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Strong outlook for harriers

Girls cross country coach Tom Hornish has built quite a program in Westfield, and he believes the Blue Devils have the ability to add another chapter to their storied history this fall. See the season preview and more in Sports, Page C-1.



Scouts explore wilds of Canada

Members of Boy Scout Troop 73 in Westfield recently spent two weeks exploring the wilderness of Algonquin Provincial Park in Canada, where they traveled more than 115 miles by foot and canoe and encountered many species of wildlife. For the story, turn to Community Life, Page B-1.



Looking for some good neighbors

With his "Neighbor to Neighbor" program, Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School senior Gary Herzberg is trying to increase donations to local food pantries. Residents can drop donations in boxes at the local libraries. See the story on Page A-6.

REMINDER

Mothers & More meets next week

The Union County chapter of Mothers & More will host a workshop on returning to work after child-rearing led by Alison Rivlin. The meeting will be 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Forest Road Park recreation building in Fanwood. For more, call (908) 928-9841.

INDEX

Commentary	A-4
Community Life	B-1
Sports	C-1
Prime Time	B-4
Obituaries	A-5
Real Estate	C-4
Police Log	A-2

HELPING THE HUNGRY



Lee Hinman tosses around a hacky-sack with Kenyan schoolchildren. Lee and his twin brother Jesse were among the four locals in a group of just eight Americans who recently traveled to the country on a trip coordinated through their church and the organization World Vision.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HINMAN FAMILY

Teens find spiritual nourishment after traveling to famine-plagued land

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — They've been raised in a time and place in which life's essentials, such as education and food, can be taken for granted. But four youth members of the First Baptist Church of Westfield left their comfort zone this summer, heading out on a mission to Kenya to help those less fortunate.

The sights they saw will stay with them for the rest of their lives. The work they did to help the children and villagers they encountered will leave a lasting imprint on the lives they touched. And the message they learned from their eye-opening experience is one the teens hope we all take in: Don't take anything for granted.

After raising the funds needed for the trip during a 30-hour "famine" at the church, 17-year old Donnie Turlington of Westfield; Jesse and Lee Hinman, 15-year-old twins from Mountainside; and 14-year old Gillian Clark of Scotch Plains were among a group of just eight youths from the entire nation chosen to travel to Kenya in connection with the organization World Vision, which administers relief and development projects. Their two-week stay concluded Aug. 5; they were accompanied on the trip by the Rev. Jeremy Montgomery, minister of local outreach at the church.

The 30-hour famine, in which teens go without food to experience hunger and create awareness of the problem, raises money for people around the world, according to Gillian. Group members found people to sponsor them for the famine; each person had to raise \$360 in order to be considered for the trip. But when Gillian hit her goal of \$360, she did not stop — "I got up to \$910," she said, though she didn't even learn about the trip until after she had participated in the famine.

Participating in the 30-hour event made an impression on the teens, but it was nothing compared to what awaited them in Africa — where they saw the scale of the problem, and the effect of the money they raised.

"We probably eat every 10 minutes and can get food whenever we want," said Lee, while the children of Kenya must struggle to eat each day. "They have to go four to five days without food sometimes."

"A dollar a day saves a child for a day," he said. "It gives them food, shelter, clothing and medical supplies."

In addition to the hunger problem, there is a great need in Kenya for resources to reduce the prevalence of malaria, diarrhea and HIV/AIDS, especially among children. The schools also need much help. After seeing them firsthand, Lee said the sight was in sharp contrast to the types of school buildings he and his brother see every day. "They were just cement buildings with 100 kids per



Lee and Jesse Hinman and Donnie Turlington pose for a picture with a Kenyan villager.

classroom," said Jesse. "Some had no desks and they were all crammed in this one room."

The group arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, a major metropolitan area. But it was a much different sight over the next few days, as the group boarded a small plane to northern Kenya and endured a three-hour, hot and bumpy car ride to a village named Lokori. "It was just desert and rock," said Lee.

Donnie, a 17-year old senior at Westfield High School, recalled the group's first village visit in North Kenya. "The only food they had was food shipped from World Vision," he said. But when the group arrived at the village, despite the villagers' tough situation and unimaginable struggles, they did something the teens didn't expect. They started singing. "Even though they had nothing and it was in the middle of nowhere, they started singing gospel songs to us in Swahili," said Turlington, who is a veteran of mission trips — he has also been to Tijuana, Mexico.

At Lokori, the group distributed food to the villagers. Lee said the rations usually only last two

(Continued on page A-2)

School board puts cap on class sizes for kindergarten

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — With kindergarten class sizes now ranging from 21 to 23 children per classroom, school board officials have decided to impose a cap on further enrollment at Jefferson School and a class size limit of 23 at Washington School.

Under the board's new policy, kindergarteners who have not yet enrolled may still register, but they will have to attend a different school.

A group of parents concerned about increasing kindergarten classroom sizes spoke at the Board of Education meeting Tuesday night, complaining that larger class sizes hinder the students' ability to learn. Resident David Rogers told the board he was concerned about the growing class sizes, saying the district's policy states classrooms should range from 18-25 students, with lower numbers in earlier grades.

"I think that policy is very reasonable and correct," said Rogers. "Kindergarten classes should be towards the lower end of the policy."

Superintendent William J. Foley said he and the board recognized the increasing problem

and noted he had asked parents to voluntarily send their children to other kindergartens, such as Tamaques School. But Rogers said moving children to another school would cause problems in their socialization. "To transfer them to another school would cause major consequences," said Rogers. "Many are sent to Jefferson School to be introduced into the school system."

Rogers and several other parents asked the board to consider hiring an extra half-day teacher at Jefferson to remediate the problem. After attending some of his daughter's kindergarten classes, Rogers said he found a large gap between students who are ready to start reading, and those that are farther behind in reading skills. "It's a different class to deal with. The teacher has a big problem in bigger classes," said Rogers.

"I think they're all good points," said Foley. But because the budget was defeated last year, Foley said finding another \$35,000 to hire another teacher would be very hard. "Money is an issue," he said.

The board was forced to take \$750,000 out of its budget, leav-

(Continued on page A-2)

Officials discuss 'early warning' at Park Middle School

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Board of Education officials discussed the "early warning" status of Park Middle School after the school failed to meet all 40 indicators of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) at the school board's Aug. 25 meeting.

The school was given the warning after it was found a sub-

group of African American students did not meet the language arts requirements. "If you fail any sub-indicator, you are on the list," said Margaret Hayes, assistant superintendent

Because the African American subgroup did not meet the requirements for language arts, the school has been placed on the early warning list by the state.

for curriculum, instruction and assessment at Scotch Plains and Fanwood schools.

NCLB standards were adopted in January 2002, following the adoption of the federal law. The standards are determined by the State Department of Education and seek to make sure each student is given the best educational opportunities, and that teachers are held to a standard of excellence.

"The good news is we're doing well overall," said Hayes. Seven out of eight schools in the district met all 40 indicators of NCLB, including criteria regarding students of various races and eco-

nomie groups and students with disabilities or limited English skills, according to Hayes.

Hayes said Park Middle School met 39 out of the 40 indicators of NCLB. However, because the African American subgroup did not meet the requirements for language arts, the school has been placed on the early warning list by the state.

"We're analyzing test scores to see why this came out," said Hayes.

Hayes said the school has put in place a more vigorous and improved basic skills program called Reaching Achieving, Succeeding (RAS) to cope with the problem.

The program developed from the success of Achieve Your Potential (AYP), which was used in the junior class at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, according to board President Linda Nelson.

"We're very pleased with it," said Nelson about AYP, which she said will soon be provided for lower grades because of its success.

Last year, the high school had some difficulty meeting the NCLB standards in the special education subgroup and was similarly placed on early warning status. Since the school must

(Continued on page A-2)

Organizations establish relief funds for Katrina's victims

The local chapters of national relief organizations issued statements this week about efforts underway to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina, and how concerned residents can help.

The American Red Cross is making it possible for potential volunteers to assist in the emergency disaster response efforts that lie ahead. More than 250 people from the Northeast are already on the way to bring comfort to hurricane victims, with many more volunteers needed to assist in the weeks and months to come, according to a release from the Westfield/Mountainside chapter.

"A hurricane of this magnitude is a true act of nature, something totally beyond our control. We can make a difference, though, by responding to those who so desperately need our help now," said Charles Serson of

the local chapter. "With an upsurge in calls from many people who want to assist the Red Cross, we are offering trainings this weekend to anyone who can commit to a two-week deployment and who can meet the criteria of our volunteer recruitment system."

The Westfield/Mountainside chapter, located at 321 Elm St. in Westfield, can be reached at (908) 232-7090. To make a contribution to the national organization, visit www.redcross.org or call (800) HELP-NOW.

Across the Gulf Coast, the Red Cross is now involved in what organizers say is its largest mobilization of resources for a single natural disaster, involving thousands of trained disaster relief workers and tons of supplies. In coordination with the Southern Baptist Convention, preparations have been made to serve 500,000 hot meals each day.

In addition to the Red Cross, the United Way is involved with response and recovery efforts by working to identify the most serious needs of devastated communities and helping with front-line disaster relief and long-term recovery, according to a statement by Gary Mignone of the United Way of Greater Union County.

The United Way Hurricane Katrina Response Fund has been activated to help the affected communities. All funds will be allocated for both front-line disaster relief and long-term recovery needs as determined by local United Ways in affected areas in coordination with a network of human services agencies and volunteer centers.

Contributions may be made online at www.national.unitedway.org. Checks can also be mailed to United Way of America,

P.O. Box 630568, Baltimore, MD 21263-0568. Checks should be made payable to UWA and reference the Hurricane Katrina Fund in the memo section.

In addition, contributions to the Salvation Army may be made by phone at (800) SAL-ARMY or online at www.salvationarmyusa.org. You can also sign up to volunteer at the Web site. Alternately, send checks earmarked "disaster relief" to Salvation Army, P.O. Box 4857, Jackson, MS 39296-4857. To reach the Union branch, call (908) 851-9300.

And to donate through Catholic Charities, call (800) 919-9338; send a check to Catholic Charities USA, Hurricane Katrina, P.O. Box 25168, Alexandria, VA 22313-9788; or go online at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org. To reach the Cranford location, call (908) 497-3966.

Fw. Planning Board approves application despite objections

By ANNA BOGDANOWICZ
THE RECORD PRESS

FANWOOD A large group of angry residents came out to a nearly four-hour long Planning Board meeting Aug. 24 to object to the construction of a home at 170 Second St. But although some board members said they did not particularly agree with the building plan, the board approved the construction proposal.

"There was nothing we could really do. We couldn't deny it legally," said board member and council representative Jack Molenaar.

Lot owner Donald Villane had been seeking to build a house on the large lot at the corner of Belvidere Avenue, prompting neighbors to complain, saying it would create a "wall of large houses" on the street. At a previous hearing, Villane was asked to provide footprints of the building to compare the proposed measurements with those of the surrounding houses in a 200 foot radius. The house was found to have a 1,400 square-foot footprint, larger than some homes in the area. However, three of nine corner lots were found to have similar measurements, with a footprint larger than 1,400 square feet and a 30-foot setback.

But several residents complained to the board, saying the house would not fit in with the neighborhood. One neighbor, Tonette Chow, said although she had a large house, the building of the proposed house would create an overpowering look to the street. "If you put a house as big as mine... it creates this big wall," said Chow.

Board member Daniel Zucker said the controversy illustrated a need for keeping ordinances up to date. "I believe it shows how important it is. We as a community need to update our ordi-

nances as far as building out" to restrict McMansions, said Zucker.

Carolyn McGowan, a resident of Belvidere Avenue, said the house did not fit with the others in the area. "This is not the right house for this property," she said.

Although some of the residents' complaints alleged the house would be built illegally, Zucker said the board was simply following procedure. "We are following the rules and laws. The applicant is seeking a variance," said Zucker.

The property the house will be built on was once defined as two lots. But Molenaar said the lot is now considered one lot after decades of being vacant. "It was determined by legal counsel that it was a lot that was allowed to be built on," said Molenaar.

Molenaar said the lot was sold years ago as one lot and has remained that way since. When the lot was sold in the 1990s as one lot, making it a larger lot, Molenaar said, "No one challenged it."

When it came time to vote, some of the board members seemed uneasy about the decision. "Obviously I have some reservations as well. I'm not quite persuaded that it's fully in character with the other houses," said board member Peter Sayles. "Maybe it's a buildable property, but I'll probably hold my nose and vote yes."

However, the board did attach several conditions to the approval. The driveway will be made smaller, an azalea bush on the property will be given to the town, the curb will be extended down Belvidere Avenue, the chimney will be made of stone, there will be no vinyl siding on the house, and four windows will be placed on the Belvidere side.

Board puts cap on class sizes

(Continued from page A-1)

ing a little over \$1 million in surplus to deal with backups and issues that may come up during this school year due to rising gas prices and the increasing stress on special education," according to Foley.

"We're asking people to be patient," Foley said.

Foley disagreed with the parents on one issue, saying socialization should not be an issue if children are moved to different schools. "It's hardly a social issue, but I could see it as an inconvenience," said Foley.

He said there was little else the board could do with limited funds. "They will be fine, they

will not have a problem and I think it's a viable option," said Foley. "Children are enormously adaptable."

Foley also added that many parents send their children to private kindergartens and then move the children to regular schools with no problem.

Foley said smaller kindergarten class sizes could be possible "if I had a free hand to move kids around." Foley asked parents to consider moving their children to other kindergartens for smaller class sizes. "You have an option. You don't have to have that class size."

After much discussion and input from concerned parents, the board decided not to allow

further enrollment at Jefferson, where there are already 23 children, and also decided that a cap at 23 students be put in place at Washington School. "We are certainly establishing a new precedent here," said President Anne Riegel.

Students trying to enroll after the cap is filled will have to attend other schools such as Tamaques School. Board members noted the decision would only be valid for this year.

Board member Richard Solomon said the vote would effectively change the classroom size policy. "We have rewritten the policy," said Solomon.

"If the budget had not been defeated, this would probably be a very different conversation," he added. "I just can't get beyond the fact that the budget was defeated."

Foley too asked parents to consider the importance of voting for the budget this year, saying feedback had indicated some parents did not vote because they were angry at the school about an issue. "You can be angry but when you vote down the budget, you lose control," he said.

Man charged with sex assault

WESTFIELD A 22-year old Scotch Plains resident, Idemudia Eboso, was arrested Aug. 24 on charges of sexual assault, criminal sexual contact, endangering the welfare of a child and possession of marijuana under 50 grams. The victim was a 15-year old Westfield girl, police said.

Although the relationship was consensual, Capt. John Parizeau said Eboso's alleged actions were considered criminal because of the victim's age. "A younger person can't technically enter in a consensual relationship because she is only 15," said Parizeau.

After the girl's parents found out about the relationship, detectives began working on the case over the summer, according to Parizeau. "The arrest occurred Aug. 24, but we'd been aware of it earlier this summer," he said.

Since Eboso is at least four years older than the girl, Parizeau said the sexual assault charge was filed. "It used to be called statutory rape," said Parizeau.

Bail has been set at \$100,000. Eboso is being held at Union County jail.

Police Log

Westfield residents Luben Panayoton and Tiffany Johnson and New Brunswick resident David Strober were arrested Sunday on charges of possession of cocaine and possession of marijuana under 50 grams at Rahway Avenue and Willow Grove Road.

Panayoton was additionally charged with two counts of unlawful possession of a weapon. Strober was found to have outstanding warrants out of New Brunswick in the amount of \$200 and posted bail. All suspects were released on summonses pending a Sept. 2 court date.

Police arrested 32-year old Newark resident Tahia Ragland and 34-year old Irvington resident Sonya Vinson Aug. 24 on charges of shoplifting from a business on Central Avenue. Both were also charged with hindering apprehension.

A resident of Radley Road reported the theft of a bicycle valued at \$150 Aug. 24. A resi-

dent of Cumberland Street reported the theft of a bicycle valued at \$200 on the same day.

Scotch Plains resident Anthony Spatola was arrested Monday for possession of alcohol while underage at Harrow Road. The subject was released on a summons pending a Sept. 7 court date.

SCOTCH PLAINS According to a report in *The Star-Ledger*, a masked man made off with cash after he brandished a gun at a 7-Eleven convenience store on Aug. 23. Attempts to reach township police for confirmation of the story were unsuccessful at press time.

About 3:10 a.m., a man wearing a black ski mask entered the store on Park Avenue, Capt. Brian Mahoney told *The Star-Ledger*. After approaching two employees near the cash register, he demanded money and flashed a small black handgun.

One of the workers opened the register drawer and handed over an undetermined amount of bills. The man grabbed the money and ran out of the store, according to the report.

Teens find spiritual nourishment

(Continued from page A-1)

weeks, even though it is supposed to last a month. And despite their deep need for this food, the villagers showered the group with appreciation, even offering their food to them. "It was amazing to see how happy these children were to see us. They would give us anything, they even gave us their food," said Lee.

Afterward, the group went on to visit several other villages and saw how the money they had raised was also being put towards irrigation canals and crops, according to Lee. No matter where they went, the friendliness of the villagers and children followed them. At the schools they visited, Lee said, some of the children spoke some English as they played together. "We got to play soccer with them."

But the soccer balls of the villages in Kenya are far different from the ones we're used to seeing. "They were like old bags wrapped in string," said Lee. "We gave them some soccer balls and they were thrilled," said Jesse. "And they gave us one of their soccer balls."

Gillian said some of the children were practically fighting over the group members, coming over and holding their hands and hugging them. "Some would just come by and give a big hug," said

Clark.

A highlight of the trip occurred when the group decided to sponsor six children out of a village near Nairobi. The \$30 per month commitment will provide them with needed food, education and medical supplies. "It will help her (one of the children sponsored) go to secondary school," said Jesse; he explained that most children can only afford to go to primary school, which is free. "For \$300 a year, most can't really afford secondary school," said Jesse.

The feeling of helping a child through school was special to the group. "It's pretty amazing. You are saving a child's life," said Jesse.

"Meeting (the sponsored children) was so amazing," said Gillian, who plans to return to Kenya in two years to visit the child she is sponsoring. Although she must raise about \$3,000 to return, she plans on saving all the money she can by not spending as much on personal items that now seem irrelevant. "You come back, and now you have all this stuff that you don't need," she said.

But not everything about the trip was so easy for the group. When circumstances forced the teens to spend the night in one of the villages, Gillian said, they learned of a problem quite prevalent in that region of Kenya: female genital mutilation. The mutilation is imposed on girls as young as 12, she said.

Gillian said the girls cannot refuse the mutilation, because

their families would punish them. "It was one of the hardest parts of the trip," she said, noting the horrible feeling she experienced after realizing all the girls she had spoken to earlier had probably gone through the mutilation.

She saw the realization as the fated reason that the group had been forced to stay overnight. "God wanted us to know."

After all she had seen in Kenya, coming back home turned out to be quite difficult for Gillian. "You feel so guilty (for) what you have," she said. "It's really hard to come back. You're living in these two different worlds."

"I would tell people, don't take anything you have for granted," said Donnie. "Don't take your education, house, family and friends for granted. Everything you have is special that God's given you."

And Lee said he hopes we all take a look at how the money we spend on everyday things could be used to save a child's life. "You can buy a pack of gum, or you can save a child. A dollar a day will save a child for a year," said Lee.

Gillian doesn't plan on leaving the trip as just a passing memory. "You have to do something with it. It can't just be a memory," she said. "The fact that there's people starving — it's your job to do something with it."

To learn more about how to help, visit www.worldvision.org, or call (888) 511-6458.

'Early warning' at Park

(Continued from page A-1)

show progress for two years after being on warning status, it is currently on hold, even though the school met the standards of NCLB this year. "The scores did come up but you must be out of the danger zone for two years," said Nelson.

"Special education met the indicators," said Hayes of the high school. "We are very proud."

Hayes said the school reviews

the progress of each subgroup every year, regardless of NCLB, and that last year a recommendation was made to increase the time spent on basic skills in the middle school. Instead of zeroing in and only paying attention to one subgroup, Hayes said the school pays attention to the entire student population. "It will benefit all students," said Hayes.

RAS will give students access to more time on basic skills subjects, according to Hayes. "We recognize it's not that they can't get it."

In the past, many basic skills programs were offered after school and conflicted with students' extracurricular activities, said Hayes. "We hope we can provide additional time in basic skills within the school period," she said.

With the oncoming school year, Hayes said teachers are ready to take on the new basic skills program. "We provided teachers with increased training," she said. In addition to full class instruction, there will be small group pullouts to provide different instructional methods that may benefit students having problems in a regular classroom setting.

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Schmidt has been honored by Douglass College for "Outstanding Commitment to Encouraging Young Women to Achieve" and has been listed in "Who's Who Among American Teachers," "Who's Who of American Women," and "Who's Who in American Law."

Commentary

After Katrina

In some ways, there's little to be said. Nobody at this point needs another description of the devastation that has been unleashed on the Gulf Coast, or the sorrow that thousands of families are experiencing, and nobody needs to be told how hard reconstruction will be. Shortly after the anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing, and as we prepare to commemorate the events of September 11th, we have been given another image of urban destruction that speaks for itself.

So we will just say this: Give of yourself — time, money, whatever you can afford — to the hundreds of thousands of people in need.

That need, of course, is enormous. At press time Wednesday, no one yet knows just how bad the damage caused by Katrina will be. But it's clear that early hopes that New Orleans and the surrounding area might have "gotten off lucky" were tragically wrong, and the city, and the region, are devastated. Estimates of more than \$25 billion in property damage have been banded about; no one is even trying to estimate the dead.

The physical destruction of a city is Katrina's most startling effect. But the residual consequences will require just as much of our attention. As stories in Wednesday's papers make clear, the region is not prepared to cope with the more than 480,000 displaced people now scattered across the Southeast. Accounts of power outages and water shortages are legion. Roads are destroyed, and disease epidemics are possible. Relief workers speak of dealing with a second or third wave of refugees, people who have been forced out of their first emergency shelters.

"We'll become gypsies or something like that," one displaced person told *The New York Times*. "We've left one disaster for another."

Contact information for some of the organizations that are deploying workers to the region can be found on the front page of this paper. Many more can be found online at www.fema.gov.

Dealing with the economic, social and psychological turmoil left in Katrina's wake will be an enormous task for the residents of New Orleans and the surrounding area. This crisis will shape people's lives, and the region, for decades. They'll recover, but they need help — not just now, but in the weeks, months and even years to come.

There will be plenty of time in the future to evaluate the performance of the individuals and agencies charged with keeping New Orleans safe, and to examine the wisdom of building the city there in the first place. But for now: Just give.

Correction

A story in last week's edition reported there were no teaching vacancies in the Westfield schools, but after the edition went to press, *The Record-Press* received information from district spokeswoman Lorre Korecky that there are some openings.

There are open positions for a special education teacher at the high school, an industrial arts teacher at Roosevelt Intermediate School and a social studies supervisor for kindergarten through 12th grade, Korecky said. In addition, the position of guidance director, now being filled by assistant principal Joan Sullivan, is technically considered open.

There is also an opening for a buildings and grounds supervisor, though the district is unlikely to fill that post until a decision is made on the budget.

The Record-Press is here for you

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

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

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

Our fax number is (732) 574-2613.

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

Deadlines

The deadline for submitting articles and press releases to *The Record-Press* is 5 p.m. Friday.

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



Letters to the editor

Weiss thanks community for support

To The Record-Press:

On August 1, 2005 my life took a sudden and unpredicted turn for the worse. I find now that as I'm recovering and beginning to feel my way through the aftermath with all of its complexity, there are and will continue to be many encouraging and positive things to balance the shock and sadness.

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and humbled appreciation for the unbelievable outpouring of love and support that I, along with my wife, Mary Olive Smith, my son Jesse, my mom Lucille, and all the rest of my family have received of late. Good wishes and healing energy have been pouring our way from friends, family, acquaintances old and new, library colleagues and patrons, the residents of Fanwood and so many more, which has given us hope and strengthened us during this ordeal.

The list of those who need thanking for coming to my aid during this most difficult time has become quite extensive. First, the entire staff at the Fanwood Memorial Library deserves special recognition for the incredible job they have done in both dealing with this tragedy and its aftermath, which were played out there, as well as in keeping the library functioning and serving all the residents of Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

I would specifically like to pay tribute and express my heartfelt thanks to all of the members of the Fanwood Police Department and the Fanwood Rescue Squad who without a doubt, saved my life that day, along with the wonderful care I received at the University Hospital Trauma Center

in Newark. All of their calm, competent professionalism colored with caring continues to be inspirational. The help and support and feeling of trust I've received from the mayor and council of Fanwood, the library board of trustees, everyone who works for the borough, our counterparts at the Scotch Plains Public Library and its director Meg Kolaya, and so many of the local people we serve at the library have reminded me of what I've always known, that Fanwood is a most wonderful town and place to work.

As most of you may know, after the library my other love is music. I can often be found performing and playing the guitar and singing bluegrass, honky-tonk, country and American roots music, often with my wife, Mary Olive. The real stories that country music tells and its true and honest voice are what make it so compelling to me, and so timeless. As life deals each of us our sometimes unexpected hand, I'll hold on to the belief that it is love, friends and music that will see us through.

Please stop in to the library when you get a chance to say hello, and thank the staff there for providing you with world-class library service in the small, friendly environment we've all come to love and expect — and come listen to me sing and play sometime.

It's hard to find all of the words that can truly and fully express the depth of the impact of this experience on me, both positive and negative, so I'll just close by saying one more big thank you to everyone... and it's great to be back!

DAN WEISS
Director, Fanwood Memorial Library

Use of A-bomb was lesser of two evils

To The Chronicle:

I recently got around to reading Joe Quinn's letter claiming it was not necessary to have dropped the atomic bomb to end the war. I suppose it depends on what documentaries you see and how they are interpreted as to what conclusion you reach. Was Japan beaten by the beginning of August 1945? Yes, of course it was. Would Japan have surrendered eventually? Yes, it would have — sooner or later. And that is the central question, when would it have been, sooner or later?

Although beaten, the Japanese War Cabinet was still in control and there were plenty of leading figures who wanted to continue the fight. Sixty years after the fact, it is easy for revisionist armchair historians to say that this, that, or the other thing should have or not have been done. But if you were an American, who after nearly four years of vicious fighting was waiting to hear of the fate of a loved one, or if you were a sailor searching the skies for kamikaze planes, or an airman flying a mission over hostile territory, or a marine or soldier in a landing craft waiting to hit the beach, a few more weeks of war could make all the difference in the world.

What did happen is that the first atomic bomb was dropped on August 6, 1945. The Soviet Union declared war on Japan on Aug. 9, attacking Japanese troops in Manchuria even as the second atomic bomb was dropped. Emperor Hirohito finally asserted himself to agree to the unconditional surrender on Aug. 14. Aug. 15 was declared V-J Day and the formal surrender signed Sept. 2.

Had the bombs not been dropped, it is almost inconceivable that Aug. 15 would now be celebrated as V-J Day. Although the scenarios are endless, it is possible that the Japanese would have continued to have held out while trying to negotiate somewhat favorable surrender terms (though the Allies were firmly committed to "unconditional surrender"). During that time American submarines would have been hunting for any remaining Japanese ships, American battleships and cruisers would have been shelling coastal Japan, and thousands of American bombers would have continued bombing Japanese cities at will. During this time frame tens of thousands of Japanese soldiers and civilians would have been killed, as would have more Allied military personnel.

The great unknown is when the Soviet Union would have entered the Pacific war. Although the U.S.S.R. did not renew its neutrality pact with Japan, Stalin was in no hurry to commit his battle-weary army into this phase of the war. It would be to his advantage to let the Americans

bleed a little more before deciding when and where to jump in. So, if it were weeks or even months before the Soviet Union declared war, Japan would have had time to recall hundreds of thousands of battle-experienced but relatively fresh combat troops from Manchuria and other parts of Asia to the defense of the Home Islands. Bolstered by this infusion of manpower, the Japanese military commanders and war ministers might have prevailed over those seeking peace. The Japanese had more than 5,000 planes held strictly in reserve for kamikaze attacks as well as many hundreds of human-guided bombs, mini-submarines, attack boats, and other weaponry. In the absence of the bomb, the Allied forces would have invaded Japan in November 1945.

Now also consider that in July of 1945, American military planners found out to their great dismay that the defensive army on the first Home Island to be invaded was three to four times larger than they anticipated. Consider too that several months earlier 7,000 marines were killed just conquering the few square miles of Iwo Jima. Then consider that one-third of the invasion force at Okinawa was killed, wounded, or missing. Also at Okinawa, nearly 110,000 Japanese soldiers were killed and an estimated 100,000 to 150,000 civilians were killed in the crossfire or by suicide — numbers are greater than the combined deaths at Hiroshima and Nagasaki! Had the invasion gone ahead, resulting in hundreds of thousands of American casualties and millions of Japanese dead and wounded, it is likely that the outcry today would be: "We had a super weapon that could have shortened the war and potentially saved millions of lives — and we didn't use it?? How stupid could we be?"

Is it terrible that the bomb was used? Of course it was. Was the decision to drop the bombs based in part on political and economic considerations? Again, yes. War is a horrible and hellish extension of politics and human folly. The ultimate bottom line of course, is that we will never quite know how things may have turned out had the bombs been used in a different way or not at all. But take this final consideration into mind: Had the bombs not demonstrated their horrible effectiveness so tragically on those two unfortunate Japanese cities, it is possible that they may have been used later on — perhaps in Korea or in 1950s Europe, or perhaps even during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Just a thought.

GARY SZELC
Fanwood

Women face unique issues regarding Social Security

By ELLEN ZWIERZYNSKI

SOCIAL SECURITY DISTRICT MGR.

On Aug. 26, America observed Women's Equality Day. Historically, this date marks the passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

Guest commentary

Today, women have challenging choices to make. Some may spend their entire adulthood in a career or job outside the home. Some may work for a few years, leave the workforce to raise children and eventually return to work. And some may choose not to work outside the home. Whether they work, have worked or have never worked outside the home, it is essential that women understand how Social Security can help them and their families.

That is also why Social Security has a special Web page on our Internet site at www.socialsecurity.gov/women entitled "For Women." Here is a sampler of the information that is available there conveniently categorized by the different "roles" that women may play throughout their lives.

Working Women — A "Benefits Planner" explains how you qualify for Social Security benefits, which members of your family may get benefits based on your earnings record, and how and when to apply. Women also can use links to outside Web sites that discuss other sources of retirement income and post retirement concerns such as housing, medical care and leisure activities.

Bride — Brides may find the information about "Changing Your Name" especially useful. If a woman marries and changes her name, she must be sure to tell Social Security and her employer about it. It can help ensure that she will get the benefits she is entitled to when she applies for Social Security. Visitors also can get an application for a new Social Security card on this webpage.

New Mothers — Learn about the importance of Social Security numbers for newborns and about benefits for children.

Divorced Spouse — At this link, visitors can learn if they would be entitled to divorced spouse's benefits, and also what happens to benefit entitlement if a woman remarries.

Widow — Here visitors can read about the requirements for widow's benefits and also learn about the importance of Social Security survivors benefits in family financial planning. As the site notes, "If you are married and both of you and your spouse are wage earners, you should consider survivors benefits from two perspectives. For one, when you die, members of your family could be eligible for benefits based on your earnings. You also should consider the benefits you and your family would be eligible to receive if your spouse died." Visitors can click on convenient links to learn more about each situation.

Social Security plays an important role in providing economic security to all Americans. Social Security offers a basic level of protection to all women covered by the programs. With nearly 60 percent of the people receiving benefits today being women, it is important that all women understand the benefits to which they may be entitled.

Regardless of what a woman's life situation may be, Social Security's Web page "For Women" at www.socialsecurity.gov/women can offer useful, practical information.

The Cranford Chronicle and Record-Press welcome submissions from our readers. Send submissions to editor Greg Marx at union@njnpublishing.com or fax to (732) 574-2613.

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Obituaries

Hermann J. Bielefeld

Hermann J. Bielefeld, 95, a professor emeritus at Union County College, died Aug. 23, 2005.

A lifelong Summit resident, Professor Bielefeld taught full-time at Union County College in Cranford from 1934, a year after the college was established, until he retired in 1977. He then taught part-time.

He taught Romance languages and music appreciation, but was best known as a professor of German.

Professor Bielefeld was Chairman of Humanities, and of the Committee on Academic Evaluation. He also co-founded the Pi Kappa Psi Fraternity in 1935.

He was a World War II Army veteran, serving as an interpreter

and documents expert and working on documents for the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials.

He had many interests, including history, archaeology, music, linguistics and art.

A member of the Union County College Foundation Heritage Society, he was honored by the board of trustees and alumni association on the occasion of his 90th birthday with a reunion tribute at the college.

Donations may be made to the Elizabeth Bielefeld Memorial Scholarship Fund through the Union County College Foundation, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, N.J. 07016.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. Oct. 19 at the college's Cranford Commons.

Ruth L. Wegmann

FANWOOD — Ruth L. Wegmann, 78, died Aug. 23, 2005 in The Highlands, Edison.

Born in Newark, she lived in Fanwood before moving to Edison two years ago.

Mrs. Wegmann was a licensed practical nurse for Dr. Henry Sancier of Summit before retiring in 1992.

A volunteer for more than 40 years with the Fanwood Rescue Squad, she was a member of the Fanwood Woman's Club and the Fanwood Senior Citizens and a former member of the Scotch Plains-

Fanwood Junior Woman's Club.

Surviving are a daughter, Barbara Lazistan, and a grandchild.

A Mass was offered Saturday in Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains, after the funeral from the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Ave., Fanwood. Interment was in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Hanover. Donations may be made to Immaculate Heart of Mary or the Fanwood Rescue Squad, 218 Forest Rd., Fanwood, N.J. 07023.

George T. McKevitt

WESTFIELD — George T. McKevitt, 89, died Aug. 26, 2005 at his home.

Born in Jersey City, he lived in Cedar Grove before moving to Westfield in 1988.

A carpenter, Mr. McKevitt was the director of Public Works for Jersey City for 35 years before retiring in 1986. He was a member of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners for more than 50 years.

Albert Simone

WESTFIELD — Albert Simone, 78, died Aug. 26, 2005 in the Fireman's Retirement Home, Boonton.

He was a lifelong resident of Westfield.

Mr. Simone was a firefighter for the Town of Westfield for 20 years before retiring in 1968. He was a member of the Fireman's Benevolent Association.

He was honorably discharged from the United States Navy as a

ship's cook 3rd class.

Surviving are Connie, his wife of 55 years; daughters, Alayne Teschemacher and Cheryl Ulan; a son, Marc, and eight grandchildren.

A service was held Monday in the Gray Funeral Home, 318 E. Broad St., Westfield. Donations may be made to the ALS Association, 27001 Agoura Rd., Suite 150, Calabasas Hills, CA 91301.

Marie Merkler

WESTFIELD — Marie Merkler, 80, died Aug. 29, 2005 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield.

She was a lifelong resident of Westfield.

Mrs. Merkler was an assembly worker at J.B. Williams in Cranford for 25 years before retiring 15 years ago.

She was a member of the Sunshine Girls Club of Westfield.

Surviving are a daughter, Donna Wanat; a son, Bruce; a brother, Peter Sisto; and three grandchildren.

A Mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday in Holy Trinity Church, Westfield. Arrangements are by the

Dooley Colonial Home, Westfield. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield. Donations may be made to the Westfield Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 356, Westfield, N.J. 07091.

Dolores Kosierowski

WESTFIELD — Dolores Bucci Kosierowski, 52, died April 29, 2005 at her home.

Born in Elizabeth, she lived in Linden, Union and Medford before moving to Westfield in 1986.

Mrs. Kosierowski was an actuarial supervisor for the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. in Newark from 1975 until 1981.

She was a graduate of Douglass College in New Brunswick.

Mrs. Kosierowski was an active member of the Westfield Parent-Teacher Association and served on the Westfield Board of Adult Education. She was a

member and past president of the Westfield Parent Teacher Counsel and a member of the Ladies 18-Hole Group at Plainfield Country Club, Edison.

Surviving are her husband, Stanley M.; a son, Mark C.; brothers, Anthony Bucci and Daniel Bucci; and a sister, Phyllis Jaroszewski.

A Mass will be at 10 a.m. Thursday in St. Helen's Church, Westfield, after the funeral from the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Ave., Fanwood. Donations for ovarian cancer research may be made to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, P.O. Box 27106, New York, N.Y. 10087-7106.

John F. Rogers

FANWOOD — John Francis Rogers, 82, died Aug. 25, 2005 in Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield.

Born in Newark, he lived in Cranford before moving to Fanwood in 1953.

Mr. Rogers was a machinist at the Westinghouse Corp. in Bloomfield for 44 years before retiring.

An Army Air Corps veteran, he served during World War II.

He was a member of the Fanwood Seniors, the Deutscher Club in Clark and the American

Legion Martin Wallberg Post 3 in Westfield.

Surviving are his wife, Emma; daughters, Karen Graf and Ellen Kickenweitz; a brother, Roger; and four grandchildren.

A service was held Monday in the Memorial Funeral Home, 155 South Ave., Fanwood. Entombment was in Somerset Hills Memorial Park, Basking Ridge. Donations may be made to the Fanwood Rescue Squad, c/o Robert Kruthers, Treasurer, 218 Forest Rd., Fanwood, N.J. 07023.

United Way announces its plans to distribute donations

The United Way of Greater Union County has announced that it plans to distribute \$1,044,691 to more than 70 local agencies throughout Union County, North Plainfield and South Plainfield. This annual funding is a result of donations made to United Way's Community Fund during the past year.

In addition to these Community Fund investments, United Way donors directed an additional \$2,643,149 to community programs during the past year. In all, United Way of Greater Union County generated a total of \$3,687,840 in resources during the past year.

"The generous support of local people and companies that donate to our United Way help make life better for thousands of residents in need," said James W. Horne Jr., chief executive officer of United Way of Greater Union County. "United Way donations also create lasting improvements in our community by powering programs that address the root causes of our human service needs."

United Way relies on volunteers from businesses, governments, schools and other philanthropic organizations to monitor community needs and target unrestricted Community Fund donations. This year, local United Way volunteers will make funding decisions after reviewing more than 100 certified programs that focus on helping kids succeed, meeting basic needs, increasing independence for seniors, strengthening families, promoting health and wellness, fostering self-sufficiency and building stronger neighborhoods.

Local Community Fund donations will be distributed as follows: \$687,112 to programs that serve Elizabeth, Union, Linden, Rahway, Roselle, Hillside, Springfield, Clark, Roselle Park, Kenilworth, Mountainside, Garwood and Winfield Park; \$263,863 to programs that serve Plainfield, North Plainfield, Fanwood and Scotch Plains; \$59,337 to programs that serve Cranford and \$34,379 to programs that serve South Plainfield.

United Way of Greater Union County develops and supports more than 100 programs that measurably improve the lives of local children and families. United Way's 2-1-1 helpline supports families by connecting callers with community resources that can help provide services.

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



Garden Club honors Jennie Williams

The Garden Club of Westfield conferred an honorary membership on Jennie Williams at its meeting and luncheon on June 14. The honor was in recognition of and appreciation for her many years of devoted service and support of the club's purposes and traditions. "Jennie has an incredible talent for motivating individual members to participate in club projects and activities. Her warmth and enthusiasm, coupled with her unflagging energy and leadership, have been remarkable. All of the members of the Westfield Garden Club are grateful for her talents and willingness to share them," said Jane Curtis, president of the club. Williams has been a member of the club since 1987. Since that time she has held the positions of workshop chairman (1989-1991), library flowers (1991-1993), first vice president and program chair (1993-94) and President (1995-1997). Since 2001 he has been co-chair of hospitality. She also supports projects with The Garden Club of New Jersey, has been active in many club committees, and co-chaired two fundraising garden tours.

Volunteers sought for county medical corps

The Union County Local Information Network and Communication System (LINCS) has launched a unit of the Medical Reserve Corps and is seeking volunteers, county freeholder chairman Rick Proctor announced.

Earlier this month, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) announced the statewide initiative to recruit and coordinate volunteers to assist during a public health emergency in partnership with state county and local health departments.

The New Jersey Medical Reserve Corps was created through the New Jersey Citizens Corps program, a federally-organized program that is designated to strengthen the state's overall homeland security activities.

The Union County Medical Reserve Corps (UCMRC) is part of the statewide collaboration and is actively looking for citizens to help Union County communities respond to a terrorism event or natural disaster.

"Today, the possibility of a major public health emergency, whether man-made or naturally occurring, is ever present," said Proctor, a health officer and specialist on weapons of mass destruction.

"The volunteers of the Medical Reserve Corps will play a critical role assisting Union County's Public Health and Emergency Management professionals contain and treat

County news

potentially deadly disease outbreaks. We will need a strong volunteer corps to help us save lives," he added.

UCMRC volunteers needed include medical and public health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and epidemiologists. Many community members — interpreters, chaplains, office workers, legal advisors, and others — can fill key support positions.

Anyone interested in joining can do so by attending the first monthly Union County MRC meeting, scheduled for 6:30-7:30 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Union County Office of Emergency Management, 300 North Ave., East, Second Floor, Westfield.

For those who cannot make the meeting, interested volunteers can contact the Union County Nursing Coordinator, Ella Shaykevich, at (908) 518-5620 or eshaykevich@ucnj.org for more information.

Anyone wishing to enroll over the Internet should visit www.ucnj.org/lines/volunteer to register as a volunteer.

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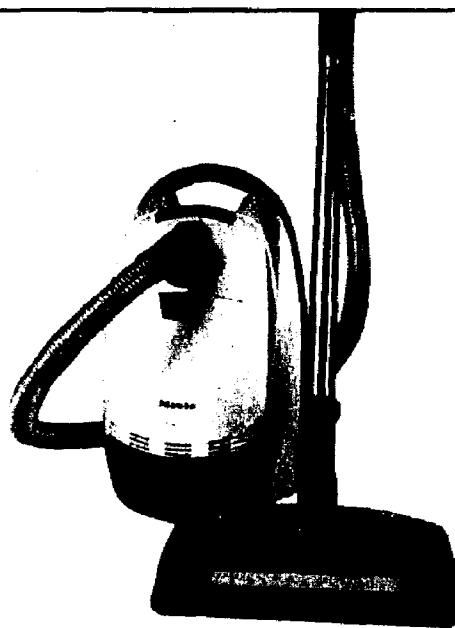
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This week

WEDNESDAY
SEPT. 7

RETURNING TO WORK AFTER CHILD-REARING — a workshop led by Alison Rivlin for the Union County chapter of Mothers & More, 7:30 p.m. Forest Road Park recreation building, Fanwood. (908) 928-9841 or (908) 568-2633.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS — the Westfield Service League's Thrift and Consignment Shops re-open for fall, 9 a.m. 114 Elmer St., Westfield.

'HISTORY OF THE ECHO LAKE COUNTRY CLUB' — a talk by Lee M. Hale at the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society, Noon. B.G. Fields Restaurant, 560 Springfield Ave., Westfield. (908) 233-2930.

THURSDAY
SEPT. 8

POETRY READING — featuring Catherine "Cat" Doty, at the Patricia Kuran Arts Center in Fanwood, 8-10 p.m. Sponsored by the Fanwood Arts Council. Free. (908) 889-7223.

SATURDAY
SEPT. 10

BANTRY BOYS CONCERT — Irish folk group will perform on the patio at the Patricia Kuran Arts Center in Fanwood, 2-4 p.m. Sept. 10. Sponsored by the Fanwood Arts Council. Free. (908) 889-7223.

LITERACY TUTOR TRAINING — workshops hosted by Literacy Volunteers of Union County, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 201 Grove St. East, Westfield. Offered most weeks through November. (908) 518-0600.

GEM AND MINERAL SHOW — 34th annual event hosted by the New Jersey Mineralogical Society, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Fanwood train station. Free. (732) 469-1047.

COMING UP
SISTERS OF MERCY GOLF CLASSIC

— 11th annual event at the Navesink Country Club.

Middletown, Sept. 12. (908) 756-0994, ext. 4006.

BLOOD DRIVE — conducted by NJ Blood Services, hosted by Temple Beth Or, 111 Valley Rd., Clark, 3-8 p.m. Sept. 12. (732) 388-6993.

THEATER AUDITIONS — for a performance of *The Wiz* presented by the Rainbow Experience, a multi-cultural community theater group, 7-10 p.m. Sept. 13. First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer St., Westfield.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING — for Scotch Plains residents, 10 a.m.-noon Sept. 13, in the community room of the library, 1927 Bartle Ave.

FOOD ADDICTION PROGRAM — presented by Food Addicts Anonymous, 7:30 p.m. Sept. 13. Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. (908) 654-6223.

TRICKY TRAY — hosted by the Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center as part of the last resident/family picnic of the season, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sept. 14. 1610 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains. (908) 889-2587.

THE ROLE OF POLLING — a talk by pollster Kellyanne Conway of The Polling Company, 9 a.m. Sept. 17. Canoe Brook Country Club, Summit. To register, send check for \$35 to Union County Republican Women, 115 East Grove St., Westfield, NJ, 07090 by Sept. 10. For information, (908) 522-1455.

MUSIC FEST — featuring Joan Jett, They Might Be Giants and local favorites Jobannano, 3 p.m. Sept. 17. Echo Lake Park, Mountainside.

ART AUCTION — to benefit the Alumnae Scholarship Fund of Mount Saint Mary Academy, 7 p.m. Sept. 17 at the school, located at Route 22 at Terrill Road in Watchung, 810. (908) 757-0108, ext. 4507.

ANTIQUES APPRAISAL AFFAIR — special fundraising event and season's re-opening at the Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 2 p.m. Sept. 18. For information or to volunteer, call (908) 232-1776.

AUTUMN ANTIQUE SHOW — annual event hosted by the Cranford Downtown Management Corporation, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 18 in the downtown. Limited dealer space available; register by Aug. 1 at (908) 709-7208.

GIRL SCOUTS INFO

MEETING — for the Fanwood-Scotch Plains community, 7 p.m. Sept. 19. Terrill Middle School, Scotch Plains. \$10 registration fee can be paid at the meeting. (908) 889-1760.

SAFETY CLINIC — for youth sports coaches, sponsored by the Westfield Recreation Department, 6:30-9:30 p.m. Sept. 19. Community Room of the municipal building, 425 East Broad St. \$26. (908) 789-4080.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SEMINAR — hosted by the Fanwood Memorial Library and Ivy Educational Services, 7-9 p.m. Sept. 20. Open to all high school students and parents in the borough, but registration is required. (908) 322-6400.

WHITE MOUNTAINS TRIP — hosted by the Fanwood Seniors Citizens Club, Tour Franconia Notch State Park and other natural highlights, Sept. 20-23. \$500 per person, double occupancy. (908) 889-4494.

CHARLIE PROSE COMEDY REVUE — a trip and luncheon at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse hosted by the Scotch Plains Golden Agers Club. Leaves the Scotch Plains municipal parking lot at 10 a.m. Sept. 22. \$65. (908) 889-4121 or (908) 654-4512.

CONSIGNMENT SALE — hosted by the Mothers' Center of Central New Jersey, 9 a.m.-noon Oct. 1. Trinity Episcopal Church, North and Forest avenues, Cranford. (908) 561-1751. The group will also hold an open house at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 3.

AMERICA AND AIR SUPPLY — a double bill featuring the two bands at the restored Ritz Theatre in Elizabeth, 8 p.m. Oct. 7. \$35-45. 1148 East Jersey St. (908) 351-7575.

BOOK SALE — hosted by the Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sept. 24 at the Forest Road Park building. Donations will be accepted at an upcoming date. To volunteer, call (908) 322-9179 or 322-7174.

SEE THE DALAI LAMA — His Holiness will make a public appearance at the Rutgers University football stadium, and the Westfield Area YMCA is sponsoring a trip. \$33. Leaves 7 a.m. Sept. 25. (908) 966-9344.

'MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL' — a Westfield Area YMCA trip to the 91st Street Playhouse in New York City. Take the train for a matinee performance Sept. 28. \$65. (908) 966-9344.

COLLEGE PLANNING PROGRAM — first event of its kind hosted by the College Woman's Club of Westfield. \$40; proceeds will benefit the club's scholarship fund. Advance tickets available through Aug. 15 to club members; tickets go on sale Sept. 1 at the Town Book Store. For more, visit www.WestfieldToday.com/cwc.

OCTOBERFEST 2005 — fall celebration of the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council, Inc. at Camp Lou Henry Hoover in Sussex County, Oct. 14-16. \$75 for the full weekend; reduced rates for shorter stay. (908) 232-3236, ext. 1226.



At left, Gary Herzberg stands beside Fanwood Memorial Library Director Daniel Weiss. At right, he is with Scotch Plains Public Library Director Meg Kolaya.



Local teen sets his sights on increasing neighborly support

SCOTCH PLAINS — "Neighbor to Neighbor," a community program designed to generate increased donations to the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Food Pantry, is being launched this Labor Day. The new program was conceived and is being spearheaded by Gary Herzberg, a Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School senior.

"Neighbor to Neighbor" is providing collection bins at the two local libraries to make it easier for residents to help their needy neighbors.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Food Pantry assists several dozen households in the two municipalities. These individuals and families rely on donations to the local food pantry.

Donations of non-perishable foods, cleaning products and health and beauty aids may be deposited in marked collection bins near the inside entrance of either library. Herzberg will pick up donations and bring them to the local food pantry in the Scotch Plains municipal building at least once a week.

Herzberg says he learned about the food pantry's shortage of supplies through his work with the Social Action Committee of Congregation Beth Israel. Although the synagogue and some other local houses of worship try to collect donations for the food pantry, it is clear that more donations are needed.

"It is unfortunate that except during major holiday periods, the needy in our area are seemingly forgotten. With the approval of the library directors,

Meg Kolaya and Daniel Weiss, permanent collection bins within our local libraries will be established. I hope to spearhead a community movement to remember to help our own needy neighbors all year long," Herzberg said.

"It is very possible that more residents frequent our libraries on a regular basis than attend religious services. The food pantry collection bins in the libraries will make it easier for residents to do a good deed while going about their everyday routines."

Items needed include:

— Personal products such as shampoo, soap, deodorant, hair conditioner, shaving supplies, moisturizing lotion and mouth wash.

— Paper products such as toilet paper, napkins, paper towels and tissues.

Non-perishable foods including canned and jarred fruit and vegetables, cereal, soup, juice, Parmalat milk, rice, pasta, beef stew, canned meals, peanut butter, jelly, tea, coffee, ketchup and mustard.

— Cleaning supplies such as laundry detergent and various other cleaning products.

The Welfare Department also welcomes perishable donations; however, all perishables must be brought directly to the Scotch Plains Municipal Building and left in the Welfare Office refrigerator.

For further specific information concerning the food pantry, contact Marie Davis at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building at (908) 322-6700.

Club to hear story of Echo Lake CC

WESTFIELD — The history of the Echo Lake Country Club will be the topic of Lee M. Hale at the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society, to be held noon Sept. 7, at the B.G. Fields Restaurant, 560 Springfield Ave.

Hale, a former president of the Echo Lake Country Club and author of *Echo Lake Country Club History: 100 Years*, will discuss the founding of the club, its growth and the many changes that have taken place in its lengthy history.

Called a "hidden gem" by Golf World in 1994, Echo Lake is not just about golf, as its beautiful clubhouse, location and surroundings have made the club a place for social gatherings and celebrations.

Hale has been an active

member of the Westfield community and its various charities for many years. Using his financial background as a controller, cost accountant and assistant treasurer at Merck, he has been involved in many organizations. In addition to the Echo Lake Country Club, he has been the president of the Westfield YMCA, The Westfield Foundation, The Westfield Hospitals Association and The Westfield Athletic Hall of Fame.

He has chaired the Budget Committee of the Westfield Foundation, served on the Town Council and is a trustee of both the Children's Specialized Hospital and the Presbyterian Church in Westfield. He has recently been chosen to serve on the board of directors of the Downtown Westfield Corporation.

Joining Hale in his presentation will be Chris Carson, who has been the greens superintendent of the Echo Lake Country Club for 19 years. A graduate of Rutgers University, where he received a B.S. in environmental science, Carson is the president of the NJ Turf Grass Association and a past president of the Golf Course Superintendents of NJ. He was named by NJ Golfer Magazine one of the 10 most influential people in New Jersey golf.

Regular attendees of the luncheon will be contacted by a phone committee of the Society to verify their reservations. Space permitting, others may attend the luncheon by calling (908) 233-2930 by noon on Sept. 5.

Thrift Shop is in need of donations

WESTFIELD — The Hope Chest Thrift Shop at 226 Prospect St. is now accepting fall and winter clothes for women, men, and children. There is a special need for older children's clothing. Also needed are all types of jewelry.

The Thrift Shop is open from Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is operated by the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Auxiliary volunteers.

All proceeds help to provide terminally ill patients with natural, humane care known as hospice, and their families or loved ones with physical, emotional and spiritual support during their time of need.

Visit the unique shop featuring designer clothes for the entire family, accessories, and many household items.

For directions or further information, call the shop at (908) 233-9973.

Legal Notices

TOWN OF WESTFIELD
PUBLIC NOTICE
WESTFIELD PLANNING BOARD
CHANGE OF MEETING DATE
In compliance with N.J.S.A. 10-4-50 (Open Public Meetings Act), the Westfield Planning Board wishes to advise the public of a meeting change. The regular scheduled meeting for October 3, 2005 has been moved to Wednesday, October 5, 2005.
The meeting will be held in Council Chambers in the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey at 8:00 p.m.
Applications and plans to be considered at this meeting will be on file in the office of the Secretary of the Planning Board, 959 North Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey and may be seen Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Kenneth B. Marsh, Secretary
Westfield Planning Board
RP7 2T 9-2-05

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Community Life

Briefs

Service League shops to re-open next week

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Service League's Thrift and Consignment Shops, located at 114 Elmer St., will reopen for business at 9 a.m. Wednesday.

The Thrift Shop racks are full with fall merchandise. In addition to clothing for the whole family, books, toys and jewelry will also be sold at very affordable prices.

Shoppers are invited to browse through the newly stocked shelves. Donations to the Thrift Shop will also be accepted starting Wednesday. On opening day, the Consignment Shop will be accepting and selling merchandise.

Get trained to tutor others in literacy

Literacy Volunteers of Union County will hold tutor training workshops in Westfield at the Girl Scout building, 201 Grove St. East, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sept. 10, 17 and Oct. 1, and at Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave. in Union, from 6-8:30 p.m. Oct. 11, 13, 18 and 20 and Nov. 8 and 10.

For information, call Literacy Volunteers of Union County at (908) 518-0600.

Township to host blood pressure clinic

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township will hold a blood pressure screening clinic in the Scotch Plains Public Library Community Room from 10 a.m.-noon on Sept. 13.

This clinic is part of the Scotch Plains Health Department's ongoing services to its residents. Those persons who are over the age of 30 and smoke or are overweight, or have a family history of heart disease or diabetes, and who have not had their blood pressure checked recently are urged to attend the clinic.

Gem show will be held at boro train station

FANWOOD — The New Jersey Mineralogical Society, Inc., will be holding its 34th annual Gem and Mineral Show 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sept. 10 (rain date Sept. 11) at the Fanwood train station, North Martine Avenue and North Avenue, Fanwood.

Admission is free. There will be dealers with a large variety of specimens, including fossils and jewelry. For additional information, call (732) 469-1047.

Tricky Tray planned at Ashbrook Center

SCOTCH PLAINS — From 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 14, Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will host a Tricky Tray in celebration of the last resident/family picnic of the season. All proceeds benefit the Recreation Department.

Those interested in attending or donating an item should contact the Recreation Department at (908) 889-2587.

Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, a 120-bed long- and short-term care facility, is located at 1610 Raritan Rd.

Fanny Wood Day to feature car show

FANWOOD — A classic car show featuring more than 100 vintage automobiles will be a part of the 10th annual Fanny Wood Day, scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 2.

In the show, sponsored by the Cougar Club of NJ & PA, each participant will receive a dash plaque and goody bag just for participating. A people's choice award, based on votes cast by spectators, and other trophies will be given out beginning at 2 p.m.

Individuals who would like to display their vintage cars can register on the day of the show for a \$10 entrance fee. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Children's Specialize Hospital.

The 10th annual Fanny Wood Day will be held at the corner of Martine and South avenues in downtown Fanwood. The event begins at noon and will continue until 5 p.m. The rain date is Oct. 9.

In addition to the car show, the day will feature entertainment, children's games, rides and contests.

Rutgers Coop seeks Master Gardener trainees

WESTFIELD — The Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension of Union County Master Gardener Training Program is in the final stages of accepting applications for the class of 2005-2006.

Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. They will begin on Oct. 11 and run through May 2006.

Rutgers Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who assist Cooperative Research & Extension in delivering horticulture programs and information to the general public. Anyone with an interest in gardening and a commitment to volunteer service can become a Master

Gardener.

Members are people who believe in the volunteer mission and have the desire to enhance the program. At the same time, the association helps build a network of educated, committed and experienced volunteers who enjoy the rewards of gardening through volunteering, education and experiencing the benefits of meeting new friends and socializing as well. No previous education or training is necessary.

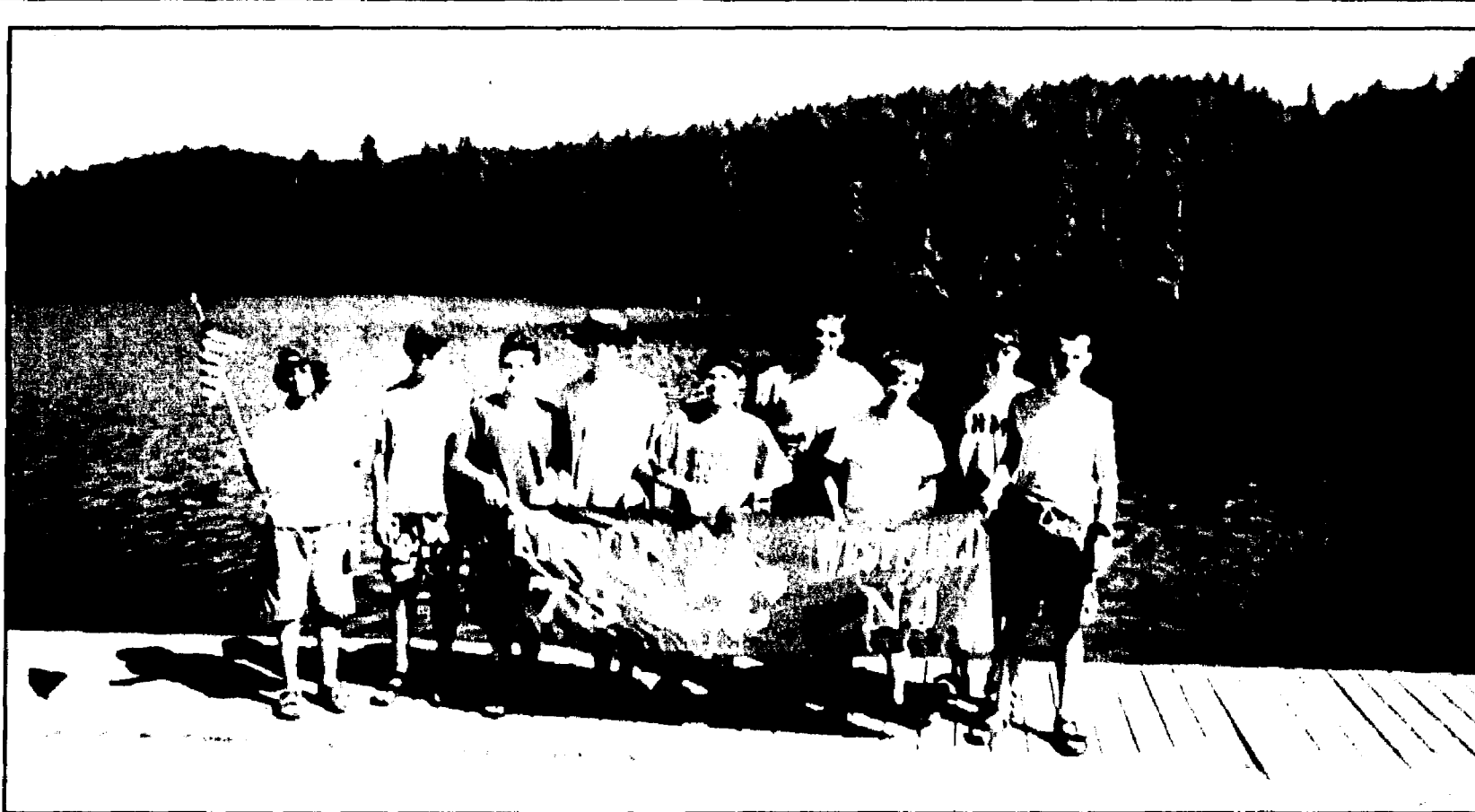
Master Gardeners receive in-depth training in horticulture from Rutgers University faculty and professional staff. There is a fee to cover material and program costs. As part of the training,

Master Gardeners are required to volunteer a certain number of hours, working in their community in programs sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension. Successful graduates of the training become Certified Master Gardeners after they complete their volunteer service.

Some of the topics include: Flower Gardening, Vegetable Gardening, Fruit Growing, Insects and Diseases, Plant Pathology, Basic Botany, Integrated Pest Management, Mosquito Control, Soils, Weed Management and Wildlife. Once trained, gardeners join one of our many committees that offer the residents of

Union County educational services. Some committees are "Community Beautification," "Sharing Garden," "Horticultural Therapy Groups" and "Help Information Staff Member." Members also volunteer at garden shows and fairs or become speakers on a favorite topic.

Classes will be held at the Union County Administration Buildings' first floor auditorium, located at 300 North Ave. East. For more information or to obtain an application, call the Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension of Union County's Agriculture Department at (908) 654-9854.



Boy Scouts from Troop 73 in Westfield participated in a high adventure trip to Algonquin Provincial Park this summer. Pictured from left are Aidan Ireland, JP Zavodny, John Gilmarin, Patrick Ireland, Andrew Davinson, Alex Deduck, Ben Straquatanio, Tom Hogaboom and John Falzon. Adult leaders (not pictured) included Alec Ireland, Tim Avis, Pete Hogaboom, Bob Fromtling and Annie Fromtling.

High adventure for Scouts of Troop 73

WESTFIELD — Boy Scouts from Troop 73 recently returned home after spending two weeks canoeing in Algonquin Provincial Park in Canada. The park, which was established in 1893 as Canada's first provincial park, is cherished by Canadians and canoeists worldwide.

The Scouts traveled over 115 miles throughout the park on lakes big and small, up and down rivers and over beaver dams. In addition, their route encompassed 33 portages (carries between lakes) covering more than 13 miles.

While on the trek the scouts saw moose, deer, mink and beaver, as well as signs of bear and wolves. Each night the Troop was serenaded by the calls of loon and the howling of wolves.

The Scouts took time to visit the Canadian Canoe Museum, where they learned about the canoe's important place in the exploration and history of Canada and North America. The Scouts also visited the Algonquin Visitor Center to learn about the natural and human history of the Park.

In addition to the Algonquin High

Adventure trip, the Troop sent 15 Scouts and three adult leaders to the local Patriot's Path Council's Camp Winnebago in Rockaway for a week in July.

Troop 73 meets on Mondays at 7:30 p.m., in the cafeteria of Holy Trinity Interprovincial School. For more information about the Troop, visit <http://westfield-nj.com/troop73>.

The first meeting of the coming school year will be held on Sept. 12. Teenage boys who are interested in camping and high adventure and invited stop by and give the Troop a try.

Enroll now for fall programs with Rec. Dept.

WESTFIELD — Enrollment for the fall/winter programs is now open at the Westfield Recreation Department.

The department offers programs for all ages. For children 18 months through Grade 6, the department offers an Abakadoodle art class held on Mondays or Wednesdays, beginning Oct. 17. Also, the popular bowling league for ages Pre-K to teen begins Sept. 19 at Linden Lanes. And the fall golf program, for ages 8-14 years, will be held on Tuesdays at Oak Ridge Golf Course

starting Sept. 13. In addition, new this fall there will be an adult golf class for beginners.

A manners class is offered to ages 4-7 on Wednesdays beginning in November, and a beginning piano class for Grades 2-3 at the NJ Workshop for The Arts starts Monday, Oct. 10.

The popular Soccer Squirts and Sport Squirt programs are offered for ages 3-6 years. They will begin the week of Sept. 19 on Mondays or Tuesdays, depending on the desired program.

The five-week fall tennis

program will begin on Sept. 29 for ages 3 to adult. And for your exercise needs, the department offers a one-hour Total Body Workout at 5:30 p.m. Mondays or 9:20 p.m. Tuesdays. Classes begin the week of Sept. 26. Residents can also exercise with a stroller and a baby on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 28 during the Strollersize Class at Tamaques Park.

The department's day trips include a tour of the local microbrewery, Climax Brewery, in Roselle Park on Nov. 12, and

ever-popular New York City Night Light Tour on Tuesday, Dec. 6 to see the holiday lights in all their glamour.

Finally, the department's 15th annual Haunted House will be held from 5-9 p.m. on Halloween. Volunteers from 15 years through adult are needed for set design, construction, and in costume.

For additional information, contact the Westfield Recreation Department at 425 East Broad St. at (908) 789-4080, or visit the Web site, www.westfieldnj.net/townhall/recreation.

FSPY youth dance program continues to grow

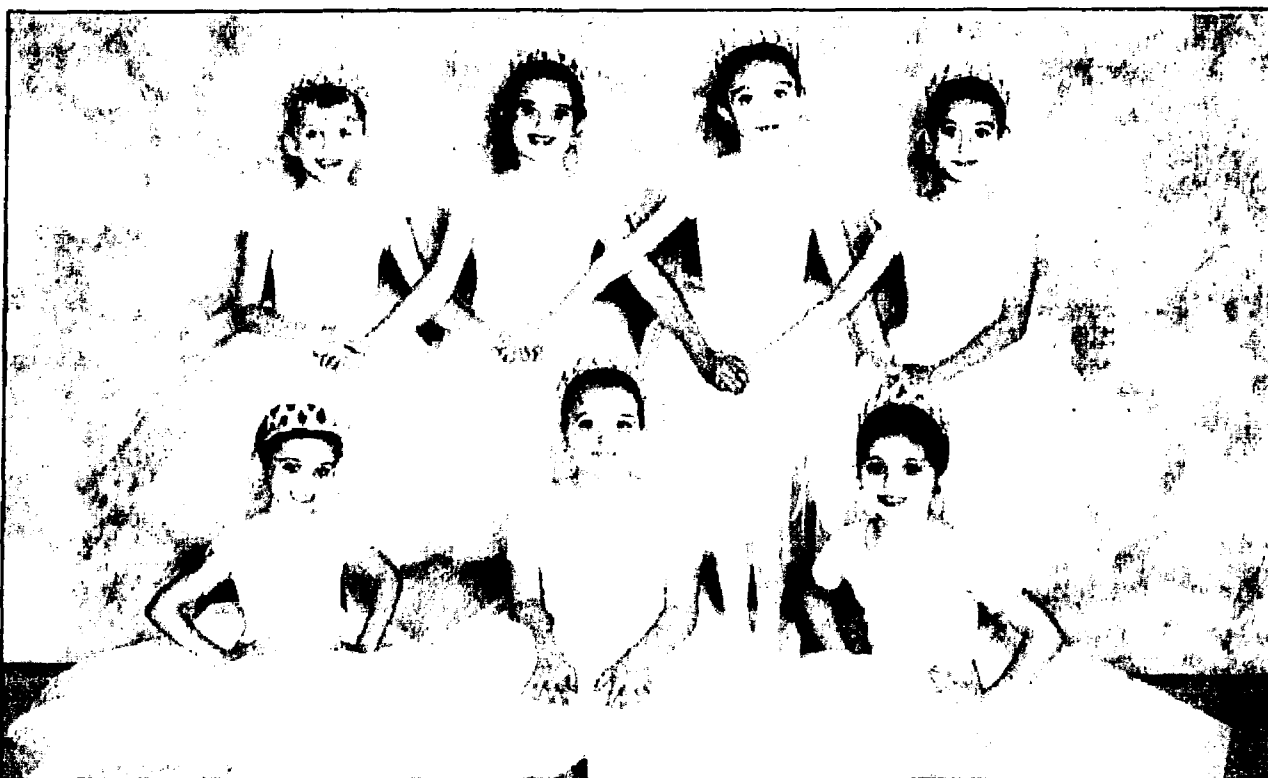
SCOTCH PLAINS — Now in its fifth season at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA, the dance program has grown from just 25 students to more than 80 youngsters, ages 3 to 7, who are learning the fine points of ballet, jazz, and tap.

Instructors follow a syllabus to ensure that all students receive the proper training for their level. They emphasize fun, creativity, and imagination.

While not a performing studio, the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA Dance Program finishes each year with an in-house dance revue. Students also perform in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade.

Coordinator Jenny Logos, perhaps best known for directing the world-renowned Broadway Dance Center in New York City from 1985 to 1989, is responsible for co-founding its children's program.

Registration is currently underway for the fall session, with morning, afternoon, after-school, and weekend dance classes available. Call (908) 889-8880 or stop by the facility at 1340 Martine Ave.



At the close of the 2004-2005 season, the annual dance revue at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA featured this group of youngsters performing to "Snow" from *The Nutcracker*, the winter segment of a "seasons-themed" show.

Local author publishes new book

Garfield's Train imagines last days of dying president

Few people today realize the enormity of the U.S. political scene in the 1880s — those heady days between the Civil War and the start of the 20th century. Those were the days powered by the "robber barons" of the Gilded Age. And if the era was the Gilded Age, then Long Branch was the "Gilded Strand," where the wealthy and famous came to enjoy their summers.

Scotch Plains author Feather Schwartz Foster offers a glimpse of that era of sprawling 30-room "cottages" in her new novel, *Garfield's Train*. The fictional Dunbar family interacts with such characters as General Grant, Roscoe Conkling, James G. Blaine, and, of course, the Garfield family in the early 1880s.

James A. Garfield was only president for six months, three of which were spent dying. To finally escape the fetid and miserable heat of the Washington summer and offer the dying man some respite, he was brought to Long Branch for his last days. In a burst of patriotism, caring and community spirit, a 4-mile railroad spur was built overnight for the president to be brought from the train station right to the door of a cottage-by-the-sea, without painful jostling in a wagon over a rutted road.

According to the author, "This was arguably Long Branch's proudest hours, and for some reason, it has become a mere footnote to history. The actual historical records only indicate that it happened — not how it happened. In *Garfield's Train*, I tried to draw the picture in my mind of the entire posh resort and the way the 3,000 residents turned out to support the railroad workers in their labor of love and patriotism.

Feather Schwartz Foster has also written *Ladies: A Conjecture of Personalities about the First Ladies between Martha Washington and Mamie Eisenhower*, and an e-book titled, *On The Road With The Old Gals*, about her lecturing experiences. She has made more than 100 appearances in the New Jersey area talking about the "old" First Ladies, and has already been engaged for several more about the Garfield era.

Foster has been an amateur presidential historian for three decades. Following a long career in advertising, and having written a score of children's musical shows, she decided to draw on her thousand-volume personal presidential library and her love of history by penning her recent books.

Garfield's Train is 226-pages, published by PublishAmerica of Frederick, Md., and sells for \$19.95. It is available at most online book-sellers, directly from the publisher at www.publishamerica.com, or through the author's Web page at www.authorsden.com/featherschwartzfoster.

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NAMI offers course in area

WESTFIELD — Union County residents are invited to register for the fall Family-to-Family Education Program that begins Sept. 8. Presented by the Union County Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill), the course meets from 7 to 9:30 on Thursday evenings over a 12-week period. It is free of charge, with all necessary materials furnished at no cost.

The course is offered specifically to the parents, siblings, spouses, teen-age and adult children, and significant others of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. It is not appropriate for individuals who themselves suffer from one of the major mental disorders. In a confidential setting, loved ones learn to understand and support their ill relative while maintaining their own well-being. The program is taught by NAMI members who have completed intensive training.

The Curriculum covers schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic depression), clinical depression, panic disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder and how caregivers can learn to cope more effectively. Attendees will learn about the biology of the brain, medications and skills needed to successfully communicate with a relative. Classes will meet at the Westfield YMCA, 220 Clark St. To register, or for more information, call Pat Roman at (732) 382-0762.



New salon, spa celebrates grand opening

Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky joined owners Sandra Amoedo, Vanessa Cargas and Rosie Manto in celebrating the grand opening of X-Changes Hair Artistry and Spa X, 1117 South Avenue West on Saturday, Aug. 27. Warren Rorden represented the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce in congratulating the new business on its opening. X-Changes Hair Artistry, a full service salon, offers hair design, coloring, cutting and unique products such as Great Length extensions and hair repair treatments. The salon specializes in special event packages for wedding or prom, designed to provide a customized look. Spa X uses only brand name products in all of its treatments; for example, Lite Concept Nails is used for its nail services. X-Changes Hair Artistry and Spa X is open Monday through Saturday with free parking available in the side lot. The staff is multi-lingual. For more information, call (908) 317-9400.

Scrapbooking class will be offered at Community School

SCOTCH PLAINS — For the first time, local scrapbookers can take a seven-week class and complete a Scrapbook Photo Album for themselves or to give as a gift for the holidays.

The Community School of Scotch Plains-Fanwood will be offering this new class in the fall session beginning in September. Scrapbooking will meet on Thursdays evenings. Class participants will learn how to create a photo scrapbook from start to finish. The class will cover everything from organizing and selecting pictures to cropping, matting, mounting photos and journaling. Included in the materials fee for this class are a Creative Memories photo-safe scrapbook

album, adhesive for mounting photos, a journaling pen, and assorted photo mounting paper and stickers used to enhance your scrapbook pages.

A large selection of scrapbooking tools will be available for use during each session, and each week a quick and easy scrapbooking technique will be demonstrated. Participants should bring photos to the class. Mickey Howard, a Creative Memories consultant, is the instructor for this hands-on class.

For more information on this class, call the instructor at (908) 889-5954 or pick up the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Community School brochure available in local libraries.

Sunday School to start at All Saints'

SCOTCH PLAINS — A new season of Sunday school is about to begin at All Saints' Episcopal Church with programs for children of all ages. The church uses "Living the Good News" as the core curriculum at each grade level, with supplementary materials to enhance learning and interest.

Classes begin at 9:45 a.m. when all but the youngest nursery and pre-k/Kindergarten join together to discuss and learn about life lessons. At 10, the classes separate for their own grade appropriate teaching. Children

learn about the Bible and Christian traditions through stories, arts and crafts and music. All students go into church midway through the morning service to share Holy Eucharist.

Registration is Sept. 11 during coffee hour, which follows the 10 a.m. service. There will be refreshments, games and prizes, and the teachers will be available to answer questions and help place new students. Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. Sept. 18. For more information, call the church at (908) 322-8047. All Saints' is located at 559 Park Ave.



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Registration will be held soon for WYACT classes

The Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre (WYACT) will hold its 15th season of professional classes in the performing arts, artistic director Cynthia Meryl announced.

Registration for acting, musical theatre, and dance classes will take place at Hillcrest Academy South (formerly Lincoln School), 728 Westfield Ave. in Westfield, from 4-8 p.m. Sept. 7 and 8.

WYACT's beginner, intermediate, and advanced acting classes concentrate on improvisation, character development, and scene study. Three levels of musical theater class focus on song selection and interpretation, ensemble work, voice, and musical theatre movement.

Meryl, a professional actress in the New York and national theatre arena for over 30 years, oversees all classes and teaches advanced acting, all musical theater classes, and private voice.

A new addition to WYACT's classes is yoga, taught by NESTA-certified yoga and Pilates instructor, Lisa Fidanza.

Fidanza, also an aerobics instructor and fitness trainer, is a graduate of Montclair State University, holding a BFA degree in Theatre Production and Design and minor degrees in both Dance and Musical Theatre. She won the 2003 Region II Stage Management Award from the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts American College Theatre Festival, and was a National Nominee at the Region's Festival in 2004. As a "theatre person," Fidanza is an advocate of implementing yoga into the hectic, stressful, yet rewarding life of the performing artist.

Michael Raine, WYACT's tap instructor, has been teaching at New York University's School of the Arts in the CAP program since 2001, having graduated from the program in 1996. As a performer, Raine toured the United States and Europe in productions of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (Lefou), *West Side Story* (Baby John), and the Australian tap musical, *Hot Shoe*

Shuffle. Raine choreographed productions of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *The Prince of Grand Street*, *Gypsy* and *The Pajama Game*. He has also choreographed for the Tisch Gala and *From Ballet to Broadway*, a benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids.

Kathryn Cuca will return for her second year as an acting instructor. She currently teaches theater workshops and takes part in independent theater projects and films, in the tradition of her mentor Cynthia Meryl. She holds a bachelor's from Boston University and has been awarded the title of "Best Actress" from the Worrall Newspaper Syndicate for her performance in WYACT's *The Children's Hour*.

Also returning is Joanna Gibson, a Dartmouth College graduate with Honors in Music in the concentration areas of conducting and piano performance, who will accompany Musical Theatre II and III classes. In addition to Dartmouth, she studied at the Royal

College of Music in London and won the Eugene Roitman 1943 Memorial Award for outstanding dedication to music. Her musical direction credits include *Godspell*, *Pippin*, *A Chorus Line* and *Fame*, to name a few.

Kimani Fowlin, a professional dancer and choreographer, returns to teach hip-hop, jazz, and African dance for the WYACT dance program at Hillcrest Academy. Currently, Fowlin dances with the modern dance company Soulworks and teaches African dance at Rutgers University. She has performed in West Africa for the Panafest of 2003, and has conducted workshops, choreographed, and toured in dance companies throughout New York, South America, South Africa, and Russia.

Heather Bialy, a graduate with a BFA from the Mason Gross School of the Arts, choreographer for Bridgewater/Raritan High School and dance instructor for Spotlight on Dance in South Plainfield, returns to teach

WYACT's ballet and jazz classes.

Meryl has stage-directed and co-produced all 28 of WYACT's past productions including WYACT's highly-acclaimed 2003 production of *West Side Story* won the Music Theatre International Award of Excellence. Also, WYACT recently received a \$25,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts.

The WYACT classes are designed to prepare young performers for auditions and the professional stage. Meryl would like to see young performers develop the commitment and discipline to learn an art form well, whether it be in music, dance, or drama, and in so doing, build the confidence the students need not only for a career in theatre, but to face any challenge in life.

For information on WYACT, see www.wyact.org. For further information the performing arts program and registration, call (908) 233-3200 or email wyactnj@comcast.net.

Kean exhibit puts illustrated image in center of attention

From Sept. 12 to Oct. 6, lovers of illustrative art will have the rare opportunity to visit the "Illustrated Image" exhibition at the James Howe Gallery of Kean University.

Fifteen illustrators, including some especially esteemed artists, will present the breadth of their field with examples of comic book, comic strip, decorative, fantasy and newspaper works of art. The public is invited to the opening reception from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sept. 20 in the gallery, located on the first floor of Vaughn-Eames Hall on Kean's main campus at 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is free.

The featured artists are Peter Ambush, Peter Caras, Joe DeVito, Greg and Tim Hildebrandt, Kevin Jakubowski, Mike Kupka, Ray Lago, Jeffrey Lindberg, Frank Lacano, Mark Romanoski, Alan Pollack, Frank Thorne, Murray Tinkelman and Don Wimmer.

The "Illustrated Image" is curated by Kean professor of fine arts Johann Jochowitz, who has been interested in bringing this exhibition to the school for many years. As an illustrator instructor for the university, he is keenly aware that an exhibition such as this, at which illustrators are given gallery space in a public form as artists, has not been done in the state before.

Four of the exhibitors — Jakubowski, Lago, Romanoski and Wimmer — are former students of Jochowitz who are now doing extremely well in the industry. Jakubowski was staff artist and art director for Troll Books from 2000 to 2003 and is currently a staff artist at the music label Turn Up the Music.

Lago works in the comics industry, drawing and painting covers and pinups and illustrating magic cards for Wizards of the Coast and other

illustrated card games. The first collection of his work, *Ray Lago: Heroes and Angels*, was published in 1998 by Archangel Entertainment. The second collection, a volume of drawings titled *Ray Lago Sketchbook I: Drawn to Beauty*, was published in 2003 by Big Wow Art.

Romanoski was the assistant to the brothers Hildebrandt, marking the first such time the brothers had hired an assistant. His clients include Magic the Gathering and Hasbro Toys, work on Harry Potter for Warner Brothers, and the World Wildlife Foundation (W.W.F.). In addition, Romanoski has sold paintings to private collectors including Warner Brothers studios, Universal Studios, the W.W.F. Corporate Headquarters and Michael Uslan, the chief executive producer of the Batman movies.

Wimmer is doing work in humorous illustration, cartooning, storyboards and comps. His client list includes Pepsi, Playboy, Pampers, Raid, Nabisco, TV Guide, Cadillac and NJ Transit. From 1990 to 2004, Wimmer was artist for the syndicated comic *Ripley's Believe It or Not*. In 2004 he joined Pat Brady on the syndicated comic strip *Rose is Rose* as artist and writer.

In conjunction with the exhibition, an arts dialogue titled "The Changing Face of Illustration in Today's Market" will be presented at 5 p.m. Sept. 27 in Vaughn-Eames Hall, Room 119. Panelists Tinkelman, Thorne, Lindberg and Romanoski will discuss the impact of electronic media and changing culture on the world of illustration.

For more information about any of the above free events, call the Department of Fine Arts at Kean University at (908) 737-4400.



Liz Zazzi plays a struggling actress who gets her big break playing "Tamara Tomorrow," a children's cartoon show host.

Theater Project travels to a Sparkling Planet

Music from a Sparkling Planet, a comedy by Douglas Carter Beane, opens at The Theater Project at Union County College at 8 p.m. Sept. 22.

Whatever became of Tamara Tomorrow? In the early 1970s, this local television host in her antennae and space suit made cheery predictions of how exciting the future was going to be. Her sudden disappearance from the public eye was one of the great mysteries of the Philadelphia area. Three fans of Tamara, all grown up, approaching 40 and disenchanted that the "future" isn't quite what she predicted, decide to go in search of this "Delaware Valley Greta Garbo...because there's nothing so reassuring as the past's view of the future."

"The play reminds me of the classic *Wizard of Oz*," said director Wendy Liscow, "with the three friends setting off to find the wizard, someone who will solve all their problems and restore their faith in themselves."

The cast includes Liz Zazzi, Clark Carmichael, Gary Glor, Jesse Jou and Jeff Maschi. The production team comprises Jessica Parks (set design), Jill Nagle (lighting design), Cherie Cunningham (costume design), and Mike Magnifico (sound design). Wendy Liscow, director, is the former associate director of the George Street Playhouse.

Music from a Sparkling Planet runs Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. through Oct. 9. Tickets are \$20 for Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays; \$12 on Thursdays and \$10 for students at all performances. Tickets are \$12 for all senior citizens on Senior Sunday, Sept. 25. Call the box office at (908) 659-5189.

The Theater Project is housed at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Known for its intimate "studio on stage" at which the audience sits within arm's reach of the performers, the company is celebrating its 11th season of producing new works and contemporary classics. For more information visit the web site at www.TheTheaterProject.com.

Naturalistic art on display in Rahway

The Arts Guild of Rahway presents "Of Time, Place and People," an exhibition of recent naturalistic figure painting by Neal Korn, Wendy Letven and Michael Nirenberg, from Sept. 11 to Oct. 7. There will be an opening reception from 1-4 p.m. Sept. 11. Admission is free.

Neal Korn has been investigating the idea of identity in his work for the past few years. More recently, this inquiry evolved into the creation of a series of unique portraits of family, friends, and associates, to which he has added a brief comment or anecdote related to him by his model. This combination of text and imagery provides many levels of psychological insight into the people portrayed.

Wendy Letven has changed the course of her artistic direction with a series of beautiful and compelling portraits of young children. This series slowly grew to involve scenes combining multiple figures in recognizable settings. Her work, like that of Korn, combines strong drawing skills with rich coloring to create memorable images of people in specific surroundings.

Michael Nirenberg is a young painter who branched out into video. While his film work has become a main focus of his current output, he has diligently continued painting. For some time, his paintings were based on film stills from his videos. This allowed him to take a specific image meant to be seen as part of a moving picture and isolate it and embellish it as a work on canvas — separated, yet connected to its former context. More recently, Nirenberg has taken to having models pose for him in specific tableaux, which he then photographs and uses as the basis for new paintings.

Gallery hours are Monday, Friday, and Saturday from 1-4 p.m., and Thursdays from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m. Appointments can be made for school visits and groups. This exhibit is sponsored by Merck and Co., Inc.

The Arts Guild of Rahway is located at 1670 Irving St. in downtown Rahway. For information about programs at the Arts Guild, call (732) 381-7511, email artsguild1670@earthlink.net, or visit on the Web at www.rahwayartsguild.org.

Greek festival planned at St. Demetrios Church

Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church will hold its 28th annual Greek Festival from Sept. 8-11 on the church grounds, located at 721 Rahway Ave. in Union. Visitors can enjoy the tastes of Greece under the tents, rain or shine.

The menu includes moussaka (layered sliced eggplant and ground beef topped with béchamel cream sauce baked to a golden brown) pastitsio (layered macaroni and ground beef topped with béchamel sauce baked to a golden brown), roasted leg of lamb and chicken riganati, as well as souvlaki and gyro. Appetizers include Greek salad with Feta cheese and olives, tiropites (cheese puffs), spanakopites (spinach puffs), dolmades (stuffed grape leaves) and meatballs.

The festival also offers tasty desserts and pastries, as well as live music and authentic folk dancing. And don't forget to try some retsina (white Greek wine) or ouzo, the liqueur of the ancient Gods, to complete your taste of Greece.

The Greek Import Boutique will feature a variety of imported goods, jewelry, vases and many other articles from Greece.

The festival hours are as follows: Thursday, 6-10 p.m.; Friday, lunch specials will be served from noon to 2:30 p.m., followed by dinner at from p.m.-midnight; Saturday, noon-midnight; and Sunday, noon-8 p.m. Admission is \$1 and parking is free.

For further information, call (908) 964-7957 or visit the church Web site at www.stdgocunion.org.

Society seeks new singers

Singers of all voices are invited to join The Choral Art Society of New Jersey. Rehearsals are held weekly on Tuesdays from 8 to 10 p.m., September to May, and take place in the choir room of The Presbyterian Church in

Westfield, located at the corner of Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street.

The season's first rehearsal is on Sept. 6, with registration and music purchase starting at 7:30 p.m. Singers interested in joining are invited to attend a rehearsal and meet with James S. Little, the Society's musical director.

The fall semester will be spent preparing for the Jan. 21, 2006, performance of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Magnificat in D*, and the *Magnificat in D* composed by his son, Carl Philip Emanuel Bach.

The Winter/Spring semester, which starts Jan. 24, will feature rehearsals for the May 20 performance of Rutter's *Mass of the Children*. Both the January and May concerts are to be held at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

On Dec. 9, the Choral Art Society will be hosting its annual *Messiah* Sing starting at 8 p.m. at St. Helen's Church, 1600 Rahway Ave., Westfield.

The Choral Art Society, a non-profit community chorus, is dedicated to the study and performance of great choral works. Members come from Union, Somerset, Bergen, Hudson and Middlesex counties. James S. Little is starting his seventh season as musical director.

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Sports

Russ's Ravings

Meet the new guy

Howdy folks, there is a new sheriff in town. My name is Russ Crespolini and I am going to be your guide to the local sports in your area. As one might assume, I am a sports fan. But not just the contests that play out on the field. As exciting as the actual games are, it is the off field stuff that makes sports so worthwhile. I love the camaraderie between teammates. I love the rapport between the coaches and their players and the love of the fans for their teams. With the fall sports season ramping up, it is time for pasta dinners and double sessions. Time for parents to hold dinner until the late bus arrives. In short, it is an exciting and magical time of year. I personally couldn't be happier to come here and take the reigns of this sports section.

My philosophy is that community sports section is here to give local athletes their moment to shine. I have a wonderful opportunity with my job to be a positive force. Quite frankly, the media is so quick to jump on the negative that a sports section is a virtual sanctuary to laud the accomplishments of players and coaches in the community. There is so much invested in a sports season. The countless hours of preparation and practice require sacrifices from players, coaches and their respective families. All of this work, usually months in advance, boils down to a few short weeks in a season. These efforts deserve to be highlighted. And I am not just talking about the undefeated schools. Nor do I mean the teams with the best players and the best records. Every single team deserves their shot. While it is nice to go out and win, that is not what these programs are about. They are about team building, and discipline and having a good time. Sports teach us lessons we carry with us for the rest of our lives.

I still remember my football coach, Dick Cassels, had us hang our equipment in a certain order in our lockers. He distributed a chart we were to follow. Our helmet on the left hook, pants on the middle hook, and girdle on the right hook. Cleats were to be stored on the bottom shelf and our shoulder pads were stowed dead center. In the middle of the season, I lazily left my shoulder pads on top of my locker. The next day, when I went in to get ready for our game, they were gone. But coach surprised me. He simply explained to me the importance of discipline, to organize my possessions meant to organize my thoughts. He assured me it would help me focus, not just on the field, but in life. Afterward, he gave them back to me and told me to get ready for the game. To this day, I have a set place in my home for my cell phone, wallet and keys. Why take this stroll into the recesses of my mind? Because athletics are important for more reasons than the win and lose column. They are an amazing opportunity to learn life long lessons and they deserve your support. As much fun as it might be to sit back and read the game summaries and recaps that run here every week, I encourage you to go out and support your local teams. The youth sports we report on here are sports in their purest form. These are games played without steroid scandals (mostly) and endorsement deals and all of the other annoyances that detract from the experience. I know some of you reading will wonder "why doesn't that jerk run more of this event?" The answer is because this jerk probably doesn't know about it. So if you are a parent or coach or administrator involved, keep me in the loop. If you have photos or a press release, send it over. I am here to shout out the good word on sports, but I can't do that if I don't know about it. Now, if you will excuse me, Coach Cassels just faxed over a chart to organize my desk.

Russ Crespolini can be reached at 732-396-4202 or at rcrespolini@njnpublishing.com.



The Westfield Blue Devil ladies prepare for a highly anticipated 2005 season at Tamaques Park in Westfield. The girls are looking to improve on their 9-1 record from last season.

Blue Devils girls cross country team prepares for a run at the top

By RUSS CRESPOLINI
SPORTS EDITOR

High humidity and periodic rain did not discourage 55 members of the Westfield Girls Cross Country team from working hard to prepare for their first time trial on September 2. On a miserably uncomfortable day in August, they went about preparing for the upcoming season. The girls were enthusiastic, focused and having a ball.

"We are really excited about this year," said captain Rachel Barrett. "We have a really great lineup and a good front seven. We have had a lot of sophomores and juniors step up."

Barrett, along with fellow captains Meg Driscoll, Anna McGrath and Jayne Ruotolo, help drive the team. "This team looks to be very competitive. They have a good spirit," head coach Thomas Hornish said. "So far I am very impressed."

After spending 34 years coaching cross country, Hornish has seen it all. Starting as an assistant in the boys program back in 1971, Hornish was at Westfield in 1980 at the start of the girls program. From 1991 to 2001 the Westfield girls held the Union County team title. They lost it in 2002, regained it in 2003 and relinquished it again in 2004, to Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

"They ended our win streak at 90," Hornish said. "We went 9-1 last year."

Westfield has consistently been at the top of the county over



Head coach Thomas Hornish ushers a few of his Blue Devil runners across the "finish line" during practice.

the years, competing with parochial schools like Oak Knoll, Union Catholic and Roselle Catholic. "Although Summit is very good," Hornish said. "As well as Cranford and Scotch Plains."

Hornish has a unique rivalry with the Summit program. "One of our former runners is the coach over there."

Besides his captains, Hornish has the benefit of an experienced group of runners. "Over 80% of our team has at least one year of cross country under their belt," Hornish said. "And a lot of them are in winter and spring track. 50% of our roster has three seasons experience or more."

For her part, Buccino sees other benefits to a large squad. "The size of this team makes for good internal competition. It is a really positive atmosphere and it forces the girls to really push themselves," Buccino said. "It drives the kids to work."

With so many people vying for position, it is crucial the coaches maintain a positive atmosphere. "You are hardest on yourself. You are your own worst enemy out there," Buccino said. "We stay positive and it helps the kids reach deeper than they or even the coaches thought they could go."

All of the competition helps build a strong team atmosphere. "Everything ends up being done here in the name of the team," Buccino said. "For the good of the team. It's nice to have a superstar, but then it isn't about the achievement of the team."

Having had success over the years, it is clear something is working in the Westfield Cross Country program. Although, Hornish is quick to downplay his role. "At my age, they may look up to me as Grandpa," the coach said. "The team and I have a good, healthy relationship."

A look around at the dozens of young ladies giving up there summers to run in Tamaques Park bears that fact out. "Our number one goal is to have fun," said coach Tom Hornish. "The records come second."

Russ Crespolini can be reached at 732-396-4202 or at rcrespolini@njnpublishing.com.

McBride leaves SP-F to take a shot at college

By RUSS CRESPOLINI
SPORTS EDITOR

SCOTCH PLAINS — After their basketball season and school year ended, senior center Hillary Klimowicz, guards Jenny Burke, Elizabeth Decataldo and forward Maura Gillyooly prepared themselves for college. And now, coach Lori McBride is doing the same.



BASKETBALL

In a completely unexpected move, McBride resigned as head coach at Scotch Plains-Fanwood to take the reigns of Colby College's girls program. "This was a surprise. It was an opportunity I was not looking for," McBride said. "It just presented itself. Before this came along, I saw myself on the high school level for years to come."

In her first year as coach, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Girls basketball team compiled a 24-5 mark, which included a 13-0 log against Union County competition. It rolled to its second straight UCT crown by an average margin of victory of 26.5 points in the four games.

"I am sad I am not going to get a chance to coach those girls again. But, I am looking forward to recruiting them to Colby College in a few years."

The job at Colby will move McBride to Maine, where the small liberal arts college is located. "They have this great liberal arts program there. It is a really excellent academic institution," McBride said. "They are part of this small college group up there."

The hardest part for McBride was telling her players of the decision to leave. "It was very difficult. There were a few tears shed. They were kind of shocked and surprised," McBride said. "But then again, so was I."

Before coming to Scotch Plains-Fanwood, McBride had been an assistant coach at University of North Carolina, Charlotte. "Before UNC I was an assistant for five years at Seton Hall," McBride said. "So I already had ties to New Jersey."

McBride officially begins the job September 1, but has already begun working from her home in New Jersey making recruitment calls and trying to organize her transition. "There will be a lot of back and forth between for a while. But I hope to be up there by October," McBride said. "Luckily, there is a lot of stuff I can do even if I am not up there."

Besides working on recruiting, the New Jersey based McBride must find a new home in Maine. But that isn't her only concern. "I am working on getting an assistant coach, e-mailing to set up meetings with my new team."

With at least one planned flight up, McBride already knows how to make the extreme commute easier. "Hopefully I will get to some of the recruiting events in between here and there to break it up."

McBride can easily pinpoint the selling point of the job. "This is a place where they want to rebuild their program," the coach said. "And I am looking forward to that. Helping rebuild."

Despite the excitement and thrill of the new job, the girls at Scotch Plains-Fanwood will be missed. "It was an extremely rewarding experience for me. I am sad I am not going to get a chance to coach those girls again. The area is full of good players," McBride said. "But, I am looking forward to recruiting them to Colby College in a few years."

Russ Crespolini can be reached at 732-396-4202 or at rcrespolini@njnpublishing.com.

ST. BART'S SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Following are the final league standings for the 2005 St. Bart's Men's Softball League.

Angels Division

St. Mark 21-3
St. Luke 13-11
St. Jude 12-12
St. Anthony 9-15
St. Nicholas 9-15

Saints Division

St. Joseph 18-6
St. Blaise 13-11
St. Anne 12-12
St. Aloysius 8-16
St. Stephen 5-19
St. Luke 29, St. Nicholas, 16 — The Lukies secured second place in the Angels division. "Captain" Fugett's arsenal was lead by Scott Smith's 2 homeruns and 5 RBI's along with Tim Deagan's 3 hits and 5 RBI's. Santa's team threatened with 10 runs in the second inning, but it wasn't enough. Terry Gallagher and Nick Dinizo had 3 RBI's apiece for St. Nicks.

St. Blaise 20, St. Stephen 18 — St. Blaise came from behind with 9 runs in the bottom of the 5th and 5 runs in the 6th. The onslaught was lead by Chris Meehan (5 for 5 with 5 RBI's) and Frank Samuelian (4 for 5 and 4 RBI's). St. Stephen home runs by Keith Gibbons, Mike Rivera, and Steve Abrunzo came up short.

St. Anne 13, St. Aloysius 4 — The Annies took the lead in the 1st inning and never looked back. Scott Curtis had 2 hits and 4 RBI's for St. Anne. St. Aloysius, had no real

standouts in scoring only 4 runs-in softball!

St. Jude 9, St. Anthony 5 — St. Anthony had a shot moving into 3rd place with St. Jude but captain Perillo's team was a bit too strong. Jude was lead by Pat Nigro going 3 for 4 with 4 RBI's. Jack "the Pres" Kennedy was 2 for 3 with 3 RBI's in the losing cause.

St. Joseph 12, St. Mark 5 — The 2 first place teams had a lot of pride at stake in this game which many feel was the "warm-up" to the Labor Day final. St. Joe's came out on top in a real team effort with everyone hitting and no errors committed. Malcolm "in the middle" Boone's 3 for 3 performance for St. Marks wasn't enough to carry the game.

St. Nicholas 16, St. Aloysius 6 — St. Nick found their pitcher in Tom Kucin holding St. Aloysius to only 6 runs. Mayor Marty Mark lead "Santa's Squad" with 6 RBI's. Kevin Woodring was 2 for 4 batting lefty (a non roster player) for St. Al's.

St. Anthony 23, St. Stephen 7 — St. Anthony "covered the spread" of 16 runs in this battle which saw Nate Mangiris hit a grand slam and 8 RBI's for St. Anthony. Once again St. Stephen played short handed. Keith Gibbons hit for the cycle for the second game in a row for the Stevies. Play-offs, which begin Friday August 26th. All teams have a shot at the highly coveted Labor Day final.



Synthetic turf field completed at Kehler Stadium

WESTFIELD — A new synthetic turf field has been completely installed at Westfield High School's Kehler Stadium and right on schedule. Game lines and a big blue "W" have been permanently applied to the field. It will be ready for play the opening weekend of interscholastic sports on September 10. Work is currently underway to complete the new running track which borders the field.

The installation of the synthetic turf field and the replacement of the running track at Kehler Stadium is made possible through a public bond referendum that was approved in December 2004. The original track, utilized by both students and the community at large, was installed almost 20 years ago. Since that time, participation in Westfield High School athletics increased by 83 percent. The synthetic turf surface will increase utilization of the facility for both school teams and community athletic groups.

back-to-school



Discover this child care center

CRANFORD — Local residents are invited to discover why Discovery Child Care Center stands above the rest. The center provides a well-rounded curriculum that meets academic as well as physical education needs. Fully established and licensed by the State of New Jersey, Discovery is located at 1 Commerce Drive in the Cranford Business Park.

The owners of Discovery Child Care Center are always on hand to direct and answer any questions anxious parents

may have. Because the center's ratio is always under state regulations, a child will have the attention that he or she will need to develop the fundamental skills to enter kindergarten.

The center only employs adult-certified group and lead teachers with an average tenure of seven years. Discovery Child Care may be located in a corporate setting, but its family environment is designed to make students feel welcome and eager to discover

their future.

Each student begins the day greeted by a warm smile and nurturing environment. Once in the classroom, students are exposed to language development, math readiness, reading skills, science activities, arts and crafts, music appreciation, dance, drama and gymnastics.

Along with the academic programs offered at Discovery, all students have the opportunity to participate in a physical education program with Eastern Gymnastics Academy. While in the gym students are exposed to tunnels, slides, pre-school gymnastics equipment and the new Fun Jungle. The balance between the academic education and the physical education make this child care center a unique learning experience.

Discovery Child Care Center opens as early as 7 a.m. and closes as late as 6 p.m. Enrollment includes half day, school day, and full day options. Also new to the center is the Snack Pack program. One, two or three day options are available from 9 to 11 a.m.

Residents may tour the facility at the open house which runs from 6-8 p.m. nightly through Friday, Sept. 2 and speak with the director regarding the many discoveries students will encounter.

For more information or a private tour, residents may also call the office at (908) 272-2560.



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Pictured above are Beyond Dance students Lauren Santorelli, Allison Kline, Madeline DeBaro, Nina Fredella, Zoe DelVecchio, Jillian Berard, Julia Kelly and Kira Goga.

Beyond Dance is open for registration

CRANFORD — Beyond Dance open its doors this weekend for in-person registration on Friday and Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. All are invited to visit the studio and meet the staff.

The studio is owned and run by Kara Vallone and Jorge

Cortes, who believe that putting the fun back in dance instruction will create a lifelong love of dance in students.

Vallone is a graduate of Montclair State University, where she majored in dance and received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in 2000. While at Montclair she took classes in choreography, dance improvisation, dance history, rhythmic analysis, dance methods, Laban elements, ballet, modern and jazz. She feels she has become a more well-rounded dancer and incorporates her knowledge from these classes at Beyond Dance.

Assisting Vallone is Andrea "Nikki" Hester, who graduated from the prestigious Philadelphia School of the Arts. Her career encompasses work in theater and stage, including her performance this summer in *Beauty and the Beast* in Montreal.

The studio offers a children's dance program for primary students ages 3 to 7. The philosophy of this program is to teach

students the love of dance. When the love of dance is securely instilled, technique will be willingly embraced out of respect for and love for the art.

For this reason, the classes are based on teaching physical awareness, creative expression, balance, learning readiness, rhythm, and dance etiquette, all part of a foundation of learning. As students mature and become ready for more traditional training, a background in creative dance helps them become more effective learners as well as artistically motivated.

The curriculum offered at the studio includes ballet, tap, jazz/hip-hop, Pointe, lyrical, modern, musical comedy, modern and musical comedy, as well as creative dance (ages 3-4), kinder combo (age 5), and dance combo (ages 6-7) classes. For the first time, the studio will be offering Salsa classes for adults.

The facility is new and clean, with a spacious waiting area and a large free parking lot.

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CRANFORD — The Helen K. Baldwin Nursery school will soon begin its 49th year serving pre-school children in the area. The school is part of the Christian Education program of the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford. The school serves children 2½ through 5 years.

The teachers at Helen K. Baldwin Nursery School are dedicated to creating just the right, warm loving atmosphere in which children will grow and develop as unique and capable individuals. The school's purpose is to offer valuable educational and social experiences in large, well equipped classrooms. The school is fully licensed and accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs.

To inquire about openings, call Laura Gardner, director, at (908) 276-1166.

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SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

back-to-school



Advice on buses, bullies and bikes

Can you hear it yet? The sound of thousands of New Jersey students moaning and groaning as they walk the aisles of the nearest office supply store with their parents, shopping for school supplies. As the summer draws to a close, the early morning roads will once again be crowded with pedestrians, bikes, cars and yellow school buses.

"The new school year can be an exciting time for students and parents alike," said Manuel Gonçalves, of Allstate New Jersey Insurance Company. "However, there are quite a few safety concerns that people need to be aware of, and prepared for. Issues such as bus safety, bike safety, and bully prevention are important topics for parents to discuss with their children. It can mean the difference between a great day at school or a miserable one."

The Big Yellow Bus

Every school day, some 440,000 yellow school buses transport more than 24 million students to and from schools. Many injuries occur when children are boarding or exiting because a blind spot extends approximately 10 feet in front of the bus, obstructing the view of the driver. Approximately 26 students are killed each year and another 9,000 are injured in incidents involving school buses. Follow these safety tips from Allstate New Jersey to reduce your risk:

— Arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes early.

— Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.

— Line up facing the school bus door, not along the side of the school bus.

— When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk 10 giant steps away from the bus. Keep a safe distance between you and the bus.

— Always cross the street in front of the bus, never behind it.

— Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers are required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, but not all do.

— Bullying often takes place

on the school bus. Let kids know that if they see someone being bullied, or are bullied themselves, they can talk to you, the bus driver, or another trusted adult.

Dealing with Bullies

According to the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center, almost 30 percent of youth in the United States (over 5.7 million) are estimated to be involved in bullying as either a bully, a target of bullying, or both. In a recent national survey of students in grades six-10, 13 percent reported bullying others, 11 percent reported being the target of bullies, and another 6 percent said that they bullied others and were bullied themselves.

Kids don't usually admit they are being abused at school. Parents must make it clear to kids how essential it is to share this information.

— Talk to your children about their day. Ask your children if they see anyone bullied, if they are bullied. Look for warning signs, such as a sudden drop in grades, loss of friends, or torn clothing.

— Visit school in person: Talk to the principal or counselor. Explain the situation and give them a chance to deal with the problem.

— Request a meeting with parents: If the school doesn't stop the behavior, ask to meet at the school with the bully's parents. Make them aware of what's going on and ask them to deal with it immediately.

— Get police involved: Finally, if you have seen no changes, go to the police. This step rarely has to be taken, but it can be effective if necessary. Going to the police doesn't mean you want to have the child arrested; think of the police as another mediator, one the bully's parents may be more likely to respond to.

Walking or Biking

There is no "right" age for kids to start walking or biking to school alone or with a friend. Each family needs to consider the maturity of their child, how many busy streets have to be crossed, and if these streets have lights or crossing guards.

— Map out with your children a safe way for them to walk to school or to the bus stop. Avoid busy roads and intersections. Do a trial run with them to point out places they should avoid along the way, such as vacant lots, construction areas, and parks where there aren't many people.

— Teach children to follow traffic signals and rules when walking or biking. Stress that they should cross the street at crosswalks or intersections with crossing guards when they can.

— Encourage children to walk to school or the bus stop with a sibling or friend, and to wait at bus stops with other children.

— Help children memorize their phone number and full address, including area code and ZIP code. Write down other important phone numbers such as your work and cell phone on a card for your children to carry with them.

— If you're on a bike, always wear a helmet.

— When riding a bike, don't wear headphones, loose clothing, or inappropriate shoes.

Find fun for families at Fusion

KENILWORTH — It has almost been one year since Fusion Dance Centre opened in Kenilworth last September. In preparing for season two, Fusion has made a commitment to "Fun for the whole Family."

"There truly is something for everyone," said Sharon Rauber, co-director for the studio. "From the Adult Pilates program to our 'Jazz Babies' class for 5-year olds, we have considered every member of the family."

The littlest family members begin at age 3 in Fusion's Kinder Program. Through games that incorporate imagination and fun, Kinder dancers learn actual steps and vocabulary in a light hearted and playful environment.

Students older than the Kinder age have a wide variety of exciting courses to choose from including tap, ballet, jazz, lyrical, hip hop, modern, and Pointe.

And let's not forget about the adults. With adult hip hop, jazz, ballet and two levels of tap on the fall schedule, even Mom and Dad can be dancing at Fusion.

Fusion also is keeping the guys dancing. With more than 15 guys enrolled, dancing isn't only for the girls. "We don't want this to be the dance studio where little brother waits in the car, afraid to walk into a world of pink tutus," said Jarrod Harden, co-director. "Don't get me wrong, we have our share of tutus at the studio, but we are so much more than just that."

Fusion's fall schedule is full of classes that are just for the guys in the family. Starting as young as three, Fusion offers boys specific classes from jump, tumble and tap to boys' hip hop.

In keeping with the commitment to family fun, Fusion has also added family hip hop. On Friday nights, the whole family can come on down to the studio for a fun and funky time together.

For more information, visit Fusion Dance Centre at 753 Boulevard in Kenilworth, or give a call to (908) 620-1000. Registration for the fall is open all this week through Friday, Sept. 2.

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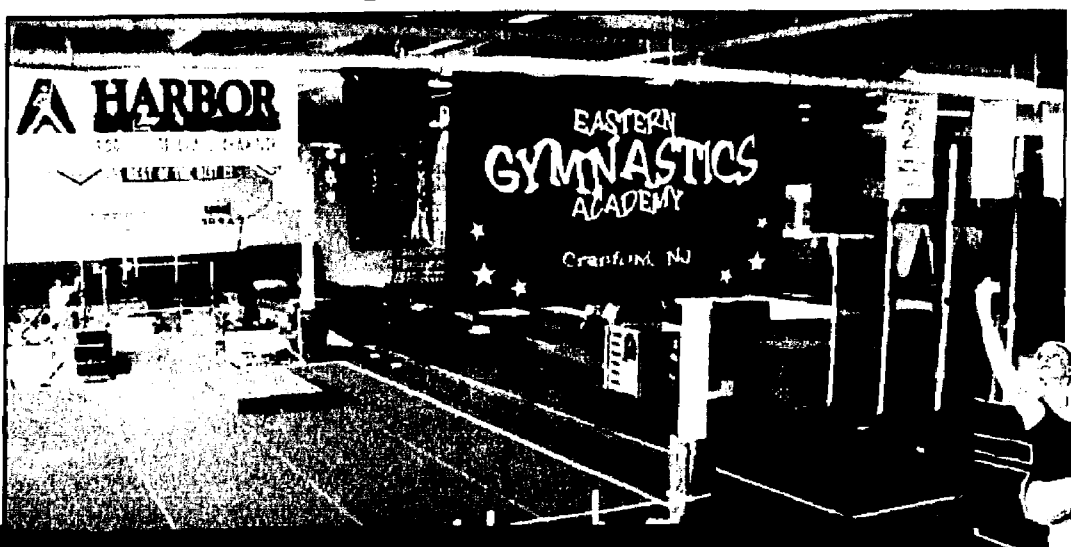
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**2
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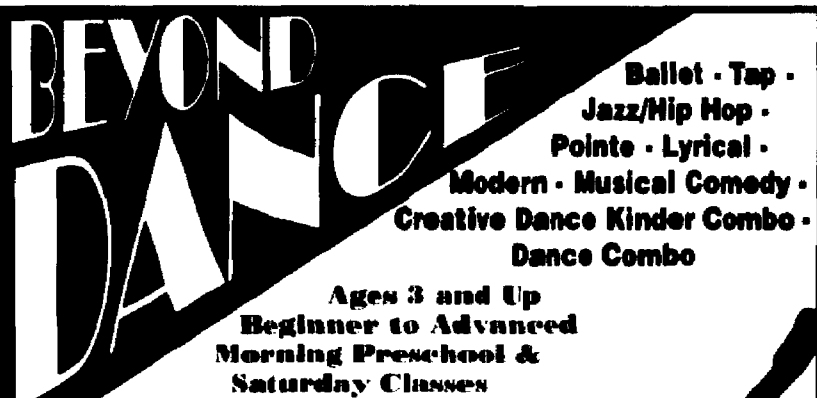
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Real Estate

Reverse mortgage can create opportunities

(NAPSI) — A growing number of older Americans are tapping into the valuable equity in their homes through an increasingly popular retirement product that allows them to maintain or enhance their existing standard of living and remain in their homes for as long as they wish.

A reverse mortgage enables seniors to

borrow against the equity in their home without repaying the debt for as long as they live there. That's the "reverse" part of this kind of mortgage loan. Instead of making monthly payments, you can opt to receive them. Senior homeowners can use the funds anyway they wish, including paying for long-term care insurance, home repairs or even a vacation.

"It's exactly as the name implies," said Jeff Taylor, vice president, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Senior Products Group. "You worked hard to own your home, and now it is time to make your home work for you."

As an example, Taylor described a customer who was about to lose her home. Getting a reverse was the answer. With the woman's husband in a nursing home and his Social Security check diverted to pay for his skilled care, the 75-year-old woman had no money to pay the mortgage on their house. In addition, she had significant debt because she was using credit cards to pay for basic needs such as food and health care. Her reverse mortgage gave her enough money to pay off most of her bills, including her house payment. In addition, she gained immense peace of mind because it eliminated a lot of financial stress.

Eligibility for a reverse mortgage depends on two factors: age and homeownership. No income requirement exists, and credit history is not considered. Reverse mortgages are for homeowners 62 and older. The loan draws on the equity established in the home.

"As many seniors approach retirement, they begin to realize their major asset is likely to be their home," Taylor said. "By the time the average person retires, they own a house that is usually worth more than they paid for it."

When you take out a reverse mortgage, you are not forced to relinquish ownership. You remain the owner for as long as you live there, and you will never be forced to move. If you decide to sell or move from your home, the outstanding balance of your reverse mortgage becomes due just as it would with a traditional mortgage. Unlike a traditional mortgage, however, your balance can never exceed the value of your home when you sell it.

The maximum loan amount for a reverse mortgage is based primarily on four factors: the age of the youngest borrower, the location and value of the home and the current interest rate. You must occupy the home as your principal residence for a majority of the year. The property must be a single-family or two-to-four unit dwelling. Town homes, detached homes, condominium units, planned unit developments and some manufactured homes are eligible.

The home doesn't have to be owned free and clear to qualify for a reverse mortgage. You may qualify for a reverse mortgage if the home has a low remaining mortgage that can be paid off at the closing with proceeds from the reverse loan.

As a key consumer protection, all borrowers are required to participate in a free educational session with a HUD-approved counselor in order to determine if a reverse mortgage is the best option.

A firm such as Wells Fargo Home Mortgage can take the application prior to counseling; however, it cannot collect any fees, order a credit report or appraisal or begin to process the loan until the borrower can show certification that the required consumer counseling was completed.

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KENILWORTH - New construction, approx. 3,000 square feet, 4 BR, 2-1/2 Bath Country Colonial. Exquisite design, Gambrel Roof, Custom Cabinetry and State-of-the-Art appliances. All the amenities for today's living. Get in on the Ground Level! Asking \$649,000



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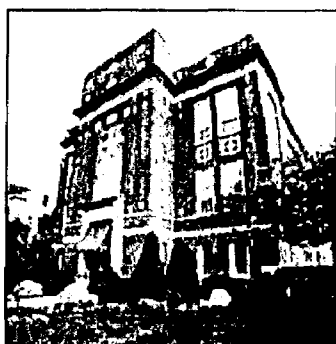
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KATHLEEN MONAHAN

Monahan named top sales associate

WESTFIELD — Prudential New Jersey Properties Westfield office has named Kathleen Monahan Sales Associate of the Month for May 2005.

"Kathleen uses her own relocation experiences to better serve her clients," says Marge Cuccaro, manager of the Westfield office. "She made her own move from New York 12 years ago, and has since been dedicated to showing clients all that the area has to offer."

A licensed full time New Jersey real estate professional, Monahan is also an accredited Staging Specialist and a member of the National Association of Realtors, the New Jersey Association of Realtors and the Garden State Multiple Listing Service. Monahan also serves on the Community Service/Fundraising Committee for the Greater Union County Association of Realtors.

She may be reached at the Westfield office, located at 215 North Avenue West, or by phone at (908) 232-5664, ext. 128.

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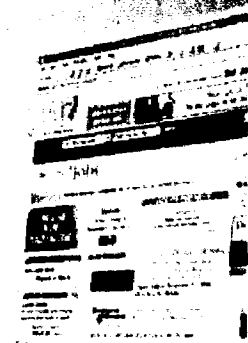
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Classified In-column deadline: Friday at 5 p.m.

LABOR DAY Publishing Deadlines

Independent Press & Suburban News
NJN In-column Classified Thurs. Sept. 1 at 5pm
NJN Classified Display Wed. Aug. 31 at Noon

Announcements

Adoption 195

ADOPTION - A Beautiful Life awaits your baby in a home filled with Love and Happiness. Expenses Paid. Please call Gwen and Ed. 1-800-941-0121.

ADOPTION - A married couple seek to adopt new born. Full-time Mom, Devoted Dad. Financial security. Expenses paid. Michelle, Robert (ask for Erin/Adam) 1-800-841-0804

Announcements 110

Disclaimer - The Suburban News, Cranford Chronicle & The Record Press reserves the right to edit, reclassify or reject any classified advertising at any time and will be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. The Suburban News, Cranford Chronicle & The Record Press liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error and will not be liable for failure to publish an ad.

Lost & Found 195

FOUND - Black & White Female Dog, 5' Avenue and Roselle. 908-241-9594

Found in Echo Lake Park Light-colored Teddy Bear found at "The Nerds" concert. Call 908-231-8199

FOUND - Little White Dog, Not a Poodle. Call for More Information. 908-307-8271

FOUND SMALL CAT GRAY back & tail w/white under side 1ST seen in Center Union Area Early Mid July Pregnant Friendly 201-218-4194

Personals 140

"TAROT CARD" & PSYCHIC READINGS BY SUZANNA Worried? Confused? Broken Hearted? Call for 1 Free Question 908-272-9791

Employment

Child Care 202

Afterschool CARE

for ONE child in my home. Jefferson School preferably. Pickup provided. Activities, trips to park, home work time. Call Melissa @ (908) 388-1395.

CAREGIVER

After School Caregiver needed for 9 yr. old in Westfield, Morris. 3-6. School pickup, drive to activities. Must have own car & be non smoker. Exp and refs req. Perfect for college student. 908-654-7614.

Childcare

Childcare - Childcare Ctr. in Rahway seeking PT staff for infants thru 3K programs. (8-10am) and/or (3-3:30pm) Call: 732-594-3292

Childcare

Fanwood Area Pt. Wed Fri 3-7pm Drivers Lic., English Speaking. Starting Sept. Lv Moss @ 908-322-0552

Employment

Child Care 202

Childcare

for 2 children ages 7 & 8 in my Scotch Plains home. Monday-Friday, pick up at school, until approx. 8pm, and some days. Call & references required. 908-889-0371

Childcare

Mature, married, responsible, high energy individual with car & license to car pool, supervise homework and heat up meals for 3 middle-high school Westfield children. MF, 2:30-6pm. Excellent hourly pay - gas money. Please call 908-654-7465

Exp. Kindergarten Teachers

Aide. Looking to babysit your child children in my Garwood home. References. 908-789-0633

NANNIES - PT & after school shifts. Check our website 908-317-3100 www.NannyLine.com

Nanny/ Housekeeper

Looking for a live-in Nanny/Housekeeper, MF, in our Madison home. One preschool aged child. Pk. holidays, vacation. Nice working environment. Must have exp., refs. Start immed. Please call 718-986-9507.

Nanny

Live-in, Waukegan, MF. Two kids (13, 10). Mostly after school help. Some house keeping. Must speak English & have refs. Start immed. Please call 908-472-0394.

Nanny

Looking for traffic after school help for our 2 children, girl age 10, and boy age 8, in our Westfield home. Best candidate has childcare experience and is an energetic, responsible, hardworking person. Call Maria at 917-812-1122 if interested.

Nanny

Seeking exp'd nanny for MWTF for 3-yr old girl & 8mo old boy in our Westfield home. Must speak English & have refs. must have car. 908-654-8255 before 8:30pm

Drivers 230

Driver

National Wholesaler seeks a reliable driver with a clean license for their Roselle location. No CDL req'd. Using our vehicle. Map reading skills req'd. Full benefits 401K. Call 908-245-8688 EOE

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General Help 240

26 OPENINGS

In customer sales/svc. \$18 Base Appointment. Flexible around class/family other job. No Exp. necessary. Conditions apply. Call: 908-575-8302

ADMIN ASST & SALES

Insurance, financial services agency seeking FT P&C licensed & FT/PT administrative assistant. Must be very personable & able to multitask. Great team & professional atmosphere. Fax resume: 973-561-7719

CAFETERIA WORKERS

Apply in person 8:31-9:10am 1pm at: Oratory Prep. 1 Beverly Road, Summit, NJ

CAREGIVER/TEACHER ASST

PT 40hr/week, located in Westfield. Exp. pref. Call Cheryl/Liz 908-518-0900

CHEFS/CULINARY

Must have culinary exp. EXC. PAY. Sat. position avail. 908-486-7889

CHILD CARE

Work of home caring for one or more children. Somerset or NJ Middlesex City 908-526-4884 Union County 908-668-4884

CLERK

For Westfield Law firm. Entry level position: telephones, filing, mail. Knowledge of MS Word and Excel required.

Send Resume to Dee Fax 908-554-7575 Or Email dee.gmk@verizon.net

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\$10 per hr. Call center rep to et and confirm in home appointments for our sales reps. Must have upbeat personality and excellent communication skills. Computer skills and previous customer service experience required. MF, 9am to 3pm and Sat, 9am to 2pm. Fax resume to 908-497-0029 or mail to Renewal by Andersen, 70 Jackson Drive, Suite A, Cranford, NJ 07016.

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General Catering work. Perfect for Mom's Great hours. 908-889-7333

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PROJECT MANAGER

Energy Services, Electrical Contractor in Springfield seeking a Project Manager with Commercial/Industrial exp. Must possess exceptional organizational skills and be customer service oriented. Local travel required, salary commensurate with exp. and ability. Benefits, FSA & 401K available. Fax res. to (973) 76-3010

REAL ESTATE

Advance to the next level... Looking for experienced, fulltime agents for our Westfield Office. Confidential interview. Prudential NJ Properties (Margie) 908-232-5664 Ext 103

RECEPTIONIST

FT position avail. in busy Short Hills salon & spa. Call 973-218-0828 for appl.

Receptionist

Looking for mature person w/ great people skills and dynamic personality for busy Cranford Real Estate office. 3 night a week and Saturday. Contact: Brenda Schofield at 908-276-7440

General Help 240

RECEPTIONIST

Full time large Veterinary group seeks professional individual to work in our call center. Must have excellent customer service, crisp phone voice and be a team player. Excellent working environment and benefits. Would also consider individual with Vet Tech background. Fax resume to: 908-497-0003

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Full time Large veterinary group seeks professional individual to work front office. Must have good customer service abilities and be a team player. Excellent working environment and benefits. Fax: 908-497-0003

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General Help 240

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Available for Major Construction material distributor. Seeks individual for shipping, receiving, general maintenance and general product delivery. Must have a clear license and speak English. 7:30-4:30. MF Benefits. Apply to 308 N. 14th St. Kenilworth, NJ

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Medical Help 250

Dental Assistant

FT/PT with light clerical. Specialty office. Will train the right person. Leave message. 973-716-0338 or fax resume to: 908-464-1811

Dental Hygienist

For occasional fill-in at Berkeley Heights General Practice. 908-464-8333

FILE CLERK AND FRONT OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

Busy Westfield Pediatric Office is looking for FT/PT reliable File Clerk and Front Office Receptionist. Must have pleasant personality, ability to multi task and work in a fast paced environment. Reliability and good communication skills are essential. Pediatric experience a plus, but we are willing to train. Fax resume to: 908-232-8447

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(Must be certified) Full time for surgical facility in Mountainside. Medical billing experience required. Excellent pay & benefits, including 401K. Fax resume: 908-233-8322

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The Express-Times has an immediate opening for a reliable Computer Technician to provide desktop and general office equipment support. As a Technician, in a fast paced environment, you will be supporting our users both in-house and at our remote offices in PA and NJ.

Primary responsibilities include:

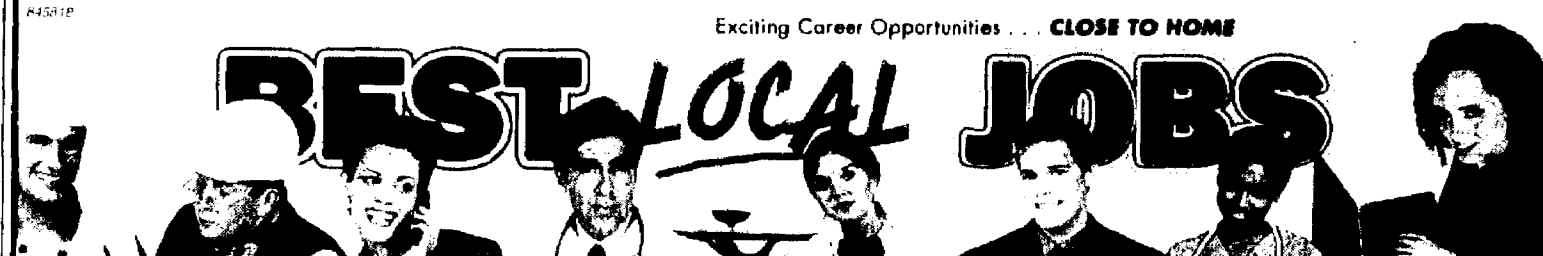
- Install and configure PC & Mac workstations and printers.
- Project Deployments.
- Printer installation and repair.
- Provide telephone and in-person technical support.
- Provide good organizational feedback, including documenting support and repairs.

Qualifications:

- Previously hired for 2+ years in a computer technical support services role.
- Excellent problem solving, resolution, and customer service skills.
- Self-starter with strong initiative and a strong work ethic.
- Proficient in Microsoft Windows and Windows XP.
- Strong PC Desktop/Laptop/Printer hardware installation, troubleshooting, and repair skills.
- Helpful to have one of the following certifications: A+, Network+, or MCP. (Not required)
- Experience in cabling, phone installation.
- MAC/Linux experience are a plus.
- Good Typing and Communication skills.
- Valid Driver's License and reliable transportation.

The ideal candidate is a team player with excellent interpersonal relationship skills. Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills, the ability to prioritize a multitude of tasks, pay extreme attention to detail, possess technical and professional competence, and be quick to adapt to changes. This opening is in our Easton, PA office.

Please send your resume with salary requirements to:
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Flexible hours. Union Law Firm. Experienced. Returnees welcome; computer literate, organized, conscientious, diligent. Available Immediately. Fax resume to: 908-245-4512

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E/O/E/M/F/N/H

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15-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	5%	30	5.160	15-yr. Fixed	5.000	2.00	20%	60	5.510	15-yr. Fixed	5.375	0.00	5%	30	5.511	30-yr. jbo biwk	5.750	0.00	10%	60	5.770						
30-yr. Jumbo	5.875	0.00	10%	30	5.890	30-yr. Jumbo	5.625	2.00	20%	60	5.874	30-yr. Jumbo	5.875	0.00	10%	30	5.903	15-yr. Jumbo	5.250	0.00	10%	60	5.280						
5/1 ARM	5.000	0.00	5%	30	5.100	15-yr. Jumbo	5.250	2.00	20%	60	5.667	15-yr. Jumbo	5.500	0.00	10%	30	5.552	7/1 Jbo ARM	5.375	0.00	10%	60	5.999						
3/1 ARM	5.000	0.00	5%	30	5.100	Se habla Español: Your mortgage solution: Delivered! Apply now at ditech.com																	5/1 Jbo ARM	4.875	0.00	10%	60	5.950	
15-yr. Jumbo	5.375	0.00	10%	30	5.400	Lighthouse Mortgage	800-784-1331					Partners Mortgage	888-RATE-SALE					12-month rate locks available. The lowest jumbo rates!											
Lowest Rates! Free Float Downs! Fees are only \$399. www.absolutemortgageco.com Call Now!						30-yr. Fixed	5.625	0.00	5%	30	5.713	30-yr. Fixed	4.875	2.00	5%	60	4.920	Summit Federal Savings						732-968-0665					
						15-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.00	5%	30	5.338	15-yr. Fixed	4.375	2.00	5%	60	4.410	30-yr. Fixed	6.125	0.00	20%	75	6.174						
						20-yr. Fixed	5.500	0.00	5%	30	5.588	30-yr. Jumbo	5.250	2.00	5%	60	5.290	15-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	20%	75	5.191						
						30-yr. Jumbo	6.000	0.00	10%	45	6.088	15-yr. Jumbo	4.750	2.00	5%	60	4.790	10-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	20%	75	4.965						
						5/1 ARM	5.250	0.00	5%	45	5.338	Zero Pts. Zero Fee Loans Available. Free Refinance forever. PartnerMort@aol.com. Hablamos Español.																	
						Consistently Low Rates. Open 7 Days a week 9-9																	10-yr, 15-yr and 1-yr ARM to \$500,000 depending on downpayment, 90 day commitment. Lock-in at application.						
Apex Mortgage	800-344-2739					Loan Search	800-591-3279					Peapack-Gladstone Bank	908-719-6555					Check mortgage rates daily at:											
30-yr. Fixed	5.250	2.00	5%	30	5.509	30-yr. Fixed	5.750	0.00	5%	30	5.792	30-yr. Fixed	6.000	0.00	5%	45	6.113												
15-yr. Fixed	4.875	2.00	5%	30	5.314	30-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	10%	70	5.180	30-yr. Jumbo	6.125	0.00	5%	45	6.201												
30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	2.00	5%	30	5.715	10/1 ARM Jbo	5.250	0.00	10%	90	5.520	15-yr. Fixed	5.375	0.00	5%	90	5.501												
15-yr. Jumbo	5.125	2.00	5%	30	5.486	5/1 ARM Jbo	4.750	0.00	10%	90	5.765	15/30 balloon	5.625	0.00	5%	90	5.718												
1.25% loans, 100% financing, jumbo loan specialists, weekend hours, 100% stated, 100% investment						www.LoanSearch.com NJ's Lowest Jumbo Rates!																							
American Federal Mortg.	888-321-4687					Call For Low Doc Loans																	Everything Jersey						
30-yr. Fixed	5.250	1.25	10%	30	5.615	<div> <div>Lenders wishing to participate call</div> <div>800-939-NFNS</div> </div>																							
15-yr. Fixed	4.875	1.25	10%	30	5.125																								
30-yr. Jumbo	5.750	0.00	10%	30	5.750																								
5/1 ARM	5.000	0.00	10%	30	5.100																								
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Automotive/Classified

Trend in Garage Redesign Drives Thousands of Homeowners to 'America's Ultimate Garage' Contest

(ARA) - When John Crilly of Wheaton, Ill., entered "America's Ultimate Garage" contest in 2004, he had big dreams of winning an amazing garage makeover. Then it happened. He was chosen as the grand prize winner among the more than 10,000 entries submitted, and his "ultimate garage" makeover has just begun.

"I think the only contest in America that might be more popular than 'America's Ultimate Garage' contest is the Pillsbury Bake Off," says Jim Stinner, senior brand manager for Rust-Oleum Corporation, the company sponsoring the contest. And Stinner should know, since he and his staff will

personally sift through the more than 20,000 entries they expect to receive between now and when this year's contest ends on Sept. 6, 2005.

The winner of "America's Ultimate Garage" contest receives a \$10,000 professional garage makeover courtesy of Rust-Oleum EPOXYShield Garage Floor Coating. A Home Depot approved contractor will custom-redesign the garage, transforming it into a showplace worthy of sharing with friends and neighbors. Of course the new look will include Rust-Oleum EPOXYShield Garage Floor Coating and other exciting products from The Home Depot.

Stinner attributes the popularity of "America's Ultimate Garage" contest to the fact that garage redesign is an emerging trend, and as such, an attractive prize to today's consumer. "Garages are increasingly becoming so much more than a place to park your cars. People work, live and play in them, so they care about their appearance more than ever."

"At the very least, people are looking for attractive cabinetry, elaborate wall systems, high-output lighting fixtures and finished flooring," Stinner adds. "And in some cases, that's just the beginning. Many garages or parts of garages are being utilized as extra living space, home offices or recreational

space."

And size matters. There are 65 million garages in the United States and demand for bigger ones is growing, according to National Association of Home Builders' statistics. In 1992, only 11 percent of American homes had garages that would hold three or more cars; by 2001, it rose to 18 percent. "And now four-car garages are becoming more common than ever," Stinner says.

About the Contest

"America's Ultimate Garage" contest begins June 15, 2005 and ends September 6, 2005. Homeowners will be eligible to receive the following prizes by entering:

One Grand Prize — \$10,000 Professional Garage Makeover conducted by a Home Depot-approved contractor using EPOXYShield Garage Floor Coating

One Second Prize — \$5,000 Professional Garage Makeover conducted by a Home Depot-approved contractor using EPOXYShield Garage Floor Coating

25 Semifinalist Prizes — EPOXYShield prize packages, which include a kit of EPOXYShield Garage Floor Coating

How To Enter

Anyone interested in a new look for their garage should enter "America's Ultimate Garage" contest. Just take a

picture of your garage and describe in 300 words or less what your garage means to you, why you deserve a garage makeover, and what makes for an ideal garage. Good luck! Entries must be postmarked between June 15 and September 6, 2005 and either mailed to America's Ultimate Garage Contest (c/o ARS), 2156 W. Fulton Street, 1st Floor, Chicago, IL 60612, or posted to epoxyshield.com or rustoleum.com.

Judging

Entries will be judged on the creativity of the 300-word essay and the clarity of the photo. Winners will be selected and notified on or about Nov. 1.

Courtesy of ARA Content

Customize Your Ride Without Custom Prices

(ARA) - If you've ever watched those "car makeover" programs on television and wished your car could be next on the list, here's some good news: there are affordable, do-it-yourself products that can help give your car a custom look.

Body Kits and Flares from AVS (Autoventshade) give sport compact cars more attitude and cutting edge style that complements existing lines. "These products are carefully designed and manufactured to blend seamlessly with the lines of the car to achieve the look of a high-quality custom job once they're installed," says spokesperson Jay Lusignan.

Made of a proprietary ABS polymer blend, the components are lighter weight than traditional materials

such as fiberglass or polyurethane and more easily painted, requiring less prep time. Custom painting to match or contrast with the color of the car adds even more of a custom feel to the finished look.

Sold under the AVS brand name, all body kits and flares mount to existing factory components, making installation easier. The majority of the AVS accessories are a no drill installation, mounting with concealed 3M tape. "Advanced do-it-yourselfers can install the kits on their own; less experienced customizers may want to take the car into a restyling shop," says Lusignan.

The components can be purchased as individual pieces or as complete kits. The AVS five-piece Body Kit

includes front air dam, rear air dam, left side skirt, right side skirt and down draft. The complete four-piece Flare Kit includes front right flare, front left flare, rear left flare and rear right flare.

These accessories work perfectly with many of today's most popular sport compact vehicles such as the Ford Focus, Dodge Neon, Honda Civic, Acura RSX, Toyota Celica, Acura Integra and Mitsubishi Lancer. AVS makes choosing the right products easy with the search feature on its Web site. Simply enter the year, make and model of the car you're buying for, and you'll be directed to products designed to fit that vehicle.

Lund International is a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer



Courtesy of ARA Content

of a broad line of accessories for the automotive aftermarket. Its products are sold under the brand names AVS, Deflecta-Shield, Lund, Nifty and

Trenz. For more product information, call (800) 377-5863 or visit www.autoventshade.com.
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ASKING

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Per Mo. Lease



'05 RL

New 4-dr, V6-cyl fuel inj. eng., auto trans, ps, pb, cruise, leather interior, moon roof, AM/FM/Stereo/CD, Model #KB165, Vin #5C011916, MSRP: \$49,470.

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Asking **\$25,495**

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Rebate \$2200. Ods. Loyalty \$1000. \$500 Military Rebate.01 CHEVY
SUBURBAN 1500 LT \$16,9958cyl. auto. ps. pb. ac. dual air bags. pw. pl. pm. cruise. am/fm/cd. p/d. p/dls.
VIN#5F224533. MSRP: \$24,205. Selling Price \$19,616.13. Dealer Disc \$500. Factory
Rebate \$2200. Ods. Loyalty \$1000. \$500 Military Rebate.99 BUICK
PARK AVENUE \$79958cyl. auto. ps. pb. ac. dual air bags. pw. pl. pm. cruise. am/fm/cd. p/d. p/dls.
VIN#5F224533. MSRP: \$24,205. Selling Price \$19,616.13. Dealer Disc \$500. Factory
Rebate \$2200. Ods. Loyalty \$1000. \$500 Military Rebate.04 CHEVY
BLAZER XTREME \$17,4958cyl. auto. air. ps. pb. ac. dual air bags. pw. pl. pm. cruise. am/fm/cd. p/d. p/dls.
VIN#5F224533. MSRP: \$24,205. Selling Price \$19,616.13. Dealer Disc \$500. Factory
Rebate \$2200. Ods. Loyalty \$1000. \$500 Military Rebate.00 CHEVY
S-10 BLAZER LT \$99954x4. v6. auto. ps. pb. ac. dual air bags. pw. pl. pm. cruise. am/fm/cd. p/d. p/dls.
VIN#5F224533. MSRP: \$24,205. Selling Price \$19,616.13. Dealer Disc \$500. Factory
Rebate \$2200. Ods. Loyalty \$1000. \$500 Military Rebate.03 CHEVY
S10 XTREME PICKUP \$15,995extended cab. 8cyl. ps. pb. ac. dual air bags. pw. pl. pm. cruise. am/fm/cd. p/d. p/dls.
VIN#5F224533. MSRP: \$24,205. Selling Price \$19,616.13. Dealer Disc \$500. Factory
Rebate \$2200. Ods. Loyalty \$1000. \$500 Military Rebate.01 CHEVY
MALIBU \$14,995Silver. 4cyl. auto. ps. pb. ac. dual air bags. pw. pl. pm. cruise. am/fm/cd. p/d. p/dls.
VIN#5F224533. MSRP: \$24,205. Selling Price \$19,616.13. Dealer Disc \$500. Factory
Rebate \$2200. Ods. Loyalty \$1000. \$500 Military Rebate.00 Chevy
TRACKER \$59954cyl. auto. ps. pb. ac. dual air bags. pw. pl. pm. cruise. am/fm/cd. p/d. p/dls.
VIN#5F224533. MSRP: \$24,205. Selling Price \$19,616.13. Dealer Disc \$500. Factory
Rebate \$2200. Ods. Loyalty \$1000. \$500 Military Rebate.00 CHEVY
S10 BLAZER LT 4x4 \$10,995Pewter. v6. auto. ps. pb. ac. dual air bags. pw. pl. pm. cruise. am/fm/cd. p/d. p/dls.
VIN#5F224533. MSRP: \$24,205. Selling Price \$19,616.13. Dealer Disc \$500. Factory
Rebate \$2200. Ods. Loyalty \$1000. \$500 Military Rebate.04 PONTIAC
GRAND AM GT2 \$13,495Silver. 8cyl. auto. ps. pb. ac. dual air bags. pw. pl. pm. cruise. am/fm/cd. p/d. p/dls.
VIN#5F224533. MSRP: \$24,205. Selling Price \$19,616.13. Dealer Disc \$500. Factory
Rebate \$2200. Ods. Loyalty \$1000. \$500 Military Rebate.05 CHEVY
G2500 EXPRESS CARGO
\$19,9958cyl. auto. ps. pb. ac. dual air bags. pw. pl. pm. cruise. am/fm/cd. p/d. p/dls.
VIN#5F224533. MSRP: \$24,205. Selling Price \$19,616.13. Dealer Disc \$500. Factory
Rebate \$2200. Ods. Loyalty \$1000. \$500 Military Rebate.02 CHEVY
VENTURE LS EXT \$13,495Silver. 8cyl. auto. ps. pb. ac. dual air bags. pw. pl. pm. cruise. am/fm/cd. p/d. p/dls.
VIN#5F224533. MSRP: \$24,205. Selling Price \$19,616.13. Dealer Disc \$500. Factory
Rebate \$2200. Ods. Loyalty \$1000. \$500 Military Rebate.04 CHEVY
CORVETTE \$39,9958cyl. 6spd. manual trans. ps. pb. ac. dual air bags. pw. pl. pm. cruise. am/fm/cd. p/d. p/dls.
VIN#5F224533. MSRP: \$24,205. Selling Price \$19,616.13. Dealer Disc \$500. Factory
Rebate \$2200. Ods. Loyalty \$1000. \$500 Military Rebate.03 CHEVY 1500
AVALANCHE 4x4 \$22,495Pewter. 8cyl. auto. ps. pb. ac. dual air bags. pw. pl. pm. cruise. am/fm/cd. p/d. p/dls.
VIN#5F224533. MSRP: \$24,205. Selling Price \$19,616.13. Dealer Disc \$500. Factory
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International Vehicles

September 1999

HARLEY DAVIDSON SPORTSTER '03 1200 CC's Less than 1000 mi. **908-723-8403**

Cars & Trucks 1999

CHEVY CAMPER

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22FT GRADY WHITE FISH-ERMANO 225HP Yamaha Outboard. Trailer, Electron. Ign. \$40,000. **908-706-4473**. Call after 5pm

Transportation

Autos for Sale 1999

Acura Integra LS 1998 red 2 door, power everything, sun roof, auto 75K excl. cond. \$7,500 **908-337-1900**

ACURA TL 2002—Black w/ leather interior, 67,000 hwy miles, fully loaded including auto start feature. Great condition! Must see. \$16,500. **908-273-1144**

BMW 328i '99—White/tan, 100K, exc cond, 4dr, auto, All PWD, M/R, CD, heated seats, 64K \$14,500. **908-723-0872**

BMW 330i '01—prem & sport pkg, titanium silver, 47K mi., exc cond., \$23,000 obo. **908-647-2075**

BMW 528i '95, auto, AC, sunroof, leather, loaded, 120K, great cond, \$6500 **908-369-0302**

BUICK Century '02, 37K auto A/C, CD/cass, exc. cond., \$3,495 **908-377-8534**

BUICK Century '98—Only 99K, 6 cyl., just tuned, purrs like kitten. Clean, good transp. \$800 **908-248-6322**

BUICK Park Avenue '95, only 74,000 miles, exc cond., \$3,850/obo. Call **908-347-7773**

BUICK REGAL PROJECT CAR '84 - Buick Regal Rolling Chassis. Chevy 305 roller cam complete motor w/ harness and computer. Chevy 700R4 transmission, rebuilt, \$1,000 OBO. will sell motor and transmission separate. Call Bill, **908-868-7843**

Cadillac Deville, '86, 4 dr, 60K miles, 1 owner, \$2,000, obo **908-889-4955** after 6pm

Cadillac Deville Sedan '93. Last of the Golden series, leather int., garage kept, 4.9 fuel inj., \$3,500. obo, **908-522-0870**, view evenings.

CADILLAC SEDAN DEVILLE 1991, burgundy, 54K miles, new cond. in/out, leather, new tires, garaged, MUST SEE! \$4,500 **201-290-0002**

CHEVY BLAZER '98—4x4 loaded, 67K mi., 4 dr, V6, gar. kept, exc cond., \$6,000 **908-337-8562**

Transportation

Autos for Sale 1999

CAR DONATIONS—Choose your charity: Children's Cancer, Boy/Girl Scouts, Big Brothers, SPCA, YMCA, AIDS, Housing, Homeless, and many more. *Free pickup - Tax Deductible. **908-398-3886**

Chevy Cavalier '02—44K, 4dr, AC, CD, like new! \$6,295 **908-403-3886**

CHEVY LUMINA '95—red, 109K mi, clean, ps, auto, cass, excel tires, new signal, runs well, \$2,600 obo **908-789-3379**

Chevy Lumina '99—87K mi, good cond, a must see! \$3,900 obo **908-389-1341**

CHEVY LUMINA EURO SEDAN '94—well maint, 143K mi, lots of new parts, loaded \$15,000 OBO **908-608-0882** Bob

Chevy Malibu '00—50K mi, mint cond, orig owner, \$6,500 **732-763-7420**

CHEVY Malibu LS '2000, 49K, 4 dr., 6 cyl, auto, all power, CD, good cond, \$6,300 neg **908-232-8096**

Chevy Tahoe LS '98—63K, exc cond, loaded, blk/gray int, must sell \$9,700 obo **908-708-9485**

Chrysler LeBaron, '95, 2 dr, 58K garage kept miles, no dents, no scratches, full power, \$1,500. OBO **908-654-8964**

CHRYSLER 300M 1999—1 owner, mint shown cond, 49K mi w/ 1yr extd warranty, **732-887-3300**

CHRYSLER 300M 1999—1 owner, mint shown cond, 49K mi w/ 1yr extd warranty, **732-887-3300**

Chrysler Concord LX 2001 4dr, gold, new brakes, 45K, 1 owner, exc cond, \$7,295 obo **908-276-9036**

Chrysler LeBaron Convertible '91—V6, AT, 99K, red, new blk top, vgc \$2,200 **908-447-5788**

Chrysler Sebring convertible JX1, '00, 1 owner, fully loaded, excel. cond, 56 K miles, ext. warranty, \$8,500. obo **908-298-3708**

CROWN VICTORIA LX '99—66K, leather, well maintained, alloy whis, tuned, new battery \$8,900 **908-928-0683**

Dodge Caravan SE '00—V6, white, pwr, 4 dr, 27K mi, \$8,800 **908-241-8247**

DODGE GRAND CARAVAN LE '92—loaded, just passed insp., new exhaust, rebuilt trans \$2,400 **732-382-1888**

DODGE STRATUS '01—Black, 69K mi, A/C, all power, \$5,400/obo **908-704-5182**

DODGE Stratus SXT '04, 4 dr, black w/gray inter, AC, auto, CD, 5,500 miles, \$12,000 **908-389-0302**

FORD EXPLORER '92, 131K, tires less than year old, runs well, \$2,000 or best offer. **732-381-6774** Hal

Ford Explorer '93—Red, 4dr, owner, good cond, 4wd, 4dr, a/c, cd, 112K, \$2,500 **908-241-3749**

Transportation

Autos for Sale 1999

FORD MUSTANG '97, red, 60K, 4K mi orig mi and owner, excel cond, garage kept, 1.5y loaded, \$5,500 **908-273-4359**

FORD MUSTANG LX '00—V8, needs trans, body & interior in great cond., \$3,900 **908-689-3184**

FORD TEMPO '90—auto, 67K mi, new tires, good cond, \$1,400 **908-687-7848**

Grand Marquis '97—99K, must see, elegant, white w/ blue coach rt, blue lounge seats, dream ride, exc cond, garaged \$3,600 **908-273-0292**

GRAND MARQUIS '97—Palm Beach 109K, leather, well maintained, new brakes shocks, tuned, \$4,800 **908-628-0885**

HONDA ACCORD EX '2000, 51 ver, auto, 4 cyl., 2 dr., sun rt, 111K, 908-232-7173.

HONDA ACCORD EX '93, 188K, auto, good inside /out \$2,200. Call **908-889-6213**; **908-400-0565**

HONDA ACCORD EXL '04, V6, 4 dr, 8K auto, fully loaded, silver, exc cond, \$19,000. **917-589-1967**

HONDA CIVIC EX '03, Red, 4cyl, Vtech, moon roof, 29K, fully loaded, \$13,000 obo. 36K manual, tires, warr., **908-377-5325**

HONDA 2000 '00—red, 2 seater sports car, 5 spd, pwr, everything, int. air, 49K mi. \$18,000 **973-432-8803**

Jeep Cherokee '96—exc cond, fully loaded. For more info, call evenings **908-304-4083**

Jeep Grand Cherokee '94—Black beauty, excellent condition, loaded. New transmission, brakes, battery, tires, leather seats. \$150K mi., \$4,500. **908-486-2977**

Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo '98—exc cond, Must see. 65K mi, 100K, \$12,600 Kelley's Blue Book Value OBO **908-276-0800**; **908-386-3640** Cranford NJ

LAND ROVER DISCOVERY '02—White, exc cond, 40K miles, all Powered \$17,000 **908-276-2867**

LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2003—heated seats/wind shield, fully loaded, \$19,000 firm. **908-277-4422**

LEXUS RX 300 SUV '99—AWD, 4D, Tan, Exc. Cond., all extras, \$13,000. **908-232-3175**

Lincoln Continental '96—Dark Blue, 100K miles, Mint cond, inside & out, \$37,000. **908-891-0317**

Lincoln LS '02—V6, loaded, new cond., gar. kept, silver, under 24K mi, asking \$15,500 **908-370-1777**

MAZDA Miata '93—Blue, black top & int, 5spd, 140K mi, asking \$1,850 **908-653-0262**

MAZDA Miata MX6 LS Conv. '01, 5 spd, red, 11K miles, perfect cond, \$15,000 **908-486-6846**

Transportation

Autos for Sale 1999

Mercedes 300 SL '95, 56K miles, 2 tops, great cond, \$11,900. call **908-781-9698**

Mercedes 300SEL '93, champagne, loaded, garaged, 130K, exc cond, \$9,000. **908-689-3629**

MERCEDES ML320 '99 74K mi., good cond., black, fully loaded, \$12,400/ OBO. **973-261-3899**

MERCURY COUGAR '93—(New): tires, brakes, & trans. Loaded, 108K miles, \$2,750 **908-789-1951**

MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS '93—runs good new tires new brakes 186K need some maintenance \$850. **908-964-8530**

Mercury Sable Wagon '97 V6, exc. cond, 105K hwy mi, cd, ac, all pwr, \$4,000 obo. Call Rob **908-389-1395**

MERCURY VILLAGE LE '93—mint cond, loaded, leather new trans., 143K, 1 owner ask \$3,900. **908-322-0599**

MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE GS '99—62K, Exc. cond, Red, 55K, all pwr, sunroof, \$8,200 OBO **732-382-2609**

Nissan Altima, 2002, black, well maint, new tires, 70K, sport rock incl, \$10,000. **908-233-4411**

NISSAN PATHFINDER LE '98—Gray, 84K, 4x4, Auto, a/c, CD, All power, original owner \$8,500 **908-661-6221**

OLDSMOBILE INTRIQUE '98—Excellent condition, 97,600 miles. \$3,000 obo. **908-318-0714**

Plymouth Grand Voyager LE 1994 seats 7 84K good cond. \$2,200. **908-709-9210**

PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GT '00—57K, Silver 4dr V6, am/fm/tyr, CD, incl auto starter, \$8,000 Call Dania **908-272-9591**

Pontiac Trans Am '99—45K, blk w/gray int, 8cyl, AT, T-top, ps/pw, mint cond, \$13,750. **908-298-1013**

PORSCHE 911, Classic 1977—In GEM MINT Condition! This is probably one of the finest in NJ! Too many extras to list. So call or email for info/pics. \$12,000 FIRM. If you see this car you will buy it! **732-382-2928** or **Rizzo07090@aol.com**

SAAB 900S Turbo Convertible '91, blk w/tan int., great cond, runs well, 44K OBO **908-591-0194**

Saturn SC1 '00—25K, mint cond, 2nd owner, \$5,000 **908-403-3210**

SATURN SL1 '95—4dr, white, 120K, good cond, AM/FM, great AC/Heat, \$1500 OBO. **908-322-2707** Leave Message.

SATURN VUE '03—Perfect cond, only 8500 mi, V6 Dealer serviced, \$15,995 neg. **908-272-0671**

Suzuki Swift, '01, Silver, 1 owner, 55K miles, 5 spd, great gas mileage, \$2,900. obo **908-276-7857**

Transportation

Autos for Sale 1999

TOYOTA 4RUNNER LIMITED ED. '04—42,000 mi, \$29,900. (973) 951-2273

TOYOTA CAMRY WAGON '87—Good utility hauler/ station car, 171K mi., \$700 OBO **908-447-5059**

TOYOTA Corolla '91, 4 dr., 5 spd., 126K, 75K good cond, AC, cruise, ps, garaged, 4 snow tires on rims. \$1,350 **908-665-0919**

Toyota Tercel '94—68K Mi., 2 Dr. 4 Spd. Manual, Green, Good Cond. \$1,550/obo **908-889-6686**

Volkswagen Cabrio '98—Gm w/ blk top, 55K, 84K miles, orig owner, asking \$7,000 **908-889-1998**

Volkswagen Golf III '95—Red, 73K mi, 55K, looking for best offer. Ask for Daniel **908-686-8089**

VOLVO 850, '96, auto, AC, PW, AM/FM cass, gold, mint cond, 102K, \$4,900 **973-635-2276**

VOLVO 940 TURBO '94—Station Wagon, 75K, exc cond., w/built in booster seat & fold up 3rd row seat \$6,300 **973-635-1330**

Volvo Cross-country Wagon '00—50K mi, AT, Awd, leather, sunroof, cd, silver, 1 owner, \$16,000obo **908-466-1448**

VW JETTA GL '97—Blk, 4 A/C, snrf, CD, chngt, 89K mi, good cond, \$4,300, Original Owner. (908) 276-7798.

VW PASSAT '01—V6 Black, 49K mi, auto, good cond, sun roof, loaded, \$15,000. **908-347-2791**

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FORD BRONCO XLT 1990 4x4, 5.0 V8, black, W/chrome bar 142K, \$2,900 OBO. **908-208-2116**

FORD EXPEDITION EDDIE BAUER '98—Runs great, 3rd Row Seat, 90,000 miles, \$11,800. Mike (908) 241-0838

Trucks & Trailers 1999

FORD Explorer XLS '01 4x4, am/fm/cassette/cd, 4dr, 34K orig. mi. \$12,500 obo **908-241-6369**

Trucks & Trailers 1999

CHEVY ASTRO '99—70K, 8 pass., front/rear AC, tilt, cruise, tow hitch, \$7,000. **908-464-6338**

Trucks & Trailers 1999

CHEVY BLAZER '98—4x4, 2 door, Black, V6 auto, CD, 169K, power w/l, new brakes, \$2,400 obo **908-708-6080**

FORD BRONCO XLT 1990 4x4, 5.0 V8, black, W/chrome bar 142K, \$2,900 OBO. **908-208-2116**

FORD EXPEDITION EDDIE BAUER '98—Runs great, 3rd Row Seat, 90,000 miles, \$11,800. Mike (908) 241-0838

Trucks & Trailers 1999

FORD Explorer XLS '01 4x4, am/fm/cassette/cd, 4dr, 34K orig. mi. \$12,500 obo **908-241-6369**

Trucks & Trailers 1999

CHEVY ASTRO '99—70K, 8 pass., front/rear AC, tilt, cruise, tow hitch, \$7,000. **908-464-6338**

Trucks & Trailers 1999

CHEVY BLAZER '98—4x4, 2 door, Black, V6 auto, CD, 169K, power w/l, new brakes, \$2,400 obo **908-708-6080**

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