

Record-Press

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Friday, January 14, 2005

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Mixed-use building approved on South Ave.

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — After filing a scaled-back proposal, developer Joseph Buontempo was able to secure Planning Board approval for a mixed-use building on South Avenue West.

The three-story, 38-foot tall building will include six upper-floor apartment units and about 3,500 square feet of ground floor commercial or office space divided between three tenants. In approving the revised proposal, the board granted Buontempo numerous technical variances.

"This is almost a conforming plan, and very close to what the (Westfield) master plan envisions... and comports with what appears to be the town's objective with the area," said planner Charles Starks, testifying before the board on behalf of the developer.

The board agreed to merge two existing lots into a single lot in the course of approving the project; two 60-year-old single-family houses will be demolished to make room for the new building. The lot is located between Tuttle Parkway and the Route 28 traffic circle.

Of the new residential units, five will be two-bedroom apartments and one unit will

have three bedrooms. The building will include an uninhabited basement area which will serve as dedicated storage space for residential and commercial tenants.

The building plan was reduced in size and its design was reconfigured after board members expressed concerns about the project's relationship to neighborhood architecture at a meeting in July. At that hearing, Buontempo withdrew an eight-apartment unit project with a larger retail component from consideration.

The approved, smaller design will include symmetrical gables on each end of the building's façade, a third-floor balcony,

and a 26-space parking lot behind the building. The parking lot abuts the NJ Transit railroad tracks, which run between North and South avenues.

The board had relatively few objections to Buontempo's site plan, though several board members were concerned about grading and a retaining wall planned for the property's eastern end. Instead of building up the building's foundation at the center of the lot, board member Robert Newell wanted the parking area to more closely maintain the property's natural grade.

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Fanwood revises plan for downtown

Moves to cut ties with Landmark

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

FANWOOD — The Borough Council unanimously introduced a scaled-back redevelopment plan and ended its relationship with developer Landmark Communities at its regular meeting Tuesday.

The redevelopment plan, which governs development in the borough's downtown, now moves to the Planning Board for comment and possible revision. The board will discuss the 31-page document at its agenda meeting Monday.

The new plan calls for three districts within the zone — a larger mixed retail and residential section facing South Avenue and Second Street; a downsized residential component on the Dean Oil site, which faces LaGrande Avenue and Second Street; and a "rehabilitation and infill" district along Martine Avenue.

If the plan is approved, new dwelling units will be capped at 35 units in the mixed-use district, 20 units in the residential area, and 16 units along the Martine Avenue corridor. At 71 total units, the proposed density of residential units is significantly less than the 130 to 200-unit residential component of the previous plan. Building height will also be limited to 2½ stories.

The residential component would have self-contained parking and a substantial green area. The plan also calls for open space along South Avenue, including 15-foot wide alleyways and a 50-foot wide public plaza immediately across the street from the train station.

Parking would be confined to



Above, an overhead view of the "consensus concept plan" for Fanwood's redevelopment zone, which is bounded by Second Street and South, Martine, and LaGrande avenues. The red-block structures in the northern and western sections of the zone represent mixed retail and residential structures. At the lower left-hand corner, the blue blocks represent residential-only structures. Martine Avenue, characterized primarily by single-story commercial buildings, is to the east.

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"It's got just about everything we wanted, and the density is less than it was before."

— Jack Molenaar

the zone's interior, with access from LaGrande Avenue and Second Street.

The amended plan includes requirements for aesthetic standards; third-floor exteriors are required to have dormers and pitched roofs, and corner buildings on South Avenue must contain Victorian architectural elements.

"It's got just about everything we wanted, and the density is less than it was before," said Councilman Jack Molenaar.

Molenaar added the amended plan frees property owners to pursue their own projects, which guarantees the borough's new downtown won't fall victim to a "cookie-cutter" appearance.

"One aspect of the plan is

that different architects will be working on it... so it won't be like a Disneyland concept, where everything looks the same," he said.

Owners of buildings within the rehabilitation and infill district on Martine, which contains many of the borough's most active and successful retail stores, will be given five years to bring their properties up to code. After that grace period expires, the borough council can declare those properties as "an area in need of redevelopment."

"Some of the buildings on Martine Avenue are not in bad shape, though, so to call it an area in need of redevelopment is not exactly correct," Molenaar said.

During the November election, Republican council candidates were critical of the council's pace on redevelopment, but GOP Councilmen Andrew Calamaras and Stuart Kline supported the changes to the redevelopment plan.

In cautiously endorsing the new plan, Calamaras said the

physical concept for Fanwood's downtown appears very attractive — if it ever happens.

"Redevelopment of the properties ultimately falls on the property owners," Calamaras said. "There's no overall scheme to force the issue to happen — as long as their buildings are kept up to code, property owners can essentially just stay the course," he explained.

The council also decided to end its exclusive relationship with developer Landmark Communities. At the council's agenda meeting Jan. 4, redevelopment attorney Frank Regan said the new plan is no longer compatible with the proposal Landmark had been developing with the borough.

"De-designation terminates the relationship with Landmark and sends a message to downtown property owners," Regan said.

Though the chances of a successful legal challenge are slim, Regan acknowledged Landmark

(Continued on page A-2)

Hearing begins on Cooper Road proposal

By MATT DEGAN
CORRESPONDENT

SCOTCH PLAINS — The fate of a plot of land on Cooper Road slated for development is still unresolved after the Board of Adjustment adjourned a Jan. 6 hearing until March due to the late hour.

Half of the property at 1300 Cooper Rd., a center island about an acre in size that splits the road, is owned by the township and the other half is currently owned by AT&T. A West Orange contractor seeks to purchase the tract of land and build a single-family house on the AT&T portion.

The building plan has drawn substantial opposition from surrounding neighbors, who have held public rallies and hired experts to oppose the project. That opposition may intensify following the revelation at the meeting that the property is farther short of the required size than had previously been believed.

The attorney representing the developer, Richard Cohen, presented the board with measures designed to assimilate the house into the area with minimal inconvenience, such as engineering specifications including dry wells that will be built to catch the runoff from the house when it rains, preventing possible flooding.

The traffic engineer presenting the project, Bahman Izadmehr, said that although it is not mandatory, he recommended placing a sign before the driveway to alert drivers to exiting vehicles. He did not think any additional safety requirements were needed.

James Bielefeldt, a representative from AT&T who works in its

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Some on council willing to revisit WHS parking

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Several members of the Town Council expressed interest in addressing the parking crunch at the high school during a conference session Tuesday night.

The subject arose amid a discussion over eliminating a parking restriction along Stoneleigh Park. Several residents want the restriction lifted because parking is not permitted on either side of the road, said Councilman Mark Ciurroen.

According to Ciurroen, the restriction was implemented because fire officials felt they needed extra room to maneuver fire trucks along the roadway. But Chief John Castellano later reported that trucks can pass through the area safely and do not need the restriction. Ciurroen added,

Mayor Greg McDermott said

he did not want to broach the issue until the council is ready to revisit the entire high school parking issue. In 2003, the council abandoned a plan to establish a permit-based student parking system after residents mobilized against the plan.

"I would rather we think about what we're doing with the whole area," McDermott said.

Councilman Larry Goldman agreed and suggested that changing the status quo in affected neighborhoods could inspire a new avalanche of street-specific requests for changes.

"One of the reasons (the earlier plan) failed was because there was a perception that some of the streets were sacred cows," Goldman said.

But Ciurroen insisted that Stoneleigh Park homeowners were being negatively affected by a broader policy debate that has

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Pucker up!



The Rev. Roland Perdue, interim senior pastor at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, and Tina McCormick, associate pastor for youth, get ready to kiss an 800-pound pig at a Jan. 9 celebration of the completion of a major mission project at the church. For the full story and another picture, see Page B-1.

Council applies for deer hunt

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — In a split vote, the Township Council passed a resolution Tuesday to apply for deer hunts in the Watchung and Ash Brook reservations.

The township will now submit an application to the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife for hunts in both locations. In the Watchung Reservation, county-run deer hunts have been conducted fairly regularly over the last 10 years. But if the state approves the township's Ash Brook application, a deer management program would be conducted on the south side for the first time.

Mayor Martin Marks has

(Continued on page A-2)

Split-decision for Westfield

Eric Hayes and his Westfield teammates were not able to overcome Cranford on the court Saturday, but the Blue Devils bounced back to beat Newark East Side on Tuesday. See Sports, Page C-1.

Looking good in the downtown

The Garden Club of Westfield kept the downtown looking good over the holidays. See the picture on Page A-3.

The evolution of Modern Man

The trio Modern Man bring their humorous musical show to Westfield this weekend to play in the Coffee with Conscience concert series. For more on that and everything else in local arts and entertainment, see Prime Time, Page B-2.

REMINDER

MLK celebration is Monday

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Monday, and Westfield is celebrating with its traditional parade and service. The town will also be marking the site of a future memorial. See the full story in Community Life, Page B-1.

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Town to add parking pay stations

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD PRESS

WESTFIELD — With the possibility of a parking deck off the town's agenda, members of the Town Council are considering alternate measures to improve parking management and increase capacity.

At a conference session Tuesday, council members discussed revisiting the findings of parking efficiency studies conducted before the town settled on a deck strategy. The studies included suggestions for reconfiguring the layout, landscaping and design of several municipal lots. They also included recommendations for adding capacity and improving circulation, said Town Administrator Jim

Gildea.

Two of the lots that may be tweaked are Lots 1 and 8, which are bordered by Prospect and Elm streets. Those lots would have served as the foundation of a new parking deck had voters approved a \$10 million bond referendum in November. But by redrawing parking spaces, town officials think they could add 20 to 30 new spots.

"Since we're not adding (a parking deck), we should look at what we have and reconfigure the lots to add new capacity," said Gildea.

At the council's next public meeting Tuesday night, the governing body will likely award a bid for 14 new parking pay stations in municipal lots. Ultimately, the council would

like to replace all town parking meters with digital "smart card"-enabled meters.

As part of the town's 2004 capital budget, the council bonded \$250,000 for the pay stations. An earlier bid came in above Gildea's expectations and was rejected, but he has now endorsed a \$175,000 bid from Metric Parking. The leftover money from the bond ordinance will be dedicated toward upgrading parking meters, Gildea said.

The pay stations will be installed at Lots 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8.

More detailed discussions about parking strategies will take place at the council's next conference meeting on Jan. 25, Gildea said.

Evening book group at the library

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Public Library will begin an evening book discussion group for adult patrons.

The group will meet the first Monday of each month at 7:15 and will be led by Edie Scher. The first date is Feb. 7, when the group will discuss *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lionel Shriver. Copies of the monthly selection will be available at the library prior to the discussion.

Scher is on the English faculty

at the Union County Magnet School, where she teaches classes on Shakespeare and literature of the stage. She previously served on the staff of the Kent School and as a copy editor for McCann-Erickson Agency. Along with these accomplishments, she is a writer with a number of published books.

The popular afternoon book discussion group will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month. The new group is

being formed in response to many requests for an evening opportunity for a book group. Pre-registration is optional, but suggested to accommodate sufficient copies of the book for the group. Light refreshments will be served.

The Scotch Plains Library is located at 1927 Bartle Ave., one block from Park Avenue in the center of town. For more information or directions call (908) 322-5007.

Mixed-use building is approved

(Continued from page A-1)

"I'd like to see if we can eliminate this from looking like a monument on a hill," Newell said.

Traffic engineer Andrew Feranda countered that a 5 percent grade in a parking lot increases the likelihood of

quickly-opening car doors striking other parked vehicles. He added that 26 parking spaces were sufficient to meet the building's anticipated need, particularly given the staggered peak parking demand typically seen with mixed-use buildings.

South Avenue resident John Preston said the large building

would increase drainage problems east of the property, where debris is sometimes carried down the hill.

But the applicant's engineer, Ed Dec, said water on the front of the property would be channeled into a South Avenue storm system, while water in the rear would be directed into a swale. The stormwater management system is sufficient to handle a 100-year storm, he said.

Board members approved the project unanimously, with much less haggling than many of Buontempo's other projects in town. As a condition of approval, Buontempo agreed to avoid renting space to medical offices and removed a fence from the eastern portion of the site plan.

"This is one of (your) first projects we have had very few problems with," said council liaison James Foerst. "Thanks for listening to our comments."

Council applies for deer hunt

(Continued from page A-1)

advocated culling the south side deer population for years, arguing that overpopulation of deer causes health problems. The overwhelming presence of the animals leads to collisions with motor vehicles and could increase the danger of residents contracting Lyme disease, he has argued.

In November, Union County conducted a deer population census at the behest of township officials. According to Marks, the raw data suggests the south side deer population currently stands as high as five times the acceptable level.

The census indicates there are as many as 100 deer per square mile, well above the state's standard of 20 deer per square mile. When county officials first determined a hunt was necessary in the Watchung Reservation in the 1990s, a census indicated 180 deer per square mile, or nine times the baseline level.

The Ash Brook census data will have to be verified by the state, Marks explained. If the state draws the same conclusion county and township officials have, a hunt will likely be conducted sometime this winter. To maintain a healthy population, subsequent hunts would have to be authorized annually, Marks added.

"Once you commit to a process like this...you are committed to managing the herd on a regular

basis," Marks said. "It's doubtful the herd could be reduced to an acceptable level in one year."

The council voted 3-1 in favor of submitting the state applications, with Councilwoman Nancy Malool voting against the resolution. Malool, who opposed the Watchung hunt in 2004, said she would like to examine alternatives before resorting to lethal force to control the deer population.

"In my heart, I just couldn't bring myself to do it," she said. "And I have concerns about the fact we're doing this in what I consider to be close proximity to residential neighborhoods."

"I just have a problem with the overall premise that we're taking away their natural habitat and now our only solution is to kill them," Malool added.

Last year, the Watchung hunt employed state-approved sharpshooters, who use baiting stations to attract deer and fire from elevated angles to reduce the danger of stray bullets.

While the county will conduct the Watchung hunt, costs for the Ash Brook hunt would probably fall on the township. At a conference meeting last month, Marks said officials from nearby municipalities, including neighboring Clark, have not expressed interest in conducting the hunt jointly.

Long-term options for deer management could include contraceptive techniques, but that method is not as effective, Marks said.

Hearing begins on proposal

(Continued from page A-1)

real estate division, was asked by the developer's attorney to talk about the history of the plot in question. He said a company utility building exists on the land, but it has not been used in three years due to technological advances.

Planner Elizabeth McKenzie testified that the development proposal satisfies all ordinance requirements except total land area. In the RS-1 zone, a lot must include 40,000 square feet, and the AT&T lot falls short of that number. The applicant's experts initially said the lot was deficient of the requirement by 662 square feet, but acknowledged during the meeting they are short by more than that. They said they will have a new figure at the next meeting.

McKenzie noted that the township was given the opportunity to purchase the land from AT&T but declined to do so. And because the lot is privately owned by a company with no intention of using it, no

alternatives beyond developing the property remain, she said.

But board members expressed concerns about the safety and practicality of having a house in the middle of a road.

Board Chairman Jim Fawcett recognized that from a legal angle, the proposed housing development meets all but one requirement, but he questioned how the home would fit within the neighborhood and how children on the property would socialize safely. He said the board has a responsibility to ensure the residents living in the proposed home and neighboring houses would be safe.

"Many people would enjoy the privacy that this lot affords," McKenzie said in response. "This isn't a lot where kids will be running across the street. It's not a lot for everybody."

Fawcett was also concerned about the location of a driveway so close to the point on Cooper Road at which the street splits into two one-way, single-lane roads. He

said drivers might turn the wrong way when traveling into and out of the driveway.

Board member Tim Livolsi thought the house would be inconsistent with the orientation of the surrounding houses. He noted that one side of the house could stand as high as 50 feet above grade because of the slope of the land.

"Can it be rebuilt so it is consistent with the adjacent properties?" Livolsi asked.

The standing-room-only crowd of citizens who appeared at the meeting to voice their opinions will have to wait for another month. Opponents of the project hired an attorney, Marc Rogoff, to represent their views. Rogoff was able to cross-examine the developer's experts at the meeting, but because of the late hour he was unable to present his case.

The next hearing over the building plan will be held Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the municipal building.

Fanwood revises plan for downtown

(Continued from page A-1)

had previously indicated it might sue to recover expenses incurred during its two-year relationship

with the borough.

"I don't believe there's any basis for them to take any action, and the new redevelopment plan is inconsistent with Landmark's proposal," he said.

Calamaras said because of the threat of potential litigation — however remote — the borough should simply proceed with the new plan without de-designating Landmark.

"It seems to me there is more exposure to de-designate than to not de-designate," Calamaras said. "If they were to litigate I'm sure we would prevail, but this way we're exposing ourselves to

the cost of the litigation," he said. Molenaar disagreed, however, arguing that de-designating Landmark would free downtown property owners to pursue projects without the looming threat of a centrally-administered redevelopment scheme threatening to erase an investment.

"Otherwise (designation of Landmark) is a wet blanket on the process and I think going to slow things down," he said.

For more information on Fanwood's redevelopment discussions, visit the borough's official website at www.visitfanwood.com.

WHS parking

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nothing to do with the original purpose of the parking restriction.

"The only reason the restriction was there was because of safety reasons," Ciarrocca said. "...Not stirring up a hornet's nest is not a valid policy reason for not making this change."

Councilman Rafael Betancourt and Sal Caruana agreed, arguing that removing the restriction amounted to a negligible change.

But the majority of the council members in attendance — JoAnn Neylan and Andy Skibitsky were not present — disagreed, though Councilman Peter Echnausse expressed willingness to revisit the larger high school parking debate.

"We should take another stab at it," Echnausse said.

No determination was made about whether the council would revisit high school parking, but McDermott said the council would re-examine the Stoneleigh Park issue at its next conference meeting Jan. 25.

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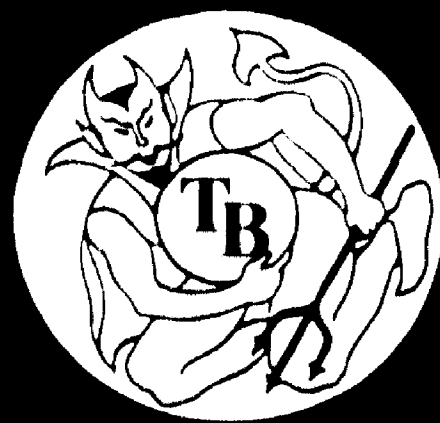
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Hearings continue on SP subdivisions

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Hearings continued over two major subdivisions Monday night, but the Planning Board did not reach a final vote on either application.

The bulk of the meeting was spent resolving remaining engineering questions over a proposal to subdivide four existing lots into seven new building lots off of Terrill Road. Developer Joseph Buontempo proposes to demolish two houses and build five new single-family houses on the property, which would be accessed by a cul-de-sac extending from Cushing Road.

Because the project conforms to the township's land use ordinance, it requires no variances.

At the meeting, engineer Adam Sapp gave a live-action, projected presentation illustrating the functioning of a stormwater filtration system the developer plans to use. The system had been the subject of concern by board members, who were worried that maintaining the mechanism could be too expensive and burdensome for new homeowners.

Sapp said the system, the only filtration mechanism on the market that conforms to new stormwater regulations, could be maintained by the new homeowners or the mechanism's manufacturer. Buontempo has proposed to handle maintenance of the system for the first five years or until he spends \$12,500, which attorney Robert Kraus said could result in maintenance for as long as a decade.

Because board engineer Tom

Quinn had not yet reviewed new engineering specifications prepared by Buontempo's professionals, the board elected to delay a formal discussion over the changes until its Jan. 24 meeting.

Earlier in the evening, the board reviewed a site plan adjustment for a major subdivision off Morse Avenue. Terra Nova Builders, LLC proposes to subdivide three existing lots into six new building lots.

As originally submitted, the project did not require variances for board approval, but the site included angled lot lines in order to conform to the township's land use ordinance. Surveyor Jim Watson presented a revised proposal that included straight lot lines but will need variances from the board.

A number of residents who attended the hearing were concerned about drainage problems in the neighborhood. The site plan includes drains along the perimeter to ensure the development won't worsen runoff conditions, but Quinn said he was worried the system could threaten backyard trees.

Resident Bill Lyman asked about the legal options homeowners might have if the development causes damage to their homes. "If this doesn't work...who do we come back to when (the developer) is gone?" he asked.

"They're going to decrease the value of my house because nobody will want to buy it" when they discover flooding problems, said resident Donna Bachi.

The board agreed to adopt the straight-line lot configuration, but did not engage in a final discussion or vote over the project.



Club keeps Westfield green

On a morning in early December, the Garden Club of Westfield continued its holiday tradition of decorating the planters in the center of town, located at the intersection of Broad and Elm Streets. Pictured from left are Jennie Williams and Pat Violini.

Increase in school spending slows in Westfield

By GREG MARX
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The school board budget will likely increase by a lower rate in 2005-2006 than it has in recent years, administrators announced at a Board of Education meeting Tuesday night.

The lower increase — likely to be less than 5 percent, compared to the 6 percent increases of recent years — is in part the result of a tapering off of the district's enrollment. Major enrollment

increases have driven spending on new programs and staff in recent years. But enrollment is expected to increase by only about 80 students in the coming year, and administrators are proposing very few new staff.

New state restrictions on spending may also be playing a role, though in a half-hour discussion Tuesday the board did not refer to S-1701, a new law much loathed by school districts that tightens existing spending caps.

At this point, said business administrator Bob Berman, the state will likely set the district's cap at a 4.85 percent increase, or total spending of \$72.8 million. The current proposed budget

actually puts the district \$162,000 over that cap. But that's actually good news — in past years, Berman said, it was not unusual for the district to be working with a draft budget \$1 million or more over the cap at this point in the process.

Spending increases will be driven, as always, by health benefits, special education tuition, utility costs and personnel costs. But though health insurance costs will rise by 7.5 percent, that's actually much better than the 15 or 20 percent increases the district has faced in some recent years.

Other spending will be devoted to one new high school guidance counselor, a new class for autistic students and computers

against the building.

The accident report was filed at 1:41 a.m. Friday, Dec. 31. Chief Tracy declined to comment on any details pertaining to the incident, though he said he was not injured in the crash. Officials from the Rahway Animal Shelter did not return calls seeking comment.

Town Administrator Jim Gildea said the vehicle was towed to the Department of Public Works after the accident. He said he did not know how much damage the vehicle sustained, or whether it would need to be replaced. Any investigation into the incident would be conducted by the town's insurer, Gildea said.

"This has happened in the past — we give it to the insurance company, and they look into it to see that everything was above the board," Gildea said. "But in this case it was just a simple accident."

Westfield may share center with SP

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Town Council may permit Scotch Plains residents to dispose of vegetative waste at the conservation center, officials said this week.

Scotch Plains is considering converting its township-run spring bulky-waste cleanup program into the user-based system in place in Cranford and Westfield. But without an adequate disposal site of its own, the township needs to find somewhere else to get rid of vegetative waste, which had been collected as part of its spring cleanup program.

Last year, the facility handled vegetative waste for about 3,000 residents. Adding Scotch Plains to the mix would probably not double the number of people using the facility, but it would require additional administration, Westfield administrator Jim Gildea said.

Waste would have to be segregated and disposed of separately and additional logs would need to

be kept, he said. And Scotch Plains residents would probably have to pay a higher rate than Westfield residents.

Engineer Ken Marsh said the town receives few complaints from residents about the site, though some people have complained about unpleasant smells on hot summer days. With addi-

tional volume, the town would need to move waste out of the conservation center more quickly.

Councilman James Foerst said the town should be mindful of unanticipated physical problems connected with increasing usage of the site, including increased traffic and the possibility of more debris left in nearby roadways.

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Commentary

Don't let the dream die

On Monday this country will celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King, perhaps the most influential American of the second half of the 20th century. Yet, aside from the stock market and government offices being closed and a scattering of stories in the media, there will be little to separate Monday from the other drab days of January.

That's unforgivable.

The legacy left by Dr. King should never be underestimated or forgotten. It is inconceivable to a younger generation that just 40 years ago segregation was the rule in many parts of this country. African-Americans were forced to sit at the rear of the bus and to drink from separate water fountains. They were not allowed to stay at many hotels and they were refused service at many restaurants. This country's treatment of African-Americans was truly shameful.

The courage demonstrated by Dr. King and his followers brought about the most sweeping change in this country's history. Centuries of injustice ended with historic Supreme Court rulings, often enforced by federal troops, and the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Most of these changes were prompted by Dr. King's insistence on non-violent protest; the peaceful demonstrations that he led delivered the message to all Americans that all men are created equal and, more importantly, should be treated equally. And Dr. King never gave up the struggle, despite the ugly hatred of ignorant racists and despicable and inexcusable harassment by a rogue FBI.

Dr. King's achievements should not go underappreciated. By achieving equal rights for African-Americans, he made all of our lives better. Though his life was tragically ended by an assassin's bullet, the struggle for racial justice continued. And it continues to this day. There is still too much racism and intolerance in this country, and the stench of discrimination still lingers.

To properly remember Dr. King, we should dedicate ourselves once again to the principles he espoused — the pursuit of justice for all through non-violent means. That dedication should be the root of how we celebrate this national holiday.

Protecting our troops

The United States is the richest country in the world. It is also has the most powerful military in the world.

Yet private donations are being sought to help protect American soldiers stationed in Iraq. It's a national disgrace.

Acting Governor Richard J. Codey announced Thursday the start of a statewide drive to collect used bulletproof vests that U.S. troops in Iraq will use to line their vehicles to protect themselves against bombs.

"We are establishing regional drop-off points at our National Guard Armories to collect used bulletproof vests to give our troops every possible protection," Codey said.

Codey urged all local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to donate used vests to strengthen armor on military vehicles in Iraq. Some groups have already begun campaigns to collect vests.

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey, said the drop-off sites will be located at the Atlantic City Armory (1008 Absecon Boulevard), the Lawrenceville Armory (151 Eggert Crossing Road) and the West Orange Armory (1315 Pleasant Valley Way). Collections began Tuesday.

Rieth stressed the vests are only needed for use on military vehicles. "Every soldier being deployed to Iraq has his or her own personal body armor," he said.

As a show of support for our soldiers, this is heartening. Still, the vision of the most powerful military in the world relying upon donations from police departments on the homefront to holster protection for the troops is shameful.

It truly is a national disgrace. And someone needs to be held accountable.



Jersey Boy

Mike Deak

A sort of homecoming

Until Saturday I had not been inside the Neshanic Methodist Church for more than three decades.

The church had been a large part of my childhood — doing Sunday school homework on Saturday nights while watching "Saturday Night at the Movies" on NBC and then getting dressed up in a starched sports coat and tie on Sunday morning. I liked the hymns and the Bible competitions; if I hadn't been fearful of a stutter attack, I would have been a champion Bible verse finder.

On special days after Sunday school, I would stay for the regular 11 a.m. service and imagine the Holy Ghost floating and slinking like Casper around the ankles around of everyone in the sanctuary. I enjoyed the choir, though it was always small, their voices rising through the sanctuary to the outskirts of Heaven. I watched the flicker of the flames on the altar and on windy winter and fall days, I listened to the unkempt tree branches scratch against the stained glass windows. It was as if the fingertips of God were tapping on the windows. On Palm Sunday I liked getting palms and hitting everyone in my class.

But I was a rebel angel, and the times were ripe for rebellion. I left after my freshman year in high school because the church — like any church — was standing still in the rush of change in the early 1970s. I was sick of the conservative Old Testament (the one still favored by Republicans) and began to like the liberal New Testament (the one still favored by Democrats) and I began, at least viscerally, to appreciate the liberation theology of Jesus to the intolerance of the Old Testament that still mars thumping American Protestantism.

Then there was an argument over the My Lai massacre in a Sunday school class when I suddenly found myself an outcast. There was a growing schism over the type of material taught in Sunday school, my best friends all dropped out and I succumbed to the adolescent practice of needing more sleep on weekends.

Sometimes I thought about returning, but by that time my disgruntlement had been replaced by cynicism and Sunday mornings recovering from Saturday nights. Tee times were more important than church bells. Faith, if I had any at all, was practiced on a one-on-one basis with no passing of the plate. For me it was more important to practice every day the principles of the New Testament than to believe I could gain a perch in Heaven by going to church on Sunday and shaking the ritualistic Etch-a-Sketch to erase the hypocrisy of the other 6 days and 22 hours of the week.

It's been only relatively recently that I fully realized the purpose of going to church was more than just a place where you could meet God for a weekly session. A friend who recently started attending church again summed it up when someone asked her why. "Because it makes me feel better." She finds comfort and joy in the fellowship and the sense of community. And that is what I found Saturday when I walked into the Neshanic Methodist Church.

It was a memorial service for someone who knew me all my life and who everyone in my hometown knew. The warmth of the sanctuary, full of the unbreakable kinship of a small town, sucked the chill out of a miserable wet winter day. We shared memories of the departed and the choir was just as angelic as long ago days. There was joy in the shared memory of the dead and there was comfort in the fellowship we shared.

"This is the way it should be," somebody said to me. He was right. Without the dogma, that church service was a celebration of life and community, a communion of common souls. Which is, if you think about, the whole point.

Letters to the editor

Optimist food drive sets new record

To The Record-Press:

On Dec. 18, 32 members of The Optimist Club of Westfield delivered holiday food baskets to 88 families in Westfield. This is the 15th year the Optimists have reached out to the Westfield community with donations of food during the holiday season.

Because of an unprecedented level of community interest and involvement, twice as many food baskets were delivered this year than any year in the past.

Each family received a turkey, cider, fresh fruit, yams, cranberries, a pie and all the fixings. In addition, they received flowers, a box of candy, a holiday greeting card and a candle. Children under 10 received a teddy bear dressed in holiday clothes.

The Optimists would like to acknowledge the continued support of Kings in Garwood as well as several merchants in Westfield for their annual support, the Salvation Army for donating the teddy bears, the Westfield Newcomers for decorating the bears, Edison Intermediate School students for fundraising, the staff at WHS for their contributions and the many individual Optimists and their friends who made individual contributions. This was truly a community project!

Finally, thanks to Optimist Thom Hornish for his chairmanship and continued commitment to this project.

MICHAEL WALSH
Chapter President
Optimist Club of Westfield

A proposal for the Cooper Rd. island

To The Record-Press:

May I offer a suggestion about the Cooper Road island located in Scotch Plains? Ask the county freeholders to purchase the AT&T tract, utilizing the Open Space Trust Fund.

I say this because there is a similar island in the road near the Garden State Parkway in Union Township. Located along Indian Run Parkway, this island is partly owned by the township and the other part is owned by the county.

Making the entire tract parkland that no one

can build on.

You could entice the politicians with another reason as to why this property should be preserved as open space. Leave the grove of trees in place, remove the AT&T building and replace it with a memorial garden.

To whom should be memorialized? How about local legend Donald DiFrancesco. That in itself should be the main reason to preserve the Cooper Road Island.

VINCENT LEHOTSKY
Rahway

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.

WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT OR INSPIRING MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT?



FRANK CONNOR
works in Garwood
Brown vs. the Board of Education — there were lights and riots before then.



ROSA RODRIGUES
works in Garwood
Overall, what Martin Luther King, Jr. did — he had great accomplishments in what he did.



JOHN REBERMAN
works in Garwood
When Robert Kennedy was attorney general, he used his phone tap on Martin Luther King. That's not what this country's about — it shouldn't have happened.



CRAIG ALLEN
Westfield
When Johnson signed the Civil Rights Bill, I watched it on television.



MARK MECCA
Scotch Plains
When Rosa Parks got thrown off the bus. Everyone got to sit wherever they wanted on the bus after that.



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Mother/daughter book club offered at YMCA

WESTFIELD — Maybe you're looking for ways to enhance your third- to sixth-grade daughter's love of reading. Or maybe you're looking for ways to spend more quality time together in a mutually enjoyable activity that is free of homework and chores. Whatever the reason, the Westfield Area Y has the program that might be right.

In the new Mother/Daughter Book Club, moms and daughters will read books written by women that focus on girls. Moms will enjoy the nostalgia of reading these books again, and daughters won't forget reading these tales with their moms.

Participants will pick the book and decide how much they want to read each week. Then, in class, the book will be discussed and a hands-on activity will be performed that relates to the book.

For example, if the setting of the book is Japan, the girls may make origami creations while drinking tea.

The facilitator of the Mother/Daughter Book Club is Meghan Walsh. Walsh began her career in publishing, then worked for a public relations firm that specialized in toys and educational products for kids. Most recently she served as director of alumni relations for Newark Academy, a private school for sixth-12th graders in Livingston, where she served as the advisor for a program entitled Girls for Girls. Walsh holds a degree in English from Villanova University.

The program began this month. A special one-time free trial class is available. For more information, call Linda Christopher at (908) 966-9341.



Intergenerational party at the Y

In late December, active older adults enjoyed a holiday party at the Westfield Area Y. Participants brought a holiday goodie to share and were entertained by 3-5 year olds from the Y's full-day child care program on Elm Street. After the show, the adults rewarded the children with stickers. The children in turn gave the adults a holiday ornament that they had handcrafted. The room was decorated with gingerbread houses created by the YMCA Teen Leaders Club. Pictured here, Sean Martin receives a sticker from John and Inez Iwanysyn.

Programs for families will begin soon at CCHD

CRANFORD — Programs are about to begin at the Counseling Centers for Human Development, located at 201 Lincoln Ave. East. The group is a non-profit counseling center located in Cranford for over 30 years, with satellite locations in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. Below is a list and description of the groups:

Children: Children are unavoidably impacted by the break-up of their parents' marriage. Through artwork, story-telling and discussion, children can learn to understand and express their feelings, drawing strength from one

another Mondays and Tuesdays after school starting Jan. 24, for six weeks. Open to ages 5-18, grouped by age. \$75 per child. Pre-registration is preferred. Call (908) 276-0590. Susan Koslowsky, facilitator

Divorce 101: Contemplating Separation or Divorce: Many adults reach a point where they recognize that their marriage is at a critical impasse. This group will allow participants to explore feelings, fears and needs, as well as the legal process, to find ways to handle the prospect of significant life changes and help us make positive decisions for our future.

Mondays starting Jan. 24, 7:30-9 p.m. for six consecutive weeks. \$50. Gail Katz and Karen Sales, co-facilitators. Call (908) 276-0590 for registration.

Divorce 102: Alumni & Friends/Surviving Divorce: New problems and unresolved issues can deter adults as they forge our new lives after separation/divorce. This group aims to help participants face issues including guilt, feelings of failure, dealing with the children, resolution, learning to trust again, dating and more. Friends who have taken any of the divorce groups/workshops will have an opportunity to meet

together again to raise new questions, share new experiences and continue mutual support through this ongoing "alumni" group. Wednesdays starting Jan. 26, 7:30-9 p.m. for six consecutive weeks. \$50. Annette Hermann, facilitator

Anger Management Group: Participants will work to identify sources of triggers to their angry feelings, as well as to identify alternative coping skills for use when feeling this way. 7-8:30 p.m. for eight consecutive weeks beginning Feb. 8. \$240, \$120 payable at first session, \$120 payable at fifth session. William E. Merritt, facilitator.

CONTACT We Care will train new volunteers

WESTFIELD — CONTACT We Care, the crisis hotline and listening center based in Westfield, will begin its spring training class on Feb. 5.

This special orientation to CONTACT, including basic instruction in active listening, will take place at the First Baptist Church in Westfield. It will be followed by eight weekday sessions at Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains and will conclude with a final Saturday

session at First Baptist on April 2.

Potential volunteers interested in training to take crisis calls on the hotline should call Program Director Eileen Fitzmaurice at (908) 301-1899 for more information about enrolling in the class.

Every CONTACT volunteer goes through 50 hours of training before going solo on the phones. Training includes classes in active empathetic listening, deal-

ing with grief, mental illness, suicide and other topics related to supporting callers in distress.

CONTACT, celebrating its 30th anniversary in Union County this year, is a member of a nationwide network of crisis centers overseen by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and coordinated by the Mental Health Association of New York. The network, with its new number (800) 273-TALK, is a leader

in suicide prevention.

CONTACT is also certified by the American Association of Suicidology and is affiliated with CONTACT USA and Lifeline International.

CONTACT volunteers field nearly 10,000 calls a year and place reassurance calls to the homebound elderly and disabled in a primary service area that covers Union, Essex, Middlesex, Somerset and Morris counties.

Man charged with assaulting police

WESTFIELD

On Jan. 6, officers arrested George C. Clark of Watchung at 436 South Avenue for aggravated assault of a police officer, resisting arrest, obstruction of the administration of law, and other charges.

Clark was held on bail pending release and transferred over to U.S. marshals.

On Jan. 5, officers arrested Joseph Kolac of Garwood for driving while intoxicated after Kolac was involved in a motor vehicle accident on Central Avenue.

Officers arrested Luis Valladares of New Providence for driving while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident investigation Jan. 7.

Valladares' breath test resulted in blood-alcohol content readings of .16 percent and .17 percent; he was released to a sober adult.

On Saturday, Omar Tezuear of Westfield was arrested for driving while intoxicated. Tezuear was released to a sober adult.

A Topping Hill resident reported someone broke the side mirror on her 2004 Honda while it was parked in front of her residence Saturday.

And another resident of the road reported that two fence posts and a front yard light had been broken on Saturday.

A Summit Avenue resident reported he was assaulted in his home by several unwanted

Police Log

guests who had "crashed" a social gathering Saturday.

Officers arrested Kevin Lantz of Westfield for alleged possession of cocaine during a motor vehicle stop in the 900 block of Central Avenue. Lantz was released on a summons.

Unknown suspects allegedly broke into two South Avenue businesses and attempted to gain access to a third on Saturday night.

At the Westwood Cleaners, \$220 were reportedly stolen; at Duke's Deli, \$150 and cigarettes were allegedly taken; and authorities said suspects may have attempted to gain access to Hershey's Deli by forcing open a rear door. The break-ins remain under investigation.

A Woodland Avenue resident reported the driver's side mirror on her 2002 Honda was damaged by a blunt object on Monday.

Officers arrested Yekaterina Zhvanesky of Brooklyn, N.Y. for driving while intoxicated on Monday.

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Registration now open for classes at the JCC

JCC news

Aquatics Relay Carnival set Jan. 17

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Will Jewish Community Campus, located at 1391 Martine Ave., will present an Aquatics Relay Carnival for all ages 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Jan. 17.

Everybody loves a carnival and almost everyone likes to swim. The JCC combined the two for youth and teens in grades K-12. This relay carnival is geared for swimmers from all over New Jersey. Coaches will enter participants in age-grouped relays for a number of outrageous events. Prizes will be awarded to all relay teams. The fee is \$20 per relay group (4 swimmers).

For additional information on the carnival and many other offerings contact Teen Director Mike Goldstein at (908) 889-8800, ext. 238; Youth Director Jodi Baxter at ext. 235 or Aquatics Director Rebecca Rice at ext. 219.

Scholarships available for teen travel to Israel

SCOTCH PLAINS — If you are a teen who is considering travel to Israel this summer, now is the time to do something about it. The JCC of Central New Jersey, located at 1391 Martine Ave., provides scholarships for high school students to participate in teen summer trips to Israel. Scholarship funds are available to qualifying teens from the Past Presidents' Israel Teen Scholarship Fund.

Application forms are available from the Teen Services Department at the JCC, as are details and information regarding different Israel Teen tours, trip resource guides and application materials. Applications are due by Jan. 30. Applicants must be members in good standing at the JCC.

For information, contact Teen Services Director Mike Goldstein at (908) 889-8800 ext. 218.

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HUDSON CITY

Bank on Better Values

Federal grant funds will help pay for new ferry terminal

The Federal Transit Administration, part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, has awarded Union County a \$9.5 million grant to construct a terminal and related capital improvements to establish ferry service between Elizabeth and lower Manhattan.

"This project isn't just good for Union County, it's good for the entire region," said Union County Freeholder Chairman Rick Proctor. "This project will allow commuters to bypass the transit and road choke points as they head in and out of Manhattan, and will be time and cost competitive with similar modes of transportation."

The ferry terminal will be located on the Newark Bay a short distance from the Jersey Gardens Mall. Plans call for a direct connection to the proposed light rail line which will run between Midtown Elizabeth and Newark Liberty International Airport, servicing the new commercial developments located on the Elizabeth waterfront.

"This is a great location that has direct access from Exit 13A of the New Jersey Turnpike. Ferry service will also provide an attractive alternative for people who live or work in Manhattan to access Newark Liberty International Airport," said Elizabeth Mayor Christopher Bollwage.

The proposed ferry will be run by a private operator using facilities developed and maintained by the county. The Union County Improvement Authority will provide financing to purchase the land, expected to cost approximately \$10 million. Plans call for slips accommodating two ferries, a passenger waiting area and a 1,000-space parking lot to be built on the site.

Dredging would be required at the site.

Departing from a slip at the end of Jersey Gardens Boulevard, the ferry will cross the Newark Bay, the Kill Van Kull and the Upper New York Bay. The ferry is expected to serve 1,000-1,200 commuters a day, running between Elizabeth and lower Manhattan with service every half-hour during morning and evening rush and hourly otherwise.

The Ferry Project is part of an initiative by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Union County Improvement Authority and the City of Elizabeth to develop a series of infrastructure projects to new jobs and development projects.

County news

Late donations make efforts a success

Thanks to a generous outpouring of support from individuals and businesses throughout Union County, more than 250 families received deluxe food baskets through the Union County Sheriff's Office's "Operation Breadbasket" program this holiday season. Also, the "Tree of Hope" initiative provided holiday gifts for more than 100 sick and abused children.

Boxes of donated and purchased food were assembled and delivered in the week before Christmas. The food baskets included about \$100 worth of food, including turkeys and chickens, orange juice, milk, bread, eggnog, butter and more.

Donations of food and money had been well behind those of past years when the Sheriff's Office put out an urgent call for help in early December.

"Despite their own difficulties and economic uncertainties, the people of Union County and the business community rallied to help their neighbors in need, as they always have," Sheriff Ralph Froehlich said. "Along with our dedicated officers, they gave their time and their financial support. Their support is a testament to our community."

With its annual "Operation Breadbasket," the Union County Sheriff's Office gives hundreds of boxes of food to residents in need during the holiday season. Froehlich started "Operation Breadbasket" with a handful of colleagues when he was an Elizabeth police officer in the 1960s and expanded it county-wide after he was first elected sheriff in 1977.

For nine years, "Tree of Hope" has provided gifts for children with terminal illnesses, who have been victimized by domestic violence, and whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

"Our 'Tree of Hope' program was very successful this year, also thanks to a late pickup of donations and other assistance," Sheriff Froehlich said. "For nine years, a small group of Sheriff's Officers have done an incredible job of providing for suffering children during the holidays."

"Tree of Hope" continues to accept contributions of money (tax-deductible), toys and clothing throughout the year. Donations can be sent to: Tree of Hope, P.O. Box 4, Kenilworth, N.J. 07033. For more information, call the Tree of Hope Hotline at (908) 558-2574.



McKinley Scouts committed to community service

Cub Scout Pack 176 at Westfield's McKinley School contributed many hours of community service in 2004. One of their last activities of the year was to take part in the annual Boy Scouts of America Scouting For Food Drive. They collected more than 200 bags of food donated by Westfield residents in the McKinley School area. The food helps stock the pantry at Westfield's Holy Trinity Church, which distributes food to the needy.

Hale joins board of downtown corporation

WESTFIELD — The Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) has welcomed resident Lee Hale to its board of directors. Appointed by Mayor Greg McDermott and the Town Council, he will serve a three-year term.

Hale has lived in Westfield for more than 50 years and has a long history of volunteering with many organizations in town. He has served on the Westfield Town Council (1975-76) and in the New Jersey Supreme Court's Fee Arbitration Committee.

He also served as the presi-

dent of the YMCA and the Westfield Foundation and finance chairman of the Westfield United Fund and St. Elizabeth's Hospital, was on the finance committee for the Cancer Institute of New Jersey and was a trustee for the Elizabeth General Medical Center.

His great love of sports caused him to get actively involved in Westfield High School athletics. He was a Westfield High School Booster from 1962-2004 and was the organization's president in 1965-66. Hale is also credited

with being the co-founder of the Westfield Athletic Hall of Fame, in which he was recently inducted.

Hale also was the author of the history of Echo Lake Country Club, 100 Years in the Forefront of New Jersey Golf and was co-author of *The Coaching Edge*, the story of Gary Kehler's coaching career at Westfield High School.

Having graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, Hale served in WWII and received a purple heart in the 78th Lightning Division. Before

his retirement, he was an officer for Merck & Co., Inc. and a director of Summit Trust and Lincoln Federal Savings.

Lee and his wife, Anne, have three children, Catherine Elliot Hale, Barbara Wright Hale, and Thomas Mason Hale.

Hale has been volunteering with the Downtown Westfield Corporation for the past two years. He was instrumental in preparing the application that won Westfield the 2004 Great American Main Street Award by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Registration open at Fanwood-Scotch Plains Y

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA is currently holding registration for the Early Spring Session that begins Feb. 7 and ends April 17.

A variety of membership plans allows seniors, adults and children to participate in programs and classes designed to build spirit, mind and body.

In addition to a Wellness Center that offers cardio- and strength-training machines, adult fitness classes are held during day and evening hours for all levels, with some programs specifically

designed to meet the needs of senior adults. Adult aquatics classes allow participants to improve their fitness level while reducing stress on joints.

Youth classes include Tae Kwon Do, pee wee and youth roller hockey, pee wee and youth all-sports, yoga and dance. Cheerleading classes are open to girls in kindergarten through fifth grade who want to learn cheers, jumps, and stunts. Teens are invited to stay in shape with Cycle Reebok, Wellness Center weight training, and Tae Kwon Do.

Parent/Toddler gymnastics classes are designed for parents and their walking children up to age 3. The Progressive Preschool Program for 3 to 5-year-olds uses gymnastics and a positive attitude to promote self-esteem. KinderGirls offers an introduction to gymnastics for kindergarten girls, while KinderBoys classes help develop the strength, balance, and coordination demanded by all sports.

For girls in grades one through 12, the Progressive Skills Program teaches skills on all four

Olympic events of women's gymnastics in a safe environment.

Preschool and youth swim lessons for ages 3 to 14 feature a progressive skills format, with an emphasis on stroke development and personal safety. Parent/child lessons for ages 6 months to 3 years, as well as adult lessons, are also offered.

For information on membership or programs, or to request a schedule of classes, call (908) 889-8880 or visit the Y's website at www.fanwoodscotchplainsymca.org.

Heinze to speak about Baltic history in Westfield

WESTFIELD — Author-photographer Karl Heinze will tell tales of marauding Vikings, armored knights, war, tsars and empresses, rockets and Communism at the Westfield Historical Society meeting 7:30

p.m. Jan. 21 in the Community Room of the Westfield municipal building, 425 E. Broad St.

In an audio-visual presentation, Heinze will discuss his new book, *Baltic Sagas: Events and Personalities that Changed the*

World. He will tell of strong-willed men and women, courage, love, murder, greed, seduction and intrigue.

His stories focus on such events and individuals as the Crusades, the Hanseatic League, Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, the Winter War of 1939,

the beginning of the Space Age and the fall of Soviet Communism.

Heinze explains, "This is not a comprehensive history of the region, but I have selected events and personalities that were important to the area and had an interesting story. I have included several scenes throughout the book that are based on historical events, but to which I have sometimes added reasonable assumptions as to the dialog and incidents."

Heinze obtained his bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University and went on to earn an MBA from Harvard University.

He then served on the U.S. Destroyer Samuel B. Roberts DD-823, which he helped navigate around the world, stopping at 27 ports. He edited a commemorative world cruise book. He continues to travel and, so far, has been to 80 countries.

The program is open to the public at no charge. Light refreshments will be served after the program.

ATTEND A FREE SEMINAR EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DIVORCE

The Law Firm of Dughi, Hewit & Palatucci is pleased to announce that Mario C. Gurrieri, head of its Family Law Department, and April L. Katz will present to the public a free Seminar entitled "Everything You Need To Know About Divorce" at The Westfield Inn in Westfield on Thursday, January 20, 2005 and Saturday, January 22, 2005. Mr. Gurrieri, who has specialized in matrimonial law for over thirty-two years and Ms. Katz, for twelve years, will review the law, explain the legal process and answer your questions concerning separation, divorce, custody, visitation, alimony, division of assets and post-divorce Court review of alimony and child support as well as the new law governing Domestic Partnerships.

Information will also be provided on Divorce Mediation, an alternative to the traditional contested proceeding. Divorce Mediation offers the potential for significant savings while assuring that your rights are fully protected by avoiding the expense, stress and delay involved in Court proceedings.

If you are experiencing marital difficulties and contemplating divorce, or if you are simply curious about your rights in a separation or divorce, this Seminar will be of value to you. If you are already divorced, the Seminar may be of value in explaining post-divorce rights and obligations of former spouses.

Where: Westfield Inn
435 North Ave. West
Westfield, New Jersey
(908) 654-5600

When: Thursday, January 20, 2005 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 22, 2005 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

**Reservations required (no names needed)
Call 908-272-0200**

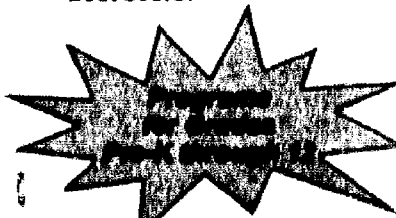
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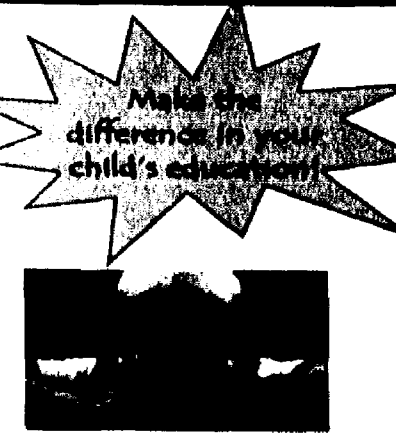
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Schools & Camps

Make baby bilingual at Noah's Ark

WESTFIELD — The product of a French father, an Italian mother, and an American preschooler, 4-year-old Alessia Mazarro is fluent in three languages. She illustrates the remarkable capability of young children to learn languages — an ability Noah's Ark Preschool owner Danielle Marino is ready to utilize with "Bilingual Babies," a full language immersion program for children 2 years old that is modeled after successful programs in Europe and Canada.

Spanish is not a subject in bilingual Babies, rather the medium through which a standard preschool curriculum is taught. Spanish is introduced with a multi-sensory approach including creative arts, language arts, storytelling, music and games.

Alessia's mother, program advisor Marianne Miserendino, grew up in Canada where immersion programs are not the exception but the rule. She said, "I am currently fluent in four languages, and I do not remember learning one."

According to the National Institute of Health and Human Development, higher quality

"Within 3-5 years of a child's life, they could learn two languages. Can you imagine that?"

— Danielle Marino

care for children ages 0 to 3 results in higher levels of cognitive and language development in life. Furthermore, a child's brain is most receptive to acquiring sounds during the first few months of life, and language in the first few years of life. This is due to the explosive increase in the number and complexity of neural connections in the first few years.

Without stimulation, however, those connections disappear. Author and developmental psychologist Dr. Kathryn Young, Ph.D., writes that, "If synapses aren't used, they die, and there's no chance to revive them."

This situation creates an incredible window of opportunity for picking up new languages, which Marino has witnessed first hand. "At Noah's Ark, we've had children from Russia, China — they come speaking no English. It's an incredible thing to see how fast they catch on."

Marino sought an immersion program for her own newborn child, Lucia Bella, only to realize the closest programs were in Manhattan — thus, the creation of Bilingual Babies.

"Within 3-5 years of a child's life, they could learn two languages," Marino said. "Can you imagine that? How incredible that is? This program is for parents who want that for their child, but can't give it themselves."

For further information about toddlers and language, the Bilingual Babies program or additional Noah's Ark classes in English, call Danielle Marino at (908) 232-7027.



Stars of Tomorrow Junior Campers participate in Costume Day, just one of the many specialty days included in the program.

Sign up for Stars of Tomorrow

CRANFORD — It seems like summer just ended, and yet it's time once again to start thinking and planning for next summer. Summer gives children of all ages considerable free time and also gives parents the challenge of keeping children fulfilled and busy with constructive yet fun activities.

Stars of Tomorrow Performing Arts Camp, located in Cranford, is an exciting summer theater program for campers ages 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.

This is a camp where young performers learn how to work and create together. Stars of Tomorrow campers experience all aspects of theater 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 supported by a staff of counselors with experience of teaching youngsters of different age levels. Additional information about staff and counselors is located on the website, www.starsoftomorrow.com, which also includes information on camp tuition and program dates, early registration discounts, camp policies, and open house details. Read what campers' parents have to say and check out the new "News Flash" webpage and read exciting news about counselors and campers and their accomplishments.

Mail-in registrations are currently

being accepted for Theater Tots (ages 3-4), the Juniors Program (grades K-2), Full-Day Program (grades 3-high school), and the Two-Week Session Program (grades 3-high school). To receive a copy of the brochure, call (908) 276-05053 or e-mail StarsOfTomorrow@comcast.net

A free dance and drama workshop will be offered at the winter open house from 6:30-8 p.m. Sunday at the Cranford United Methodist Church, corner of Walnut and Lincoln avenues. In case of inclement weather, visit the website for an alternate open house date or call (908) 276-5053.

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www.StarsOfTomorrow.com
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Some spots left at Miss Nancy's Center

CRANFORD — The unique teaching style at Miss Nancy's Learning Center makes learning an enjoyable, fun activity.

Circle time is an important daily feature, giving each child an opportunity to experience learning in a special way. It is used to teach educational and social skills that are linked together in all the day's activities, and each child learns not only colors, shapes, letters, beginning phonics, match readiness and number recognition, but how these things relate to their daily lives.

Classes give each child a chance to develop socialization skills, including the give and take of a group, verbalizing problems, sharing, taking turns, and, good manners. The daily schedule also includes play time, snack time, exercise, music, songs, crafts and a Bible story.

Miss Nancy's Learning Center offers a program for children who will turn 3 by Oct. 1, 2005. The class meets Monday and Tuesday. Parents may choose either the 9 a.m.-noon or the 1-4 p.m. session. The program is designed to enhance a child's growth, build self-esteem, improve socialization skills and lay a foundation for math, reading, science, art and music. The goal is to

establish the awareness that learning is fun.

Miss Nancy also offers a special pre-K class for children who will turn 4 by Oct. 1, 2005. The class meets Wednesday through Friday from 9 a.m.-noon. It is equivalent to a 4s-plus program and has additional learning goals in math readiness, reading readiness, learning addresses and phone numbers, color mixing, months, seasons, nature, science and music. The class prepares children for kindergarten and builds self-esteem.

The school is located in the Cranford United Methodist Church next to the Cranford Library. The Christian environment provided by the center is designed to help young children to grow and develop into secure and independent individuals. The staff is committed to building a positive self-image for every child.

There are also a few spaces available in the January to May 2005 classes. If you're new to town and your child turned 3 by Oct. 1, 2004, you can enroll now for this year.

For more, call (908) 276-9668. Nancy Boyle, director of the center, will reserve a place for your child, send a brochure, or schedule a visit to a class in action.

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— Timothy Cox, UCC '04

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Time is running out to enter high school playwright contest

The Theater Project, Union County College's professional theater company, reminds all local high school playwrights that the deadline for submission is fast approaching.

The contest is open to students in Union County in grades 9 through 12. Scripts at any stage of completion are eligible. The deadline for submission is Jan. 31, 2005. There is a \$5 entry fee.

First, second and third prize winners will receive \$600, \$400, and \$200 U.S. savings bonds. The winning scripts will be honored with script-in-hand performances during AT&T Family Week at the Theater in March 2005, when professional theaters in NJ offer free programming for young people. The savings bonds will be presented at that time.

Contest guidelines allow original work only, no adaptations. The group cannot accept work that has been previously produced or workshopped. All submissions must be at least 10 but no more than 30 pages (excerpts of longer work are

acceptable).

Scripts must be typed in play format. All entrants must be Union County residents in secondary school, and only one entry per author. All entries must include a self-addressed stamped envelope, a 50-word biography of the author including contact information, and the \$5 entrance fee (check or money order, payable to The Theater Project). Mail entries to The Theater Project, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, NJ 07016. The contest was made possible by a generous donation from Linden screenwriter and novelist, Bill Mesce Jr. The Theater Project's programs are made possible in part by grants from The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Union County College Foundation, and by the generosity of Mr. J. Edward Cecala and Mrs. Marion Curka.

For further information about the workshop or the contest, call Mark Spina at The Theater Project, (908) 659-5189.

Met Opera baritone sings in Cranford

The ninth annual "Music in a Sacred Place" concert series continues with a concert by Metropolitan Opera baritone Richard Hobson 4 p.m. Sunday at Trinity Episcopal Church, North and Forest avenues in Cranford. A reception with the artist will follow in Sherrock Hall. The suggested donation is \$10. Hobson, a faculty member at Kean University, is an affiliated artist teaching voice and directing opera workshops. Besides being on the roster at the Met, he has sung leading roles with the New York City Opera, Toledo Opera, Michigan Opera, Dallas Opera, and others. He has toured Europe as Porgy in *Porgy and Bess*. For more information, call the church at (908) 276-4047 or visit www.trinitychurchcranford.com.



The trio Modern Man will perform this weekend in the Coffee with Conscience concert series.

Musical trio brings 'Modern' show to Westfield on Saturday

The Coffee with Conscience concert series will present the trio Modern Man in concert at the First United Methodist Church, 1 East Broad St. in Westfield, on Saturday. Doors will open at 7:15 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$14. All net proceeds from the evening's concert will be donated to the Eric Johnson House in Morristown.

Reservations are strongly encouraged for this concert, and can be made by calling the concert hotline at (908) 522-1501 or e-mailing concerts4causes@aol.com. Leave a first and last name, the number of seats needed and a phone number.

Modern Man boasts a series of humorous tunes that won a standing ovation from the audience at the 1999 Kerrville Folk Festival. For more information about the group, visit www.modernman3.com.

The Coffee with Conscience series is a 10-show series running from September through June at the First United Methodist Church. This season, the

concerts are being recorded for broadcast by Westfield's TV-36. Residents of Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside can catch each month's concert on Fridays at 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. and on Sundays at 7 p.m.

The series supports the following charities: The Eric Johnson House of Morristown, the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, the Names Project (more commonly known as the AIDS Quilt), Habitat for Humanity and the Community FoodBank of NJ. Each concert benefits one of these charities. A season sampler CD is also available for \$12.

For more information about the series, the upcoming performance, ways to get involved with the series, or info on getting a copy of the sampler CD, call Ahrrre Maros, owner of Ahrrre's Coffee Roastery in Westfield, at (908) 522-1501 or go to www.coffeewithconscience.com. Volunteers are always appreciated.

Auditions planned for WCP show

Director Drude Roessler of Westfield Community Players is holding open auditions for the James Valcq and Fred Alley musical *The Spitfire Grill* at 2 p.m. Sunday and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the WCP Theater at 1000 North Avenue West, Westfield.

The musical director is Larry Rothweiler, and rehearsals will start in February for an April 30 opening. For additional information, call producer Kay Macrae at 908-232-0283.

The show's action unfolds as Percy Talbott arrives in the small town of Gilead, fresh from her five-year prison term. As the reality of economically-depressed Gilead sets in, she finds work at the Spitfire Grill. Slowly, her upbeat mentality injects new life and hope into the skeptical town. The New York Times

called the piece "a soul-satisfying work of theatrical resourcefulness... a compelling story that flows with grace and carries the rush of anticipation."

The cast requirements for four women and three men are as follows:

Percy Talbott — early 20s, pretty but rough-edged; strong folk/country belt to 'D', some head voice required.

Hannah Ferguson — about 70, tough-skinned and flinty, bordering on bitter; mezzo/alto chest range.

Shelby Thorpe — mid-30s, plain, soft-faced and shy; folk soprano with strong high belt to 'D'.

Caleb Thorpe — early 40s, frustrated out-of-work foreman; Shelby's domineering husband; solid folk/rock voice with a top 'G'.

Sherriff Joe Sutter — mid-late 20s, small-town policeman, intense, restless; strong folk tenor to a 'G' (touches an 'A').

Effy Krayneck — 50s, busy-body postmistress, suspicious, sour-tongued; solid mezzo/alto chest range, carries close harmony.

The Visitor — mid-40s, mysterious figure who never speaks, powerful eyes and a strong sense of his body, must move well.

All characters speak in standard midwestern speech without contrived intonations. Auditioners should prepare a song in folk/rock style and bring music in their own key. Possible call-backs will be on Thursday, Jan. 20 if needed.

Show dates are 8 p.m. April 30, May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21, with \$20 tickets available starting April 1 at (908) 232-1221.

Charlie Brown puts spotlight on teens' efforts

The Light Bulb Players, a division of the New Jersey Workshop

for the Arts, will soon present its first production, *You're a Good*

Man, Charlie Brown, which is being produced, directed and performed by area teenagers.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, by Clark Gesner, is a musical based on the comic strip *Peanuts* by Charles Schulz. This production is supervised by NJWA staff members Juan and Valerie Pineda; all of the required work is being done by the students in the group.

For their first production, The Light Bulb Players' co-general managers and founders, Natalie Narotzky and Michael Mielicki, enlisted local young actors with whom they have worked in the past. The character Sally is played by Jennifer Diltzell, who is in the eighth grade at Edison Intermediate School. Billy Gelzeiler and Kelly Braun, freshmen at Westfield High School, portray Snoopy and Schroeder, respectively.

Lucy is played by Natalie Narotzky and her character's brother, Linus, is played by Connor Davis, both of whom are sophomores at Westfield High School.

The role of Charlie Brown is played by Michael Mielicki, who is a sophomore at Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison. Kristen Diltzell, a sophomore at Westfield High School, is the choreographer for the production.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown will be presented at The First Baptist Church on Elm Street in Westfield at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22. Both performances are free and are geared toward children, but the humor and music will be enjoyed by the entire family.

For information and tickets, call the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts at (908) 789-9696.

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Arts group hosts demo

The Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association will present a demonstration by William O'Connor following their 7:30 p.m. Wednesday business meeting at the Fanwood Community House on North Avenue.

O'Connor enrolled at the age of 10 at the Huntington School of Fine Arts, where he learned the fundamentals of painting, drawing and sculpture and graduated with scholarships to several leading art schools. At Alfred University he explored the fields of acting and philosophy, but painting and the subjects of science fiction and fantasy took priority. He has won numerous awards, the latest being the Award of Merit at the World Science Fiction Convention. For more, call (908) 322-5438.

John A. Perrucci Sr.

SCOTCH PLAINS — John Angelo Perrucci Sr., 89, died Jan. 3, 2005 at his home in Lopatcong Township.

Born April 10, 1915 in Montazzoli, Italy, he was a son of the late Angelomario and Marietta Appezatto Perrucci.

Mr. Perrucci came to the United States at age 9 and lived in Scotch Plains before moving to Lopatcong Township. He owned the Oxford Stone Quarry, whose related plants provided materials used to build Interstate 78 through Central New Jersey and Interstate 80 through Northern New Jersey. He also owned construction companies in South Plainfield and Oxford.

He was a past president of the New Jersey Asphalt Pavement Association, the New Jersey Concrete and Aggregate Association, the National Limestone Institute and UNICO of Warren County. A charter member of the Phillipsburg Italian-American Club, Mr. Perrucci was a former member of the Phillipsburg Lions Club and Phillipsburg Rotary Club.

He was a parishioner of St. Philip and St. James Roman Catholic Church in Phillipsburg.

Three brothers, Arthur, Anthony and Angelo, are deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Angelina Belardo Perrucci, with whom Mr. Perrucci celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary Aug. 24; four sons, John, Angelo, Michael and Paul; two daughters, Marie Sacco and Kathy Degan; a brother, Ernest; two sisters, Amelia Rivellini and Gloria Burke; 16 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Friday at the Rupell Funeral Home, Phillipsburg, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Philip and St. James Church. Entombment was in the St. Francis Mausoleum at St. Mary's Cemetery, Alpha.

William T. Frank

FANWOOD — William T. Frank, 88, died Dec. 23, 2004 at Community Medical Center in Toms River.

Born in Newark, he lived in Fanwood for 20 years before moving to Manchester in 1979.

Mr. Frank was with New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. for 33 years and retired in 1979 as a Rahway-based executive. A Paul Harris Fellow, he was a member of the Rahway Rotary Club and the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club.

He also was a member of the Leisure Knoll Golf Club; the NAEC Golf Club, at the Naval Air

Station Lakehurst; and the Union County Chamber of Commerce. He participated in Union County Civil Defense matters for 25 years.

An Army captain in World War II, Mr. Frank transferred to the Army Reserve after the war and spent 25 years in the military before retiring with the rank of colonel.

Surviving are his wife of 63 years, Jeanne Wright Frank; two sons, William Terry and Richard Allan; a brother, Robert G.; and three grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by the Anderson & Campbell Funeral Home in Manchester.

Regina Higgins

SCOTCH PLAINS — Regina L. Kennedy Higgins, 87, died Jan. 6, 2005 at her home.

Born in Scranton, Pa., she lived in Elizabeth and Mountainside before moving to Scotch Plains in 1999.

Mrs. Higgins was a retired operator with the Bell Telephone Co. of Pennsylvania and New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. She also was for 10 years a lunchroom aide at Washington School in Westfield.

Her husband, James P. Sr., is deceased.

Surviving are two daughters,

Colleen Manhardt and Jeanne L. Dalrymple; a son, James P.; a sister, Anna Mae Marinov; 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at the Higgins & Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, Westfield, followed by a funeral Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care, 1900 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

Maggie Simone

WESTFIELD — Maggie D. DiLorenzo Simone, 83, died Jan. 7, 2005 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

She was born in Cranford and had lived in Westfield since 1947.

Mrs. Simone retired in 2002 as the manager and buyer at Sealsons, a Westfield children's shop that once was known as Arthur Stevens. She was on the Arthur Stevens and Sealsons staff for 50 years.

The Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce honored Mrs. Simone as its Woman Retailer of the Year

for 1993.

Her husband, Joseph, died in 1962.

Surviving are a daughter, Shaaron Scutti; a son, Bruce; three sisters, Rose Ostrowski, Margaret Gonnella and Helen Ross; a brother, Domenick DiLorenzo; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Monday at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Funeral Home in Cranford.

Anne Dushinka

WESTFIELD — Anne R. Kronyak Dushinka, 89, died Jan. 4, 2005 at her home.

Born in Carlstadt, she lived in Scotch Plains for 40 years before moving to Westfield in 1994.

Mrs. Dushinka was a registered nurse, retiring in 1972 after more than 17 years with Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. As an Army nurse in World War II she was posted to the 249th General Hospital Division in the Pacific with the rank of second lieutenant.

She became a Red Cross nurse after graduating from the nursing school at St. Mary's Hospital in Passaic.

Her husband, Thomas A., died

in 1984. Ten brothers and sisters are deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, MaryAnne McMillan; a son, Andrew; two sisters, Kathleen Kronyak and Josephine Connors; four grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

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

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Westfield Rescue Squad, 335 Waterson St., Westfield, NJ 07090 or American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, NJ 07090.

John H. Sich

SCOTCH PLAINS — John H. Sich, 90, died Jan. 3, 2005 at Community Hospital in New Port Richey, Fla.

Born in Bensenville, Pa., he lived in Scotch Plains before moving to New Port Richey 22 years ago.

Mr. Sich was a retired elevator adjuster with the Dover Elevator Corp. In the Knights of Columbus he was a past grand knight with Council 1711 in Westfield and a member of St. James Council 10955 in Port Richey, Fla.

Surviving are a son, John of

Siler City, N.C.; four daughters, Winifred Prekel of Easton, Pa., Norma Jean Gilligan of Califon, Janet Del Nero of South Plainfield and Marian Hanright of New Hartford, Conn.; a sister, Rose Balaban of Wyncesburg, Pa.; 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Saturday at St. James the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, Port Richey, of which Mr. Sich was a parishioner. Arrangements were by the Kuppel Funeral Home in Port Richey.

Louis Colacino

FANWOOD — Louis Colacino, 80, died Jan. 4, 2005 at his home in Middleham, Va.

Born in New Haven, Conn., he lived in Fanwood before moving to Middleham in 2002.

Mr. Colacino was with Texaco Inc. for 32 years, retiring in 1983 from its security department in Bayonne. He was an Army veteran of World War II.

His wife, Helen, died in 2001. Surviving are a son, Gregory and wife Sarah of Richmond,

Va.; a brother, Arthur; four sisters, Gloria Jaslosky, Jeanette Obrenski, Edith and Eileen; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held Monday at the Memorial Funeral Home. Burial was in Graceland Memorial Park, Kenilworth.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey Chapter, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, NJ 07834-1366.

Obituaries

Saul Gorne; delivered over 3,500 babies

FANWOOD — Saul S. Gorne, a family practitioner with a large obstetrical clientele, died Friday at his home at age 96.

He delivered more than 3,500 babies in a 49-year medical career in Flint, Mich., where Dr. Gorne provided free health care to automobile workers who participated in sitdown strikes in the late 1930s. On his retirement in 1985 he and his partner donated their medical office to the Flint Jewish Federation for use as its offices.

He received his medical degree from Wayne State University and in 1935-36 was an intern at Hurley Hospital in Flint.

Dr. Gorne was a past president of the Flint Jewish Federation, vice president of Temple Beth El in Flint and chairman for United Jewish Appeal fund drives. A charter member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, he received the Dr. Clement A. Alfred Humanitarian Award in 1997 from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. He was honored by Israel Bonds in 1973 and by the Genesee County Medical Society Auxiliary in Flint for 45 years of

service.

As a physician he was a volunteer with Planned Parenthood, the Hospice for Communities and Family & Children's Services. He was an Army veteran of World War II.

Dr. Gorne was born in Russia and settled in Detroit, Mich., when he came to the United States in 1921. He lived in Flint and Pompano Beach, Fla., before moving to Fanwood in 2002.

Surviving are his wife of 69 years, Sophie; three daughters, Brenda Berger, Merrily Hart and Stephanie Rittman; six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Sunday at the Higgins Home for Funerals, Plainfield, with Rabbi Joel Abraham officiating. Additional services were held Wednesday at Temple Beth El with Rabbi Karen Companie officiating. Burial was in Beth El Cemetery, Mount Morris, Mich.

Donations may be sent to Temple Beth El, 5150 Calkins Road, Flint, MI 48532 or Temple Shalom, P.O. Box 539, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

Wesley Watkins

WESTFIELD — Wesley Watkins, 76, died Jan. 3, 2005 at his home.

He was born in Newark and lived in that city before moving to Westfield in 1975.

Mr. Watkins retired after more than 30 years as a stockroom clerk with Tenney Engineering Inc. in Union. He was a member of Elks Centennial Lodge 400 in Westfield and the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World.

He was an Army veteran of the Korean War.

Deceased are his wife, Joy Bell Watkins; a stepson, Jerry Bond; a brother, Charles; and a sister, Jewell.

Surviving are a stepdaughter, Marilyn Smith; a stepson, James Bond; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Friday at the Emmanuel Church of Christ in Newark. Burial was in the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Arnytown.

Arrangements were by the Perry Funeral Home in Newark.

Mary Evans Cawley

SCOTCH PLAINS — Mary Evans Cawley, 86, died Jan. 5, 2004 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Mrs. Cawley was born in Philadelphia, Pa. She lived in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, and Syosset, N.Y., before moving to Scotch Plains in 2002.

She was a past president of the Mothers' Guild at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Bay Ridge.

Surviving are her husband, John W.; three daughters, Eileen Condon of Scotch Plains, Joannie

Rochford of Bay Ridge and Barbara Major of Syosset; two brothers, Joseph Evans of Keansburg and Martin Evans of Massapequa, N.Y.; a sister, Anne Egan of Old Bridge; six grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services were held Friday at the Higgins & Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, Westfield, followed by a funeral Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Arnytown.

Carl Joseph Lucchesi

WESTFIELD — Carl Joseph Lucchesi, 70, died Jan. 9, 2005 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

A lifelong Westfield resident, Mr. Lucchesi retired in 1999 after 42 years in the automobile business. He graduated from Westfield High School in 1953 and was in the Navy from 1955-57.

Surviving are his wife of 45 years, Shirley Critelli-Lucchesi; a son, Vincent of Sea Girt; a daughter,

Anna Gahn and husband Douglas of Denville; a sister, Ann of Westfield; and five grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Wednesday at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church, Garwood, following services at the Dooley Colonial Home. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Westfield Rescue Squad.

Gladys Sidford

WESTFIELD — Gladys T. "Skeet" Sidford, 92, died Jan. 8, 2005 at her home.

Mrs. Sidford was born in New York City and lived in Fanwood before moving to Westfield in 1941. She also had a summer home in Brewster, Mass., and at one time had a home in South Yarmouth, Mass.

She was from 1961-69 an executive secretary with the Kemper Insurance Co. in Summit. Mrs. Sidford, who graduated from the Katharine Gibbs School, worked briefly with Baptist Missionary Services in Manhattan.

She was active in the bridge group at the Echo Lake Country Club. As well Mrs. Sidford was a former member of the Commaquid Golf Club in Yarmouth Port, Mass.

Her husband of 54 years, Noel D. Jr., died in 1992.

Surviving are a daughter, Adair Shepherd of Wantage; a

son, Gordon of Westfield; a sister, Marion "Mits" Keller of Naples, Fla.; a brother, Harold C. "Cam" Todd Jr. of East Lyme, Conn.; 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 22 at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, 170 Elm St.

Arrangements are by the Gray Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Jimmy Fund.

Charlotte Ilgaz

SCOTCH PLAINS — Charlotte Glimbert Ilgaz, 78, died Dec. 23, 2004 at the Barbara E. Cheung Memorial Hospice in Edison.

Born in Ithaca, N.Y., she lived in Scotch Plains before moving to Edison.

Mrs. Ilgaz was a longtime bookkeeper with the Social Security Administration in Plainfield.

Surviving are two daughters, Joan and Lynne, and two grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by the Rossi Funeral Home.

Walter Paul

SCOTCH PLAINS — Walter Paul, 84, died Jan. 4, 2005 at his home.

Born in Lumberton, N.C., he lived in Piscataway before moving to Scotch Plains in 1982.

Mr. Paul was an automobile body technician for 42 years with Herb Clark's Auto Body shop in New Brunswick. He was with the Army Air Corps in the South Pacific during World War II.

His wife, Lessie Mae, died in 1984. A daughter, Ginger, died in 1995.

Surviving are four sons, Michael Demaurez, Michael, Scotty and Jeff, all of Scotch Plains; a sister, Eunice Rebels of North Carolina; and three grandchildren.

Services were held Friday at the Piscataway Funeral Home. Burial was in Lake Nelson Memorial Park, Piscataway.

Joseph P. O'Connor

SCOTCH PLAINS — Joseph P. O'Connor, 87, died Jan. 10, 2005 at his home.

He was born in Elizabeth and had lived in Scotch Plains since 1950.

Mr. O'Connor retired after 45 years with New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. He was in a Navy construction battalion during World War II.

He was a past president of the Columbian Club sponsored by Monsignor Henry J. Waterson Council 1711, Knights of Columbus, in Westfield. With the Knights he also was a past grand knight of Council 1711; a past faithful navigator of the John Dawson Gilmary Shea Assembly.

Fourth Degree, in Elizabeth; and a member of the Watchung General Assembly, Fourth Degree, in Plainfield.

Mr. O'Connor was a member of Martin Wallberg Post 3, American Legion, in Westfield, and Elks Lodge 885 in Plainfield.

His wife, Emilie, is deceased. Surviving are a daughter, Barbara A. Verdie; and a grandchild.

A funeral Mass was held yesterday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church. Entombment was in the Good Shepherd Chapel Mausoleum at St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Arrangements were by the Gray Funeral Home in Westfield.

Robert E. Brower

SCOTCH PLAINS — Robert E. Brower, 85, died Jan. 9, 2005 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy Division.

He was born in Elizabeth and lived in that city before moving to Scotch Plains.

Mr. Brower was retired from the Bayway Refinery of Exxon Corp. in Linden. He was an Army veteran of World War II and a member of the Disabled American Veterans.

Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Phyllis Hiltz Brower; two daughters, Denise Krenicki

and husband Stephen of Belle Mead and Debra of Scotch Plains; and three sisters, Marie Koenig of Spring Lake, Anita Imperio of Mountainside and Dorothy Frank and husband Michael of Lakehurst.

Services were held yesterday at the Werson Funeral Home, Linden, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Disabled American Veterans.

Christopher Richey

WESTFIELD — Christopher C. Richey, 51, died Jan. 9, 2005 at his home in Bayonne.

Born in Brooklyn, he lived in Scotch Plains and Westfield before moving to Bayonne in 2001.

Mr. Richey was a production supervisor with Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick, where he was employed from 1976-95. He held a bachelor's degree in marketing from the former Upsala College in East Orange. He received an associate's degree in public administration from Union County College.

Surviving are his father, Robert of New Brunswick; a daughter, Melissa of Westfield; three brothers, David and Noel, both of Germantown, Md., and Chet of Bayonne; and two sisters, Tara Roessel of Elizabeth and Amanda of Bayonne.

A memorial service will be 11 a.m. today at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 E. Broad St.

Arrangements are by the Gray Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the American Heart Association.

Edgar Willmott Sr.

SCOTCH PLAINS — Edgar J. Willmott Sr., 78, died Jan. 10, 2005 at the Norwood Terrace Health Center in Plainfield.

Born in Tilton, N.H., he lived in New York state and Plainfield before moving to Scotch Plains in 2003.

Mr. Willmott retired in 1979 after 30 years as a stationary fireman with the Koppers Coke Co. in

Garwood. He also was an artist and a published poet.

Surviving are a daughter, April G. Castle; three sons, Nathaniel, Brock and Theodore; 12 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held yesterday at the G.G. Woody Funeral Home in Roselle. Burial will be 10 a.m. today in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

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Performing Arts Studio ready for new semester

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Performing Arts Studio is gearing up for a new semester of acting, musical theatre and improvisation workshops.

"We take pride in motivating our students to explore their inner talents, physically express themselves through pantomime, sharpen their minds by participating in improvisations and experience the fun of creating characters," said Robin Gerson Wong, director of The Performing Arts Studio. "By participating in our classes, our students' confidence and self-esteem grow. In a nurturing environment, we allow our students to take creative risks. Many times the results are amazing, and the children far exceed our expectations."

The studio is dedicated to enriching children's lives through the arts. Classes are designed to reach out to the shy as well as precocious student and channel his or her talents.

"Our professional staff is trained to encourage the most reticent child to come out of his shell. In turn, the 'little hams' in our classes learn to develop their natural gifts," said Gerson Wong. "Our curriculum is geared for both the professional tracked student as well as the child who just wants to explore his or her natural talent."

The Performing Arts Studio



Teen students at the studio pose before taking the stage in the murder mystery *Whodunnit?* Pictured: (back row) Liz Hammonds, Chelsea Pech, Lindsay Gerrity, Jenny Brigante, Christine Figueora; (front row) Samantha Traiman, Alex Poage, Mary Kate O'Connell.

begins its spring registration this month. Acting classes are offered to children from kindergarten through high school. Advanced scene study class is available to students in grades 7-12. Musical theatre classes are offered to students in grades two-three, four-five and grades 6-12. Improvisation classes are offered to middle school through high school students. Classes

begin the first week of February and are held at The Jewish Community Center (JCC) and Terrill Middle School. Both are located in Scotch Plains.

The spring session consists of 14 lessons taught by theatre professionals. At the end of the semester, students perform in a year-end production complete with costumes, make-up, lights, microphones, and music. This

production is staged for family and friends at Terrill Middle School theatre.

The Performing Arts Studio will also be running a summer theatre camp at Terrill Middle School. For more information and to receive a spring and/or summer brochure, call (908) 412-6565 or visit the website at www.thepperformingartsstudio.com.

Open house planned Jan. 25 at the Osceola Church Nursery School

CLARK — Osceola Church Nursery School which meets in the Osceola Presbyterian Church, 1689 Raritan Road, Clark, will hold an open house on Jan. 25. Parents and their children are invited to come to visit the facility and meet with the teachers anytime between 9-11 a.m. or 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Registration for classes for September 2005 will be completed by mail, beginning on Feb. 1. All registration materials will be distributed at the open house.


Osceola Church Nursery School offers developmentally appropriate learning activities for pre-school children to foster social emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual growth. As the school begins its 41st year, they offer twice-weekly classes (morning or afternoon) for 3-year-olds and three-day-a-week classes (morning or afternoon) for 4-year-olds. To be eligible, children must be 3 or 4 years old by Oct. 1. A staggered dismissal schedule in the afternoon facilitates dismissal times at local public schools.

The licensed teaching staff members know that children learn through play, and the goal is to provide each child with socialization opportunities, creative outlets and exciting play experiences that teach them that school is a fun, safe and nurturing place. It is the only co-operative nursery school in the area where parents work in the classroom, and are thus able to take part in their children's education.

The program includes musical experiences, physical activities and visits to special "child-oriented" places in the community.

Osceola Church Nursery School is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, a branch of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, which has found the school to be in compliance with its standards for high quality early childhood programs.

For further information about the school's programs or about registration, contact Judith Burlew, director, at (908) 272-3668.



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Open house at Willow Grove

SCOTCH PLAINS — Willow Grove Pre-School, located at 1961 Raritan Rd., will hold a parent pre-registration open house for the 2005-06 school year on Jan. 20 (snow date Jan. 21).

The event is scheduled to begin at 10:15 a.m. in the church's Alexander Hall. Director Kathy Calello will present a slide show giving an overview of the pre-school program along with a tour of the facility.

Willow Grove Pre-School is a Christian pre-school, sponsored by Willow Grove Presbyterian Church and licensed by the state of New Jersey. Class teachers are state-certified educators. Classes are offered for children who will be 2½ by Oct. 1 for the 3-minus Program, along with classes for 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds and the 4-plus class for children who either miss the kindergarten cut-off date or just need another year of pre-school.

Registration for the 2005-06 school year will begin Feb. 7 for present enrollees and alumni. Open registration will begin on Feb. 14. For further information, call Mrs. Calello at (908) 232-7117.

Magnet School wins Blue Ribbon award

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Union County Magnet School in Scotch Plains is one of eight New Jersey schools to be selected by the United States Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School. The Blue Ribbon Schools award places the Union County Magnet School among the best in the nation.

"We are very proud of all of those involved, including administrators, teachers, students and parents. To be selected among 289 public and private schools nationwide is indeed a great honor and shows the commitment to excellence shared by all," said

Union County Freeholder Chairman Angel G. Estrada.


Established in 1982, the No Child Left Behind — Blue Ribbon School's Program honors public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior in their states or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

The program requires schools to meet either of two assessment criteria. It recognizes schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance in accordance with state assessment systems; and it rewards schools that score in the top 10 percent on state assessments.

Of the schools submitted by each state, at least one-third must meet the first criterion of having 40 percent of the students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The program allows both elementary and secondary schools to be recognized in the same year.

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Health & Fitness

Volunteers are needed at Runnells Specialized Hospital

With the holiday season now past, think about giving a gift that's always the right color and never has to be returned — volunteer your time at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

There is a great need for volunteers, particularly in the coffee shop. These individuals are responsible for making and serving: coffee, tea and hot chocolate, buttered rolls and bagels, as well as serving pastries, donuts and muffins. They also keep the coffee shop clean and the supplies full.

Currently, the shifts for coffee shop volunteers are Monday through Friday and Sunday, from 8 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. The shop is not open on Saturday due to the lack of volunteers. However, if individuals step forward who wish to volunteer on Saturdays, residents, patients, staff and visitors could be served on that day as well.

Profits from the coffee shop go to the hospital's Volunteer Guild, Runnells' fundraising arm, which uses the money, combined with the profits from the Guided Cage gift shop, for the benefit of the hospital's residents and patients. The Guild purchases birthday and holiday gifts, as well as DVDs, CD players and TVs; sponsors entertainment throughout the year; and sponsors and hosts a monthly ice cream social, in addition to supporting tickets to the theater, prizes for bingo games, the annual carnival and many other activities.

In addition to the Guild's need for volunteers for the coffee shop, the hospital's Office of Volunteer Services is seeking volunteers for other activities. These include extending the hand of friendship to residents who don't have family or friendship contacts via the Friendly Visitor Program and assisting handicapped persons to swim and exercise in the "Y" pool as part of Swim, Inc.

Students who are at least 14 are needed as junior volunteers, with opportunities ranging from field trips where they may escort residents, bringing them from their rooms to the lobby (and back upon returning) and playing cooperative games like bingo.

The Volunteer Guild and the Office of Volunteer Services of Runnells Specialized Hospital are always interested in recruiting volunteers. Flexible hours and a variety of opportunities exist, with resident contact as well as performing other tasks.

Anyone who would like further information should call the Office of Volunteer Services at (908) 771-5847.

Group helps those who care for elderly

SAGE Eldercare, a major community resource for eldercare, offers a monthly support group for caregivers the third Wednesday of each month at SAGE's Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center, 550 Springfield Ave. in Berkeley Heights.

PREP — People Responsible for Elderly Persons — provides caregivers with emotional support, community resources, effective

problem-solving and coping strategies, and the chance to share common concerns with others who are caring for their aging loved ones.

PREP's next meeting will be 7-9 p.m. Wednesday. For more information, call Ellen McNally, SAGE InfoCare director, at (908) 273-4598.

SAGE Eldercare serves as a major community resource in the

establishment and delivery of innovative services for older adults and their caregivers, providing them with dignity and choice. These services allow the elderly to remain independent and living in their own homes.

Present SAGE programs include HomeCare, Meals-on-Wheels, SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) of Union County, bill-paying, a shop-

ping service, chore service, InfoCare, a Resale Shop and Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center, currently located in Berkeley Heights.

SAGE serves 5,000 older people and their families annually in Essex, Morris, Somerset, and Union counties.

For more information contact 908-273-5550 or log onto www.sagenj.org.

Library to host talk on treating varicose veins

SCOTCH PLAINS — At 7 p.m. Jan. 26, the Scotch Plains Public Library will present "New Treatments for Varicose Veins: A Minimally Invasive Approach" in cooperation with Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

Dr. David Richmand will discuss symptoms and the newest treatments for dull pain, itch or heavy sensations in legs.

Richmand has been in clinical practice since 1982 and is affiliated with John F. Kennedy Medical

Center and Somerset Medical Center, as well as Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

He is also a member of the Eastern Vascular Society of New Jersey, the Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery and the Union County Medical Society.

New treatments for vascular problems are often non-invasive.

Participants will hear about current treatments and services available to relieve problems associated with varicose veins.

Pre-registration is optional. The program is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served.

The Scotch Plains Library is located at 1927 Bartle Ave., one block from Park Avenue in the center of town. For further information or directions, call (908) 322-5007.

Targeting kids' weight loss

Summit Medical Group pediatrician Ellen Ganek, M.D., is offering a 12-week weight management program for children ages 9-13 beginning Tuesday.

For information, call the office of Dr. Ganek at (908) 228-3620 or Summit Medical Group's Pediatric Clinical Coordinator, Kelly Pereira, at (908) 277-8742.

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BOARDING SCHOOL

Novice snowboarders, in particular, are prone to injuring themselves on the slopes. The combination of fixed bindings and the fact that snowboarders ride sideways means that they most often try to break their falls with their arms, injuring their wrists and shoulders. Unlike skiing, where risk increases as people become more proficient and ski faster, studies have shown that snowboarding is most dangerous during the first few days on the slopes. Some studies say that the risk of injury in snowboarding is 20% in the first five days of starting the sport, which is quite high. Injuries include very bad fractures of the wrist, requiring casts, pins, or screws, and taking 12-16 weeks to heal with physical therapy.

Proper stretching before and after snowboarding to increase flexibility, good instruction and wearing protective gear are effective ways to decrease the risk of serious injuries. If you would like further information about today's topic or to schedule an appointment for physical therapy, call BILL REHABILITATION & SPORTS MEDICINE at (908) 273-5955. We are conveniently located at 777 Walnut Ave. in Cranford. New patients are welcome. Auto Insurance Claims are our specialty, and we will submit your bills for compensation. No faults & Medicare.

P.S. Helmets are strongly recommended for snowboarders.

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Progress made in arthritis treatment

(ARA) — Cutting-edge biologic therapies and a predictive marker for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) are among the top 10 arthritis advances of 2004, according to the Arthritis Foundation.

Exciting discoveries of the past year also include a novel treatment that slows bone erosion and a common genetic link to autoimmune disorders such as RA, lupus, diabetes and thyroid disease.

Arthritis advocates also scored successes in 2004 with the introduction of the first arthritis-specific legislation in more than 30 years and the implementation of a Medicare pilot program allowing thousands of Americans with RA and psoriatic arthritis to obtain life-changing biologic medications at a reduced cost.

"As the number of people with arthritis reaches epidemic proportions, advances in research, public health and public policy are more important than ever to preventing, controlling and eventually curing the nation's number one cause of disability," said John H. Klippel, M.D., president and CEO of the Arthritis Foundation. "Breakthrough advances in 2004 offer hope to people with arthritis and provide a glimpse of what is possible in the future."

Other advances include:

- Effectiveness of weight loss and physical activity confirmed
- First-ever set of quality indicators for arthritis developed
- Measures to prevent wrong-site surgery mandated
- Antibiotic shown to slow progression of knee osteoarthritis

To develop its annual list of the top 10 arthritis advances, the Arthritis Foundation sought input from clinicians with expertise in different forms of arthritis, scientists from various research disciplines, and the American College of Rheumatology, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Advances in 2004 showed that in the near future, people might benefit from therapies targeted at the root causes of serious forms of arthritis rather than those aimed at treating disease symptoms. It also could become routine to screen patients to determine who is at risk for severe disease progression and, therefore, who is most likely to benefit from early and aggressive treatment.

The foreseeable future also promises a greater quality of life for patients with arthritis and related diseases through increased government funding for research and public health activities, advances in quality care standards for people with arthritis, and improved pre-operative processes in joint surgery. An improved understanding of the benefits of weight loss and exercise in reducing pain and improving physical function, as well as promising research into antibiotic treatment to slow disease progression, will lead to relief for millions of Americans suffering from debilitating knee OA.

With one in every two Americans over 50 facing fractures from osteoporosis or low bone mass by 2020, advances made in slowing the progressive loss of bone and increasing bone mass have never been more important. Research conducted in 2004 will serve as the launching pad for bone health advances in the coming year, with researchers poised for more breakthroughs in the future.

The Arthritis Foundation is the single largest nonprofit contributor to arthritis research in the world and the only nationwide, nonprofit health organization helping people take greater control of arthritis by leading efforts to prevent, control and cure arthritis and related diseases — the nation's number one cause of disability. For free arthritis information, contact the Arthritis Foundation at (800) 283-7800 or www.arthritis.org.

This article is courtesy of ARA Content.

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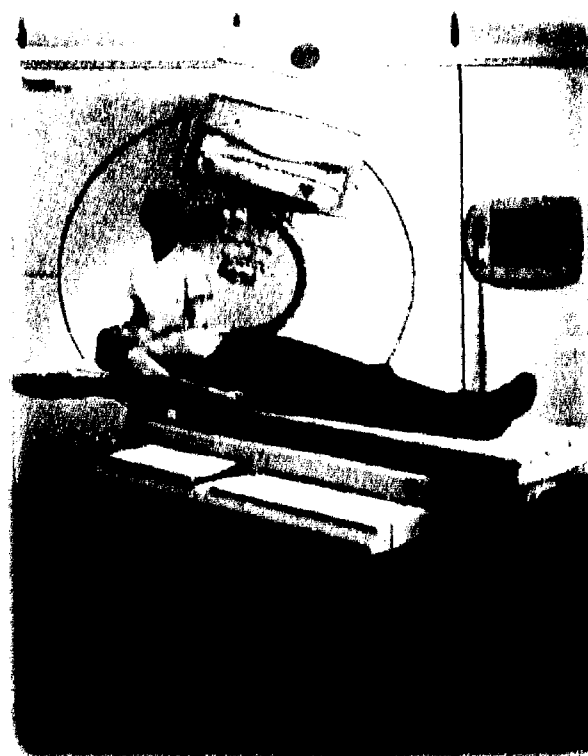
- ◆ Founder and Director of Rahway Regional Cancer Center
- ◆ Board Certified Radiation Oncologist Trained at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
- ◆ Awarded American Cancer Society Fellowship in Clinical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
- ◆ Completed General New Jersey's 1st Prostate Seed Implant Program
- ◆ Completed Prostate Brachytherapy from the Mount Sinai Medical Center



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'Arthritis Answers' at SAGE

SUMMIT — Do you or someone you know suffer from arthritis? Do you have questions about the disease and want to learn how to live more comfortably?

If so, plan to join SAGE Eldercare's Women's Issues Group for the program "Arthritis Answers" on Jan. 20 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Ave. in Summit.

The program will begin at 10 a.m. and will feature Dr. Culin Moucha, an orthopedic surgeon at Overlook Hospital. Attendees will receive a free Reader's Digest Book, An Action Guide to Managing Arthritis.

The program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m. To RSVP, please call Suzanne Lyon at (908) 273-5550, ext. 22.

SAGE Eldercare serves as a major community resource in the establishment and delivery of innovative services for older adults and their caregivers, providing them with dignity and choice. These services allow the elderly to remain independent and living in their own homes.

For more information contact 908-273-5550 or log onto www.sagenj.org

Sports

Westfield defends 4x800 relay title

Onishi, Driscoll, Becker-Cohen, MacNeil race under 10 minutes

By DAVID LAZARUS
CORRESPONDENT

PRINCETON — The Westfield girls 4x800-meter relay defended its NJSIAA Group III indoor track relay championship crown Sunday at Jadwin Gym in Princeton but it was far from the easy triumph of a year ago.

The Blue Devils, who cruised by 17 seconds last year in 9:47.20 ran about three seconds slower (9:50.96) but it was enough to edge Morris Knolls, which was second in 9:54.93.

"The goal was to win it again and to finish in under 10 minutes and they accomplished that," said Westfield head coach Len Buccino.

Westfield's winning quartet featured three holdovers from a year ago with senior Annie Onishi again getting them off to a solid lead with a 2:24.9 split. Another returnee, junior Meg Driscoll followed in 2:32.3 and handed the baton to junior Miriam Becker-Cohen, the only newcomer, who ran 2:31.2 — giving anchor Emily MacNeil a solid lead which she maintained through the finish line with a 2:22.4 clocking.

"Each of the girls did her job," said Buccino. "We nearly replicated last year's splits despite the meet coming earlier in the season."

The big question mark coming into the meet was the fitness of Driscoll who had missed much of the cross-country season with a stress fracture.

"Meg is not 100% yet but she's getting stronger every day since she was in good shape in her fall. Her performance was very impressive yesterday when you consider she that she missed all of November for raining, has been doing modified workouts, and working with the B group during track sessions," said Buccino.

Raiders suffer setback, 68-42

SP-F plays well in first half but Irvington scores 43 in second

By CHAD HEIMENWAY
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — At 4-4 after playing some of the state's toughest competition, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys basketball team was gaining respect of critics who assumed the team would simply fold after two of its outstanding players transferred in the off-season.



BOYS BASKETBALL

A setback to Irvington (8-1) Tuesday doesn't change that.

The Raiders hung in with one of the top teams in the area and were down just 25-23 at halftime. But the Blue Knights came out of the locker roomaring and used their size and all court press to cruise to a 84-42 victory.

"This is just a very good run we played today," Scotch Plains head coach Dan Doherty said after the game. "They did probably put about seven or eight quality shooters out there at any time."

"I think they went in at half time and said, 'This Scotch Plains team is for real,'" Doherty added. "Then they came out with their best and we didn't respond."

Irvington scored 25 points in the third quarter to the Raiders' 7 to accumulate a 20-

point lead, 50-30, heading into the fourth quarter.

"(Irvington) played hard for 32 minutes," said Doherty. "There's no reason to feel sorry for ourselves. There's no time to rest. We've got to get back on our feet."

Scotch Plains (4-5) continued its journey through the toughest conference in the state against Elizabeth yesterday (Jan. 13) before heading to Kearny tomorrow (Jan. 15).

Irvington forced a fast but sloppy game in the first half, as each team continued to turn over the ball and miss shots during a back-and-forth contest. In the first half Greg Bayard found success from long range and Gavin Ford found room underneath to work, grabbing rebounds and blocking two shots.

In the middle of the second quarter, the Raiders went on a 12-0 run to counter a previous 15-0 run from Irvington that began midway through the first quarter. Bayard got things rolling with a three pointer followed by one from Kyle Gates (six points). Ford, who led Scotch Plains with 15 points, contributed a basket as did Sean Young and Bayard before the run was stopped with about 2:30 left to play in the first half.

Irvington's second half dominance was propelled by junior Lamar Williams, who scored 16 of his 19 points in the second 10 minutes.

IRVINGTON	11	14	25	30	80
SCOTCH PLAINS	09	14	07	12	42

Westfield beaten by Cougars

Blues Devils bounce back to top Newark East Side on Tuesday

By CHAD HEIMENWAY
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — After winning their first four, Cranford's boys basketball team was wallowing in a three-game losing streak heading into Westfield Saturday.

And at 2-4 against teams like Shabazz, Linden and Scotch Plains, the Blue Devils were showing signs of turning things around against some heavy competition.

When the teams met Saturday in Westfield, the Blue Devils were not able to overcome 39 points and 13 rebounds from Cranford's Terence Grier in the Cougars' 69-51 victory, dropping Westfield record to 2-5 and lifting Cranford to 5-3.

W BOYS BASKETBALL

"We're coming off a loss in a championship game (to South Plainfield in the Rahway Tournament) and two other games where we just played bad," said Grier after the Westfield game. "I think more than anything we just wanted to get back to playing good ball."

Grier led the Cougars in the first half 17 points, sparking a 10-0 run in the first quarter, but Westfield remained within striking distance heading into the locker room trailing, 29-20, thanks in large part to the performance of point guard Eric Hayes.

"We found out shots early," Grier said. "I think we did a good job of moving the ball around."

Hayes finished with 16 points for the Blue Devils after scoring seven in the first half but he would remain Westfield's only scorer in double-digits. Cranford's pressure style of defense forced turnovers and subsequent fast break scoring opportunities.

In the third quarter, Cranford took over the game with a 26-point output while holding Westfield to 11 to jump out to a 55-32 lead.

After a foul shot by Westfield's Billy Hearon (4 points), Cranford went on a 12-0 run as Grier connected on consecutive three-pointers followed by long-range shots from Chris Drechsel and Chris Brown (6 points each). The



Bryan Power, here attempting to box out a Cranford player Saturday, led the Blue Devils with 16 points in a win over East Side Tuesday. Power had seven points against Cranford.

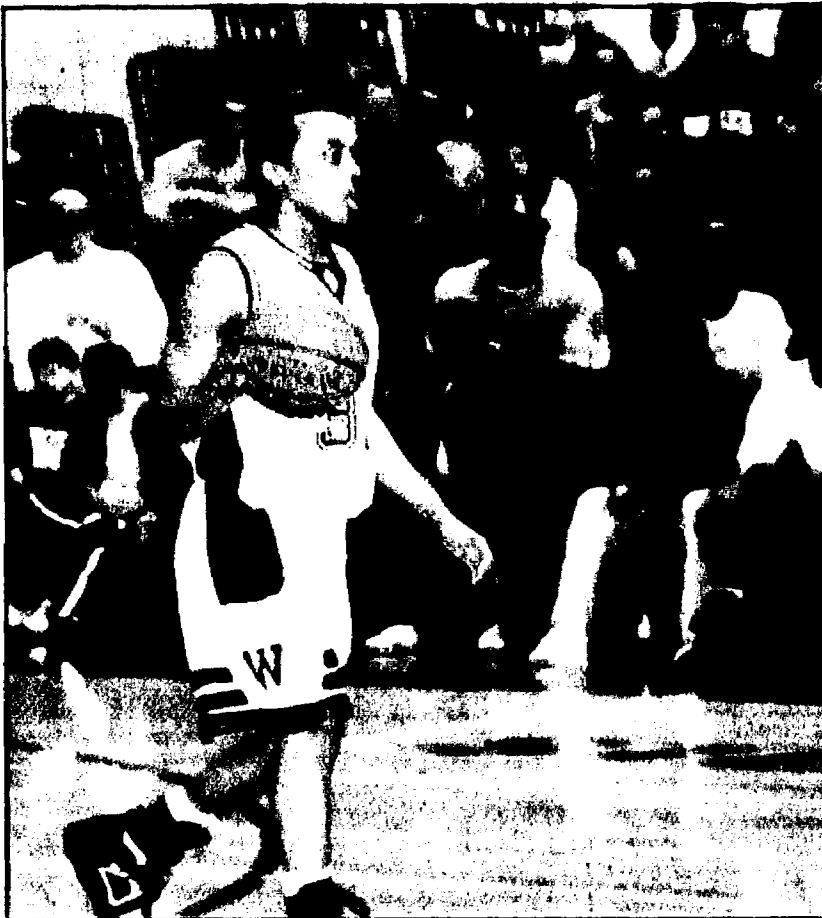
Blue Devils' Hayes hit a jumper followed by one from Terrel Shaw (8 points) to make the tally 45-28 in favor of Cranford. Grier swished in another quick five points and Drechsel dialed long distance at the third quarter buzzer for the 23-point lead.

"In the first half I took the ball inside but in the second half I backed away to work outside because they were collapsing in the paint when I drove in," Grier said.

Westfield's Bryan Power had seven points Mike Venezia contributed four.

Cranford's Dave Snyder couldn't find his stroke from the outside and finished with five points but contributed defensively and on the boards, as did Steve Caprio, who chipped in six points.

Westfield 55, Newark East Side 48 — The Blue Devils bounced back nicely Tuesday in Newark against 5-3 E. Side thanks to a 34-22 advantage in the second half. Bryan Power finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Terron Rogers contributed nine points while Westfield got balanced scoring from Billy Hearon (8), Mike Venezia (7), Josh Gerckens (6) and Eric Hayes (5).



Westfield point guard Eric Hayes scored 16 points against Cranford but it wasn't enough as the Blue Devils fell 69-51 Saturday. Hayes chipped in five versus East Side Tuesday.

Frosh Miller leads Westfield to third win

Westfield 68, Newark East Side 24 — The Lady Blue Devils (3-5) got out to a 20-4 lead after the first quarter Tuesday in Newark. Freshman Erin Miller had 18 points, 10 steals, five assists and three rebounds.

Cranford 45, Westfield 18 — Miller and Stephanie Slodyszka each had seven points Saturday each had seven points Saturday in Cranford.

Hockey
Summit 5, Westfield 3 — Westfield (0-5-4) is still searching for its first win after letting up two goals in the final two minutes Tuesday at Warmanco Rink. Sal Esposito scored twice and Brent Davis once for the Blue Devils.

Swimming
Mt. St. Mary 99, Westfield 71 — The Westfield girls (6-1) received a first place finish in only one race when Jackie Delafuente won the 100 yard breast in 1:09.8 Tuesday in Westfield. Amanda Dixon took second in the 200 IM and 500-yard free.

Christian Brothers 111, Westfield 59 — The Westfield boys (5-2-1) could not get a first place finish Tuesday.

SCOTCH PLAINS
Wrestling
North Warren 42, Scotch Plains 28 — The Raiders lost their first match of the season (5-1) in the finals of the Patriot Dual Saturday Steve Minceo pinned his man at 5:13 in the 135 pound bracket. Pat Minceo won by pin in 3:16 at 140 pounds and Mure Fabiano pinned his opponent in 1:20 at heavyweight.

Scotch Plains 37, Lenape Valley 35 — Saturday the

Raiders got pins from Nick Giannaci and Fabiano in the 215 and heavyweight weight classes to propel Scotch Plains to victory. Steve Minceo scored a major decision (15-3) and brother Pat pinned his man in a mere 17 seconds. Ricky Olsson pinned his man in just 20 seconds at 125 pounds.

Scotch Plains 57, East Stroudsburg North 16 — Scotch Plains won all but three wrestled matches in the first round of the patriot Dual Saturday. Fabiano pinned his man in under a minute. Trevor Cannon (112) and Sal Gano (119) won by pin as well.

Boys basketball
Scotch Plains 61, Old Bridge 44 — Gavin Ford collected 20 points to go along with 15 rebounds Saturday in Scotch Plains. Freshman Brian Dougher hit three, three pointers and couple of free throws for 11 points and Sean Young had 10 points.

Scotch Plains 66, Westfield 52 — Scotch Plains got 14 points from both Gavin Ford and Rob Lewis last Thursday in Scotch Plains. Eric Hayes had 17 points for the Blue Devils (2-4).

Girls basketball
Scotch Plains 70, Irvington 59 — The girls handed Irvington their first loss of the season Tuesday in Irvington with a 20-12 second quarter and a 21-8 third quarter. Hillary Klimowicz had 19 points, 11 rebounds and eight blocks for Scotch Plains (4-3). Jenny Burke chipped in with 11 points as The Lady Raiders received balanced scoring from Maura Gibbony (nine points), Elizabeth DeCataldo (six points), Tiffany Smith (10) and Allie

Zazzali (10).

Scotch Plains 65, Westfield 40 — Hillary Klimowicz had 14 points and 13 rebounds for Scotch Plains (5-3) last Thursday in Westfield. Elizabeth DeCataldo chipped in 12 for the Raiders, as did Jenny Burke. Lauren Benavergo had 11 points. Erin Miller had a game high 20 points for Westfield.

Boys Swimming
Pingry 117, Scotch Plains 53 — Pingry won every event Tuesday.

Scotch Plains 80, Elizabeth 78 — Mike Miller won the 200-yard free (2:07.73) and 100-yard fly (1:00.40) last Thursday for Scotch Plains (5-1). He was also part of a team that included Matt Miller, Dave Regal and Matt Flood that won the 200 yard free relay. The 200 yard medley relay went to the Raiders' Dan Nieto, Brian Pesin, Mike Miller and Flood.

Girls Swimming
Scotch Plains 91, Pingry 78 — Kristen Henckels came out on top Tuesday in the 50 meter free (28.80) and the 100 yard free (1:01.40) last Thursday for the Raiders (2-2). Caitlyn Daly won the 200 yard free (2:25.3) and the 100 yard back (1:16.58). Avery Rootcher, Julia Caponeanu, Carol Montero and Dolgin finished first in the 200 yard free relay.

CALENDAR

(All times p.m. unless otherwise noted.)

- FRIDAY, JAN. 14**
Wrestling
Scotch Plains vs. Shabazz, 5
Westfield vs. Irvington, 5:30
Swimming
Scotch Plains at East Side, 4
Hockey
Westfield at Nutley, 9
- SATURDAY, JAN. 15**
Boys basketball
Scotch Plains at Kearny, 2
Westfield vs. Union, 1
Girls basketball
Scotch Plains in NJPA Challenge
Westfield at Union, 11:30am
Wrestling
Scotch Plains in Quad Meet with Haverhill, 1K Randolph, Morris, TBA
Swimming
Westfield vs. Pirate Invitational, TBA
Bowling
Westfield in Winter Classic, 1:30
- SUNDAY, JAN. 16**
Swimming
Westfield vs. Pirate Invitational, TBA
- TUESDAY, JAN. 18**
Boys basketball
Scotch Plains at East Side, 4
Westfield vs. Plainfield, 4
Girls basketball
Scotch Plains vs. East Side, 4
Westfield at Plainfield, 4
Swimming
Scotch Plains at New Providence, 4
Westfield at Lawrenceville, 4
Bowling
Scotch Plains at Plainfield, 3:20
Westfield vs. Elizabeth, 3:45
Hockey
Westfield vs. Nutley, 4
- WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19**
Hockey
Westfield at Allentown, 8
- THURSDAY, JAN. 20**
Boys basketball
Scotch Plains at Plainfield, 4
Westfield at Elizabeth, 4
Girls basketball
Scotch Plains vs. Plainfield, 4
Westfield vs. Elizabeth, 4
Wrestling
Scotch Plains vs. Westfield, 7
Swimming
Scotch Plains vs. Kearny, 3
Bowling
Scotch Plains at Union, 3:20
Westfield at Cranford, 3:45

Real Estate

These tips can have your home looking chic, on the cheap

(ARA) -- Looking to change the style of your home while sticking to a budget? Get ready to roll up your sleeves. Here are some inexpensive, practical ideas that will save you time and money in your quest to add some personal style to your home.

Start by deciding on a budget. Figure out how much money you can afford to spend, and then set aside about 20 percent of that for your "safety budget." Save this for the unexpected details that are sure to arise during your project. Most importantly, stick to your budget!

Second, do your homework. Spend quality time doing some research by looking through magazines, watching home improvement shows, or visiting showrooms and retail home improvement stores. Once you have an idea of what you would like to change in your home, take a step back and decide what's really neces-

sary and what fits into the budget you set.

Breathe new life into old pieces. Use furniture and accessories that you already have. Moving items from one room to another can dramatically change the appearance of your room décor. Don't assume that you need to toss a piece of furniture that has seen better days. A quick and inexpensive way to give furniture a facelift is by refinishing, painting, or reupholstering it.

Fix it with fixtures. The most popular rooms in the house to remodel are the kitchen and bath. If you can't afford to completely transform your existing kitchen or bath, or if you're still waiting to hear from "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," don't worry. There's a simple way to change the look of your room without breaking your budget. Think about replacing your faucet fixtures. You can re-define

your space and create a new focal point for the room with a new faucet.

Value-priced faucet brand Peerless recently updated its product line with several new decorative styles. The new kitchen faucets from Peerless now include a more rounded spout and taller handles. Consumers also have the choice of adding a vegetable sprayer. In the bath, faucet handles have new decorative accents such as cross handles, which can be just enough to create an updated look.

A couple coats of paint go a long way. No matter what room of the house you are looking to transform, make sure you add "paint walls" to your to-do list. "Paint is the most cost-effective and dramatic way to change the appearance of a room," said Mary Rice of BEHR Paints. "Don't be afraid to try something different or bold. You have the flexibility of choosing from

literally thousands of color combinations."

Use mirrors and lighting to alter your room. Adding mirrors not only makes your room appear larger, but it will also add depth and dimension to the room. Get creative: choose different sizes and shapes to make arrangements on your wall. Try using different types of lighting to highlight certain rooms or specific areas of a room. Use different levels of lighting as well (put a 60 Watt bulb in one lighting fixture, but put a 75 Watt bulb in another).

Don't forget to accessorize. Soft, muted finishes around your home add the perfect final touches. It's common to find stainless steel or nickel finishes in the kitchen or bath. There's a reason why these finishes are so popular in home décor right now. They are extremely easy to maintain and they hide scratches and

watermarks, keeping your home looking like new. Peerless has added a stainless steel and a brushed nickel finish to its color palate.

Personalize it. Finally, create your own personal touch with family photos in uniquely styled frames. Accent your rooms with inexpensive vases, flower arrangements and candles for a fresh atmosphere. You can find most of these items for under \$10 at a local craft or retail store. And don't forget garage sales — you can find slightly used items that would normally sell at high prices for a fraction of the cost.

Now that you are finished with the transformation, take what's left in your "safety budget" and treat yourself to something special. You've worked hard — you deserve it!

This article is courtesy of ARA Content.

Prudential New Jersey launches revamped website

Recognizing the rapidly evolving needs of homebuyers and sellers in today's real estate market, Prudential New Jersey Properties has launched a new website. The online address remains www.PruNewJersey.com.

The new site offers access to more than 14,000 available property listings throughout New Jersey.

"Today's real estate clients are looking for direct access to information on the real estate market, available proper-

ties and communities, and our new website offers all of this," said Chris Brown, co-president of Prudential New Jersey Properties. "From the site's ease of navigation to the enhanced virtual tours, both sellers and buyers will be impressed by the range of services employed to achieve their real estate goals."

One of the primary benefits of the site is the "Property Watch" feature, which provides instant notifications to buyers when properties that meet their specific criteria become available. Buyers can make the criteria as general or particular as they like, and can choose to opt in or out of the feature at any time.

"Our technology team has worked tremendously hard to develop a site that meets the needs of our technologically-savvy consumers," says William O.

Keleher, Jr., chairman and CEO of Prudential New Jersey Properties.

Visitors to www.PruNewJersey.com can also receive reports on local school districts and view profiles of New Jersey counties and towns.

The popular 360-degree virtual tours have become more interactive, allowing visitors to print brochures or e-mail listing information to a friend or family member. Buyers can also maintain an online file of favorite listings.

Prudential New Jersey Properties newspaper and magazine advertising, as well as direct mail pieces, brochures, and all other promotional materials, are fully integrated with the website. Listing numbers appear on most promotional resources, letting consumers gain immediate access to all of the property's detailed information and images.

Agents earn certificate in preservation

CRANFORD — Local real estate professionals Vita Zoltak, Tim O'Leary and Matte Scuto of ERA Meeker Realty recently completed a program geared toward protecting historic properties. The public-private educational program is offered through a partnership between global residential real estate leader ERA Franchise Systems, Inc. and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

After completing the one-day course, Zoltak, O'Leary and Scuto received memberships in the National Trust and a certificate of completion. The Historic Real Estate Program offers a comprehensive look at architectural styles from early colonial through art deco. It also provides education on historic preservation legislation and ordinances, tax incentives and the requirements for inclusion of a property in the National Register of Historic Places.

"The Historic Real Estate Program aim is twofold," said Zoltak. "It enables us to better serve the needs of buyers and sellers in this niche market while preserving history. Also, it helped us learn about different architectural structures and the qualities that make them unique."

ERA Real Estate and the National Trust offer the Historic Real Estate Program several times a year throughout the United States.

ERA Meeker Realty is located at 124 South Ave. East, Cranford. Zoltak, O'Leary and Scuto can be reached at (908) 272-2570 and at www.cranford-home.com.



ERA Meeker Realty Co.



CRANFORD - This sprawling 8 room Split Level in Brookside section. Lrv/tpi, FDR, EIK, 2nd floor offers MBR w/bath plus 2bbs and bath. Ground level includes Family room w/wet bar, 1/2 bath and office/br. Full bsmt, 2 car tandem garage. Call for and appointment today! Asking \$638,900



SPRINGFIELD - Just listed! Spacious Split Level includes lr, FDR, EIK, Den, 2nd floor: three bedrooms and full bath. Third level features MBR and full bath. Ground level Family room, 1/2 bath, laundry room, 1 car garage. Oversized lot in quiet setting. Won't last! Asking \$429,000



CRANFORD - 9 room Ground entry level Split offering family room, laundry room, 1/2 bath, Living rm, FDR, EIK four large BRS and two full baths. Finished bsmt, 2 car garage, private yard. Near Orange Ave. schools and pool. See for yourself! Asking \$549,900



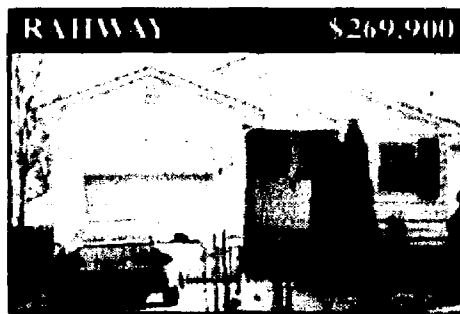
KENILWORTH - Be the first to see this adorable Cape Cod 1st floor: Lr, FDR, EIK, br and full bath. 2nd floor has bedroom plus additional room. Finished basement includes rec room/wbar and laundry room. Great potential. Asking \$315,000

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SCOTCH PLAINS \$284,900
Adorable ranch. Updated kitchen, bath, deck & furnace. 1 bedroom plus office/nursery, basement. On quiet street. WSI-1056



SCOTCH PLAINS \$869,000
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MARION BROWNE

Browne named top associate

WESTFIELD — Marion Browne of Prudential New Jersey Properties Westfield office has been named the office's Sales Associate of the Month for November 2004.

"Marion is very dedicated to providing only the highest level of quality service," said Marge Cucunero, manager of the Westfield office. "Her clients appreciate her genuine concern, and Marion is most appreciative of the many referrals she has received from her satisfied customers. In this business, a referral is the best thank you."

With nearly 20 years of real estate experience, Browne serves buyers and sellers throughout Union County. She belongs to the New Jersey Association of Realtors' Distinguished Sales Club.

A resident of the Elmora section of Elizabeth, she can be reached at (908) 232-5884 ext. 101.

For more information visit www.PruNewJersey.com.

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Announcements 110

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Lost & Found 125

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Personals 140

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Employment

Education 201

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Employment

Education 201

P/T SCHOOL NURSE - The Overlook Child Care Center has an immediate opportunity for a part-time School Nurse. RN/LPN NJ License required. Flexible schedule. Mon-Fri. Interested candidates please call (908) 273-7040 x204 or fax resume & salary req. to (908) 277-0559. EOE

Employment

Education 201

Part-time Teacher/Asst. Teacher

A leader in early childhood care and education has immediate openings for part-time teaching positions available at our Springfield and Berkeley Heights school locations. Afternoon hours, 2:30pm-6:00pm, Monday-Friday. No certification needed. Training provided. Require own transportation.

Interested candidates please call (908) 272-7640 x202 or x201 OR FAX RESUME 908-277-0559

Child Care 202

BASKING RIDGE - Exp'd Nanny 3 days a wk. \$12-4/hr. www.NannyLine.com

BE A PART OF OUR FAMILY HOUSEWORKER - Westfield, NJ. Family seeking a family helper. We want someone who loves kids and will take over cleaning, cooking & childcare (after school) to keep the family running. Mon-Fri, 7:30am - 5:30pm. Salary based on experience. 2 weeks paid vacation included. References Required. Call Jacqueline at 212-931-7914

Child Care

Chatham, nanny, newborn. FT "Live Out" MF, NS, flu ent Eng. Own trans. Feb. start. 973-635-0030

Child Care

To aide 9 year old in Wheel Chair PT through June. 3 days a wk. hrs are 3 to 8. Summer FT days flexible. Great for College Student. 908-654-0612

Child Care

Wanted PT Mon-Wed. before & after school supervision for 12 yr. old girl. valid DL & ref's. Students welcome. English speaking. 908-233-9406

Child Care

Experienced, Loving and Reliable sitter for children in Westfield. Must Drive. Speak English. Great for College Students. ★★908-928-1802★★

Child Care

F/T Nanny wanted Live In. Must have new born exp. Great salary. March start. call 908-654-4134

Child Care 202

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Drivers 220

\$1000 sign on Bonus until January 14! Enjoy your hometime and families during this holiday season. We offer \$500 orientation pay for company drivers and great miles O/D receive free base plates and permits with \$2000 incentives and 1000 mile average length of haul. When you're ready to run call us at 1-800-767-7109

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UNION COUNTY MORTGAGE RATES

Program	Rate	pts	adn	up	APR	Program	Rate	pts	adn	up	APR	Program	Rate	pts	adn	up	APR	Program	Rate	pts	adn	up	APR
Absolute Mortgage Co. 877-606-RATE						Chase Manhattan Mtg. 800-956-5501						Loan Search 800-591-3279						Peapack-Gladstone Bank 908-719-6555					
30-yr. Fixed	5.375	0.00	10%	30	5.460	30-yr. Fixed	5.250	3.00	0%	60	5.670	30-yr. Fixed	5.625	0.00	5%	90	5.677	30-yr. Fixed	5.750	0.00	5%	45	5.859
15-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	10%	30	4.890	15-yr. Fixed	4.375	3.75	5%	60	5.210	15-yr. Fixed	4.750	0.00	10%	90	4.811	30-yr. Jumbo	6.000	0.00	5%	45	6.074
20-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	10%	30	5.155	7-yr. Balloon	4.250	3.25	5%	60	5.030	10/1 ARM Jbo	5.125	0.00	10%	90	5.181	15-yr. Fixed	5.000	0.00	5%	90	5.120
10-yr. Fixed	4.625	0.00	10%	30	4.655	30-yr. Bha/Ar	5.250	3.00	0%	60	5.680	5/1 ARM Jbo	4.375	0.00	10%	75	5.153	15/30 balloon	5.500	0.00	5%	90	5.592
3/1 ARM	4.125	0.00	10%	30	4.155	VA & FHA 10% programs available. Free Pre-approvals & 1st-time Buyer Programs.						www.LoanSearch.com NPS Lowest Jumbo Rates!						Call for Low Doc Loans					
Lowest Rates! Free Float Downs! Fees are only \$399. www.absolute mortgage.com						ditech.com 800-616-8208						Main Line National Mtg. 877-876-3600						The Railway Savings Institution 732-587-1525					
Aapex Mortgage 800-344-2739						30-yr. Fixed	5.000	2.00	5%	30	5.256	30-yr. Fixed	5.375	0.00	5%	30	5.410	15-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	5%	-	5.185
30-yr. Fixed	5.000	2.00	5%	30	5.256	15-yr. Fixed	4.500	2.00	5%	30	4.861	20-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.00	5%	30	5.310	15-yr. Jumbo	4.250	0.00	5%	-	4.803
15-yr. Fixed	4.500	2.00	5%	30	4.861	30-yr. Jumbo	5.250	1.50	5%	30	5.510	15-yr. Fixed	4.750	0.00	5%	30	4.810	5/1/30 ARM	4.500	0.00	5%	-	5.067
30-yr. Jumbo	5.250	1.50	5%	30	5.510	15-yr. Jumbo	4.625	2.00	5%	30	4.911	30-yr. Jumbo	5.625	0.00	10%	30	5.690	5/5/30 ARM	4.500	0.00	5%	-	5.399
15-yr. Jumbo	4.625	2.00	5%	30	4.911	1.25% loans, 100% financing. Jumbo loan specialists, weekend hours, 100% stated, 100% investment.						New Millennium Bank 732-729-1100						Summit Federal Savings 732-968-0665					
A Custom Mortgage Sol. 800-259-9510						30-yr. Fixed	5.125	2.00	5%	30	5.260	30-yr. Fixed	5.625	0.00	5%	30	5.630	30-yr. Fixed	5.750	0.00	20%	75	5.795
30-yr. Fixed	5.125	2.00	5%	30	5.260	15-yr. Fixed	4.375	2.00	5%	30	4.610	15-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	5%	30	5.130	15-yr. Fixed	4.750	0.00	20%	75	4.811
15-yr. Fixed	4.375	2.00	5%	30	4.610	MTA ARM	1.000	0.00	5%	30	3.900	3/1 ARM	4.750	0.00	5%	30	5.350	10-yr. Fixed	4.500	0.00	20%	75	4.582
MTA ARM	1.000	0.00	5%	30	3.900	A-D Credit 800/20 Combos, 90% LTV in Chapter 13. 100% LTV 1 day out of BK. No Doc to SIM.						Partners Mortgage 888-RATE-SALE						10-yr, 15-yr and 1-yr ARM to \$500,000 depending on downpayment. 60-day commitment. Lock-in at application.					
American Home Mortgage 800-924-9091						30-yr. Fixed	5.500	0.00	5%	60	5.540	30-yr. Fixed	5.125	2.00	5%	60	5.170	Check mortgage rates daily at: nj!					
30-yr. Fixed	5.500	0.00	5%	60	5.540	15-yr. Fixed	5.000	0.00	5%	30	5.088	15-yr. Fixed	4.500	2.00	5%	60	4.540	Updated 10/01pm Monday thru Friday					
15-yr. Fixed	5.000	0.00	5%	60	5.040	10-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	5%	30	4.963	30-yr. Jumbo	5.375	2.00	5%	60	5.420	Everything Jersey					
30-yr. Jumbo	5.625	0.00	5%	60	5.660	30-yr. ARM	4.500	0.00	5%	90	4.978	15-yr. Jumbo	4.875	2.00	5%	60	4.920						
15-yr. Jumbo	3.375	0.00	5%	60	4.160	20-yr. ARM	5.375	0.00	5%	30	5.713	Zero Pts. Zero Fee Loans Available. Free Refinance. Forever. PartnersMtg.com. Hablamos Espanol.											
5/1 Jbo ARM	4.750	0.00	5%	60	4.610	Conforming loans to 95% LTV. Loans to \$2.5 Million.																	
No Broker Fee. Doc Preparing Fee. Commit. or Appl. Fee. No Cost Refi Avail. Close at Home!						Lighthouse Mortgage 800-784-1331																	
						30-yr. Fixed	5.500	0.00	5%	30	5.588												
						15-yr. Fixed	5.000	0.00	5%	30	5.088												
						10-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	5%	30	4.963												
						30-yr. Jumbo	5.625	0.00	10%	30	5.713												
						20-yr. ARM	5.375	0.00	5%	30	5.463												

Information provided by The National Financial News Services. Rates are valid as of January 7, 2005. Contact lenders directly for APR's, additional fees and services. Conforming quotes based on \$130,000 loan with 20% down with no PMI. Jumbo quotes based on \$360,000 all applicable loan fees included. Loan amounts may affect rates. Lock-in period in days. Borrowers should compare the specifics of various loan arrangements. Check rates daily on the Internet at www.nj.com. © 2003 NENS.

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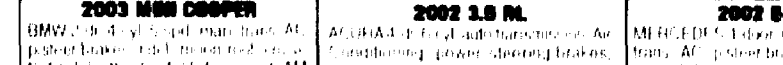
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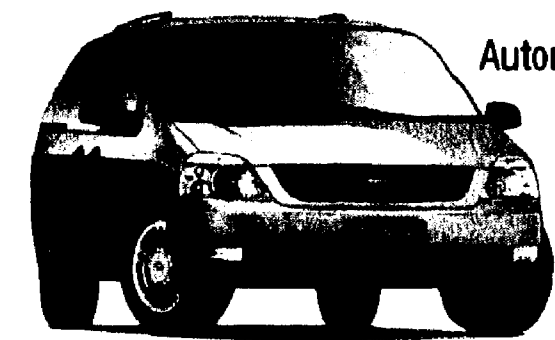
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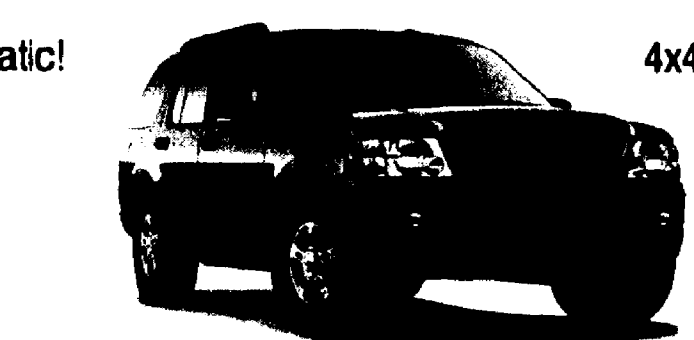
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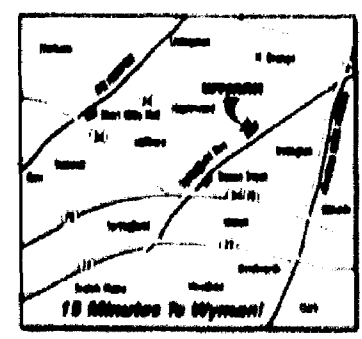


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\$4995

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5 dr hatch wagon, 4 cyl, auto OD trans, air, pwr str/brks/wind/locks, AM/FM stereo-cass, 1/gls, 53,769 mi. Stk. #51725A, VIN #W6K0353.

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\$5995

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\$9995

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Wagon, 4 cyl, auto OD trans, air, pwr str/brks/wind/locks, AM/FM stereo, CD w/MP3, 1/gls, 1/def, tilt, cruise, 17,761 mi. Stk. #4P92, VIN #3W326886.

\$12,695

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\$12,995

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\$20,495

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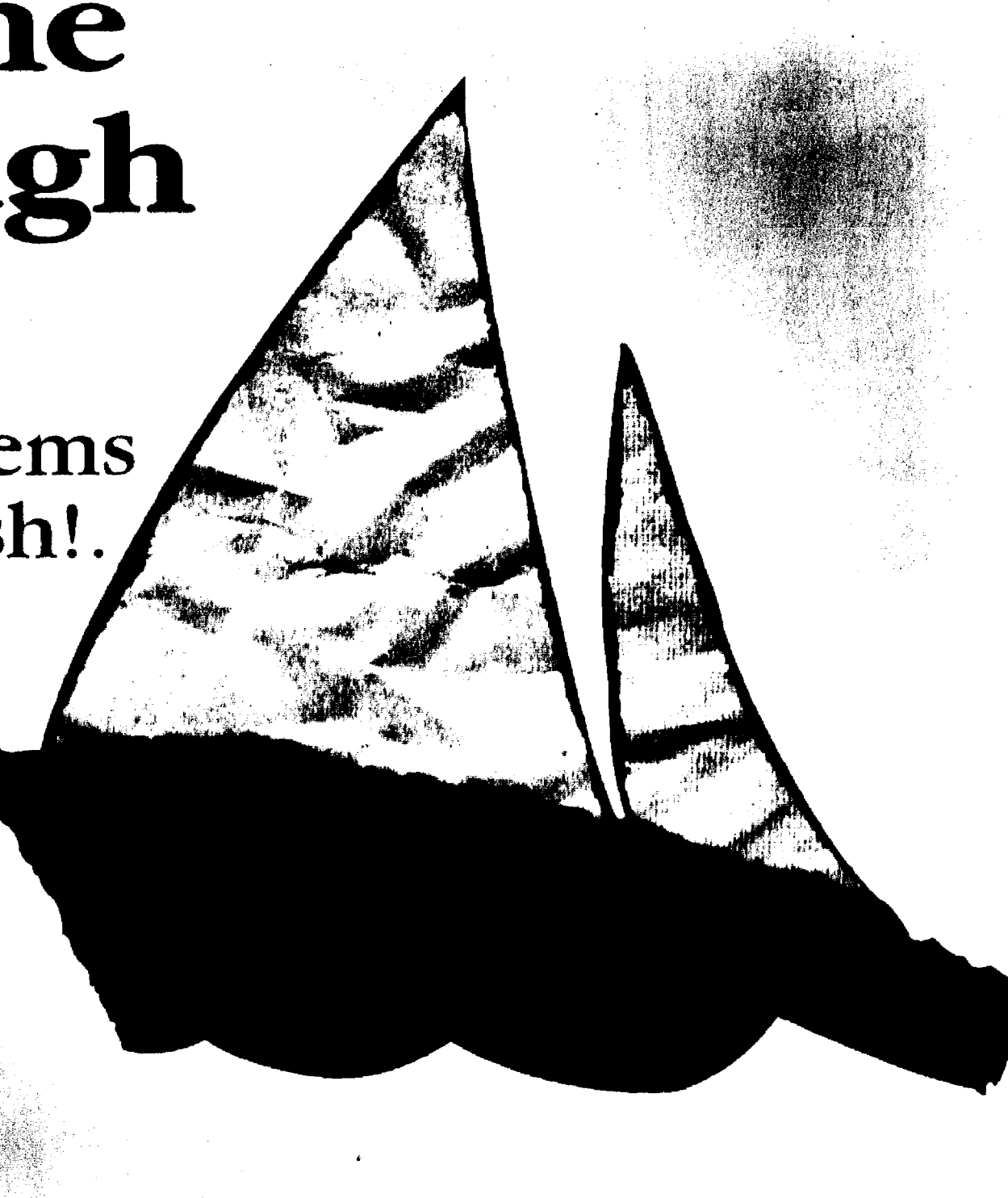
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Apartments 405	Apartments 405	Apartments 405	Apartments 405	Apartments 405	Apartments 405	Apartments 405	Apartments 405
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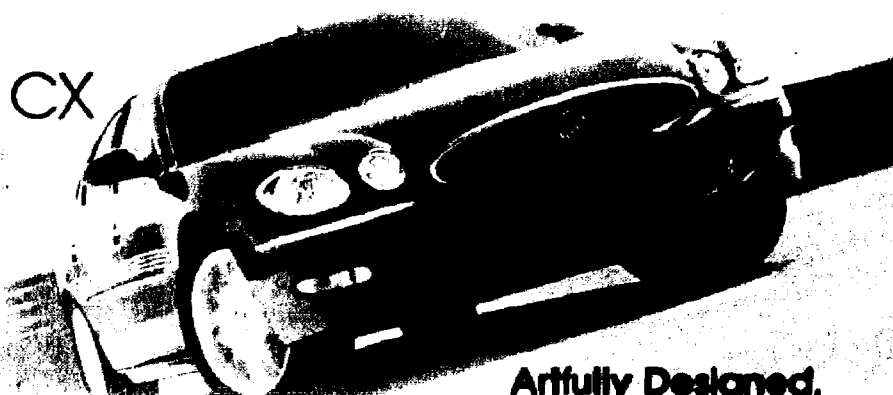


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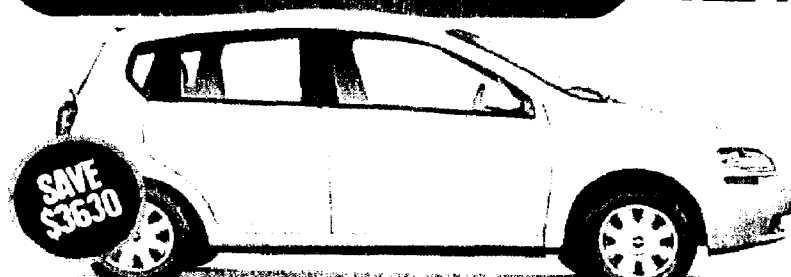
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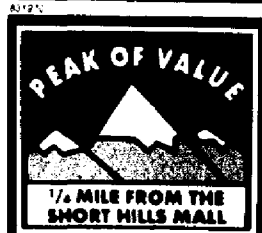
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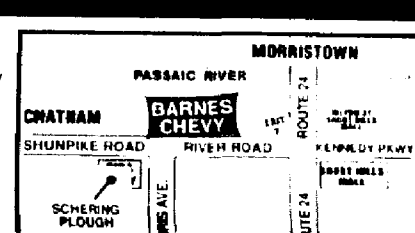
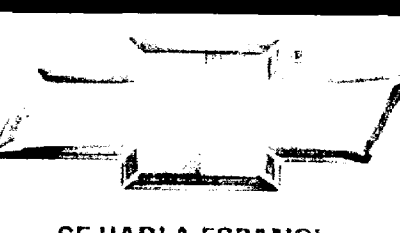
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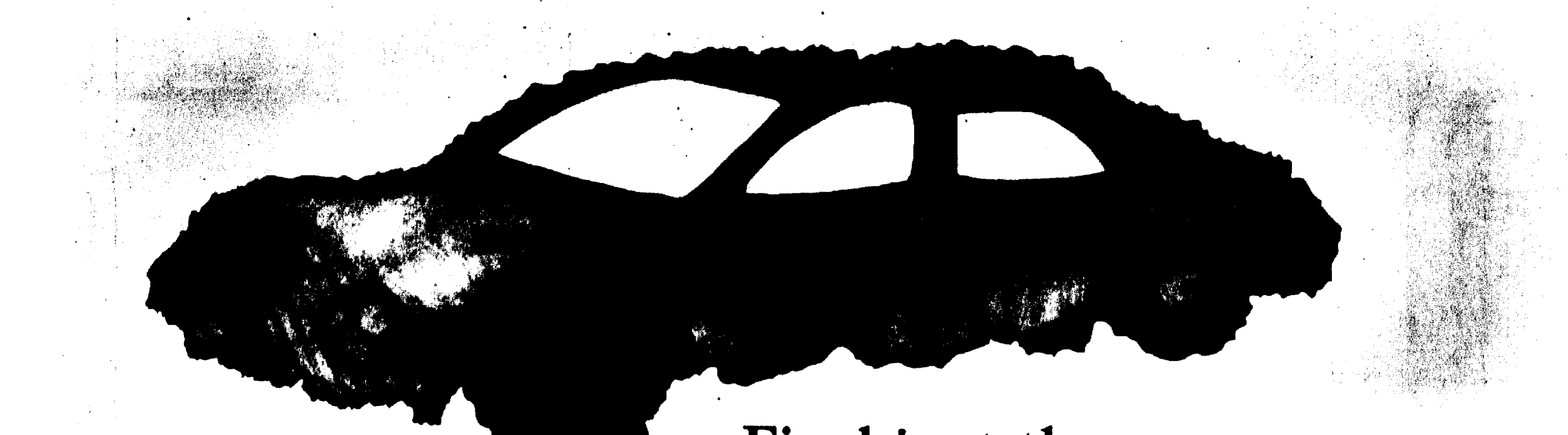
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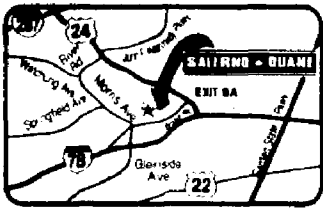
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