9th 8 AM - 5 PM</p> <p>700 West Barnock St.</p> <p>Bedroom Set, Dining room set, sofas, snowblower, leaf blower, trimmer, TVs, potted plants, charcoal BBQ grill, toys, roll-a-way still in box, liners, deco items, too much to list!</p>	<p>RAHWAY Garage Sale</p> <p>Friday & Saturday July 7th & 8th</p> <p>9 am - 2 pm NO EARLY BIRDS PLEASE!</p> <p>1237 Elm Terr.</p> <p>*** Furniture, TV, Baby Clothes & Household Items.</p>	<p>SCOTCH PLAINS Multi-Family Garage Sale</p> <p>Friday, July 7th RAIN OR SHINE!!! 9 am - 4 pm</p> <p>41 Fieldcrest Dr. (Off Hatfield)</p> <p>Crib, New Ikea Changing Table, Lots of Men's & Kids Clothes, Bedding & Linens, Double Stroller, Sofa & Loveseat and Much More!!</p>	<p>WESTFIELD Friday & Saturday July 7th & 8th 10am - 3pm 240 Twin Oaks Terrace</p> <p>Furniture, Toys, bed room set, wood, audio equipment, TV & Audio, Furniture, A/C, Dishwasher, Office desk, Computer, Hair Dryer, Desk and task chairs, Made in Japan bicycles, Area rug just cleaned, dress, sliding unit, 16 cars, gas and electric, Williams glass, Sears Edison Player, analog 8 photograph & more.</p>	<p>WESTFIELD MOVING SALE</p> <p>FRIDAY JULY 7th SATURDAY JULY 8th</p> <p>9 AM - 4 PM</p> <p>558 BOULEVARD (off of South Ave.)</p> <p>Furniture, antique victrola, air conditioners, cherrywood china cabinet, and much more!</p>
<p>CLARK TRUE GARAGE SALE</p> <p>Saturday JULY 8th Rain Date July 15th 9 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>39 ALICE LANE (Off Raritan Rd.)</p> <p>Tools, Tools, Tools! Air operated auto lift, radiol arms saw, table saw, other good quality auto & wood tools. Nice wood desk, clothing, shoes, household items, etc. Too Much to List!</p>	<p>CRANFORD MOVING SALE!</p> <p>SAT., JULY 8th SUN., JULY 9th 9 AM - 2 PM</p> <p>34 BROOKDALE RD (Riverside to Vonnella to Brookdale Rd)</p> <p>Furniture, Pictures, Household Items, Books, Games, Dishes, Decorative Accessories, RR Set, Bohn Set, LP Set. Everything Must Go!</p>	<p>FANWOOD GARAGE SALE!</p> <p>FRI., JULY 7th SAT., JULY 8th</p> <p>9 AM - 3 PM</p> <p>136 RUSSELL ROAD (Off Midway Ave.)</p> <p>Household Items, Books, Games, Videos, Furniture, China.</p> <p>30+ yrs of items.</p>	<p>GARWOOD YARD SALE</p> <p>SATURDAY JULY 8th 9AM - 4PM</p> <p>118 WINDSLOW PL. Off 2nd Ave.</p> <p>Furniture, Miscellaneous items, and lots of good stuff....</p>	<p>LINDEN Yard Sale</p> <p>July 7th & 8th 10AM to 4PM RAIN DATE: JULY 14th & 15th</p> <p>2725 Highland Ave. (between Raritan Rd & St George Ave.) Window AC, computer desk, birdcage, girl's bike, woman's & girl's clothes, shoes, pocketbooks, Christmas items, household items, stereo, bed cut, air mattress & more.</p>	<p>SCOTCH PLAINS 2 FAMILY GARAGE SALE</p> <p>SATURDAY JULY 8th 9 AM - 3 PM NO EARLY BIRDS Rain Date July 9</p> <p>2263 & 2271 Hill Rd Off of Crestwood Rd</p> <p>Lots of furniture, including 2 Sofas, dresser, also new microwaves, kids stuff, Household items, and much more...</p>	<p>SCOTCH PLAINS YARD SALE</p> <p>SATURDAY JULY 8th 9AM-3PM</p> <p>2223 Lyde Place Off Westfield Rd</p> <p>TV wall unit, pictures, new storm door, clothes, odd and ends!</p>	<p>WESTFIELD Indoor Moving Sale</p> <p>Friday & Saturday July 7th & 8th 10 am - 3 pm 607 Lawrence Ave.</p> <p>Loveseat, Oriental Rug, Mahogany Card Table, Sterling Silver Goblets, Silver-Plated Candelabra, Spool Bed, Brick-A-Brack, Books, Videos, Cassettes, Etc.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">We specialize in yard sale success</p> <p>For great results, run your ad here & online at:</p> <p>www.nj.com/placead</p>

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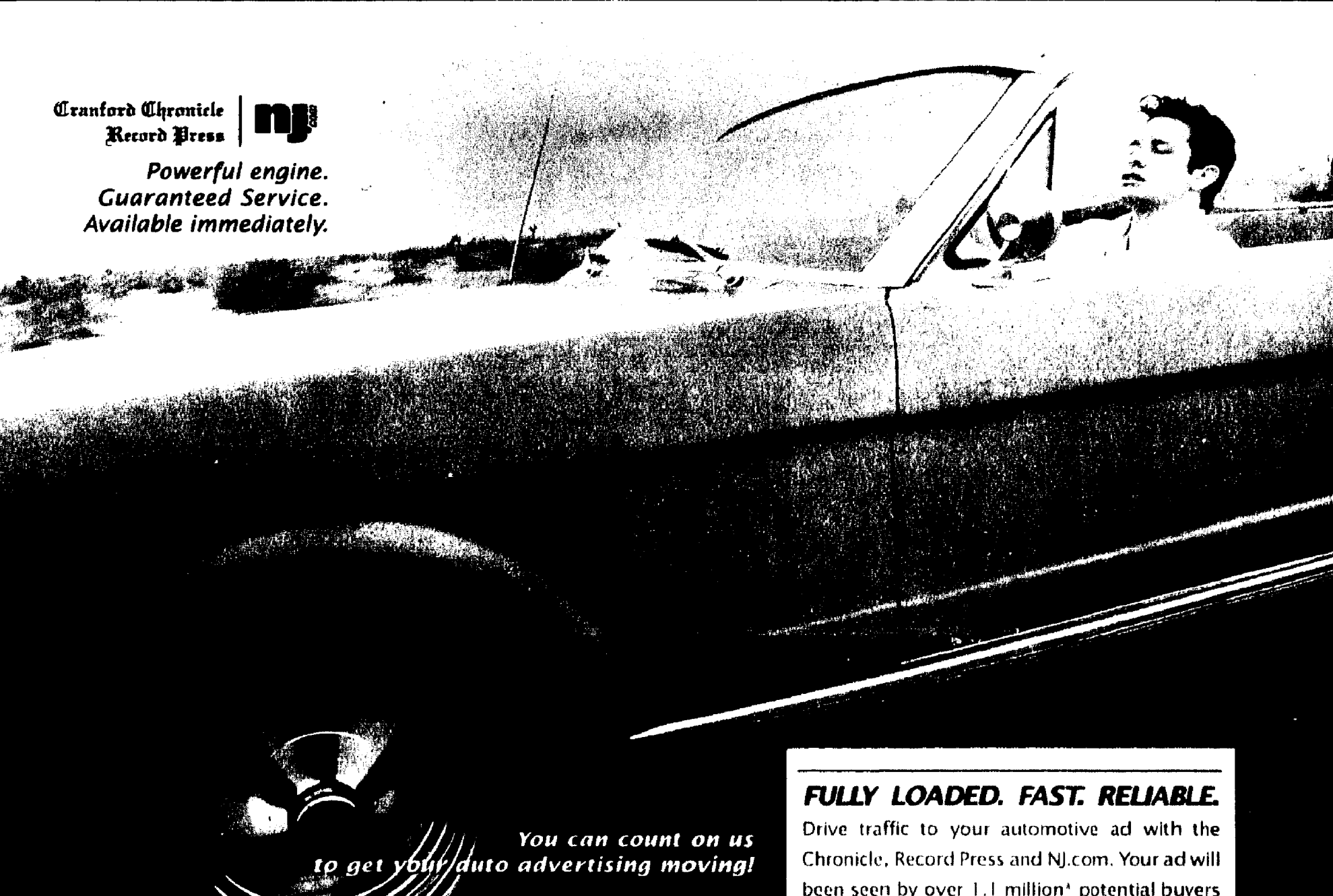
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LINCOLN TOWN CAR 1996 white, Exc. cond. \$750 732-382-9610

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1 OWNER

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Loaded

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