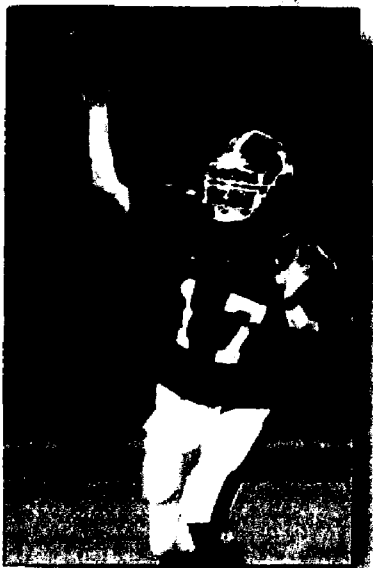


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INSIDE



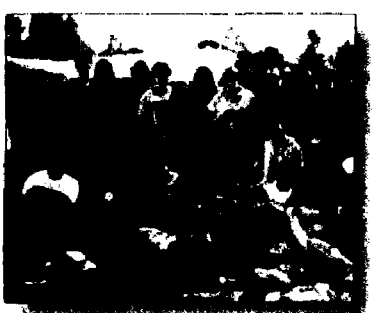
100th edition of rivalry game

This year marks the 100th time Westfield and Plainfield will play on Thanksgiving morning. Westfield hopes to get its second win in a row and end the season on a good note. See Sports, Page C-1.



League hosts holiday sale

The Westfield Service League will host a holiday sale 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 4 at its Elmer St. shop. For more details, turn to Page A-8.



Sleep-out at St. Helen's

A group of 45 teens and chaperones from St. Helen's slept under the stars to raise consciousness and secure funds for a good cause. See the story on Page B-1.

REMINDER

Financial aid program scheduled

The Westfield High School Guidance Department will present its 19th annual Financial Aid Information Program 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Cafeteria B. A guest presenter from the Financial Aid Services for the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority will explain the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Parents of seniors, juniors and sophomores who will be applying for financial aid for college are encouraged to attend the program.

INDEX

CommentaryA-4
Community LifeB-1
SportsC-1
Prime TimeB-2
ObituariesA-6
Real EstateC-2
Police LogA-7

Record-Press

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Holiday cheer: Teacher's good deed is rewarded by students

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

After performing a good deed of his own, a religion teacher at Mount Saint Mary's Academy was the recipient of a random act of kindness.

Popular religion teacher Colin Pettorsson recently led a group of students from the Watchung school into New York City to distribute clothing to the homeless. Each year, the school collects coats and warm clothes for the needy at the onset of the coldest months of the year.

During the trip to the city, all the clothing the students collected had been given away when the group was approached by a man without a coat. Without hesitating, Pettorsson gave the man his own coat, an act that had a profound impact on his students.

According to Julia Porpora, one of Pettorsson's pupils, the students were touched by their teacher's ges-

"We had such great respect for him and what he did... He is so down to earth, and he inspired all of us."

— Julie Porpora

ture and decided to repay him for his selfless act. The group told the story to other students, chronicling what they'd witnessed, and Porpora spearheaded a drive to collect \$2 donations to purchase a new coat for Pettorsson.

She addressed all four homerooms shortly after the trip to the city and was nearly overwhelmed by the response her request engendered.

"We had such great respect for him and what he did," said Porpora, who lives in Westfield. "All we asked for was \$2, but some of the girls gave us \$10 bills."

With the cash in hand, Porpora enlisted the assistance of her mother to shop for the right coat. The gift was recently presented to a surprised Pettorsson.

Porpora said the Mount Saint Mary's teacher is a positive role model, and "not your typical teacher."

"He is so down to earth, and he inspired all of us," she said. "I think he's everyone's favorite teacher."



Julia Porpora delivers a new coat to Colin Pettorsson, her teacher at Mt. St. Mary's Academy.

Residents come out to oppose Cooper Rd. project

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — A developer's proposal to construct a house on an unusual strip of land on Cooper Road has drawn the ire of nearby residents.

At a Board of Adjustment meeting last week, about 30 residents flooded into the municipal building to state their opposition to Mark Lustbader's plan to construct a two-story, single-family home at 1300 Cooper Rd.

If Lustbader's project obtains a variance from the board, the new house would be built on the eastern portion of an island of land in the center of Cooper Road, located between the busy street's inter-

sections with Heather Lane and Wellington Downs.

The building plan conforms to the township's land use ordinance in most respects; however, from a perspective of lot area, the proposed new lot is about 660 square feet shy of the zone's requirement of 40,000 square feet.

The property is currently owned by AT&T and abuts township-owned property to the west, where a municipal storm sewer currently exists. Lustbader unsuccessfully attempted to purchase a 660-square foot portion of the township property to bring the lot into conformity with zoning requirements.

A single-story brick building would be demolished to make

room for the new structure.

Residents opposed to the project say construction of a house on the property would decrease the overall safety of the neighborhood. According to Don Cardiff, who lives nearby and has organized considerable opposition to the building plan, neighborhood children would be placed at greater risk if the board approves Lustbader's project.

"We already have cars bouncing off the guard rails 10 to 12 times per year," he said.

According to a memo submitted by Police Chief Mark Zyla as part of the application, the proposed driveway would pose a danger because of a "limited view." The memo suggests if the develop-

ment is approved, the township would be required to post warning signs on both the eastbound and westbound portions of Cooper Road that surround the strip of land.

The memo also recommends that construction equipment be limited to the eastbound lane between the split and Wellington Downs.

Cardiff said he expects the ranks of project opponents to swell to 50 residents by the time the project is heard by the Board of Adjustment in January. He planned to hold an organizational meeting among neighbors this week, and said his group will be hiring a land use attorney and professional planner to oppose the

project shortly.

"We really object to the location of a house on an island," Cardiff said. "We don't understand who would buy a house on an island like that."

The plan was scheduled for a hearing at the Nov. 17 meeting, but board Chairman James Fawcett delayed the hearing when residents pleaded for more time to plan a defense.

"I want to have a fair and equitable application... Obviously, this is of concern to large portion of the (residents) in the area," Fawcett said.

The hearing will be open to the public and will be held at the municipal building at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 6.

Let's talk turkey!

A collection of frozen turkeys was held Saturday at Westfield's Franklin School, with the proceeds benefiting the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. At right, volunteers Anthony Galindo, Brian Fritz, Pat Porda, Matt Fritz, Sara Aleksandravicius, and Elizabeth Driscoll help load turkeys into a truck for transportation to Hillside.



BROOKS CRANDALL/CORRESPONDENT

Wandering minds? Students can 'play attention'

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — The school district will be participating in a promising but experimental program designed to improve attention spans in children.

A pilot program called Play Attention, which was approved by the Board of Education last month, will be introduced at all

five elementary schools in the district shortly. Eight students from each school have been randomly chosen to participate in the program.

Though the system was created using space-age technology, to the passive observer it looks more like the product of a child's imagination. The Play Attention system appears to consist of a bike helmet attached by wire to a laptop computer.

The sensor-lined helmet monitors brainwaves and sends them to a small interface system that attaches to the computer. Users participate in a series of video game-like programs that send continuous feedback to the computer. Students become aware of the intensity and relative success of their focus as they participate in each exercise.

The programs train the mind to focus, while at the same time tracking student progress, according to Brunner principal Jodi Frank, who is spearheading the program.

"(Program creator) Peter Freer says that over time this will become part of what your brain does, and you will more easily be able to pay attention," Frank said. "Everyone is very thrilled and excited" to be participating, she said.

Part of the impetus for Play Attention came from Superintendent Carol Choye, who volunteered the school district to participate in the pilot study. The results will be analyzed by researchers at Duke University.

To determine whether the system is effective, prospective students will be tested at the outset on the Connors scale, which measures inattentiveness, hyperactivity, and cognitive and social problems. In the summer, when

the program is complete, the participants will be assessed again.

"We don't have any other objective way of determining if (the program) has been successful," Frank said.

The program is designed to help students increase their ability to sustain attention and lengthen the time they are able to spend on a task. Another component is visual tracking; in practical terms, this means students will acquire the ability to focus attention on a moving target, such as a teacher lecturing before a classroom.

An additional objective involves short-term memory sequencing, which means being able to remember the sequence and detail of a series of commands. And a final goal is discriminatory processing — effectively, the ability to focus on one subject when other distractions are present.

As they engage in the exercises, students are made aware of their progress. In many cases, the game will not progress from one level to the next until a student achieves a targeted level of focus.

Students will begin the program trying to concentrate for just a few seconds for each interval. But over time, they could

DWC wants free holiday parking

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Downtown shoppers should receive a gift of their own from the community this holiday season, according to the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC).

At its regular meeting last week, the organization briefly revisited its annual request to bring back free downtown parking during the entire month of December. Bagging the meters, said Executive Director Sherry Cronin, would go a long way toward soothing the animosity many residents developed during the course of the town's bitter debate over redevelopment.

"In light of all the problems we've had over parking, it makes a lot of sense for the town to give back to the community," Cronin said. "I think it would be a great opportunity to restore some goodwill."

Cronin said free parking has been available downtown in past years, and noted that nearby communities like Cranford and Summit suspend meter enforcement to entice downtown shoppers.

"The experience of shopping in the downtown begins and ends with parking," Cronin said. "I think it would be a nice thing to do — people notice it."

She suggested the town issue "courtesy tickets" on vehicles to educate motorists about Westfield's parking regulations and time limits.

The request was submitted to the town's Public Safety, Transportation, and Parking subcommittee at the beginning of the year, but the body has yet to approve it. Chairman Rafael Betancourt said the committee planned to discuss the matter at a meeting on Tuesday, after press time. But he declared himself generally in favor of the idea — if the DWC can resolve some

(Continued on page A-2)

(Continued on page A-2)

Thrift Shop boutique will open next Tuesday

SCOTCH PLAINS — The annual Christmas Boutique will open Tuesday at the Thrift Shop, located at 1730 E. Second St. Brand new items including holiday decorations, toys, bric-a-brac and clothing, will be on sale.

The sale will continue throughout December with stock replenished daily while supplies last.

A Christmas drawing will be held on Dec. 14. Winners need not be present.

A three-story Victorian dollhouse with wraparound porch and complete furnishings will be offered as a holiday prize to the winner of our essay contest. The contest, for children only, consists of a written essay of 50 words or less on the subject "I would love to

win this dollhouse because..."

For contest details, stop in or call the dollhouse chairman, Susan Citrano, at (908) 322-8496. Entries must be submitted by Dec. 18 and the winner will be selected the following week. The winning entrant must be available for publicity photos.

Store hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donations are accepted during regular shop hours. All Thrift Shop profits go to local charities.

The Thrift Shop will close after 1 p.m. Dec. 18 for the remainder of 2004 and will re-open January 4, 2005.

For more information, call the shop at (908) 322-5420.

Mythology is topic of lecture

WESTFIELD — Greek mythology and its continued relevance and influence in daily life will be the topic of Anita L. Hogaboom at the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society at noon Wednesday at B.G. Fields Restaurant, 560 Springfield Ave.

Hogaboom has been interested in mythology in general and Greek mythology in particular for 36 years. Over the years she has become convinced that its relevance

and application are unending. Every level discovered leads to another to be explored. At the luncheon she will speak on the influence of the Greeks in astrology and will discuss the vast field of Greek influences in daily lives.

Regular attendees of the luncheon will be contacted by a phone committee to verify their reservations. Space permitting, others may attend the luncheon by calling (908) 233-2930 by noon Monday.

Hearing underway on Cushing Rd. project

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — After several hours of professional and public testimony before the Planning Board Monday night, an application for a major subdivision was adjourned until next month.

Developer Joseph Buontempo proposes to subdivide four lots into seven on the township's south side, in the vicinity of Cushing Road. The project would be constructed in a wooded area that is less densely developed than most neighborhoods on the north side.

Four single-family residences currently stand in the area slated for subdivision. If the project is approved, the developer would demolish two homes that front on Cushing Road and would allow two existing homes fronting Terrill Road to remain. Five new single-family homes would be constructed on the newly-created lots.

All proposed lots conform to the township's land use ordinance and require no variances for approval. The new homes would stand at about two and a half stories tall and would be built on lots ranging between roughly 40,000 square feet and 72,000 square feet.

The developer plans to provide access to the interior lots by constructing a 400-foot-long cul-de-sac into the property from Cushing Road. Though Buontempo does not currently own the entirety of the nearly eight-acre area he proposes to develop, he has an agreement to purchase the property if he can secure board approval.

On Monday night, the board haggled with the developer over technical issues

relating to drainage, landscaping, maintenance responsibilities, and fire safety. At the conclusion of the meeting, Chairman Joe Doyle said the board could not vote on the project until the problems are addressed, though it is unlikely the board will ultimately deny a conforming application.

A handful of residents attended the hearing, but only a few volunteered opposing testimony during the public comment phase.

The board's planner and engineer were concerned that the large-scale project could cause drainage problems; the property contains two large wetlands areas that serve as natural detention basins. Also, the board voiced fears that the graded landscape could send an overwhelming amount of water and sediment into an existing stormwater detention facility.

Buontempo's engineer Ed Dec said the development's planned infrastructure improvements would minimize the impact the area would experience during unusually strong storms.

"The amount of runoff will not increase — in fact, it will decrease," Dec said.

The board spent a significant amount of time discussing an adjacent property on Kevin Road that has caused drainage problems. But none of the problems trace their origin to land within the subdivision and the situation would not be exacerbated by the development, officials said.

Phil Sweeney, a representative of the Environmental Commission, said the proposed detention basin inlet could be overwhelmed by a downpour; engineer Tom Quinn suggested the developer provide twin inlets to account for the risk.

In response to questions raised about noise, Dec said the likely increase attributable to the development would be minimal given the high volume of traffic that passes through the area on Terrill Road. Questions were also raised over the width of Cushing Road; Buontempo plans to widen the narrow street at its intersection with the unnamed cul-de-sac.

Of greater concern to the board is the size of the development's cul-de-sac, proposed to be 40 feet wide. Though the project meets Residential Site Improvement Standards — which govern technical specifications for residential development — board members were worried the new roadway's bulb wouldn't allow enough room for fire trucks to navigate.

The board elected to delay extended discussion about the cul-de-sac until Fire Chief Jonathan Ellis submits testimony evaluating that concern.

Little testimony was devoted to broader planning issues. However, at the outset, attorney Robert Kraus said large-scale development will continue in Union County because of skyrocketing property values and new development restrictions in the Highlands region.

"In my earlier years, we took farms and converted them into lots — now we're taking people's backyards and creating new lots," he said. "It's a socioeconomic thing we will be facing for years to come."

The board will continue testimony on the subdivision at its next meeting at 7 p.m. Dec. 13. Board discussion and a final vote over the project is likely at the conclusion of the public hearing.

DWC wants free holiday parking

(Continued from page A-1)

outstanding issues.

The town must find a way to ensure that metered spaces won't be occupied by downtown employees, Betancourt explained. And he said the DWC

— a public entity that represents downtown interests and is funded by a special tax on the downtown — should foot the bill for

lost revenue that would have come from meters.

"I think it's an idea we should seriously consider," Betancourt said. "Westfield is a destination — anything we can do to make shopping easier for people should be done."

Betancourt said the DWC could compromise by reducing the length of the request or scaling back the number of metered

spaces it wants to provide free to shoppers.

"That would make it more palatable," he said. "There needs to be a more concerted effort to relocate employees into other spots," he continued. "It would be a nice benefit during the holiday season, but it needs to be enforced and the lost revenue needs to be picked up by someone."

Wandering minds? Students can 'play attention'

(Continued from page A-1)

develop the ability to maintain consistent focus for as long as five minutes, Frank explained.

The program is being used in the district to help students in the classroom, but it can be helpful to both children and adults, both in the classroom and during the course of ordinary life.

Studies show that Play Attention, which was developed by NASA scientists and is used by the Air Force for alertness training, can be effective for anyone between ages 7 and 70.

Parents have been supportive of the program to this point, Frank added; 100 percent of parents and children offered the chance to participate have

accepted.

"We tell them there are no guarantees, but parents are willing to try this because it's a non-invasive way of giving kids the ability to pay attention," Frank said.

Frank added that the random sample of students participating in the program complements the district's overall strategy of using

Approval of the request would require support from the full council, Betancourt said. He added that the issue could be brought before the council at a conference session Tuesday night, after the subcommittee's meeting.

Free parking is available to shoppers in the South Avenue permit lot after 12:00 p.m.; on Saturday, shoppers can park free in municipal permit lots; and on Sunday free parking is available in both permit and metered spaces throughout the day.

differentiated instruction techniques in the classroom. Teachers are trained to become "a master of all trades" and teach a "heterogeneous" student body based on individual needs and differences; the Play Attention program functions similarly, she said.

"It's amazing to think your own mind can control the game," Frank said.

Play Attention has captured the attention of neighboring school districts, many of whom have been in contact with Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools about the program. And ABC's "20/20" is hoping to do a feature on the program, though school officials haven't decided whether they will allow cameras into training sessions.

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BROOKS CRANDALL/CORRESPONDENT

Tiger Cubs visit Miller-Cory House

Local residents gathered at the Miller-Cory House Museum in Westfield Sunday for a program on Thanksgiving customs in the colonial era. The Tiger Cub Scouts from Den 7 were among this in attendance; after checking out the museum's offerings, the Cubs posed for a picture. Shown above are Bobby Abbott, Cody Lynes, Jack Fico, Ryan Bass, Nedim Kocagil and Luke Beaulieu.

Testimony continues on Y proposal

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Testimony continued in a hearing over the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA's \$6.5 million facilities and parking lot expansion plan Nov. 17, but a final decision on the project will not be reached by the Board of Adjustment until at least next week.

Board chairman James Fawcett suspended the hearing at 11 p.m. and announced the non-profit organization's application would continue at 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2.

YMCA officials plan to expand their existing parking lot, construct additional workout space and a second swimming pool, and add office and storage space.

If their application is approved by the board, the YMCA will convert a residential lot on Martine Avenue acquired in 2000 into parking lot space. Currently, a single-family home occupies the tract of land, slated to be paved over and converted into parking spaces.

According to the local land use ordinance, the organization must supply one parking space for every four members over the age of 17. To fit that requirement, the YMCA would have to provide more than 1,000 parking spaces, a figure both the YMCA and board agree is unreasonable.

"There would be more spaces than the YMCA could conceivably use — more than you'd see in a regional shopping center," said planner Elizabeth McKenzie, who testified on behalf of the YMCA.

To secure site plan approval, the project will require a supermajority of affirmative votes by board members.

In the first phase of the plan, the YMCA proposes to expand the parking lot from its existing capacity of 135 spaces up to 183 spaces. The organization would add a second floor mezzanine above its

existing wellness center, adding space for cardiovascular equipment.

The second and third phases of the proposal involve razing the adjacent single-family home and expanding the parking lot by another 100 spaces. The YMCA's "red house," which serves as a nursery school facility, would be torn down to make way for a large building addition. The new space would house the nursery school, a second swimming pool, office space, a multi-purpose room, and storage space.

Drexler said the first phase would begin in spring or summer; the second and third phases of the project would require outside funding, likely from a capital campaign. A start date for that part of the project is therefore somewhat uncertain.

The YMCA also has long-range plans to expand its gym center, while further tweaking the parking lot to allow access from West Broad Street.

At the Nov. 17 hearing, McKenzie painted the YMCA's proposed expansion as providing "greater benefits than detriments" to the township's master plan and land use ordinance.

"Your master plan advocates for these types of quasi-public facilities to serve the population," McKenzie said.

Throughout most of last week's hearing, board members attempted to lobby the YMCA to beautify the parking plan by adding islands and expanding vegetative buffers along property boundaries.

Board member Tim Livolsi urged the YMCA to scale back the size of its proposed lot expansion. YMCA attorney Robert Kraus said the organization might be willing to reduce the amount of overall spaces; he added the YMCA was open to tweaking its entrance to save several mature trees that exist on the site.

But engineer Jim Watson said reconfiguring the parking lot plan could be challenging, since the lot is designed to manage heavy volumes of cars as they queue near the building entrance. And zig-zagging the entryway to avoid trees might not save them anyway, he said.

At a meeting in October, Traffic engineer Harold Maltz said the project would cause only "de minimus" increases in traffic and would not substantively change the Department of Transportation's ratings of nearby intersections.

At the Dec. 2 meeting, members of the public will have the opportunity to question the YMCA's professionals and make statements about the overall project. Discussion of the plan between board members and a final vote could take place after the public comment period.

Marks named to League's board

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Newly re-elected Mayor Martin Marks was named to the Executive Board of the New Jersey State League of Municipalities at its annual conference last week.

Marks, who for several years has worked closely with the league in advocating for property tax reform, will now have more intimate involvement with the league's policies and budgeting.

"I'm excited — it's a wonderful opportunity," Marks said.

The league, which represents the interests of New Jersey's 566 municipalities in Trenton, has an executive board consisting of 21 members — one representative from each county. Marks replaces Elizabeth mayor Chris Bollwage as Union County's representative.

Marks said the League's two primary functions are to work as a lobbying agency on behalf of municipalities and to serve as an "educational and informational depot" for municipal officials. But the issue Marks wants the league to focus on is the long-sought constitutional convention on property taxes, which could be placed before voters in 2005.

"The biggest ticket on the list is the constitutional convention," Marks said. "In order to get the referendum on the ballot, both the Legislature and the governor need to sign on... My hope is that with a little bit of urging, Acting Gov. Richard Codey will do what is necessary to get this on the ballot in 2005."

In addition to lobbying a legislature and governor that has shown at best lukewarm support for property tax reform, Marks wants the League to be involved in the selection of delegates for a potential convention.

"Hopefully a number of the delegates will be members of the league," he said.

Marks also attended the league's conference in Atlantic City as a representative of Scotch Plains, and spent much of his time comparing notes with representatives of other municipalities. He said the convention provides local officials with information about new statewide policies and access to vendors, engineering groups, and architectural firms.

New COAH rules will continue to affect township policy, Marks explained, noting that he attended a presentation explaining what he called the "complicated and burdensome"

rules that will govern affordable housing requirements.

Also, Marks said he had discussions with cable television professionals about possible improvements to TV-34. Over the past year, township officials and the Board of Education have considered upgrading Scotch Plains' public access station.

Though no action on the issue is imminent, Marks said both governing bodies will be consulting with TV-34 chief Bob Merkle about possible improvements to the station.

The convention also provided the mayor with information about the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP), which allows communities to provide a veteran Fire Department and Rescue Squad volunteers with cash awards.

Township officials are trying to boost the ranks of the fire department, and Marks said less than 50 percent of township volunteers currently qualify for LOSAP funds. After comparing notes with other communities' LOSAP programs, Marks said Scotch Plains' guidelines may be too strict.

Officials are also considering changes to residency requirements to increase the pool of residents who can volunteer for the fire department.

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| 34.00 | 1.75 liter | 29.99 | 1.75 liter | 30.00 | 1.75 liter | 18.01 | 1.75 liter |
| SEAGRAMS 7 CROWN | | JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK | | SMIRNOFF | | CAPT. MORGAN RUM | |
| 14.00 | 1.75 liter | 53.00 | 1.75 liter | 18.00 | 1.75 liter | 22.99 | 1.75 liter |
| JIM BEAM | | JOHNNIE WALKER RED | | KETEL ONE | | LEEDS | |
| 22.00 | 1.75 liter | 29.00 | 1.75 liter | 33.00 | 1.75 liter | 9.99 | 1.75 liter |
| 1.75L CROWN ROYAL 38.00 | | 1.75L JOHNIE WALKER BLUE 162.00 | | 1.75L GREY GOOSE 47.01 | | 1.75L TANQUERAY 29.99 | |
| 1.75L CANADIAN CLUB 17.00 | | 1.75L GLENLIVET Single Malt 57.00 | | 1.75L STOLICHNAYA 29.99 | | 1.75L BEEFEATER 27.99 | |
| 1.75L EARLY TIMES Whiskey 15.00 | | 1.75L REAGAN 49.00 | | 1.75L TANQUERAY Sterling Vodka 80° 25.00 | | 1.75L SEAGRAMS GIN Regular • Lime Twist 15.00 | |
| 1.75L CANADIAN MIST 13.00 | | 1.75L CUTTY SARK 24.00 | | 1.75L FINLANDIA Vodka 80° 23.10 | | 1.75L GORDONS Gin 13.99 | |
| 1.75L FLEISCHMANN'S PREFERRED 12.00 | | 1.75L WHITE HORSE Scotch 21.00 | | 1.75L SKYY Vodka 80° 21.00 | | 1.75L FLEISCHMANN'S Gin 11.99 | |
| 750 BOOKER'S Bourbon 40.00 | | 1.75L BLACK & WHITE 21.00 | | 1.75L SVEDKA Vodka 80° 18.99 | | 1.75L MALIBU RUM Coconut • Mango • P. Peppole 22.00 | |
| 750 PRAVDA Vodka 80° 25.00 | | 1.75L CLAN MacGregor 15.01 | | 1.75L GORDONS Vodka 80° 13.00 | | 1.75L JOSE CUERVO Gold • Classic Tequila 32.99 | |
| 750 BELVEDERE or CHOPIN Vodka 80° 24.00 | | 1.75L DEWAR'S WHITE LABEL 24.00 | | 1.75L FLEISCHMANN Vodka 80° 10.49 | | 750 PATRON Silver Tequila 32.99 | |
| 750 GREY GOOSE Vodka 80° 24.10 | | 1.75L JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK 25.00 | | 1.75L GEORGI Vodka 80° 11.99 | | | |
| | | 1.75L JOHNNIE WALKER RED 16.00 | | 1L SMIRNOFF Vodka 80° 11.99 | | | |
| CHAMPAGNE | | AMERICAN WINE | | WORLD OF WINE | | | |
| 750 J. ROGET Extra Dry 3.00 | | 1.5L FOXHORN Cabernet • Merlot • Chard. 4.00 | | 1.5L RENE JUNOT Red • White 5.33 | | 750 AVIA Cabernet • Chard. • White Zinfandel 2.99 | |
| 750 ANDRE Cold Duck • Dry • Pink • Brut • Spumante 3.11 | | 1.5L CORBETT CANYON Cabernet • Chard. • Merlot 5.01 | | 1.5L D. TRA Montepulciano • Trebbiano • Chard • Merlot 6.00 | | 750 YELLOW TAIL Cab. • Chard. • Shiraz • Merlot 5.67 | |
| 750 BOSCA Spumante 3.39 | | 1.5L ARBOR MIST Zinfandel • Chardonnay • White Zinf. 5.99 | | 1.5L RUINITE Lambrusco • Bianco • Rosato • D.O.C. 6.99 | | 750 RUFFINO Chard. 6.09 | |
| 750 COOK'S Brut • Dry 4.99 | | 1.5L NATHANSON CREEK Cabernet • Pinot • Chardonnay • Merlot 5.99 | | 1.5L CONCHA Y TORO Cab/Merlot • Chard. Blend 7.00 | | 750 WYNDHAM Cabernet • Chard. • Shiraz 6.66 | |
| 750 NANDO Asti Spumante • Fragalino 7.00 | | 1.5L GALLO Twin Valley Chard. • Cab. • Merlot 6.01 | | 1.5L LANCERS Rose • White 8.00 | | 750 CORVO Red • White 6.99 | |
| 750 M & R Asti Spumante 8.00 | | 1.5L BEERINGER White Zinfandel 8.00 | | 1.5L YAGO Sangria 9.99 | | 750 MOUTON CADET Red • White 6.99 | |
| 750 ROSE • Brut • Dry 10.20 | | 1.5L R. MONDAVI Woodbridge Cabernet • Chardonnay • Merlot 10.00 | | 1.5L CESARI DUE TORRI Pinot Grigio 9.99 | | 750 LOUIS JADOT Beaujolais Villages 6.99 | |
| 750 ROEDERER Estate Brut 15.00 | | 1.5L FETZER Sundial Chardonnay • Valley Oaks Cabernet • Eagle Peak Merlot 12.99 | | 1.5L BELLA SERA Merlot • Pinot Grigio 10.01 | | 750 E.C.O. DOMANI Merlot • Pinot Grigio • Cab. • Chard. 7.99 | |
| 750 MOET & CHANDON White Star 26.00 | | 750 SUTTER HOME White Zinfandel 3.00 | | 1.5L YELLOW TAIL Shiraz • Cab. • Cabernet • Chard. • Shiraz • Merlot 10.67 | | 50 MARQUES DE CACERES Rioja 8.99 | |
| 750 PIPER HEIDSIECK Extra Dry • Brut 26.99 | | 750 SUTTER HOME Cabernet • Chard. • Merlot 4.99 | | 1.5L BOLLA Valpolicella • Barbera • Sangria • Chardonnay • Merlot 10.20 | | 750 MARQUES DE H.S.C.A. Red 11.99 | |
| 750 MOET Nectar Imperial NV 29.99 | | 750 FOREST GLEN Shiraz • Merlot 6.01 | | 1.5L CAVIT Merlot • Pinot Grigio 11.00 | | 750 ANTIQORI Chianti Vitis Red 15.99 | |
| 750 VEUVE CLICQUOT Brut NV 31.00 | | 750 BLACKSTONE Merlot • Cabernet 7.01 | | 1.5L HARVEST Bristol Cream 12.99 | | 750 LOUIS JADOT Pouilly Fuisse 15.99 | |
| | | 750 MIRRASSOU Chardonnay 7.99 | | 1.5 LUNA DI LUNA Red Bottle • Pinot Grigio • Sang. Merlot 13.99 | | 750 RUFFINO Ducale Tan 16.00 | |
| CORDIALS | | 750 GALLO OF SONOMA Cabernet • Chard. • Merlot 8.99 | | BRANDY & COGNAC | | 750 SANTAMARGHERITA Pinot Grigio 18.01 | |
| 750 ALIZE PASSION Gold • Red • Wild Passion 14.01 | | 750 KENDALL JACKSON VR Chardonnay 9.00 | | 750 E & J VS 7.29 | | 750 RUFFINO 27.00 | |
| 750 DEKUYPER Pucker Sour Apple 15.00 | | 750 KENDALL JACKSON VR Cabernet • Merlot 12.00 | | 750 STOCK 84 Brandy 7.99 | | | |
| 750 SOUTHERN COMFORT 18.99 | | 750 J. LOHR Cabernet • Chardonnay 10.99 | | 750 E & J VSOP Brandy 8.99 | | | |
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| 1L ROMANA SAMBUCA White • Black 21.99 | | 750 STERLING Merlot 16.99 | | 750 HENNESSY VSOP Cognac 24.00 | | | |
| 1L SOUTHERN COMFORT 22.99 | | 750 STERLING Cabernet 17.99 | | 750 REMY MARTIN VSOP Cognac 30.99 | | | |
| 1L KARLUA Coffee Liqueur 28.99 | | | | 750 HENNESSY VSOP Cognac 31.00 | | | |
| 1L GRAND MARNIER Liqueur 33.99 | | | | 750 COURVOISIER VS Cognac 27.99 | | | |
| | | | | 750 REMY MARTIN VSOP Cognac 30.99 | | | |
| | | | | 750 HENNESSY VSOP Cognac 31.00 | | | |
| | | | | 750 COURVOISIER VS Cognac 49.99 | | | |
| | | | | 750 HENNESSY XO Cognac 85.99 | | | |

VERMOUTH

1L CHATEAU VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 4.99

1L M & R VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 5.99

4L G & D VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 11.99

JUG WINE

3L LIVINGSTON CELLARS Ch-Chablis • Burg • Pinot Rose 7.99

4L CARLO ROSSI Chablis • Vitis Greco • Burg • Shiraz • Vitis Rose • Pinot • Blush • Sangria • Chianti 7.99

4L PAUL MASSON Chablis • Burgundy • Rose • Rhine • Rose • Gold 8.19

4L CR CELLARS Fortissimo • Bianco • Rosso 12.99

5L BOX FRANZIA Chablis • Burgundy • Chianti • Box • PETER VELLA Chablis • Burgundy • Blush • Devious Red • White Gren 8.99

THE 2004 GEORGES DUBOEUF BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU HAS ARRIVED!

GEORGES DUBOEUF 2004 Beaujolais Nouveau 8.01

BERINGER 2004 Nouveau 6.99

Mayor's Gala will be Dec. 3

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Mayor's Gala will be held from 7 p.m.-midnight Dec. 3 at Snuffy's Pantagais Renaissance.

The event will begin with a cocktail hour from 7-8 p.m. followed by a recognition ceremony and dinner and dancing. Donations for the silent auction are being sought.

The gala will honor the township's top female and male volunteers and an organization of the year — the honorees are Carol Parks Clancy, Joseph McCourt and the Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC) at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

Proceeds from this year's Charity Gala will go to the Scotch Plains Municipal Alliance Committee and the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation.

Tickets, which cost \$55, and raffle books, which are \$20, are available in the Recreation Office in Room 113 in the municipal building on Park Avenue.

For more information, call (908) 322-6700, ext. 221.

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Commentary

Thanksgiving lessons

It's heartening to know the most heavily-traveled time of the year is Thanksgiving.

Though families no longer go over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house, far-flung relatives jam the interstate highways and airports so they can share a unique American holiday with their loved ones. The holiday is more than just a huge feast; it is a celebration of the genuine family values at the core of the American experience.

No matter what political pundits and cultural gadflies may say about the deterioration of American life, family ties still remain strong. In fact, the great efforts most Americans undertake to be with their families on Thanksgiving are convincing proof we are not on the road to decadence and social anarchy.

The social fabric of our country is strong, and it is strong enough to withstand the efforts of those who wish to tear it apart for their own political advantage. We must not let fear deter us from those traditions that make us such a strong nation.

As this editorial was being written, American soldiers are fighting wars against a different kind of enemy — terrorists and Iraqi insurgents. These are wars for which we have no reference points in history. They are wars without large armies moving across a battlefield. And unlike our previous wars, there are few large battles being fought, and victories are often unseen.

Because of these conflicts, there are many Americans in the military who will not be able to be home for this Thanksgiving. They will be sacrificing the comforts of home so that we can enjoy and give thanks for our freedoms.

The lessons from the first Thanksgiving more than three centuries are valid even today. That first celebration of a good harvest and cooperation among diverse peoples taught us the value of tolerance and community. The foundation for the personal freedoms which we all take for granted and has been the envy of people all around the world began to be built in that brave settlement in Plymouth.

Thanksgiving is a joyful time as we celebrate the ties that keep us together as families and Americans. It is also a time to cherish the ties that keep our communities and country together.

It never comes easy

Nothing comes easy in New Jersey government.

The idea of having a constitutional convention to solve the state's chronic property tax crisis seemed like a pretty good idea earlier this year. The Legislature has been unable to reform a system that is almost universally despised in New Jersey because it places an unfair tax burden on many segments of the population, particularly senior citizens. And nothing has been done to change the reliance on property taxes to fund public education other than the occasional Band-Aid and a catalogue of rebates that no one seems to understand.

Finally, the Legislature agreed to create a task force that would create a framework for a constitutional convention. After a series of public hearings throughout the state, the task force was scheduled this week to begin writing a recommendation that has to be delivered to Acting Gov. Richard Codey by the end of the year.

But though everyone agrees the constitutional convention should focus solely on changing the property tax system, there remains disagreement on how it should be done. The focus may be on the phrase that a "thorough and efficient" education is a guarantee in New Jersey. This will be the most contentious part of the constitutional convention because it raises questions not just on how revenue will be raised, but how it is spent. And that leads to questions of policy that should not be under the umbrella of the convention.

The other question for the convention to answer is how the revenue lost through property tax reform will be replaced. The imposition of other taxes, such as a 10-cent hike in the gasoline tax, will fall more unfairly on lower-income individuals. The obvious and equitable way is to raise the income tax, but that approach is sure to encounter political obstacles.

The task force's recommendations are just at the beginning of a long road. Any constitutional convention would have to be approved by state voters in next November's general election, with any convention not beginning until the spring of 2006. And then voters must then approve any changes to the Constitution in the 2006 general election, meaning any property tax changes would not begin until July 1, 2007, the start of the state's fiscal year. That means home owners will have to suffer through at least two more years of spiraling property taxes before any relief is in sight. And even then there is no guarantee.

The constitutional convention may have its problems, but it is still the best hope for New Jersey residents to see their property tax bills finally go down.

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 Chad Hemenway at (732) 396-4202.

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

Our fax number is (732) 574-2613.

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



Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

Just a simple country boy

I never accepted, until I was in college, that I was just a simple country boy.

And it was sometime during my college years in Baltimore that I began to truly appreciate my hometown, Neshanic Station.

As a Somerville High School student, I couldn't wait to leave the village where my grandparents once had a general store, my mother was born in a house on Olive Street and uncles, aunts and cousins were as numerous as the Lehigh Valley freight trains rattling through town. In the early 1970s, when every brand of liberation was sweeping the country, Neshanic Station seemed too constrictive to an over-charged teenage mind. How could I taste the devilish freedom of liberation in an atmosphere that was more consistent with a time when people in living rooms listened to the radio for entertainment and farmers, smelling of feed and cows, crowded into the barber shop Saturday mornings whether or not they needed a haircut? People still drove Studebakers, for heaven's sake.

Plus, there was that all-too-real feeling that no matter what I did or where I went in Neshanic Station, I was always under the scrutiny of relatives or friends of my parents. It was a fish bowl existence and I wanted to swim in the thrilling waters beyond the glass walls.

When I first went to college and said I was from Neshanic Station, classmates looked at me as if I had lapsed into an ancient Indian tongue or had delivered the New Jersey translation of Hooterville. Instead, with the valiant shame of adolescence, I soon learned to say I was from a small town about 15 miles from golden Princeton, a truthful description that devishly glossed over the fact that from my bed I could still hear roosters welcome the dawn.

I don't remember what triggered the revelation that I was a simple country boy. Perhaps it was a belated Holden Caulfield moment when I X-rayed the phoniness of my classmates who, like all college students, were busy constructing new selves to disguise the natural self-doubt and self-loathing.

Perhaps it was the realization that my classmates from upper-middle class backgrounds had a soulless suburban existence without the sense of community that had dominated my life.

Or most probably it was the result of endless overnight talks with the first girl who had stumbled into love with me. Only in the stark intimacy of 4 a.m., when the effects of everything done the evening before were beginning to flee into memory, are you forced to confront the truth about yourself. Only in the safe warmth of someone I could trust was I able to generate the epiphany that it was ultimately disingenuous to construct an arch intellectual shell about myself because the core of my existence, where my creativity and compassion dwell, was a product of my upbringing in Neshanic Station.

I sometimes think I have been extremely lucky to have had the best of both worlds — the uncomplicated decency of a small-town upbringing and the rich personal rewards of sophisticated academia. The absence of one or the other would have given me a completely different life. I remember, as if it were yesterday, the world's longest kiss as my girlfriend and I embraced and said goodbye one Thanksgiving, and I also remember the warm rush of what I know now was love when I saw my father waiting on the train platform at New Brunswick. The fashionable darkness of a young writer vanished as everything seemed to come together in the jigsaw puzzle of existence.

It was only much later, with the accumulated wisdom of the time, that I would realize there would always be missing pieces.

Letters to the editor

Residents in financial trouble have many options for help with heating bills

By SEEMA N. SINGH

NEW JERSEY RATEPAYER ADVOCATE

For some, the winter months bring a time of happiness. A time of snuggling by a warm fire, ice skating on a frozen pond, sleigh riding down a snow-covered hill. For others, winter is a time of crisis.

Throughout New Jersey, many residents struggle during the cold winter months to pay their heating bills. For many, choosing between food, medicine and heat is a daily hardship.

But help is available.

As the Ratepayer Advocate for the state of New Jersey, I work on behalf of all utility customers to ensure that all of our state's residents — particularly low-income families, senior citizens and the most vulnerable residents — have access to affordable utility services. In New Jersey, there are several financial assistance programs and other helpful options available to those who cannot afford heating costs for their home.

Funded through state, federal and private dollars, the assistance programs provide financial grants and credits to low-income residents and those in temporary financial crisis. The programs include:

LIFELINE. The New Jersey Lifeline Credit Program is a state-funded program that provides a \$225 yearly credit to qualifying electric and natural gas customers. To qualify, customers must be age 65 or older or disabled residents age 18 or older who receive Social Security disability benefits. The annual income must be less than \$20,437 if single, and \$25,058 if married. For information on Lifeline, call (800) 792-9745 or visit the website at www.state.nj.us/health/seniorbenefits/paadapp.htm#lifeline.

LIHEAP. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is a federally-funded program that provides low-income households, including renters, with assistance in paying heating bills.

For eligibility, the 2005 maximum gross income levels range from \$1,358 per month for a single resident to \$4,604 per month for a family of eight. Participants in this program are not limited in how they heat their home. Heating can include electricity, natural gas, oil, kerosene, wood, coal or propane.

The LIHEAP application period runs through March 31, 2005. For more information on LIHEAP, call (800) 510-3102 or visit the website at www.energyassistance.nj.gov.

UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND. The New Jersey Universal Service Fund is a program to help low-income households pay for electric and natural gas service. The maximum annual benefit of NJ USF is \$1,800, which appears as a credit on a customer's utility bill.

To be eligible, customers must have a total household income equal to or less than 175 percent of the federal poverty level and spend more than 3 percent of their income on electric or natural gas bills. For electric heat homes, customers must pay more than 6 percent of the household income on electricity.

The fund is administered by the New Jersey Department of Human Services. When calculating how much a household pays for energy each year, the Department of Human Services considers benefits the household has received from other programs, including Lifeline or LIHEAP. Beginning in November, residents may apply for USF and LIHEAP with one application. For more information on NJ USF, call (800) 510-3102 or visit www.energyassistance.nj.gov.

NJ SHARES. The New Jersey Statewide Heating Assistance and Referral for Energy Services is a private, non-profit corporation, which provides assistance through a statewide, year-round independent energy fund.

NJ SHARES provides a one-time grant for those who are experiencing a major financial setback, such as a job loss or medical crisis. There is no income requirement. Recipients are asked to demonstrate that they have exhausted all other sources of assistance and that they have made a good faith effort to pay their energy bill. The program provides a one-time grant of up to \$250 for natural gas and \$250 for electricity or \$500 for an all-electric home.

The basic funding for NJ SHARES comes from utility customer contributions, raised through bill inserts, which are matched by the participating utility. For more information on NJ SHARES, call (866) 657-4273 or visit www.njshares.org.

WINTER TERMINATION PROGRAM. The state's Winter Termination Program prevents a regulated electric or gas utility from discontinuing service during the heating season, which runs from Nov. 15 to March 15. Eligible residents include those who receive Lifeline, LIHEAP, PAAD (Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled) or USF benefits; receive Work First NJ temporary assistance or Work First General Assistance or SSI (Supplemental Security Income); or those who can demonstrate circumstances beyond their control including illness, recent death, or other situations, which might cause financial hardship.

Customers who are eligible for shutoff protection must enter into payment arrangements with the utility. Customers will not be shut off if they can show the utility they are making a good faith effort to pay. For information on the Winter Termination Program, call (800) 624-0241.

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. The Weatherization Assistance Program is a federal/state grant program that provides weatherization services to reduce heating costs for eligible homeowners and renters. A household income must be below 130 percent of the federal poverty level, which ranges from \$16,292 for a single resident to \$55,247 for a family of eight, according to the 2004 weatherization income guidelines.

After an energy audit is performed, eligible residents may receive one or more weatherization services including insulation; caulking and weather stripping; compact fluorescent lighting; refrigerator replacement; and repair, retrofit or replacement of a heating system, hot water heater, doors and windows. For more information on the Weatherization Assistance Program, call (800) 510-3102.

Sometimes, these financial assistance programs are still not enough. In New Jersey, customers with a large balance on their utility bill can call their utility and negotiate a long-term payment plan. Utilities are required by law to allow customers this option at least once.

Taking advantage of budget billing in another option. Budget billing allows a customer to spread out the yearly utility costs through equal monthly payments. Under this plan, customers pay the same amount each month, instead of paying higher bills during peak usage times.

If you or someone you know is facing financial difficulties this winter season, I urge you to take advantage of the assistance programs or contact your utility for assistance. My office is also available to help. You can reach the NJ Division of the Ratepayer Advocate by calling (973) 648-2690 or by visiting our website at www.rpa.state.nj.us.

Everyone should be able to share in the joys of wintertime. By working together, we can help those most in need.

Letter policy

Letters may be edited for content, brevity, good taste and libel. Letters should be typewritten and include the writer's daytime telephone number for

verification, if necessary.

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WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR THIS HOLIDAY SEASON?



CELESTE KIRKIKIS
Westfield

My kids.



RICK JURGENS
Westfield

Freedom. That just about says it all.



HUGH MAINZER
visiting in Westfield

Living in a free country and being able to have a great job and family and home — having a chance to serve my country.



ANGIE GONZALEZ
works in Cranford

My health.



SUSAN FRANCE
Cranford

I guess that I finally got a job.

Letters to the editor

Suburban towns need voice on freeholder board

To The Record-Press:

As a Republican candidate for Union County Freeholder this past election, I recently received from the county clerk's office a report containing the election results, in detail, of the votes cast in the general election.

The report is a breakdown of how many votes each candidate received in each ward, district and town. It also shows what percentage of the votes a candidate received. A review of this years numbers makes a strong argument for changing how members of the Board of Chosen Freeholders are selected.

Currently the board members are elected at large, meaning our county is not divided into districts; therefore, it doesn't matter where in the county a board member resides or how many members are elected from the same municipality or geographic area.

Normally, three seats are up for grabs each year and an unlimited number of candidates can appear on the ballot. Occasionally an independent candidate will be running, but generally three from the Republican Party and three from the Democratic Party are the choices. The three candidates who garner the highest

number of votes win the seats; this year as in the past several years the three Democrats won.

The newspapers reported the total votes county-wide that the candidates each received, but these numbers do not tell the whole story. The Democrats garnered about 30,000 each more than the Republicans; however, 15,000 of those votes were out of the city of Elizabeth alone. The Republicans were victorious in Westfield, Scotch Plains, Clark, Garwood, Mountainside, Springfield, Kenilworth, Berkeley Heights, Summit, New Providence and Cranford, with Republican candidates in the top three in Roselle Park and Fanwood, as well. The Democrats took, by large margins, Elizabeth, Linden, Hillside, Plainfield, Roselle, Rahway, Union and Winfield Park. Roselle Park and Fanwood were splits.

In summary, the Republican candidates clearly won the majority of the votes in the majority of the towns in central Union County.

Currently we have and for the foreseeable future will continue to have taxation without

representation. The towns in central Union County will continue to carry the freight for the rest; since these towns have higher property valuations, they pay more county taxes. Some central Union County towns send more to the county coffers than they keep and spend in their own municipalities, and oddly there is almost no return in services. What we also have is a nine-member freeholder board that is totally Democratic, whose members are almost exclusively from outside central Union County. There are only two "exceptions" — Bette Kowalski, newly appointed in September, replaced Mary Routolo and then ran as an incumbent. She did not win in any central Union County towns including Cranford, her own hometown. The other is Freeholder Al Mirabella, serving a third term, who moved to Fanwood after being re-elected.

It is clear that what we don't have is a true voice for the residents of central Union County, a voice that they have actually chosen themselves.

PATRICIA QUATTROCCHI
Garwood

County news

County seeks suggestions for 'excellent women'

Nominations are now being accepted for the 13th annual "Women of Excellence" awards program sponsored by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women.

The commission seeks outstanding women nominees from Union County who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following categories: arts and humanities; business/entrepreneur; community service; education; government; law; law enforcement; medicine/health care; and women's advocacy. The commission will accept nominations until Jan. 5, 2005.

For a nomination form, call Sean Fluehman at (908) 527-4107 or go to www.ucnj.org.

Donated tree sought for county courthouse

Union County is searching for an evergreen tree to decorate the courthouse rotunda for this year's holiday season.

Each year the county asks its residents for help in supplying a 20- to 25-foot tall evergreen tree.

The tree will be on display inside the courthouse, located at 2 Broad St. in downtown Elizabeth. To donate a suitable tree, call the Union County Division of Building Services at (908) 527-4240. Workers will come to cut and transport the tree and grind the stump.

Play 'Broom Bowl' at Warinanco rink

The county presents a "Thanksgiving Broom Bowl Challenge," a combination of broomball and bowling, at the Warinanco Ice Skating Center Friday afternoon.

The event begins with the open skate session at 1 p.m. Children from ages 4 to 17 will compete in three different age groups, and a pair of ice skates will be awarded to the winner in each age group.

The Warinanco Ice Skating Center is located off Thompson Avenue in Warinanco Park, located near the border of Roselle and Elizabeth. All regular admission and skate rental fees apply to this event. For more information call the Skating Center at (908) 298-7850.

Republicans' message led to electoral defeat

To The Record-Press:

In their recent letter to this publication, Bruce Paterson, Joe Renna, Pat Quattrocchi and Frank Arena disparage the vast majority of voters who voted for their Democratic opponents by attributing the disastrous Republican campaign for Union County Freeholder posts to a "failure to educate all the voters."

I propose a far more likely alternative explanation for their electoral fiasco:

Perhaps Union County voters decisively rejected the Republican candidates, their party and their politics, not due to a lack of education, but precisely because they were indeed educated in the challenges that confront us and the candidates' abilities to successfully address them.

In insulting the voters' intelligence and education, the losing candidates appear to have learned little from their humiliating performance. Instead of blaming others for their debacle, Paterson, Renna, Quattrocchi and Arena would be well advised to consider, if

only for a fleeting moment, whether their party's policies, tactics and goals are simply incompatible with the values, needs, dreams and aspirations of the people of Union County.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT J. RATNER
Westfield

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Joyce Ann Kelliher

SCOTCH PLAINS — Joyce Ann Boucher Kelliher, 75, died Nov. 14, 2004 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born in St. Albans, Vt., she lived in Connecticut and Colonia before moving to Scotch Plains in 1973.

Mrs. Kelliher was an executive secretary from 1948-57 with the General Electric Co. in Burlington, Vt. She was a member of the Altar Rosary Society, PTA and bowling league at St. John Vianney Roman Catholic Church in Colonia.

More recently Mrs. Kelliher was a parishioner of Immaculate

Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church.

Surviving are her husband of 49 years, James M. Jr.; a daughter, Kathleen M. Fry of South Plainfield; four sons, Patrick M. of Elkton, Md., William S. of Bellevue, Wash., Daniel J. of Frederick, Md., and James M. III of Edison; a sister, Carol Mongeon of Essex Junction, Vt.; and eight grandchildren.

Services were held Friday at the Gosselin Funeral Home, Edison, followed by a funeral Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Ralph DeCristofaro

SCOTCH PLAINS — Ralph DeCristofaro, 97, died Nov. 16, 2004 at the Lafayette Health Care Center in Mayo, Fla.

Mr. DeCristofaro was born in Chiote province, Italy, and came to the United States in 1912. He lived in Scotch Plains, Florida and Hackettstown before moving to Mayo in 2002.

He was a former inspector with Aerodex Industries in Florida; Mr. DeCristofaro retired in 1976 after more than 30 years in the aeronautics industry.

ties industry.

His wife, Filomena, died in 2004. Surviving are a son, Louis; two sisters, Grace Roglieri and Lena Ponturo; four brothers, Bernie, Marshall, Michael and Dominick; five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Friday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Elizabeth Chrono

WESTFIELD — Elizabeth C. Shedneck Chrono, 89, died Nov. 18, 2004 at her home.

She was born in Garwood and had lived in Westfield since 1936.

Mrs. Chrono retired in 1992 after 30 years as a hostess at the Town House restaurant in Westfield.

Her husband, Eugene, died in 1964.

Surviving are a daughter, Judith Battiloro of Edison; two sons, Eugene of Georgetown, Texas, and Allan of Westfield; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Monday at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Dooley Colonial Home. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Josephine Santo Salvo

SCOTCH PLAINS — Josephine C. DiFrancesco Santo Salvo, 94, died Nov. 18, 2004 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

She was born in Staten Island and lived in Scotch Plains for most of her life.

Mrs. Santo Salvo was a retired saleswoman with Lady Leslie in Scotch Plains. She earlier was a saleswoman with Tepper's in Plainfield and Short Hills.

Her husband, Thomas J. Sr., died in 1948. A son, Thomas J., died in 1999. A daughter, Dorothy Gutierrez, died in 2002.

Surviving are a daughter-in-law, Arlene; a brother, Philip DiFrancesco; a sister, Louise Mingione; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at the Memorial Funeral Home, Fairwood, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in St. Mary's-Stony Hill Cemetery, Watchung.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to American Cancer Society, 507 Westminster Ave., Elizabeth, NJ 07208.

Obituaries

John Henry 'Bud' Max

SCOTCH PLAINS — John Henry "Bud" Max, 88, died Nov. 18, 2004 at Bayside Manor in Keansburg.

Born in Newark, he was a son of the late Laurence L. and Gertrude McClain Max.

Mr. Max lived in Scotch Plains, Atlantic Highlands, Hilton Head Island, S.C., and New Smyrna Beach, Fla., before moving to Brick in 1989. He was the past president of the Scotch Plains Republican Club and the former tax assessor in the township. He also spent 34 years with Westinghouse Corp., retiring as a district manager in its Lamp Division in Bloomfield.

The Meals on Wheels volunteer was a master Mason with Monmouth Lodge 172 and a 32nd-degree Mason in Atlantic Highlands. Mr. Max was an Army veteran of World War II and spent

time with a cavalry unit of the New Jersey National Guard.

Deceased are his wife of 60 years, Olga; and two sisters, Louise Bratsch and Florence MacConchie.

Surviving are a son, Laurence J.; a daughter, Harriet J. Fish; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

A Masonic service was held Monday at the Masonic Temple in Atlantic Highlands. A memorial service was held Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church of Red Bank (Tower Hill). Burial was private.

Arrangements were by the John E. Day Funeral Home in Red Bank. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to American Heart Association, 2550 Route 1, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 or American Cancer Society, 801 Broad St., Shrewsbury, NJ 07702.

Herbert Otto Jr.

WESTFIELD — Herbert R. Otto Jr., 87, died Nov. 6, 2004 at the Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island in Pawtucket, R.I.

Born in Newark, he was a son of the late Herbert R. Sr. and Lucille Schnell Otto.

Mr. Otto lived in Hillside before moving to Westfield in 1945. He had resided since 1999 in Cumberland, R.I.

He was with Lee Filter Corp. in Edison for 10 years, retiring in 1974 as its executive vice president. Mr. Otto earlier spent 19 years with Purulator Corp. and was the chief engineer of its Rahway plant. He earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the Stevens Institute of Technology in 1938.

A former commander of the Watchung Power Squadron in Scotch Plains, Mr. Otto was a Navy engineering officer in the Pacific

during World War II with the rank of lieutenant. He was a life member of the Society of Automotive Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the United States Power Squadron and Theta Xi fraternity.

Mr. Otto was a master mason in his 65 years with Masonic Lodge 241 in Hillside. The longtime Boy Scout volunteer was a member of the Stevens Institute of Technology Alumni Association, American Legion Post 3 and the Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

Surviving are his wife of 62 years, Marguerite McClure Otto; three sons, Robert of Wellesley, Mass., David of Whippany and Richard of Cumberland; and seven grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by the J.J. Duffy Funeral Home in Cumberland.

Julia DiQuollo

SCOTCH PLAINS — Julia Kasar DiQuollo, 83, died Nov. 17, 2004 at her home.

Mrs. DiQuollo was born in Elyria, Ohio. She lived in Hungary, New York City, Bayonne and Green Brook before moving to Scotch Plains in 1940.

She was for 40 years a dental assistant and general office assistant to Jerome L. Fectner, a Scotch Plains dentist. Mrs. DiQuollo was a member of the Altar Rosary Society at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church.

Her husband, John, died in 1985. A brother, Charles Kasar, is

deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Nina; three sons, John, Carl and Carmen; a sister, Mary Murray; a brother, John Kasar; nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Saturday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery.

Donations may be sent to Haven Hospice, JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., P.O. Box 3059, Edison, NJ 08818.

Angie 'Babe' Serido

SCOTCH PLAINS — Angie "Babe" DiCenso Serido, 68, died Nov. 19, 2004 at her home.

Born in Plainfield, she lived in Piscataway before moving to Scotch Plains in 1985.

Mrs. Serido retired in 1999 after 32 years with Dreier's Sporting Goods in Watchung.

Surviving are her husband, Anthony P.; a daughter, Carolann Brennan of Bear, Del.; two sons,

Anthony P. of Howell and David A. of Piscataway; two sisters, Dolly DiCenso of Edison and Nancy Parenti of Scotch Plains; and seven grandchildren.

Services were held Tuesday at the McCriscin Home for Funerals, in South Plainfield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

Anthony Deland

WESTFIELD — Anthony Deland, 75, died Nov. 20, 2004 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Mr. Deland was born in Newark and lived in Bloomfield before moving to Westfield in 1982. He also had a home in Point Pleasant since 1980.

He was a plumbing contractor and the longtime owner of A-

Mech Inc. in Westfield. Mr. Deland was a member of Local 24 of the plumbers' union in Springfield.

Surviving are his wife, Jean Finamore Deland; a son, Steven; two daughters, June Gaglioti and Jacqueline Dubinett; two brothers, Michael and Vincent; a sister, Marlene Caffrey; and four grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Wednesday at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Dooley Colonial Home. Burial was in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Hanover.

Peter Di Maio

WESTFIELD — Peter W. Di Maio, 55, died Nov. 16, 2004 at his home in Colonia.

Born in Germany, he lived in Westfield before moving to Colonia in 2001.

Mr. Di Maio worked in computer operations and was a member of Azure Masada Lodge 22, Free & Accepted Masons, in Cranford.

Surviving are his wife, Suzann Hemmerle Di Maio; his parents, Albert and Lieselotte of Cocon, Fla.; two daughters, Danielle of Atlanta, Ga., and Jennifer of Colonia; a son, Michael W. of Perth Amboy; a sister, Teresa Lanza of Key Colony Beach, Fla.; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford. Arrangements were by the Gosselin Funeral Home in Edison.

David Welch

WESTFIELD — David W. Welch, 60, died Nov. 18, 2004 at his home in Landing.

Born in Plainfield, he lived in Westfield and New York state before moving to Landing 1½ years ago.

Mr. Welch was self-employed as a carpenter.

Surviving are a brother, William

H. of Landing; and a sister, Nancy Carlson of Arizona.

Services were held Saturday at the Leber-Lakeside Funeral Home in Landing. Donations may be sent to American Cancer Society, 669 Littleton Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054 or St. Joseph's Hospital, 703 Main St., Paterson, NJ 07503-2621.

Joseph McEvoy

SCOTCH PLAINS — Joseph R. McEvoy, 68, died Nov. 21, 2004 at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

Born in Newark, he lived in Linden before moving to Scotch Plains in 1999.

Mr. McEvoy retired in 1996 after 35 years as a route salesman with American Bakeries in Edison. He was a member of Teamsters Local 194 in Union along with American Legion posts in Kenilworth and Roselle Park.

He was in the Army from 1956-58.

Surviving are his former wife, Lorraine of Linden; two sons, Scott

and wife Jillian of New York City and Gary and wife Alyson of Fanwood; a brother, Martin of Cranford; three sisters, Dorothy Wierzbicki of Union, Anna Sprague of Fords and Catherine Kennedy of Keyport; and two grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Wednesday at St. James Roman Catholic Church, Springfield, following services at the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Burial was in Graceland Memorial Park, Kenilworth.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to American Cancer Society, 507 Westminster Ave., Elizabeth, NJ 07208.

Phyllis Grant

SCOTCH PLAINS — Phyllis S. Grant, 77, died Nov. 20, 2004 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Born Aug. 25, 1927 in Gary, Ind., she was a daughter of the late Ethel and Arthur Saffran.

Mrs. Grant lived in Scotch Plains before moving to Branchburg in 1974. She worked for over six years in the mortgage servicing department of the Somerset Trust Co. in Somerville.

A longtime church organist, Mrs.

Grant held a master's degree from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. She received a bachelor's degree in 1943 from Wells College in Aurora, N.Y.

She was a member of the American Guild of Organists.

Surviving are her husband of 44 years, Ernest F.; and a son, Jonathan and wife Mari of San Diego, Calif.

Private arrangements were by the Bruce C. Van Arsdale Funeral Home in Somerville.

Madeline Heller

SCOTCH PLAINS — Madeline B. Wohlgenuth Heller, 93, died Nov. 22, 2004 at the Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Born in Perth Amboy, Mrs. Heller lived in Carteret and Elizabeth before moving to Westfield in 1964. She had resided in Scotch Plains since 1994.

Mrs. Heller was a lifelong member of Hadassah and a member of the Shakkamaxon Golf and Country Club.

Her husband, Harry L., is deceased.

Surviving are two daughters, Nancy B. Gard and husband Jerry of Scotch Plains and Linda C. May and husband Jim of Lincoln, Mass.; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday in the Temple of Israel Chapel at Beth Israel Cemetery, Woodbridge. Arrangements were by the Higgins & Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home in Westfield.

Joanne Sweeney

Joanne D. Sweeney, 57, died Nov. 19, 2004 at her home in Cranford.

She was born in Belleville and had lived in Cranford since 1976.

Mrs. Sweeney was a past president of the Orange Avenue School PTA and the College Women's Club of Cranford. She taught English as a Second Language classes and remedial reading classes for Union County Educational Services Commission. She also was an ESL teacher for adult evening classes at Union County College in Cranford and Columbia High School in Maplewood.

Earlier, Mrs. Sweeney was involved with a welfare-to-work program of Union County College and a teacher for 11 years in the Belleville school system.

The teacher earned a master's degree in reading from Kean University in 1976. She received a

bachelor's degree from Newark State Teachers College (now Kean University) in 1968.

Mrs. Sweeney was a religious education instructor at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church and a volunteer with Girl Scout Troop 35.

Surviving are her husband, Edward M. Sr.; three daughters, Mary Ellen, Elizabeth Anne and Catherine Jane, and a son, Edward M. Jr., all at home; and three sisters, Claire Reilly of Windsor, Conn., Eleanor Anne Ryan of Lewes, Del., and Barbara Wyciskala of Manchester.

A funeral Mass was held Tuesday at St. Michael's Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Arrangements were by the Gray Memorial Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to your favorite charity.

Eric Chad Reinhard

Eric Chad Reinhard, 18, died Nov. 19, 2004 at his home in Cranford.

Mr. Reinhard was born in Livingston and lived in Cranford all his life.

Surviving are his parents, Michele Ann and A. Dennis; a sister, Kimberly Denise Piotrowski; a brother, Adam Dennis; his paternal grandparents, Arthur and

Margaret; and his maternal grandfather, Carl Lardieri Sr.

A funeral Mass was held Monday at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Graceland Memorial Park, Kenilworth.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the New Jersey Elks Handicapped Children's Committee.

Fred W. Mehrhof

Fred W. Mehrhof, 85, died Nov. 16, 2004 at Union Hospital.

Born in Newark, he lived in Hillside before moving to Kenilworth in 1949.

Mr. Mehrhof retired in 1984 after 25 years as a machinist with the Waldrew-Hartig Co. in New Brunswick. As an Army veteran of World War II he was a ranger with the 27th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop in the Pacific; he was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

In 1973-74 he was the grand knight of Father McVeigh Council 4186, Knights of Columbus. Mr. Mehrhof also was a fourth degree

Knight with the John F. Kennedy Assembly, located in Union, and a member of its Color Corps Company Q.

Surviving are his wife, Elizabeth Anne Kelemen Mehrhof; three sons, Frederick J., Thomas J. and Lawrence Paul; two sisters, Ann Stumph and Mabel Spengler; two grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Saturday at the Mastapeter Funeral Home, Roselle Park, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church. Burial was private.

James R. Johnston Jr.

James R. Johnston Jr., 79, died Nov. 19, 2004 at his home in Edison.

Born in Bayonne, he was a son of the late James R. Sr. and Cecilia Smith Johnston.

Mr. Johnston lived in Cranford before moving to Edison in 1949. He retired in 1988 from Newark News Dealers, with whom he was a circulation supervisor for The Star-Ledger of Newark. He earlier worked in the radio and television service department of RCA Corp.

He was a parishioner of St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church in Edison.

Surviving are his wife, Claire Maguire Johnston; a son, James R. III of Edison; a daughter, Marie E. of Plainsboro; and two sisters, Marian Hanley of Bangor, Pa., and Grace of Whiting.

Services were held Tuesday at the Boylan Funeral Home, Edison, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Matthew's Church. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

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Briefs

Holiday celebration will be held Dec. 5

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township recently announced its holiday celebration will be held on Dec. 5.

Festivities will be held from 2-5 p.m. at the Alan Augustine Village Green on Park Avenue. There will be horse-drawn carriage rides from 2-4 p.m. for a small fee, along with a petting zoo and pony rides, a walk-around clown and an ice sculpture.

Santa will arrive at 3 p.m. and visit with the children until 5 p.m. at the gazebo. Parents are encouraged to bring cameras.

Santa will light the tree at 5 p.m. before returning to the North Pole. For more information, call (908) 322-670, ext. 221.

Jewish cookbooks on sale at Beth Israel

SCOTCH PLAINS — Congregation Beth Israel again has put its *Tasty Treasures Jewish Cookbook* on sale, in time for Hanukkah this year. This limited edition publishing contains more than 270 recipes.

It includes traditional favorites such as home-made chicken soup, brisket, stuffed cabbage, and challah as well as many traditional recipes for the holidays. There are also dozens of modern healthy recipes to try such as Aunt Et's carrot cake, vegetarian chili and more.

The cookbook is also filled with cooking tips, hints for baking and microwaving, calorie counters, substitution charts and more.

The cookbooks are available through Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains for \$15 each plus shipping and handling. To order, call Laurie Zinberg at (908) 889-1830.

School board meeting is moved to Monday

WESTFIELD — The Board of Education will meet on Monday, Dec. 6, in a departure from its usual Tuesday night schedule. The Monday evening meeting will be held at 8 p.m. in Room 105 at 302 Elm St.

Included on the Board's agenda will be a presentation by Westfield High School Student Assistance Counselor Maureen Mazzarese, who will discuss the new-student transition program at the school. The board will further discuss the upcoming bond referendum scheduled for Dec. 14.

A complete agenda will be available on Friday, Dec. 3, in the Board Secretary's office at 302 Elm St. All Board of Education public meetings are taped. They can be seen on Channel 36 on Tuesdays at 8 a.m. and 3 and 11 pm and Thursdays at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Police Log

WESTFIELD

On Saturday, officers arrested James Lehmkuhl of Westfield in the 300 block of Belmar Place for driving while intoxicated.

Lehmkuhl was also cited for refusing to submit to a breath test; he was subsequently released to a responsible adult.

Craig Katzenellenbogen of Westfield was arrested and charged with possession of controlled dangerous substances and drug paraphernalia on Sunday.

Katzenellenbogen was processed and turned over to the Fanwood Police Department on an active motor vehicle warrant.

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Junior Scouts donate to Mobile Meals

Junior Girl Scout Troop 101 of Roosevelt School in Westfield, led by Troop Leader Chris Kaveney, donated treats to be delivered to Mobile Meals clients recently. Pictured above from left are (top row): Katherine Frega, Mary Kennedy-Moore, Jill Salisbury, Emma Partridge, Devin Cash; (bottom row) Madison Weist, Melissa Morawski, Julia Wasilewski and Megan Kaveney.

Red Cross hosts babysitting classes

This December, the Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross will be hosting three separate Babysitter's Training courses for youth ages 11-15.

The first class will be a two-day session, from 5:30-9:30 p.m. Dec. 10 and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 11. The second class will be an all-day training session from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 18. The third class will be held over the holiday break from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 28 and 29.

The Red Cross Babysitters Training course is designed for both current and future babysitters. It teaches youth the best ways to keep the children in their care safe.

Topics include making good decisions, supervising children of different ages, keeping everyone safe inside and outside, handling emergencies, age-appropriate activities, performing basic infant care (feeding, diapering, burping) and some basic first aid.

Participants are also given instruction in how to handle breathing emergencies for a choking child or infant. The course emphasizes to the participants the importance of handling their babysitting jobs in a professional manner.

All classes are held at the Westfield/Mountainside Chapter House, located at 321 Elm St. in Westfield. The course includes a handbook and a small first aid kit. Pre-registration is required and space is limited.

The Westfield/Mountainside

Chapter holds this course as well as CPR and First Aid courses every month. Interested individuals can call the Chapter at (908) 232-7090, visit the Chapter's web site at www.westfieldmtdside-redcross.org or stop by the Chapter House during business hours.

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United Fund takes on new name: United Way

WESTFIELD — The United Way of Westfield: That's the official name now for the award-winning United Fund of Westfield.

During its decades-long presence in town, the United Fund always has been affiliated with United Way of America, the Virginia-based national organization.

Under the official membership rules of that entity, the local unit has changed its name to United Way of Westfield.

"The name may be a bit different, but the organization is still the same," said Linda Maggio, its executive director since 1975. "The change allows us to conform with United Way rules that mandate that affiliates use 'United Way' in their respective titles and logos."

The national United Way system includes a series of regional and county units as well as town-based organizations. In Westfield, the organization's success has been extraordinary — the local United Way goal has been met every year for the past three

decades. This year, a campaign to raise \$700,000 is in full gear. Hundreds of volunteers are soliciting donations from residents, business owners, professionals, and others in Westfield.

"Once again, the town is responding a hundredfold," said Maggio.

The United Way of Westfield provides funding for 20 local agencies that provide many programs and services to town residents. Each agency undergoes an extensive annual review prior to distribution of the funds.

In addition to its standard agency-related work, the United Way of Westfield has also been an instrumental force in times of need. For example, under Maggio's direction, the organization led the relief efforts to assist local families of Sept. 11 victims.

The name change will have no effect on the operation of the former United Fund.

"We will still be the same organization at the same location at the north side train station," emphasized Maggio.

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Service League set for holiday sale

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Service League will hold its annual holiday sale from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 4. The shop is located at 114 Elmer St.

This is the league's major sale event for the year. Available for sale will be new toys at discount prices; new clothing for men, women and children; Christmas decorations and a large selection of gift items.

Each league member is required to donate a new toy for the sale. All the items available for sale have been donated by the public. Due to the large amount of items for the sale, the shop will be replenished throughout the day.

In preparation of the sale, the thrift shop will have a 50 percent off sale of the entire stock during the week of Nov. 30.

The Westfield Service League is a non-profit organization that runs a thrift and



Pictured are Holiday Sale Committee members (from left) Barbara Vanderbilt, Marielyce Watner and Pat Del Duca, holding items that will be available for sale.

consignment shop Tuesday through Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Service League has donated more than \$2 million over the last 70 years. Some of the organizations that have benefited from these dona-

tions are St. Joseph's Social Service, Westfield Y, Kidz Pax, Westfield Rescue Squad and Center for Women and Children.

For more information, contact the shop at (908) 233-2530.

Boosters commit \$25K to track, field

WESTFIELD — On Nov. 11, the Boosters welcomed School Superintendent Dr. William Foley and former Chairman of the Recreation Commission Keith Hertell, who solicited Booster support for the upcoming bond referendum to refurbish the field and track at Kehler Stadium.

Foley and Hertell asked the Boosters to join the other sports organizations in the town in donating Debt Service financial support for the project as well as vote support.

The cost of this field and track would be \$1.4 million, the debt service for which would equate to \$18 per year for an average Westfield homeowner.

According to Foley and Hertell, the basis for the improvements was that field use in the town has greatly expanded over the last 20 years, almost doubling. In 1983 there were 670 Westfield High School students participating in athletics, compared to 1,226 in 2003.

The other strong argument set forth was that presently, the

Kehler field with natural grass has had limited use and is not used in the spring so that the field could be rehabilitated for fall sports. An artificial turf field would open the stadium for spring use.

Additional favorable points included:

- Use of the fields for the entire year and even the entire day.

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After the presentation, the Boosters voted to commit \$25,000 to the project by paying \$5,000 per year toward the debt service for 5 years.

The Westfield School Boosters Association is a group of 50 men committed to raising funds to support all school athletics.

This week

FRIDAY

NOV. 26

CAMP YACHAD EVENT — a day of fun for camp alumni and staff. 1-4 p.m. Wilf Jewish Community Campus, 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. \$8 per camper, no charge for staff. Register in advance at (908) 889-8800, ext. 253.

HOLIDAY SALE — at The Jumble Store, to benefit the projects of the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; also 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 27. 110 Walnut Ave., Cranford.

BROOM BOWL CHALLENGE — a combination of broomball and bowling for ages 4-17. Warinanco Ice Skating Center, off Thompson Avenue in Warinanco Park, at Elizabeth/Roselle border. Begins 1 p.m. Admission and skate rental fees apply. (908) 298-7850.

SATURDAY

NOV. 27

VENDOR SALE — sponsored by the Scotch Plains Junior Woman's Club. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Scotch Hills Country Club, Jerusalem Road, Scotch Plains. Tables available for \$35; contact Jessi@worldnet.att.net by Oct. 25.

SUNDAY

NOV. 28

TREE-LIGHTING CEREMONY — Santa Claus will ride in on a fire truck to join Westfield Mayor Greg McDermott in lighting the tree at the train station lot on North Avenue. 5 p.m. Residents are asked to bring non-perishable food items for the pantry at First United Methodist Church. For more information, call the Westfield Chamber of Commerce at (908) 233-3021.

GARDEN CLUB TRIP — Green Thumb Garden Club of Cranford sponsors a bus trip to the New York Botanical Garden. Bus leaves Orange Avenue pool 10 a.m.; return trip begins 4 p.m. \$26. To reserve a spot, call (908) 276-5077.

TUESDAY

NOV. 30

ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP — hosted by Howard L. Green of the New Jersey Historical

Commission and sponsored by Union County. 6:30-8:45 p.m. Executive Education Center, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. \$5; register by Nov. 19 at (908) 558-2550 or culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

INVESTING SEMINAR — on the topic "Using Exchange-Traded Funds to Enhance Sector Trading," hosted by the American Association of Individual Investors. 6 p.m. The Westwood, North Avenue, Garwood. To register, call (908) 276-7337.

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE — at the Thrift Shop in Scotch Plains, with proceeds benefiting local charities. Opens 10 a.m. today; open mid-days Tuesday-Saturday through Dec. 18. 1730 East Second St., Scotch Plains. (908) 322-5420.

WEDNESDAY

DEC. 1

COOKIE EXCHANGE MEETING — swap recipes with the Union County chapter of Mothers & More. 7:30 p.m. Westfield Area YMCA, 220 Clark St. (908) 789-8626 or (908) 889-2286.

BONE DENSITY SCREENING — by representatives of Overlook Hospital. Aimed especially for women over age 40 with a family history of osteoporosis. 10 a.m.-noon. Westfield Area YMCA, 220 Clark St., Westfield. \$12, \$8 for those over 60. Advance payment and appointments necessary. Call (908) 233-2700, ext. 251.

MID-DAY MUSICALES — 21st season of the program begins at The First Congregational Church of Westfield. Free, half-hour concert features Brett Deubner on viola and Christopher Kenniff on guitar. Noon. 125 Elmer St., Westfield. (908) 233-2494.

BLOOD DRIVE — hosted by the Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross. 3-8 p.m. Chapter house, 321 Elm St., Westfield. complimentary cholesterol screening for all who donate. (908) 232-7090.

GREEK MYTHOLOGY — a talk by Anita L. Hogaboom at the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society. Noon. B.G. Fields Restaurant, 560 Springfield Ave., Westfield. (908) 233-2930.

THURSDAY

DEC. 2

CHRISTMAS SHOW — at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Willow Grove Presbyterian Church sponsors a trip to see the show. Carpools depart 10 a.m. from the church, 1961 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains. \$55 per person. (908) 322-7892.

SATURDAY

DEC. 4

'TRAVELING WITH A SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD' — program hosted by the Learning Disabilities Association of Scotch Plains-Fanwood. 2 p.m. Scotch Plains Library, 1927 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains. Register at (908) 322-4020, ext. 5.

HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE — at the Jumble Store; the shop will fea-

ture an array of new and nearly-new merchandise for the holiday season. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Walnut Avenue, Cranford. Proceeds funds the charitable activities of the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield.

SUNDAY

DEC. 5

YOUTH CHOIR PERFORMANCE — a Hanukkah celebration featuring youngsters from three local Jewish congregations. 2:30 p.m. Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim, 338 Walnut Ave., Cranford. \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. (908) 276-9231.

'AMERICAN JUDAISM: A HISTORY' — a discussion by Jonathan Sarna, author of a book by the same name. Wilf Jewish Community Campus, 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. \$10. Registration recommended at (908) 889-8800, ext. 205.

TREE-LIGHTING — holiday day event sponsored by Union County 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Watchung Stable, 1160 Summit Lane, Mountainside. (908) 527-4900.

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS HOUSE TOUR — 15th annual event hosted by the Cranford Junior Women's Club. A self-guided tour featuring four homes and a hospitality house. Noon-4 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 on day of tour. Available at Cranford Corner at Crisanti Shoes, Jude, Uptown Peddler, The UPS Store, Serendipity and the Cranford library. (908) 276-7739 or (908) 272-4313.

COMING UP

'CONSUMER FRAUD: HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF' — a talk by David Biederman of the Division of Consumer Affairs. 7-8 p.m. Dec. 6. Westfield Area YMCA, 220 Clark St., Westfield. To register, call (908) 233-2700, ext. 251.

HOLIDAY CRAFT NIGHT — make a candy wreath at the Fanwood Memorial Library. 7:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 7. \$7.50. Registration is required; call (908) 322-8113.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM BUS TRIP — sponsored by the Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association. Bus departs Scotch Plains municipal building at 8:30 a.m. Dec. 7, returns 2:30 p.m. \$22 for the bus. Register by Nov. 30 at (908) 232-2631.

MID-DAY MUSICALES — program continues at The First Congregational Church of Westfield. Free, half-hour concert features soprano Meredith Hoffman-Thomson, accompanied by William Shadel, clarinet, and Barbara Thomson, piano. Noon Dec. 8. 125 Elmer St., Westfield. (908) 233-2494.

BABYSITTER'S TRAINING — a two-day class hosted by the Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross, for ages 11-15. Begins 5:30-9:30 p.m. Dec. 10, continues 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 10. Chapter house, 321 Elm St., Westfield. Pre-register at (908) 232-7090. Additional sessions held 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 18 and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec. 28-29.

MID-DAY MUSICALES — program continues at The First Congregational Church of Westfield. Free, half-hour concert features harpists Karen Lindquist and Andrew Tarantiles. Noon Dec. 15. 125 Elmer St., Westfield. (908) 233-2494.

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Community Life

Briefs

Scotch Plains police sponsor toy drive

SCOTCH PLAINS — The members of the Scotch Plains Policeman's Benevolent Association are kicking off their 10th annual Toys For Tots toy drive.

New toys and games are needed for this year's drive to be a success. All donations may be dropped off at the Scotch Plains Police Department, in the lobby where a special barrel has been placed. The cut-off date for donations will be Dec. 20 to allow for distribution for the holiday season.

For more information, call (908) 322-7100.

Willow Grove leads trip to Hunterdon Hills

SCOTCH PLAINS — Looking for a spirit-lifter for the December holidays? Consider joining Willow Groves and friends on Dec. 2 for the Christmas Show at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse.

The trip includes dinner and a program of traditional carols, classic and contemporary Yuletide compositions and dance numbers.

Carpools will depart at 10 a.m. from the parking lot of Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, and will return by 4:15 p.m. Transportation can be arranged for those needing a ride.

The cost is \$55 per person. To make reservations or for more detailed information, contact Mr. or Mrs. Paul Couphos at (908) 322-7892.

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church is located across the street from the Scotch Plains south side firehouse and near the corner of South Martine Avenue.

Westfield Scouts sell wreaths, grave blankets

WESTFIELD — Boy Scout Troop 77 of St. Paul's Church will be selling Christmas wreaths, roping, and special-order grave blankets this holiday season.

The sale will take place 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday and again Dec. 7 at St. Paul's Church on East Broad Street. Special orders can be placed by calling (908) 447-4880 any day before 9 p.m.

Make a candy wreath at the Fanwood library

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Memorial Library will host a holiday craft night 7:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 7. Participants will make a candy wreath. There is a materials fee of \$7.50; everyone will go home with a five-inch candy wreath to celebrate the season.

Registration is required and seating is limited. Call Nancy at the library at (908) 322-8113 for more information.

Blood drive upcoming at Red Cross building

WESTFIELD — The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross will be sponsoring a blood drive from 3-8 p.m. Wednesday. The drive will be held at the Chapter House, located at 321 Elm St.

There will be complimentary cholesterol screening for all who donate. Walk-ins are always welcomed. For more information contact the Westfield/Mountainside Chapter at (908) 232-7090 or go to the web site at www.westfieldmtside-redcross.org.

All donors must present signed or picture I.D. and know their Social Security number. Donors should also try to eat a meal before donating.

Overlook staff offer bone density screening

WESTFIELD — Representatives from Overlook Hospital will be at the Westfield Area YMCA from 10 a.m.-noon Wednesday for a bone density screening, offered especially for women over the age of 40 or those with a family history of osteoporosis.

The cost is \$12 per person, \$8 for those over 60 years of age. Make payment to AHS/Overlook Hospital. Payment must be made prior to the screening.

To schedule an appointment, call the YMCA at (908) 233-2700, ext. 251.



Youth from St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church recently slept out under the stars to raise awareness about the problem of homelessness.

Teens host Sleep-Out to help homeless

WESTFIELD — The sixth annual St. Helen's Youth Group Sleep-Out for the Homeless was recently held on the front lawn of the parish complex on Lambert's Mill Road with 45 teens and their adult chaperones from Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Scotch Plains and Westfield participating.

They slept out under the stars, simulating the everyday conditions of homeless people. The activity was undertaken to raise awareness in the youth and the congregation about the plight of local homeless people.

In addition to raising awareness, the program raised money as the teens went out into the public and found people who would sponsor them for every hour they spent out-

side in the elements. More than \$3,000 was collected and will be used to support the children at the Ozanam Catholic Charities Family Shelter in Edison.

Patti Gardner, youth minister, and members of the youth group visit the shelter every Tuesday in an effort to help the children with their homework as well as provide them with fun activities. St. Helen's has already purchased a basketball hoop and basketballs for the playground at the shelter as well as sneakers and new clothing for the children.

In continuing with St. Helen's devotion toward helping the homeless, the congregation hosts the homeless in the parish center three times a year. Marilyn Ryan,

director of St. Helen's Outreach Program, coordinates these events and recruits volunteers to cook and stay with the families overnight.

The youth group is now planning its annual Christmas party for all the families at the shelter. In the parish center, the teens of the parish make Christmas cookies and decorate stockings and Santa hats with the shelter children. They also have a sing-along and a visit from Old St. Nick himself.

Those who would like to help and have any children's books, toys, children's coats or clothes in good condition to donate to the homeless are encouraged to call Patti Gardner at (908) 233-8444, ext. 13.

Story helps organization raise \$50K in grants

By LAUREN TRAMOR
STAFF WRITER

Edith Coogan was pleased when she read the article in the Suburban News in August, and even more so when she read it again later that week in the Cranford Chronicle and Record-Press. She expected a few people to mention to her that they read the article, and hoped that a maybe few people would give a few dollars to her charity program after they read it.

What she didn't expect is the more than \$50,000 in grant money the article helped her secure for her project, Raphael's Life House in Elizabeth.

The article, written by Ellen Dooley, detailed the incredible amount of work and the immeasurable community support that Coogan and her friend and colleague Mary Orrico drew upon to re-open the house for homeless, pregnant women with nowhere else to go, after it had been closed due to financial considerations.

By the time the article was printed in the Aug. 19 Chronicle, a number of community members, tradesmen, and professionals had already conspired to make sure the re-opening got off the ground.

Thousands of hours and dollars had been poured into the building, and donations were already starting to flow in to keep the progress going. Coogan and Orrico maintained speaking schedules and wrote grant applications, assisted by Cranford resident Mildred Leonard.

What happened next was nothing short of inspirational.

As a long shot, Coogan enclosed Dooley's article in a grant application for the Alice C. Tyler Perpetual Trust, a foundation that funds programs designed to help children and the environment. This time, they made an exception.

"They give to children and the environment, but they don't usually give to women," Coogan said. "But because of the article and how it focused on the babies, we received \$40,000 from the fund." Coogan would not have even thought to apply for the funding had it not been for the urging of Cranford resident and Raphael's Life House fan John Miccio, who connected her to the trustees of the foundation.

At the same time, Cranford resident Patrick Walsh read the story and was equally touched. He had been determined to do something

for the charity when he heard Coogan speak at St. Michael's Church 10 years ago, but the topic remained on the back burner until he read about her again. The vice president of operations for Boston Scientific, a company that develops and manufactures minimally-invasive medical devices, Walsh arranged a \$10,000 grant and computer donations from the company through his firm's foundation.

Coogan was thrilled with the simultaneous announcements of the grant money, which will pay the salaries of a housekeeping manager and a service manager for the house.

She said she had been doubtful that the Tyler grant would come through, since she had been waiting months to hear from the organization. Besides, she thought, the fund issued grants to well-established institutions like Harvard, Yale, and the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, and high profile trustees like Sally Ride served on the board. Coogan didn't figure the Tyler fund would notice such a comparatively small enterprise like Raphael's Life House. And she hadn't even known about the money from Boston Scientific

before it arrived.

In the end, the wait was well worth it. And besides the big money, Coogan said that smaller donations have come filtering in through the mail at an increased rate since Dooley's article was printed. Ruth Gorringer, a Florida resident for the past 20 years who still gets The Chronicle delivered to her home in the Sunshine State, sent a check for \$100. Six new volunteers signed on, and a Westfield resident donated a brand new set of china and crystal for the house's upcoming auction.

"We have a lot to be thankful for," Coogan remarked. But she made clear that gratefulness won't settle into complacency.

Next on the Raphael's Life House agenda is an open house on Dec. 12, where the staff will be dedicating a play room to Ann Keenan, a long time volunteer who died last June. They will also host an auction on Feb. 5 in conjunction with St. Michael's Church.

For more information about Raphael's Life House, located at 231 Court St. in Elizabeth, call (908) 354-4750 or contact Covenant House NJ at (973) 621-8705. Or, visit their web site at www.raphaelslifehouse.org.

Westfield Rotary names 3 award winners

WESTFIELD — Vocational Service is the banner by which Rotarians "recognize the worthiness of all useful occupations" and demonstrate a commitment to "high ethical standards in all businesses and professions."

Each Rotarian seeks to make a valuable contribution to a better society through their daily activities in a business or profession.

To make that commitment clear, the Westfield Rotary Club recently handed out its Vocational Service Awards, which recognize community leaders who act with integrity and social responsibility in their professional and volunteer activities.

The Westfield Rotary Vocational Service Awards aim to recognize the dignity of employment and volunteer involvement by honoring the service of individuals in their vocations, professions, businesses and volunteer commitment in the community.

The Emerson Thomas Award is presented to an individual who is a member of the club and works in Westfield. This year the recipient is Ted Schlosberg, founder and executive director of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts. Schlosberg has been involved with music education since 1960 and continues to bring music into the lives of local residents through the programs of the NJWA, which has been located in Westfield since 1972.

The Jim Coventry Award is presented to an individual who lives or works in Westfield. This year the recipient is Joe Spector, owner of the Leader Store in Westfield. Spector has long been involved with the family retail business, established over 50 years ago, and also in numerous local community organizations that promote the downtown business district.

The Volunteer Award is presented to an individual who lives or works in Westfield and demonstrates an outstanding volunteer commitment to the community. This year the recipient is Gregory Ryan Jr., a Westfield High School senior responsible for the construction of a playground at the Memorial Pool field designed to be accessible to all children, especially the handicapped.

The public is invited to come to the weekly meetings of the Rotary Club to enjoy a \$12 lunch and the friendship of club members in addition to a wide range of provocative program presentations. All club meetings are held on the second floor at the Westfield Y at 220 Clark St. at noon Tuesdays.

For a Scotch Plains sports junkie, Friday was a tough night

By DAVID LAZARUS
CORRESPONDENT

In the twilight of one of the shortest days of the year, there was a bright glow to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School parking lot in the late afternoon on the last Friday before Thanksgiving.

It not came not from the fleet of school buses on hand but from the unbridled enthusiasm of students, parents and Raider fans who were preparing to split off in two directions — some to the north for a game on the gridiron, others to the south for a soccer duel — to watch two Scotch Plains teams in search of playoff glory. Young boys in their PAL football jerseys played catch with each other while giggling girls in their soccer jerseys gabbed on their cell phones, waiting for the buses to leave.

It was an impressive showing of school pride and spirit, but for many local residents it was also a difficult choice. Although this writer would have rather watched the soccer team complete its incredible season against Wall at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, I chose the football game at West Morris Central, because I was helping to load the band equipment

and also my daughter performs in color guard. Another Scotch Plains parent had a choice between watching his son play the same tunes in the band he had heard dozens of times or seeing his nephew play soccer. After some prodding from his wife, he opted for the band.

Earlier in the season it had appeared very likely that this would be a night free from Raider athletics. The football team struggled and barely squeaked into the playoffs. Decided underdogs at second-seeded Warren Hills, the Raiders exploded with their best performance of the season to score a stunning 21-0 victory. The soccer team started 1-2, but caught fire and won 17 straight games, including a 1-0 victory on what was essentially Ramapo's home field in the semi-finals Nov. 15.

There was a good amount of history surrounding both match-ups. The Raiders soccer squad had twice beaten Wall in the state finals and had already taken care of Wall neighbor Middletown South in the sectional finals the week before. But the football team had never beaten West Morris, losing all three playoff games between the two schools.

Supporters of only one other high

school in the state had the dilemma Friday night — ironically enough, it was the Raiders' soccer opponent in the Group III title game. The Raiders games would start an hour apart, with the soccer game starting at 6 p.m. Everyone, it seemed, had somebody who would provide updates.

The team and band arrived at a virtually empty West Morris football stadium at 5:30. It would eventually fill up, but rush hour traffic would keep the Raider fan buses from arriving until right about game time. Down at Ewing, the fan bus was fighting similar traffic.

As we got ready to watch the start of the game, my cell phone rang and the shocking news from Ewing arrived. Not only were the Raiders trailing at half-time, they had yielded two goals, as many as they had given in up in the past 17 games. Not to worry, the caller said, we were down at West Orange 2-1 and came back with three unanswered goals. I spread the news to the Raider fans, some of who knew already; there were looks of shock on some faces, but most firmly believed that the soccer team would prevail.

The start of the football game did nothing to pick up our spirits as West Morris ran the first play from scrimmage 85 yards for a quick 7-0 lead.

Scotch Plains would respond, marching smartly down the field on a time-consuming drive to tie the score. We were hoping that it was a good omen for our soccer brethren 50 miles to the south. I kept looking at the cell phone wondering when the happy news of a Group III championship would arrive. As the clock ticked to 7:40, I could wait no longer.

"One hundred Scotch Plains fans are breathlessly waiting for an update," I said, as the band noise at the stadium and the crowd on the other end made the connection barely audible. "Please tell me 3-2 Raiders."

Through the phone came the news: "I can barely hear you, but it's 4-1." Bad news spreads quickly; in minutes everyone knew that it was up to the football team to save the night. But the first half ended badly as West Morris added a third touchdown in the final thirty seconds of the second quarter to take an imposing 21-7 lead. The Raiders fought hard to the very end, cutting a 28-7 margin to a touchdown, but their last chance at recovering an onside kick failed.

As they had done an hour before in Ewing, the Scotch Plains faithful piled into the buses for an unhappy ride home — already dreaming of next year.

Pooh Christmas Carol comes to the CDC stage

The Cranford Dramatic Club brings the musical show *A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Carol* to its stage for its annual Children's Theatre the weekend of Dec. 10-12.

Kids of all ages can see their favorite Pooh bear act out the parts of the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future as he visits Rabbincezer Scrooge and takes him on a journey that changes him forever.

Along the way the audience meets Jacob Meeyorley, Tigger Cratchet, Kanga Cratchet, Piggy Tim, and Owl Fezziwig as they help Rabbincezer learn the true meaning of the holidays.

Sandi Pells and Mike Marcus, both long-time CDC members, direct the production. The musical director is Paul Farinella, who wrote the music and lyrics for the show. Elizabeth Howard and Art Kusiv are producers.

Performances are 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10; 1:30, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 11; and 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Dec. 12.

Tickets are \$8 for all ages and can be reserved at (908) 276-7611 or at www.cdtheatre.org, and are general admission. Tickets will also be available at the door. The theater is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford, off Centennial Avenue.

Arts Association hosts trip to Metropolitan

The Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association will sponsor a bus trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on Dec. 7.

On view will be "China: Dawn of a Golden Age, 200-750 AD," with more than 300 rare and important works, many never seen outside of China; "Princely Splendor: The Dresden Court, 1580-1620," and "Colonial Andes Tapestry and Silverwork, 1530-1830." The traditional museum Christmas tree and crèche will be on display.

The bus departs at 8:30 a.m. from the Scotch Plains municipal building parking lot and will leave the museum at 2:30 p.m. The cost of the trip is \$22 for the bus only.

Call (908) 232-2631 for reservations by Nov. 30.

Metro Rhythm Chorus to perform in Cranford

The Metro Rhythm Chorus will present "Your Community Holiday Show," an a cappella concert, 4 p.m. Sunday at Bates Hall, First Presbyterian Church, corner of Springfield and Union Avenues, Cranford.

Briefs

Tickets are available in advance for \$5; at the door, the cost is \$6. Complimentary refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Ruth Ruediger at (908) 638-6661 or leonardandruth@hotmail.com or Sara Peterson at (908) 735-6170.

Mid-Day Musicales resume in Westfield

The First Congregational Church of Westfield announces the resumption of their acclaimed Mid-Day Musicales concert series for their 21st season. These free, half-hour noon concerts present professional musicians from the tri-state area and beyond in classical, jazz, and world-music performances.

The upcoming concerts are: Dec. 1, Duo Fresca, consisting of Brett Deubner, viola; and Christopher Kenniff, guitar; Dec. 8, Meredith Hoffmann-Thomson, soprano; William Shadel, clarinet; and Barbara Thomson, piano; and Dec. 15, Karen Lindquist and Andre Tarantiles, duo-harpists.

Each concert is followed by a soup and sandwich luncheon available in the church's social hall for \$5. The First Congregational Church is located at 125 Elmer St. in Westfield. Call (908) 233-2494 for further information.

Chansonettes prepare for holiday concerts

The Chansonettes are busy rehearsing for the upcoming holiday program. The theme for the season is "FaLaLa Holiday." Some music selections are "A Merry Madrigal," "The Snow Carol," and "Hanukkah Nagilah."

The concert tour will begin at St. John Vianney on Dec. 2 and continue at Westfield Senior Housing on Dec. 8, Runnells Specialized Hospital on Dec. 15 and St. Paul's Church in Garwood, on Dec. 16.

The Chansonettes are a women's choral group comprised of women who love to sing. Anyone interested in joining or booking a performance for the spring concert may contact Nancy Lau at (908) 654-5130 or Jane Walsweer at (908) 232-4531.

The group meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church on Mountain Ave. in Westfield. The director of the group is Jean Schork and the accompanist is Mel Freda.



It's a Wonderful Life cast members Liz Zazzi and Gary Glor.

Theater Project ready to host a Wonderful show

The Theater Project at Union County College will present *It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play* at 3 p.m. Dec. 5. The suggested donation for adults is \$10; kids' tickets are free. For optional reservations, call (908) 659-5189.

The cast will recreate the Lux Radio Theater circa 1947, and the audience may enjoy all the laughs and thrills as 12 actors, a musician and one extremely overworked sound technician prepare for the broadcast of the story made famous in the Frank Capra film.

"So much of what we do is adult-oriented," said Theater Project Artistic Director Mark Spina, "and we wanted to do something the whole family could enjoy for the holidays. It's a 'thank you' to our patrons for their support over the last 10 years."

The Theater Project is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2004.

It's a Wonderful Life brings together many of the professional actors who regularly appear with The Theater Project, such as Gary Glor, Rick Delaney and Daaimah Talley.

Wonderful Life's director Liz Zazzi has been named one of New Jersey's outstanding actors; she has acted and directed with most of the state's professional companies.

The Theater Project is housed at Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

Pianist Kwon to lead Dvorak show at WAC

Internationally known concert pianist and Rutgers professor Min Kwon will host a recital celebrating the life and music of America's most illustrious "adopted" composer in a Dvorak Centennial Concert at the Watchung Arts Center at 4 p.m. Dec. 5.

The concert will feature performances by Kwon and 12 gifted artists from the graduate program in piano performance at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. The program has been especially created for the intimate atmosphere of the Watchung Arts Center from the "All Dvorak Piano Music Marathon" to be held at Rutgers on Dec. 3.

Featuring some of Dvorak's best-known work as well as many lesser-known jewels of the piano repertoire, the show will treat audience members to an afternoon musical salon, with illuminating commentary by Kwon.

The program features selections from the Humoresques, Op. 101 and the Slavonic Dances, Op. 46 and 72. The Humoresques include one of the most familiar melodies in all of classical music as well as unsung treasures for solo piano. Widely known in their arrangement for orchestra, the showy Slavonic Dances were originally written for one piano, four hands and are among the most famous in the entire piano duet repertoire.

Kwon has appeared in recitals and concerts all over the world and has played with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Fort Worth, Atlanta and North Carolina Symphonies. She has won top prizes in a variety of U.S. and international competitions including the Julliard's Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition. A graduate of the Curtis Institute and the Julliard School, she is an assistant professor of piano at Rutgers University.

Kwon is joined in this concert



MIN KWON

Featuring some of Dvorak's best-known work as well as many lesser-known jewels of the piano repertoire, the show will treat audience members to an afternoon musical salon.

by a dozen talented young pianists from around the world. Attracted to Rutgers because of the first-rate program in piano performance the students, most of them candidates for the doctoral degree, come from Greece, the Ukraine, Bulgaria, Croatia, China, Korea and Taiwan.

The audience is invited to meet the performers at a post-performance reception.

General admission to the concert is \$15, \$8 for students.

The Watchung Arts Center is located at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung, on the Watchung Circle just off I-78, Exit 40. For more information, call the center at (908) 753-0190 or visit their website at www.watchungarts.org.

Holiday show takes a new look at Christmas tale

Is the meaning of the holidays getting lost in the hustle and bustle of the season? Try to get to Scotch Plains for Torn Curtain Productions dramatic Christmas musical, "Two From Galilee" which takes the stage Dec. 10 and 11 and again Dec. 16 and 17 at Evangel Church.

Written by Robert Sterling and Karla Worley from a novel by Marjorie Holmes, the musical uses drama, humor and music to convey the story of Jesus' birth and the love story of Mary and Joseph.

"The play takes some literary license in depicting Mary and Joseph prior to their union and tries to portray their human qualities, their relationship with their parents and future in-laws," said director Bob Olsen, a Westfield resident who has directed Torn Curtain Productions for the past 14 years. "The musical has a Romeo and Juliet twist — both families oppose the relationship and try to arrange other marriage partners for their children, but as we watch each character's situation unfold, and in faith accept their place in this story ... we see clearly ... that it's our story, too."

One of the principal actors is Kristina Geneva, a student in New York City at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy,

who plays the part of Mary. Genova noted that today an out-of-wedlock pregnancy is not considered very shameful, but back then it was horrendous.

She said, "Through the musical you see what a strong woman Mary had to have been — even with the promise of the angel. Mary, like us, was flawed, but God chose her because she was willing. She truly relied on God for inner strength."

Marc Perrella of Plainfield plays Joseph. "I've always felt that Joseph was one person in the Christmas story who didn't get enough credit," said Perrella, a long time participant in Torn Curtain productions. "He was a real man of faith. He fit into God's plan and did what God asked him to do."

According to the Bible, Joseph and Mary were pledged to be married when the news of her pregnancy led Joseph to decide to quietly end the betrothal. "It's unthinkable now, but according to Jewish law at that time, she could have been stoned," Perrella noted, adding that when, according to Christian teachings, the angel appeared to Joseph and told him of God's plan that the child Mary carried would be the Messiah, Joseph's faith was built up.

"The musical is funny, with some comic relief provided by the three Magi and their entourage. It's also very moving, very human and is a great way to get into the real spirit of Christmas," said co-director Andrea Saladino of Clark.

"The entire production is made up from the volunteers of many area churches," added Maureen Corrao the artistic director. "The cast, chorus, crew and tech staff total close to one hundred and took three months preparing this production as a gift to our community."

Supporting Genova and Perrella are Synnove Reilly of Berkley Heights and Al Carmon of South Plainfield. Liz Leadenham of Colonia, who is the wardrobe designer, and Bob Olsen round out the principal cast as the parents of Mary and Joseph.

There is no admission cost and a Thursday night performance has been added to accommodate people who wouldn't otherwise make it because of their busy week-ends.

All performances begin at 7:30 p.m., with the doors opening at 6:45 p.m.

For more information call 908-322-9300 or visit www.evangelchurch.com. Evangel Church is located at 1251 Terrill Rd.

Kean University offers a pair of holiday concerts

Dr. Mark Terenzi, chairman of the Kean University Department of Music, will lead the University Concert Choir and Chorale in a Winter Choir Concert at 3 p.m. Dec. 5 in Downs Hall located at 1000 Morris Ave., in Union. Admission is free. The venue has been changed from Wilkins Theatre.

The concert will include a professional orchestra with affiliate artist Victoria Stewart as

concertmaster.

"They will perform four movements from Mozart's powerful *Requiem* — *Die Irae*, *Rex tremendae*, *Confutatis* and *Lacrymosa*," Terenzi said. "The great opera composer treats this text dramatically, as the basses, tenors, trumpets and trombones invoke a sense of terror with the thunderous *Confutatis maledictis* while the sopranos, altos and violins answer just as fervently with the sublime *Voca me cum benedictis*."

In addition, a setting of Psalm 117 by Telemann for choir and strings; seasonal works in Spanish, Yiddish, and Olde English with Kean affiliate artists James Musto, marimba,

and Christopher Kenniff, guitar, and soloists Stephanie Crawford, Leo Campos, Kristen Catena, James Morris, Amelia Singh, MaryGrace Scaturro, Terron Singletary, Joel Tomko, and Jennifer Vaughn, will be on the program, as will a Bach *Concerto* with pianists Marlenes Luvin and Daniela Suarez.

In another show, the Kean University Concert Band, under the direction of Dr. Thomas Connors, assistant professor of music at Kean, will perform a concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 7 in Wilkins Theatre, also located at 1000 Morris Ave.

The band will perform contemporary and traditional works for band by composers Gustav

Holst, Percy Grainger, Ronald LoPresti, and others, and is free to the public. The concert will not take place on Dec. 15 as originally stated in the Performing Arts brochure.

In addition to his duties as an assistant professor of music at Kean, Connors has been appointed chairman of the collegiate division of the New Jersey Music Educators Association. His responsibilities include coordinating several annual events with music education majors from 10 different colleges and universities in New Jersey and serving as liaison to the NJMEA.

He is also serving as New Jersey state chairman for the John Lennon National Scholarship for Young Popular Music Composers. The three national winners of the competition will receive scholarship gifts of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 from BMI.

Earlier this year, Connors was appointed music director and conductor of the Westfield Community Wind Band. The band is composed of 75 local professional and semi-professional musicians, many of whom are music educators in the area. The band performs throughout the year and is best known for its summer concert series in Westfield.

For more information about either show, call the Wilkins Theater Box Office at (908) 737-7469.

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Holiday Gift Guide

Enrollment is open at Nazzaro Studio

WESTFIELD — Winter enrollment is open at the Paul Nazzaro Music Studio. The beginning of the calendar year is an opportunity to begin musical development along with academic, athletic, and other activities.

Students are of all ages, grade school through adults, with special features for every age and ability. There is also a special adult student program.

The piano studio helps to develop a wide variety of styles and sounds, from Bach and jazz to popular and Broadway. Private lessons are scheduled once a week for 30, 45, and 60 minute lessons.

Teaching is personalized and has many lasting effects, such as instilling a love for music, developing an understanding of the piano, and building an enhanced sense of self-confidence, self-reliance, and self-respect. Special care is taken to ensure musical selections are enjoyable and something new is learned with each selection.

Students looking to transfer to a new teacher do especially well at this studio with the exciting aspects of the studio's technology, personalized attention to the student's musical goals, and the resources of an experienced teaching staff.

A unique aspect of this music studio is the music technology involved. In addition to traditional piano lessons on an acoustic piano, the studio incorporates digital pianos, computers, and MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) into each student's lesson to enhance understanding, creativity, and skills. Students can learn music composition, play back and save their original pieces, and are able to take home printed copies of their songs.

Every student gets their own CD of music they record during the year, as well as having their pieces online on the internet for friends and family to enjoy anywhere, anytime. Students digitally record pieces they have completed and take home CDs and digital cassette tapes of their recordings, and the online recordings are MIDI files that can be listened to and downloaded on any computer and emailed to friends and family around the world.

The studio is the only music school in the region that offers hands-on professional digital recording and computer music composition along with the traditional piano lessons.

Several holiday-related performance parties are scheduled throughout the year to enable the children to showcase their musical growth. Each parent is invited to hear their children perform at one of the recitals in the spring, which are short and festive. The atmosphere is casual with a sense of respect for each performer. Adult students have their own musical wine and cheese parties throughout the year.

The studio also offers a newsletter called *The Soundboard*, personal parent-teacher-student relationships, and a friendly atmosphere. Beginners through the advanced student have much to gain in beginning lessons at this studio at any stage of their musical education.

For an informal get-together or a free information packet call (908) 232-3310 or email Paul@NazzaroMusic.com. Much more information is also available online at the studio website, www.NazzaroMusic.com.



Santa will once again be visiting the Jumble Store's Holiday Boutique on Dec. 4. Last year, he talked shop with Marge Szymona of Cranford and Colleen Echausse of Westfield, both members of the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield.

Jumble Store opens its doors for holiday season

CRANFORD — Looking to avoid the malls but still find great bargains this Thanksgiving weekend? Check out the Jumble Store, located at 110 Walnut Ave. in Cranford, which will be open this Friday and Saturday. The store is stocked full of unique household items, giftware, jewelry, toys and clothing for the entire family.

The Jumble Store will then hold its annual Holiday Boutique from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 4. This popular event features an array of new and nearly-new merchandise, including holiday decorations, seasonal items, unique giftware, jewelry, toys and clothing for the entire family. Light refreshments will be available too.

For the young and young-at-heart, Santa Claus will be making a special appearance during the boutique. Polaroid pictures with Santa will be available for a small donation.

The Jumble Store is a thrift and consignment shop wholly owned and operated by the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield. Profits help fund JLEP's many charitable projects.

Regular hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. (Thursday until 8 p.m.) and Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Donations are always welcomed and are tax-deductible.

The Jumble Store is also collecting supplies for troops deployed in Iraq. Toiletries, snacks and personal items are very much appreciated.

Suggested items include microwavable foods and snacks, breakfast bars, nuts, gum, sunscreen, lip balm, lotion, foot powder, and antibacterial wipes.

Donations can be dropped off any time during regular store hours. Collected items will be distributed to troops stationed with the National Guard's 250th Signal Battalion, based out of the Westfield Armory.

Store offers help with decorating for holidays

GARWOOD — Crafty Kitchen, Ben Franklin Crafts is a local independent craft shop that aims to treat its customers with helpful, courteous service. Rich and Alice Lefebvre have been in business for 35 years helping students, teachers, scout leaders and everyone else with their ideas and projects.

As the holidays approach, the staff can help local residents get homes ready for the holidays. Those looking to decorate a home can check out the stencil selection and learn how to work with stencils.

Wreaths, garlands, alpine trees, ornaments and ribbons are also for sale to add a welcoming touch.

Shoppers can also make their own holiday cards with stamps,

beautiful papers and a wide array of accessories. The store's Memory Department will help shoppers preserve those precious moments with family and friends, and jewelry selection has been expanded.

There are opportunities to take a class, learn something new or just have a night out. Children love to use their imagination by creating their own gifts.

The store also offers a \$1 Department which can make for creative stocking stuffers.

Crafty Kitchen is located at 477 North Ave. For more information, call (908) 789-0217.

Parker Gardens has wide selection of choices for holiday celebrations

SCOTCH PLAINS — In addition to its offerings for during the spring and summer growing seasons, Parker Gardens, the 14-acre garden center, features a wealth of premium cut and live Christmas trees and other festive assortments for the holiday season.

"Every year, more and more homeowners discover our expansive and unique Holiday Season merchandise," said Steven Parker, owner of Parker Gardens. "We've made a commitment to our customers to offer only the absolute best and longest lasting varieties of Christmas trees, as well as uniquely crafted garlands, wreaths, grave blankets and other Holiday season accessories," he said.

In addition to those items, Parker explained, the center also offers thousands of poinsettias in all colors, including the new burgundy, strawberries & cream, holly point, plum pudding and others.

"We have always prided ourselves on providing our customers with the most unique and unusual assortments along with useful ideas during the gardening season," Parker said. "We are simply carrying over that

same philosophy to the holiday season."

Those distinctive ideas, he said, include custom decorating and entertaining concepts that are impressive, inexpensive and easy for homeowners to accomplish.

"It's amazing what can be done with plants and flowers, for instance, just by adding a ribbon here or a berry there," Parker said. He noted that the Parker Gardens staff can provide inspiration to homeowners for custom-decorating the Thanksgiving table, for example.

"We invite customers to not only browse through our wide selection of Christmas trees, but also to check out the many holiday home decorating possibilities."

ties that our staff would be happy to explain," said Parker.

He added that the center would be hosting its annual Holiday Open House on Dec. 4 and 5, kicking off the season with decorations, refreshments and kids' crafts.

Customers are encouraged to bring cameras to take advantage of several scenic backdrops that will be set up for family holiday portraits.

Parker Gardens is located at 1325 Terrill Rd. and is open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information and holiday hours, call (908) 322-5555 and press 5 for directions and 6 for special events.

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Open house planned for Stars camp

CRANFORD — Aspiring performers can participate in a free dance and drama workshop, hear about programs for the summer of 2005 and meet staff and counselors at the Stars of Tomorrow open house, which will held 6:30-8 p.m. Jan. 16, 2005 at the Cranford United Methodist Church, corner of Walnut and Lincoln avenues.

Stars of Tomorrow is a summer theater program for campers from age 3 through high school. It offers intensive theater arts with an emphasis on the creative process and group experience in a warm, supportive, and fun environment.

Campers experience all aspects of theatre including auditioning techniques, musical theatre, scenic design, make-up, and much more. There will be weekly workshops, special guest artists, and a musical revue at the end of camp.

Each department and program is headed by a professional in his or her respective field and supported by a talented staff of counselors who possess experience teaching youngsters of different age levels.

Stars of Tomorrow is under the direction of Cindy Smith, owner of the Cindy Smith Dance Studio and founder of the Cranford Repertory Theatre. Smith realized the need for a special and intimate Performing Arts Camp where professionalism is taught and team players are a necessity to the creative process.

The Theater Tots Program is a four-week summer performing arts program for 3 and 4 year olds. Classes are held twice a week for two hours each day beginning the week of June 27. The Theater Tots Program introduces the camper to theater through dance, singing, and drama. Classes will follow a weekly theme. This program will prepare the young performer for the Stars of Tomorrow Juniors Program. Theater Tots must be 3 years of age by June 1, 2005, and must be toilet trained (no pull-ups).

The Juniors Morning Program, also known as the Half Day Program, is from 9 a.m.-noon, Monday through Friday from June 27-July 28. Students entering kindergarten through second grade will experience fun through dance (tap, jazz, ballet), improvisation and music. The junior morning campers will participate in the musical revue.

The Juniors Afternoon Program, also known as the Half Day Afternoon Program, is from 12:45-3:30 p.m. Monday to Friday from June 27-July 22. Junior campers participating in the morning session now have the option to remain for an afternoon session of dance, improv, games, and crafts. This program is also open to participants who would like to register on a weekly basis. Weekly registration options and tuition prices are listed on the camp registration form.

The Full Day Program is from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday to Friday from June 23-July 28. A special cast party is scheduled for Friday, July 29, 2005. Students entering Grades 3-12 in the fall will be taught classes in dance, improvisation, and voice. The curriculum also consists of musical theatre and choreography rehearsals for the musical revue, monologue classes, and a special electives program which enables campers to choose classes in dance, voice, acting and musical theatre.

A Two-Week Session is for campers entering grades three through high school in the fall. This program is geared to the camper who is unable to complete the five-week program due to other commitments. This session includes classes in dance, voice, and improvisation. Showcase rehearsals and weekly elective classes are also part of the curriculum. The program dates are June 23-July 8 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

An Encore Program will be held at the Cindy Smith Dance Studio in Garwood 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Aug. 1-12. Campers from third grade through high school will have daily classes in dance, voice, and acting. Classes are subject to change; additional information will be available in late spring. A minimum of 10 campers per week is required in order to hold a program. The program only accepts 20 campers.

A Weekly Elective Program enables the full-day and two-week session campers to explore new areas of theatre, excel in areas he/she is familiar with, and have fun in classes unavailable to them outside of camp. Elective classes are geared towards certain age groups due to their level of difficulty.

For additional information, visit www.StarsOfTomorrow.com or call (908) 276-5053.



Church welcomes new members

First United Methodist Church (FUMC) of Scotch Plains recently recognized members of their 2004 confirmation class. Five junior high and high school students completed the series of classes which began in the spring of 2004 and were confirmed Oct. 24. In addition, four individuals from the communities of Plainfield and Scotch Plains joined FUMC and were welcomed as new members. FUMC holds church school activities, at 9:15 a.m. and worship service follows at 10:30 a.m. Child care is available during morning worship services. In addition, FUMC supports the Chinese language ministry programs, which include a worship service and English as a Second Language classes, both held on Sunday afternoons. First United Methodist Church is located at 1171 Terrill Rd. in Scotch Plains. For more, call (908) 322-9222 or visit www.scotchplains.com/fumc.

Hunnicut to address behavioral support

WESTFIELD — When serious behavior problems get in the way of learning for a child in school, Positive Behavior Support is a response that is clearly spelled out in federal and state law.

Instead of blaming the child or parents, Positive Behavioral Support studies what the behavior means to the child and addresses the behavior with a specific plan incorporating long-term strategies for

successful outcomes.

County parents are invited to attend a discussion of Positive Behavioral Supports presented by Alice Hunnicutt at the Family Support Organization (FSO) of Union County, 137 Elmer St. in Westfield, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 2. Hunnicutt is a Westfield parent and staff member of the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN).

The FSO supports Union County families who are raising a child with special emotional or behavioral needs by offering support groups, educational forums, and "warm-line" phone assistance at (908) 789-7625.

The event is offered free of charge, but reservations are suggested. To register, be placed on a mailing list for future events, or for further information, call Gail or Kathy at (908) 789-7625.

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Casabella, Classic Thyme are now under one roof

WESTFIELD — Two of the town's retail stores can now be found under one roof, offering customers one-stop shopping for cookware, culinary instruction, kitchen accessories, tabletop ceramics and distinctive gifts, right in the heart of downtown Westfield.

Classic Thyme, which is Westfield's only professional cooking school and full service culinary resource center, has become the new home of Casabella's colorful line of hand-crafted imported ceramics. The shop, located at the intersection of E. Broad and Elm Streets, has undergone a complete renovation that accentuates the Mediterranean stylings of Casabella's line of hand-painted artisan items.

To kick off the holiday retail season, the two will be teaming up for their first joint sales promotion, which will run from Nov. 27 through Dec. 4. During this time, the store will be offering discounts and store specials on many items in their inventory.

In addition, customers who make a purchase or register for a

cooking class will be eligible to win a dinner party for 12, fully catered by Classic Thyme, with their choice of menu selections.

Classic Thyme, under the ownership of French Culinary Institute graduate David P. Martone, stocks an expansive line of fine retail products for both amateur and professional chefs. The store carries top-shelf brand names including Viking cookware, cutlery and appliances, Wusthof-Trident cutlery, All-Clad cookware, Cuisinart, OXO Good Grips tools and Emile Henry French bakeware.

Casabella has been a direct importer of handcrafted Italian ceramics, produced primarily in the neighboring regions of Tuscany and Umbria, since 1998. The company's inventory is comprised of serving pieces and decorative articles in a wide variety of shapes and patterns, and now includes pieces made in Portugal, France, Spain and Mexico, in addition to Italy. Casabella has occupied two other retail spaces Westfield in the past five years, but is a newcomer to the town's thriving downtown scene.



Rotary inducts two new members

Rotary District Governor Frieda Applegate (third from right) inducted new members Christina Ehret, second from right and Nicholas Martin, second from left, into the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club recently. Present for the ceremony are their sponsors, Tonya Williams, left and Neil Schembre, right. Martin is the market manager for the PNC Bank for both the Fanwood and Scotch Plains offices. He and his wife, Daisey, have a son, Noah. Ehret works for the Sun Quest Funding as a mortgage banker in Cranford and is responsible for the Union County area. Ehret lives in Fanwood with her husband, Joseph. The Rotary Club meets every Wednesday at Snuffy's Pizzeria in Scotch Plains. Businesspeople interested in joining should Dr. Dick Dobyns at (908) 322-5966.

'Hanging of the Greens' at church

WESTFIELD — The First Baptist Church of Westfield, located at 170 Elm St., will hold its annual "Hanging of the Greens" after worship at noon Sunday.

The church will be decorated with a unique flair. A nativity scene with free-standing characters designed by graphic artist and church member Art Taylor fills the front of the sanctuary, watched over by colorful angels patterned on Michaelangelo's.

Candlesticks, bows, and greenery will adorn the pews of the sanctuary, while banners and live Christmas trees mark the entry doors.

The decorations provide a backdrop for Carols in the Round, offered 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4 and 5, by the high school voices of the Westfield Choral, directed by William Mathews.

The concerts sell out very quickly each year. Contact the church office at (908) 233-2278 for tickets.

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Celebrating the dedication of the Nursing Administration Suite were, from left, Tony Scutari, director of custodial maintenance at Runnells; Ray Rapuano, bureau chief of trades; Larry Dinardo, building superintendent; Joseph W. Sharp, administrator; and Susan Palma, administrative director of nursing.

Runnells staff moves into new home

The Nursing Administrative staff at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County recently moved to their new offices after making the auditorium their temporary home.

"Joe Sharp said that this was the best and fastest makeover he's ever seen," said Union

County Freeholder Chairman Angel G. Estrada. "He was told that these offices looked like one of the makeovers from TV. I'd like to applaud Tony Scutari, Ray Rapuano and Larry Dinardo, as well as their entire staff from Runnells' Maintenance Division. They did

an outstanding job.

"Also my best wishes to the nursing employees for a happy and productive future at Runnells in their new offices."

The hospital is located at 40 Watchung Way, Berkeley Heights. Among nursing facilities, the Nursing Care unit for long and short stays is unique in that it is staffed 24-hours-a-day by physicians, including geriatric internists, and professional nurses. The hospital can be reached by calling (908) 771-5700.

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Older Americans must take steps to protect credit rating

(NAPSI) — The majority of older Americans have excellent credit histories, which makes understanding ways to protect your "golden" credit record more important than ever.

Americans 55 and older control 70 percent of the country's personal wealth and are the fastest growing group of new Internet users. Unfortunately, this group also accounts for 80 percent of the fraud complaints logged by the Federal Trade Commission.

The umbrella group Your Credit Card Companies urges older Americans to take some simple steps to better understand their credit picture, protect themselves from identity theft and credit card fraud, and practice online safety.

Here are some tips on protecting yourself from theft, fraud and cybercriminals:

- Never give personal information to a stranger, especially your Social Security number, birth date, bank account number, credit card number or address. Identity thieves can use this information to make purchases in your name.
- Reject offers from companies that require you to pay an up-front fee to get approved for a credit card.
- If you receive a credit offer you think seems

questionable from unsolicited mail or a telemarketer, check with your local Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org or the National Consumers League's National Fraud Information Center at www.fraud.org.

— Be alert for scammers e-mailing you and asking you to "update" private information. Requests for personal information such as a user ID, account number or password are usually fake. Legitimate companies do not request this type of information by e-mail.

— Create passwords that are easy to remember but difficult to guess. Mix letters and numbers and avoid using birthdays and Social Security numbers. Use a different password for financial-services Web sites and transactions than for other accounts.

— If you think you've been scammed, immediately contact your financial institution and alert any of the three credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit report. You should also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission and contact local law enforcement to alert them of the possible crime.

For more information on protecting your credit, visit www.YourCreditCardCompanies.com.

In-home assistance can be solution for the troubles of senior citizens

(ARA) — Many families face the dilemma of caring for loved ones having trouble maintaining their own home and lifestyle while still trying to meet the needs of their own immediate families and

households. While they may not need the full care of a nursing home, simple every day tasks can be a challenge for the elderly, whether it's housekeeping, running errands, remembering to take medicine and performing personal hygiene.

In-home living assistance services may be the answer. This service pairs seniors with caregivers who can cook, clean, drive clients to appointments and other day-to-day tasks. The prospect of finding a trusted person can be intimidating, however. Often, in-home care follows a fall or a hospital stay when help must be found immediately.

Many people are unaware how inexpensive in-home care can be when compared to institutional facilities, though it's important to note that Medicare generally does not pay for this type of service. Many care providers have varying levels of service to fit each client's need and budget. Some seniors may find enormous benefit in twice a week visits for general cleaning and appointments, while others may want someone there each day to assist with mobility and personal hygiene.

Sue Heinle of York, Pa. is the owner of a Visiting Angels Living Assistance Services franchise, an in-home caregiver provider to seniors across the United States and Canada. She adheres to a strict three-step interview process with all employees, including a criminal background check, to ensure the

highest standard for client care. Heinle believes that the best way to ensure a good match between senior and aide is to ask for ongoing feedback.

"We like to follow up with our seniors within 24 hours of an aide visiting the home," says Heinle. "Then we continue to ask for feedback on a weekly basis to make sure everything is running smoothly and the client is feeling comfortable and getting the service they need."

Heinle recommends that seniors and their families gather as much information as possible before agreeing to an in-home living assistance service, especially if family members live out of the area.

Aside from questions about cost and scheduling, Heinle recommends asking the following:

— What is the aide's background? Do they have experience working with seniors? Do they have references?

— What happens after hours? Is there someone available by phone should an emergency or question arise after 5 p.m.?

— If the aide is employed by an agency, how can you get in touch with the owners? Are they local? How long have they been in business?

— What happens if a caregiver is sick or cannot make a home visit on the scheduled day? What sort of back-up system is in place to ensure the client's needs are met?

— What sort of follow-up procedures are in place? Who will receive the client's feedback and how often? What happens if a client is unhappy with an aide or wants to change to a different level of service?

This article is courtesy of ARA Content.

AARP plans holiday lunch

The Westfield Area AARP Chapter 4137 will hold its annual holiday luncheon at noon Dec. 7 at the Westwood Restaurant in Garwood.

There will be an international buffet featuring a great variety of foods including delicious entrees with beef, chicken, and fish. The food tables will also have appetizers, salads and desserts. Pitchers of wine and soda will be on each table. Coffee and tea will be served.

Lively musical entertainment will be provided by Union Township Harmonica Band featuring a medley of "golden oldies" popular tunes, and holiday music. The cost is \$20 (including gratuities) for members and guests. Reservations may be made by calling Luncheon Chairperson Marie Stock at (908) 925-2536.

The luncheon replaces the regular December meeting. The next AARP meeting will be held on Jan. 3 in Assembly Hall of the Westfield Presbyterian Church. The first meeting of 2005 will have Fontaine Gatti as the guest speaker, who will show color slides of Egypt and tell of her recent visit to that country. For information, call AARP Chapter President Bill Lemke at (908) 232-5818.

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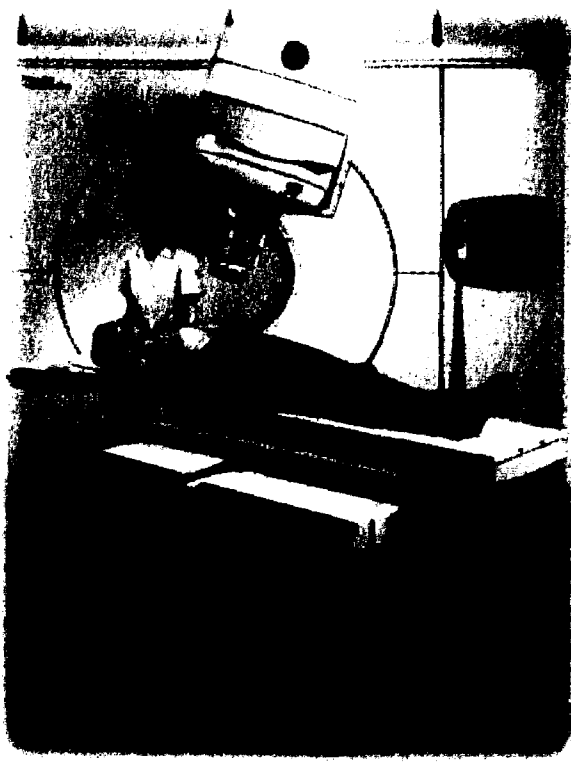
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- ◆ Awarded American Cancer Society Fellowship in Clinical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
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Sports

Raiders' comeback falls short, 28-21

LaForge throws for 183 yds in loss

By CHAD HEMENWAY
THE RECORD-PRESS

CHESTER — It seemed as if Scotch Plains football was in line for a magical, unpredictable season.

Despite many ups and downs throughout the 2004 campaign, the Raiders won the first round of the North 2, Group III playoffs against Morris Hills and were matched against West Morris in the semifinals Friday night for a chance at the sectional championship for the second year in a row.

Then there was the first play of the game.

The Wolfpack's Jake Field took a handoff around the left side for an 83-yard touchdown and Scotch Plains was forced to climb out of a hole once again.

"They ran a jet sweep and we didn't make the right adjustment," said Scotch Plains head coach Steve Ciccotelli after the loss. "The next time they ran it we made the right play."

The next time Field took the ball on a sweep, after a 7:15, 11-play scoreless possession by the Raiders, Mike DiNizio came up to make the stop for a six yard loss.

West Morris was forced to punt and the Raiders' offensive momentum could continue. This time quarterback Dan LaForge orchestrated an 8-play, 4:16 scoring possession to tie the game 7-7, finalized by his 19-yard bootleg keeper — a play

LaForge also ran for a 14-yard gain earlier in the drive. He had 56 yards rushing on six carries.

LaForge also completed the first of eight passes to Sean Smith during the possession. Smith racked up 104 yards on the



FOOTBALL

receiving end of LaForge's passes Saturday.

But West Morris came roaring back with a touchdown with about 5:20 left in the first half to take the lead 14-7 and it seemed

"I'm proud of this team because I think they can say they left it all out on the field tonight. They never quit."

— Steve Ciccotelli
head coach

as tough the score would remain that way as the teams prepared for halftime.

The Raiders' Mike Baumwoll went back to punt with about a minute left and fielded a low snap from center. Errantly, Baumwoll's knee touched the turf in catching the ball, meaning he was automatically ruled down and the Wolfpack took over at the Scotch Plains 21

yard line. Three plays later West Morris' quarterback threw his second touchdown of the contest with 20 seconds remaining to take a 21-7 lead though Scotch Plains led in time of possession in the first half, 16:01-8:33.

"The punt was a key play because we gave them a short field to work with and it gave them a two-touchdown lead," Ciccotelli said. "Mike has been a nice three-year player for us and I know he feels bad about it."

Scotch Plains attempted a comeback after receiving the ball in the second half. LaForge completed two passes to Smith and junior running back Rashawn Strong (9 carries, 38 yards) provided a spark to get into West Morris territory, as Lakiem Lockery (13 carries, 41 yards) did his best to fight through a nagging mid-season injury.

LaForge (17-22, 183 yards) completed his first eight passes of the game but his first incompleteness of the game was a big one — an interception on the seven yard line. Two plays later West Morris got another big running play — an 84-yard scamper from Nate Anderson to take a 28-7 lead.

"(LaForge) did a lot of good things tonight," Ciccotelli said. "We did what we wanted to do offensively but defensively we had some breakdowns that hurt us for big plays."

Scotch Plains (5-5) was not



Senior receiver Sean Smith flies through the air to get extra yards against West Morris Friday night. Smith caught eight passes from QB Dan LaForge for 104 yards.

LARRY MURPHY/CORRESPONDENT

about to pack it in, however. Defensive standouts Marc Fabiano (captain), Justis Evans, LeRoy Anglin, Kevin Urban (captain), Mike DiNizio (captain), Lamont Hunt, Anthony Curry (captain) and Smith forced the Wolfpack to punt.

The Raiders took over with 8:20 remaining in the third quarter and drove 65 yards on 13 plays for a touchdown when Strong went in from two yards out to close the gap, 28-14. LaForge completed another three passes as String rushed for 30 yards during the scoring drive.

Time continued running down on the Raiders hopes but late in the game, Scotch Plains embarked on their last touchdown drive to get within seven points with 1:08 left. LaForge completed two passes to Smith for 34 yards and another two to Nick Giannaci for 22 yards before finally hitting a 20-yarder to Colin Weber for the touchdown.

Weber had four catches for 48 yards in the game.

However, an onside kick try to pull off the comeback was recovered by West Morris (6-5) to seal it.

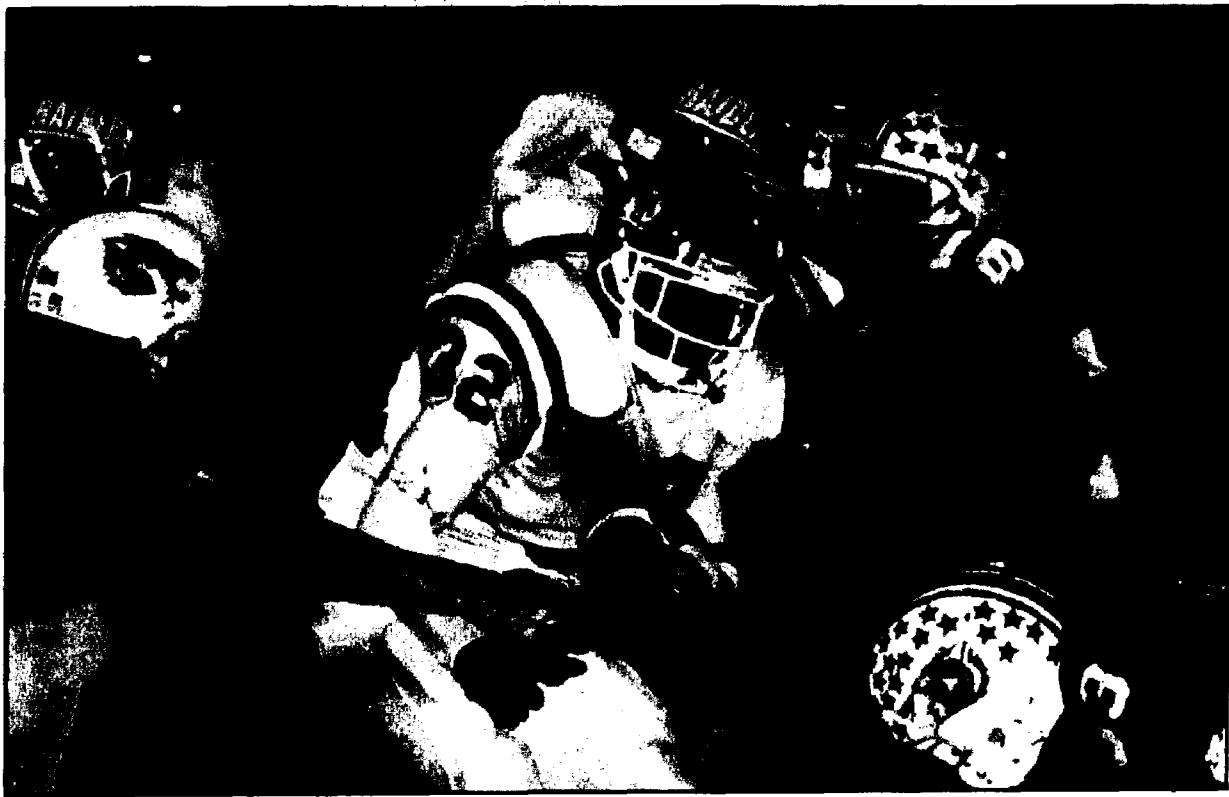
"We never quit," Ciccotelli said. "It's been an emotional

season. I'm proud of this team because I think they can say they left it all out on the field tonight."

The Raiders take on Elizabeth in Scotch Plains this Thanksgiving morning at 10:30 a.m. Elizabeth is also coming off a playoff loss to Phillipsburg last weekend.

| | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|---|
| SCOTCH PLAINS | 0 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| 21 | | | | |
| WEST MORRIS | 7 | 14 | 7 | 0 |
| 28 | | | | |
| WM - Jake Field 83 run (Field kick) | | | | |
| SP - Dan LaForge 19 run (Mike Baumwoll kick) | | | | |
| WM - Peter Hornung 12 pass from Mike Critchley (Field kick) | | | | |
| WM - Hornung 3 pass from Critchley (Field kick) | | | | |
| WM - Nate Anderson 84 run (Field kick) | | | | |
| SP - Rashawn Strong 2 run (Baumwoll kick) | | | | |
| SP - Colin Weber 20 pass from LaForge (Baumwoll kick) | | | | |

| TEAM STATISTICS | | | |
|--------------------|---------|--------|--|
| SP-FW | MORRIS | | |
| FIRST DOWNS | 15 | 7 | |
| TOTAL YARDS | 297 | 345 | |
| RUSHES-YDS | 32-129 | 30-250 | |
| YARDS PASSING | 168 | 95 | |
| COMP-ATT-INT | 17-22-2 | 5-9-0 | |
| PENALTIES-YDS | 2-10 | 4-30 | |
| FUMBLES-LOST | 0-0 | 0-0 | |
| TIME OF POSSESSION | 27:54 | 19:14 | |
| SACKED-YDS LOST | 3-15 | 1-1 | |



Senior captain Anthony Curry fights for yards in Friday night's playoff game with West Morris. Curry was also a top performer on defense for the Raiders.

LARRY MURPHY/CORRESPONDENT

Westfield tops Cranford at MOC

By DAVID LAZARUS
THE RECORD-PRESS

After sliding into the Meet of Champions (MOC) by the slimmest of margins, the Westfield boys cross country finished eighth at Holmdel Park on Saturday.

With Jeffrey Perrella and Rob Broadbent provided an excellent one-two and the Blue Devils finally got the best of season-long nemesis Cranford — defeating them for the first time in four tries this year.

Perrella rebounded from a disappointing ninth place finish at the Group IV meet last week to run his finest race of the season in finishing sixth, with a Holmdel personal best of 16:07.

"In past races at Holmdel, I've gotten out really slowly," Perrella said. "I thought that I was saving energy for the latter parts of the races, but I was really just handicapping myself from the gun. So the plan for this race was to take it out hard for the first mile so I wouldn't get boxed in."

After stabilizing his breathing and getting into a good groove, Perrella was ready to make his move in the final 800 meters.

"When we left the woods and I hit the top of the clearing there at

CROSS COUNTRY

the end, I just turned over and ran down the pack in front of me," said Perrella. "All cylinders were firing; I was kicking as hard as I could. I didn't want to run a bad race in front of my family and I didn't want to let down the team again."

While Perrella has been near the top of every race this fall, it has been the emergence of Broadbent that has elevated Westfield. Broadbent dropped another 11 seconds off his Holmdel best and has been setting one personal best after another since late October.

"The beginning of the season I got off to a slow start," said Broadbent. "After the Shore Coaches meet we had about two and one half weeks off from meets and I trained extremely hard which gave me a huge drop in my times. Mr. Martin worked us all very hard up until sectionals and a lot of my improvement was because of him."

Another great story has been the emergence of Mike Gorski, a top pole-vaulter on the track team, who was talked into running cross country last spring and ran 17:30 Saturday.

"He has played an integral roll on this team being the number three or four guy," said Perrella. "Without his performances, there would be a huge gap in the team and we wouldn't be half as successful as we are now."

Junior Kris Kagan finished ahead of Gorski, running 17:17, and the trio of Ameer Rogers, Jay Hoban, and Raymond Chen, all juniors, finished within nine seconds of each other.

Kagan, Rogers, Hoban and Chen have each performed their jobs consistently throughout the year and continued to do so into the MOC. The group was responsible for beating out Ocean City for eighth place overall. The Blue Devils needed a sixth runner tiebreaker to beat out Ocean City, which also scored 223 points.

While the team success was foremost on the runners' minds their individual performances were superb for a school with a long history of running success.

"It was my best race in the sense that it was my fastest and most important for the team," said Perrella. "I'd say I executed pretty well. In retrospect, I think I could have run faster."



GEORGE PACCIELLO/
CORRESPONDENT

Senior QB Mike Patella looks to end the season with a win against Plainfield on Thanksgiving during the team's historic 100th meeting.

100th meeting for Devils, Cards

A holiday tradition continues this year and reaches a milestone as Westfield Blue Devils face Plainfield Cardinals (4-5) for the 100th time this Thanksgiving in Plainfield at 11 a.m.

Last week the Blue Devils (1-8) got their first win of the season against Edison (0-9) in a consolation game, 28-7 and look to get a win against a fierce rival. A victory might make a tough season worth while and it would surely make Thanksgiving dinner taste that much better.

Senior fullback Rich Stewart led Westfield with 77 yards last week. He and senior quarterback Mike Patella look to guide the offense with seniors Tom DeDuca and Mark Harbaugh.

Senior linebackers Marc Dowling and Bryan Power (both captains) as well as senior defensive end Mike Finne lead the defense with cornerback Kyle Clark.

Other seniors looking to get the Devils' second win are Fred Cooper, Sam Kim, Chris Byrne, Sean Young, Rich Stewart, Paul Goldweitz, Jake Brandman, Michael Adamcik, Darrell Hopkins, Diego Betancourt and Matt Barbieri.

SP-F soccer season ends to Wall, 4-1

By CHAD HEMENWAY
THE RECORD-PRESS

EWING — When you play boys soccer for Scotch Plains-Fanwood under 500-win head coach Tom Breznitsky, the expectations are high.

So on Friday night at the College of New Jersey when the Raiders lost to Wall 4-1 in the Group III title game, disappointment ran high. However, looking back, the Raiders continued a fine tradition of elite soccer in 2004.

"We didn't get that ultimate brass ring," said Breznitsky, "but we have plenty to be proud of. This was a great team that worked hard all year. We got the (Union County Tournament) trophy



SOCCER

back where it belongs and we came out on top in the conference."

"We took this season to its maximum and that's all you can ask," he said.

Breznitsky said the 4-1 score is deceiving because he believes if some breaks had gone differently, Scotch Plains would be celebrating the state championship.

"Wall is not a bad team at all but I certainly don't think they are better than us," Breznitsky said. "If we played them again, I'm sure the results would have been different. After I watched the tape, I realized we dominated this game in every aspect but the final score. We probably had possession 60-70 percent of the time."

Breznitsky said Wall (18-3-3) was opportunistic in their scoring Friday night. Wall had two shots on goal and scored on them both to take a 2-1 lead into halftime.

"Unfortunately their first goal hit one of our defenders and went in because Bryan (Mercedith, goalie) was leaning in the original direction of the kick," Breznitsky said.

The Raiders (23-4) came right back to score the equalizer just one minute later as Sean McNelis continued his hot streak to score his 14th goal this year off a Sean Young header across the box.

Before the half ended, the Raiders had a scoring opportunity but a Young header into the goal was waved off. Breznitsky said the officials errantly called a push on Young.

"That would have been a huge goal because it tied the game up again," Breznitsky said. "Who knows what could have happened from there."

Wall took a 3-1 lead by converting their first shot on goal in the second half as Breznitsky chose to bring up defender Terrence Charles to the forward position.

"It was a choice I felt was right at the time because at that point, we needed a goal," Breznitsky said. "It didn't matter whether we lost 2-1 or 4-1. We needed a goal and had chances but we just couldn't punch one in."

Breznitsky said another aspect of the game that played a role in Wall's win was the size of the field — a larger area that Wall was familiar with and took advantage of by sending long kicks into the corners.

"It was longer and wider," Breznitsky said of the field. "They knew how to play it — which balls were going to stay in bounds. They got a lot of balls that way and their keeper had a good game."

Nevertheless, Raiders seniors Charles (captain), McNelis, Billy Albizati, Chris Annese, A.J. Appezzato, Stefano Gaetano, Casey Hoynes-O'Connor (captain), Chris Huether and Greg Leischer (captain) continued a tradition of excellence this year in Scotch Plains.

Real Estate



Holidays can be a good time to sell a home

During the winter season people everywhere are decorating their homes in the holiday spirit. At the same time, some people are preparing to move. Burgdorff ERA encourages consumers to take advantage of the great opportunities during the festive holiday season with the Homes for the Holidays program that began Nov. 15 and continues until Jan. 15, 2005.

"For many years people believed that buying or selling a home specifically during the months of November, December and January would be unsuccessful," remarked Pat Hoferkamp, President and Chief Operating Officer of Burgdorff ERA. "On the contrary, the real estate market has been extremely busy during the recent winter seasons."

Homes for the Holidays engages consumers who are either buying or selling a home by providing many valuable benefits. For example, executive transferees usually have extensive breaks during the holiday period and have more time

to look for a home.

A home decorated for the holiday season projects an ambience that attracts buyers, and since there are fewer homes on the market, it is more likely to sell. Some homebuyers actually purchase homes as gifts.

"A well-decorated holiday home has a great deal of appeal to potential buyers because it resonates with them on such an emotional level," said Hoferkamp. "For example, hanging a decorative wreath on the front door and placing lit candles and fresh seasonal flowers around the home is inviting to the potential buyer."

Burgdorff's Home for the Holiday Program assists the sellers by providing individualized service options. Showings are by advance appointment or through the listing agent, allowing for convenient showings during the busy holiday season.

Homes can be featured in a Holiday Open House, which is especially effective

when coupled with seasonal refreshments and festive holiday music. Home sellers can reduce holiday stress and obtain peace of mind by having their property covered by a home warranty offered through the ERA Home Protection Plan. There are many other benefits the Home for the Holidays Program provides and your Burgdorff associate will be happy to assist you.

To speak with a Burgdorff sales associate about this unique program, call Burgdorff ERA's toll free number at (866) BURGDOFF.

Founded in 1958, Burgdorff ERA is the top producing ERA real estate firm in dollar volume nationally, with 16 offices and over 700 sales associates in New Jersey. The ERA real estate network includes more than 29,100 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 30 other countries and territories.

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

UCC will offer a pair of classes in real estate

The Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education at Union County College is again offering courses for those in the real estate industry.

"Preparing a Small Residential Income Appraisal Report" covers sub-

ject, neighborhood, PUD, site data, description of improvements, comments, the cost approach, direct sales comparable approach, the income approach, and final reconciliation. Students will fill out a sample form and must complete a final examination. The course begins Dec. 13 and will be held on the college's Cranford campus.

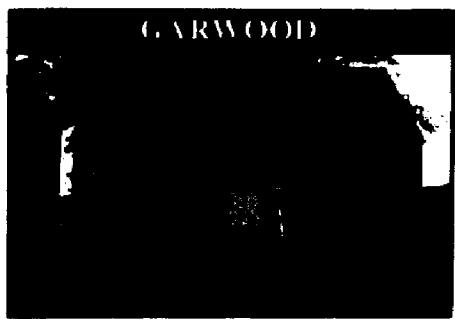
"Valuation Principles and Procedure" will cover site valua-

tion, purpose of separate site value, sources of data, specific data, collection of data, income and expenses, data, applying data, improvements, description, construction, internal and external data, cost approach, income approach (GMRM), direct sales comparable approach, and reconciliation. Students will be required to pass a final examination. The course begins on Dec. 14 and will be held on the college's Scotch Plains campus.

For more information or to register, call the Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education at (908) 709-7600.

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| 30-yr. Jumbo | 5.375 | 0.50 | 5% | 30 | 5.500 | 15-yr. Fixed | 5.000 | 0.00 | 5% | 90 | 5.001 | 5/1 Jumbo | 4.500 | 0.00 | 30% | 30 | 4.560 | 30-yr. Jumbo | 5.750 | 0.00 | 10% | 30 | 5.780 |
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| 15-yr. Jumbo | 4.500 | 1.50 | 5% | 30 | 4.790 | 10-yr. Fixed | 4.875 | 0.00 | 5% | 30 | 4.963 | 5/1 ARM | 5.000 | 0.00 | 5% | 30 | 5.800 | 30-bwly jbo | 5.500 | 0.00 | 10% | 60 | 5.510 |
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| 15-yr. Fixed | 5.000 | 0.00 | 5% | 60 | 5.040 | 15-yr. Fixed | 4.750 | 0.00 | 5% | 90 | 4.811 | 15-yr. Fixed | 4.500 | 2.00 | 5% | 60 | 4.540 | 15-yr. Fixed | 4.750 | 0.00 | 20% | 75 | 4.809 |
| 30-yr. Jumbo | 5.625 | 0.00 | 5% | 60 | 5.660 | 7/1 ARM Jbo | 4.750 | 0.00 | 10% | 90 | 4.910 | 30-yr. Jumbo | 5.375 | 2.00 | 5% | 60 | 5.420 | 10-yr. Fixed | 4.500 | 0.00 | 20% | 75 | 4.580 |
| 5/1 Jbo. ARM | 4.750 | 0.00 | 5% | 60 | 4.610 | 5/1 ARM Jbo | 4.250 | 0.00 | 10% | 75 | 4.790 | 15-yr. Jumbo | 4.875 | 2.00 | 5% | 60 | 4.920 | 1-yr. ARM | 3.000 | 0.00 | 20% | 75 | 4.617 |
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| 15-yr. Fixed | 4.625 | 2.00 | 5% | 30 | 4.715 | 15-yr. Fixed | 5.125 | 0.00 | 30% | 30 | 5.190 | 15-yr. Fixed | Call | Call | 5% | 60 | Call | | | | | | |
| 30-yr. Jumbo | 5.625 | 0.00 | 5% | 30 | 5.629 | 15-yr. Jumbo | 4.750 | 0.00 | 30% | 30 | 4.810 | 30-yr. Jumbo | Call | Call | 5% | 60 | Call | | | | | | |
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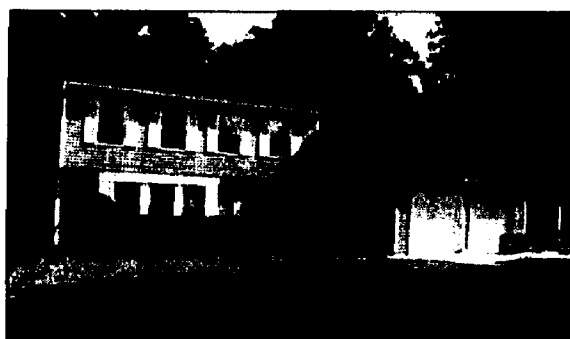
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Automotive/Classified

Thanksgiving Travel To Surpass 2000 Levels; Costs Up From Last Year, But Still Below 2000 Levels

AREA — Increases in both air and auto travel will push Thanksgiving travel volumes above pre-9/11 levels for the first time, according to AAA. AAA estimates that 37.2 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more from home this holiday, a 3.1 percent increase from last year's 36.1 million travelers.

"Travelers' increased confidence in both the economy and airline security will make this an extremely busy travel holiday," said Rick Zeckendorf, AAA New Jersey Automobile Club's vice president of travel services. "Air fares, hotel rates and gas prices have all increased from last Thanksgiving, yet more of us will head for Grandma's this holiday than did even in 2000 — considered by many to be the high water mark for the travel industry."

By mode of transportation, AAA predicts:

30.6 million travelers (82 % of all

holiday travelers) expect to go by motor vehicle, a 2.9 % increase from the 29.8 million who drove a year ago.

4.6 million (12 % of holiday travelers) plan to travel by airplane, up 4.0% from the 4.4 million that flew last Thanksgiving.

2.0 million travelers (5%) will go by train, bus, or other mode of transportation, up from 1.9 million a year ago.

Holiday auto travelers will find gas prices nationwide currently averaging \$1.95 for a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline — down 8 cents during the last two weeks, but about 45 cents higher than a year ago.

In New Jersey, the average price of a gallon of gas is: regular, \$1.92; mid-grade, \$2.06; and premium, \$2.14. Statewide, the average price of a gallon of regular gas is 42 cents higher than last Thanksgiving when motorists paid \$1.50.

Locally, residents of Morris, Essex,

Union and Warren Counties will pay the following averages for a gallon of gasoline: regular, \$1.93; mid-grade, \$2.03; and premium, \$2.11. Compared to last Thanksgiving's local average of \$1.53 for a gallon of regular gas, prices are up 40 cents.

Other travel costs are up, as well, with AAA's Leisure Travel Index showing Thanksgiving airfares up 2.6 percent from last year, reflecting increases in demand that have exceeded airline capacity growth. Holiday hotel rates are up, with a 5.7 percent increase that is in keeping with a recent uptick in hotel occupancy and room rates across much of the country. The one savings for travelers will be on rental cars, with rates down 2.7 percent.

"Although overall costs are up from last year, many trips will cost less than they did in 2000. Increased competition from discount airlines has caused airfares to plummet on many

routes and hotel rates have only recently begun to rise after they tumbled during the recession," said Zeckendorf.

The greatest number of Thanksgiving auto travelers will originate in the Southeast with 8.8 million, followed by the West, 6.8 million; Midwest, 6.6 million; the Great Lakes, 6.0 million; and the Northeast, 2.4 million.

The West and Southeast are expected to produce the largest number of air travelers with 1.3 million each, followed by the Northeast and Midwest at 700,000 each; and the Great Lakes with 600,000.

Expect full guest bedrooms and sleeper sofas, as 63 percent of Thanksgiving travelers expect to stay at a friend or relative's home. Hotels and motels are a distant second at 23 percent, followed by cabin/condo, 2 percent; camper/trailer/RV/tent, 2 percent; bed and breakfast, 1 percent;

other, 1 percent; no overnight stay, 3 percent; and didn't know, 4 percent.

Small towns and rural areas are the expected destination for 40 percent of Thanksgiving travelers, followed closely by cities, 36 percent. Oceans and beaches should see 9 percent of travelers, followed by mountain areas, 5 percent; and 2 percent each for lake areas. Theme/amusement parks, and state/national parks. Another 3 percent responded with other and 1 percent said they didn't know.

AAA's fuel gauge report is based on data from the Oil Price Information Service, the nation's most comprehensive source for petroleum pricing information.

Research for Thanksgiving holiday travel is based on a national telephone survey of 1,300 adults by the Travel Industry Association of America, which conducts special research for AAA.

AAA Offers Safety Tips For Weathering A Winter Storm

AREA — With the threat of the season's first winter storm forecast to arrive, the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club offers tips for preparing and handling your vehicle in inclement weather.

According to AAA's safety experts, winter conditions dictate the following general driving rules:

Slow down. Everything takes longer on slippery roads — accelerating, stopping and turning. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.

Increase your scanning and following distances. Drivers should look at least 20 — 30 seconds ahead and leave a 4 — 6 second gap between your vehicle and the vehicle in front

of you, especially when traveling up a hill. If the vehicle in front of you loses traction and you're too close to it, you'll be forced to stop and will lose traction too.

Keep your motions slow and smooth. Avoid abrupt steering, braking or accelerating. Apply the gas slowly to accelerate and take extra time to slow for a stoplight.

Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference between the amount of force needed to start moving from a full stop versus the amount needed to increase speed while still rolling. If possible, as you approach a red light, slow down and continue rolling until it changes.

Don't try to "power" your way up a hill. Applying extra gas on snow covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to build momentum as you approach a hill, and let it carry you to the top, applying only light pressure to the accelerator.

"If you don't have to be somewhere, stay home," said Pam Fischer, the Club's vice president of public affairs. "Even if you can drive well in ice and snow and your vehicle is all equipped to handle wintry weather, the same isn't true for everyone else on the road," she said.

It's also important for motorists to make sure their vehicles are properly pre-

pared. Automobile parts often deteriorate during cold weather. AAA offers checklists to make sure your car can properly handle inclement weather conditions.

Tires — The average life of a tire is 3 to 5 years or 40,000 to 60,000 miles. If your tires are nearing this limit or you notice loss of traction, replace them.

Antifreeze and Other Fluids — When antifreeze ages it may not be completely effective in keeping the water in your engine from freezing. Remember to check all other fluids and fill any low levels, including your gas tank.

Battery — Many cars have trouble starting in cold weather. Eliminate that problem by

checking that your battery is functioning properly. If it's 3 to 5 years old, replace it.

Wipers — For optimum visibility, make sure your windshield wiper blades aren't streaking. Remember, snow and ice can enhance streaking.

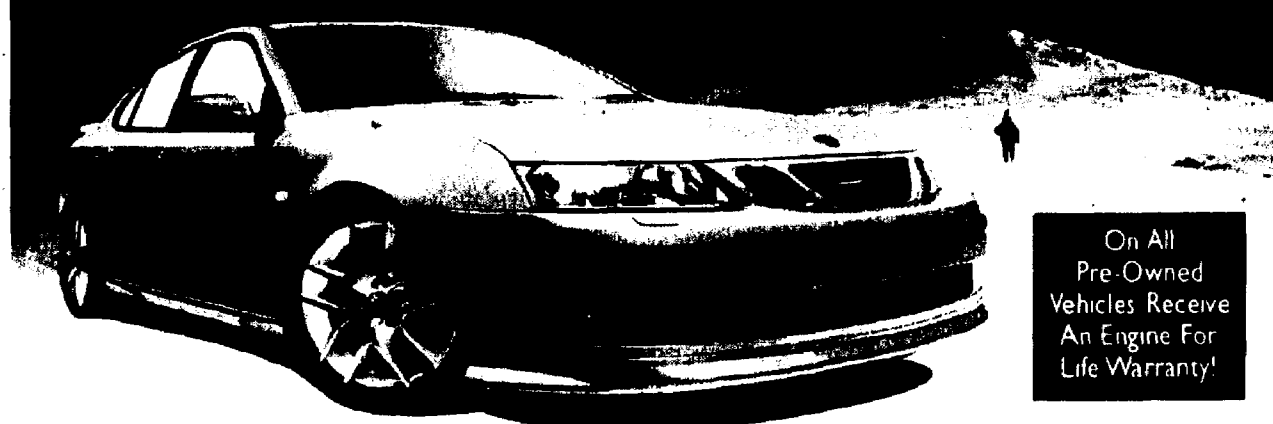
Lights — Replace any lights, even small ones, which have burned out. The more visible you are to others, the safer you are while driving in ice and snow.

"It's important to prepare both you and your car during this time of year," Fischer added. "By following proper driving measures and making sure your car is prepared, you can decrease your chances of being involved in a crash."

Finally, don't be caught off guard. Equip your car with a winter storm survival kit, including the following: blankets, a flashlight with extra batteries, a first aid kit, non-perishable food, extra clothing, sand or kitty litter (for traction), shovel, a fully charged cellular phone, windshield scraper and brush, tool kit, jumper cables, water, compass and road maps.

The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, through offices in Clark, Florham Park, Randolph, Springfield and West Orange, provides automotive, travel, insurance, financial and educational services to the residents of Essex, Morris and Union Counties.

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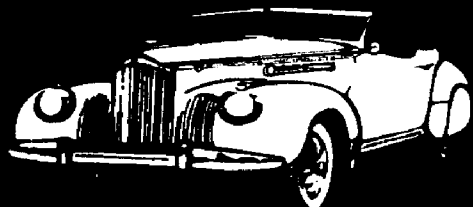
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 4dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, plocks, pseats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, heated seats, moonroof, 20,000 miles. VIN#4F076225

\$20,995

2002 FORD TAURUS
 4dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, plocks, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, 47,000 miles. VIN#2A111862

\$8,995

2000 HYUNDAI TIBURON
 2dr. auto, air, ps, pb, pw, plocks, tilt, cruise, cass, alloy wheels, only 31,000 miles. VIN#4Y190650

\$8,995

THIS WEEKS SPECIAL

2003 LINCOLN LS
 v8, auto, air, ps, pb, pw, plocks, pseats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, navigation, heated a/c seats, moonroof, alloy wheels, 22,000 miles. VIN#3Y671095

\$25,995

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Grant Writer, Cost Estimator, Property Rehabilitation Specialist, Housing Inspector

Individual supervises / coordinates Community Development programs / projects. Masters in Public Admin., Planning, Political Science or related area. Strong interpersonal skills required to work with government entities, contractors and general public. Min. of 5 years exp. and certified in Lead Safe Work Practices, knowledge of Housing & Community Development Act of 1974.

DELI CLERK/ PREP COOK
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Full/part time other opportunity available to take over following. Call 908-708-1179/908-497-0213

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Part Time for hair replacement salon in Union hair cutting and blow drying experience essential open Tues. - Sat. Call: 908-487-8484

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS
Local high volume wine and gourmet stores looking for:
• Sales Associates
• Cashiers
• Bartenders
• PT, FT shifts available, competitive wages. Please call Sean at 908-232-8700 or fax resume to 908-233-4008

LEGAL SECRETARY Full Time/ Entry Level
Expanding Millburn Law Firm seeks highly motivated, well-organized individual to handle heavy typing and various office responsibilities. Qualified individual must be computer literate and possess excellent communication skills. Fax resume and salary requirements to 973-379-6898 or email: jellbacher@levinedesantis.com

MANAGER TRAINEE
For Retail technology franchise. Career track for right individual. Flexible hrs, negotiable salary. Fax resume to 908-773-9899 or call Cartridge World 908-773-9696

NURSERY COORDINATOR
Mature responsible reliable adult needed to motivate & lead team of caregivers for Sunday morning nursery program at local church. Previous childcare experience required. Hrs: Sunday mornings 8am-12noon. Email resume to: ccoicore@centra@prcs.org or mail Attn: Claire Colcord, CPC, 70 Maple St. Summit, NJ 07901

OFFICE MANAGER
FT 8-4pm Bookkeeping, phones/filing, Microsoft Word & Excel. Good self starter of office exp. a must call 908-233-2699

RECEPTIONIST
For medical office in Rahway, NJ. PT/FT. Prefer experienced person. Call 732-340-8383

RESTAURANT
Looking for experienced counter help w/short order grill experience. Salary depending on exp. Call Scott at 908-233-1321

RESTAURANT Qdoba Mexican Grill
Coming to Westfield! Fast growing, fast casual restaurant has hiring needs. All positions available. Qdoba offers competitive pay rates & a fun atmosphere. Call 973-384-1122 or fax resume to 973-384-1123

SERVERS & BUSSERS M/F
A local private golf club is looking to hire full time/part time servers & bussers for this upscale dining environment. Must have professional appearance and communication skills. Good starting rate, benefits available for full time positions. Please call (908)488-0413 ext. 14

SECRETARY
FT/PT. Computer skills req'd. Legal exp. pref. Call 908-278-0997

SECRET SHOPPERS NEEDED
For Store Evaluations. Get Paid To Shop. Local Stores, Restaurants & Theaters. Training Provided. Flexible Hours. Email required. 1-800-585-9024 ext. 6262

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for Store Evaluations. Get Paid To Shop. Local Stores, Restaurants & Theaters. Training Provided. Flexible Hours. Email required. 1-800-585-9024 ext. 6262

SNOW FLOWER
Needed to plow apt. building in Roselle, NJ. Insured. Call 732-736-4746

TELEPHONE SOLICITOR
PT. Kenilworth area. Call Day, Mon-Fri, 9-4pm 908-298-8120 x12

TELLER/Member Services Representative
FT. Credit Union has 2 positions available; one in Roselle Park and one in Somerville. Must have good verbal, written communication and sales skills. Cash handling exp. required. Some Sat. hrs required. Salary starting at \$10/hr with experience. Excellent benefits. Send resume to: Search Committee P.O. Box 188 Roselle Park, NJ 07068 or Fax 908-248-6329

TEMP. ADMINISTRATIVE
Position available in Kenilworth. Flex. hours. Gen. duties include Data Entry, Filing, Tel. coverage, etc. Please fax resume to: 908-272-3365

TEMPORARY RECEPTIONIST
30/Hours medical office. Phone: 908-233-1131 7pm to 9pm Medical Job 290

MEDICAL ASST/RECEPTIONIST-Exp'd
FT Cardiology Office. Maplewood. Front Desk, telephone medical billing knowledge of medical manager preferred. Will train. ECG's Bilingual in Spanish + Fax resume to 800-273-2752

MEDICAL BILLING
Company in New Providence is seeking a FT/PT person for a data entry position. Excellent computer skills must. Call 908-464-3638 btwn 9am-2pm Ask for Chris.

PT COLLECTION BILLING CLERK/ OFFICE ASSISTANT
For physician's office. Bond Required. For P.O. Box 1322, Summit, NJ 07901-1321

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
PT, doctor's office, Mount Pleasant. Must be experienced, reliable, self-starter & have excellent interpersonal skills. Fax resume to 908-273-8883

OFFICE ASSISTANT
For a busy medical office in Springfield. Individual must be highly motivated, enjoy teamwork & a helping person. Excellent organizational, interpersonal skills & basic computer knowledge is a must. Please call for an interview @ 908-247-3460

BOOKKEEPER
Afternoons: for small Chatham manufacturing co. General office duties. Must be experienced, able to answer phones. Call 973-835-9481

PART-TIME BILINGUAL
Evenings & Weekends
Top quality Research Company needs telephone survey interviewers for Cranford Call Center. Must speak clearly in Spanish & English plus have typing skills. Call 10am-4pm, Mon to Fri, 908-497-8048 EOE

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Evenings & Weekends
Top quality Research Company needs telephone survey interviewers for Cranford Call Center. Must speak clearly in Spanish & English plus have typing skills. Call 10am-4pm, Mon to Fri, 908-497-8048 EOE

PART TIME
Seeking Teacher Assts (exp. req. var. PM Shifts), Babysitters (M-FAM 3 day min), Fencing, Yoga & Kick Boxing Instructors, Varsity Teachers (exp. req.), Carded Basketball Referee. Comp Salary. Apply Westfield Area Y. Attn: HR Dept. 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. rcastellone@westfieldny.org or fax 908-232-3306

RECEPTIONIST
Large veterinary group seeks PT indiv. Must possess professional qualities, multi-taking abilities, and be a team player. Morning hours, 3-5 days/wk. Occasional Saturday. Fax resume 908-497-0003

Professional Job 290

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TANNING SALON PT SALESMANAGER
New Providence area. Call Bob 908-783-4671 (cell)

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Stainless Steel 290
Affordable COMPANIONS Agency SOVAKIA Live in/out 908-684-5569

ELDERLY CARE - Greek Lady
Looking To Take Of Elderly & Do Housekeeping FT. 20 Yrs. Exp. Call Vicki 908-472-0564 or 908-353-4948

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EXP. CAREGIVER
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\$298 24
LEASE PER MONTH MONTH TERM

6 cyl. auto trans, pwr str/bks, air, AM/FM stereo w/CD, moonr, heated seats, alloys, leatherette int. MSRP \$32,245. Stk. #B5-59, VIN #5N1J85152. 24 mo closed end lease w/10,000 mi/yr. 20¢ thereafter. \$3200 cap cost red + \$298. 1st mo pymnt = \$3498 due at signing. Tl pymnts \$7152. Tl cost \$10,352. Purch opt at lease end \$22,893.

BRAND NEW 2005 BMW 325Xi

\$325 24
LEASE PER MONTH MONTH TERM

6 cyl. auto trans, pwr str/bks, air, AM/FM stereo w/CD, moonr, heated seats, alloys, leatherette int. MSRP \$33,995. Stk. #B5-13, VIN #5P1R15527. 24 mo closed end lease w/10,000 mi/yr. 20¢ thereafter. \$3000 cap cost red + \$325. 1st mo pymnt = \$3325 due at signing. Tl pymnts \$7800. Tl cost \$10,800. Purch opt at lease end \$24,136.

BRAND NEW 2005 BMW 525iA

\$397 24
LEASE PER MONTH MONTH TERM

6 cyl. auto trans, pwr str/bks/htd seats, air, AM/FM stereo w/CD, moonr, cold weather pkg, xenon lts, alloys, leatherette int, heated str whl, MSRP \$44,895. Stk. #B5-163, VIN #58B56711. 24 mo closed end lease w/10,000 mi/yr. 20¢ thereafter. \$4000 cap cost red + \$397. 1st mo pymnt = \$4397 due at signing. Tl pymnts \$9528. Tl cost \$13,528. Purch opt at lease end \$33,222.

MORE BMW FOR LESS!

Certified Pre-Owned by BMW

1999 BMW 323is

\$15,995

2 dr, 6 cyl auto trans, air, pwr str/bks/seats, trunk, AM/FM stereo, cassette, tilt, cruise, sunr, tilt in, dual air bags, fog lts, 62,397 mi. Stk. #63523, VIN #XEB63923.

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| 00 3250 A | 55K | JAB6240 | \$21,595 | 02 525i A | 40K | G24275 | \$27,695 | 01 740Li A | 45K | 0P32547 | \$37,995 |
| 01 325i A | 54K | JWA4841 | \$24,995 | 02 525i A | 35K | G297863 | \$31,995 | 01 740Li A | 34K | 0P33885 | \$39,995 |
| 01 325i A | 35K | F897736 | \$24,995 | 01 525i A | 42K | G194353 | \$32,195 | 02 745i A | 41K | 0P65607 | \$48,995 |
| 01 325i A | 39K | E23851 | \$25,995 | 00 525i A | 67K | Q128044 | \$22,995 | | | | |
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\$23,995 \$271

4 dr, 6 cyl auto trans, air, pwr str/bks/seats/trunk, AM/FM stereo, CD, cassette, sunr, tilt in, dual air bags, fog lts, 38,709 mi. Stk. #W4752, VIN #2KLH6752. 36 mo closed end lease w/10,000 mi/yr. 20¢ thereafter. \$3700 cap cost red + \$271. 1st mo pymnt = \$400 due at signing. Tl pymnts \$9756. Tl cost \$13,291. Purch opt at lease end \$12,657.

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Deeds & Townships

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CRANFORD - 2 Family Home. 1 BR, Living room, Kit., Den. No Pets/No Smokers \$1100/mo + 1.5 mo. Sec. Avail. 1/1 908-276-1082

Deeds & Townships

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Deeds & Townships

CRANFORD - 3 rms, new kitchen and Ba. Walk to train. \$950/mo. w/heat. 1 1/2 mo. sec. No pets, no smoking. 908-497-1261

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Deeds & Townships

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Deeds & Townships

SUMMIT - Prof. Bld. 1700 SF, 118/187, 4th flr, w/ Elevator, Lav. Near RR, Rte 78, 24 Parking! Call 908-204-8887

Deeds & Townships

3BR HUD HOME! Buy \$17,900 For listing 1-800-749-8106 x B369

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Deeds & Townships

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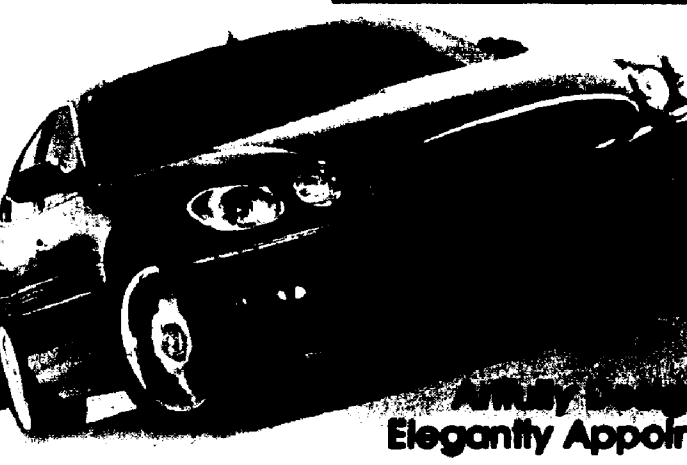
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2004 Buick LeSabre Custom Demo

\$21,474

Save 7081

4-Dr. Auto w/CD, 6-Cyl., ABS/Windows/Mirrors/Driver Seat Air/Dual Air Bags, Cruise, Alloy Sec. Sys., Keyless Ent., 6-Disc CD Changer, OnStar, 16" Rims, 4226674 Stk. #240717 5500 demo miles Orig. MSRP \$28,555 Factory Rebate \$4000 Dealer Discount \$3081

2004 Buick Rainier CXL AWD Demo

\$27,474

Save 11,301

4-Dr. SUV Auto w/CD, 6-Cyl., ABS/Windows/Mirrors/Driver Seat Air/Climate Ctrl., Dual Air Bags, 16" Alloy Sec. Sys., Keyless Ent., 6-Disc CD Changer, OnStar, 16" Rims, 4226674 Stk. #240717 5500 demo miles Orig. MSRP \$38,775 Factory Rebate \$5500 Dealer Discount \$4801

2004 Buick Rendezvous Ultra AWD Demo

\$29,974

Save 10,606

4-Dr. SUV Auto w/CD, 6-Cyl., ABS/Windows/Mirrors/Driver Seat Air/Climate Ctrl., Dual Air Bags, Keyless Ent., Sunroof, 16" Rims, 4226674 Stk. #240717 5500 demo miles Orig. MSRP \$40,580 Factory Rebate \$5500 Dealer Discount \$5074

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2002 HONDA ACCORD SE Sedan Automatic

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$219

16,999

2002 HONDA CRV LX 4WD SUV Automatic

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$249

18,999

2002 HONDA ODYSSEY EX Minivan Automatic

6 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$249

20,499

2001 HONDA CIVIC EX 2DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$11,999

2001 HONDA CIVIC LX 2DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$11,999

2001 HONDA PRELUDE 2DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$14,999

2001 HONDA PASSPORT LX 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$15,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$14,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$15,999

2004 HONDA CRV EX 4X4 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$20,999

2003 HONDA PILOT EX 4X4 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$24,999

2001 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$14,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$15,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$16,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,499

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

\$17,999

2002 HONDA ACCORD SE 4DR

4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm w/CD, ps, pl, cruise, tilt, roof, cloth seats, alloy, 8,000 miles, VIN#2002703, \$1,185 cap cost reduction, \$0 sec. dep. \$595 bank fee and 1st mo. payment. Total payments: \$1012. Total cost of lease: \$12,262. Money Factor: .00235. Residual Value: \$7,206.

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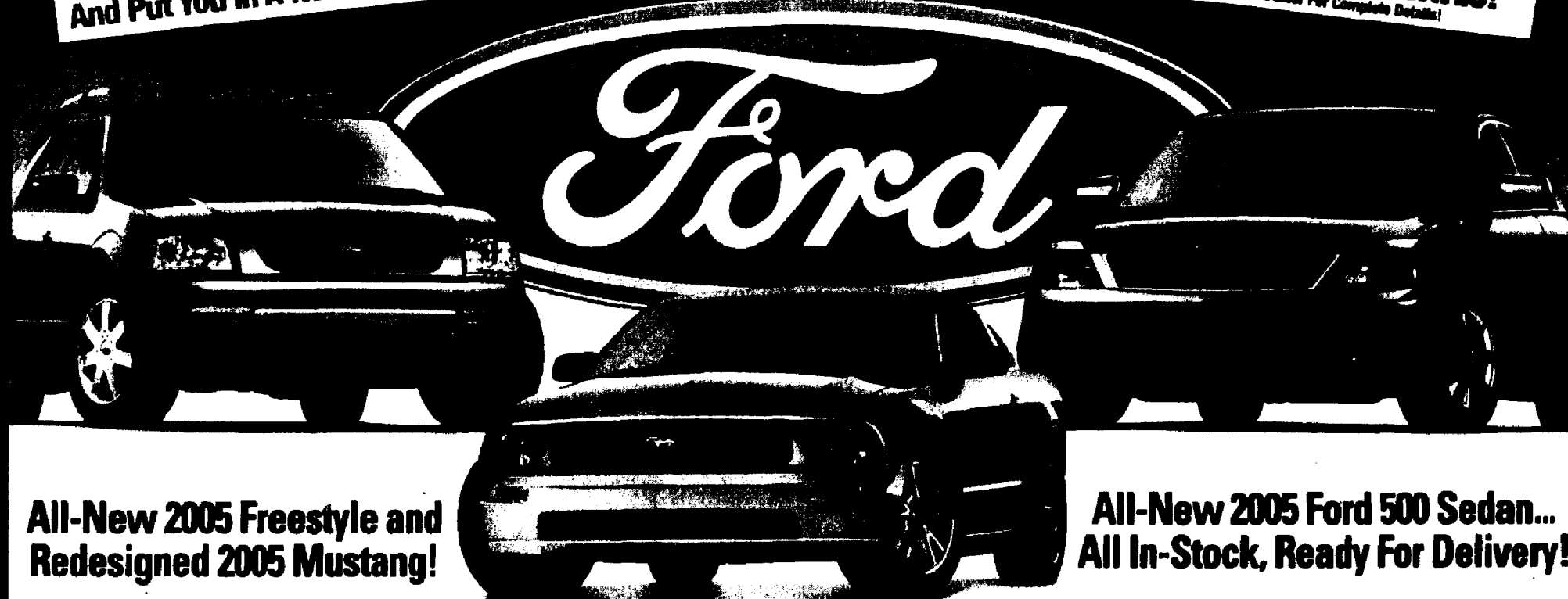
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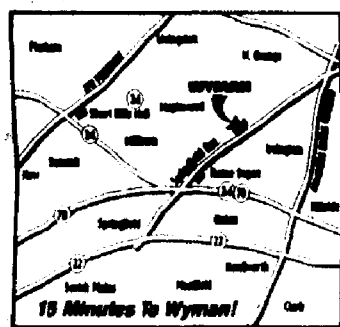
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'01 Pontiac Grand AM SE
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stereo, CD, cruise, bks mags, sec sys, keyless entry, trac
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'01 Chevrolet Malibu LS
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stereo, CD, cruise, bks mags, sec sys, keyless entry, trac
cntrl, 19,177 mi. Stk #655U, VIN #1M622864

'02 Chevrolet Malibu
4 dr, 6 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS/locks/wind, AM/FM
stereo, CD, cruise, bks mags, sec sys, keyless entry, trac
cntrl, 17,653 mi. Stk #649P, VIN #2M622223

'01 Chevrolet Impala LS
4 dr, 6 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS/locks/wind, AM/FM
stereo, CD, cruise, bks mags, sec sys, keyless entry, trac
cntrl, 34,884 mi. Stk #458P, VIN #19110333

'01 Chrysler Sebring I4 Convertible
4 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr str/bks, lthr w/conv top, CD
cruise, bks mags, keyless entry, sec sys, 31,652 mi. Stk
#541P, VIN #2B511010

'03 Chevrolet Impala
4 dr, 6 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr str/bks/wind/abs, AM/FM
stereo, CD, cruise, bks mags, sec sys, keyless entry, trac
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cntrl, 24,277 mi. Stk #583P, VIN #19263581

'01 Honda Passport
6 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS/locks/wind/seatsund, CD
cruise, bks mags, lthr int, lugg rack, bks mags, keyless entry,
sec sys, 30,186 mi. Stk #587U, VIN #14415593

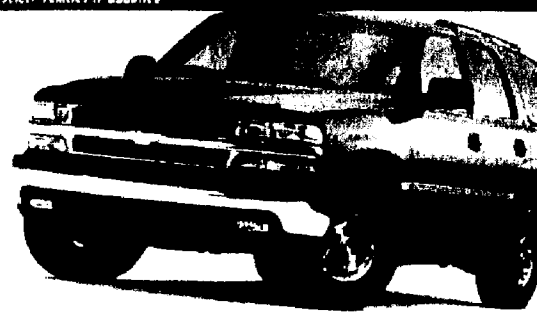
'01 Ford Mustang GT Convertible
4 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS/locks/wind/seatsund, CD
cruise, bks mags, lthr int, lugg rack, bks mags, keyless entry,
sec sys, 16,374 mi. Stk #644P, VIN #2R145886

'01 GMC Sierra 1500 SLE 4x4
pickup, 8 cyl, auto OD trans, air, pwr str/ABS/locks/wind, AM/FM
stereo, CD, cruise, bks mags, sec sys, keyless entry, trac
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4 cyl, auto OD trans, dual air, pwr str/ABS/locks/wind, AM/FM
stereo, CD, cruise, bks mags, sec sys, keyless entry, trac
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4 cyl, auto OD trans, dual air, pwr str/ABS/locks/wind, AM/FM
stereo, CD, cruise, bks mags, sec sys, keyless entry, trac
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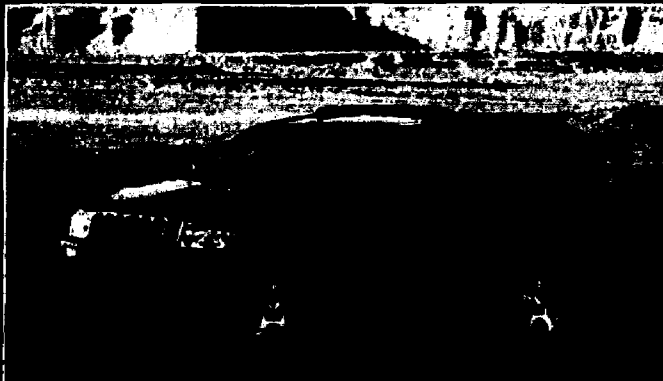


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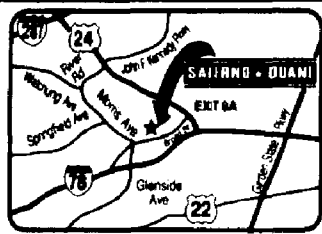


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\$23,999

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