

Briefs

Learn to paint at Rec Commission

WESTFIELD — Westfield Recreation Commission will be offering two winter art programs for children and adults, taught by exhibiting artist Kathy Kornish.

For adults and seniors there will be beginning Old Master drawing and non-toxic oil painting with water. Students will learn how to draw and paint everything from apples to figures with emphasis on light, composition, and use of color.

Ten sessions, beginning Jan. 7 will be taught on Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m. The cost is \$30 per person including supplies.

For children grades 3-5, the drawing and non-toxic painting class will include an all-new, fun program for the winter. Ten sessions beginning Jan. 7 will be taught Wednesdays from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 including supplies.

Kathy Kornish, a Union resident, is one of the few art instructors for both adults and children who is also an active, exhibiting artist. She creates large fantasy works with people, European scenery, and animals, and is the only art instructor in Union County who specializes in teaching the new medium of non-toxic oil painting with water.

All classes will be held at the Westfield Community Room, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield. To register, call 789-4080 or apply in person.

Scotch Plains offers discount ski tickets

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Department of Parks and Recreation again has discount ski tickets on sale in the Recreation Office at 430 Park Avenue. In conjunction with the NJ Recreation & Parks Association, the department has prices that are lower than those purchased on site. Areas include Montage Mountain, Scranton, Pa.; Shawnee Mountain, Shawnee-on-the-Delaware, Pa.; Jack Frost/Big Boulder, Blakeslee, Pa.; Blue Mountain, Palmerton, Pa.; and for the first time, Ski Windham, Windham, N.Y.; and Camelback, Tannersville, Pa.

Prices vary for weekend/holidays, weekdays, all day or all night, as well as for those who prefer snowboarding. Some of the areas also offer beginner's packages which include lessons. Call Recreation at 322-6700 or visit the office and buy these bargain tickets. All payments are to be made by check payable to NJRPA.

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Record-Press

WESTFIELD · SCOTCH PLAINS · FANWOOD

Friday, December 26, 1997

50 cents

It's time for 'First Night'

By TINA GUARINO

RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — You are invited to the town-wide New Year's Eve party Dec. 31 from 3 p.m. to midnight.

"First Night, Westfield '98" is a non-profit celebration to bring in the new year. The party spot is the downtown.

"Don't stay at home, get out from behind the television and see some live entertainment right in your own downtown," said First Night steering committee member Jill Sitzer.

This is the town's second New Year's Eve party. Last year about 5,000 friends and neighbors turned out for the event.

"I am very excited about the fact that we are doing it again," Ms. Sitzer said. "There has been a lot of anticipation and excitement about some of the acts that are returning and some of the new ones."

Ms. Sitzer said she is especially excited about the Okra Dance Company which will be performing dances from different countries from Africa and Europe in costume.

She said there will be a lot of dancing from country and western to ballroom to Irish dancing. Also, music ranging from the symphony and opera to jazz and be-bop.

"It is a celebration of the arts and entertainment and is a vari-

ation on the usual New Year's Eve celebration," Ms. Sitzer said. "It has something that appeals to everyone of all ages."

Begun in Boston in 1976, "First Night" has spread across the country in towns and cities of all sizes. Its goal is to offer a non-alcoholic alternative to the standard celebrations and to incorporate a variety of entertainment for everyone: singles, couples, young and old and especially for families.

On New Year's Eve, in the afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m., children four and older will be able to participate with their parents in arts and crafts activities, including mask-making for the Grand Procession which starts at 6 p.m.

Several lively, interactive entertainers will also perform at this time.

The entertainment will begin 7 p.m. in thirty locations all over town including schools, churches, the Westfield "Y" and the municipal building. There will be singing, magic, mime, dancing, opera, hands-on art, drama, musical performances of all kinds including the Westfield Symphony and physically active venues for children in locations grouped according to age.

Teens will have their own activities 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Armory, including rocky mountain wall climbing, giant twister, a DJ and an open mike to name a few.

Carving a holiday penguin

Sandy Flaming was among the contestants in Saturday's ice sculpting contest in downtown Westfield. Below, the ice files as Ms. Flaming works on her sculpted penguin.

GEORGE PACCIELLO / THE RECORD-PRESS



Schools wrestling with special ed

By TINA GUARINO

RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Classification is leaving too many children out of mainstream classrooms, according to some parents — especially African-American parents.

Nearly half of the African-American students in the Westfield School district are classified or in basic skills classes, compared to about 16 percent of the non-African-American community, and that number is about 35 percent higher than the state average. Westfield's statistics are echoed in neighboring Scotch Plains and Fanwood, where the number of African-American children classified is 25 percent.

But even though the figures are consistent with surrounding areas, the school board agrees with parents that classification is a problem.

"There's no question that we are classifying, in my judgment, too many children and there is no

question that we are classifying too many African-American children in particular," Superintendent of Schools William Foley recently told parents and administrators meeting to discuss the conditions of African-American children in the Westfield school system.

A "classified" student is one who is determined by the school district to have learning, emotional, social or physical disabilities.

"I always thought that special education was to help not hinder," resident Mary Withers said. "It seems like in our community it has been a 'hinder' instead of a 'help.'"

One of the biggest concerns some parents feel is that once classified, students are forever destined for a sub-par education without the skills to compete in the work force.

"If a child starts in kindergarten, comes through the Westfield school system and is classified his whole life, some-

body is not doing his job," Ms. Withers said.

One Westfield mother, whose son was classified from kindergarten through 12th grade attended the meeting because she said, "I don't want anybody's child to fall through the cracks like mine did."

"If a kid needs help and gets it from classification then fine," she added. "But the problem is there are kids who are classified who shouldn't be there in the first place."

Although the school board acknowledged the high number of classified students, board members pointed out a child can not be classified without parental consent. Suggestions were made to hold a workshop to educate parents on their rights as partners in their children's education.

Dr. Foley said classification has to be looked at on a case by case basis. Each child receives an individual educational plan that is unique to that child with goal

and objectives that are reviewed annually and totally rewritten every three years.

Psychologist Donna Sotolongo, a former resident and consultant to the school district from 1985-1991 said, "you can't knock the whole system of classification because classification enables students with disabilities to get the resources and instruction they need to learn."

"But on the other hand, I do think that the mechanism for identifying youngsters and having them evaluated is very subjective and therefore can be inherently unfair to African-American youngsters," Dr. Sotolongo said.

"The reason is quite simple — there is evidence that boys are more likely to be identified and referred as having behavioral problems than girls," Dr. Sotolongo said. "So, when we talk about the referral of African-American boys, the identification process becomes more prone to bias because the referral is not

only based on what the teacher see, but also on racial stereotypes inherent in our society."

"The shame of this is all is that, whether we want to believe it or not, we are all affected by this societal issue," she added.

Although Dr. Foley acknowledged the classification system is less than perfect, he emphasized it is not targeted against African-American students.

"I am not suggesting for a moment that we do not have a problem with classification, but these kinds of problems hit the high school all the time in one form or another," Dr. Foley said. "They exist and are not confined to just one group, certainly not just the African-American group."

Dr. Foley said the district has done a lot of things to help African-American children improve achievement by establishing programs such as Catch, which offers support groups to

(Continued on page A-2)

Council salutes departing councilmen

Greco's six years on council called 'energetic,' 'committed'

By TINA GUARINO

RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — First Ward Councilman Norman Greco said so long, but not goodbye at his last Town Council meeting Dec. 16.

Mr. Greco, who has served on the governing body for six years, announced he'll be back running for mayor in November 1998. Mr. Greco ran last year but lost by just two percent of the vote to Tom Jardim.

His colleagues on the council characterized him as "energetic," "enthusiastic" and "always committed to the people of Westfield."

Councilman James Gruba said, "You are many things, Norman, but you are not boring."

He added Mr. Greco's service is an important part of the town's history.

Mr. Greco's history with the town spans all of his 57 years. He went through the Westfield public school system. His first dabble in politics was in 1957 when he was elected president of the student council during his freshman year at the high school.

"When you live here all your life you are intertwined with other people's lives," Mr. Greco said. "I've been intertwined with every facet of the community from the mayor to the guy who sweeps the streets."

Donell Carr praised despite short stint on council

By TINA GUARINO

RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — With more than 100 people in council chambers and four hours worth of agenda items, it was business as usual for Donnell Carr's last day on Town Council.

As chairman of the Transportation, Parking and Traffic Committee, Mr. Carr topped off his last meeting with the adoption of the residential permit parking ordinance.

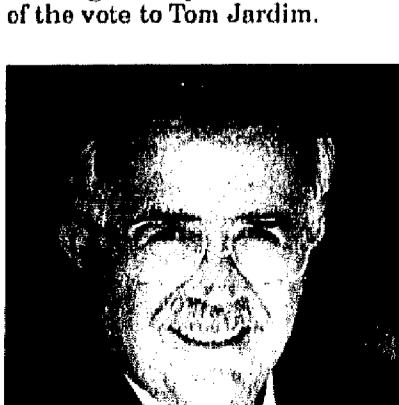
Mr. Carr's colleagues characterized him as "courageous," "moral" and a "man of resolution."

Councilman Larry Goldman said he is a "pillar of this community."

"He is a man that would rather bring the sunshine to the darkness than take the spotlight," said Anthony LaPorta, former councilman and current planning board member. "A lesson for those of us who have served in politics."

Mr. Carr served the town as councilman of the Fourth Ward from April 8, 1997 to December 31, 1997 filling the Democratic seat of James Hely. In addition to his normal council duties, he also served as a member of the Public Works/Solid Waste Committee, a member of the Personnel Policy Committee and liaison to the Board of

(Continued on page A-2)



NORMAN GRECO



DONNELL CARR

(Continued on page A-2)



DECA baskets help hungry families

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA students are shown with some of the food purchased with money collected in recent fund-raising activities. The students prepared nearly 120 food baskets to deliver to needy families, working with the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, St. Bartholomew's Church in Scotch Plains and the Scotch Plains Welfare Department to deliver the baskets.

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HOLIDAY STORE HOURS:

WITTY'S (RAHWAY)	8-10
WITTY'S (BO. PLAINFIELD)	9-10
	11-4

Students' special dinner helps feed area hungry

SCOTCH PLAINS -- The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA Chapter sponsored its sixth annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner for the needy at the Black United Fund Community Center in Plainfield, and had its largest turnout yet.

More than 150 guests were treated to a sit-down dinner which included turkey and the

trimmings.

The students organized the dinner with the Black United Fund, coordinated guest lists with them Plainfield Welfare Department, the Park Hotel for Adults and the Interfaith Council.

More than 50 DECA students were involved in the raising of funds and the cooking for the din-

ner.

"The dinner was great success," DECA chairman Jeff Feighner said. "This is by far the most worthwhile activity our group sponsors. It's great experience."

To prepare for the dinner, 22 turkeys were used and each guest also was given a "take-home" dinner.

cessary labeling."

He suggested students be allowed to function in a comfortable environment with non-disabled students as much as possible.

"I believe most kids benefit from their peers and I also believe academically if we can support them with the resources of basic skills, teachers, special education teachers and the regular education teachers, I believe overall the kids will perform much better and you don't need labels to do that," Dr. Kozlik added.

Westfield recognized the benefits of mixing students of different abilities when it got rid of its ability tracking system (honors classes) at the elementary and intermediate levels. Research indicates students benefit more from these kinds of mixed classes.

Currently, the federal and state governments are examining special education to develop a more effective system. Dr. Foley said he will hold a workshop in March to further look at classification issues in Westfield.

Classification

(Continued from page A-1)

high school students.

"But we do have a disproportionate number of children that come to us even in wonderful Westfield with overwhelming problems that we have to try to cope with and sometimes the regular school environment just can't absorb it," he added.

Among the changes that could be made in district policies to help students, Dr. Foley said increasing instruction time may be more helpful. He pointed out he has already reduced class sizes to offer students more personal attention. The school district has also introduced the program TESA (Teacher Expectations in Student Achievement) which deals with how students praise and communicate with students.

Many people say intermediate and high school intervention programs are sometimes too late.

The school board is currently looking at the position of an elementary counselor to intervene and prevent classification when

Carr

(Continued from page A-1)

Education.
A 16-year-resident of

Westfield, Mr. Carr was born and raised in Tennessee. He was educated at Tennessee State University and Oxford University in England. He served in the United States Air Force on active duty from 1966 to 1970.

During his residency in Westfield, Mr. Carr has, as councilman Neil Sullivan said, made a "career of community service."

Mr. Carr serves as a trustee at the Echo Lake Church of Christ. He serves on the boards of the Westfield Community Center and the United Fund of Westfield. He is the former president of the children's advocacy group CAAP (Concerned African-American Parents of Westfield) and is a member of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Westfield.

Mr. Carr made history by

being the first African-American councilman ever to serve on the Town Council.

"I am delighted you broke the racial barrier on the Westfield Town Council," said former councilman Kenneth MacRitchie.

Mr. Carr has represented the town of Westfield on the Union County Revenue Sharing Committee for several years.

Former Mayor Garland (Bud) Boothe recognized Mr. Carr's role in finding revenue sources for public improvements in town.

Mayor Tom Jardim said Mr. Carr "is the kind of guy who lives his life right" and who always reminded the council members of their obligation to the public.

"If all politicians were like Donnell Carr," Mayor Jardim said, "the world would be a much better place."

Greco

(Continued from page A-1)

During the holidays, especially, he plays an important role in

Record-Press

WESTFIELD'S GROWTH IS AMAZING

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Jewish Federation planning Awareness Month activities

SCOTCH PLAINS -- The goal of Federation Awareness Month in January, is to educate the community about the work of the Federation, said chairwoman Janice Weinberg.

"Everyone has an opportunity to get involved in helping to not only sustain but improve the lives of their neighbors," Ms. Weinberg said.

The programs include: a community-wide brunch with a per-

formance by The Israel Dance Institute Sunday, Jan. 11; a lecture Monday, Jan. 12 by Amos Oz, author, professor, Israeli peace activist; and the Inaugural Ball celebrating Israel's 50th birthday and honoring Toby Goldberger, a community leader, Saturday, Jan. 24. UJA Federation Shabbat will also take place Jan. 24.

Throughout the month Federation leaders will be meet-

ing with boards and committees of Jewish agencies, organizations and synagogues to update them on activities and programs.

The culminating event is Super Sunday, Feb. 1 held at the Wilf Jewish Community Campus in Scotch Plains, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Support and participation for both Awareness Month and Super Sunday is needed. Call Debbie Rosenwein at (908) 889-5335 for more information.



Student's pot luck fills plates

Third-grade students at St. Bartholomew School anxiously awaited their lunches at the school's fifth annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service, November 25. The service included a special meal with each class responsible for a dish to be served.

Area councils convene to study ways to cut towns' utility costs

SCOTCH PLAINS -- Fanwood Borough Council member William Populus brought together local officials from municipalities throughout Central New Jersey for a second meeting to explore ways to reduce utility costs.

The officials met Dec. 1 in the Scotch Plains Municipal Building.

Representatives from Elizabeth, Westfield, Plainfield, Cranford, Roselle, Kenilworth, Linden, Hillside, Green Brook,

Berkeley Heights, Rahway, Scotch Plains and Fanwood attended the meeting to gain

information on opportunities to establish a cooperative venture to take advantage of the deregulation of the electric industry in New Jersey.

The Board of Public Utilities is moving forward with a

plan to restructure the electric industry in New Jersey.

The board's goal is to begin opening

the electric market to competition in October 1998.

The meeting focused on how to reduce the

cost of utilities in municipal operating budgets.

Ratepayer Advocate Blossom

Peretz and several members of her staff came to the meeting to provide an update on the status of the BPU's efforts to deregulate electricity. She went over several different options for aggregating the utility accounts of local governments, business and residents.

"Some say there is power in numbers," Mrs. Peretz said. "Perhaps we should also say there are power savings in numbers."

The ratepayer advocate said her office is working to ensure that consumers will save at least 10 percent off their current bills as a result of deregulation.

Also attending the meeting was Phyllis Kessler, an attorney with the firm of Kudman, Trachten & Kessler. She had briefed municipal officials on deregulation at an earlier meeting in Fanwood.

Mrs. Kessler said the range of options discussed by local officials included each town consolidating the electric accounts in their municipality under one contract; consolidating the electric

needs of several towns in a joint procurement; extending the joint procurement option to include Union County government accounts; or aggregating the electric needs of residents and businesses in one of more of the towns in addition to the local government accounts.

Steven Clark of NJ Transit discussed the benefits of the joint procurement option for purchasing energy. NJ Transit has worked with the New Jersey Treasury Department and other agencies to purchase natural gas.

"Joining together gives better leverage in the marketplace and keeps the administrative burdens associated with the complex public procurement process to a minimum," he said.

NJ Transit reportedly has reduced its natural gas bill by 20 percent since natural gas was deregulated in 1995.

Mr. Clark said a recent contract for natural gas includes an option for local governments served by Elizabethtown Gas Co. to participate in the state contract.

Software shown to school leaders

WESTFIELD -- Westfield Board of Education members, teachers, parent-teacher organization presidents, and technology volunteers attended a recent demonstration of the new computer software utilized in the intermediate schools.

The software was included in new curriculum revisions this year for mathematics, science, and geography.

Roosevelt and Edison Intermediate school teachers who participated in the demonstrations were Lauren Smith, Nancy Vogler, Karen Lust, Linda Wingstaff, Cindy MacGinnagle, Kristi Houghtaling, Mike Mulvihill, Marshall Fine, Paul Infuso, Christine Hedden, and Carol Lester. Math Supervisor Chris Manno and Geography Supervisor Walt Buda also

attended.

"I think it was important for our board members to witness first-hand the technology improvements that they support," Darlene Nowak, the school



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Commentary

There is a Santa Claus

A century ago, on September 21, 1897, *The New York Sun* published what was to become the most widely read and quoted letter to a newspaper. Its message is as valid today as it was 100 years ago. Below is the full text of that letter and the reply written by Sun editorial writer Francis Pharcellus Church.

Dear Editor:
I am eight years old.
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
Papa says, "If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so."
Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?
Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West 95th Street

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond.

Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else more real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

SEASON'S GREETINGS



Letters to the editor

Red Cross thanks Westfield for support

To The Record-Press:

During the holiday season, our hearts and minds turn to thoughts of home, family and friends gathered together to celebrate; however, military personnel are not able to enjoy being home for the holidays because they are stationed in many distant lands such as Bosnia, Hungary and Kuwait.

The generosity and kindness of many people in our community was evident again this year as the Westfield/MountainSide (Chapter of the American) Red Cross sponsored the TROOPS (To Remember Our Overseas Personnel this Season) project to send holiday items, drink mixes, snacks, books, games, videos and many other assorted items to those stationed far from home.

This project was accomplished the coordination and cooperation from Girl Scout Troop 540, Nancy

Kielar, leader; Troop 482, Kathy Gilmartin, leader; and Troop 430, Allison Jacob, leader, in Westfield; and Ms. Daly's fifth grade class from McKinley School.

Forty-eight cartons were packed and shipped to the Army post office in New York and forwarded overseas and what a gift for those service personnel to receive something from home during this season!

On behalf of the recipients who will receive the items, many thanks to the scouts and Ms. Daly's class and happy holidays from them!

GAIL P. MOFFETT
Executive Director, Westfield/
MountainSide Chapter
American Red Cross

Hospitals need permanent charity funding

To The Record-Press:

As you may be aware, funding for charity care is scheduled to expire on Dec. 31. This safety net for the uninsured provides partial reimbursement to hospitals for the care provided to the 1.1 million residents of New Jersey who have no insurance coverage. Approximately 700,000 of these residents are fulltime workers and their families. Here in New Jersey, hospitals are required by law to provide health care to everyone in need regardless of ability to pay. Hospitals in urban settings such as Elizabeth have particularly high numbers of patients who are uninsured. If the charity care fund is allowed to expire, it will have serious consequences to the quality of health care provided throughout the state of New Jersey and particularly in counties such as Union and Essex.

St. Elizabeth Hospital, sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, has a 92-year commitment of providing health care to the community we serve. During the first nine months of 1997, St. Elizabeth Hospital provided more than \$19 million in care to the underinsured and uninsured. Through charity care and hospital relief subsidies, (the hospital) received just slightly over \$6 million in reimbursement. With the recently announced federal cutbacks in Medicare and Medicaid, continued funding for charity care and hospital relief has become more critical than ever.

The number of uninsured in New Jersey continues to rise, mirroring the national trend. Nearly 40 million Americans are living without health insurance.

Over the past 10 years, the percentage of full-time American workers with employment-based health insurance has dropped to less than 64 percent.

Unless a permanent and appropriate funding mechanism for charity care is found and implemented, the ability of hospitals to continue to serve their communities will be gravely impaired. If our hospitals continue to be forced to do more for less, hospital resources will be stretched to a critical point where the quality of care at every facility in the state could suffer. Loss of reimbursement threatens every hospital's ability to deliver care, maintain quality and support its bond issues.

A hospital's ability to continue to serve its community can only be accomplished through a public/private partnership between government and hospitals. I hope this letter serves as an open plea to Trenton that the Legislature do its part by enacting legislation that provides an adequate and permanent funding source for charity care. Immediate passage of legislation and funding is critical to the health of this state's residents and the health care institutions that serve them. I also urge individual readers to contact Gov. Whitman and their elected representatives to let them know that New Jersey residents support full funding of charity care before it's too late.

SISTER ELIZABETH ANN MALONEY
President,
St. Elizabeth Hospital
Elizabeth

Words to the wise for holiday drinking

To The Record-Press:

"Eat, drink and be merry," Charles Dickens once wrote at Christmastime many years ago. However, if his pen put down those words today the tone of the message would undoubtedly be different. In fact, a modern day societal leader would be much more likely to say, "Eat, drink and be merry ... be if you choose to drink, make sure someone else is available to drive you if you're not staying overnight."

That is precisely the plea that the members of the New Jersey Licensed Beverage Association would like to make to your readers this season. The New Jersey Licensed Beverage Association represents over 8,000 taverns, bars, hotels, cocktail lounges, restaurants and bowling centers in the Garden State, and our members are keenly aware of the prominent role the alcoholic products we sell play in holiday celebrations. Reality is that millions of Americans top off their holiday festivities by sharing good times and drinks with their friends, co-workers and family. People do this because it is, to put it bluntly, fun and celebratory. However, the NJLBA wants to make a plea to your readers to keep the fun in these celebrations by remaining responsible enough to either designate a driver or make the decision to take a cab, bus, train or some other means of transportation home.

Our point is that, when consumed in moderation, the products that our members dispense will enhance your celebration, but we all need to respect the power that alcohol has to affect our behavior so that celebrations do not end in tragedy. We ask your readers to please remember the following simple rules this holiday season so that there can be as

much cheer and joy as possible:

- Make sure that you have a designated driver in your party who can get everyone home safely. Also, remember to ask about designated driver perks because most bars will serve free non-alcoholic drinks to designated drivers and may even discount the designated driver's food.
- If you decided you were going out and only drinking a minimal amount but wound up being told by a bartender, waiter or waitress that you have had too much to drink and they want to call a cab, listen to them. You can always come pick up your car in the morning. (The same rule applies if a friend tells you they are going to drive home.)
- Because food is the most important factor in the absorption of alcohol, make sure that you eat when you drink and be merry. If you know there is no food where you are going, eat beforehand. And, if there is food, eat while you drink and remind yourself to drink slowly.

- If you host a party make sure you take the same precautions that licensed beverage establishments take by not serving people under 21 (remember, it is against the law) and not letting people drive away drunk. Take the keys and give them a pillow for the floor if you have to.
- The NJLBA's suggestions are simple and practical and they will make your holidays brighter. Have a good time, but just remember to drink responsibly and not let alcohol regulate your behavior and override your better judgment.

LEWIS B. ROTHBART
President, New Jersey
Licensed Beverage Association
Edison

Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

Achieving Christmas harmony

All merry Christmases were alike then.

In Neshanic Station, where I tried to grow up, comfort and joy were the absolutes of the season. Pouting — my natural state of being then and now — stopped at the threat of coal in my Christmas stocking. My eyes ached with longing when I studied the Sears Christmas catalog as if it was a Kabala of toy mysticism. At night, when my throat was raw from singing carols all day at school, I watched the snow skid like tattered pieces of a dream through the warm glow of lights outlining the back porch. It was warm and cozy in bed and sleep came like an angel of mercy to pass the anxious time before Christmas morning.

Remembering those child's Christmases is at once both pleasant and sad. It is pleasant because, well, I was fortunate to have Christmases that resembled a Norman Rockwell ideal.. The family was harmonious (except for arguments over whether the turkey was done) and the setting was seeped with the mystery and the beauty of the season (was that a holy star or an isolated streetlight that hung in the distance over the church's live nativity). It is sad because it is a memory of what we have lost, not just the world of wonders, but also the meaningfulness, purity, sentiment and benevolence of the season.

The cards with which we now deal most in the holiday season do not bear greetings of good cheer but the dire credit statements of a raw January. Like members of a cargo cult, we perform our commercialistic ritual without thinking about what we are doing or why we are doing it. Sometimes I think we would all be better if we returned to the practices of childhood and made potholders for each other and cards with crayons and construction paper. It is a futile hope that we all will be prompted by childhood memories to seriously review our values, see how they have changed since the days of relative innocence and make the necessary adjustments.

I do not want to dwell on the maudlin aspects of nostalgia; you get wet if you spit too much into the wind. I could write forever about those days, about the surreptitious plans to transport Santa Claus from the firehouse to the church when their Christmas parties were on the same night. But that would take too long, so instead I will write about the joy of Christmas caroling.

It's a frosty Saturday night when we gather in the church basement to go caroling from house to house in our small town. Because I am one of the little ones they tell me to stand in front; I imagine my face has the frightened look of someone who wants to do well, so badly that he knows he is just going to screw up.

At first our voices are so enthusiastic that the adults tell us "not too loud" and at about the fifth house (Mrs. Vermeulen is going to have hot chocolate for us and animal crackers too!) our voices hang suspended in the brittle air with the brilliant clarity of crystal rose. It is a moment of absolute still beauty as the carol's individual notes take shape in the clouds of warm breath.

Suddenly the moment is lost when the mechanical flatulence of a holey muffler (whose Studebaker is that?) forces us off the road and never again that night do we quite regain that perfect balance, that awesome harmony.

In that epiphany of harmony, we were the messengers of a different world, of a place of peace, love and brotherhood, where good will is exchanged freely and children and adults alike are allowed the luxury of wonder and the belief in something that is not real.

We may never again reach that moment of perfect balance and harmony, but that does not mean we should stop trying.

Kids learn safety rules

WESTFIELD -- When you're five years old and choking on food, what do you do?

What happens if you burn your finger on the stove?

Kindergarten students at Westfield Day Care Center are better prepared to deal with emergencies and accidents that may arise, thanks to a special class in first aid led by the Westfield/Mountainside Red Cross.

Lynn Bilman directed the classes, which focused on teaching the students what to do until either a parent or professional help arrives.

The program helped to prepare the children for emergencies arising from playground falls, arm or leg injuries, nosebleeds, objects in eyes or what to do in the event of finding someone unconscious and how to call 9-1-1.

The classes also involved 3- and 4-year-olds in the Day Care Center's other classes, sharing



the first aid lessons with younger students.

The Westfield/Mountainside Red Cross Chapter has helped teach the first aid lessons to more than 1,000 area students since beginning the community service project.

Other classes can benefit from the Red Cross lessons, which can be tailored to the needs of different age groups and class levels. For information, call the Chapter at 232-7090.



In the First Aid classes at Westfield schools, students were taught by Lynn Bilman how to signal choking and what to do (at left) and how to use the 9-1-1 system to report an emergency (right).

Strategic plan group plans next step

WESTFIELD -- Thirty-six volunteers comprising Westfield Public Schools' Strategic Planning Council met in December to begin drafting a mission statement, beliefs, goals, and objectives for the school district.

Representing a cross section of the community including students, teachers, parents, community, and school administration, the committee met Dec. 5-7 at Lucent Technologies' conference facilities in Murray Hill.

In addition to participating in large and small discussion groups, the Strategic Planning Council received oral reports from representatives of the State of the Community and State of the Schools committees. These reports were compiled following considerable research and several meetings of the 30 volunteers serving on the two committees.

The Strategic Planning Council will meet in early January to complete the work begun this weekend.

In commenting on the week-

end retreat in Murray Hill, Margaret Walker, a member of the Westfield Area League of Women Voters who is serving on the council, remarked, "I was skeptical when we started, but it went very well. The facilitators knew the true meaning of consensus. We set goals and strategies, and I believe we produced something worthwhile."

Facilitators for the retreat were Joanne Borin and Jane Kershner of the NJ School Boards Association. There is no fee associated with their participation in Westfield's strategic planning process, since Westfield is a dues-paying member of the association.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley said, "The weekend was a success because of the dedication of so many people who were willing to give up their time because they are concerned."

to create a blueprint for our schools' future. Their knowledge, experience, and concern were reflected in our every discussion. I appreciate the invaluable input of these volunteers as well as the assistance of Joanne Borin and Jane Kershner, and the hospitality of Lucent Technologies."

Members of the Strategic Planning Council include: Adrienne Bishop, Horace Corbin, Cyndi Cockren, Lucille Davy, Matthew Dugel, Margaret Dolan, William Foley, Eri Golembio, Rahanna Harewood, James Hely, Meghan Hely, Kristi Houghtaling, Alice Hunnicutt, Lee Jacobsen, Susan Jacobson, Patricia Jakubowski, Patrick Keeney, Marie Koch, Theodore Kozlik, Jennifer Linnell, Susan Mackay, Tom Madaras, MaryBeth Mansfield, Catherine Marchant, Sue Meder, Louis Miron, Robert Petix, Trista Pollard, Annmarie Puleio, David Rock, Kenneth Shulack, Charles Soriano, Mark Matthews, Dee Dee Turlington, Margaret Walker, and Elizabeth Willett.

Chase opens new office

WESTFIELD -- Chase Manhattan Bank held a ribbon-cutting ceremony this week to celebrate the relocation of its Westfield branch from 206 E. Broad St. to 302 E. Broad Street.

The new, completely renovated facility will have two additional part-time tellers, one additional customer service representative, and a drive-up teller window which will stay open until 5 p.m. Manual Rios will remain as the branch manager.

Chase executives Rick Jones, senior vice president in charge of Chase's Tri-State Region branch network; Ken Hall, vice president in charge of Chase's central New Jersey branches, Rios, Westfield branch manager, and Councilman Neil Sullivan

attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

With more than \$366 billion in assets, the Chase Manhattan Corporation is the largest banking company in the United States. Chase provides integrated solutions that meet its customers' payment, savings, investment, insurance, credit, and financial planning needs. Domestically, it has offices in 39 states and relationships with more than 30 million consumers coast to coast. For all those who work hard to sustain a good life in a world of enormous opportunity and challenge, Chase is the complete financial resource and ally that makes life easier.

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These scouts enjoy grocery shopping

John Aleksandavicius, David Dunn, Brian Dunn, Nick Brownstone, Will Clarke, Chris Hild and John Kerr, all members of Jefferson School's Cub Scout Pack 673, hold some of the food they collected during the "Scouting for Food" food drive, sponsored by the Watchung Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. More than 50 scouts collected and donated nearly 450 bags of food to the Holy Trinity Food Pantry in Westfield.

'Wild' teenager finds many career options after college

CRANFORD -- It was at Union County College that Dr. Pamela Shields of Westfield first found that she could bond with teachers.

An admitted "wild" teenager who "slept through half of high school," her motivation to succeed at college outweighed her apprehension that she lacked the intel-

lectual capacity to pursue a higher education. UCC faculty support led her to a bachelor's degree at Rutgers University and, subsequently, to completion of a Psy.D. program in psychology at Widener University in Pennsylvania. Today, the 46-year-old practices psychology.

Despite having gone through

four career areas in her lifetime, Dr. Shields feels she has finally achieved her goal.

It was at age 28 that she first enrolled at UCC, a single mother whose career as a musician was less than promising. For Dr. Shields, "times of transition mean times of reflection for me," and so she knew that a more sta-

ble lifestyle was necessary for survival. At the time, biology, with a pre-veterinary science thrust, was her next career goal.

"The idea of going to college was always something I wanted," she said. However she lacked the exposure to role models who themselves valued higher education as a life's option. Dr. Shields

received that support from her professors at UCC, which she describes as "an incredible, eye-opening experience."

She balanced a hectic course load on weekdays while working a full-time job on weekends, plus a side job in the UCC biology laboratory. Still, she maintained a nearly perfect grade-point aver-

age and earned a top departmental award for her academic excellence. She also received several scholarships.

Upon graduation from UCC in 1982, Dr. Shields assumed a laboratory technician position at Colgate Palmolive where she gained an introduction to computers. Because salary upgrades were dependent upon computer knowledge, she secured additional training and obtained an intensive background in computer programming that brought her to a third career area. Almost immediately after completing the program, Dr. Shields got "the primo job anyone could dream of" -- working as a systems software programmer at a North Jersey firm for three years. While she was challenged by complexities of the work, she felt isolated in having little interaction with people.

It was ironic that, in the course of undergoing psychological therapy herself, she found a niche in her current career field.

"I quit my job and enrolled at Rutgers University as a psychology major with a secondary major in biology," she said. "There, I found some really great mentors. The experience at UCC really helped me with this process. There I was in a big university, and yet I knew how to find a place for myself there."

Two professors took her "under their wing" and, in conversation one day, mentioned casually that they assumed she would continue on for a doctorate. To her surprise, she learned she was fifth in a class of 2,600, maintaining a perfect grade-point average there. A doctoral program certainly was within her realm. Upon graduating from Rutgers in 1989 with a bachelor's degree, Dr. Shields decided to pursue a Psy.D. in clinical psychology and opted for Widener.

With a heavy focus on hands-on experience, the doctoral program featured practicum placements and internships over five years of intensive study and field work. She conducted psychological testing at the Carrier Foundation, provided therapy at Douglass College, offered family counseling at a center in Bound Brook, assisted at a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility, helped at a foster children's agency, and provided employee assistance at a Philadelphia utility.

"I became fascinated with the process of how change comes about in people," Dr. Shields said. "I noticed this for the first time when a biology professor at UCC cut through some cultural barriers to relate well to a student others might have turned away from. Through my clients, I learn as much as they do, as we work to understand ourselves and our world."

Earning a Psy.D. in 1994, Dr. Shields worked briefly in the community mental health center at John F. Kennedy Medical Center Edison, before starting her own practice in 1996. Ironically, her research on infant memory and categorization was published in the professional journals "Child Development" and "Developmental Psychology." At about the same time Dr. Shields started a second chapter of child-rearing with the birth of Liam, now two-years-old. Today, she is actively involved in expanding her practice. While always keeping an eye open for new knowledge, Dr. Shields says she is pleased to have "reached my goal."

"It's a really good feeling," she

New tax laws make college education more affordable

By Thomas Brown

DIRECTOR, UNION COUNTY COLLEGE

CRANFORD -- Effective starting in 1998, The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 provides for a HOPE scholarship for eligible students pursuing the first two years of post secondary education. Technically not a scholarship, but a tax credit, students may be eligible for 100 percent of the first \$1,000 of tuition and fees and 50 percent of the second \$1,000 through the mechanism of their federal income tax return.

The actual amount of the credit depends on the family or individual income, the amount of qualified tuition and fees paid, and the amount of certain scholarships and allowances subtracted from tuition. Eligible individuals may claim the credit when they file their federal income tax forms in April, 1999 for college expenses incurred and paid during tax year 1998.

To qualify, students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours in a degree, certificate or other program leading to a recognized education credential.

HOPE applies to tuition and fees and, for those who qualify, it can substantially reduce the costs of a college career.

Using Union County College as an example...After January 1, 1998, if a Union County resident registers for 12 credits during the spring semester, six credits during the summer term, and 12 credits during the fall term, he or she will have completed the first academic year of post secondary education. The cost of tuition and fees for this experience will be \$2,852. If HOPE-eligible and not receiving any other financial aid, the student will be able to claim a HOPE scholarship tax credit of \$1,500 on his/her 1998 Federal Tax Return.

One note of caution, as with all tax programs, the HOPE scholarship should not be included in your financial planning without seeking professional financial advice.

The Spring Semester at Union County College begins on Jan. 21. For information on registration, call 709-7500 or visit open house on the Cranford campus on Jan. 10 at 10 a.m.

Merry Christmas

Season's Greetings

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These students in the Westfield Y "Time for Two's" preschool class enjoyed a visit downtown with class-room parents Sherri Carter and Bonnie Lysek during a warm day in October.

Westfield real estate agents win sales awards

WESTFIELD -- Several agents at the Westfield offices of Weichert Realtors, Inc., recorded sales achievements this year.

James M. Weichert, president, announced several awards recently, recognizing Susan Delaney, Holly Cohen, James Fawcett, Brenda Putzer and John Clark Riley.

Susan Delaney, a sales associate at the Westfield office, has won the office awards for the greatest number of marketed listings and greatest marketed dollar volume.

Ms. Delaney, a licensed real estate professional since 1986, has earned numerous awards during her career, including membership in Weichert's 1996 Million Dollar Marketed Club.

Ms. Delaney is active in the Garden State Multiple Listing Service, NJ and National Associations of Realtors. She has special expertise in Union County and North Edison and is a member of Weichert's Condominium Network. She has completed numerous training programs in real estate sales and fair housing law.

A longtime area resident, she is married and the mother of twin boys.

Ms. Cohen, a Westfield resident, was named to the company's 1997 Ambassador's Club in recognition of her sales volume. She is counted among the top two percent of Weichert's 7,500 sales associates. It is the most recent company honor for Ms. Cohen, who won office awards in September and October for her accomplishments.

In addition to a marketing award, Ms. Cohen led the office in marketed listings in October. They followed her September awards for the greatest number of listings, sold listings and marketed listings.

Ms. Cohen is a consistent million-dollar producer who earned the silver award in the 1996 New Jersey State Million Dollar Club. She is a member of Weichert's 100 Marketed Club and Million Dollar Sales and Marketed Clubs and repeat member of the President's Club.

Ms. Cohen, who is licensed in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, also holds a New Jersey broker's license. She is a member of the Westfield, Greater Eastern Union County, Middlesex, Somerset and North Central Jersey Associations of Realtors.

Mr. Fawcett earned an office marketing award for his accomplishments in October.

A licensed real estate professional for one year, Mr. Fawcett has earned numerous office awards during his first year in real estate sales. Mr. Fawcett said his previous experience as an architect has helped him achieve success in real estate sales.

"When you are working with clients, you must ask pertinent questions and listen carefully to what they say and what they really mean. It's problem solving," Mr. Fawcett said. Additionally, his training helps him look at a home and see its true potential.

Mr. Fawcett is a graduate of Hofstra University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and master of business administration degree. He earned a master of architecture degree at the NJ Institute of Technology.

Mr. Fawcett and his wife, Gina, have a daughter, Kendall, and reside in Scotch Plains, where he is chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission and a member of the Architectural Review Committee.

Ms. Putzer won an office marketing award for her work during the month of October.

Ms. Putzer has been licensed for 11 years, and is a member of the Westfield Board of Realtors and the Garden State Multiple Listing Service (MLS). Her accomplishments include membership in Weichert's Million Dollar Sales Club.

Ms. Putzer, who is married and has four children, recently moved to Plainfield from Westfield. A former resident of Fanwood, she serves home buyers and sellers in Union, Somerset, and Middlesex counties.

Mr. Wiley earned an office award for top listing dollar volume in November.

Mr. Wiley is a member of Weichert's 1996 Million Dollar Sales Club.

The lifelong resident of the Westfield area is a graduate of "Stars," an advanced sales program taught by nationally renowned sales trainer Floyd Wickman, and holds a bachelor's degree from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., where he majored in anthropology and pre-medicine. He is an active volunteer at Children's Specialized Hospital.

Mr. Wiley may be reached for real estate transactions at Weichert's Westfield Office, 654-

7777, located at 185 Elm Street. Weichert, Realtors has 7,500 sales associates in 200 offices in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Weichert handles both residential and commercial real estate and offers one-stop shopping services, including mortgages, insurance, rentals, relocation, new homes and land, estate marketing, title services, property management and moving services. Visit Weichert's website at <http://www.weichert.com> for more information.

Mervyn Turner, coordinator of the program, says that registration forms will be distributed through the elementary schools in Westfield the week of Jan. 5.

Each class meets once a week

Schools asking for help from class mothers with 'Hands On Science'

WESTFIELD -- "Hands On Science," an after-school enrichment program, now in its seventh year, is scheduled to run in Westfield from Feb. 9 to April 9. As in previous years, the program is sponsored by the Optimists Club of Westfield, in cooperation with the Westfield Public School System and the Parent-Teacher Council.

The goals of the program are to encourage young children's interest in science with fun, hands-on "real" science activities in chemistry, mathematics, physics, biology, and the environmental sciences. The activities are aimed at the elementary school level.

Mervyn Turner, coordinator of the program, says that registration forms will be distributed through the elementary schools in Westfield the week of Jan. 5.

for eight weeks, with 10-16 children per class. Classes are taught by qualified teachers from Westfield and surrounding school systems.

This year, all classes will meet at Roosevelt Intermediate School. The program has grown steadily in popularity and last year attracted 300 children.

"Hands On Science" again will

be looking for class mothers to help in the classroom, organize a roster of volunteer classroom helpers, set up telephone chains and/or other activities. Class mothers will receive a 50 percent discount on the registration fee. Parents are advised to be aware of registration the week of Jan. 5, as classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Community Life



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTIN SCHMIEDE

Scotch Plains park glows with holiday cheer

Holiday decorations beneath this tree at the Scotch Plains municipal park are illuminated by 14,000 lights, placed by Fanwood resident Martin Schmiede. Mr. Schmiede donated more than 40 hours of labor installing the lights.

Postal program lets buyers 'shop-at-home'

WESTFIELD -- The Westfield Post Office is offering people caught up in the holiday rush, the convenience of purchasing stamps without ever leaving their home or office, according to Postmaster Kenneth Brown.

"With Stamps by Mail, they can have stamps delivered within three days by filling out a form they get by calling the Post Office at 233-1167," Mr. Brown said. "We provide this service at no extra charge over the face value of the stamps."

For customers who still need to come to the post office to take care of other business, credit cards and many ATM bank cards are now accepted.

Students earn honors at Wardlaw-Harding

Fourteen area students were named to the honor roll for the first marking period at the Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison. The students and their towns:

Grade 12 -- Stefanie Ring, of Westfield.

Grade 11 -- Michael Carabuena, Ben Friedland and Michelle Schackman, all of Scotch Plains.

Grade 10 -- Eric Rosenberg,

Community Briefs

of Scotch Plains.

Grade 9 -- Alex Galitzer, of Fanwood; Caroline Nguyen, Michael Nguyen and Samantha Schackman, all of Scotch Plains.

Grade 8 -- Stefanie Forman and Isaac Kramer, both of Westfield.

Grade 6 -- David Altszuler, Aashish Bansal and Gopika Barai, all of Westfield.

Nicholas Apruzzi completes law degree

WESTFIELD -- Nicholas R. Apruzzi, II, son of Pege and Rudy Apruzzi of Westfield, earned a J.D. from Rutgers School of Law, Newark, in May.

While a student, he was a summer intern for the Union County Prosecutor's office and the N.J. Attorney General's Office, as well as being editor-in-chief of "The Rutgers Federalist," and a former employee of "The Suburban News."

Mr. Apruzzi would like to thank the Reed Law Scholarship Fund and the Westfield Rotary Club as well as the Junior Essex

Troop for their assistance in his education. He has since passed the bar exams for New Jersey and New York and is the legal editor of "Privacy and American Business."

Temple school house prospective students

WESTFIELD -- Parents seeking a nursery school offering a variety of programs may want to consider the Temple Emanu-El Nursery School.

The school will be hosting an open house January 8 and 12, allowing visitors to learn more about the school's "host of unique programs" that makes the school popular with parents and students.

The school has provided its services for 12 years, and welcomes children between 18 months of age and 4 years.

The open house offers classroom tours, and coffee with teachers and administrators. To observe the classrooms, visit the school on Thursday, January 8 between 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., or Monday, January 12, between 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

If you are unable to attend either open house, but are interested in learning more about the school's programs, call Debbie Salkin, Nursery School Director at 232-7663.

Hadassah celebrates anniversary in Dec.

WESTFIELD -- The Westfield Chapter of Hadassah celebrated its 40th anniversary at a meeting Dec. 22, at Temple Emanu-El, Westfield.

Charter members and former presidents reminisced about the early days of the organization and its various accomplishments. The meeting included delicious delicacies prepared by the chapter's "maven cooks" as part of the festivities.

The charter for the chapter was signed on Dec. 2, 1957, by 59 women. Membership now numbers more than 700 women. National Hadassah is the largest women's volunteer organization in the United States, the largest Jewish organization in the country and the largest Zionist organization in the world.

Their work helps support efforts in Israel, including two major research hospitals, a college of technology, job training and resettlement for the thousands who emigrate to that country each year. Additionally, Hadassah sponsors camps in the United States and the Young Judaea American Jewish Youth movement. It also advocates a strong American agenda, including pro-active positions on women's health and reproductive rights.

Student's play Scotland bound

By TINA GUARINO
RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD -- A former Westfield High School student will soon be directing an off Broadway show - way off Broadway.

In fact, his show will be several thousand miles off Broadway. Twenty-one-year-old Westfield High School graduate David Villalobos, now attending Rutgers College, was invited to bring his production of "Hair" to the largest theater festival in the world - the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Mr. Villalobos is a co-founder of NENA Productions, a theater company which evolved out of the Cabaret Theater at Rutgers University.

The company's recent production of "Hair" played to sold-out audiences, breaking all attendance records at the Cabaret Theatre at Rutgers University.

Mr. Villalobos' inspiration to produce the show at Rutgers came from none other than his hometown. When he visited his high school during a break from college in 1995, he was immediately impressed with the high school's production.

"When I saw the production at Westfield High School, I knew that I had to be a part of this show somehow," he said.

His love for theater started early -- in the eighth-grade at Edison Junior High School he sang and danced in a musical review under the direction of music teacher Bill Matthews. He went on to get involved with the drama and music departments at the high school, gaining inspiration from teacher Joe Nierle.

"He is not only a great drama teacher but also a great director," Mr. Villalobos said. "The productions he puts on are of a high caliber."

Mr. Villalobos performed in several productions during his high school career. In addition to many ensemble parts, he played lead roles in "Pippin," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "Rimers of Eldritch" and "Shadow Box."

He also won the New Jersey Governor's Award for his performance in the play "Remember My Name."

"My high school theatrical experience motivated and inspired me to continue in college," he added.

He said "Hair" has offered him the most theatrical experience of all because he is producing and directing it.

"It is definitely a challenge but overall the challenge and the work are worth it because you have the opportunity to create something and show it to people who are going to see it and be affected by it," he said.

That's why he decided on "Hair" -- he says it is a powerful and relevant play.

"People my age, right now, are in the midst of trying to figure out what it means to grow up in the 90s -- post 1960s America -- and hair is a window into understanding that," he said.

"In presenting our production at Rutgers, we intended not only to relate the political and social relevance of the play to our community, but also to learn from the social implications of the play as well as the theatrical experience."

"The social, cultural and political ferment of the '60s, to me, makes it such an incredible time period to look at because it was that experimentation that allowed for so many of the things we take for granted today," he said. "Such as musical pop culture, multi-cultural consciousness and the overall relationship



DAVID VILLALOBOS

between an individual and society."

NENA Productions is a non-profit organization composed entirely of university students and is student-managed. The group is committed to providing a forum for students to learn about acting, directing, production and design through hands-on experience.

"Ultimately, our mission is to develop original works that embody the implications of our generation, which as we know hinges on the dawn of a new millennium," he said.

"Not just the age of Aquarius," he added with a smile.

NENA Productions receives no financial assistance from Rutgers and is entirely dependent on outside sources for financial assistance.

NENA Productions, in conjunction with Bravo Entertainment, is currently applying for venues in Edinburgh.

Mr. Villalobos and his group will tour in August, 1998, for the entire month, performing "Hair" for the international crowd six days a week. They are still in the application process and are currently looking at different theaters in the festival to host their production.

"To know that the messages of "Hair" are still relevant today is fascinating," Mr. Villalobos said. "I want to bring that same energy across the world."

He is not the only former Westfield student working to do that -- Donna Lewin (WHS Class of 1994) and Kevin Hildebrandt (WHS Class of 1996) are performers in the show.

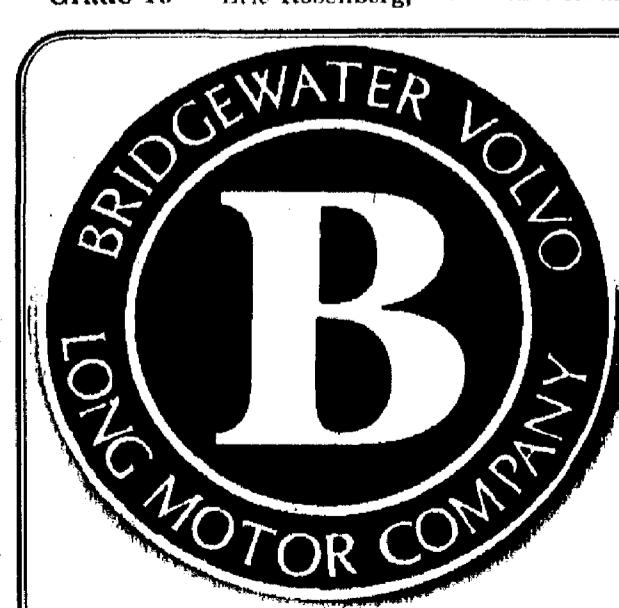
"Unfortunately, opportunities like this one do not come without a price," he said.

The group needs to raise \$53,475 to participate in the festival.

"We are reaching out to the local community where our ambitions were first born to help us make them grow and become real," he added.

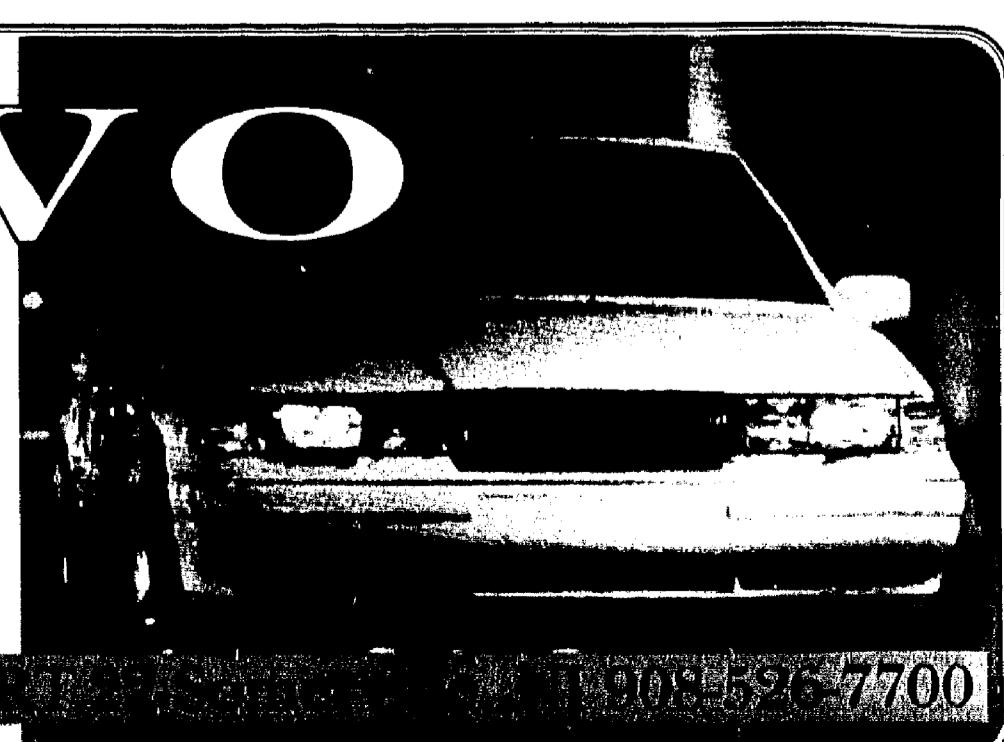
Tax-deductible donations can be sent to David Villalobos at NENA Productions c/o The Cabaret Theatre, DPO 2705, PO Box 2005, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

For more information, call Mr. Villalobos at (732) 373-7347.



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Grace S. Hanko, 75

Factory worker during WWII

SCOTCH PLAINS — Grace S. Hanko, 75, died Dec. 15, 1997 at her home in Bridgewater. She was one of the first women to work at the National Pneumatic Corp. factory in Rahway during World War II.

Mrs. Hanko was born in Rahway and lived in Scotch Plains before moving to Bridgewater five months ago. After the war she worked for International Business Machines Corp. at its Manhattan offices until her

1960 marriage.

Surviving are two daughters, Suzanne Liccardo, with whom Mrs. Hanko lived, and Mary Beth Cimino of Fanwood; and two sons, Christopher J. of Bridgewater and Jay of Indianapolis, Ind.

A memorial service was held Sunday at the Woodside Chapel, Fanwood, of which Mrs. Hanko was a member.

Arrangements were by the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood.

Michael J. Regan, 81

former Township Councilman

SCOTCH PLAINS — Michael J. Regan, 81, a former member of the Township Council and past president of the Union County Parks Commission, died Monday at his home.

He also had been the former treasurer of the Newark Parking Authority and the Union County campaign manager for the election of Gov. Richard J. Hughes. Mr. Regan was co-chairman of the original fundraising campaign for Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church.

He was a member of the New Jersey State Police during the 1940s before going into the insurance field with the American Insurance Co. of Newark. He most recently was a broker in insurance and surety bonds with G.R. Murray Insurance, a Princeton firm. Mr. Regan had been associated with since 1964.

A graduate of St. Peter's Preparatory School in Jersey City, Mr. Regan received a bachelor's degree from Fordham University in 1938 and a law degree from Fordham University in 1949. He was a member of the National Association of Surety Bond Producers; the Father Nelligan Council, Knights of Columbus, in Scotch Plains; the Stevens Institute of Technology.

A registered engineer in New Jersey and New York, Mr. Wells was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Telephone Pioneers of America. He was with Bell Laboratories for nearly 40 years and retired from its Whippoorwill facilities in 1987.

During World War II, he attained the rank of captain in the Army Air Corps while serving with the "Flying Tigers" of Gen. Claire Chennault in China.

Mr. Wells was born in Jersey City and lived in Rutherford before moving to Westfield in 1951.

Surviving are his wife of 51 years, June R.; a son, Richard A.; two daughters, Carolyn W. Partridge and Barbara W. Hotaling; and five grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in the spring. Memorial contributions may be made to the Summit Animal League, P.O. Box 1446, Summit, N.J. 07902, or the Salvation Army, 615 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, N.J. 07060.

Marie E. O'Brien, 84

Mother of township police chief

SCOTCH PLAINS — Marie E. Wettlaufer O'Brien, 84, died Dec. 19, 1997 at the Ashbrook Nursing and Convalescent Center. She had been a telephone switchboard operator and the mother of township police Chief Thomas F. O'Brien.

Mrs. O'Brien was born in Phillipsburg. She lived in Easton, Pa., and Jersey City before moving to Scotch Plains in 1946.

She was switchboard operator with the Diamond Expansion Bolt Co. of Garwood from 1968 until her retirement in 1978. Mrs. O'Brien was a parishioner of St. Bartholomew the Apostle

Plainfield Country Club, in Edison; and the Holy Name Society at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

Mr. Regan was born in Bayonne and lived in Elizabeth before moving to Scotch Plains in 1964. He served in the Marine Corps in Panama during World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Claire Sweeney Regan; three daughters, Union County Family Court Judge Katherine Dupuis of Westfield, Ellen R. Basil and Jane T., both of New York City; three sons, James B. of Oak Hill, Va., Michael J. of Concord, Mass., and Daniel P. of Scotch Plains; three sisters, Anne Grunewald of Whiting, Margaret Ketterson of Lakehurst and Eileen Fitzmaurice of Wolcott, N.Y.; and 11 grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday at the Memorial Funeral Home, Fanwood, followed by a funeral Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Peter's Prep, 144 Grand St., Jersey City, N.J. 07302, or Family and Children's Services, 40 North Ave., Elizabeth, N.J. 07208.

Obituaries

Eugene La Fleur Sr., 75

Chemical operator with Cyanamid

SCOTCH PLAINS — Eugene F. La Fleur Sr., 75, died Dec. 9, 1997 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. He retired in 1985 after 42 years as a chemical operator at the Bridgewater plant of American Cyanamid Corp.

A native of Plainfield, Mr. La Fleur lived in Scotch Plains and North Plainfield before moving to South Bound Brook in 1947. He was a member of the 25-Year Club at Cyanamid.

Surviving are his wife, Anna Stocker La Fleur; two sons, Eugene F. Jr. of South Bound Brook and Timothy A. of Bound Brook; a daughter, Susan L. Paul

PUBLIC NOTICE
WESTFIELD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
MEETING DATES

In compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-80 (Open Public Meetings Act), the Westfield Planning Board wishes to advise the public of its meeting dates. Meetings, at which formal action will be taken, are on the second Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise stipulated, and are held in the Municipal Building, 525 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey in the Council Chambers. The Board will also meet at 7:00 p.m. on those dates in the Mayor's Conference Room for a work session which the public may attend but may not participate in. Meeting dates are as follows:

January 6, 1998	July 13, 1998
February 9, 1998	August 10, 1998
March 9, 1998	September 14, 1998
April 13, 1998	October 19, 1998
May 11, 1998	November 9, 1998
June 8, 1998	December 7, 1998

Applications and plans to be considered at these meetings will be on file in the office of the Secretary of the Board of Adjustment, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey and may be seen Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Kenneth D. Marsh, Secretary
Westfield Board of Adjustment
S2176

WPP 11-12/26/97

PUBLIC NOTICE
WESTFIELD PLANNING BOARD
MEETING DATES

In compliance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-80 (Open Public Meetings Act), the Westfield Planning Board wishes to advise the public of its meeting dates. Meetings, at which formal action will be taken, are on the last Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m. unless otherwise stipulated, and are held in the Municipal Building, 525 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey in the Council Chambers. The Board will also meet at 7:00 p.m. on those dates in the Mayor's Conference Room for a work session which the public may attend but may not participate in. Meeting dates are as follows:

January 5, 1998	July 6, 1998
February 2, 1998	August 3, 1998
March 2, 1998	September 14, 1998
April 6, 1998	October 19, 1998
May 4, 1998	November 2, 1998
June 1, 1998	December 7, 1998

Applications and plans to be considered at these meetings will be on file in the office of the Secretary of the Planning Board, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey and may be seen Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Kenneth D. Marsh, Secretary
Westfield Planning Board
S2176

WPP 11-12/26/97

It Fast

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In The Classifieds

Herbert Wells, 76

Engineer on military projects

WESTFIELD — Herbert A. Wells, 76, an engineer with AT&T Bell Laboratories (now Lucent Technologies) who was awarded two patents for his work on military and nuclear-defense projects, died Dec. 17 at his home.

He had been involved with the Nike air defense system, Distant Early Warning Line system, ballistic missile early warning system and tropo-scatter antennas used in the Arctic. Mr. Wells also worked on ground stations in Maine and France for Telstar, the first communications satellite.

As a member of the American Defense Preparedness Association he was Bell Laboratories' principal engineer for "Operation Snowball," a joint project of American, British and Canadian forces that detonated 500 tons of chemical explosives to determine the effects of a blast without incurrent nuclear radiation. He worked on development of buildings and antennas to resist the blast from nuclear explosions, plus designs for ships and machinery to install submarine detection systems.

Mr. Wells was vice chairman of the navigation committee for the National Security Industrial Society. He was honored him with the Navy Award for outstanding service to the society and its related ad hoc study group.

Mr. Wells was vice chairman of the navigation committee for the National Security Industrial Society. He was honored him with the Navy Award for outstanding service to the society and its related ad hoc study group.

Afons Tavares Jr., 70

Formerly a management consultant

WESTFIELD — Afons M. Tavares Jr., 70, died Dec. 19, 1997 at his home. He had been a management consultant with two Manhattan-based firms and from 1961-64 was the Clark Township business administrator.

He was born in Lowell, Mass., and had lived for many years in Westfield.

Mr. Tavares was a management consultant with the Fantes Co. and later with Naremco Inc. prior to his 1986 retirement. Earlier in his career he worked for the former Burroughs Corp. in Burlington, Vt., and owned a gas dealership. He also was the city manager of Auburn, Maine, late in the 1950s.

He attended Harvard University and graduated in 1951 from the University of Vermont. Mr. Tavares was a member of Mensa and a parishioner of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church.

His wife, Anne Barr Tavares, died in 1977.

Surviving are three sons, Afons M. III of Randolph, Thomas M. of South Burlington, Vt., and Jeffrey L. of Eliot, Maine; four brothers, John and James, both of Lowell, Joseph of Dracut, Mass., and Richard of Tewksbury, Mass.; a sister, Marilyn of Oakland, Calif.; five grandchildren; a stepgrandchild; and many nieces, nephews and

Raymond Filiciello, 83
Salesman; long a Westfield resident

WESTFIELD — Raymond Filiciello, 83, died Dec. 19, 1997 at his home in Egg Harbor Township. He retired in 1977 after 25 years as a salesman with Del Stone of Cranford.

Mr. Filiciello was born in Westfield and lived in the town before moving to Egg Harbor Township in 1996. He served in the Army during World War II.

Surviving are a sister, Eva Kneipher; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Graveside services were held Monday at Fairview Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Funeral Home in Cranford. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Hillside Cemetery was established in 1886

under state laws ensuring safety, permanence and the careful guarding of owner's rights.
Hillside Cemetery, located on Woodland Avenue in Scotch Plains, is a non-profit organization.
For further information, telephone (908) 756-1729

Hillside
Cemetery

Union County Places of Worship

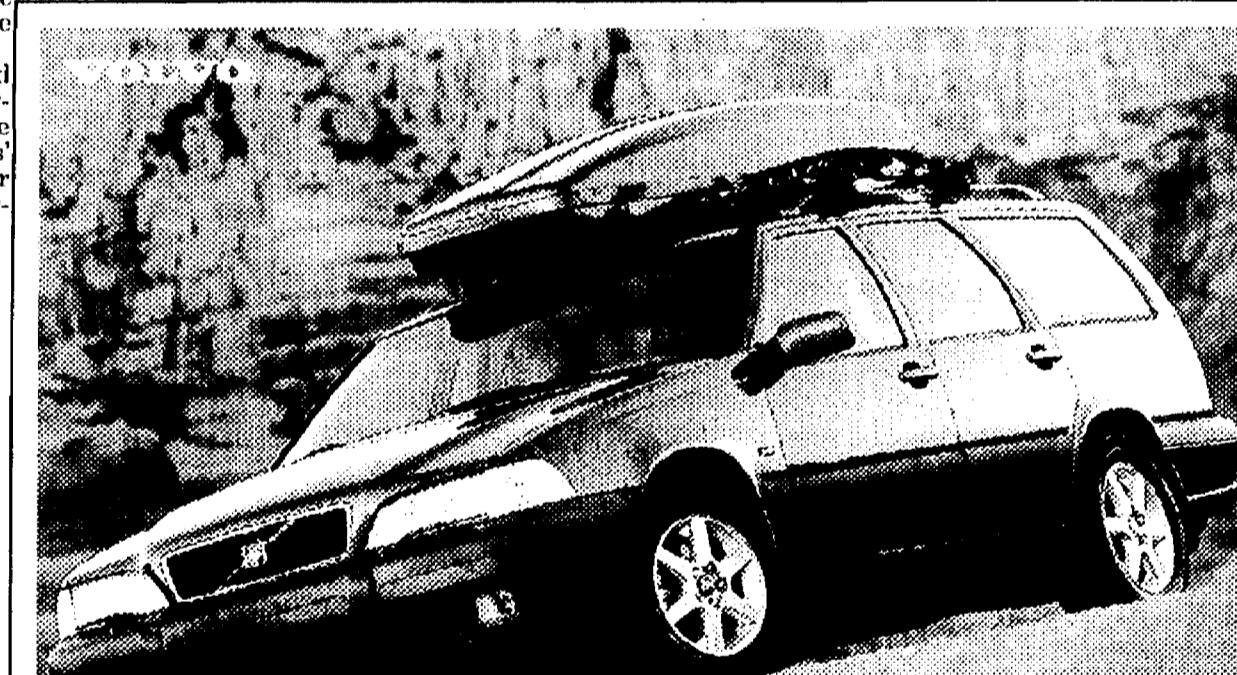
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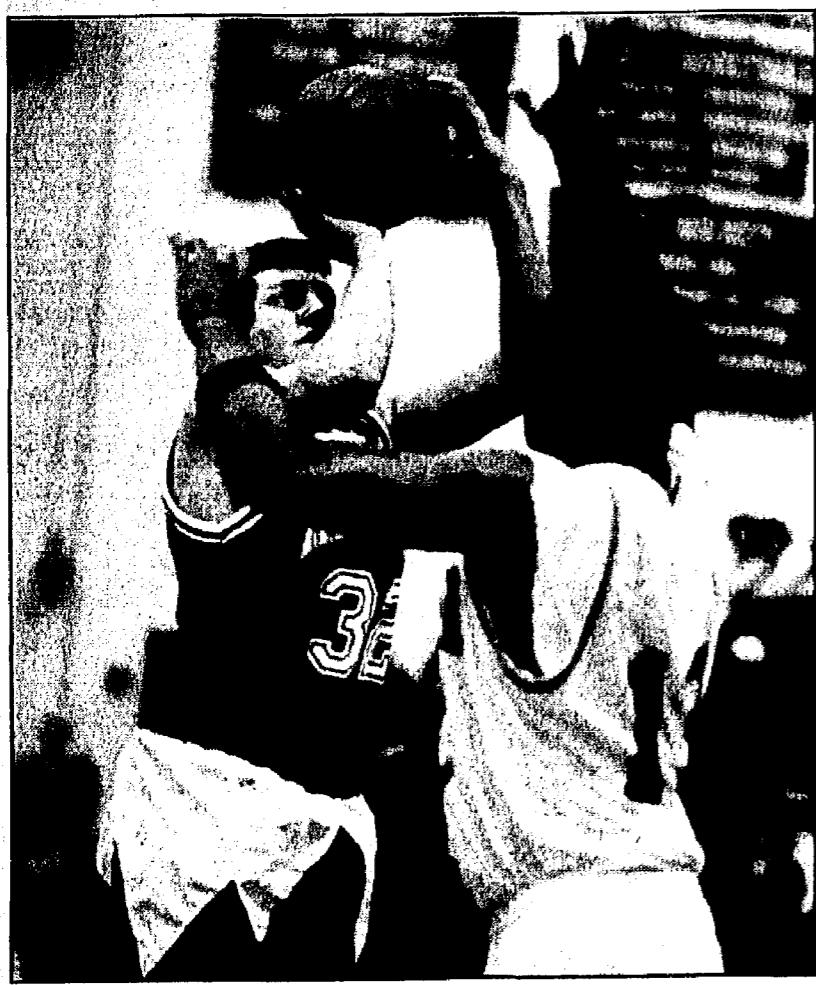
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Sports



ROBYN C. STEIN/RECORD-PRESS
Scotch Plains-Fanwood's Dave Hermann shoots over Adrian Moore of Cranford during the Raiders' 69-66 win over the Cougars Friday.

Raiders win dogfight with Cougars

By MIKE CHRISTEL

RECORD-PRESS

The high level of energy both on the floor and in the stands during an opening night high school basketball game is probably only rivaled by the atmosphere of a late season playoff clash.

That's because the two teams playing are beginning a fresh, clean slate and really have nothing to lose. No losing slumps to break out of, no winning streaks to preserve.

Watchung Conference-National Division rivals Cranford and Scotch Plains-Fanwood demonstrated that kind of reckless abandon when they hooked up in their season opener Friday night at CHS.

The home Cougars grabbed a 30-25 halftime lead, but the Raiders exploded on a 14-2 run to start the second half, a rally that would ultimately propel SP-F to a 69-66 victory in a fast and frenzied affair in Cranford.

"It was a great game to start the year," said SP-F Head Coach Willie Leonardi. "Both teams played well and we are happy we were able to pull it out. We had a strong third quarter, both offensively and defensively, and hit

some big shots when we needed to. The key thing was we didn't let their press rattle us."

Despite 17 points by senior forward Kevin Feeley, including 11 in the first half, and a 16-point, 12-rebound effort from 6-foot-2 center Adrian Moore, the Cougars didn't have an answer for the hot second-half shooting of Raiders' senior Dave Gowirtz, who knocked down three three-pointers after intermission and finished with 18 points, and the steady play of seniors Donald Patterson (20 points), Jeff Feighner (13 points) and junior Ben Martinez (12 points).

"I thought it was an exciting game, the atmosphere was great, unfortunately we didn't win the game," said CHS Head Coach Tom Johnstone. "Scotch Plains played great. They handled our pressure well. They have a senior team and it showed."

Especially in the pivotal third period, when the Raiders outscored Cranford 25-15. In a span of less than four minutes, a Cougar five-point lead suddenly

turned into a 39-32 Raider advantage with 4:54 left in the third quarter. Patterson opened the second half

with a jumper inside the foul line and Feighner followed with a layup to bring the Raiders to within 30-29. Cranford forward Kevin Glenn (11 points) then sank a turnaround jumper to stop the charge for the moment, before the Raiders rattled off the next 10 points behind a three-point play by Patterson, layups by Patterson and Feighner and a three-point bomb by Gowirtz, launched from the left baseline. SP-F turned up its defensive pressure a notch during the run and Cranford would never fully recover.

After the Raiders opened up their biggest lead of the game at 59-48 midway through the fourth quarter on another three-pointer by Gowirtz, the Cougars went on a 12-4 run to pull within 63-60 with 1:32 left in regulation.

Clutch foul shooting by senior point guard Bobby Haber (13 points) and Moore, who was a presence inside all night, helped

key the rally.

But Cranford would pull no further as the Raiders received some clutch foul shooting of its own. Senior Doug Bishop and Gowirtz both sank a pair of free throws down the stretch to ice the game for the Raiders with less than 34 seconds remaining.

Feeley nailed a long three-pointer with three ticks left on the clock, but it was too little, too late for the Cougars.

SP-F, which played at J.P. Stevens Monday, will host the Cindy Pool Holiday Basketball Tournament tomorrow and Monday at SP-F High School. The Raiders will take on Columbia in a first-round game tomorrow at 8 p.m., following the other opening-round clash between Union and Columbia, set for 6:30 p.m. The consolation and finals will take place on Monday.

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD (69)
Dave Gowirtz 4-6-18, Donald Patterson 8-3-20, Doug Bishop 0-4-4, Jeff Feighner 6-0-13, Ben Martinez 4-4-12, Steve Simms 1-0-2, Totals 23-17-69.

CRANFORD (66)
Kevin Feeley 7-0-17, Bobby Haber 4-3-13, Chris Thompson 0-0-9, Kevin Glenn 5-1-11, Adrian Moore 3-10-18, Marc Petillo 1-0-2, Andrew Minutelli 2-2-7, Pat Maher 0-0-2, Robert Sands 0-0-6, Totals 23-16-66.

Three-point field goals SP-F: Gowirtz 4, Patterson 1, Feighner 1; CHS: Feeley 3, Haber 2, Minutelli 1.

Westfield girls tie for first at East Brunswick Relays

By MIKE CHRISTEL

RECORD-PRESS

The Westfield High girls track team kicked off the winter season with a bang Saturday, tying Old Bridge for the girls championship in the 27th running of the East Brunswick Relays.

The Lady Blue Devils and Knights ended the meet with 42 points apiece, while host East Brunswick followed in third with 39 points.

"It was a good way to start of the season," said WHS girls Head Coach Tom Hornish, whose team won four events and took fifth in another. "Finishing fifth in the 4x200-meter relay helped us tie

the score with Old Bridge."

Sophomores Susan Hinds, Aubrey McGovern and Paige Corbett and senior Becky Hamilton teamed up to place sixth in the 4x200 in 1:59.3.

Westfield beat out Old Bridge in the 4x400 relay, as Heather Dennis, Mary Korfsmacher and seniors Sage Stefiuk and Katie Egan combined to win the race in 4:20.6. The Knights took second in 4:24.7.

The Blue Devils also won the 4x800 in 10:25.2 behind the joint efforts of Stefiuk, Egan, sophomore Maura McMahon and senior Laura Brucia.

The Westfield girls weren't done there, as they swept the dis-

tance and sprint medley races.

In the distance medley, freshman Alexis Anzelone, (1600 leg), junior Sara Carpenter (1200), Stefiuk (800) and Brucia (400) teamed up 14:01.5. Egan, running the 800 leg, Hinds (200), Korfsmacher (400) and McGovern (200) combined to win the sprint medley. Despite the loss of graduate Suzy Kozub and others, the Lady Blue Devils are pretty loaded this winter with 78 girls on their roster.

"I think we're in a stronger position this year," said Hornish, who will bring his 4x800 squad to the Seton Hall Fast Times Invitational this Sunday at Seton Hall University. The WHS boys

4x800 team will also be competing.

"With 78 kids, we have tremendous depth," added Hornish. "We have very talented, very strong runners and we're excited about the season. We have a lot of runners coming over from cross country and the crossover from the soccer team and a couple from field hockey have added to our depth."

Other girls expected to make key contributions for Westfield this season are sprinters Elyssa Cognetti and Andrea Constanti, senior hurdler and high jumper Karen Spector and shot putters, sophomore Susan Phillips and junior Alison Checchio.

"Sprinting and high jump might be a couple of our weaker areas," said Hornish. "But we can make it up in the distance events. Overall, I'm happy with our makeup."

The Union County Relays are just around the corner. The girls meet is set for Monday, Jan. 5 at the Dunn Arena in Elizabeth and the boys meet is slated for Jan. 7.

The Westfield High boys winter track squad, which has 50 students on its roster, took third at the East Brunswick Relays Saturday with 33 points. St. Joseph's of Metuchen won the boys competition, defeating runner-up Pinelands 62-38.

The Blue Devils won the

4x800 (senior Steve Dennis, sophomore Frank Ianni, junior John Cognetti and junior Gordon Kaslusky in 8:22.8), distance medley (senior Mark Matthews, senior Dave Geissler, Bill Zachar and Kaslusky in 11:16.1) and placed second in the 4x400 (Ianni, Dennis, Cognetti and Kaslusky in 3:36.4).

Westfield also took fourth in the high jump behind senior Steve Ables (5-8) and junior Don Seely (5-2), who combined for a jump of 10-10. The Blue Devils added a sixth-place showing in the 4x200 as well. Sophomore Seth Augenstein, Dennis, senior John Atkins and Geissler combined in 1:38.5.

Westfield rolls in bowling tourney

The Westfield High School bowling team opened its season on an encouraging note Saturday, setting team records in the Warren Wheeler Memorial Tournament at Madison Lanes.

Westfield defeated Brick Township 5815-5807 and bowled a team-record 1099 in the last game of the six-game tournament to overcome a 183-pin deficit. Westfield's total score of 5815 also set a new record for a high-team series.

Senior co-captain Scott Bridgeman and junior stalwart Evan Baum both bowled games of 244 to lead the charge. Junior Tim Caprario and sophomore Daniel Rock also chipped in for the record-setting performance with scores of 226 and 204, respectively.

Junior Brett Rosenblatt bowled a 181 to round out the record-breaking high game for Westfield. Rosenblatt's 181 was his low game in the six-game set, which for him, included impressive scores of 235 and 203.

Westfield's scores of 1099 in the final game was the highest game bowled by any team in the tournament. Rounding out the Westfield effort were solid showings from senior co-captain Tracy Masino and junior Jeff Diamond. "The victory showed that the

will to exceed can have a great effect on the outcome," said WHS Head Coach Mike Tironi. "Although I was happy with the records and our outstanding performances, we will need to practice our adjustments to changing lane conditions and our spare bowling if we want to repeat our conference championship and sectional championship from last year."

WHS Results-Warren Wheeler Memorial Tournament:

Game 1
Bridgeman 203, Rosenblatt 187, Baum 184, Masino 162, Diamond 160

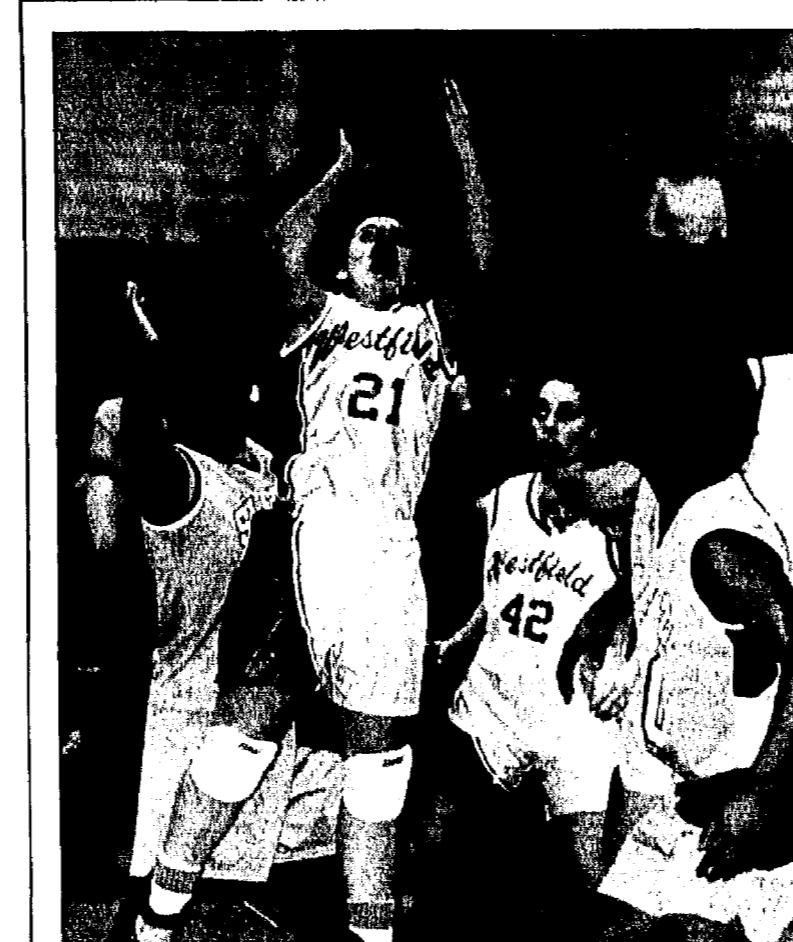
Game 2
Bridgeman 201, Rosenblatt 198, Caprario 190, Masino 176, Diamond 156

Games 3
Caprario 235, Rosenblatt 225, Masino 189, Baum 179, Bridgeman 179

Game 4
Bau 227, Rosenblatt 193, Bridgeman 182, Masino 174, Caprario 150

Game 5
Bridgeman 224, Rosenblatt 203, Caprario 192, Baum 176, Masino 159

Game 6
Bridgeman 244, Baum 244, Caprario 226, Rock 204, Rosenblatt 181.



Taking to the hoop

Westfield forward Liz McKeon's 24-point effort Friday was spoiled by a 66-54 loss to Shabazz. For more details on the Blue Devils' season opener, see the Westfield High School round up on page A-11.

Raider grapplers fall to Kardinals

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood H. S. Roundup

McKeon scores 24 in Blue Devils' loss to Shabazz

The Westfield High girls basketball team got a strong individual debut from junior forward Liz McKeon Friday but it wasn't enough as the Blue Devil fell to Shabazz 66-54 in their season opener at WHS.

The 5-foot-7 McKeon scored 24 points and collected 12 rebounds to pace Westfield, which staked itself to a 30-27 halftime lead. But after intermission Shabazz took control of the game by outscoring the Blue Devils 25-10 in the third quarter.



Megan Devitt added eight points for Westfield, while Suzanne Vinegra chipped in with seven and Vicki Nusse contributed five.

Shabazz's Nef Franklin led all scorers with 32 points, including 14 from the foul line.

The Westfield girls will take on John F. Kennedy (Iselin) Monday at 6 p.m. in the first round of the Blue Devils Class Holiday Tournament at WHS. South Brunswick and Johnson Regional will meet in the other first-round contest.

The tournament finale is set for Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., while the consolation game will take place at 1 p.m.

WRESTLING

Morris Knolls Tournament

Westfield placed sixth overall at the Morris Knolls Tournament Saturday with 84 points.

Host Morris Knolls won the tournament with 197½ points, beating out second place South Plainfield (138½ points).

Individually, senior Mike Baly starred for the Blue Devils, earning a championship at 160. Baly won a 9-4 decision over John Vogel of Wallkill Valley to claim the title. He advanced to the final after pinning Cherry Hill West's Tom Johnson in the semifinals in 1:20.

Junior Onur Tezucar placed second at 152 pounds Saturday.

He pinned Felix Kogan of Cherry Hill West in 4:43 in the semis before getting pinned himself by Jay Skretkowicz of Wallkill Valley in 3:03 in the final.

Senior Dan Todd took third at 125 after decking Montville's Brian Kapral in 2:53 in the consolation finals.

Senior Jeff Kivetz (130) and sophomores Brian Williams (215) and Nick Clark (Heavyweight) all came away with fourth-place finishes for Westfield.

In the consolation semis, Kivetz won a 9-0 major decision over Erik Hozman of Montville, Williams pinned Montville's Doug Schultz in 2:07 and Clark pinned Jermaine Jefferies of Cherry Hill West in 3:59.

Westfield 45, East Side 24

The Blue Devils got their dual-meet season off to a good start Friday with a 45-24 victory over East Side.

Westfield was victorious in eight different weight spots and earned four pins on the evening. Baly needed just 40 seconds to pin his opponent in the 171-pound match. Other Blue Devils to come away with pins were Jim Villini (119) in 1:37, Nick Friedman (140) in 1:22 and Mike Kivetz (160) in 3:27.

Todd won a 10-0 major decision at 130, Jeff Kivetz (135) won by disqualification at 135, Tezucar (152) prevailed by technical fall, 15-0 (3:22) at 152 and Richard Hatfield won by forfeit

at 189.

Westfield will host the annual Blue Devil Invitational tomorrow at WHS.

ICE HOCKEY Cron Tournament

Senior Ronnie Koshlak exploded for 10 points Dec. 17 to spark the Blue Devils to a 13-6 rout of Cranford Dec. 17 in the consolation of the 15th George Cron Tournament at Warinanco Rink in Roselle.

Koshlak balanced his numbers perfectly, recording five goals and five assists. Teammate Brandon Kape also got into the scoring act for Westfield (4-2), tallying four goals and three assists.

SPORTSCENE

UC-WFAN CHARITY B-BALL GAME

Union Catholic High School will be the site of the "Challenge Basketball" game between the WFAN 66ers from WFAN Sports Radio in New York and the Union Catholic Faculty, "Rocky's Rockets."

The game is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 8 in the Union Catholic High School Gym, 1600 Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains. The tip-off is 8 p.m.

"Rocky's Rockets," coached by Rocco Lettieri, Director of Athletics at UC, and Bruce Douglas, a member of the Physical Education/Health Department, will have many experienced players take the court. Mary Cullinane, Karen Peache, Karen Piasecki and Lisa Kawaalec are the women on the mixed-gender team. All of them have played basketball in high school and college or are currently playing in women's leagues in the area.

The men of the UC team are Bob Wischusen and Joe Hoffman, husbands of staff members, Al Wright, a teacher at UC, boy's varsity basketball coach Steve Petruzzelli, freshman coach Brian Chapman and two assistant coaches, Don Doherty and Tom McCloud.

The roster for the WFAN team is undecided, however, John Minko will coach the WFAN 66ers and Chris "Mad Dog" Russo, a sports talk-show host, will definitely be there.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens. Group rates are available for teams and their coaches interested in attending. Advanced notice is requested to be included in the "Welcome Announcements."

Throughout the evening there will be refreshments, special drawings and an exciting half-time contest.

The FAN players will remain after the game to sign autographs and talk with the fans. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Technology Fund. Call 889-9475 for tickets and further information.

SOCCER PLAYERS NEEDED

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Soccer Association Select Program is looking for highly skilled soccer players to form a new U19 girls select team.

This side will compete at a high level in the Mid New Jersey U19 group age group for the upcoming 1998 spring and summer seasons.

Out of town players are welcome. For more information, call Scott at 889-6422.

MASTERS BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Club Basketball USA is sponsoring a basketball league for players over 40 year of age.

The league is looking for two additional for two additional teams. Last year's winning team, Merrill Lynch, was comprised almost entirely of members of Fairleigh Dickinson's teams of the 70's.

The deadline for entry to the league, which begins in February, is Jan. 15, 1998.

For information, contact Bill Clancy at 756-4502.

BASEBALL CAMP

SportsSmarts Baseball camps announces its Preseason Fit to Pitch and Fit to Hit Preparation Camps.

Sessions will start on Jan 18 and run through March 1 at South Plainfield Grand Slam

Instruction will be led by Union Catholic Head Coach Paul Reddick. Each student will receive a free video of themselves, a camp T-shirt, an evaluation form, a Certificate of Achievement, instruction on a 4:1 player/coach ratio and a camp photo.

Guest instructors include the Milwaukee Brewer All Hawkins, Phillip Darren Winston and Elizabeth High School coaches Ray Korn and Dan Mondelli.

For information, call 686-6057.

NJ DEVILS/NIKE STREET DEVILS PROGRAM

Fanwood Recreation will be starting the N.J. Devils/Nike Street Devils Program in the spring of 1998. Children between the ages of 8-16 may participate. Anyone from Fanwood or Scotch Plains inter-

ested in participating, leave a message for Dr. Fred Leahy at 889-2080.

Those interested in coaching or refereeing should call the same number.

SUNBURST TAKES TEAM TITLE

The Sunburst gymnastics team competed last weekend in the Rutgers' Classic gymnastics championships at Rutgers University.

There were a total of seven teams competing for the championship and Sunburst went on to win it with a team score of 106.30.

Combining in the first-place effort were Amy Behr of Westfield, Kayla Hoffman of Union, Daniella Palumbo of Roselle and Katie Zaleski of Fanwood.

The whole Sunburst team will be traveling to Maryland later this month to compete against gymnasts from New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

COACHES CLINICS

The 25th annual "Be The Best You Are Baseball Coaches Clinic" will be held Jan. 22-Jan 24 at the Hilton in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Mark Newman and members of his New York Yankees minor league coaching staff will give demonstrations on hitting, pitching and fielding, starting on Jan. 22.

The live theme will be a major part of the three days of baseball at Cherry Hill.

Skip Bertman, Baseball Head Coach at two-time NCAA champion Louisiana State University, will provide a session on motivation.

The 25th annual "Be The Best You Are Softball Clinic" is also coming up Jan. 15-17 at the Cherry Hill Hilton.

Lisa Fernandez, the pitching star of the 1996 women's softball Olympic gold-medal winning squad, and teammate, Sheila Cornell Doubt, the power-hitting first baseman who had nine runs batted in and batted .393 in the Olympics, will be on hand to instruct, guide and teach coaches how to train their high

Senior Basketball

their credentials as No. 2 in the National Division.

Areana Sports was impressive in gaining their first win, paced by coach Bob Clark's increased energy level. Easier shots resulted for outside shooters Jim Carovillano, Bill Healy and 62-year-old Wayne Schroeder. The effort led to a 21-point win over North Plainfield.

Bob Wallace continues to play well for North Plainfield, as does Brian Daugherty for Team Law, which was thrashed by Scotch Plains 74-36, with Scotch Plains posting five players in double figures: Clancy, Braunstein, Aguirre, Frank Martinelli and Pete Tierney.

Berkeley Heights, still able led by Fred Walz, even stronger this year at the age of 60, beat the taller Scotch Plains squad to numerous loose balls and rebounds.

Patterson has shown a strong balance of outside shooting and one-on-one play, and is off to a 3-0 start, heading up the American Division.

Cranford Cougar coach Lou Koehler summed up his team's 40-34 loss to the Westfield Pearls like this: "We stunk." The Pearls, however, earned the win with hard play from Will Newell, Dan Remler and Jack Wiley and timely shots by John Trotter.

The Pearls 18-point win over North Plainfield reestablished

their credentials as No. 2 in the National Division.

Results (As of Dec. 19)

Westfield Pearls 38, North Plainfield 20; Scotch Plains 52, Berkeley Heights 45; Areana Sports 48, North Plainfield 27; Paterson Wise Guys 56, Berkeley Heights 40; Westfield Wise Guys 56, Berkeley Heights 40; Westfield Pearls 40, Cranford Cougars 34; Scotch Plains 74, Team Law 36

Standings (As of Dec. 19)

American Division
Paterson Wise Guys 3-0, Cranford Cougars 2-1, Areana Sports (Clark) 1-2, Team Law 0-3

National Division

Scotch Plains 3-0, Westfield Pearls 2-1, Berkeley Heights 1-2, North Plainfield 0-3

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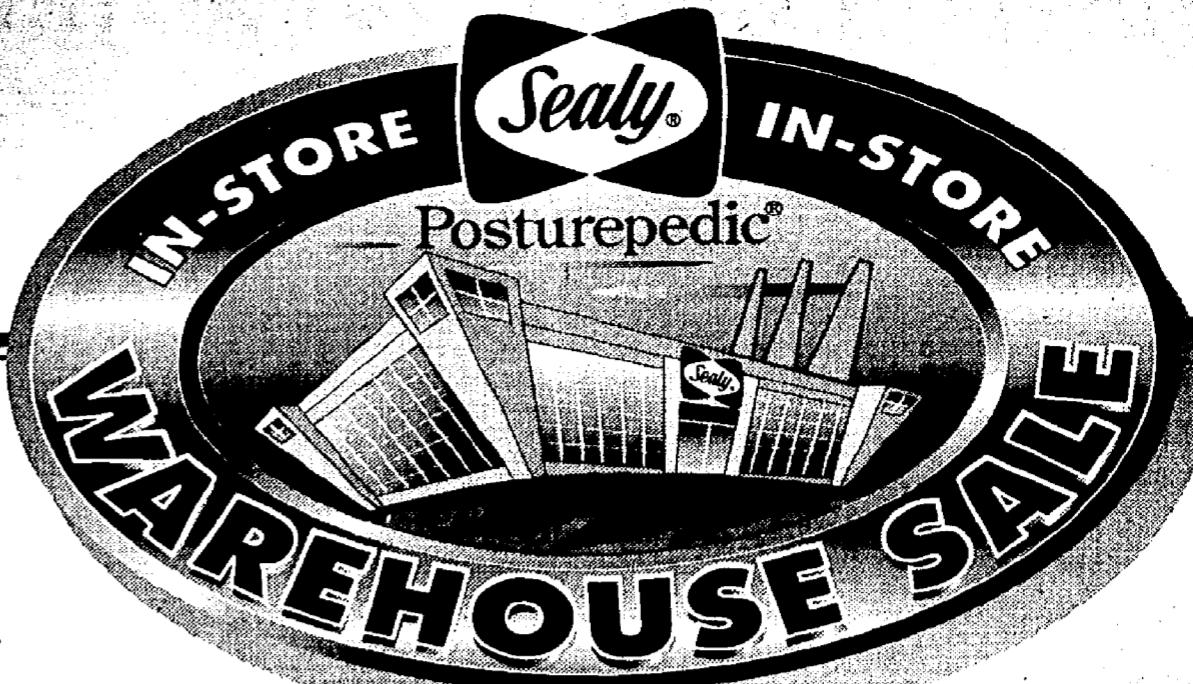
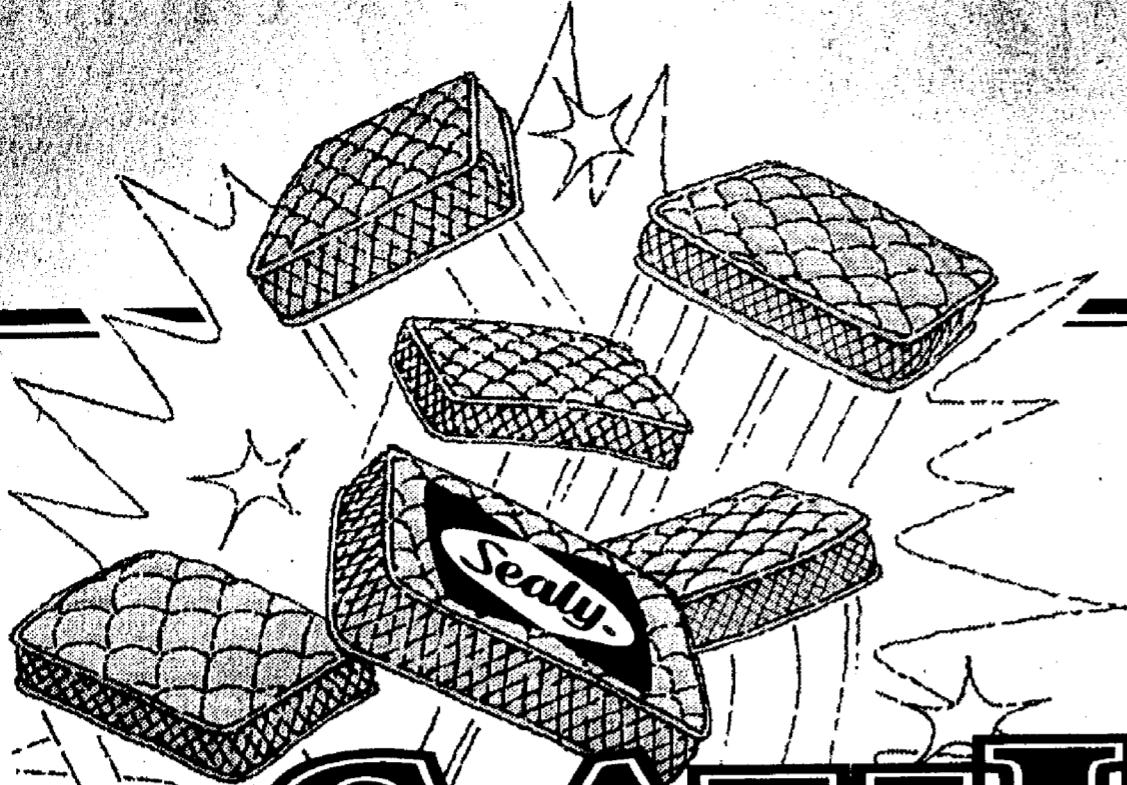
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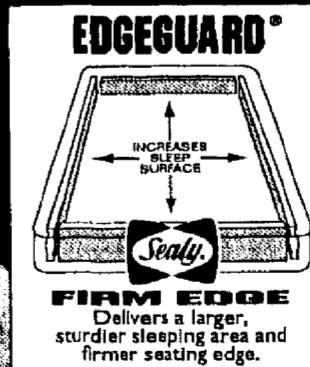
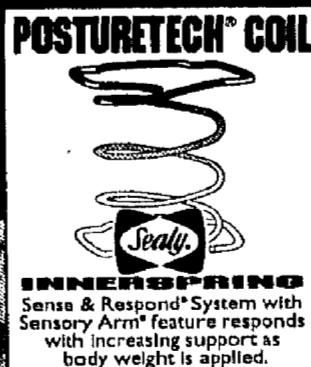
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Ring in the New Year with

Bridgewater-Raritan-Somerville planning another fun First Night

Following last year's successful first annual First Night Bridgewater-Raritan-Somerville, which drew over 5,000 alcohol-free party goers, this year's plans to be even more fun.

Kicking off at noon December 31 with the Second Annual 5K Road Race at the Bridgewater-Raritan H.S. Field House and the Second Annual Golf Tournament teeing off at the Green Knoll Golf Course, events run straight to 1998.

"Kid's Afternoon" runs from 3:30 to 6:30 pm in Raritan. Bridgewater hosts family entertainment from 5:30 to 9:30 pm and Somerville hosts from 7:30 to 11:30 pm. The Vo-Tech will host teen and young adult events from 6 to 11 pm. All events lead up to fireworks

on Main Street, Somerville. Buttons are \$10 each and can be purchased in Bridgewater at the Clerk's Office of the Municipal Building, Steck's Deli, Martinsville Pharmacy, Barry's Appliance, Bridget's Irish Cottage, and Blue Chip Cookies. In Raritan, buttons can be purchased at Village Antique Center, Raritan Rexall Pharmacy, and Play It Again Sports. In Somerville, buttons are available at the Recreational Office in the Municipal Building, PC Lavin Hallmark, West Coast Video, and McLachlan Travel. Children under five are free.

Volunteers are also sought for the First Night Party. For more information on volunteering and events, call 908-707-8308.

Philharmonic Orchestra Concert playing First Night Morris '98

Once again this New Year's Eve, The New Philharmonic of New Jersey will be part of Morris County's New Year Celebration at First Night Morris. Widely considered New Jersey's leading regional symphony orchestra, The New Philharmonic, conducted by Music Director Leon Hyman will perform at St. Peter's Church, located at the intersection of South and Miller Roads, Morristown. The concerts will be at 7 and 8:15 pm. First Night Morris tickets are available for \$12 at King's Supermarkets, First Morris Bank branches and selected ShopRites.

The New Philharmonic of New Jersey will perform a diverse, light classical music program. Leon Hyman said, "I will be conducting several

favorites beginning with Concerto Grosso (Christmas Concerto) by Arcangelo Corelli. This will be followed by beautiful music for strings featuring the orchestra's Concertmaster Basia Danilow as violin soloist playing Violin concerto in E Major by J.S. Bach. The lovely Serenade in E Major, by Antonin Dvorak, will be next. Finishing the program will be a rousing tribute to American music, "Hoedown" from Rodeo by Aaron Copland."

The New Philharmonic of New Jersey has presented fine classical music to New Jersey residents since it was founded in 1977 by Leon Hyman, its music director, and Karen Pinocci, associate conductor and director of our education program. Now celebrating its 20th Anniversary Season, The New Philharmonic presents orchestra concerts at The Community Theatre, Morristown.

The Morris Choral Society, Chancel Choir of Morristown, United Methodist Church, Chancel Choir of the Presbyterian Church and the Harmonium Choral Society will all be participating. Soloists will be Priscilla Baskerville, soprano and Jane Bunnell, alto. Reserve your tickets now by calling The New Philharmonic at (973) 267-0206.

FIRST NIGHT 1998

First Night Metuchen events

Schedule of Events	5:30 pm	6:25 pm	7:20 pm	8:00 pm	9:00 pm	10:00 pm	11:00 pm
1 Saint Luke's Church					Mike Gorman, Comedian	Shawn, Mentalist	'Shawn', Mentalist
2 Metuchen Public Library					Murder Mystery Theatre	Murder Mystery Duo', Singers	'Dynamic Duo', Singers
3 Area Improvement League					Shirley Monette, Opera Singer	'Vita', Singers	'Vita', Singers
4 Saint Francis C.Y.O.					Shirley Monette, Opera Singer	AString Trio	AString Trio
5 Saint Francis Community Room							
6 Campbell School							
7 Metuchen High School (Auditorium)							
7a Metuchen High School (Caterers)							
8 First Baptist Church (Fellowship Hall)							
8a First Baptist Church (Sanctuary)							
9 First Presbyterian Social Center							
10 Metuchen Senior Citizens Center							
11 Edger School (Cyr)							
12 Reformed Church (Dogs)							

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Dave Carr, Ventriloquist • John Carlson, Magician

New Horizons • David French, Movie Chorus • 'Old' Band, Country-Fried

Original Play, 'Mona's Arts' • Gary Roman, Singer

John Carlson, Magician

Westfield George Toenes' group plays music for all tastes with selections from Benny Goodman, Pete Fountain, Cole Porter, Les Brown, Schubert, Messager and Rabaud. Skyline the popular bluegrass band includes Westfield resident Danny Weiss. The Paul Somers Quartet features Westfield Musicians Janet and Paul Somers presenting music for the season.

Special entertainment for children 4 to 12 will be at the Westfield Armory from 3 to 5pm. Later, teenagers will have their own activities from 7:30 to 11:30pm, including Rocky Mountain Wall Climbing and an open mike.

There will be a lot more in store for those who attend this New Year's Eve celebration with something for everyone. An admission button allows entrance to any and all of the 27 sites with over fifty venues. Buttons and a descriptive schedule are available for \$8 before December 24 and \$10 after December 24 (those under 3 years are free) at the Town Book Store on Broad St., the Recreation Office in the Municipal Building, Rorden Realty and the Westfield Leader on Elm St., King's Supermarket in Garwood and on Clark St. at the Westfield "Y" which has provided leadership and support for First Night since its inception two years ago.

From Plainfield comes the women's acapella group, Olympia's Daughters, formerly known as Womansong. This vocal ensemble bridges cultural gaps and brings people together with the healing power of music. The concert combines traditional Christian and Jewish holiday songs with music inspired by pagan traditions which are the origins of the winter holidays. Plainfielders James Pellegrino on saxophone and flute and Peter Adams on guitar are a critically acclaimed jazz duo who perform everything from blues and bebop to bossa nova and swing.

The Musical Club of Westfield offers light opera selections by six local singers, while

additional information is available on Westfield's website www.westfieldnj.com/firstnight or on television channel 36. Call 232-8041 for a recording about event happenings.

Both Old and New at First Night Westfield '98

Many of the performers from last year's First Night '97 will be returning to delight audiences young and old. In addition, several new and exciting acts are lined up for the gala New Year's Eve celebration of the arts which will take place in locations all over Westfield.

Dancing of all kinds will be part of the entertainment.

Ballroom dancing instruction by kLelly Vuyovich and Country Line dancing and instruction by Joan Wright will be held at the Roosevelt Middle School gym, while the King's Road Swing Band with Cynthia Llerill, Alice Miller, and Kate Zogg will perform Andrews Sisters-style swing era music for listening and dancing at the "Y" gym. Young Irish dancers from the Deidre Shea School of Irish Dance, which had standing room only last year, will perform this year in the Roosevelt auditorium. The Okra Dance Company, an exciting dance duo with colorful costumes, traces the evolution of dance lending an international flavor to the evening. From soft shoe, tap, minstrel, and social dancing, the show culminates with the Broadway and club dances of today. Audience participation is encouraged. The Summit Folk Dancers also invite audience participation as they perform dances from around the world.

Musical variety abounds, including classical, pop, jazz, chamber, opera, Broadway, bluegrass, and ragtime.

Koto Currents a group which performs traditional and contemporary Japanese music on the 13-

string zither will add to the cross-cultural feel in their traditional costumes. The group is led by former resident Joanna Pecore. Other local talent includes the Cranford-based Hester Street Troupe which has performed exciting Klezmer and Jewish music for seventeen years and boasts two albums. Westfield resident Carolyn Klinger-Kuetter, will again play and entertain on her accordion. Everlounge, the tongue-in-cheek 70's lounge act which regaled audiences at last year's First Night is returning to perform more of their unique music. The band comprised of Westfielders Bob Siegel on keyboard and trumpet, Mark Norwitz and Bob Ardrey on guitar, Nelson Popp playing drums, and vocalist Dan Dazzo has performed at Windows on the World in Manhattan as well as the Blue Collar Inn in Garwood. They have recorded two CDs.

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- Highland Park YMCA Monday Evenings Beginning January 12
- Rahway YMCA Saturday Mornings Beginning January 17
- Metuchen-Edison YMCA Wednesday Evenings Beginning January 21
- Westfield YMCA Wednesday Evening Beginning January 28
- Scotch Plains-Fanwood YMCA Tuesday Evenings Beginning February 3
- Middlesex County College Thursday Evenings Beginning February 19



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Contrary to popular belief, skiing is close to home in Jersey

Imagine getting easily and quickly to excellent downhill skiing and snowboarding while there's still not even a trace of white powder at home.

Guaranteeing more time on the slopes and less in your car, affordable skiing and snowboarding can easily be found when the "Ski New Jersey" winter season opens this month. Three ski resorts in North Jersey make their own snow, conduct ski schools and rent equipment for individuals and groups.

At Craigmeur in Newfoundland, Passaic County, skiers can use any of four slopes which are also open for twilight and night skiing. Craigmeur features three slopes for beginners and one easy intermediate run. Also offered are ski and snowboard rentals; special ski packages; private semiprivate and group lessons; and the comfort of a warm lodge.

A one-day Alpine package at Craigmeur for beginners, including skiing, lift ticket, rental equipment and lessons, starts at \$40 per person. Children 3 and older can learn to ski for as little as \$25 per person. Snowboarding for one day is \$55 per person.

Another of New Jersey's winter retreats is Hidden Valley in Vernon. This Sussex County resort with 12 trails and a snowboard park is paradise for skiers and snowboarders with its challenging terrain. Afterward, skiers can relax at the cozy Slopeside Alpine Chalet Restaurant, the Balcony Bar or the lodge.

Hidden Valley offers ski and snowboard rentals; a repair shop; twilight and night skiing; private and group lessons, including many learn-

to-ski programs for adults and children. The beginner package starts at \$45 per person for weekends and holidays, including a restricted lift ticket for chairlift, a base area lesson and rental equipment.

For guests who want to spend more time at Hidden Valley, a special Ski/Stay package is available. It includes an overnight stay at the nearby Seasons Resort and Conference Center. Weekday rates for a standard room and two lift tickets per room run \$79 per person, plus tax, double occupancy.

Vernon Valley Great Gorge, also in Sussex County, is the largest of that area's three ski resorts and features on-site condominiums complete with spa at the Great Gorge Village Hotel. Many of the condominiums, as small as a studio and as large as three bedrooms, are located on the slopes and enable guests to literally ski out the front door.

With a vertical drop of 1,040 feet, Vernon Valley Great Gorge offers ski rentals and ski school, plus a lodge and restaurant overlooking the slopes. Outdoor lovers can enjoy cross-country skiing in addition to twilight and night downhill skiing and snowboarding. A "Start Anytime" lift ticket begins at \$34 per person.

New for this season is a snow tubing park with six snow chutes, each more than 1,000 feet long, and two special tube lifts. Two hours of snow tubing are \$12 per person.

For more information on skiing in New Jersey, log on to www.skiin.com or www.state.nj.us/travel on the Internet. Or call (800) JERSEY 7 or (973) 96 NJ SKI.

Joe Giacomo will be performing on Friday, January 2, at 8:30 pm at the Minstrel Coffeehouse. He will be featuring trademark quirky songs from his new CD, "Superman's Midlife Crisis." The Minstrel Coffeehouse is held every Friday at the Somerset Environmental Education Center, 190 Stirling Road, Basking Ridge. For more information on concerts call 973-335-9489.

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Westfield Symphony Orchestra names new assistant director

Linda Onorevole has been named assistant to the director of the Westfield Symphony Orchestra.

She previously was concert manager for the music department at Montclair State University. Mrs. Onorevole had been program coordinator and then associate director of music and education with the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation until she joined the Montclair State staff in 1995. She also has been a personal assistant to concert pianist Edmund Battersby in 1993-95 and guitarist Dennis Cinelli since then.

Mrs. Onorevole holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Montclair State, where she is studying for a master's degree in vocal performance. The soprano soloist and section leader at St. Cassian Roman Catholic Church in Upper Montclair teaches piano, voice and music theory in her private studio.

Among the organizations Mrs. Onorevole has sung with are the American Virtuosi, based in Manhattan; the Collegium Musicum, at Montclair State; and the Oratorio Society of New Jersey.

She will report to Patrick Gaines, executive director of the Westfield Symphony, and work out of its office on East Broad Street in downtown Westfield.

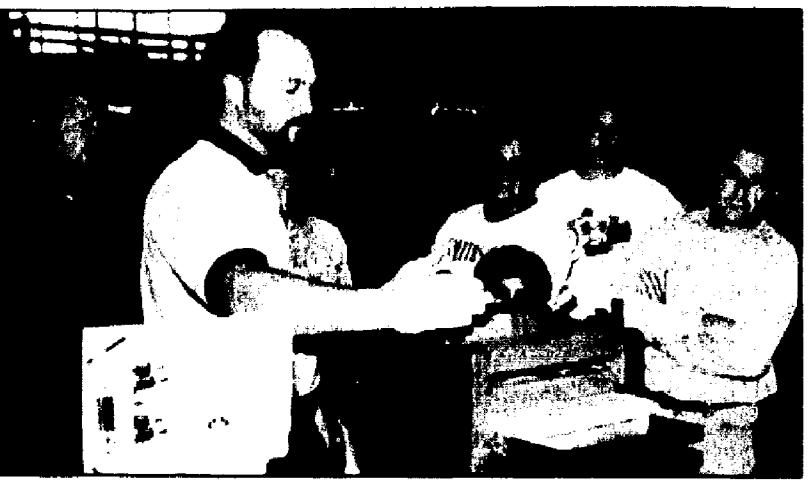
The Westfield Symphony will perform 7:30 and 8:45 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31 at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield as part of First Night Westfield. For information on First Night activities, go to www.westfieldnj.com/firstnight or call (908) 232-8041.

The symphony's next concert will be "An Evening in Paris" Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Presbyterian Church. For concert and ticket information, go to www.westfieldnj.com/wso or call (908) 232-9400.



Linda Onorevole

The North Jersey Woodworking Show will be held at the Garden State Exhibit Center in Franklin, January 9-11. There will be products, demonstrations, seminars, and discounted tools. Call (800) 826-8257 for more information.



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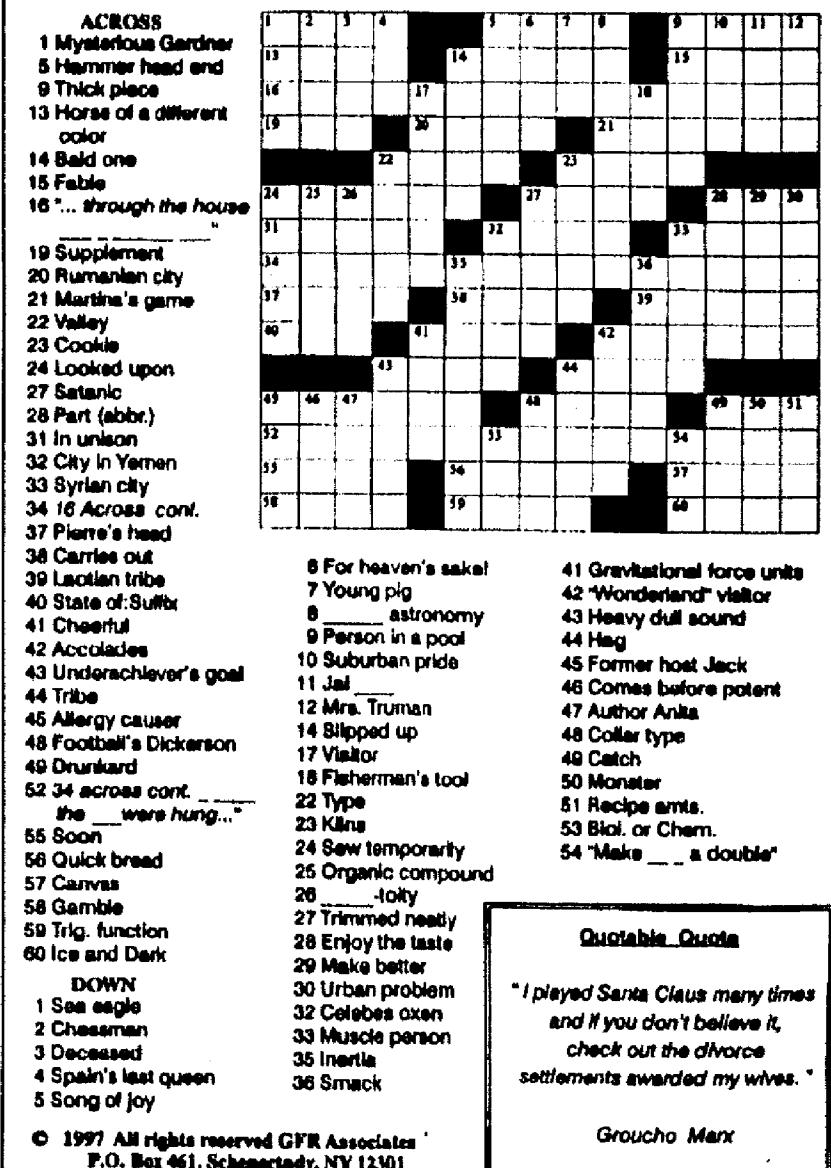
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In Concert

FOREVER ELLA

8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31
State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (732) 246-7469; www.statetheatre.com
Ella Fitzgerald tribute concert, with Cleo Laine and orchestra conducted by John Dankworth (Ms. Laine's husband). Admission \$45-\$25.

MOMENTS TO REMEMBER

7 and 10 p.m. Dec. 31
Paper Mill Playhouse Brookside Dr., Millburn (973) 376-4343
Revue featuring actors from the theater's 1997 shows. Admission \$75-\$55 for early show, \$80-\$60 for later show.

MOSTLY MUSIC

8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4
Temple Emanuel 756 E. Broad St., Westfield (973) 762-8486

Chamber music ensemble performs works of Handel, J.S. Bach and Vivaldi. Adults \$20; senior citizens \$18; students \$10.

N.J. SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

8:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2
Richardson Auditorium, Princeton University (800) ALLEGRO

"Ricercare," adapted by Anton Webern from a "Musical Offering" of J.S. Bach; the Concerto No. 2 in B flat major of Beethoven; a "Sinfonietta" by Poulenc. Adults \$38-\$10; senior citizens 30 percent off; students (1 hour before showtime) \$5.

WINTER WINDS

8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3
Unitarian Church Route 206, Princeton (609) 882-3086

Works of Telemann, LaBarre, Hotterre and Marais, performed by Gwyn Roberts (flute/recorder) and Claire Fontijn (flute). Adults \$12; senior citizens \$9; students \$3.

Stage

CROSSROADS THEATRE COMPANY

7 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (732) 249-5560
"Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope," gospel-style musical first per- formed in 1972. To Jan. 4, 1997. Admission \$32.50-\$25.50; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

FORUM THEATRE

314 Main St., Metuchen (732) 548-0582
"Pump Boys and Dinettes," musical from a pre-Newt Cobb County. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 31. Admission \$29-\$25; discounts available.

HUNTERDON HILLS PLAYHOUSE

Route 173, Hampton (800) 447-7313
"A Playhouse Christmas Musical Celebration," Yuletide show that gets a jump on Radio City's. To Dec. 27. Group rates available; call for showtimes and prices.

MCCARTER THEATRE

91 University Pl., Princeton (609) 683-8000; www.mccarter.org
"A Christmas Carol," area ver-

sion of the Charles Dickens novel, To Dec. 28. Admission \$35-\$26; call for showtimes.

OFF-BROADSTREET THEATRE

5 S. Greenwood Ave., Hopewell (609) 466-2766

"Nonsense," musical starring the Little Sisters of Hoboken. To Jan. 17. Admission \$20 Saturday, \$18.50 Friday and Sunday; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

STATE THEATRE

15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (732) 246-7469; www.statetheatre.com

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," early Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. 8 p.m. Dec. 26; 2 and 8 p.m. Dec. 27; 2 p.m. Dec. 28. Admission \$5.

JERSEY JIM'S

Route 206, Hillsborough (609) 443-5598

Murder mystery dinner theater with audience participation. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 3. Cost \$42.

MARRIOTT HOTEL

110 Davidson Ave., Somerset (609) 443-5598

Murder mystery dinner theater with audience participation. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 2. Cost \$42.

Dance

THE NUTCRACKER (AMERICAN REPERTORY BALLET)

Dec. 31-Jan. 4
McCarter Theatre

91 University Pl., Princeton (609) 683-8000; www.mccarter.org

Tchaikovsky ballet, now a holiday suburban standard. Admission \$29-\$21; call for showtimes.

THE NUTCRACKER (NEW JERSEY BALLET)

Dec. 26-28
Paper Mill Playhouse

Brookside Dr., Millburn (973) 376-4343

Tchaikovsky ballet, now a holiday suburban standard. Admission \$36-\$24; group rates available. Call for showtimes.

Club Mix

BOURBON STREET CAFE OLD BAY RESTAURANT

61 Church St., New Brunswick (732) 246-3111; www.oldbay.com

Michael Hill's Blues Mob, Dec. 26.

Voodoo Rhythm Kings, Dec. 27.

The VooDudes, Jan. 2.

Cadillac Moon, Jan. 3.

CLUB BENE

Route 35, Sayreville (732) 727-3000; www.clubbene.com

The Soft Parade (Doors tribute), Dec. 26.

Tower of Power, Dec. 28.

Brian McKnight, Dec. 30.

The Duprees, Dec. 31.

Crescent City Mavlers, Full Swing Blues Jumpers, Jan. 2.

The Whispers, Jan. 3.

THE CORNERSTONE

25 New St., Metuchen (732) 549-5306

Richie Gagliano, Tuesday.

Tom Butts, Dec. 26.

Bob Moyer, Dec. 27.

Allan Vaché, Dec. 31.

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This is weekend is the last chance to catch a performance of The Somerset Valley Players' Children's Theatre production of *The Adventures of the Country Mouse*. Shows are at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Call The Playhouse at (908) 369-7469 for tickets at the very affordable price of \$6. The plans pictured above from left to right are Karen Merlini, Stacy Bain, Carolyn Levine, Linda Nerle, and Blair Wngner.

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WHAT'S TO DO

Galleries

atrium gallery

Chubb Group of Insurance Companies
15 Mountain View Rd., Warren (908) 903-2608
Open to the public 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Group tours by appointment. Free admission. Works by cyberartist Ilene Steglitz, to Dec. 31.

Borders

Books/Music/Cafe
Cafe Espresso, 290 Commons Way, Bridgewater (908) 231-0111
Open during store hours. "Shadows and Reflections" from Deborah Majeski, to Dec. 31.
Children's Specialized Hospital
150 New Providence Rd. Mountainside (908) 233-3720, Ext. 5109
Open to the public 8:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. every day (use ambulance entrance). Free admission. Paintings by Barbara Glander

and Royane Mosley, to Jan. 31. Quilts by Margaret Beach, to Jan. 31.

MABEL SMITH DOUGLASS LIBRARY

Douglas College Chapel Dr., New Brunswick (732) 932-9407
Open during library hours (closed Dec. 24-Jan. 4). Abstract paintings by Estelle Lebowitz, to Jan. 23.

1860 HOUSE

Montgomery Cultural Center 124 Montgomery Rd., Skillman (609) 921-3272
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; noon-3 p.m. Sunday (closed Jan. 1). Free admission.

Works by Leyla Spencer and Lucy Graves McVickar, to Dec. 31. "Craft Expectations '97," to Jan. 3.

EUGENIE GALLERY

501 Park Ave., Scotch Plains (908) 322-6333
10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday (closed Jan. 1). "Sacred Visions/The Masked Ones," to Dec. 27.

HIGHLAND PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

31 N. Fifth Ave. Highland Park (732) 572-2750
Open during library hours. "Impressions of Highland Park in Art and Historical Photographs," to Jan. 31.

HILLSBOROUGH GALLERY

Nelsons Corner Route 206, Hillsborough (908) 281-1855
Open during store hours. "Movement and Texture" by Connie Louise Gray, to Dec. 31. Artist in person 2-4 p.m. Dec. 28.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON WORLD HEADQUARTERS

501 George St. New Brunswick (732) 524-3698
Open by appointment only. "Porcelain Matters: Landscape Lines," to Jan. 16.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON EDUCATION CENTER

410 George St. New Brunswick (732) 246-4066
Open by appointment only. "George Radeschi: Wood Turnings," to Jan. 5.

MAIN STREET GALLERY

501 George St. New Brunswick (732) 524-3698
Open by appointment only. "Porcelain Matters: Landscape Lines," to Jan. 16.

& FRAME COMPANY

Montgomery Center Route 206, Skillman (609) 683-8092
Open Monday-Saturday; call for each day's hours (closed Jan. 1).

"Seasonal Selections" of landscape photography by Clem Fiori, to Jan. 10.

METLIFE ATRIUM

Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. 501 Route 22, Bridgewater (908) 725-2110
Open during building hours. Printmaking Council of New Jersey exhibit, to Jan. 22.

MILLBURN PUBLIC LIBRARY

200 Glen Ave., Millburn (973) 376-2948, (973) 783-9485
Open during library hours. Millburn-Shore Hills Arts Center small group exhibition, to Dec. 31.

MUNICIPAL GALLERY

Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield (908) 226-7601
Open to the public 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday (closed Jan. 1).

NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS

68 Elm St., Summit (908) 273-9121
Free admission; call for each day's hours (closed Jan. 1). Sculpture by Peter Regnato, outdoors, to December.

"The Animal Kingdom," Palmer Gallery, to Feb. 1. Dog portraits by Reuben Ward Binks, Members' Gallery, to Feb. 1.

PRESIDENTIAL GALLERY MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE

Route 514, Edison (732) 906-2566
Open to the public 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday (closed Jan. 1).

Works by Rachelle Karger, to Jan. 30.

PRINTMAKING COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY

440 River Rd., North Branch (908) 725-2110
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m. Saturday (closed Jan. 1). Free admission.

Holiday print sale, to Dec. 31. 24th annual juried member show, to Dec. 31.

RABBIT GALLERY

120 Georges Rd. North Brunswick (732) 828-5150
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday; also open by appointment (closed Jan. 1). Free admission.

Third annual Variety Show, to Dec. 30.

SWAIN GALLERIES

703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield (908) 756-1707
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Automotive

Autoworld

Dodge Viper GTS ratchets up the revs

By MARK MAYNARD
Special to North Jersey Newspapers

There's a crazy little thing called horsepower that soothes, nurtures, inspires and even intoxicates some car enthusiasts.

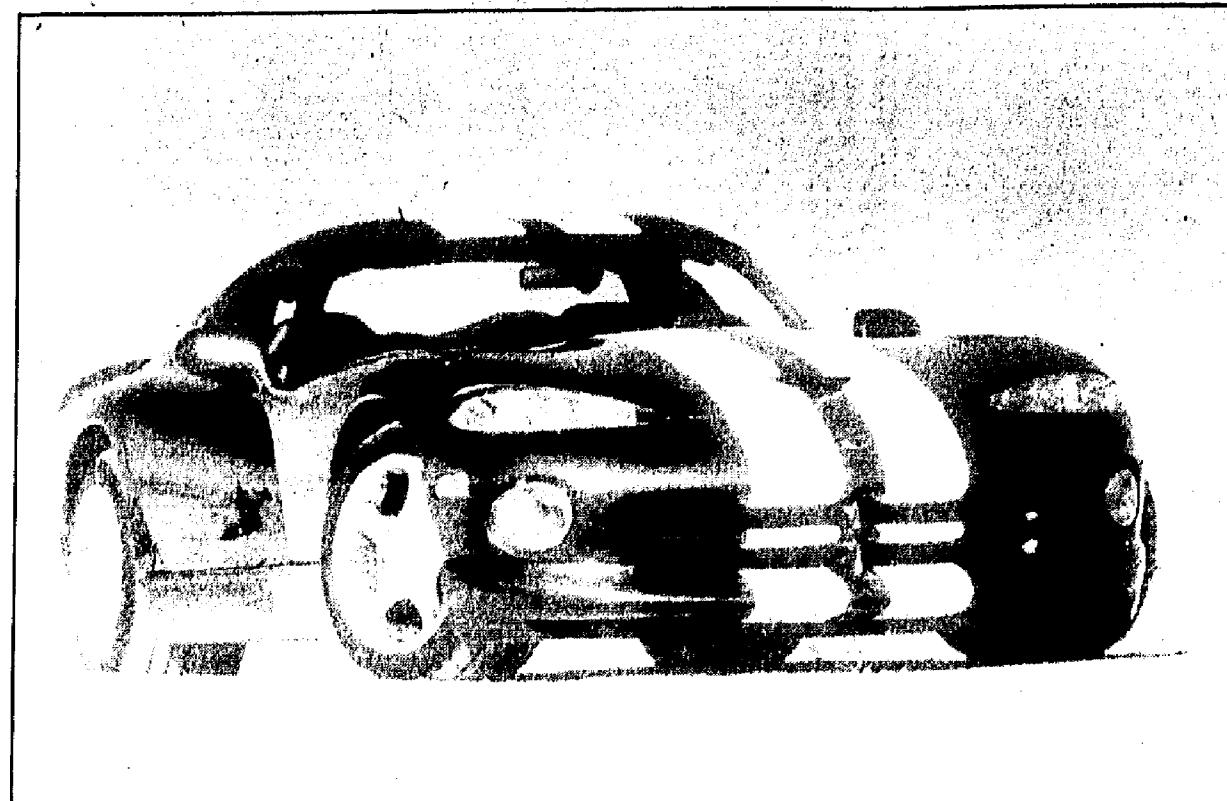
It is inexplicable and irrational, but the owners of these cars will tell you it's worth the price.

When the 345 horsepower of the Corvette isn't enough, the 450-hp Dodge Viper GTS coupe oughta do it, but even that isn't enough for some owners who further ratchet up the revs.

There isn't a stock production car more powerful or faster to 60 mph than the V-10 Viper - at least in the \$100,000 or under class of cars. It is that exclusivity that motivates the buyers of today's test car, a 1997 Dodge Viper GTS coupe. (The '98 GTS and RT/10 roadster - with significant improvements - will be out later in the model year.)

I turned in the keys with a new respect for Dodge and horsepower. I'd driven a red Viper RT/10 roadster a couple of years ago and appreciated its 415 hp, but I felt the owners sacrificed too much comfort and practicality for the image and power boost. The convertible Viper had Jeppelike plastic side windows and a canvas top that tended to blow off at speeds over 100 mph.

The hardtop GTS takes care of those complaints with power windows and more interior refinement, such as foot pedals that can be manually adjusted fore and aft to dial in a perfect fit and electronic door latches that open and close with



Top speed in the 1997 Dodge Viper GTS Coupe is 187 mph. It does 0-60 mph in 4.5 seconds. The '98 GTS coupe and companion RT/10 roadster are due out later in the model year.

vacuum-packed efficiency.

The GTS interior even looks better put together and less rough than the roadster's.

I also enjoyed driving the coupe more. Maybe it was the added horsepower... maybe it was the added security of being wrapped in a cockpit that feels like something that should be launched from the flight deck of an aircraft carrier.

The coupe's 450 horsepower and 490 foot-pounds of torque are righteously strong, but Dodge channels that energy quite handily through a clutch that is not tiring in its spring force. The six-speed transmis-

sion moves through the gears like a balanced and blue-printed bolt-action rifle. (Don't even think about an automatic tranny. There isn't one.)

The 8.0-liter (488-cubic-inch) V-10 engine puts out so much lowend snap you can start out in fourth gear - but it's much more fun in first. No traction control and no anti-lock brakes are silent warning bells to the driver. Tach up the engine, let out the clutch, jump on the gas and this coupe turns into a 3,363-pound scud missile. It does 0 to 60 mph in 4.5 seconds or so, 0 to 100 in 14.78 seconds and the quarter-mile in 13.10 seconds at 116 mph. Top speed

is 187, give or take a couple.

No unmodified Corvette can beat it. But braking from 60 to 0 seemed long at 129 feet, according to Motor Trend, especially when you compare it with the Corvette at 105 feet.

The engine doesn't have the sexy rumble of a V-8 but more like heavy equipment under load. At idle it's lumpy and a little raspy, but press hard on the gas and it roars like a blast furnace.

The Viper feels like a race car that is street legal.

The faster you go, the quicker the Viper responds to driver input. At high speed, the steering feels go-kart responsive.

The car is stabilized by its acreage of tire rubber - the rear tires are 13 inches wide! But even with that much footprint at each corner I was respectful of the force of the engine. And its eager throttle and offset pedals take some adjusting to. Happily, it will take owners some time - some good track time - to find the limits to their car's power and their own driving ability.

The people who buy a Viper generally don't need their horsepower spoon fed to them. They like its raw, unbridled reputation.

Part of the car's pleasure is the visceral feeling of being in control, said Viper Club President Paul Hawken. "Everything else is getting controlled, EPAed and FDAed. The Viper is an in-your-face kind of car."

The engine note is audible but not deafening and the heat of the V-10 is kept away from the passenger compartment.

The Viper is satisfying to drive, but it's not such a convenient daily driver, though many do. I feared for door dings wherever I parked, and the low chin and 5-inch ground clearance take special care at parking curbs or when entering driveways and garages. Climbing in across the broad sill takes a little finesse, and the exhaust that runs beneath the sill can make it hot.

But those are complaints easily overlooked by Viper-philes.

Mark Maynard is automotive editor at The San Diego Union-Tribune and a contributor to the Copley News Service.

1997 Dodge Viper GTS

Body type: 2-passenger coupe
Drive system: Front engine, rear drive

Engine size & type: All aluminum 8.0 liter V-10; 488 cubic inches, OHV (20 valves) with roller-type lifters; electronic sequential multipoint fuel injection

Horsepower: 450 at 5,200 rpm

Torque: 490 foot-pounds at 3,700 rpm

Acceleration: 0-60 mph, 4.7 seconds; 0-100 mph, 14.78 seconds; quarter-mile, 13.10 seconds at 116 mph; top speed, 187 mph

Transmission: 6-speed manual

EPA fuel economy estimates: 11 city, 21 highway. Capacity: 19 gallons

Front head- and legroom: 36.8/42.6 inches

Ground clearance: 5 inches

Overall length: 176.7 inches

Overall height: 47 inches

Overall width: 75.7 inches

Wheelbase: 96.2 inches

Curb weight: 3,383 pounds

Mechanical features:

Body construction: Backbone tubular space frame with separate cowl structure and SMC (plastic) molded composite body

Suspension: Front - cast aluminum unequal-length upper and lower A arms, coil springs, low-pressure gas-charged shock absorbers, stabilizer bar. Rear - cast aluminum unequal-length upper and lower A arms, toe-control links, coil springs, low-pressure gas-charged rebound-adjustable shock absorbers, stabilizer bar.

Brakes: 4-wheel, 13-inch vented discs

Steering: Power rack and pinion

Tires and wheels: Michelin Pilot 5X-MXX3 P275/40ZR 17-inch front, P335/35ZR 17-inch rear on forged aluminum wheels

Safety features include: Dual air bags, energy-absorbing tilt steering wheel, 3-point seat belts

Standard features include:

Manually adjustable brake, clutch and gas pedals, air conditioning, security alarm, remote locking, power windows, aero polyalipid halogen headlights, fog lamps with removable lens covers, white-faced analog graphics, 200 mph speedometer, AM/FM-CD stereo

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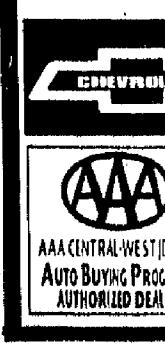
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COLLECTIBLE-House, Dept. 56, original Christmas in the City. \$30. 276-1343.

COMPUTER-IBM, color monitor, software, manuals, exc cond. \$95. 908-889-4824.

COUCH-Wall chair, Colonial blue plaid, with wood trim. \$50. 908-689-8190.

CRAFT-Clay Pot, hand painted like Santa Claus. \$35. 908-277-4462.

EXERCISER-Stationary bike like new. \$98. 908-233-0304.

FIREPLACE-Beautiful, wood looks like real, electric. \$50. 908-322-0059.

FISH TANK-55 gallon with wrought iron stand-\$70.00 Call 973-763-9149.

FUTON-King sz, old oak wood frame, nice, moving. \$99.99. 908-273-4764.

GLASSES-Princess House (Heritage), 23 oz set of 8. \$40.00-\$54.0530.

JAM Jars-wisconsin-Lenox Orchard, set of 6, never used. \$75.00-\$65.0583.

MIRRORS-Antique window-pane, 3 panes over 3, hunter green. \$99. 908-277-4462.

NEON SIGN-great deco fortun area, art deco in any rm. \$76.00-\$73.9149.

PENCIL-Mont Blanc - Black. Exc Cond. \$75.00 - \$65.0583.

PIANO-Wurlitzer, blonde, good condition. \$99. evenings 908-771-0877.

RC CAR-Tamya Mudcap radio, upgrades, carrycase, tool box. \$39. 908-322-0791.

SCROLL-BAW-16", variable speed, Ryobi, never used, \$75. 908-689-8190.

Items Under \$100 100

SNOWTHROWER-Craftsman, 14", electric. \$65. 232-1858.

SOUND EQUIP-Advent sprks, Yamaha, cassette Deck, Bic antenna. \$40. 232-5625.

STROLLER-Double Baby Trend, good condition. \$30. 232-5625.

STROLLER-Emalzinga, w/bassinet, excellent condition. \$99. 232-5625.

TELEVISION-19" Panasonic, color, no remote. \$60. 908-298-0786.

TELEVISION-25", color console, wood cabinet, RCA, exc cond. \$99. 908-241-2393.

TIRE-2-Studded snow, Firestone, radial, P205/75R14, exc cond. \$55. 273-3112. 2

TIRE-2-Studded snow, Firestone, radial, P205/75R14, exc cond. \$55. 273-3112.

TIRE-4-For Pathfinder, all \$40. 908-654-0555.

TOOLS-20 sets, Chaser for 9/16" die head. \$99. 908-6795.

TOY-BEANIE BABY-Holiday bear Beanie Baby \$50.00. 908-277-4462.

VENDING MACH-18 lb, slots for candy/gum, on iron pedestal, w/ covers. \$75. 908-869-8190.

VIDEO SYSTEM-Super, w/2 controllers, mouse & pad, 1 game. \$50. 908-869-8190.

Adoption 105

ADOPTION: Allow us to adopt your baby, who we will love and cherish. Young, happily married, financially stable. Expenses paid. Updates and pictures shared. Keri/Josh, 1-800-327-2229.

ADOPTION: Are you pregnant? Don't know what to do? We have many families waiting to adopt your child. Please call 1-800-745-1210, ask for Marc or Gloria WE CAN HELP!

ADOPTION: Childless couple empathizes with your grief. Will provide joy, happiness, freedom for your precious newborn. Stay home vegetarian Mom, loving Dad. Maureen/Kevin/908-635-8879.

HUGS and happiness looking forward to giving your child a lifetime of love and opportunity. Expenses paid. Please call Margaret & Vincent 800-990-6223.

Lost and Found 135

FOUND: A small black/brown dog, has collar. Orange RR sta. 123, 652-7956.

WATCH Men's, FOUND in Westfield. Call 908-889-5037

Personals 140

FIND TRUE LOVE! By Phone. Try it "FREE". 201-498-0700, code 2277, 18+

GAY (OR CURIOUS?) Meet discreetly & try it FREE! 732-494-0699, code 2082, 18+

MEET SEXY SINGLES! Record & Listen to Ads FREE! 732-494-1144, code 2080, 18+

Village PSYCHIC-Grande Opening. Scotch Plains Tarot Cards, Crystals, Palm Readings. 1635 E. Second St. 908-322-7898/7357.

Employment Help 220

HOME TYPISTS. PC users needed. \$400-\$450. Income potential. Call 1-800-513-4343, ext B-5097.

* WANTED - People to work & earn extra \$\$\$! 1-800-733-2110

WORK AT HOME Mothers & Others. \$499-\$7999. PT/FT. Will Train. Call 908-627-2083 For Free Booklet.

Employment Resumes 225

GET JOB INTERVIEWS! Exp'd NYC writer/exc offers targeted resume & related services. 908-497-0779

Employment Full Time 240

AVON \$ Sales

Make \$ For Holidays Be 18+ 800-545-8390

Accountant/Bookkeeper Flexible hours to help Westfield CPA with compilation and tax returns. Degree & exper. & computer lit helpful. Resume & salary requirement to \$21K/yr. & benefits. Send resume to Richard Violante, PO Box 2033, Westfield, NJ 07091.

✓ ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Summit area County Club seeking FT/AR Clerk who is organized with exc. communication skills, knowledge of Excel & Word Perfect. Salary \$21K/yr. & benefits. Send resume to Richard Violante, PO Box 2033, Westfield, NJ 07091.

CHILD CARE-Exp. for 9 mo. old girl in our SW/ West Area home. M/F 9-5 (very flex). Needed ASAP. Salary req'd. Ref. Req. Car a plus. Salary req'd. \$800-\$1200/ hr. PT.

CHILD CARE-Nanny Needed

F/T or PT/ ASAP. Car & exp req'd. \$900-\$1200/ hr. PT.

CHILD CARE-needed for 9 & 10 yr olds. New Providence. Mon. 5:45pm-7:30pm approx. MUST DRIVE. Exp. req'd. Call 908-464-4794 ext 6:00pm

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Real Estate

Residential Real Estate Market: Strong and Balanced

Home sales are expected to reach an all-time high, reflecting strong consumer confidence, low unemployment, steady economic growth and low interest rates, according to a market analysis given at the National Association of Realtors' Annual Convention held recently in New Orleans. Nearly 18,000 Realtors and guests were in attendance at the November convention.

John Tucillo, NAR consulting economist described the residential real estate market as strong and balanced, providing favorable affordability conditions for buyers and excellent selling conditions for owners.

Although sales likely will taper off next year from a record-breaking total of 4.15 million units this year, the 1998 market

will remain quite strong, with the sales total remaining above 4.0 million units. "I'm relatively confident we will see more of the same," said Tucillo. "There are few extremes locally—activity is strong across the board. Given the cyclical nature of real estate, this is the best balanced overall market the industry has seen in many years."

The market's strength will be sustained by several factors, including: 1) an emphasis on expanding home ownership by the Clinton Administration, and by various programs offered through Fannie Mae and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp; 2) strong consumer confidence in the overall economy; 3) trade-up purchases by baby-boomers; and 4) immigrant home

buyers filling any gaps in the entry-level market caused by the baby bust.

The National Partners in Home Ownership initiative, announced nearly three years ago by the Clinton Administration, seeks to raise the nation's home ownership rate to a historically high level of 67.5 percent by the year 2000.

The various programs resulting from the overall effort to make home ownership more accessible and affordable are having a positive impact on the market.

In addition, the generally positive mood of consumers is affecting sales.

The trend we will probably see will be one where the previously sluggish areas of the nation will

see steadily improving real estate markets and the boom areas will continue to boom, but not as fast. "Tax reform legislation enacted earlier this year is not yet having a notable effect on housing activity," Tucillo said.

For existing home owners, the law raised to \$500,000 the amount of profit a home owner can receive free capital gains taxes when selling a primary residence. This provision, which covers sales occurring after May 6, 1997, applies to taxpayers filing a joint return. It can be used as often as once every two years.

Home owners filing individual returns can exclude up to \$250,000 in profit. The law replaces the former \$125,000 one-time exclusion allowed for taxpayers aged 55 and older.

The consumers primarily affected by this change are those in the 45-55 age group who might have postponed selling under the old law, but can now sell without incurring a capital gains tax burden.

Mortgage rates likely will keep inching downward next year, with fixed-rate, 30-year home loans dipping to a rate of 7.0 percent to 7.5 percent. Given the overall stability of the economy and low inflation, if there is any pressure on rates, it will probably be down. The recent swings in the stock market are not likely to have a ripple impact on housing investments.

Although home buyers are continuing to view a home purchase as an investment vehicle, they are basing their decisions on

long-term accumulation of equity, rather than short-term gain.

NA is predicting that the national median existing single-family home price will rise about 6.0 percent in 1997 to \$124,800; and it is expected to rise an additional 4.5 percent in 1998 to \$133,500. The national median price for new single-family homes is expected to rise 6.5 percent in 1997 to \$146,000; and it is expected to rise an additional 10 percent to \$157,400 in 1998.

Technology advancements have made it possible for consumers to accelerate their mortgage payments or refinance their mortgages as often and as quickly as they trade stocks and bonds. "Housing is an investment in which they can live as well as maneuver," Tucillo.

Realtor Association presents awards

The New Jersey Association of Realtors (NJAR) today presented several awards for overall excellence in real estate industry activities to local boards/associations of Realtors at its "Let the Good Times Roll" 81st Annual Convention in Atlantic City on December 2-4.

The Premry Award honors an individual, group or local board of Realtors who has done outstanding public relations in the real estate industry. This year's recipient is Susan Smith, executive officer of the Hunterdon/Somerset Association of Realtors, for her written ability to promote the professionalism of Realtors and to educate the general public regarding issues in the industry.

The NJAR Community Service Committee presented awards for local board community service collages and scrap books based on creativity and most achievements and involvement. This year's recipients for the collages include the Middlesex County Association of Realtors in third place. For the scrap books, the Greater Union County Association of Realtors took second place, and the Hunterdon/Somerset Association of Realtors were third.

New this year, the NJAR presented 13 local boards and associations with plaques for their Habitat for Humanity projects. Those boards/associations who participated in Habitat for Humanity this year include

the Middlesex and Hunterdon/Somerset County Associations of Realtors. The New Jersey Association of Realtors is a non-profit organization serving the professional needs of over 35,000 real estate agents in the state. NJAR, and its 25 member boards of Realtors, are part of the National Association of Realtors, the largest trade association in the United States with more than 750,000 members.

*Season's Greetings
From All of Us at
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Debbie Essing
Dora Kuzsma
Maxine Pettiford

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THE MORTGAGE GUIDE

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	% DOWN	LOCK	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	% DOWN	LOCK	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	% DOWN	LOCK
Apple Nat'l Mortgage, Inc.	800-692-7753					Espo Financial Funding	888-866-2288					Liberty Mortgage Services	973-904-6555				
30 Year Fixed	7.500	0.00	7.500	5%	60 DAY	30 Year Fixed	6.500	3.00	7.800	5%	45 DAY	30 Year Fixed	7.250	0.00	7.500	5%	45 DAY
1 Year Arm	5.750	0.00	5.750	5%	45 DAY	1 Year Arm	6.250	3.00	7.550	5%	45 DAY	15 Year Fixed	7.000	0.00	7.000	5%	45 DAY
15 Year Fixed	7.250	0.00	7.250	5%	60 DAY	30 Year Jumbo	6.875	3.00	8.115	10%	45 DAY	30 Year Jumbo	7.625	0.00	7.875	5%	45 DAY
App Fee \$475. No Other Fees! Free Pre-Approval & Re-lock						We can finance most credit problems.						No App Fee. Low closing fees. Free pre-approval, FHA, VA					
BNY Mortgage	800-480-8775					First Financial Equities	800-454-0505					Loan Search	800-591-3279				
30 Year Fixed	7.125	2.00	7.395	5%	60 DAY	30 Year Fixed	6.750	3.00	7.050	5%	60 DAY	30 Year Fixed	7.375	0.00	7.375	10%	90 DAY
15 Year Fixed	6.875	2.00	7.246	5%	60 DAY	15 Year Fixed	6.375	3.00	6.859	5%	60 DAY	15 Year Fixed	7.000	0.00	7.000	10%	90 DAY
FHA Arm	6.250	0.00	8.239	10%	75 DAY	1 Year Arm	5.125	2.50	7.825	5%	60 DAY	5/5 Jumbo Arm	6.750	0.00	7.769	10%	90 DAY
						App Fee \$100. Rates are for new applications only.						App Fee \$390					
Barnett Mortgage Co.	800-851-8486					First Savings Bank	908-726-9700					National Future Mortgage	800-291-7900				
30 Yr Fix, Down 5.375 3.00 7.980 5% 60 DAY						30 Yr Fixed Bwk	7.000	3.00	7.355	20%	60 DAY	30 Year Fixed	6.250	3.00	6.612	5%	45 DAY
15 Year Fixed	7.125	0.00	7.461	5%	60 DAY	15 Yr Fixed Bwk	6.875	0.00	6.879	20%	60 DAY	15 Year Fixed	5.875	3.00	6.225	5%	45 DAY
FHA 30 Yr Arm	5.375	3.00	8.015	3%	60 DAY	5 Year Arm	6.750	0.00	7.629	5%	75 DAY	1 Year Arm	5.250	0.00	5.412	5%	45 DAY
"No Cost" Refinance as Low as 7.875%						Zero point loan specialist, First time homebuyers program.						Refi, Purchase or Consolidate Now! Free Approval! M-F, 9-8					
Choice Mortgage Inc.	800-244-2821					First Union Mortgage Corp	800-929-4231					Pamrapo Savings Bank	201-339-4600				
15 Year Fixed	7.000	0.00	7.030	5%	60 DAY	30 Year Fixed	6.750	2.88	7.131	20%	60 DAY	30 Year Fixed	6.875	2.50	7.127	10%	60 DAY
30 Year Fixed	7.250	0.00	7.530	5%	60 DAY	15 Year Fixed	6.500	2.50	7.013	20%	60 DAY	15 Year Fixed	6.375	2.50	6.779	10%	60 DAY
3/3 Jumbo Arm	6.625	0.00	8.050	10%	90 DAY	Float-down option available. Call for zero point quotes.						1 Year Arm	5.125	2.50	8.496	10%	60 DAY
						App Fee \$350						APR reflects 20% down. Other info & pt combinations avail					
Commonwealth Bank	800-924-9091					Hometown Mortgage Co	732-970-1199					Peapack-Gladstone Bank	908-719-4323				
30 Year Fixed	7.375	0.00	7.375	5%	60 DAY	30 Yr No Doc	6.500	3.00	8.830	5%	60 DAY	15 Year Fixed	7.125	0.00	7.144	5%	60 DAY
15 Year Fixed	7.000	0.00	7.000	5%	60 DAY	30 Yr Const.	9.500	1.00	3.620	5%	180 DAY	15/30 Biweekly	7.375	0.00	7.382	5%	60 DAY
1 Year Arm	5.375	0.00	N/P	5%	60 DAY	30 Yr Rehab	7.500	3.00	7.810	10%	60 DAY	15 Year Jumbo	7.375	0.00	7.384	5%	60 DAY
FHA Bi-weekly & save interest. Avoid consumer problems.						App Fee \$350						App Fee \$200. 15 Yr Jumbo rate over \$350,000					
Community State Bank	201-838-8300					Hudson City Savings Bank	732-549-4949					Pinnacle Financial Corp	800-416-1220				
30 Year Fixed	7.000	2.50	7.200	5%	60 DAY	5/1-30 Year	6.075	0.00	7.702	10%	90+ DAY	30 Year Fixed	6.875	2.00	7.080	3%	60 DAY
15 Year Fixed	6.500	3.00	6.987	5%	60 DAY	10/1-30 Year	7.125	0.00	7.510	10%	90+ DAY	15 Year Fixed	6.625	2.00	6.948	5%	60 DAY
1 Year Arm	4.500	3.00	7.712	10%	90 DAY	1 Year Fixed	6.075	0.00	7.165	10%	90+ DAY	30 Year Jumbo	7.125	2.00	7.328	5%	60 DAY
Full service lender, FHA/VA. Free computerized pre-qualif						Page: 800-212-0333, 9 - 9, 7 days. All rates to \$1 million						0 pt & N/V loans; 100% financing, Constr. Loans					
Corestates Mortgage	800-999-3885					Intercounty Mortgage	800-811-4264					Source Mortgage Co., Inc. </td					



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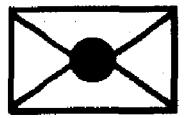
DIRECT TOLL FREE LINE **1-800-559-9495**

HOW TO PLACE AN AD...

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FAX IT

MAIL IT

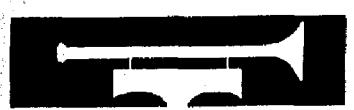


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Best Buys 100



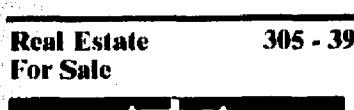
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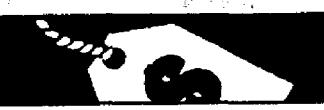
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Real Estate Rental 400 - 485



Merchandise 500 - 627



Pets & Supplies 630 - 645



Financial/Business Opportunities 650-655



Professional Services 700 - 830



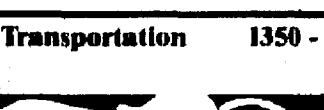
Home Services 850 - 1195



Recreational Vehicles 1300 - 1330



Transportation 1350 - 1415



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• Be descriptive. The more information
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the better the responses will be
to your ad.

• Always include the price of the
item for sale.

• Run your ad for an ample length of
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Commercial Property

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315

Homes For Sale 330

Homes For Sale 330

Homes For Sale 330

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Industrial/Commercial

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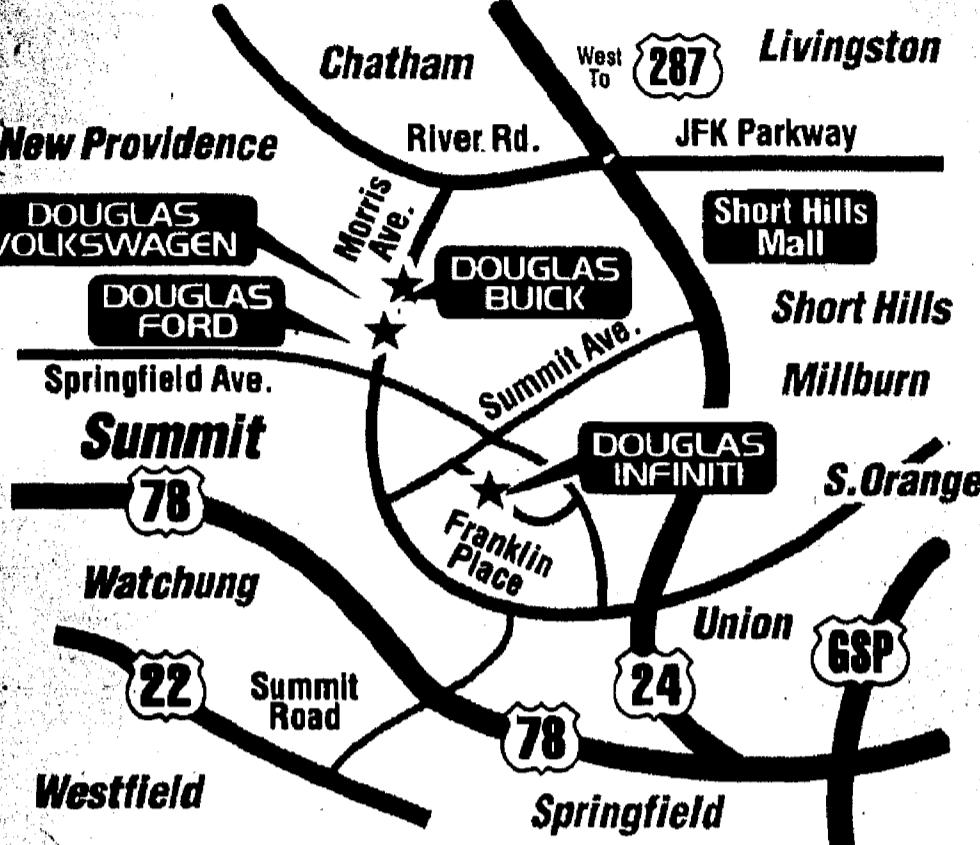
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