

Record-Press

WESTFIELD · SCOTCH PLAINS · FANWOOD

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Westfield, slow and steady wins the race

E DOPP

Officials push for 10-m.p.h. drop along East Broad Street

WESTFIELD — The Town Council has stepped up efforts to ensure motor vehicle tragedies such as the ones that claimed the lives of two pedestrians over the past year never happen again, at least not in Westfield.

The council this week set to the task of making the town's streets safer by focusing its

sights on the most heavily traveled and dangerous section of East Broad Street. Council members voted unanimously Tuesday night to lower the speed limit on the busy street — from Gallows Hill Road to Mountain Avenue — from 35 m.p.h. to 25 m.p.h. The hope is the move will finally control the speed of motorists such

as the 8,000 drivers who drove an average of 33.5 m.p.h. on the road during a recent traffic survey.

"I think this is the right thing to do," said Mayor Tom Jardim. "This is a busy street and this is going to make it safer."

The town's resolution will now be sent to county and state officials, who will study it and have

the final say in whether traffic will be slowed. If the state Department of Transportation does not act on the matter within 90 days, approval is automatic, according to local officials.

Jardim said police presence along the road will increase after the DOT green-lights the speed decrease. Enforcement will be a

necessary component of the town's effort to make the street safer, Jardim said, adding he is confident drivers will obey the new speed limit.

Public Safety Committee Chairman Neil Sullivan, who has long been an advocate of traffic calming measures throughout town, including East Broad Street, said the new speed limit is a good first step toward actual.

(Continued on page A-12)

Briefs

Union Arc hosts holiday home tour

It's so nice to be home for the holidays.

Just ask any of the people with developmental disabilities who are now hanging decorations in celebration of the season.

As a result, the Arc of Union County will hold a Holiday Homes Tour 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and has invited the public to visit the residential homes operated by the social service agency. Buses will leave from the Arc office at 1225 South Ave. (Route 28), Plainfield, and the Arc day program site at 215 E. First Ave., Roselle.

The tour is sponsored by the Arc's Residential Auxiliary, a volunteer group dedicated to assuring safe and comfortable home environments for those with developmental disabilities. Homes in Fanwood, Scotch Plains, Clark, Plainfield, and Roselle are included on the tour.

This event "promises those who visit an opportunity to make new friends, share the joy of the season and support a worthy cause," according to Deborah Pomianek, associate executive director of the Arc.

Cost of \$15 per person and \$25 per couple includes refreshments. For more information, call Crystal Young at (908) 754-5549.

Westfield library hosts children's books authors

WESTFIELD — Dan and Kim Adlerman, authors and illustrators of children's books, will read from their works 11 a.m. tomorrow at the Westfield Memorial Library, located at 550 E. Broad St.

The couple will also hold a sing-along. All children from kindergarten on up are welcome to attend with their parents. You are welcome to bring a copy of an Adlerman book for signing or purchase a copy at a discount.

The Adlermans published their first book "It's Raining, It's Pouring" under the pen name Kim Eagle. Under their own names the couple has published "Hey Diddle Diddle," "Africa Calling, Nighttime Falling" and a collection with "Humpty Dumpty."

Seating is limited. Tickets are required and can be picked up for free at the main desk. For more information, call (908) 789-4090.

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NICOLE DIMELLA/RECORD-PRESS

... and a new bike,
and Pokémon cards,
and video games, and ...

Jonathan Savorgiannakis, 3, was just one of the many kids who turned out at Westfield's MotoPhoto Sunday to lay it all out for Santa, who was on-hand for the shop's annual Free Pictures with Santa promotion. Instead of a fee, parents were asked to make charitable donations that will go toward making it a happy holiday for some of the area's less-fortunate.

Westfield, Scotch Plains ready for winter's worst

By TERENCE DOPP

THE RECORD-PRESS

With winter bearing down, area officials are unafraid. Bring on the snow, they say, we're ready.

Those in charge of keeping snow and ice off local roads said this week roads will remain open

and drive-able, no matter how much messy winter precipitation accumulates this winter. Officials may be getting a little help from Mother Nature — this winter should be decidedly mild, according to the National Weather Service — but if Old Man Winter rears his ugly head, Westfield and Scotch Plains will be ready,

according to officials in each municipality.

Earl Jackson, Scotch Plains' superintendent of public properties, said his department has been ordering the supplies used to de-ice wintry roads and lining up outside contractors to supplement the numerous snow removal vehicles the township

owns and operates.

"We're going to listen to the weather and play it by ear," he said, noting municipalities must be ready to deal with any amount of snowfall, even when "experts" say it should be a mild season. "We're gearing up for a heavy snowfall."

Jackson said Scotch Plains uses everything from its dump trucks — outfitted with plows to handle the most heavily traveled main roads — to smaller pickup trucks for cul-de-sacs and parking lots, and everything in between. "There's a good 20 pieces of equipment," he said.

The township, he added, contracts with six outside contractors during the most extreme of snowfalls to ensure roads will be clear and safe to navigate.

Scotch Plains has already started stockpiling its reserve of rock salt. Jackson said upwards of 200 tons of salt is used in the course of an average winter to melt ice off roads and give drivers a little bit more traction. The township makes the salt go a little bit further and be more effective by using a new device which mixes liquid calcium with the salt.

A computer controlling the "saddle bags," or the liquid calcium storage tanks, located on the rear of a snow-removal truck, measures out the precise amount of liquid to mix with the salt, allowing it to melt ice at temperatures well below those at which salt alone could work.

The Town of Westfield has also begun making its winter snow

preparations, according to Claude Schaffer, Department of Public Works supervisor. Schaffer said Westfield owns about 25 snow removal items, including dump trucks, pickup trucks and smaller equipment such as snow-blowers.

Schaffer said the town will be ready to deal with the driving snows of winter, regardless of what it takes to get the job done. Clearing the roads, he added, "is just a matter of time."

Westfield is also getting in on the liquid calcium technique, which Schaffer said is helpful "especially with temperatures below zero." He said adding calcium to the salt allows it to melt snow at temperatures as low as 20 below zero.

Westfield is one of the towns that buys its rock salt as part of Union County's cooperative buying program, which brings many municipalities together to buy salt in quantity, allowing for a discount. Frank Dann, director of Union County Public Works, said this allows the municipalities to get the "best price" in New Jersey.

Dann said the milder winters that have settled over the region the last two years have left the county with a substantial stockpile of supplies and equipment, all of which is in excellent shape. He said about one-third of the county's fleet of snow plows is currently ready to go, and the rest will be set to roll by the new year.

Ice will be the biggest issue for

(Continued on page A-2)

Citizens' Army scores victory as town passes first RFP law

By TERENCE DOPP

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Citizens' Army won another major battle Tuesday night in their war to restore politics to the people and lessen the influence money can have on local politicians.

At Tuesday night's Town Council meeting, Westfield became the first municipality in the state to pass an ordinance requiring officials to follow a quality-based process when selecting outside professionals, such as engineers and architects, for town projects. This will end any chance of political patronage or favoritism, according to proponents of the law.

The ordinance received across-the-board — but not unanimous — approval from the council. Only Republicans Gregory McDermott and Janice Weinstein voted against it.

The ordinance requires the town to solicit requests for proposals (RFPs) from all firms interested and judge them based on the strengths of their proposals.

"Basically, anytime we hire an outside professional, we will have to put (the contract) out to bid," said Councilman Matthew Albano.

Under state law, the town is allowed to hire certain professionals without going through the bidding process required for other major projects, such as construction or road maintenance. Lawyers, architects and engineers are among the many that fall into a category designated "unspecified services."

Larry Goldman, chairman of the Laws and Rules Committee, said heads of different Westfield departments already choose from multiple proposals when hiring firms, although in many munici-

palities this is not the case. The RFP ordinance makes the town's policy required and mandatory. "As a practical matter, it was a very easy ordinance to adopt," Goldman said.

Westfield has used the guidelines set forth in the ordinance for many years, but this makes it official, council members said.

Mayor Tom Jardim said the RFP law serves as a message that government does not simply reward contracts based on patronage, but judges companies based on their merits. "It's a way to give the public confidence," Jardim said.

Lawyers are exempt from the new law, which is why McDermott chose to vote against it, according to the councilman. McDermott said the council's decision to not include legal services was a mistake great enough to warrant rewriting the ordi-

(Continued on page A-2)

Westfield

The driver's side window of a Bell Drive resident's 1995 four-door Saturn was reportedly broken and the car scratched in a Dec. 2 vandalism case, police said.

A burglary and theft was reported Dec. 2 at S & J Garden Center on Springfield Avenue. Police said entry to the establishment was gained through a window and \$160 in cash was taken.

A thief stole \$95 from the Gulf service station on South Avenue Dec. 2, according to police records. The suspect asked for \$5 in gas and paid with a \$100 bill. When the attendant took the change out of his pocket, the suspect grabbed the money and fled with both his money and the attendant's change, police said.

A showroom window at Lindeman Buick on North Avenue was reportedly broken Dec. 6, according to police reports.

Andrea Thompson of Plainfield was charged Dec. 6 with contempt of court by the Westfield Municipal Court, according to police records.

A 10-year-old boy walking on Clark Street Dec. 6 was approached by a motorist who asked him to enter the car, police said.

Police said the man pulled alongside the boy and said to

Police log

him "get in the car, your mother asked me to drive you home, it's too wet." The boy fled, police said.

Police said the suspect is a white male in his 40s with a white mustache and hair, and was driving a late 1980's white foreign car.

A 29-year-old landscaper from Kenilworth was reportedly assaulted Dec. 7 in the roadway on Orenda Circle, police said.

The man was approached by another landscaper who accused the victim of stealing a leaf blower. An ensuing argument escalated until the second man pushed the first to the ground and police arrived. No complaints were filed.

Scotch Plains

A cellular phone and several pieces of jewelry of unknown value were reported stolen Nov. 29 from the home of a Cedar Grove resident, according to police records.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School authorities reported Nov. 30 a 17-year-old senior was found to be in possession of four bags of marijuana, according to police records. The student, whose name is not being released because of his age, was turned over to his parents by

police. Complaints in juvenile court are pending, police said.

Richard H. Korb, 49, of Nicholl Avenue, was charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs and shoplifting after a Dec. 1 traffic stop on East Second Street. Korb was stopped at approximately 9 p.m., police said, after he allegedly stole several bottles of liquor from Brian's Liquors on East Second Street and fled the scene.

He was apprehended shortly after and released with a summons, police said.

A 14-foot truck reported to have been rented Nov. 15 from the U-Haul office on Route 22 had not been returned as of Dec. 3, police said.

Troy Weissmann, 21, of Frances Drive, Clark, was charged Dec. 3 with driving while intoxicated after a Front Street motor vehicle stop at about 3:30 a.m., according to police records.

A vehicle was pelted with eggs Dec. 5 while parked on the 1900 block of Mountain Avenue, according to police records.

Antique figurines, valued at approximately \$500, were reported stolen Dec. 5 from two locations at the Stage House Village, police said.

Scotch Plains teen charged in robbery

By **TERRENCE DOWD**
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Township resident Dale Disney, 18, was arrested early Wednesday morning outside of his Front Street home by Scotch Plains police and charged in connection with a Tuesday night robbery in Middlesex Borough.

Middlesex police said Disney and a 17-year-old North Plainfield juvenile held up to victims at gun point in the parking lot of the Middlesex Pathmark at roughly 10:15 p.m. Tuesday. The alleged thieves took several items from two victims before fleeing.

One of the victims was assaulted by the North

Plainfield juvenile and treated for head and neck pain at Somerset Medical Center.

He has been released from the hospital.

The two victims knew Disney and the juvenile offender, according to police reports.

A pellet gun and baseball bat used in the robbery were discovered during a search of the North Plainfield resident's home, according to Middlesex police.

The Scotch Plains Police Department was notified of the incident by Middlesex police at about 2 a.m., according to Capt. Joseph Protasiewicz of the Scotch Plains Police Department. Protasiewicz said patrol cars were sent to wait at Disney's house and "eventually,

he showed up."

After he was taken into custody, Disney was turned over to Middlesex police.

Protasiewicz said statements were taken from the victims and both suspects have been charged. Middlesex police said Disney was charged with robbery, conspiracy to commit robbery and possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes.

He was taken to the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Facility, where he was held in lieu of \$15,000 bail.

The juvenile faced the same charges plus an additional count of aggravated assault, police said.

Still no decision on Malibu liquor license

By **JON LEDERMAN**
RECORD-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

SCOTCH PLAINS — A public hearing to determine the fate of Club Malibu's liquor license, which had been previously rescheduled from Oct. 14 to Dec. 2, was postponed again and was expected to take place last night after press deadline.

The first postponement was due to a change in Malibu attorneys, according to Mayor Geri Samuel. The mayor explained the latest postponement by noting, "They just needed to talk among themselves."

The hearing will be conducted like a court trial, with attorneys

for both sides presenting arguments and calling witnesses, and the Township Council acting as judge and jury. Police Chief Thomas O'Brien has been on record as stating that the township will fight against renewing the license because the club has not fulfilled the agreements it made with the town to improve certain conditions.

In addition to reported cases of parking lot violence — which crested with the murder of a 19-year-old New Brunswick resident in November, 1998 — the club has been fined for fire code violations involving fire lane infractions and maximum occupancy provisions and has been the sub-

ject of complaints about uncontrolled littering, vandalism and disorderly conduct.

According to O'Brien, club management agreed to implement measures such as placing guards or alarms at doors to prevent patrons from stealing into the club unlawfully, causing violations of the 600-person limit. Club managers also agreed to provide better crowd control outside the club to curtail occurrences of violence in the parking lot, O'Brien said, but according to the chief, the club has not implemented any new measures to address these issues.

The club has been closed pending the liquor license hearing.

SP-FHS Future Leaders donate to March of Dimes

SCOTCH PLAINS — Future Business Leaders of America at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School have donated nearly \$2,500 to the March of Dimes.

These funds were proceeds from the FBLA's annual bowl-athon, held Oct. 24 at Strike n' Spare Lanes in Green Brook. Each of the 50 members raised money through pledges for every pin knocked down.

The amount raised was the largest ever by the FBLA, according to a press release announcing the donation.

The SP-FHS chapter is one of the largest donors throughout the state and the FBLA is the biggest donor to the March of Dimes.

Freeholders seek applications for cultural program grants

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is inviting community arts organizations, schools and other nonprofit organizations that wish to present cultural programming to apply for funding from the Union County Arts Grant Program.

Funds for this program are made available through the Local Arts Program of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

"The purpose of the grant program is to enrich the quality of life in Union County by stimulating and supporting the production, presentation and creation of the arts," said Freeholder Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari.

Arts activities taking place between Jan. 1, 2001 and Dec. 31, 2001 are eligible for consideration. Deadline for proposals is March 6, 2000.

"We are pleased to continue the Arts Education Special Project initiative this year," said Freeholder Mary P. Ruotolo, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Affairs Advisory Board.

"The program enables schools as well as other organizations to apply for funding to enhance arts education and teacher professional development."

For an application and guidelines, call (908) 558-2550 or write Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

Briefs

Westfield pianists featured on WQXR

WESTFIELD — WQXR (96.3 on the FM dial), the classical music station of the New York Times, will broadcast a performance from April 11 featuring Westfield piano soloists Allen and Peter Yu.

The pianists teamed with the Plainfield Symphony in a concert under the batons of music director Sabin Pautza and assistant conductor Anthony Laguth.

The radio broadcast is scheduled to take place at 9:05 p.m. Dec. 22 on the station's popular "Young Artist Showcase," hosted by Robert Sherman. The program brings before the public promising young talents from around the globe.

The Yu twins, 15, will be heard performing Camille Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals" for two pianos and orchestra, a work they played as winners of the Plainfield Symphony's 1999 Young Artist Competition.

At their appearance with the symphony in April, the Yu twins were named recipients of the \$3,000 Otto Altenburg Young Pianist Prize, an award given to encourage and support exceptional talents by the Altenburg Piano House in Elizabeth. The award is given in memory of the company's late president.

The Yu brothers are piano students of Dr. Ferdinand Gajewski of Westfield.

Westfield schools mail out reports

WESTFIELD — The Westfield School System has mailed a copy of its 1998-99 annual report to every household in the town.

Listed are student achievements, staff accomplishments, test scores and other facts about Westfield public schools.

"It is no coincidence that student accomplishments are high when community support is strong," said Superintendent of Schools William J. Foley, who wrote the introduction.

Foley noted that support by alluding to the bond issue for classrooms, capital improvements and technology approved in 1998 by voters last year.

If you have not received a copy of the annual report, call (908) 789-4463.

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The Postal Service is seeking applicants to take the examination for city carrier in post offices within the Newark sectional center, which includes Fanwood, Scotch Plains and Westfield.

Salary is \$14.27-\$19.76 per hour. Applications are available from the Fanwood post office on South Avenue, the Scotch Plains post office on Park Avenue and the Westfield post office on Central Avenue.

Only one application per person may be submitted. All applications must be submitted by Dec. 17.

Those whose applications are accepted will be notified of the date, time and location of the exam and will be sent material to prepare for the exam.

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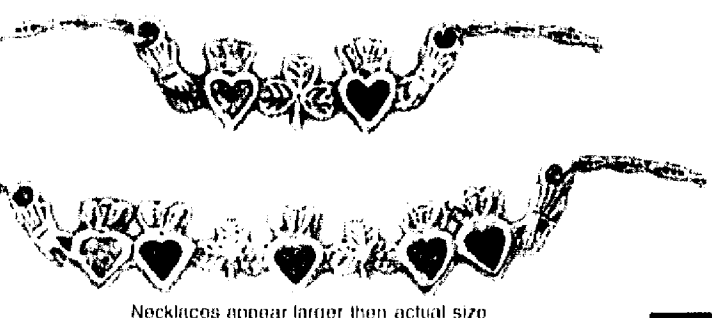


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DiFrancesco: Cell phones will aid victims of domestic violence

By **TERRENCE DOPP**
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — For the 5,231 Union County women who were victims of domestic abuse in 1998, finding help during an emergency might have been next to impossible. But that's no longer going to be the case, not if New Jersey Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco has his way.

DiFrancesco was at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building Wednesday to launch a new program that gives older, discarded cellular phones — programmed to dial 911 with one push of a button — to victims of domestic violence. "Cell phones that can summon police with the

Lawmakers, Bell Atlantic Mobile team up to offer emergency services to battered women

touch of a button can be a vital lifeline for battered women," the state senator said.

DiFrancesco said domestic violence victims are often stalked and harassed before and after a relationship turns violent. Assault and even murder are all too common for these women, who face the threat of abusive spouses and boyfriends, according to DiFrancesco. "Battered women must live with the threat of murder, assault and harassment every day," he said. "Today, we can begin to restore a sense of security to their lives."

The new program will have a

positive impact in the effort to try and prevent the abuse of women in domestic violence scenarios, according to DiFrancesco. "Emergency cell phones can make all the difference when an abusive relationship erupts into life-threatening violence," he said, noting the phones will allow women who may not be near a telephone or are in a car to have an instant line of communication with authorities when they need immediate police protection.

Bell Atlantic Mobile will team up with the state for this project by programming the older phones to automatically dial

911, distributing them and providing the services free of charge. Donations of older cell phones are also being accepted. Phones can be dropped off by donors at a number of locations, including DiFrancesco's district office at 1816 Front St. in Scotch Plains.

DiFrancesco said this program is the latest step in the state legislature's effort to end domestic abuse. He highlighted some of the legislature's recent anti-abuse laws, such as one which makes fingerprinting domestic abuse offenders mandatory and another providing unemployment insurance to

those who survive the abuse.

Two laws that he said he will present to the Legislature on Dec. 13 include bill S-2273, which seeks to track offenders by creating a central registry of domestic abusers, and bill S-1647, which amends the statutes concerning child custody in cases involving domestic abuse and in cases involving the murder of one parent by another.

"Through tougher laws and charitable drives ... we can make a real difference," DiFrancesco said.

Joining DiFrancesco for his announcement were state Assemblymen Rich Bagger and

"Battered women must live with the threat of murder, assault and harassment every day. Today, we can begin to restore a sense of security to their lives."

— **Donald DiFrancesco**
President, New Jersey State Senate

Alan Augustine, Union County Prosecutor Thomas V. Manahan and victims' rights advocate Elaine O'Neal.

Protest of proposed subdivision tables vote

By **TERRENCE DOPP**
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Seneca Place and Longfellow Avenue residents who packed the Planning Board meeting Monday night to protest a planned subdivision in their neighborhood got a temporary reprieve.

The Planning Board tabled the much-reviled subdivision proposed by a Seneca Place couple until at least February after board members said lawyers representing the applicants failed to meet criteria for the application requested when the board last heard the case in November.

At that meeting, the board told James Flynn, the attorney for the applicant, he would have to return Monday night with more details as to the site plan — including sworn testimony by a planner — and bring pictures of the neighborhood to give the board a better understanding

Residents believe splitting property would decrease neighborhood's value

of the impacts of the subdivision. He failed to do either.

Flynn declined comment on the board's postponement of the plan, but did tell the board there was a miscommunication about what additional documentation they required him to bring.

"There are certain proofs the applicant has to show," said Mayor Tom Jardim, a Planning Board member, who echoed the concerns of virtually all board members when he told Flynn the application was incomplete. The mayor also stressed the importance of the board's request for pictures of the surrounding neighborhood. "We're trying to get an understanding of the true character of the neighborhood," Jardim said.

The mayor said the

Planning Board's decision to hear the application at a later date was meant to give Flynn the benefit of the doubt concerning the misunderstanding. The other option was to flat-out deny the application based on incomplete evidence.

Neighbors are so vehemently opposed to the subdivision — which would split an existing lot into two smaller lots — that some went so far as to retain attorney Daniel Bernstein to help their cause. "It shows that people are concerned," said Bernstein.

Seneca Place and Longfellow Avenue residents have expressed objections to the subdivision because they say the resulting lots will be smaller than the rest of the lots on the street, resulting in density higher than they want

in their neighborhood. Each of the two lots would be slightly smaller than what is permitted by zoning law, requiring the Planning Board to grant a variance before construction can be allowed.

"I don't think it's in the best interests for the long-term ... it's a bad trend," said 21-year Longfellow Avenue resident John Ricca, one of the neighbors who retained Bernstein, who noted long-term residents "have a vested stake" in their properties.

Jardim said the applicant must show is that any subdivision will not "substantially impair" current zoning ordinances, meaning any proposed subdivision must not degrade a neighborhood. He said the board will weigh a beefed-up version of the plan when it is presented to them at the February meeting. "They'll fix the problems (with the application) and we'll give them their due process," the mayor said.

Trolley to whisk shoppers through downtown area

WESTFIELD — On Saturday and again on Dec. 18, the Downtown Westfield Corporation and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce will sponsor free trolley rides in downtown Westfield.

Customers can park for free at the South Avenue Train Station Parking Lot and ride the trolley throughout downtown Westfield, with stops at Lord & Taylor, East Broad St. and on Central Avenue.

The trolley will run continuously from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., so riders should look for the Trolley Stop signs posted in downtown.

"The Trolley Rides will offer customers and employees a convenient place to park, at the South Avenue lot, and allow them to easily go from South Avenue to the north side of downtown and back," said

Dave Sutter, Downtown Westfield promotions chairman.

Entertainment is also on the schedule for downtown Westfield on Saturdays throughout December.

The Watson Highlanders Pipe Band will play traditional festive music on their bagpipes from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. throughout the town; the Yuletide Carolers, dressed in Dickens-esque attire, will stroll through the downtown entertaining shoppers from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with an old-fashioned flair; and Escape, a women's barbershop quartet, will sing barbershop harmonies for the shopper's enjoyment.

For further information, call the DWC office at (908) 789-9444 or the Chamber of Commerce at (908) 233-3021.

Jewelry sale benefits animal group

WESTFIELD — A jewelry show and sale, slated to be held 2 p.m.-6 p.m. Sunday at 87 Cottage Place, will benefit People for Animals.

Custom, sterling silver, amber and gold jewelry will be available.

Handbags may be purchased. Complimentary coffee and cake will be served. Proceeds from the sale will benefit People for Animals, an animal welfare organization. For more information, call (908) 301-1397.

New Jersey Devils host fund-raiser for Komen Breast Cancer Foundation

The New Jersey Devils will host a "hockey night" to benefit The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, North Jersey Affiliate, on Dec. 22.

That night, the Devils face off with the Philadelphia Flyers. Tickets for second-level seating in the 200 sections are available for \$30 (normally \$44), and a portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the North Jersey Affiliate.

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is one of the nation's largest private funders of breast cancer research. The North Jersey Affiliate, located at 447 Springfield Ave., Summit, serves eight counties in northern New Jersey. Through its fund-raising events, activities and educational programs, the affiliate provides grants to non-profit, breast-cancer related organizations, focusing on the medically under-served and under-insured.

Since its inception in June of 1997, the affiliate has awarded grants totaling more than \$928,000 to qualified, non-profit organizations in our service area.

For additional information or requests for tickets for the Devils "hockey night" on Dec. 22, call Neil Desormeaux of the Devils' Group Sales Office at (201) 935-6050, or the Komen Affiliate Office at (908) 277-2904. Orders for tickets must be received by Tuesday and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Soon, at the Westfield Y, kids will be kung-fu fighting

WESTFIELD — Martial arts classes for children are being lined up at the Westfield Y on Clark Street.

Classes for children ages 5-8 will meet 1 p.m.-1:55 p.m. Saturday beginning Jan. 8.

The class teaches the kwon do patterns and forms while

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Registration begins tomorrow for current Y members and Wednesday for new members.

For more information, call Karen Simon at (908) 233-2700.

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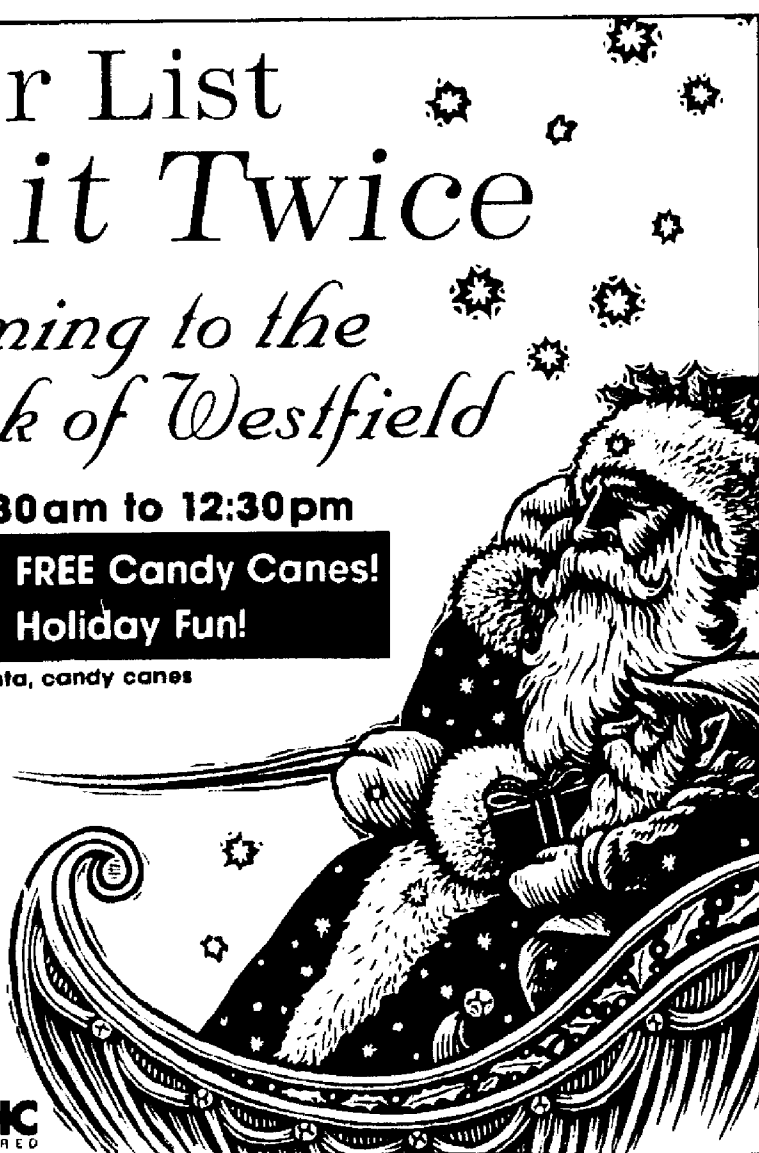
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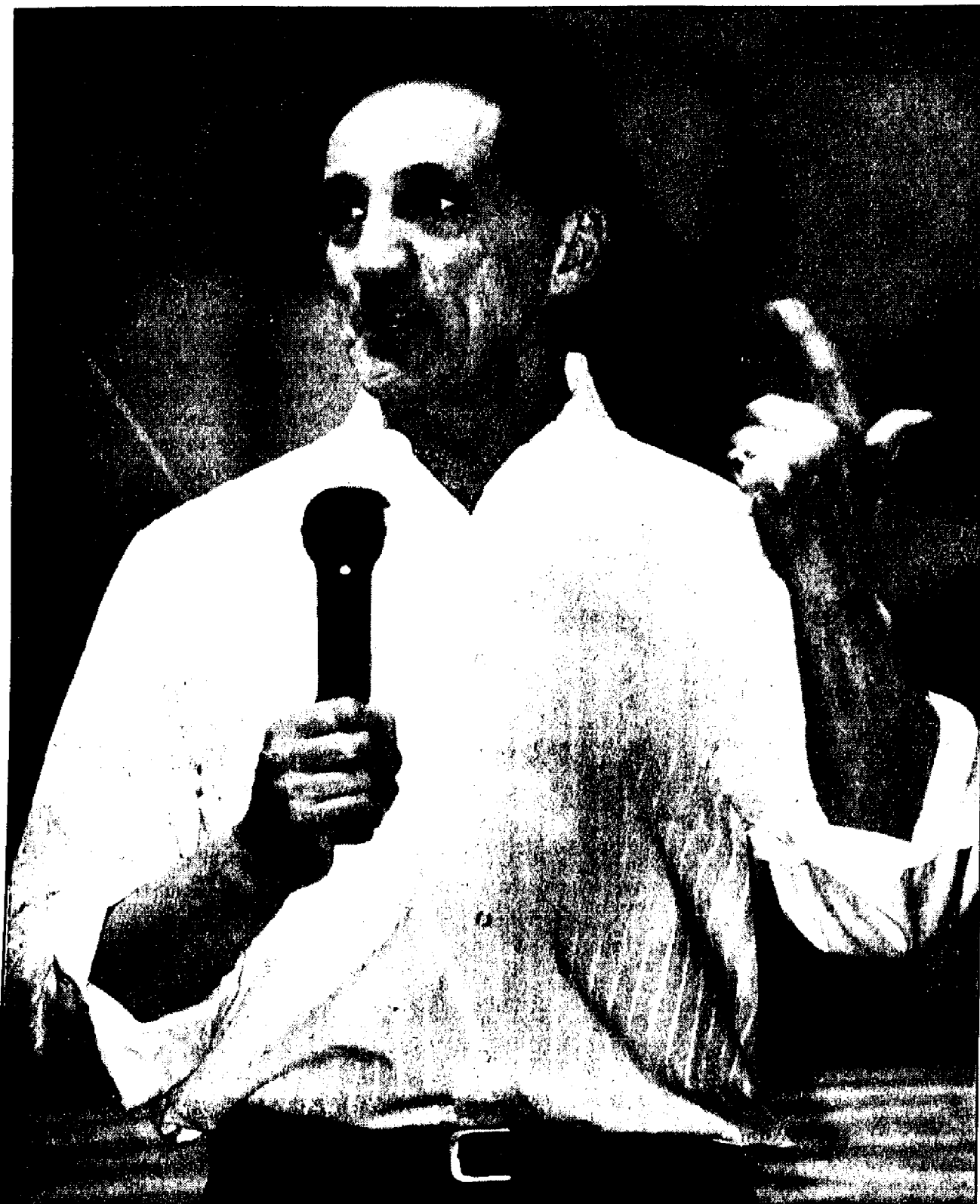
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David Toma, inspiration for the tough TV cop "Baretta," speaks Tuesday night at St. Helen's Church in Westfield.

GEORGE PACCIELLO/RECORD-PRESS

Inspiration for TV's 'Baretta' is now an inspiration for all

Ex-cop, marine, drug user shares life's struggles local church

By **TERRENCE DOPP**
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Despite excruciating back pain from a ruptured disc, David Toma was hopping around and limbering up as he anxiously awaited his chance to speak with over 100 kids and parents gathered at his home parish in St. Helen's Church on Rahway Avenue.

The throng of people gathered at St. Helen's Tuesday night joined the millions who have attended Toma's more than 15,000 emotional discussions covering everything from alcoholism to drugs, suicide and anorexia. Toma said he keeps each discussion fresh and lively using one simple formula: "Everything's off the top of my head."

Toma, best known as the inspiration for the tough but thoughtful television cop Baretta, has seen many changes in his life. While growing up in what he told his audience Tuesday was a loving and proud — but poor — family, he experienced the effects of family members' drug use and decided he wanted to do something about it. So he became a Newark cop.

He quickly amassed an astonishing arrest record — including a 98 percent conviction rate, compared to a national average of 16 percent. And he did it, he noted, without use of his service weapon — Toma was shot three times, stabbed four times and hospitalized a total of 30 times,

but never once pulled his gun on a suspect.

He told the crowd about the "arrest board," where the names of officers were listed along with their arrests, and said during his first few years on the force, he began to hate the arrest board — and his job. Every day, he said, he looked at the board and realized no one was solving the problem. Kids were being locked up for drug offenses, and others quickly took their place.

One day, he said, he realized he couldn't take any more of what he called "a circle" — people get arrested for stealing to get drugs, then need money for bail and lawyers, forcing them into more crime. "I said to my boss, 'do you realize what we're doing?'" he said. "I said, 'why don't we help them before they get to jail?'"

The former Marine Corps middleweight boxing champion decided he needed to put the big guys in jail — the distributors and dealers — instead of the users who needed help. He became a master of disguise and started penetrating high-level drug rings. Toma said he is able to change realistic disguises in less than a minute, and said only one has eluded him all of these years. "I just don't make a good-looking woman," he said.

Despite success, his world was about to fall apart. During a call, he worked to save the life of a young boy who was choking. It was an incredible feeling for Toma, who noted, "For the first time in my life, I didn't arrest anybody. There was no name on the board."

When Toma got home and was eating with his family, his 3-year-old son began choking himself. Toma desperately tried to save his son, who was later

rushed to Newark City Hospital — and died within hours of his father's lifesaving rescue of another boy.

Toma sunk into a depression and was placed on medication by doctors. He became addicted to tranquilizers. He told his audience he had become who he was supposed to be putting in jail, and even his fellow Newark cops began turning their backs on him. Toma said this is typical of what he called a "society of indifference." "The problem is most people don't give a damn," he said.

Finally, life became too unbearable for Toma. He wanted to kill himself. He remembers the agony he felt, the trembling, the day he turned against his family. "I wanted to kill my wife and kids first," he said. He had hit bottom.

But an argument with a drug-addicted nephew turned Toma's life around. His nephew asked Toma why he didn't teach him, why Toma didn't help him while he was in the gutter. Toma took his nephew's words to heart and the two tried to kick their respective habits together. Toma was successful. His nephew died of an overdose.

"When I beat (drug addiction), I was determined I was going to help," he said.

Toma has gone full circle, from someone considered one of the most successful detectives of all time to a drug abuser to someone now being hailed as a most-successful motivational speakers. His honest and emotional discussions have managed to reach a large number of people, and he said knows why. "I tell them how bad it is," he said. "And I give answers."

Westfield schools host holiday concerts

WESTFIELD — Holiday concerts in the Westfield school system are open to the public.

All performances will begin 7:30 p.m. The schedule:

Monday — Northside

Elementary Strings concert at Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark St.

Tuesday — Band and vocal concert at Jefferson School, 1200 Boulevard; instrumental concert I

at Roosevelt Intermediate School.

Wednesday — Holiday concert of McKinley School, 500 First St.; vocal concert of Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road.

Thursday — Choral concert of Edison Intermediate School, 800 Rahway Ave.; choral concert of Roosevelt Intermediate School.

Monday, Dec. 20

Instrumental concert II of Roosevelt Intermediate School; Southside Elementary Strings concert at Edison Intermediate School.

Tuesday, Dec. 21 — Band and vocal concert at Wilson School, 301 Linden Ave.

Wednesday, Dec. 22 — Instrumental concert of Edison Intermediate School; vocal concert of Franklin School, 700 Prospect St.

Wednesday, Jan. 12 — Instrumental concert of Westfield High School.

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Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders - 1999

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by Jill Guzman

Move-in Condition

Sellers should be mindful of the fact that the better the condition of their homes, the greater the likelihood they will sell more quickly and more closely to the asking price. Most buyers are looking to spend the least amount of time and money cleaning and renovating the home they intend to buy. The extent to which is true is reflected in the fact that many high-end buyers in some areas are willing to pay a premium to have builders furnish and otherwise decorate their intended purchases in addition to building them. The lesson for sellers is: They may want to get their homes in the best possible shape to have the best possible chance of making a sale.

If you have some advance notice before you have to sell your home, you can begin necessary repairs and renovations in a leisurely fashion. Tour of your home in the same way a prospective buyer would be shown the house, and use a critical eye to see the things that a potential buyer would notice. Sometimes having an objective friend do it with you can give you better perspective. But for knowing which major projects will pay for themselves in the sale, rely on your Realtor's good advice. To learn more, contact JILL GUZMAN REALTY, INC. "Our best reference is your neighbor."

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Somerset County drug bust nabs 27, breaks up statewide ring

BY ANDREW COPPOLA
THE RECORD-PRESS

Task force's three-month sting operation targeted users, dealers of 'club drugs'

SOMERVILLE — Operation Club Drugs, a three-month investigation by the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, resulted in the arrest Friday of 27 individuals — including a Kenilworth resident — and the seizure of drugs with a total street value of \$158,230.

Among those charged Friday was Jeffrey Schneider, 26, of Kenilworth, who is facing two counts of third-degree possession of a controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute, two counts of third-degree possession of CDS and one count of third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS with intent to distribute.

As of Tuesday, three members of the alleged drug ring — Thomas E. Conlon of Bridgewater, Timothy "Doe" of Ewing and Russell Wiecek of Raritan — were still being sought by authorities. All three are being sought on the charge of third-degree conspiracy to possess a controlled dangerous substance, police said.

Arraignments for the 27 people taken into custody Friday were held Friday afternoon and Monday at Somerset County Superior Court, officials said.

In addition to the arrests and drug seizures, officials also confiscated five vehicles with a total value of \$95,165 — including a 1999 Jeep Wrangler, 1998 Acura Integra and 1999 Audi A4 — and \$15,280 in cash.

Police took four suspects into custody Dec. 2 and the rest on

Friday, beginning at 4 a.m. The arrests were made by 70 officers from 14 police departments in Somerset and surrounding counties.

On Monday, Somerset County Prosecutor Wayne J. Forrest said his office became concerned about the increasing use of "club drugs" after 15 people attending a rave party in Morris County were hospitalized last spring. A rave party in Bound Brook held during the spring, and a second held during the summer, were monitored by uniformed and undercover police, Forrest said.

The investigation moved forward when Bedminster Township Police passed information on to the Prosecutor's Office regarding the sale of illegal drugs and an undercover officer from the Prosecutor's Office's Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force was able to make several undercover buys, Forrest said.

Over a three-month period, more than \$126,000 of anabolic steroids were seized in the form of 13,000 tablets and 953 ampules. In addition, 593 tabs of the drug Ecstasy, valued at \$15,000, were seized, Forrest said.

Also seized were 127 vials of ketamine, valued at \$6,000, Forrest said.

Lt. Norm Cullen of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office said Ecstasy is a central nervous system stimulant with hallucinogenic properties.

Ketamine, an animal tranquilizer, acts as a central nervous system depressant, Lt. Cullen said.

Officials also seized 3.25 ounces of cocaine, valued at \$5,500, and a one-pound, 10-ounce brick of marijuana valued at \$5,290, Lt. Cullen said.

A majority of the seizures took place during the final 48 hours of the investigation, said Lt. Cullen, who described the bust as, "very large, but of a different kind."

Unlike usual drug rings, pills — rather than cocaine or marijuana — were the main substance being dealt here, according to the lieutenant. This was the first time in Somerset County that a drug ring of this size selling "club drugs" has been broken, he said.

Police said the steroids were distributed at area health clubs, while the Ecstasy and ketamine were distributed at dance clubs. Some of the defendants allegedly worked as disc jockeys at some of the clubs, Forrest said.

Ermanno Bibbo, 25, Somerset, alleged to have been the head of the ring, is said to have operated out of his Franklin Township home along with girlfriend, Monique Zephir, 22, of Somerset, Forrest said.

Bibbo was charged with a variety of conspiracy to possess a CDS charges, a variety of distribution of a CDS charges and five counts of possession of a

CDS, police said. Zephir was charged with third-degree conspiracy to distribute a CDS, police said.

Also arrested and charged were: Steve Bandaronek, 38, Piscataway, four counts of third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Michael Colford, 26, Bound Brook, third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Anthony Damore, 22, Bridgewater, four counts of possession of a CDS and third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS with intent to distribute; Todd "Doe," Ewing, third-degree conspiracy to distribute a CDS; Fidel Gianni, 27, Raritan, third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS and third-degree possession of a CDS; Michael Hall, 25, Green Brook, third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Christopher Hickey, 34, Bound Brook, third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Eric Jorgensen, 37, Martinsville, three counts of third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Deborah Kane, 28, Bernardsville, third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; James Kielwasser, 26, Bridgewater, third-degree possession with intent to distribute a CDS, third-degree possession of a CDS and third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; James Krueger, 29, Warren, two counts of third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Eric Lilienthal, 33, Chester, third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Timothy Myers, 27, Green

Brook, two counts of third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Karen Palchanes, 32, Whitehouse, three counts of third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Bruce Plumbo, 35, Bernardsville, third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Paul Potts, 37, Bridgewater, four counts of third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Nicholas Rauceri, 25, Gillette, two counts of conspiracy to possess a CDS with intent to distribute, third-degree possession with intent to distribute a CDS and third-degree possession of a CDS; Onofrio Anthony Riga, 35, Bridgewater, five counts of possession of a CDS, fourth-degree possession of a CDS and fourth-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS with intent to distribute;

Giuseppe Sanzone, 34, Piscataway, third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Christy Simpson, Highland Park, two counts of third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Kevin Smigel, 29, Basking Ridge, third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Jeffrey Stulack, 26, Basking Ridge, third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; Michael Teixeira, 24, Bridgewater, third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS; and Tara Traponese, 31, Bound Brook, four counts of third-degree conspiracy to possess a CDS.

Stulack worked as a custodian at an elementary school in Somerset County, Forrest said.

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Kearny man killed by freight train

CRANFORD — A man was struck and killed by a freight train Dec. 2.

Township police responded to the Lehigh Valley train tracks off Winans Avenue at 9:45 p.m. on a report that a man had been struck by a train.

According to police reports, the victim was Renaldo Cruz, 37, of Kearny. Cruz was pronounced dead at the scene at 11:37 p.m., and police are officially labeling his death a suicide.

The freight train was heading east to Newark, police said. The only witness to the apparent suicide was the train's conductor, who spotted Cruz too late to do anything, according to police reports.

"The conductor saw the man lying on the tracks and attempted to stop the train," said Lt. Stephen Wilde of the Cranford Police Department. "He didn't have time."

The freight train stopped at the scene and was delayed until approximately 11:30 p.m.

Newcomers plan festive holiday season

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Newcomers plan a festive holiday schedule for all.

Holiday time is a great time for people new to Westfield, or people who have had a change in life, such as a birth or marriage, to meet others in the community.

The club is planning many events for the holiday season.

A children's holiday party will be held at 1:30 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Westfield community room. Santa will make an appearance.

A "grown up" holiday party will be held Dec. 11 at a member's home. This semi-formal event will feature a holiday toast, hors d'oeuvres and many desserts.

Other events for this holiday season include a cookie exchange, a holiday dinner at the Echo Lake Country Club, adopting a family through the Caring Neighbor program and a wreath-making activity.

The purpose of the Newcomers Club is to extend a friendly greeting to people who are new in town, help them meet other newcomers and make them feel like part of the community. In addition to holiday parties, the club also has a book group and playgroups for children of various ages.

December 31st, 1999

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Commentary

It's the season of giving — and that includes blood

You can give a little bit of yourself this holiday season — literally — and it just may be the most valuable gift you will ever give.

During every holiday season, there is always a serious blood shortage at area hospitals. People who would normally give blood through programs held at their places of employment or through the efforts of community organizations often become pre-occupied with the frenetic pace of the holidays — and regular appointments to donate blood get lost in the shuffle.

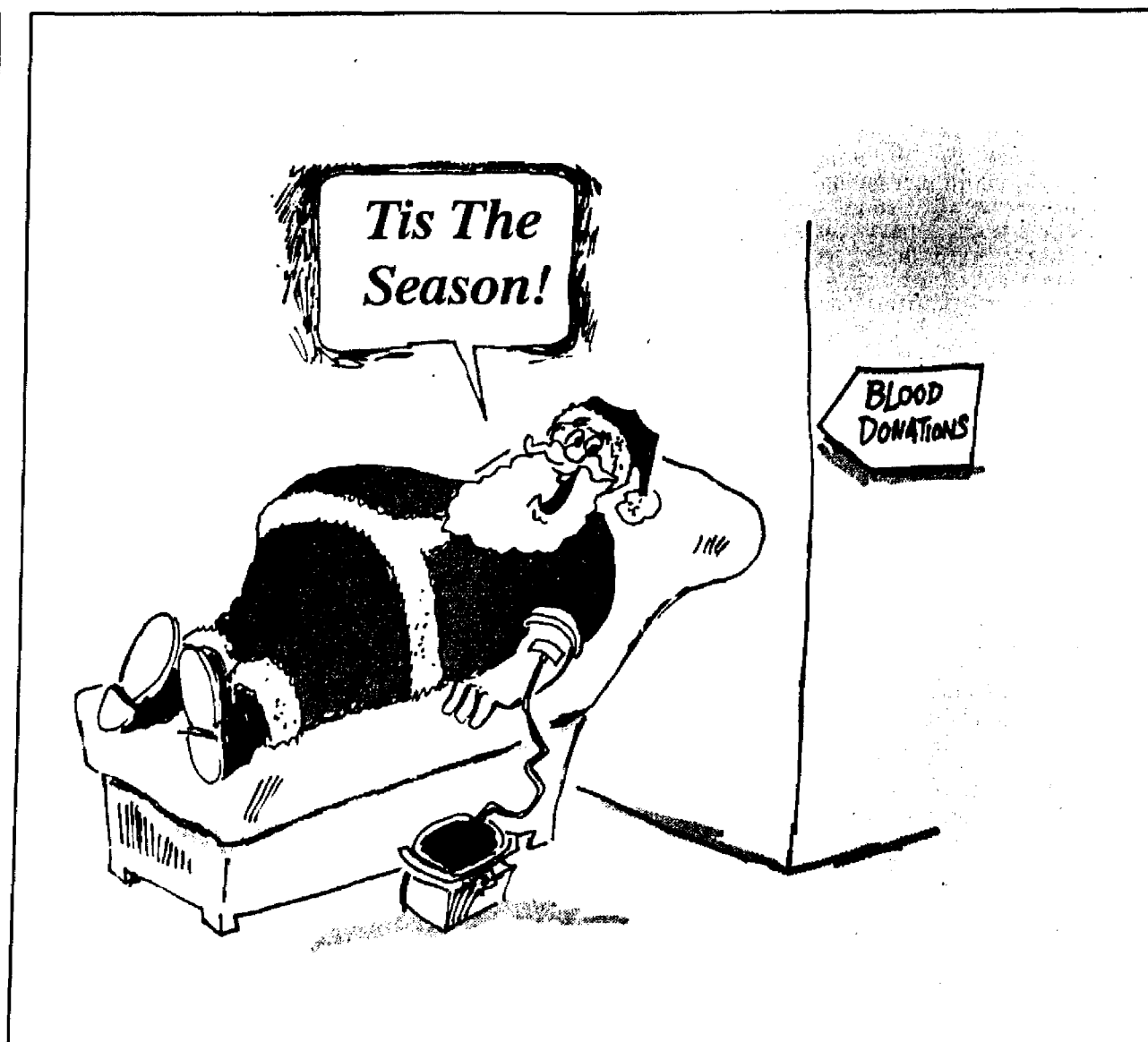
However, while the amount of blood being donated decreases, the demand for blood doesn't change over the holidays. Hospitals still need it, just like they do in June and July and September and February.

That's why it's important, while we're out hunting for just the right gifts, to find the time to give the gift of life.

Local chapters of the American Red Cross are sponsoring blood drives all around the area (there's one scheduled for Dec. 18 at the Garwood First Aid Squad) and you can also make a donation appointment at a hospital near you, for a time that's convenient to you.

Donating blood is simple and painless and it doesn't take much time, about half an hour. If you'd like, those taking your blood will give you free cookies and juice. And if that's not enough of an incentive, try this — a single pint of blood can help save the lives of at least three people.

What other gift could you give this holiday season that will have as much impact?



No such thing as a free drink

Birthdays are definitely a time for mixed emotions. They're a time for celebration and retrospection, when you invariably — perhaps even subconsciously — go through that whole "another year older" routine.

Am I wiser? Happier? Richer or poorer? Am I thicker around the middle or thinner on top (yes to both, by the way)? Did I try to make the world a better place? Was I a good boy?

I celebrated my birthday Monday, like many other Sagittarians (including comedian Steven Wright, and while I'd prefer to boast a shared birthday with the likes of a Hemingway, Sinatra or Michael Jordan, Wright is the best I can do).

It was not the most memorable of celebrations. First of all, whoever decided to allow birthdays to fall on Mondays deserves a good flogging — you just can't generate a festive mood at the beginning of the work week. Secondly, it was perhaps the ugliest day of the year — rainy, windy, chilly, not a single redeeming feature, in a meteorological sense. And lastly ... Tampa Bay vs. Minnesota? What the heck kind of Monday Night Football match-up is that? It appears even the NFL scheduling office was trying to tell me something.

But what really turned this birthday into a downer was an absolute lack of free things. Don't get me wrong — my family and friends showered me with plenty of wonderful gifts, up to and including an Emeril Lagasse cookbook and my very own "Star Trek" ray gun. But these are not the freebies I'm griping about.

Narcissistic egoist that I am, I truly expect the world to stop for a moment every Dec. 6 and commemorate the day Momma Z popped out her fourth child. My fiancée just shook her head when I declared Saturday and Sunday my "birthday weekend" — there's no such thing, she pointed out — and when I suggested that if it wasn't for Jesus I would have a rightful claim to a birthday month, the head-shaking turned into a blizzard of uncontrolled belly-laughs.

Undaunted, I determined to prove my birthday — at least, birthdays in general — meant something to the world.

At lunch, I went to a nearby fast food joint and at the drive-through window asked the attendant what on-the-house specials were available for birthday boys and girls. None, I was told. "Not even free fries?" I asked. No, he said.

I couldn't find anybody to go out with me Monday night and raise a glass. One of my all-time best friends started a new job Monday — not coincidentally at the desk right next to mine — but he and his wife were blessed just last week with a new baby girl, and a night of boozing was rightfully the last thing on his mind. With most of my other friends still living east of the Hudson River and dinner with my fiancée not scheduled until 10 p.m., I was left to my own devices.

So, as journalists are wont to do, I wandered into my local tavern and ordered my usual. When the bartender brought the drink, I gleefully announced it was my birthday.

"That's great," she said. "\$4.25, please."

The guy seated next to me needed directions to New York, and after I obliged we struck up a minor conversation. I noted it was Dec. 6, which was a pretty special day. "Pearl Harbor?" he asked.

"That's tomorrow," I said.

"Hannukkah?"

True, I admitted, but not what I was getting at.

A sudden light of realization appeared in his eyes. "Oh, I know ... it's Sinatra's birthday, right?"

I really have nothing to complain about. My fiancée whipped up an absolutely wonderful birthday dinner and I love my ray gun. But it's easy to catch a case of the birthday blues, especially when you're thicker around the middle and thinner on top.

However, I am now determined to never again bellyache on my birthday. It should be a time of celebration — you're alive, you've made it through another year and it is a special day, even if it's only special to you. That goes for everyone, on all the other Dec. 6's.

Next year, my birthday falls on a Wednesday. That's already a step up.

The Record-Press is here for you

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

Call Editor Gregory Zeller at (908) 575-6686 with story suggestions, questions or comments. For sports, call Dan Murphy at (908) 575-6698.

Our address: *The Record-Press*, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876. Our fax number is (908) 575-6683. Our e-mail address is njnnews@compubell.com

Correction policy

The Record-Press will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to Editor Gregory Zeller at (908) 575-6686.

Deadlines

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

Letter policy

Letters should be no longer than 200 words and may be edited for content, brevity, good taste and libel. Letters should be typewritten and include the writer's daytime telephone number for verification.

Send letters to the above address or fax number.

Announcements

Wedding, engagement, anniversary and birth announcements are printed without charge in *The Record-Press*. Send your news and photos to the above address.

If you would like help organizing your announcement, call Tina McAleer at (908) 575-6703 and ask for a form.

We accept color or black-and-white photographs. Please do not send irreplaceable photographs. If you would like your photo returned, send along a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

Former mayor has his say on SID

To The Record-Press:

I had not planned to get into the backbiting about November's election, but the misstatements about authorship of the ordinance which created Westfield's Special Improvement District compel comment. I was involved; non-officeholders Tom Jardim and Anthony LaPorta were not.

In a statement circulated just before election in the Third Ward, in an effort to detract from the efforts of Councilman Neil Sullivan, a letter over Mayor Jardim's signature asserted, among other things, that "the law creating the Downtown Westfield Corporation was written by former Councilman Ken MacRitchie." Mr. LaPorta, councilman in 1993-94, (has said) that "this ordinance was written by" MacRitchie. (Emphasis added.)

Pushing forward the program to revitalize the Westfield downtown business area, which started under my predecessor (Richard) Bagger, I consider the single most accomplishment of my years as mayor. Creating, generating support for and enacting the ordinance creating the district was the culmination of those efforts. And I am very pleased, for Westfield, that the current administration has decided to continue with the SID and make it permanent.

It is very important to me personally that those who brought this about should receive the credit that they deserve, and that credit should not go elsewhere by error or design. So here are the facts:

Creation of the SID was recommended early in 1996 by a commission I had appointed. This came as Westfield's three-year participation as a Main Street New Jersey participant was concluding, and during that time creating a SID was a constant topic among those concerned about downtown. Based on the recommendation and my own conviction that creating a SID was imperative to Westfield's future, I directed the then-town attorney, Charlie Brandt, to prepare and the Laws and Rules Committee to consider and bring to the full Town Council for consideration, an appropriate ordinance. The features of the SID and the ordinance of course had to conform to the state law allowing creation of SIDs.

The Laws and Rules Committee was chaired by Councilman Sullivan, and sitting Councilmen Jim Gruba and Matt Albano and former Councilman Jim Hely were the other members. I did not attend their meetings in the first part of 1996, so I do not know who contributed what in the give and take that is the part of any committee drafting process. All of them are owed the thanks of the business community, the town and the present administration for their efforts.

Several of the participants assure me that former Councilman MacRitchie, who had been out of office for more than a year at that point, had nothing to do with the work of this committee as it crafted the ordinance for council consideration.

As I recall, Mr. MacRitchie, as did the SID study committee members and many others, had made a number of comments and suggestions about Special Improvement Districts; I remember his related particularly to technical details of running same — accounting and cash management procedures and the like.

Thereafter, Mr. MacRitchie resigned from the council late in 1994 when appointed to a state executive office which the officials in Trenton, I believe the attorney general, ruled had to be held by someone "non-political," not involved in the partisan political process.

The whole Special Improvement District proposal had become a very political issue in 1996, much of it partisan, the subject of a lot of discussion, letters and paperwork, with pronounced and public differences among officeholders, candidates, business and other constituencies in town.

Again, my thanks to the 1996 Laws and Rules Committee for drafting and the members of the council for unanimously adopting the SID concept, and who with me selected and appointed the first board of the Downtown Westfield Corp. in the fall of 1996. Westfield generally and downtown in particular in future years will benefit greatly from an effective Special Improvement District.

GARLAND 'Bud' BOOTHE
Westfield

The writer was mayor of Westfield from 1992-96.

Y2K? I can't make things work now!

Have you heard? The millennium is coming. What does that mean to you?

I can remember being 30 and 50 and wondering if I'd survive to see the millennium. Considering how many of my nearest and dearest didn't make it, I must admit, there is some sense of attainment.

It is interesting to contemplate what the next 1,000 years might be like, but the thought is so mind-boggling, especially when we see what computers are, have and will become. Considering how advanced they are, and how terribly incompetent I am with them, I think I'm glad I won't get too deeply involved in the evolution of the new century.

So many folk are worried about what will happen when the new year strikes (that Y2K thing), but I'm not sure I understand the fuss. I can't get things to work now!

I came up with the wonderful idea of buying tickets to a Broadway play as a Christmas gift to my kids and their spouses to enjoy together. I thought,

Phylosophies

Phyllis Reckel



This went on for a long time and ended up with my getting a message with a customer service telephone number, which I called and said, "Never mind about the back key, can I order the tickets by phone?"

I was telling a friend my tale of woe and she almost screamed, "I know!" Her grandson told her he wanted Pokémon pajamas for Christmas. She went to her computer, found the pajamas in the J.C. Penney catalog, went through the order machinations and was then told to put the item in her cart. "I didn't know how to get it in the cart," she moaned. She also ordered by phone.

The Record-Press photograph policy

We welcome submitted photographs — color or black-and-white — of community events. Individuals in the photos should be identified and clearly visible. Please do not send irreplaceable photos.

Photos can be sent to: Record-Press, P.O. Box 699, 44 Veterans

Memorial Drive East, Somerville, NJ 08876, Attn: Editor Gregory Zeller.

If you would like your photo returned, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. If you would like to request a photograph at a community event, contact us at least 48 hours prior to the event

and we will do our best to schedule a photographer. If you would like a reprint of a photograph that appeared in *The Record-Press* and was taken by a staff photographer, call the photo department at (908) 575-6708 for a reprint request form. For more information, please call the editor at (908) 575-6686.

Record-Press

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Kenilworth school picked as 'choice'

By ALEC MOORE
THE RECORD-PRESS

KENILWORTH — The Kenilworth School District has been selected by the New Jersey Department of Education to serve as Union County's pilot school district in the Interdistrict Public School Choice Program for the 2000-01 school year.

The Interdistrict Public School Choice Program — now accepting applications for next school year, its inaugural year — is intended to offer students expanded educational opportunities to attend school districts outside of the one in which they reside. The parents of the students participating in the program can thereby select a public school they feel is best suited to their child's particular interests, abilities and learning needs.

Kenilworth Superintendent of Schools Lloyd Leschuk said the local school that has been selected as the focus for the Choice program is the borough's David Brearley Middle/High School, which the superintendent called "an alternative to a large high school."

"David Brearley offers an excellent setting for students interested in a small personalized, caring educational experience," Leschuk said in a Nov. 30 press release. "Kids don't get lost here and they don't fall through the cracks."

"The unofficial motto for the school is 'high expectations and high levels of achievement for all students,'" he added. "To this end, David Brearley is fortunate to have a talented, motivated and energetic staff led by a highly visible, committed and effective principal who work in a superior educational facility."

Leschuk, who has been following the Choice program since it was initially introduced through the Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996, said he was so excited about applying for the program that he drove to Trenton and filled out the application himself the very day he learned applications

were being accepted. That was before copies of the applications had been sent out to districts around the state in October, he noted.

Perhaps the greatest benefit to the district, according to Leschuk, is the additional funding the district will be receiving for each student who transfers to David Brearley through the Choice program. Although the exact amount of funding the district will receive is unknown, although the state Department of Education has indicated "middle of the box figures" in the range of \$8,500 per high school student and \$7,900 per middle school student, he said.

That funding, Leschuk said, will then go back into enhancing the programs and facilities at the school.

For the coming 2000-01 school year, David Brearley will be accepting 10 students per grade level for students in grades seven through 10, and will accept an additional 10 students in grades seven through 10 each year for the next five years.

In the event that more than 10 students apply at a particular grade level, a lottery will be held to determine who will be selected for the program, according to a press release from the Kenilworth Public Schools.

Leschuk noted that applicants for the Choice program must meet three requirements — they must be residents of Union County, they must have been enrolled in a public school during the 1999-2000 school year and they must be eligible for placement in grades seven through 10.

Anyone who may be interested in learning more about the Choice program is invited to attend an open house session, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20 at the David Brearley Middle/High School, located at 401 Monroe Avenue.

For more information on the open house or any other aspect of the Choice program, call the superintendent's office at (908) 276-1644, ext. 513.

Donors give free cellular phones to Garwood First Aid Squad

GARWOOD — The Garwood First Aid Squad has found a 21st century way to stay in touch.

Most hospitals the First Aid Squad travels to are beyond the range of radio transmissions from the squad's borough headquarters.

New cellular telephones now being used by the squad will enable first aid workers to keep in touch with the dispatcher at the Garwood Police station and with medical personnel standing by at a hospital emergency

room.

In addition, the cell phones will serve as a backup should radio transmissions go out.

Four cell phones and one year's worth of cellular service have been donated to the squad for this purpose by Mario Morelli and Michael Wilson, who own In-Touch Wireless Communications on South Avenue.

Morelli and Wilson are members of the Garwood Police Department and former members of the First Aid Squad.



Service from the heart

Junior Girl Scouts from Troop 829 in Scotch Plains recently helped out at the American Heart Association Walk-a-Thon, held at Union County College in Cranford. The girls — including (left to right) Courtney Greenwood, Jayne Dzuback, Kelly Merrick, Annie Smith, Emily Jones and Debra Slaugh — were joined by troop leader Debra Slaugh (second from right) as they handed out water bottles to walkers participating in the Walk-a-Thon fund-raiser.

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Springfield's Cannon Ball House plans detailed historical event

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Historical Society has planned a multi-faceted historical event for 3 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday at the Historic Cannon Ball House, located at 126 Morris Ave.

In addition to the annual showing of Colonial Christmas decorations illuminated by electric candlelight, there will be a special display of artifacts honoring the commemorating of the 200th anniversary of the death of President George Washington, which occurred on Dec. 14, 1779.

Two other attractions will be a book-signing by Author Michael Yesenko of his latest book about Washington's military campaigns, and a premiere reading of a poem by poet James Napier about the Cannon Ball House.

A one-time only showing of combined items featuring George Washington's life can be viewed. Among these rare objects, which are usually kept in a bank's safety deposit box, is an original letter handwritten by Washington himself, instead of being penned by scribes, which was the custom of

famous persons in that era. There will also be some commemorative buttons and a copy of a newspaper recording facts about his famous battles in Springfield and nearby areas.

Yesenko, a Union Township resident, will be present to answer questions about his latest book, "General George Washington's Campaigns of 1775, 1776 and 1777." Copies of this meticulously researched, 286-page book will be on sale, and free personalized autographs by Yesenko can be obtained. He has spent many years carefully studying facts about the life of Colonial America's victorious general and first president and is the author of other books about Washington, plus many newspaper and magazine articles.

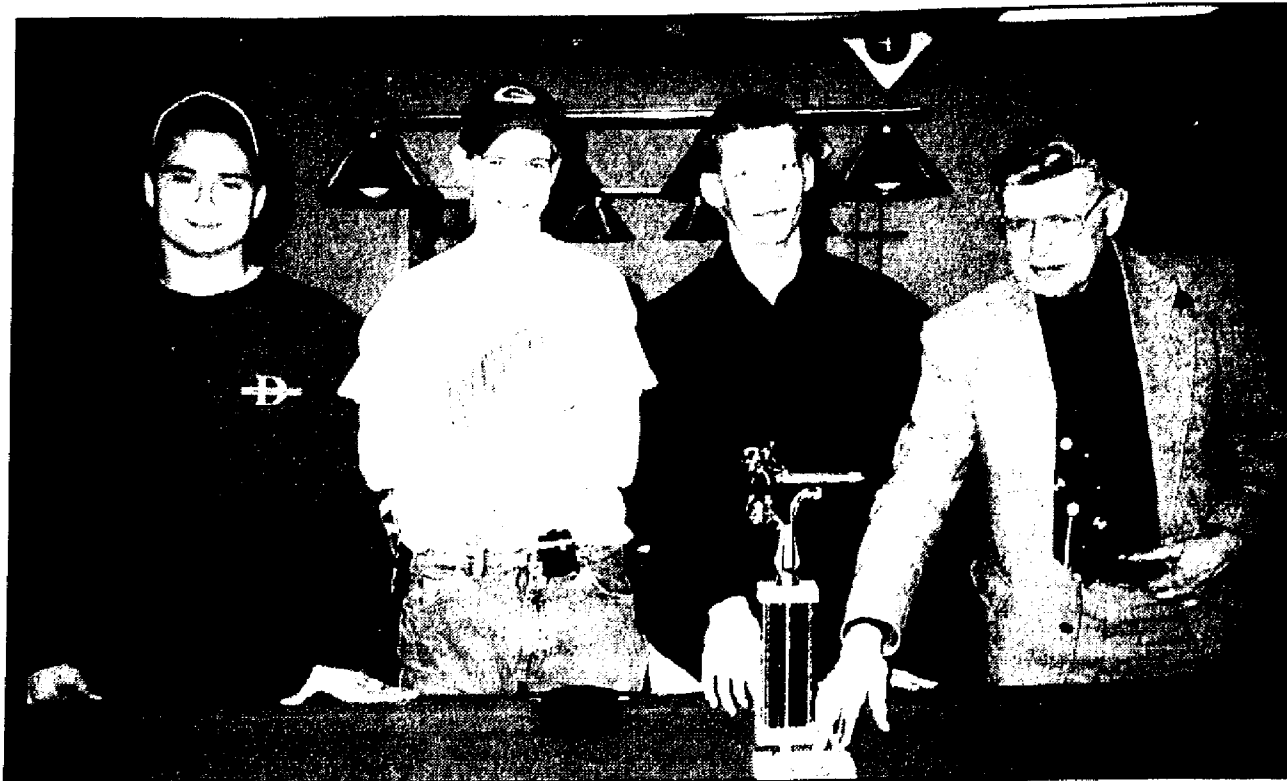
At 4 p.m. Napier, a Springfield resident, will give a premiere reading of his poem, "The Historic Cannon Ball House." His poetry extols the historical significance of the two-story, 18th-century house together and utilizes the profound impressions he's amassed during the many hours which he has spent in it

as a docent. Copies of this poem and of his previous poem, "The Battle of Springfield — June 23, 1780," will be available at this event.

The Cannon Ball House, which dates back to 1740, is the headquarters of the Springfield Historical Society. It is only open to the public on special occasions. At this time of year, the house will be decorated in the Colonial Christmas style. Pine and spruce boughs will be on the fireplace mantels and other places with added colorful embellishments of apples, oranges and nuts. The traditional evergreen Christmas tree with glass-blown decorations, as known today, did not come in vogue until it was started in Germany in the mid-1800s.

Guided tours by the society's trained staff of docents, headed by Chief Docent Howard Wiseman, can be had. Refreshments will be served by Hospitality Chairwoman Janice Bongiovanni and her committee.

For additional information, call (973) 376-3348.



Intermediate-Level Tournament champion Paul Marel of Scotch Plains accepts his first-place trophy from tournament director Robert J. Lawrie (right) after topping all comers in the Fall '99 Finals Pool Tournament at J&J Billiards in Scotch Plains. Second place went to Scotch Plains' Shane Gannon (second from left), while Breet Gurnee of Cranford finished third.

Scotch Plains billiards ace racks 'em up

SCOTCH PLAINS — Paul Marel quietly but persistently crushed all opponents in the Fall '99 Finals Pool Tournaments, held recently at J&J Billiards in Scotch Plains.

The 20-year-old Scotch Plains resident, presently attending Berkeley College, won first place in both the intermediate-level and top-level 8-ball tournaments. Because he had won first place in the Spring '99 intermediate-level tournament, he repeated as champion of that competition,

becoming the first repeat champion and double winner of the semi-annual events.

The handicapped 8-ball tournaments allow novices to compete on a level playing field with skilled players. Every Monday for eight weeks, the tournament winner was awarded a trophy. Also, cash prizes were given to the first three places and their names are prominently posted, which was a significant incentive as players vied for recognition.

These eight preliminary tour-

naments allow Asim Iqbal, proprietor, to establish accurate handicaps providing a fair opportunity for a player of any skill level to win in the all-important finals.

During the final two weeks of play, two separate tournaments were held. This allowed closer competition between beginners and intermediate players with appropriate handicaps in the first final, and a similar contest between intermediate and top skilled players.

TV's 'Miss Molly' can teach adults a few things, too

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Mountainside Parent-Teacher Association recently hosted Smart Discipline, a workshop featuring Molly McClosky-Barber of Larry Koenig Associates.

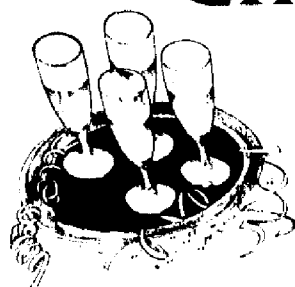
Also known as "Miss

Molly" of the nationally syndicated children's show "Romper Room," McClosky mingled her quick wit and humor with sound advice, making the evening a fun-filled seminar for the numerous parents who attended.

Local Parent-Teacher Associations wishing to sponsor a similar event, or those that would like additional information and resources, are encouraged to call McClosky at (908) 654-3899.

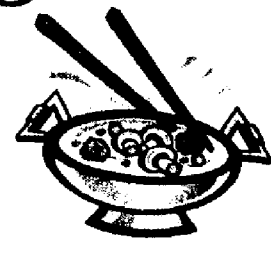
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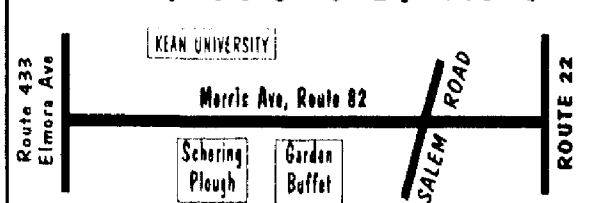
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Briefs

Westfield schools announce school closings information

WESTFIELD — In the event of unexpected school closings or delayed openings in the Westfield Public Schools, information will be available from the following sources:

- * Radio station New Jersey 101.5 FM
- * Comcast Cable Public Access Channel 36
- * News 12 (Channel 42)
- * On the Internet at www.westfieldnj.com

Elementary and intermediate school students' homes will be telephoned by Parent-Teacher Association and Parent-Teacher Organization members to advise parents of closings or delayed openings. Parents of Westfield High School students can telephone any of the school's Parent-Teacher Organization board members.

Redeemer Lutheran show comes to Roosevelt School

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Redeemer Lutheran School will perform a Christmas musical in the auditorium of the Roosevelt Intermediate School, located at 301 Clark St., at 4 p.m. Dec. 19.

The story revolves around young shepherds on their journey to meet the Baby Jesus. On their way, in some unexpected places, the first signs of Jesus' coming will be revealed to them.

The play is written by Janet McMahon-Wilson and Ted Wilson. Admission to the show is free and the public is welcome to attend.

For more information, call Roger Borchin, principal of the Redeemer Lutheran School, at (908) 232-1592.

Great Books chat to focus on Hume

SPRINGFIELD — The public is invited to a Great Books reading and discussion from 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Thursday at the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. Rhoda Rosenfeld will lead the discussion on Hume's "Of Personal Identity."

Great Books reading and discussion programs are normally held the third Thursday morning of every month throughout the year at the Springfield Library. These programs are free and open to the public. For more information call (973) 376-4930.

Accessories are always perfect as holiday gifts

What makes the gift-giving season sparkle? Accessories glitter with possibilities.

According to Richard Sinott, Harper's Bazaar accessories editor and the Accessories Council, here are the season's top ten holiday picks:

* **Watches** — Look for watches encrusted with jewels and stones, also sleek silver bangle styles.

* **Rings** — The larger the stone the better. Think cocktail rings to adorn your evening look.

* **Scarves** — Wrap yourself in fabulous embroidered and colorful-cashmere or a casual chunky knit.

* **Gloves** — For real glamour, a full length glove to be worn with your favorite ball gown is the pick of the season.

* **Handbags** — Bag it with an envelope shaped clutch. For a festive holiday accent, look for beads, sequins and embroidery.

* **Belts** — Enhance a classic look or add a little something extra for dressy occasions. Jeweled or with elegant buckle closures, the right belt can take the most simple outfit to a whole new extreme.

* **Hats** — You can hold your head high and add your own signature style with the compliment of a great hat, whether it's crocheted for day or feathered drama for night.

* **Hosiery** — The stockings are

hung with frivolous care. Look for patterned, wooly and fishnet. Fishnet over color takes you into the millennium in style.

* **Bracelets** — Stack them up! Layer them on! One arm or both. Encrusted with crystals, semi-precious stones or simple in gold or silver. The more the merrier.

* **Stocking Stuffers** — Sunglasses, hair accessories and small leather goods help spread holiday cheer.

The Accessories Council recently voted ten renowned people with outstanding accessories style as being worthy of the Best Accessorized List.

The 1999 winners are Cher, Katie Couric, Cameron Diaz, Lauryn Hill, Nicole Kidman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Julia Roberts, Sharon Stone, Blaine Trump and Barbara Walters.

According to Sheila Block, executive director of the Accessories Council, these celebrities understand the value of accessories and promote them in both their personal and professional lives.

"Accessories help us define our own sense of personal style. Whether you are wearing fashion jewelry or a simple wrap, you are making a statement about who you are and how accessories add to your life," said Block.

NAPS



Santa Claus is coming to town and he's checking his list twice, making sure who has been naughty or nice.

Don't forget to be cozy during holiday season

The holidays are a busy time filled with friends, family and lots of fun. But the season of joy can also be a season of stress, so it's important to also relax and take time to enjoy life's little comforts. This can mean a night by the fire, renting a movie with the whole family, or even spending time alone to pamper yourself.

Here are a few gift suggestions to bring comfort and relaxation to anyone on your holiday list, including you:

* **Food for the soul!** Give a new meaning to the words "comfort food" this holiday season. A variety of "special occasion" foods like gourmet candies, imported pastas and infused oils make a great gift.

* **Sweet dreams with perfect nighttime sleepwear.** Curl up in bed wearing especially comfortable nightgowns and flannel pajamas along with a cozy pair of slippers.

* **Comfort and warmth all wrapped in one.** Functional and

cozy. A winter wardrobe like sweaters, hats and scarves can be found this season in luxurious fabrics like fleece, angora, and even cashmere, the ultimate luxury.

* **Stocking stuffers.** Don't forget to make time for yourself and create your own "wish list" for time-alone gifts like decorative paper and journals to write your Y2K goals and wishes. All these specialty items can be found at Marshall's home department.

* **End the year in relaxation.** A recent survey of women conducted for Marshall's by Opinion Research Corporation, found that more than half (60 percent) of those surveyed will "have a quiet night at home" this New Year's Eve. So why not experience an at-home spa treatment with a wide selection of scented soaps and loofas, along with other home and beauty luxuries. You deserve it!

(NAPS)

Stuff the Christmas stockings with lots of games

Stressing out about coming up with ideas for clever stocking stuffers or grab-bag gifts to give this year? If you are looking for presents for friends and family who happen to be fans of hand-held games, don't worry about finding yourself short on cash or giving the same old standby gifts. While your family decorates the tree and ices the cookies, spruce up that familiar Game Boy with a rainbow of colors and extra accessories that will make you the coolest elf in Santa's workshop.

You may have noticed that the new Game Boy Color hand-held units now come in cheery holiday-ornament colors of berry, teal, dandelion, kiwi and purple. But why

stop colorizing with the Game Boy Color itself? Thanks to NYKO Technologies, these lively portables may be decorated as colorfully as the tree in the living room. Anyone who is an avid Game Boy lover would appreciate several of the new game accessories that can be mixed and matched to color-coordinate with the hand-held unit.

Available in the same rainbow colors as the Game Boy, the new Worm Light is the brightest star on the gaming scene. For less than \$10, this patented white light allows gamers to view the action in any low-light situation, including travel. Swirling gracefully from the left side of the Game Boy Color, no batteries are required for this

lightweight add-on.

The Shock 'n' Rock is another accessory for the Game Boy. Along with an ergonomically designed comfort grip, it has built in force feedback, amplified stereo speakers, 10-hour rechargeable battery for continuous play and an AC charger/adapter. It is the only four-in-one accessory on the market for the Game Boy Color and costs less than \$30.

Another perfect addition to the gamer's stocking or gift package is the high-tech Rainbow Power Link cable that comes in the same choice of matching colors. Make the most of Game Boy with this quality three-in-one universal cable that links all Game Boy

series products including Game Boy, Game Boy Pocket/Color and Printer. Dual connectors link the same or different model Game Boy for simultaneous game play on compatible multi-player games.

Of course, if loved ones are planning on putting the new Sega Dreamcast under the tree, or if they already own a PlayStation or Nintendo, NYKO offers plenty of controllers and other accessories that help decorate those gaming platforms as well, at prices that leave room for the eggnog. Visit the company's Web site www.nyko.com for more gift-giving ideas and to find the retailer nearest you.

The gift of socks always comforts the soles

"Sock it" to your friends and family with an assortment of styles for every aspect of their lives. From exercisewear to glittery hosiery, local stores have what you're looking for in legwear this season. Here's a sampling of some of the most unique.

Leggsweir Active Socks: The active woman who wants to add holiday spirit to her exercise routine would appreciate Leggsweir active socks. Sold at drug stores, they are available in a low-cut style

with a red and white ribbed cuff that looks just like a candy cane. A similar style is offered in pink and white for girls. Women's socks: \$2.99; girls socks: \$2.79.

Hanes Silk Reflections Sparkle Effect Trouser Sock: Gold or silver mixed with black, the feet become the focal point as you celebrate the millennium in style and sparkle. You can find these at department stores for \$5.50.

DKNY Polar Fleece Slipper Sock: Cozy up next to the fireplace

with warmth and softness coupled with a no-slip bottom. Choose from scarlet red, flannel grey and black. Available at department stores for \$11.50. Also available are over-the-knees in flat or rib; knee socks in Luxe or Macro Diamond; and trouser socks like Argyle and Varsity Stripe.

Donna Karam Luxe Cashmere Trouser Socks: Indulge that special someone with the luxury of super-soft cashmere, found at fine department stores for \$65. Also available

from this in-demand designer are Luxury Socks in sporty boot-lengths or classic knee-high. Textures range from Silk Jersey Cotton Cashmere, Merino Wool, plush Boucle and Cashmere Blend.

Whether you're shopping for yourself or a special friend, the vast selection of back to basic and special splashy legwear can help your gift giving get off on the right foot.

(NAPS)

Holiday GIFT Guide

You can host stress-free holiday entertaining

The holiday party is at your house this year and you have no idea where to begin. How much food will you need? How many beverages should you buy? Throwing a successful party can seem like something of a mystery. Follow these suggestions from the leading online resource for home enthusiasts, www.house.net, and you'll sail through even the most harrowing holiday mixer.

Starters:

- * Allow eight to twelve hors d'oeuvres per person if you won't be serving dinner.
- * Consider passing trays of hors d'oeuvres. For expensive items such as large shrimp, it controls the portions consumed. Also, it helps the flow of conversation.
- * If you're serving dinner, allow four to six hors d'oeuvres per person.
- * For passed hors d'oeuvres, be careful and considerate. Never get them too hot to pop in the mouth. An hors d'oeuvre should be eaten within two bites.
- * A quart of soup will serve three generously; add a bit of broth to stretch for four.
- * Allow 3 to 4 ounces per person for side dishes including vegetable, salad, and rice.

Entrees:

- * If you're offering two entrees (including buffet style), allow about 4 ounces of each per person.
- * For boned meats, allow 4-6 ounces per person. If serving less meat, increase vegetable and

starch offerings. For items with bone, plan on 1 pound per person (more than likely, some of it will be left over).

* For samplings of small desserts, such as brownies and cookies, allow three to four per person and offer at least two varieties.

* You may want to use some of the great designs in paper plates and napkins, but consider renting glasses for the beverages. Keep in mind that for paper napkins at the buffet situation, you will need double the napkins to cover the dessert.

Drinks and Cocktails:

- * For cold beverages, allow 1-1/2 pounds of ice per person. If it is meltdown hot outside, allow 2 pounds per person.
- * For a party that lasts between three and four hours, allow about three to four beverage glasses per person.
- * For nonalcoholic beverages, allow two servings per person.
- * Offer some plain sparkling water, too.
- * Allow one bottle of wine for

every five people you have invited.

- * For an open bar, expect 50 percent to choose wine.
- * If serving several courses with wine, allow one-half to 1 bottle per person. If that is the main beverage, increase amounts by 25 percent.
- * After dinner, coffee is traditionally offered. Expect about 50 percent to drink coffee and a smaller number for decaf.

Whatever you decide to serve, be sure to enjoy the party this year.

NAPS

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Giving back

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA Chapter sponsored its ninth annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner for the needy Nov. 25 at the Black United Community Center in Plainfield. The event attracted its usual large turnout, with over 150 guests treated to a sit-down dinner with all the trimmings. More than 70 students helped organize the dinner with the Black United Fund and coordinated the guest list with the Interfaith Council, the Park Hotel for Adults and the Plainfield Welfare Department.

First United Methodist sets weekly schedule

WESTFIELD — At the First United Methodist Church, 1 E. Broad St., "Wherever You Go" is the subject for the sermon by Rev. David F. Harwood, senior minister, during services Sunday.

This week's schedule:
Sunday — Seekers Service (child care available), 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:45 a.m.; Fellowship time, 10:30 a.m.; Worship (child care available), 11 a.m.; Lunch in the social hall, noon; Madrigal Singers concert, 4 p.m.; Youth fellowship and music, 5:30 p.m.
Monday — Christmas story for Wesley Hall Nursery School, 7

p.m.; Boy Scouts, 7 p.m.; Stephen Ministry, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday — Christmas story for Wesley Hall Nursery School, 9:30 a.m.; Bible study, 9:30 a.m.; Children's music and fellowship, 3:30 p.m.; Fife and Drum Corps, 6:03 p.m.; Staff parish, 8 p.m.

Wednesday — Wesley Hall Nursery School meeting, 11:45 a.m.; United Methodist Women, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday — Sanctuary Choir, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 17 — Noontimers, noon.

For more information, call the church at (908) 233-4211.

Hundreds attend high school's annual College Night forum

WESTFIELD — Hundreds of students and their families attended Westfield High School's annual College Night, held Nov. 18.

More than 200 colleges and universities were represented at the event, with school officials on-hand to provide literature and answer questions about their schools.

The high school's College and Career Resource Center was also open for parents and students to visit.

"This event gives students and their parents an opportunity to gather information about colleges and universities nationwide," noted Dr. Robert Petix, principal of Westfield High School.

The high school's gymnasiums, cafeterias and classrooms were filled with college representatives and interested students and their parents. "Last year, 92 percent of our graduates continued their education," said Dr. Cas Jakubik, high school director of guidance. "There is clearly a need to provide high school populations and their parents with a broad overview of colleges and universities for their consideration. This year, we had representation from nearby New Jersey colleges and universities, as well as schools as far away as Hawaii."

Westfield High School's College Night, hosted by the school's Guidance Department, was originated more than 30 years ago by the College Woman's Club of Westfield.

Briefs

Applications accepted for 'Stagestruck' camp

Registration is now being accepted for summer 2000 programs of the Stagestruck Kids Performing Arts Camp.

The public is invited to the group's annual open house and reunion 7 p.m. Jan. 10 at the Cranford United Methodist Church, located at 201 Lincoln Ave. East, Cranford. A free dance and drama workshop will be offered that night.

New electives for 2000 include stage makeup, musical theater, modern dance, stage combat and magic. A "Counselor in Training" program is also available.

Stagestruck Kids has facilities in Cranford and Short Hills. An extended-hours program is available for working parents. "Stagestruck Juniors" is open to children entering kindergarten through second grade.

To reach the Cranford facility, e-mail SSKPAC@aol.com or call (908) 276-5053. To reach the Short Hills facility, e-mail SSKCamp@aol.com or call (973) 912-9051.

Westfield Y explores the nature of art

WESTFIELD — "Why is This Art?"

That question forms the title of an art appreciation course on the winter schedule of the Westfield Y on Clark Street. Classes will run 7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays for eight weeks, beginning Jan. 4.

This new offering will take a look at how art in the media has influenced culture.

Instructor is Sharon Schindler, an English professor at Jersey City University and Raritan Valley Community College. She once was an art professor at the University of Wuppertal and was associated with the Cambridge Museum in England.

Registration begins tomorrow for current Westfield Y members and Wednesday for new members. For more information, call (908) 233-2700.

Cajun Happenin' headed to Garwood

GARWOOD — "Cajun Happenin'" is the theme of a singles event sponsored by Westfield-based Kismet. An authentic Cajun dinner will be served 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18 at Crossroads, 78 North Ave., Garwood. Live music by Swampadelica will follow. Cost is \$45; there will be a cash bar.

For more information, call (908) 232-8827.

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Briefs

Westfield High senior up for national award

WESTFIELD — Maren Priestley has been nominated for the Principal's Leadership Award scholarship program sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

The Westfield High School senior is among the student leaders across the country who were nominated by their high school principals. She is now eligible for one of the 150 college scholarships that will be awarded in the spring.

Maren has been treasurer of the Class of 2000 every year she has been at WHS. The National Merit semifinalist and National Honor Society member is president of the school's Investment Club and treasurer of the WHS Student Council. She also is treasurer of the New Jersey Association of Student Councils.

In addition, Maren is the WHS nominee for the U.S. Senate Youth program and will represent her school at the upcoming Presidential Classroom program in Washington, D.C. She is also a Senior Girl Scout and a dispatcher with the Westfield Rescue Squad.

Nomination for the Principal's Leadership Award is based on leadership skills, participation in service organizations and clubs, achievement in arts and sciences, employment experience and academic record.

Battle the holiday blues with Christmas service

WESTFIELD — A special "Blue Christmas Service" will be held 4 p.m. Dec. 19 at the First United Methodist Church, located at 1 E. Broad St.

Leading the service will be Dan Bottorff, associate minister of pastoral care and nurture, and Trent Johnson, director of music and arts.

"It doubles the pain to try to feel joyous when your heart is aching at Christmas time," Bottorff said. "Holiday celebrations, including religious services, may feel inappropriate to many who approach the season with heavy hearts."

Theme for the special service is "Draw Near to God, and God Will Draw Near to You." The public is invited to attend this special service for which tears are as acceptable as smiles.

"How can a person sing a Christmas carol with joy while feeling so deeply the loss of a spouse (or) child, or after receiving a serious diagnosis, a job reversal or another of life's blows?" Bottorff said. "While responding to the real situations that many of us face at Christmas. This service will in no way be a 'downer'."

For more information, call (908) 233-4211.

Rotarians moved, by Third World plights

FANWOOD — The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club viewed a moving and emotionally charged presentation recently by Eli Ezra, district governor-elect.

Rotary International sponsors "The Gift of Life" program, which provides lifesaving heart surgery for young children in Third World countries.

Photographs of the children and their families are heart-breaking but inspiring. These children have been diagnosed with critical heart disease and, without the Rotary-sponsored surgery, would have no more than 30 to 45 days to live. Rotary Clubs throughout the country have arranged for volunteer doctors and nurses to perform the surgery without charge. Hospitals do charge \$6,000 per operation for supplies and materials, and local Rotary Clubs pay that charge.

The Rotarians bring the children and their families to the United States and provide housing for the parents. Rotarians furnish volunteer transportation to and from the hospitals.

Depending on the case, expenses could run from \$75,000 to \$250,000, perhaps higher.

Donations received by the Rotarians included \$3,000 from Fred Chemidlin of Family Investors Co.; \$1,500 from Geri Morgan Samuel, mayor of Scotch Plains; and \$1,000 from an anonymous donor. Liz Chelbi of Scotch Plains Drugs & Surgical promised to help with prescription drugs and supplies.

Additional contributions are welcome. For more information, call (908) 322-2350.

Fanwood social worker named director of treatment center

FANWOOD — Jacquelyn M. Lowe is the new director of Devereux Deerpark, a residential treatment center in Chester for girls and young women.

Lowe is a licensed social worker and has worked in child welfare services for nearly 30 years. The Fanwood resident had been director of child welfare services and director of group homes for the Paramus-based Children's Aid and Family

Services agency.

She helped develop the New Jersey Teaching Family Program, which helped provide treatment within the state for children with severe behavioral and emotional problems. New Jersey children were sent as far away as Florida and Texas for treatment before the program was introduced.

She also supervised the Teaching Family Program begin-

ning in 1982 and became its administrator in 1987. Devereux Deerpark has been administering the program since it was privatized in 1995.

Lowe began her career as a caseworker with the Mercer County Welfare Board. As a longtime official in the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services, she was a child protective services worker and later the assistant chief of the

DYFS licensing bureau.

She formerly was a director, treasurer, site reviewer and member of the executive committee of the National Teaching-Family Association. Lowe is a member of the Association for Children of New Jersey and a former member of the New Jersey State Adoption Advisory Council.

Lowe holds a bachelor's degree from Drew University

and a master of social work degree from the Rutgers Graduate School of Social Work. She has two children and a grandchild.

Devereux Deerpark is the only residential treatment program in New Jersey exclusively for girls and young women. The facility is on a 33-acre estate and works with females ages 5-21.

Intervention group honors volunteers, celebrates 25 years of hotline service

SCOTCH PLAINS — Contact We Care, the 24-hour telephone hotline and crisis intervention service, celebrated 25 years of service by honoring its 132 volunteers at a dinner party Dec. 2 at the Scotch Hills Country Club.

Seven volunteers were singled out for reaching significant milestones this year. They are Sylvia Ballat of Westfield and Joanne Bloomwell of South Plainfield, for more than 2,000 hours service; and Janet Burns of Roselle, Shirle Finley of Watchung, Liz Lane of Basking Ridge, Sue Mullen of Westfield and Ross Royce of Edison, for more than 500 hours service.

Other special honors went to Sandra Brown and Kathy

Buchanan, both of South Plainfield; Rev. Bill Forbes, of Westfield; Marge Odel and Candy Santo, both of Fanwood; and Pat Skotek, of Rahway.

The festive gathering was made possible by donations from area restaurants, businesses and individuals.

An international buffet featured food and wine donated by the Establishment Gourmet Club, Josephine Dunden, Clyné & Murphy and Vicki's Diner, all of Westfield; Tarantella's of Clark; Hershey's Deli of Scotch Plains; Neelam of Berkeley Heights; Raagini and the Mountainside Deli, both of Mountainside; and the Rice Inn of Fanwood.

Dessert was donated by the

Suisse Pastry Shoppe, My Town Bakery and Nuts 'N' Plenty, all of Scotch Plains.

Recognition prizes and door prizes were donated by the Paper Mill Playhouse, of Millburn; the Spanish Tavern, Christoffers Flowers and Bayberry Card and Gift Boutique, all of Mountainside; Parker Greenhouses in Scotch Plains; Juxtapose Gallery, Bunches Flower Co. and Periwinkles, all of Westfield; and Vitelli Liquors of North Plainfield.

Contact We Care volunteers offer the gift of listening to callers in need. The next volunteer training session begins Feb. 22. For more information, call (908) 889-4140.

Jewish Community Center sponsors three trips for teens

SCOTCH PLAINS — Teens are welcome to go on three special trips sponsored in early 2000 by the Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey.

Two of these trips are "vacation day" programs in New York City for middle school students.

The first "vacation day" trip Jan. 17 has bowling in the morning and ice skating at the Chelsea Piers in the afternoon. Cost is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. The bus will leave 9 a.m. from the JCC on Martine Avenue and return 4 p.m. Deadline for registration is Jan. 5.


The second "vacation day" trip Feb. 21 is for the motion picture "Fantasia 2000" at the

Sony Imax Theatre. Cost of \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members includes lunch. The bus will leave the JCC 9 a.m. and return 3 p.m. Deadline for registration is Jan. 28.

In addition, the JCC will sponsor a hockey night for all teens Feb. 27 with the New Jersey Devils game vs. the Montreal Canadiens at Continental Airlines Arena. Cost is \$40 for members and \$45 for non-members. The bus will leave the JCC 3 p.m. and return around 9:30 p.m. Deadline for registration is Feb. 1.

For more information, call Shoshana Hyman at (908) 889-8800, ext. 253.

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Mission accomplished

The idea was a simple one: with the holiday season bearing down, collect as much food as possible for the Holy Trinity Food Pantry in Westfield. So Tiger, Cub and Webelo scouts from Cub Scout Pack 673, sponsored by Westfield's Jefferson School Parent-Teacher Organization, set out on their annual Scouting for Food mission, run under the auspices of the Patriot's Path Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The efforts of the 673 scouts produced over 400 bags of food, all of which will be used to make the holidays a little brighter for those in need.

Slow and steady

(Continued from page A-1)
ly lowering the speed at which drivers travel the road. He said to really lower the speeds, the town will have to create a program of education, enforcement and engineering — including making physical changes in the road. "Our biggest concern is getting speeds down to 25," he said.

Sullivan used the New Jersey Turnpike as an example. Although the speed limit is 55 m.p.h., he said, drivers go much faster because the road fools them into believing it is safe to speed. The councilman said changes such as speed humps (sections of the road rising about 3 inches and extending several feet) or narrower lanes have been proven to actually slow traffic.

To figure out what changes need to be made to the physical characteristics of town roads, the council approved a \$16,000 contract for a study of local roads by RBA Associates, a Morristown-based engineering firm that has been looking into ways the town can slow traffic on Rahway Avenue. The firm will now study the stretch of East Broad Street from Euclid Avenue to Gallows Hill Road.

The study will concentrate on identifying the problem spots on the road, and the firm will then recommend changes that can be made to create a slower traffic flow, according to a memo RBA Associates sent to the town. The report will be presented at a public meeting, allowing RBA to factor public comments into its final report, the memo said.

Attempts to make East Broad Street safer have been lauded by members of BRAKES (Bikers, Runners and Kids are Entitled to Safety), some of whom attended Tuesday's meeting.

"We're obviously very pleased," said BRAKES member Dierde Gelline, who agreed with Sullivan that to really stop speeding on East Broad Street and make the road safer, the town will have to step up its efforts in other areas. "We realize just reducing the speed is not enough."

Fellow BRAKES member Madeline LaRusso said the move was a good first step, but the town should increase its traffic-calming efforts. She said Central Avenue should be the next road the town considers. "They should really try to hit them all," LaRusso said.

Mazeltoy!

(Continued from page A-1)
bors seemed to think the conditions were merely minor improvements of a bad situation.

"I think it was the best compromise in what was a flawed

decision 35 years ago," said Wells Street resident Michael Snizek, who opposed the expansion at the November meeting, referring to the original construction of the temple in the early 1960's.

RFP law

(Continued from page A-1)
nance. "I just am not comfortable in not having it broader," he said.

Democratic council members cited the closeness of the attorney-client relationship as a reason lawyers should not be included in the ordinance. Councilman Carl Salisbury said attorneys' position of trust makes them almost "insiders," or quasi-town employees, and automatically exempts them from the ordinance. "We have to be able to trust them," Salisbury said.

The Common Cause Citizens' Army, a non-partisan group that seeks to fast-track the passage of such laws in municipal governments throughout the state, first presented the ordinance to the council several months ago. It was also supported by the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group and the League of Women Voters.

"We're thrilled," said Pamela Garfield of Common Cause, noting the ordinance means politicians can't benefit by rewarding lucrative contracts to associates and campaign contributors "because it requires a qualification based price competition."

Winter's worst

(Continued from page A-1)
county maintenance crews, according to Dann, who said the county is located in an odd position. The towns that sit higher in the Watchung Mountains, such as Summit and Berkeley Heights, get more snow than low-lying towns such as Westfield, Fanwood and Scotch Plains. This means towns such as Westfield run into trouble when rain hits the freezing ground. "It just turns to ice," said Dann.

But Dann said the county will be ready to melt any ice and plow any roads that need it, no matter how much snow falls. He said his department uses the Blizzard of '96 as its model during planning for each winter.

Ray Manfra, director of the Fanwood Department of Public Works, could not be reached for comment.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, December 9th
"Captain Prozac"

Saturday, December 11th
"Killerwatt"
(Hard Rock)

Thursday, December 16th
"Walter Manning"
(Acoustic Guitarist)

Saturday, December 18th
"Avalanche"

Thursday, December 23rd
"Captain Prozac"

Thursday, December 30th
"Forward Thrust"

Month of December, Wednesday Nights
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE



NJN
publishing

Suburban News • Cranford Chronicle • Record Press

December 8 - 9 - 10, 1999

Colorful stocking stuffers under \$30 for gaming fans

Stressing out about coming up with ideas for clever stocking stuffers or grab-bag gifts to give this year?

If you are looking for presents for friends and family who happen to be fans of hand-held games, don't worry about finding yourself short on cash

or giving the same old standby gifts.

While your family decorates the tree and ices the cookies, spruce up that familiar Game Boy with a rainbow of colors and extra accessories that will make you the coolest elf in Santa's workshop.

You may have noticed that the new Game Boy Color hand-held units now come in cheery holiday-ornament colors of berry, teal, dandelion, kiwi and purple. But why stop colorizing with the Game Boy Color itself?

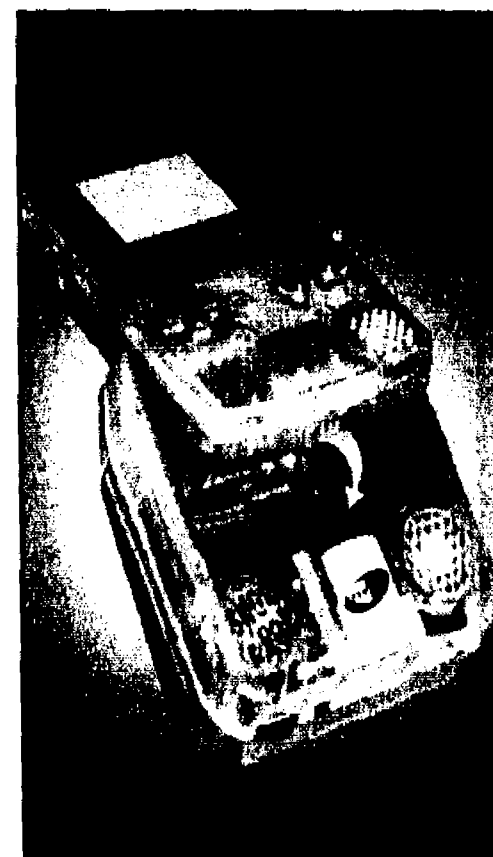
Thanks to NYKO Technologies, these lively portables may be decorated as colorfully as the tree in the living room. Anyone who is an avid Game Boy lover would appreciate several of the new game accessories that can be mixed and

matched to color-coordinate with the hand-held unit.

Available in the same rainbow colors as the Game Boy, the new Worm Light is the brightest star on the gaming scene.

For less than \$10, this patented white light allows gamers to view the action in any low-light situation, including travel.

Swirling gracefully from the left side of the Game Boy Color, no batteries are required for this lightweight add-on.



Spruce up your Game Boy Color this holiday season with colorful gaming accessories from NYKO, like the Worm Light (top) and Shock 'n' Rock (bottom).



The Shock 'n' Rock is another accessory for the Game Boy. Along with an ergonomically designed comfort grip, it has built-in force feedback, amplified stereo speakers, 10-hour rechargeable battery for continuous play and an AC charger/adaptor.

It is the only four-in-one accessory on the market for the Game Boy Color and costs less than \$30.

Another perfect addition to the gamer's stocking or gift package is the high-tech Rainbow Power Link cable that comes in the same choice of matching colors.

Make the most of Game Boy with this quality three-in-one universal cable that links all Game Boy series products including Game Boy, Game Boy Pocket/Color and Printer.

Dual connectors link the same or different model Game Boy for simultaneous game play on compatible multi-player games.

Of course, if loved ones are planning on putting the new Sega Dreamcast under the tree, or if they already own a PlayStation or Nintendo, NYKO offers plenty of controllers and other accessories that help decorate those gaming platforms as well, at prices that leave room for the eggnog. Visit the company's Web site at www.nyko.com for more gift-giving ideas and to find the retailer nearest you.

As an added bonus, this site lets you sign up for a free "RocketTalk" account that lets you see and hear the people you want to see and hear over the Internet. HL99C044

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Drop off Toys for Tots at local McDonald's

CLARK — Local McDonald's Restaurants are teaming up with the Marine Corps to collect toys for underprivileged children in the New York tri-state area.

Through Dec. 20, customers can drop off new, unwrapped toys in the Toys for Tots collection bin at participating local McDonald's Restaurants.

Local Marine Corps representatives will pick up the donated toys and distribute them to community children's charity groups.

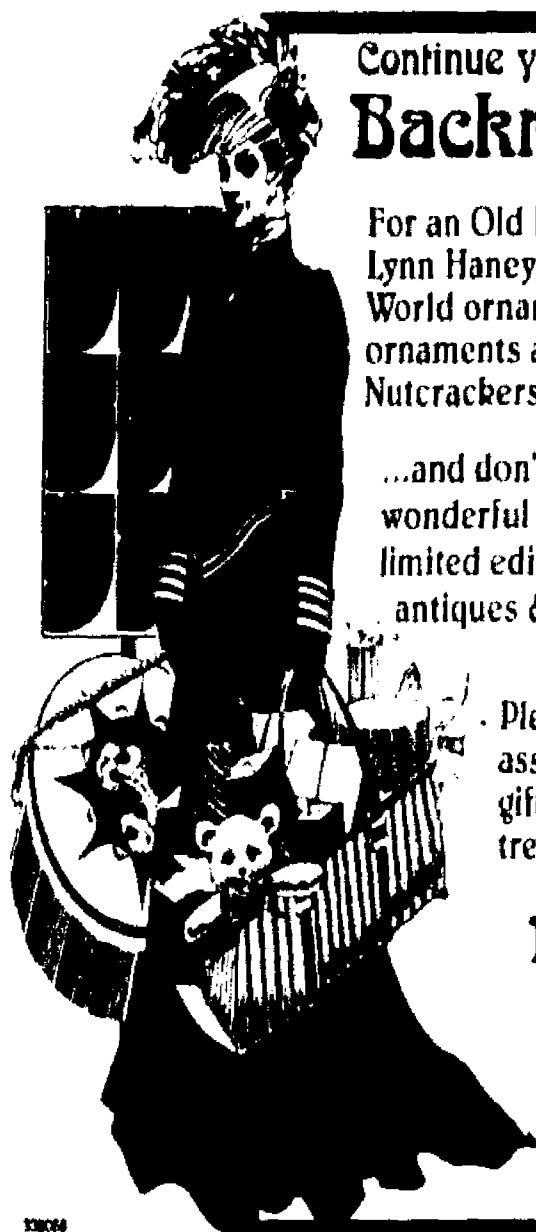
"For more than 50 years, the U.S. Marine Corps has brightened the holiday season for underprivileged children in our communities through the Toys for Tots program and McDonald's is honored to be taking part in such an important initiative," said Ana Madan-Russo, president of the McDonald's New York Tri-State Owners and Operators. "Participat-

ing in Toys for Tots reinforces our commitment to giving back to the communities in which we do business."

As part of their participation in the Toys for Tots program, several local McDonald's Restaurant owners will also help Marine Corps representatives distribute the donated toys to community children's charities and organizations.

The U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign was founded in Los Angeles, in 1947 by Major Bill Hendricks who, with the help of the local Marine Reserves unit, collected and distributed 5,000 toys to children in need.

Today, the program distributes approximately eight million toys every year to children across the country. Financial donations and toys collected are distributed back into the communities from which they come.



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"Welcome Home to Westfield" Holiday Events Calendar 1999

Downtown Westfield Corp. (908) 798-9444 • Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (908) 233-3021

Wednesday, December 8

12 Noon First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer Street
Mid-day Musicals Concert

Thursday, December 9

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Musical Performances in downtown Stores

Saturday, December 11

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Town Bank of Westfield, 570 South Ave.

Visit with Santa

Free photos, candy canes and coloring books, while supply last
10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. South Avenue Train Station and Trolley Stops downtown

Free Trolley Rides in downtown Westfield

Park for free in the South Avenue Train station parking lot and catch the trolley for a ride to downtown Westfield shopping, dining and entertainment.

11 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Watson Highlanders Pipe Band

Bagpipers and drummers will perform traditional festive music throughout downtown Westfield.

11 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. "Escape" - Women's Barbershop Quartet

Barbershop harmony group will perform throughout downtown Westfield.

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Yuletide Carolers

Carolers dressed in "Dickens" attire will stroll through downtown Westfield entertaining shoppers.

7:00 p.m. The Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave.

12th Annual Holiday Concert by Schwabacher Sangergund, Inc.
German-American theme with full orchestra, mixed chorus and soloists.

Tickets and information 908 232 4743 \$12 donation, \$14 at the door.

Sunday, December 12

10:00 a.m. First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer Street

"An English Christmas" performed by the Festival Choir

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Musical Performances in downtown Stores

6:00 p.m. Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church, 1100 Boulevard

Children's Christmas program

7:30 p.m. Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Avenue, Sanctuary

Candlelight Carol Service with the Chancel Choir, The Chancel Handbell

Choir, Soloists, Harp, viola & Organ, James A. Simms, Conductor

8:00 p.m. Church of St. Helen, 1600 Railway Avenue

The Promise of Advent: "A Time of Prayer and Song"

Wednesday, December 15

12 Noon First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer Street

Mid-day Musicals Concert

Thursday, December 16

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 P.m. Musical Performance in Downtown Stores

Saturday, December 18

10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. South Avenue Train Station and Trolley Stops downtown

Free Trolley Rides in downtown Westfield

park for free in the South Avenue Train Station Parking Lot and catch the trolley for a ride to downtown Westfield for shopping, dining and entertainment.

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Watson Highlanders Pipe Band

Bagpipers and drummers will perform traditional festive music throughout Westfield.

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Yuletide Carolers

Carolers dressed in "Dickens" Attire will stroll through downtown Westfield entertaining shoppers.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. "Escape" - Women's Barbershop Quartet

Barbershop harmony will entertain shoppers throughout downtown Westfield.

Sunday, December 19

11:00 a.m. Grace Orthodox Presbyterian church, 1100 Boulevard

Special Music Presentation at Sunday morning worship service

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Musical Performances in downtown stores

4:00 P.m. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 250 Gallows Hill Road

Holiday concert featuring the metropolitan greek Choral tickets \$40 information: 233-8533

Friday, December 24

4:00 P.m. First Congregational church, 125 Elmer street

Spontaneous Children's Pageant

5:00 p.m. The Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Avenue, Sanctuary

Family Service and pageant

6:00p.m. First congregational church, 125 Elmer Street

Christmas pageant

7:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m., and 12 Midnight Church of St. Helen, 1600 Railway Avenue

Christmas Liturgies-carol singing 30 minutes before each service

8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. The Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Avenue, Sanctuary

Candlelight communion service with choir and organ

11:00 p.m. First Congregational church, 125 Elmer Street

Candlelight service of lessons and carols

Friday, December 31

First Night Westfield

An alcohol-free celebration of the arts throughout Westfield. Information: 908-518-2983.

Sunday, January 2, 2000

4:00 p.m. The Catholic church of the holy Trinity, Westfield Avenue and first street
Festival of lessons and carols for Epiphany public welcomed



DOWNTOWN Westfield CORPORATION



Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce

105 Elm Street

<http://westfieldnj.ataclick.com>

Check the list of top 10 accessories of the season

What makes the gift-giving season sparkle? Accessories glitter with possibilities.

According to Richard Sinott, Harper's Bazaar accessories editor and the Accessories Council, here are the season's top 10 holiday picks:

- * Watches — Look for watches encrusted with jewels and stones, also sleek silver bangle styles.
- * Rings — The larger the stone

the better. Think cocktail rings to adorn your evening look.

* Scarves — Wrap yourself in fabulous embroidered and colorful cashmere or a casual chunky knit.

* Gloves — For real glamour, a full length glove to be worn with your favorite ball gown is the pick of the season.

* Handbags — Bag it with an envelope shaped clutch. For a festive holiday accent, look for beads,

sequins and embroidery.

* Belts — Enhance a classic look or add a little something extra for dressy occasions. Jeweled or with elegant buckle closures, the right belt can take the most simple outfit to a whole new extreme.

* Hats — You can hold your head high and add your own signature style with the compliment of a great hat, whether it's crocheted for day or feathered drama for night.

* Hosiery — The stockings are hung with frivolous care. Look for patterned, wooly and fishnet. Fishnet over color takes you into the

millennium in style.

* Bracelets — Stack them up! Layer them on! One arm or both. Encrusted with crystals, semi-precious stones or simple in gold or silver. The more the merrier.

* Stocking Stuffers — Sunglasses, hair accessories and small leather goods help spread holiday cheer.

The Accessories Council recently voted ten renowned people with outstanding accessories style as being worthy of the Best Accessorized List.

The 1999 winners are Cher,

Katie Couric, Cameron Diaz, Laury Hill, Nicole Kidman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Julia Roberts, Sharon Stone, Blaine Trump and Barbara Walters.

According to Sheila Block, executive director of the Accessories Council, these celebrities understand the value of accessories and promote them in both their personal and professional lives.

"Accessories help us define our own sense of personal style. Whether you are wearing fashion jewelry or a simple wrap, you are making a statement about who you are and how accessories add to your life," said Block.

NAPS

Post Office tips for a happier, less hassled holiday

The best way to get packages delivered in time -- and within your budget -- can help your holidays be happier and less hassled.

The Post Office offers some shipping guidelines:

* Customers mailing well ahead of time can use Parcel Post; it takes about seven to ten days to arrive.

* Priority Mail has been described as the post office's best value. Rates start at just \$3.20 and packages arrive to most destinations in two to three days.

* Express Mail, with published rates lower than the competitors', is delivered overnight, even on Christmas Day at no extra charge.

* Insurance is available for a little extra peace of mind. Fees start at just 85-cents for up to \$50 coverage.

* To be sure the package gets there, Delivery Confirmation can be added to Priority Mail packages for just 35 cents more; just 60 cents more for Parcel Post.

"Whether you're the type who plans ahead or the kind of person that does your shopping at the last minute, we have mailing options to suit your needs," says Patricia M. Gibert, vice-president for Retail at the Postal Service.

Shipping options are not the only thing the post office can do to make it easier for customers. People may not know that:

* All major debit and credit cards are accepted.

* Stamps, including holiday stamps, may be purchased at www.usps.com, post office vending machines, major grocery stores, or from 1-800-STAMP-24.

* Pre-paid phone cards, stationery and unique stamp-themed gifts are available at most post offices.

"The holidays are a busy time for everyone," said Gibert. "The post office hopes to make at least some part of the season hassle-free for our customers. Because we also sell boxes, bubble wrap and padded envelopes, you can literally go from the mall straight to the Post Office."

Customers with questions about mailing options should ask their retail clerk or visit the Postal Service's web site at www.usps.com.

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Earliest ornaments reflect holiday spirit

Did you know that some of the earliest Christmas trees in Medieval times were decorated with red apples?

By the early 1600s, decorators went nuts and trimmed trees with nuts, fruits and paper roses. Sweet ideas came later with cookies, candies and painted eggshells adorning trees.

Today, decorations include everything from candy canes to popcorn to a dazzling array of bright ornaments made from various materials. Glass-blown ornaments are particularly popular. These decorations come in a variety of shapes, including Santa Clauses, flowers, icicles, toys, trees and cones.

The Merck Family's Old World Christmas is the country's largest source of authentic, mouth-blown, quality glass ornaments.

Here are highlights of this season's ornaments and collectibles:



Glass holiday ornaments can be a delight for yourself or as a gift. You may want to collect new millennium ornaments.

• The festive new ornament "A Toast to 2000!" makes a great Christmas gift as well as a mil-

lennium memento. This is a delicate glass ornament in the shape of a miniature bottle of champagne with the French phrase inscribed in the mold, "Fin de siecle champagne," or end of the century champagne.

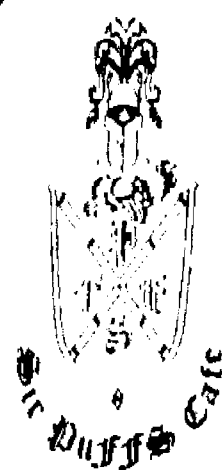
• The Black Forest Santa ornament shows Santa carrying a large golden basket full of local delicacies to nourish him during his trip. Included in his basket is Black Forest ham.

• Traditional nutcrackers carved from wood include the Merry Wanderer, Napoleon Bonaparte and King Henry VIII.

• Limited edition nutcrackers, such as Santa with Snowman, feature Santa and some of his favorite friends.

The line is carried by retailers across the country.

By the early 1600s, decorators trimmed trees with nuts, fruits and paper roses. Sweet ideas came later with cookies, candies and painted eggshells adorning trees.



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Make sure your diamonds add sparkle to the holidays

To make sure your jewels glitter this holiday season, follow these easy cleaning tips from the non-profit Gemological Institute of America (GIA) — the world's foremost authority on gemology.

* **Diamonds are magnets for grease.** With frequent han-

dling, they pick up oil from your hands, which then attracts dust and dirt. Try to resist touching diamonds, and try to clean them regularly.

* **Be sure to plug the drain, or better yet, use a bowl when cleaning jewelry.** You don't want to drop anything

down the drain or into the garbage disposal!

* **Mild liquid soap with water, and also a solution of ammonia and water work well for cleaning diamonds specifically.** Never use ammonia on porous gemstones and keep it well away from pearls. After soaking your diamond, use a soft toothbrush to loosen dirt and grease. Don't use a brush that you use for cleaning your teeth as toothpaste contains abrasives that can cause scratches to a jewelry mounting.

Rinse with warm water and dry with a soft cloth.

* **An ultrasonic cleaner works well for cleaning diamonds.** By sending high frequency sound waves through a detergent solution, it causes vibrating fluid to remove accumulated dirt and grime. However, it can also shake loose stones from their mounting, so this method shouldn't be used on fragile settings and is best undertaken by a professional jeweler.

With their attraction for

grease and oils, diamonds get dirty, and dirt robs them of their beauty. Regular cleaning will keep your diamond jewelry in gleaming condition and ready to sparkle on that special occasion.

Consult a professional jeweler if your jewelry needs more than a simple cleaning and visit your jeweler for a regular jewelry "check-up" and any routine maintenance. Fragile settings won't take kindly to being scrubbed with a toothbrush, and some estate jewelry may not be suitable for ultrasonic cleaning.

Seek the advice of a qualified jeweler—ideally someone who has gained expertise through the Gemological Institute of America. To find a nearby GIA graduate, visit the Institute's web site at www.gia.edu and check out the GIA Alumni and Associate's database for a list of members.

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Homemade gift creates magic

For children, giving a gift they've made themselves is a highlight of the holidays. Delicious Holiday Granola is a kid-friendly recipe your little elves will have as much fun making as they will giving.

This easy recipe uses mostly on-hand ingredients. While cranberries are especially festive, any dried fruit can be used. For a crunchier granola, use the old fashioned oats.

Older kids can do the measuring and let their younger siblings mix everything together. While the granola bakes, everyone can decorate a gift bag.

HOLIDAY GRANOLA 6 1/2 cups

- 4 cups Quaker oats (quick or old fashioned, uncooked)
- 1/2 cup shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/4 cup raw, unsalted sunflower seeds
- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick) butter or margarine, melted
- 2 teaspoons grated orange peel
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 package (6 oz.) dried cranberries

Heat oven to 350°F. In large bowl, combine all ingredients except cranberries; mix well. Spread evenly in 15 x 10-inch jelly roll pan. Bake 40 minutes or until golden brown, stirring every 10 minutes. Remove granola from oven; stir in cranberries. Cool completely in pan on wire rack. Store tightly covered up to 3 weeks.

Nutrition Information: 1 cup
Calories 230, Fat 6g, Cholesterol 0mg, Sodium 70mg, Fiber 6g.
NAPSA

The Leader Store

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HOLIDAY SPECIALS

Toys to make the season merry and bright

As you reflect on holiday memories from years gone by, you may recall the overwhelming joy you felt as you ripped open your presents to find that — bad as you may have been — Santa Claus pulled through!

To help make sure your loved ones experience those same feelings of jubilation, toy experts have consulted with Santa Claus to put together a list of the season's hottest toys for children from 'one to 92.'

Exceptional electronics

This holiday brings an electrifying selection of electronic toys. Computer technology lets young children interact with their favorite stuffed animals and plush dolls, and allows the young-at-heart to interact with the world around them. Electronic items sure to be a hit include:

Amazing Ally, \$69.99; Barney Banjo, \$24.99; Furby and Furby Babies, \$29.99; Pooh and Friends Chat Pals, \$39.99; Rock'n Roll Ernie, \$29.99; Walk'n Wag Pluto, \$29.99; Sony Playstation and N64, \$99.99; V-Tech Hip Hues Cordless Phones, \$44.99; Cool Tones Personal CD Player, \$79.99; Canon Elph APS Camera, \$99.99

Cool collectibles

Today, there's more to collect than marbles, pop tops and baseball cards. Your collector will have a happy holiday with these collectibles:

How to wrap gifts like a pro

Trying to make holiday gifts look as special as the present enclosed and the person receiving it? According to American Greetings, consumers are increasingly concerned about making packages stand out. Follow these easy tips to make wrapping paper, bags and accessories as much a part of the present as the gift itself.

* Attach cinnamon sticks, candy canes, pine sprigs and pine cones to presents wrapped in plain brown paper or green tissue paper.

* Express faith using religious-themed, gift wrap with biblical art and verse.

* Bring high fashion to wrapped gifts with an iridescent mini bow for a small gift or a cluster for larger gifts. Add sparkle to gifts with prismatic, angel hair curly bows or new "fountains" of metallic tinsel.

* Appeal to pet lovers with coordinating pet-themed wrap, tissue and package decorations from American Greetings.

* Personalize a gift by attaching an ornament that matches the recipient's interest or favorite pastime.

* Wrap presents for children with bags and gift wrap featuring kids' favorite storybook and cartoon characters like the Rugrats, Teletubbies, Curious George, Sesame Street and Pokemon.

Use decorative gift envelopes designed to be hung right on the tree. They are perfect for money, gift certificates and concert tickets.

NAPSA

Pokemon Cards, \$3.29 per pack; Hot Wheels Mechanic Deluxe, \$14.99; Hasbro's Monopoly Game Millennium Edition, \$39.99

All dolled up

Some things never change — little girls want little doll girls of

their own, and they still love to play dress-up. Holiday ideas just for your little princess include:

Barbie and Baby Sister Krissy, \$18.99; Collector's Lane Porcelain Dolls, \$19.99; Starring Me, \$3.99-\$12.99

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'Tis the season to decorate the house in style

The holidays — a time for parties, elaborate meals with family, and gatherings with friends. During these months of celebration, we want our homes to be festive and inviting. To help ease the stress of holiday home

decorating, a leader in the home accents industry is offering a preview of trends that will be popular this season.

"The holidays are a time when people should slow down from busy, everyday life to enjoy fami-

ly, friends and simple pleasures," says Kathy Cook, home decor expert for Enesco Home Gallery. "This should be remembered when decorating your home for the holidays. Your goal should be to create a special atmosphere that is both welcoming and festive."

Cook has identified some trends to use in your own decorating this holiday season:

Resurgence of Ornaments

"By the end of the '80s, interest in Christmas ornaments was waning, but in the last part of this decade we've seen a renewed attraction in them," says Cook.

Ornaments are available in countless styles, from artist Anthony Costanza's woodcut Santa Claus

to the whimsical tin snowmen of Daniel Dela Cruz.

Cook suggests hanging ornaments in unique locations, such as a chandelier, a door wreath or a pine bough. Ornaments can also hang in a window, welcoming your guests as they approach your house.

Thematic

Christmas Trees

Today, more and more people are decorating more than one Christmas tree in their homes. Often, each tree features a special holiday collection or theme.

"Multiple Christmas trees have become very popular — it's not uncommon to see a house that has one tree decorated entirely with snowmen and another that's just ribbons and florals," says Cook. "Regardless of whether you choose to trim one or more trees, be sure to make it uniquely your own."

Let it Snow

Icy, snowy motifs are popular this year, so be on the lookout for snowflakes, snowmen and iced pine decorations. This look is versatile — it looks great in traditional and country-style homes and can easily be transformed from casual to elegant just by adding crisp white linens and fine crystal.

"People are attracted to the frosty look because of its longevity — it's not only a good style for the holidays, but it's also an ideal winter decorating theme," says Cook. "These decorations can stay out through February."

Collecting

Whether it's a group of holiday-oriented tabletop and decorative accessories, such as the Holly Berry collection by artist Julie Ueland, or a series of figurines based on Mary Engelbreit's popular artwork, the holidays are an ideal time to display your favorite collections.

"Many people begin collecting when they receive a piece as a gift at the holidays," says Cook. "Santas, snowmen and nativity scenes are among the types of holiday collections that we're seeing this year."

Cook suggests integrating your collection into your home's holiday decor by decorating an entire room in these pieces or by grouping different items on the mantel. "Make your collection stand out, but be sure that its elements are carried throughout the room to unify the look," says Cook.

Everyday Items

Holiday decorating doesn't have to mean spending a fortune on new decorations and ornaments each year. Cook says that many people are turning everyday items into festive decorations by adding their own special touches.

"Our collection of holiday ribbon and candles are perfect for making ordinary items, like candlesticks, picture frames and mirrors, more festive," says Cook. "These small details will give your house a special flair during the holiday season."

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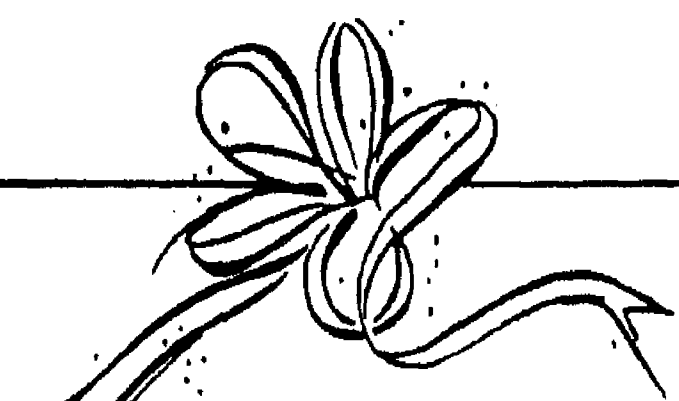


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Throw a 'Jingle Bell Rockin' party

Do jingle bells jangle your nerves? There are ways to coordinate a festive gala without creating more seasonal stress. Here are some tips to make this year's party memorable and fun for all:

* **Spice up your party by having a Winter Wonderland theme.** Decorate by hanging snowflakes from the ceiling, frosting all windows and mirrors, stringing white Christmas lights up and down the hallways and along the walls, covering the floors in fake snow, building life-size Styrofoam snowmen, having ice sculptures as table centerpieces and requiring all guests to wear white only attire.

* **Plan your Christmas party on the Internet at Event411.com** (<http://event411.com>). With this event-planning site, you can send electronic invitations, track your budget and keep your "to do" list.

* **Make party favors and hold a raffle all in one!** Decorate tiny stockings with the theme and date of the party in metallic puffy paint and hang them on a miniature Christmas tree right by the door. Have each guest take one as they enter.

Inside include a lottery ticket and a raffle ticket to win a grand prize at the end of the night. That way, everyone stays to the end and no one goes home empty handed.

* **Arrange for a choir to sing classic Christmas ballads** at the start of the evening, when hors d'oeuvres and cocktails are being served. You can even have a band or a disc jockey get the crowd up and dancing later in the night.

* **Throw an eclectic holiday party, celebrating different beliefs.** Honor Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa all at the same time by decorating separate parts of your home accordingly with unique decor and cuisine.

* **Encourage guests to bring canned items or toys to donate to local charities.** Make a contest out of it with the winner claiming a Holiday Humanitarian prize.

* **Create a Christmas Party home page on the web.** Log on to www.event411.com and create your own holiday headquarters. Once guests have your party home page, the festive fun can begin.

* **As with any party, take special steps to make sure no one ends up intoxicated behind the wheel.** Have party staff dressed as elves greet each guest and take their coat and keys. At the end of the night you can gage whether a guest is sober enough to drive home. If not, have your own taxi service on call or organize one yourself.

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Just in time for the holidays:

Great toy advice for all you weary elves

CLARK — Does the thought of finding socially responsible yet fun new toys for your precious little ones make you want to crawl back into bed and stay there until the holidays are over? Well, don't despair! The experts at Learning Express Clark and the American Specialty Toy Retailing Association (ASTRA) have come to your rescue with a comprehensive list of holiday toys that should be at the top of your shopping list.

According to Anders Franson of Learning Express Clark, "Considering that more than 6,000 new products were introduced at Toy Fair (the toy industry's largest show) this year, it's virtu-

ally impossible for even the most responsible parent to research all the toys out there. On the other hand, my staff is working with toys — and kids — every day and can quickly recommend those products that are the cream of the crop. We forward our favorite toys to ASTRA, and they tally results from all their member stores to compile their list of top picks."

So of those 6,000 new products — and countless more tried and true favorites — here are the top vote-getters broken down by age.

Infant

Through Pre-school

- **Wiggly Giggly** is a soft,

plastic, take-anywhere ball that makes silly sounds and helps improve motor skills in toddlers. From Hands On Toys. (\$16)

- **Wooden Train Sets** are classic and always a favorite, and today we find them with innovative features of sound and light which increases their play value. BRIO's **Record and Play Station** turns on station lights, plays engine sounds and allows kids to record announcements (\$70). Complete systems are available from BRIO, Learning Curve International and T.C. Timber (sets start at \$20).

- **Connecting Bridge** puts a new spin on the Roll Around

Tower, expanding the play value of both or they can stand alone. Awesome orbs and funny faces whiz about topsy-turvy curves, ramps and bridges. Endless fun with motion, sounds and vivid colors. This is an innovative use of the best toy that has ever been invented — the ball. Both from TOMY. (\$25-\$30)

- **Rub a Dub Paint in the Tub Finger Painting Kit** is the perfect motivation to get your little one in the tub. Kids can paint the tub, the walls or even themselves with five colors of finger paints that wash off easily. From Alex. (\$13)

- **Gymini Activity Gym**

encourages discovery and development with its safe, three-dimensional play space of soft toys and arches from which to hang them. From Maya/Tiny Love. (\$45)

- **Winnie the Pooh Nesting Cubes** combine a classic toy with the fun, whimsical illustrations that make Pooh everybody's favorite. From Schylling. (\$30)

Kindergarten through 4th grade

- **Pretend & Play Teaching Telephone** is a colorful, programmable telephone that teaches children how to call home, 911, and other important numbers. You can program and record messages, dial the number and hear it play. From Learning Resources. (\$40)

- **The Floppy Flower Hat Craft Kit** includes pre-cut flowers, butterfly appliques, pipe cleaners, and paint to decorate a pre-assembled purple felt hat for your own signature chapeau. From Learning Curve International. (\$15)

- **Full-sized Art Easels** are easy to assemble in minutes without any tools, and are available in single or double-sized versions to meet every little artist's needs. From BEKA and ALEX. Multi-colored table top easel from ALEX is great for those not having room for a full-sized easel. (Table top easels start at \$40;

(Continued on page 11)

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Toy advice

(Continued from page 10)
floor easels start at \$70)

• **ZOOB Play System** is an exciting new construction toy based on how nature and living things work. Combining artistic and scientific elements, the ZOOB system can teach everything from art to geometry to zoology through hands-on play. From Primordial. (\$8-\$80)

• **Woodstock Kid's Guitar** is a beautiful-looking, classical-style guitar with nylon strings. It is 1/4 size, measuring 30 inches long and comes in a colorful box with carrying handle. Also includes a guitar pick and booklet written by Happy Traum, one of America's best-loved guitar teachers. From Woodstock Percussion. (\$50)

• **Fairy Tale Castle** includes three floors of royal opulence with an open-air design for easy play. Lots of details and accessories, plus a unique construction that allows you to pick up the entire castle using one hand.

Add-on furnishing sets are also available. From Playmobil. (\$200)

• **Madeline** is always a winner. There is the 15-inch **Dressable Madeline**, a rag doll (\$30), with additional outfits and accessories, and the 8-inch **Poseable Madeline** with her friends, Chloe, Pepito, Nicole, Danielle (\$14 each), also with a doll case for their outfits (\$18). Both from Eden. Also available is a **Madeline Music Box** (\$9) from Schylling and **Madeline Block Sets** (\$15) from International Playthings.

• **I Spy Memory Game** is an award-winning, fun memory and riddle game for both youngsters and adults. Directions for eight different games from beginner to advanced players are included. From Briarpatch. (\$20)

5th grade
through pre-teen

• **Rokenbok Deluxe Action Factory Start Set** is a great

introduction to this unique, expandable, radio-controlled building system. This starter set includes 209 building pieces, accessories, the Action Sorter and the Motorized Conveyor, plus one wireless RC leader vehicle, a command deck with eight radio keys, and one central pad. From Rokenbok Toy Co. (\$200)

• **WOW Science** demonstrates scientific phenomenon. The kit includes 10 tricks which are simple and easy to set up. The trick is "WOW" and the scientific explanation is the "HOW". (\$20) One of the oldest games known to mankind is **Mancala**. (\$12) Children and adults alike are fascinated by the additive strategy required to capture the most stones and win the game. Both from University Games.

• **Night Vision Goggles**, aviator-style, offer two powerful beams of light to allow you to see up to 25 feet in the dark. From Wild Planet. (\$15)

• **Biblot Bags** is a kit that makes two exquisite beaded bags and **In Your Hair Kit** yields three beaded headbands in different styles plus 12 beaded hair clips. Both from The Bead Shop.

(\$14-\$20)

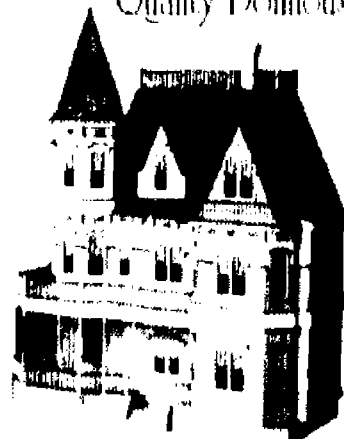
• **Meteor Rocket Kit** makes science fair volcanoes look like child's play. Powered by the same baking soda and vinegar concept, this reusable Meteor Rocket can streak 100 feet into the sky! Kids can adjust the level of thrust to perform great experiments. From Scientific Explorer. (\$20)

• With the **30-in-1 Electronic Kit** kids can build burglar alarms, alarm clocks, electronic timers plus 27 other cool projects and learn something about electronics while they're at it! From Small World Toys. (\$20)

All of these products are available at Learning Express Clark, which is a member of the American Specialty Toy Retailing Association (ASTRA), the largest toy trade association in America representing the toy industry. ASTRA was founded in 1992 to enable retailers, manufacturers and manufacturer's representatives to work together to increase awareness of the importance of play for children. For more information, contact Learning Express Clark at (732) 815-2121 or visit ASTRA's web site at www.astratoy.org

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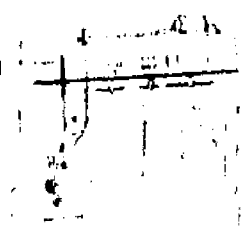
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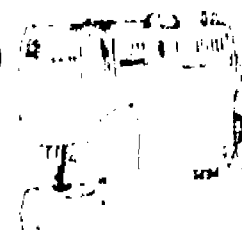
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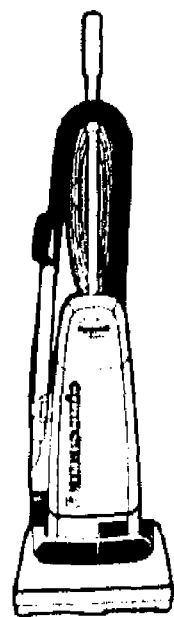


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Be sweater-care savvy when you buy this season

It's the time of year when sweaters come out in full force, and chances are, you'll be adding a new one to your wardrobe or giving one to someone special. This season, the choices couldn't be better. Whether it's evening glamour, a workday or a relaxing weekend,

the sweater knows no boundaries. Best of all, it usually doesn't require involved care and often can be washed at home. Experts from the Woolite Fashion Forum offer these easy care tips for the ever-evolving sweater.

- Always read the care label

before washing any garment. Keep in mind that if a label says "Dry Clean" or "Hand Wash," and the garment is simply constructed (no linings or decorative trim), you may have the option to wash it in the gentle cycle. The gentle cycle often is as gentle and effective as hand-washing. However, if the label says "Dry Clean Only" or "Hand Wash Only" do not wash it in the machine.

- A ribbed crew or turtleneck with large, folded cuffs adds a new dimension to the classic turtle-

neck. Look for them in the season's hot colors like pink, red or orange. Treat washable colors with care and choose a mild detergent like Gentle Cycle Woolite Fabric Wash, which cleans without bleach, phosphates or enzymes.

- If you're in the mood to splurge on yourself or someone special, a good choice that will carry you through many seasons is a cashmere shell with a turtle or funnel neck. It can be paired with slim pants or a long skirt for a graceful, streamlined look.



When shopping for sweaters this season, look for details like interesting necklines or folded cuffs. The camel hand-knitted wool lace-up sweater shown here is from Joan Vass.

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Community Life

This week

FRIDAY

DEC. 10

'NEVER CRY WOLF' — 1983 nature/ecology drama screened at Fanwood Memorial Library, North Avenue, Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Free admission. Call (908) 322-6400.

'MESSIAH' — Handel oratorio, presented in "Community Sing" format by Choral Art Society of New Jersey. First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield, 8 p.m. Admission \$10. Call (908) 232-2455.

SATURDAY

DEC. 11

JUST FOR KIDS — Dan and Kim Adlerman, authors/illustrators of children's books. Westfield Memorial Library, 550 E. Broad St., Westfield, 11 a.m. Free admission; tickets required. Call (908) 789-4090.

HOLIDAY HOMES TOUR — sponsored by Arc of Union County, 1-4 p.m. Buses leave from Arc office, 1225 South Ave., Plainfield, and Arc Day Program, 215 E. First Ave., Roselle. Cost \$15 per person, \$25 per couple. Call (908) 754-5549.

WINTER CONCERT — first of two for Westfield Glee Club. Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark St., Westfield, 8 p.m. Adults \$12; senior citizens and students \$10. Call (908) 232-0673.

SUNDAY

DEC. 12

JEWELRY SALE — benefit for People for Animals, animal welfare organization, 87 Cottage Place, Westfield, 2-6 p.m. Call (908) 301-1397.

WINTER CONCERT — second of two for Westfield Glee Club. First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer St., Westfield, 4 p.m. Adults \$12; senior citizens and students \$10. Call (908) 232-0673.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING — fund-raiser to benefit Westfield Education Fund. Zany Brainy, Route 22 East, Springfield, 7-10 p.m. Call (908) 789-4463.

MONDAY

DEC. 13

CAROLING, CAROLING — annual door-to-door event of Fanwood-Scotch Plains Tiny Tim Fund, 4-9 p.m. Caroling ends at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 559 Park Ave., Scotch Plains. Call (908) 233-6513 or (908) 756-3079.

STRING ALONG — holiday concert of the Northside Elementary Strings. Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark St., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Call (908) 789-4463.

TUESDAY

DEC. 14

NO WORDS — instrumental concert of bands from Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark St., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 14, 20. Call (908) 789-4463.

BAND AND VOCAL — concert with ensembles from Jefferson School, 1200 Boulevard, Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Call (908) 789-4463.

WEDNESDAY

DEC. 15

VOCAL CONCERT — with

singers from Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road, Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Call (908) 789-4463.

HOLIDAY CONCERT — with musicians from McKinley School, 500 First St., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Call (908) 789-4463.

THURSDAY

DEC. 16

TECH SUPPORT — monthly meeting of Central New Jersey SBT User Group. LPS Consulting Co., 313 South Ave., Fanwood, 6 p.m.

Registration required; e-mail info@lpsconsulting.com or call (908) 889-6300, Ext. 5.

CHORAL CONCERT — with ensembles from Edison Intermediate School, 800 Rahway Ave., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Call (908) 789-4463.

CHORAL CONCERT — with ensembles from Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark St., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Call (908) 789-4463.

COMING UP

'WE'RE NO ANGELS' — original 1954 drama with Humphrey Bogart. Fanwood Memorial Library, North Avenue, Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17.

Free admission. Call (908) 322-6400.

CAJUN HAPPENIN'S — Cajun-style dinner for singles, sponsored by Kismet (Westfield). Crossroads, 78 North Ave., Garwood, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 18. Cost \$45.

Visit www.thatskismet.com or call (908) 232-8827.

BLUE CHRISTMAS — holiday service for those with heavy hearts. First United Methodist Church, 1 E. Broad St., Westfield, 4 p.m. Dec. 19. Call (908) 233-4211.

BY CANDLELIGHT — Christmas concert of Metropolitan Greek Chorale of New York and New Jersey. Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, 4 p.m. Dec. 19. Admission \$40. Patron seating (w/reception, program listing) \$100. Tickets: Call (908) 789-2649 or (908) 233-8533.

STRING ALONG — holiday concert of the Southside Elementary Strings. Edison Intermediate School, 800 Rahway Ave., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 20. Call (908) 789-4463.

BAND AND VOCAL — concert with ensembles from Wilson School, 301 Linden Ave., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 21. Call (908) 789-4463.

NO WORDS — instrumental concert of bands from Edison Intermediate School, 800 Rahway Ave., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 22. Call (908) 789-4463.

VOCAL CONCERT — with singers from Franklin School, 700 Prospect St., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 22. Call (908) 789-4463.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE — "A Christmas Classic Celebration" at Scotch Plains Baptist Church, 333 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, 7:45 p.m. Dec. 24. Call (908) 322-5487.

LIGHT THE NIGHT — millennium "Watch Night" service at Scotch Plains Baptist Church, 333 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, 11 p.m. Dec. 31. Call (908) 322-5487.

NO WORDS — instrumental concert of bands from Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road, Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 12. Call (908) 789-4463.



NICOLE DIMELLA/RECORD-PRESS

A very German Christmas

This holiday season, Westfield's Miller-Cory House Museum is endeavoring to show visitors how our ancestors from other countries celebrated Christmas, and on Sunday, Germany was the country of choice. Several German customs were on display, including baking gingerbread and springle cookies, hanging Christmas stockings and a visit from the "Beisnickel," a holiday character who appears annually and "throws candy to the children," according to a press release from the museum. All decked out in circa-1700 garb, Debbie Bailey got into the holiday spirit by decorating a Christmas tree with some traditional German ornaments.

Annual essay contest honors civil rights' King

WESTFIELD — The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Association of Westfield is once again sponsoring an essay contest open to all students in the town.

The deadline for entries to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest is Jan. 4.

According to Sylvia Ballet, chairperson of the essay committee, "This year's theme, The Future of Race Relations in the New Millennium, was chosen to illustrate the positive impact of the message of Dr. King."

Essay contestants are being asked to address whether progress has been made in the area of race relations, if more needs to be accomplished and what should be done to continue its momentum into the 21st century.

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded to students in each of the three school levels. High school essays should be at least 1,500 words and must be typed. Intermediate School students should submit essays from 300 to 500 words that are typed or written legibly. Elementary school entries do not require a minimum length, can be clearly handwritten and will be evaluated based on grade level.

The first-place winner at the high school level will receive a

computer with color printer. Savings bonds varying in amounts from \$50 to \$500 will be awarded to all other essay contest winners.

First-place students in all three categories will be asked to read their essays during Westfield's commemorative service on Jan. 17 at the Presbyterian Church. The Reverend La Verne Ball, pastor of the Rose of Sharon Community Church in Plainfield, will preside as guest speaker.

To honor the life and struggles of Dr. King, a march through Westfield will begin at noon in front of the Bethel Baptist Church. This year, in recognition of the new millennium, intermediate and high school students in Westfield are encouraged to march as a statement against racism. As always, the public is invited to join in both the procession and service.

Last year's first-place essay contest winners included Alexis Jemal (12th grade), Mary Bogatko (eighth grade) and Matthew DeSorbo (fifth grade).

For further information about Westfield's 13th annual Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative service and essay contest, please call the Rev. Leon Randall at (908) 233-2547.

Westfield Y to expand popular cardio kick and box program

WESTFIELD — Beginning in January, the Westfield Y will expand its popular cardio box and kick program to include an advanced cardio kick circuit class on Monday evenings at 6 p.m.

This circuit class is limited to seven participants and will offer personalized attention to punching and kicking skills using targets.

Cardio box and kick classes provide the participant with a safe, fun, dynamic workout that will improve strength, flexibility, endurance, balance and agility.

"Safety is our number-one concern," said Karen Simon, director of adults and senior programs. "With the proliferation of kickboxing type classes, the customer must make sure that the instructor is not only qualified to teach, but is able to properly demonstrate technique and modify the class for all fitness and ability levels. At the Y, we focus on form and the

proper execution of all moves, paying particular attention to beginners, ensuring that they learn to execute the moves safely and effectively."

Classes are taught by certified instructors. When circumstances allow, instructors often team-teach, offering the opportunity for an even more personalized and diverse workout for each participant. Formats include circuit style classes that utilize traditional boxing and kickboxing equipment; taekwo style classes requiring no equipment; and combination classes that may include the use of target mitts, kick pads, jump ropes, weights and tubing.

Registration begins for current Y members on Dec. 11, and for new members on Dec. 15. The Westfield Y is located at 220 Clark St. For more information, call Simon at (908) 233-2700.

Golden Nuggets SENIORS

Old Guard of Westfield

The Old Guard meets 10 a.m. Thursday at the Westfield Y, 220 Clark St. Committee reports, films and other programs are included along with guest speakers.

Regular group activities include golf, bowling, bridge, day trips, luncheons, women's events and shuffleboard. In addition, the Merryman chorus performs regularly for charity functions, public gatherings and formal concerts.

For more information, call Don Pinter at (908) 233-1407.

Meridians Senior Citizens

The Meridians meet 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. every Tuesday at the Scotch Hills clubhouse off Jerusalem Road, Scotch Plains. Members enjoy socializing, trips and other activities at the clubhouse or at nearby theaters and restaurants. Business meetings are the first Tuesday of the month.

Plans are being formed for the Christmas party Dec. 14 at The Westwood in Garwood.

The Trip Committee is scheduling trips for 2000.

Any senior who lives in Scotch Plains is welcome. For more information, call (908) 322-3839 or (908) 232-0951.

'Over 55' Travel Club

Adults are invited on these trips for the "Over 55" Travel Club from the Senior Citizens Council of Union County.

Wednesday, Dec. 15 — New York City lights tour. Cost of \$25 includes coffee and dessert. Children over 5 are welcome.

Feb. 17 — Gala 2000 in Mount Haven. Includes champagne toast, open bar, surf and turf dinner. Cost is \$50.

Feb. 26 — Mommers show. Cost is \$40.

March 15-16 — "Cozy Morley" (Three Little Bakers) and tour of Wilmington, Del. area. Cost is \$155 per person, double occupancy.

March 17 — St. Patrick's Day show (Irish food and entertainment) at Poconoco (Poconos). Cost is \$54.

April 5 — Carnivale, lunch and show at Fernwood (Poconos). Cost is \$51.

April 7 — Charlie Chase show at Riveredge. Cost is \$60.

April 20-May 1 — QE2 to Miami, Barbados, Dominica and St. Thomas. Cost begins at \$1,500. Space is limited.

April 28 — "Millennium Showstoppers" Broadway revue at Lily Langtry's Dinner Theater. Cost is \$57.

May 2 — The Gaylords at Poconoco. Cost is \$54.

May 6 — Van Cortlandt Manor and Sunnyside Estate on the Hudson. Cost is \$40.

May 6-13 — Charleston, S.C.; Savannah, Ga.; and Myrtle Beach, S.C. Cost is \$595 per person, double occupancy.

May 17 — Polkafest at Mount Haven. Cost is \$50.

May 22-23 — Cape May and Longwood Gardens.

May 23-24 — Longwood Gardens, American Music Theatre and tour of Amish area. Cost is \$160 per person, double occupancy.

June 14-15 — Italian Fiesta at Tamarack (Catskills). Cost is \$130 per person, double occupancy.

June 23-26 — Finger Lakes region (upstate New York). Cost is \$385 per person, double occupancy.

July 1-5 — Independence Day cruise aboard the QE2.

July 16 — "The King and I" at Three Little Bakers. Cost is \$60.

July 30 — Woodloch Pines with smorgasbord. Cost is \$56.

Oct. 3 — Kay Starr at Fernwood. Cost is \$58.

All trips leave from the Boys and Girls Club in Union. Groups are especially welcome; special pickups can be arranged. Payment in full is required for one-day trips.

For more information or a brochure, call Richard Stone at (908) 964-7555.

Campus notes

Abigail O'Neill of 116 Scotch Plains Ave., Westfield, has been inducted into the Oracle Society at Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y. She was among 166 students who were in the top 10 percent of their school's class at the end of their freshman year.

O'Neill, who graduated from Westfield High School, is a sophomore majoring in television and radio in the Roy H. Park School of Communications at Ithaca.

Bryan Graye of Westfield has been studying in Brisbane, Australia, during the fall 1999 semester through a program sponsored by Butler University. He is a junior majoring in biology and Spanish at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa.

A 1997 graduate of Westfield High School, Graye is the son of Dr. Philip and JoAnn Graye of Westfield.

Obituaries

Ida Ruskin Kaye Officer in family's shop

SCOTCH PLAINS — Ida Ruskin Kaye, 95, an officer in her family's business until her retirement only two years ago, died Monday at the Clark Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

She was born in New York City and lived in Newark, Hillside, Irvington, West Orange and Elizabeth before moving to Scotch Plains in 1995.

She was for 20 years the director of operations and head cashier for the Leader Store, a family-owned casual apparel shop on East Broad Street in Westfield. She had previously been the Leader Store's bookkeeper for more than 20 years.

She was a member of of

Hadassah chapters in Westfield, Elizabeth and West Orange; B'nai Brith Women (now Jewish Women International), in Westfield; and the National Council of Jewish Women, in Union and Essex counties.

Predeceased by her husband, Harry, she is survived by daughters Ruth Spector and Helene Briody; sisters Rose Cohen and Edith Reinleib; seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held Tuesday at Mount Lebanon Cemetery in Iselin. Arrangements were by the Menorah Chapels at Millburn, in Union.

Norman F. Bendel Area Lions officer

SCOTCH PLAINS — Norman F. Bendel, 59, a Lions Club officer honored this year as the township's Male Volunteer of the Year, died Friday at his home.

He was born in Union and lived in Westfield before moving to Scotch Plains in 1969.

He served three terms as president of the Scotch Plains Lions Club: 1982-83, 1997-98 and 1998-99. He was secretary to the district governor for District 16E of Lions International and director of operations for the Lions Eye-Ear Mobile Foundation. He received the Melvin Jones Fellowship and other awards from Lions International.

In addition to his Lions duties, he owned the Benfel Transportation Co. in Scotch Plains for many years.

Surviving are sisters Ruth Davis, June and Gloria; brother James; and six nieces and nephews.

Services were held Tuesday at the Memorial Funeral Home, Fairwood, followed by a funeral Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Whiting Memorial Park.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Scotch Plains Lions Club.

Charles Robert Clement

FANWOOD — Charles Robert Clement, 55, died Dec. 1 at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. A native of Parris Island, S.C., he lived in Bloomfield before moving to Fanwood in 1984.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

He had been a global custody operations officer with Whitehall Bank & Trust Co. in New York City, where he was employed for 15 years.

He sang in the choir and was active with youth organizations at the Calvary Tabernacle in Elizabeth.

Surviving are his wife, Audrey Creary Clement; son

Charles R. of Cranford; daughter Leslie McCarthy of Westfield; parents Charles and Teresa of New York City; sisters Sharon Smith of St. Louis, Mo., and Cheryl Garces of Brooklyn; and one grandchild.

Services were held Sunday at the Evangelistic Centre in Rahway. Burial took place Monday in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Arrangements were by the August F. Schmidt Memorial Funeral Home in Elizabeth.

Memorial donations may be sent to Alliance for Lung Cancer, 1601 Lincoln Ave., Vancouver, Wash. 98660.

Walter L. Wehrle

SCOTCH PLAINS — Walter L. Wehrle, 84, died Dec. 6 at North Penn Hospital in Lansdale, Pa.

He was born in Newark and lived in Scotch Plains and Doylestown, Pa., before moving in 1990 to Neshaminy Falls, Pa. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

An avid card player he was a projectionist at motion picture theaters in Essex County and an exterminator in a family business in West Orange.

Predeceased by his wife, Elizabeth Mayer Wehrle, he is survived by sons Kenneth W. of Chalfont, Pa., and Douglas of Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Wednesday in Lansdale. Memorial donations for macular degeneration research may be sent to Wills Eye Hospital, Ninth & Walnut Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

Robert Mischka Sr.

WESTFIELD — Robert E. Mischka Sr., 71, died Dec. 4 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

He was born in Buffalo, N.Y., and lived in Westfield since 1979.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He received a degree from Canisius College in 1952.

He retired in 1998 after eight years as a program analyst with the Union County Department of Human Services. He was for 25 years a sales manager with the New York division of Ford Motor Co., and from 1987-90 owned Robert's Ford dealership in Attleboro, Mass.

Surviving are his wife of 39

years, Suzanne Cary Mischka; daughter Ellen C. Heppner and son-in-law Randall Heppner, both of San Francisco, Calif.; son Robert E. Jr. and a daughter-in-law Dawn, both of Westfield; sisters Joan Doerr and Suzanne Dwyer, both of Buffalo; and a grandchild.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Colonial Home.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Westfield Rescue Squad.

Byron Stanley Minnis

SCOTCH PLAINS — Byron Stanley Minnis, 38, died Dec. 1 at his home.

He was born in Richmond, Va., and lived in Scotch Plains since 1964.

He attended Glassboro State College (now Rowan University) before receiving a degree in fashion design from the Tobe-Coburn School of Fashion Careers in New York City.

He had been a clerk for the past seven years at the Bayway Refinery in Linden.

He sang in the choir and was active in the youth group at the Scotch Plains Baptist Church, of which he was a member for 27 years.

Surviving are his guardian,

Claire, of Scotch Plains; mother Barbara of Newport, Va.; brothers Myron of Long Island, N.Y., Charles of Baltimore, Md., and Onslow Jr. of Richmond; and sisters Berinetha of Hillsborough and Gale and Crystal, both of Baltimore.

Services were held Monday at the Scotch Plains Baptist Church. Burial took place Wednesday in Roselawn Memorial Gardens, Glen Allen, Va.

Arrangements were by the Judkins Colonial Home in Plainfield.

Memorial donations may be sent to Scotch Plains Baptist Church Nursery School, 333 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

Valerie Kobeski

SCOTCH PLAINS — Valerie Kobeski, 91, died Dec. 2 at the Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

She was born in Moosic, Pa., and lived in Irvington before moving to Scotch Plains in 1977.

She had been a bookbinder with Brown & McElohan of Newark prior to her retirement.

Predeceased by her husband, Chester, she is survived by daughter Cynthia Ferraro; brother Fred Grandowski; sister Irene LoRusso; and a grandchild.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Monday in Avoca, Pa. Local arrangements were by the McCracken Funeral Home in Union.

Lawrence Novello

SCOTCH PLAINS — Lawrence Novello, 73, was fatally injured Nov. 29 in a traffic accident in Barnegat.

He was born in Montozzoli, Chiote province, Italy, and lived in Scotch Plains before moving to Barnegat in 1988.

He attended the University of Naples, Pace University and Columbia University.

He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War.

He once worked in international finance for the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York City and the former New Jersey Bank in Paterson.

He later owned the Starlight Cleaners in Garwood from 1977 until his retirement in 1988.

He is survived by his wife, Giovanna Mannino Novello; sons Michael and Anthony; daughters Phyllis Reddington and Sandy Marcovecchio; sisters Clementina Checchio and Concetta Del Negro; and nine grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Friday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home. Entombment was in the Fairview Cemetery mausoleum, Westfield.

Mary C. Wright

SCOTCH PLAINS — Mary Catherine Rita Hehir Wright, 87, died Dec. 3 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

A native of New York City, she lived in Brooklyn, N.Y. before moving to Scotch Plains in 1955. She also maintained a summer home for many years in Breezy Point, N.Y.

She worked for many years at the former Hahne & Co. department store in Westfield.

She was active in the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA and a volunteer at the Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

She was a member of the Altar Rosary Society at Immaculate

Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church.

Predeceased by her husband, David Francis Wright, she is survived by sons David, Donald, Robert and Richard; daughter Mary Green; sister Sister Thomas Marie; 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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

Memorial donations may be sent to The Sisters of St. Joseph, Maria Regina Convent, Brentwood, NY 11717.

Margaret Grauff

SCOTCH PLAINS — Services have been held for Margaret Grauff, 81, who died Nov. 4 at The Highlands in Fitchburg, Mass.

She was born in Quebec, Canada, and lived in Athol, Mass., and Scotch Plains before returning to Athol in 1974.

She graduated from the nursing school at the former Newark Memorial Hospital.

She was a registered nurse on

the staff of School No. 1 in Scotch Plains prior to her retirement.

Surviving are daughters Helen Watts and Margaret Roberts; brothers Bruce Boccardy and Joseph Boccardy; sister Grace Roach; and four grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be sent to Alzheimer's Association, 11 Campus Lane, Easthampton, MA 01027.

James J. Cusick Sr.

SCOTCH PLAINS — James J. Cusick Sr., 81, died Dec. 5 at his home in Brick.

He was born in Paterson and lived in Scotch Plains before moving to Brick in 1974.

He owned the Industrial Welding Supply stores in Sayreville and Lakewood from 1947 until his 1971 retirement.

Surviving are his wife, Martha Schmieder Cusick; daughters Patricia Pannone of Whitehouse Station and Virginia Chamero

of Brick; sons James Jr. of Point Pleasant and Robert of Forked River; sister Loretta Donohue of Ocean Gate; 10 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by the Weatherhead Young Funeral Home in Brick.

Donations for the John Ross Memorial Scholarship Fund may be sent to Weatherhead Young Funeral Home, 885 Mantoloking Road, Brick, NJ 08723.

Maybelle Gianquinto

WESTFIELD — Maybelle Boessen Gianquinto, 88, died Dec. 5 at Sunrise Assisted Living in Rockville, Md.

She was born in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and lived in Omaha, Neb., Pine City, N.Y., Berkeley Heights and Westfield before moving to Rockville in 1997.

She received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Elmira College in 1933.

She was a member of the Blue Army of Fatima.

Predeceased by her husband, Dr. Peter J., she is survived by sons Peter J. and Paul A.; daughters Nan G. Venit and Mary E.; brother Alex Boessen; sister Adah Chandler; and eight grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated yesterday at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Colonial Home.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association.

Joseph T. Russo

WESTFIELD — Joseph T. Russo, 80, died Nov. 29 at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pa.

He was born in Danbury, Conn., and lived in Staten Island, Westfield and Lakehurst before moving to Whiting in 1996.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He owned the JRO Battery shop in Westfield from 1953 until his retirement in 1988.

He was an usher for Masses at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Whiting.

Predeceased by son Craig, he is survived by his wife, Dolores O'Boyle Russo; sons Gary and James; daughter Doreen Burke; brother Anthony; sisters Dorothea Ditta, Ana Nistico and Joan Airey; and six grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Friday at St. John's Roman Catholic Church, Lakehurst, following services at the Carmona-Rolen Home for Funerals in Whiting. Burial was in the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Arnytown.

Pasquale Viscardi

SCOTCH PLAINS — Pasquale E. Viscardi, 54, died Nov. 30 at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City.

He was born in Naples, Italy, and lived in Brooklyn, N.Y. before moving to Scotch Plains in 1979.

He had been a machinist with the New York Daily News for 25 years.

He was a member of International Association of Machinists Local 434.

Predeceased by his brother, Ernesto, he is survived by his

wife, Arlene Sohnen Viscardi; daughters Jeannine and Kathleen; son Eric; and sisters Angela Bianchi, Nancy Pesce and Gina.

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

Memorial donations may be sent to American Liver Foundation, 75 Maiden Lane, Suite 603, New York, NY 10038.



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December 9, 1999

Record-Press

B-3

BEST BETS THIS WEEK

Celebration Singers present 'Amahl'

CRANFORD — The Celebration Singers and the Celebration Children's Choir will present their annual holiday concert Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Cranford United Methodist Church, located on the corner of Lincoln and Walnut avenues.

This year's theme is Holiday Favorites, featuring "Amahl and the Night Visitors." The first half of the concert will be a staged version of "Amahl and the Night Visitors," a one-act opera written in English by Gian Carlo Menotti. The story centers around Amahl, a poor crippled shepherd boy living with his widowed mother. The night visitors are the Three Kings following the star to Bethlehem, where they heard of the birth of a king. It is a profoundly moving and sometimes humorous story that tells about hardship, unselfish love and the triumph of goodness.

The second act of the concert will include a variety of traditional Christmas and Hanukkah music including "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," "A Jingle Bell Travelogue," "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

Tickets for the concert are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children and senior citizens, and may be purchased in advance from any cast or chorus member or at the door before each show. In an example of Celebration's continuing goal of exposing young people to good music, children 13 and under will be admitted free to the Saturday matinee if accompanied by a paid adult.

For further information, call (908) 241-8200.

St. Peter Orchestra to play St. Theresa's

KENILWORTH — The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea will perform its moving and memorable Christmas concert Wednesday at the Church of St. Theresa.

St. Theresa's is located at 541 Washington Ave., Kenilworth.

Under the charismatic and often "humorous" baton of Rev. Alphonse Stephenson, former director of Broadway's "A Chorus Line," The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea delivers music that is sure to strike many chords with listeners. The 45-members symphony orchestra is comprised of professional musicians and for the Christmas concert will be joined by The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea Chorus.

Wednesday's concert is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices are as follows: Benefactor Seating, \$100; Patron Seating, \$50; Sponsor Seating, \$25; Friends Seating, \$15; General Seating, \$10. Last year's Christmas Concert was a 700-seat sellout, and reservations are suggested.

Tickets may be reserved by calling St. Theresa's Rectory at (908) 272-4444.

The church doors will open at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday.

Man, they feel like Shania!

Edison band's Twain tribute is simply the ultimate labor of love

By GARY GOVELITZ

STAFF WRITER

EDISON — It is an ordinary enough household: two working parents, a brick suburban house, a son that plays JV football.

Once the weekend comes, however, the business attire comes off and Valerie Hnasko and her husband Buddy enter the world of show business as "Simply Shania," a Shania Twain tribute.

Although Shania Twain has been on top of the show business heap for only a few years, her unique brand of country rock and on-stage dance routines have inspired a host of imitators.

The local band's tribute to her started years ago when Buddy Hnasko was in a band with his friends. After the first band split up over musical differences, a new band was formed with Buddy on bass and his friends Glen Karnish on lead guitar, Ian Ellias on keyboard and Fred Frappier on drums.

Valerie joined the band three years ago and her looks and voice, combined with her interest in Shania, brought them to devote their band to Twain's music.

"Our band works hard to do what we do," Valerie said. "(Shania) uses a nine-piece band in her act; we have to do it with only four."

She said she has seen Twain play on three occasions and considers Twain's Cinderella rise from an 18-year-old orphan raising her siblings to a musical superstar to be a source of inspiration.

Valerie has to work hard to keep up with Twain's supermodel looks and studies her dance routines for such hits as "That Don't Impress Me Much" and "Man! I Feel Like A Woman."

Just as hard as learning the words and music to dozens of songs is finding the costumes that go along with them, she noted.

"I searched for four months to find the choker she wears in the 'Man! I Feel Like A Woman' video," Valerie said. "Finally, I had to make it myself."

To date, the band's biggest gig was at Grand Central Terminal in New York City. Of their upcoming performances, the one at Whiskey Cafe at 1050 Wall St. West in Lyndhurst is going to be a big one.

Recently, Valerie and friends checked out another Shania Twain imitator there and now Valerie and the band have their competitive juices flowing. They will be there Dec. 18 to prove who performs the best Shania Twain tribute.

In January, they will be at Murphy's Crocodile Inn, in Neshanic Station, on the 8th; Club Miami, 307 Benchway, Kearsburg, on the 14th; and at



Edison's Valerie Hnasko and her husband, Buddy, form the backbone of Simply Shania, a tribute band dedicated to the rocking country sounds of superstar singer Shania Twain. The band, in heated "competition" with other Shania tribute bands from around the state, has a number of area concerts scheduled through January.

Cooper Mountain Steakhouse on the 22nd.

415 Route 18 in East Brunswick

For booking information, con-

tact Buddy at (732) 777-1061 or Email: simplyshania@iname.

com. Their website is at <http://www.simplyshania.com>.

'6 (now 7) Artists' open the barn door

Annual art show, sale benefits area hospice

Art is an intimate, individual experience. Sure, you can drive into the city and visit world-class museums, or you can fight your way to the mall and experience the more commercial art displayed there.

But if you prefer to experience art individually and in intimate surroundings, you will forego both the city and the mall and head out to Hunterdon County's "6 Artists In A Barn" show and sale, taking place Saturday and Sunday.

The show, now in its seventh year, allows you to meet the artists in one of their homes. To celebrate the sixth anniversary, this year there six artists have

become seven, working in pottery, decoupage, watercolors, distinctive art wear, photography, painting and soft sculpture.

"6 Artists in a Barn" originated in 1993 in Cathy Smith's barn. "We're no longer six and we're no longer in a barn," said Smith, who now hosts the annual showing in her sprawling home in Hampton, just south of Clinton.

This year's silent auction, an annual tradition at the yearly sale, benefits the Hunterdon Hospice, Inc., which provides support to the terminally ill and their families.

The artists represented in the show are seasoned, nationally-recognized practitioners of their arts. And care has been taken to bring to this year's

show a balanced selection of works, Smith noted.

Photographer-artist Cornelia Katchen has had work featured in many publications, including the *New York Times Magazine*. Her current body of work includes still life and landscape images which are printed on burnished metal and on handmade papers.

Nancy Jane Albin has spent 30 years perfecting her pottery-making. Her work is in many private collections and public museums across America, Europe and the Middle East. Albin "builds" her pottery, piece by piece, eschewing the potter's wheel.

Gail Bracegirdle's former career as a textile designer shows in her watercolors. She has won an award at the Bianco Gallery and an article on her technique appeared in the July 1999 issue of *Artes* magazine. Her work has been widely shown throughout the area, and she is a core faculty member at Art Works in Trenton.

Yvonne Skaggs creates images that are appealing both visually and tactilely. She uses traditional methods and takes each work through further steps, sometimes washing with acrylic paints and sometimes working with pencil or pastel to create colorful interpretive landscape impressions.

Donna Roupinian creates one-of-a-kind designs on tex-

tiles and clothing. Her distinctive block printed and hand-painted cotton clothing has a large following. She owns and operates JABO Design in Milford and teaches children's art classes in Clinton and Morristown. Her work can be found at specialty boutiques and art-and-craft fairs throughout the U.S.

Yasmine Barto will be displaying Victorian-style decoupage, both boxes and furniture. The art of decoupage, which was very popular about 100 years ago, has enjoyed increasing popularity in recent years. Pieces of decorative paper or pictures on other materials are cut out and permanently mounted on the item to be decorated.

Smith, who runs the show, creates one-of-a-kind soft sculptures, using antique and unusual textiles. Her dolls are unique creations and have won national recognition and followings. Smith's works have been included in shows since 1979. Her dolls are included in the personal collections of Bill Cosby and Julie Harris.

This year's show will be held at 624 Route 579, just south of Clinton. The show will be held on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Call Smith (908) 735-8055 for more information and directions.

Nets tickets available at local library

GARWOOD — In support of the work of area libraries in encouraging children to read all year long, the New Jersey Nets Basketball Organization has donated several items to local libraries.

The Garwood library has received two Nets rulers, three Nets hats and a set of three tickets to a Nets home game against the Vancouver Grizzlies, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Jan. 7 at the Continental Arena. A random drawing for these items will be held at 7 p.m. Dec. 22 at the library.

To ensure the tickets will be awarded to someone who will actually attend the game, the library requires that a parent or adult guardian complete the entry form, available at the library, or send a 3x5 postcard, signed by the parent, including name, address and evening phone number to the library, 223 Walnut St., Garwood, NJ 07027.

All entries must be received by Dec. 20.

The library asks that each family enter only one once.

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Art exhibit will cross 'Bridges of New Jersey'

SPRINGFIELD — Jay Gehring Smith of Hillside is presenting his photographic work in an exhibit, "Bridges of New Jersey," at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library.

The exhibit will open Jan. 6. Smith traveled throughout the Garden State to capture the artistic essence of many of New Jersey's interesting, unique and historic bridges.

"A bridge is more than a conveyance," Smith said.

"The older bridges are pieces of art and there is a real history there. Bridges have always been critical in the history of man and are no less important in the history of New Jersey."

Smith has served as the supervisor of the Fine Arts and Applied Technology Department with the Cranford School District for 11 years, and has been a teacher of photography and visual communications at Cranford High School since 1977.

He attended North Carolina Wesleyan College and later

Kean University, Union, where he majored in graphics/photography.

During the Vietnam War, he served as a senior combat photojournalist, First Infantry Division.

Photography awards have been granted to Smith in state shows in Union County — first place Union in 1981, 1985, 1987 and Best in Show, Union, in 1989.

He has had exhibits at the Princeton Bio Center, W.W. Gallery and Art Mart, among other places.

This photography exhibit is made possible in part by a HEART Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The Donald B. Palmer Museum is located in the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave.

The hours of the exhibit are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. For information call (973) 376-4930.

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Offer subject to availability and prior sale; not valid on prior purchases and may not be combined with other discounts or promotions. Limit 8 tickets per order. A \$1 theater reservation charge will be added to the established price of each ticket; phone orders subject to standard telephone service fees. Not valid Saturday Sun. Nov. 28-29. Expires 12/23/99.

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For those who enjoy a night of dancing, as well as dining, Yankee Buffet is now the perfect place. Every Friday evening from 7 PM to 12 Midnight, DJ Mel Panaligan is spinning the disks in the elegant banquet room. For \$15.00 per person including the buffet, customers can swing with their favorite partners to a variety of styles ranging from ballroom to line dancing with music spanning the decades of the 50's thru the 90's. The crystal chandeliers and mirrored walls only enhance the mood. This beautiful room has a capacity of over 200 and is available for weddings, anniversaries, meetings and other receptions and celebrations.

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'Reverse painting' on display in Summit

SUMMIT — Reverse painting on glass is the medium used by Agnieszka Solawa in an exhibit of her works opening this week at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, 68 Elm St.

The exhibit opens Tuesday and will run through Jan. 21. A reception with the artist in the Members Gallery will be held 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 19.

The public is invited to attend.

Solawa grew up in Krakow, Poland, and moved with her parents to South Africa before coming to America.

Throughout her life, she has struggled to continue working as an architect and to find time to create art in her preferred medium, reverse painting on glass.

The form has a long and enduring history.

It is thought that early peasant artisans who created such paintings believed their work would protect their homes from fire and help in troubled times.

Saints portrayed in these paintings were the patron saints of the artists' families.

Artistic values inherent in reverse painting on glass continue to be relevant to modern-day art forms.

Primitive and naive artists are often in touch with their spiritual and cultural milieus, which transcend the artistic movement of the moment.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call (908) 273-9121.



Agnieszka Solawa's art form — known as "reverse painting on glass," which was once thought to be a way of keeping bad luck out of a home — will be on display Tuesday through Jan. 21 at the New Jersey Center for the Visual Arts in Summit.

Dramatic Club seeks 'Tenors'

CRANFORD — The Cranford Dramatic Club has scheduled open auditions for its May production of "I, the Tenor."

Auditions in the club's theater at 78 Wilans Ave. will be 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday plus 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Dec. 16. Needed are four men (late 20s through 50s-60s) and four women (mid-20s through 50s-60s).

Readings will be from the script. None of the roles require singing; two male characters need to "rock sing" a short operatic scene.

For more information, call Naomi Yablonski, the show's director, at (973) 376-1216.

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It's so nice to be home for the holidays.

Just ask any of the people with developmental disabilities who are now hanging decorations in celebration of the season.

As a result, the Arc of Union County will hold a Holiday Homes Tour 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and has invited the public to visit the residential homes operated by the social service agency. Buses will leave from the Arc day program site at 215 E. First Ave., Roselle, and the Arc office at 1225 South Ave. (Route 28), Plainfield.

The tour is sponsored by the Arc's Residential Auxiliary, a volunteer group dedicated to assuring safe and comfortable home environments for those with developmental disabilities. Homes in Clark, Fanwood, Plainfield, Roselle and Scotch Plains are on the tour.

This event "promises those who visit an opportunity to make new friends, share the joy of the season and support a worthy cause," according to Deborah Pomianek, associate executive director of the Arc.

Cost of \$15 per person and \$25 per couple includes refreshments. For more information, call Crystal Younge at (908) 754-5549.

County seeks applications for art grants

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is inviting community arts organizations, schools and other nonprofit organizations that wish to present cultural programming to apply for funding from the Union County Arts Grant Program.

Funds for this program are made available through the Local Arts Program of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

"The purpose of the grant program is to enrich the quality of life in Union County by stimulating and supporting the production, presentation and creation of the arts," said Freeholder Chairman Nicholas P. Scutari.

Arts activities taking place between Jan. 1, 2001 and Dec. 31, 2001 are eligible for consideration. Deadline for proposals is March 6, 2000.

"We are pleased to continue the Arts Education Special Project initiative this year," said Freeholder Mary P. Ruotolo, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Affairs Advisory Board. "The program enables schools as well as other organizations to apply for funding to enhance arts education and teacher professional development."

For an application and guidelines, call (908) 558-2550 or write Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

Tickets Make Fantastic Gifts!

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Friday, Dec. 17 8:00 PM
Tickets: \$25, \$19



MAN OF LA MANCHA

Fri. Mar. 10, 17, & 24 8:00 PM
Sat. Mar. 11, 18 & 25 8:00 PM
Sun. Mar. 12 & 19 3:00 PM

Tickets: \$24, \$19

Wed. Mar 22
10:00 AM

A Special Student Performance

book by Dale Wasserman
music by Mitch Leigh
lyrics by Joe Darion



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the Arts/Department of State

Additional support provided by
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PENN & TELLER

Sunday, Feb. 13, 8:00 PM
Tickets: \$40, \$36, \$30



THREE DOG NIGHT



Sat., Apr. 15, 8:00 PM
Tickets: \$28, \$25, \$20

PATTI LUPONE

Friday, May 12, 8:00 PM
Tickets: \$60, \$50, \$40



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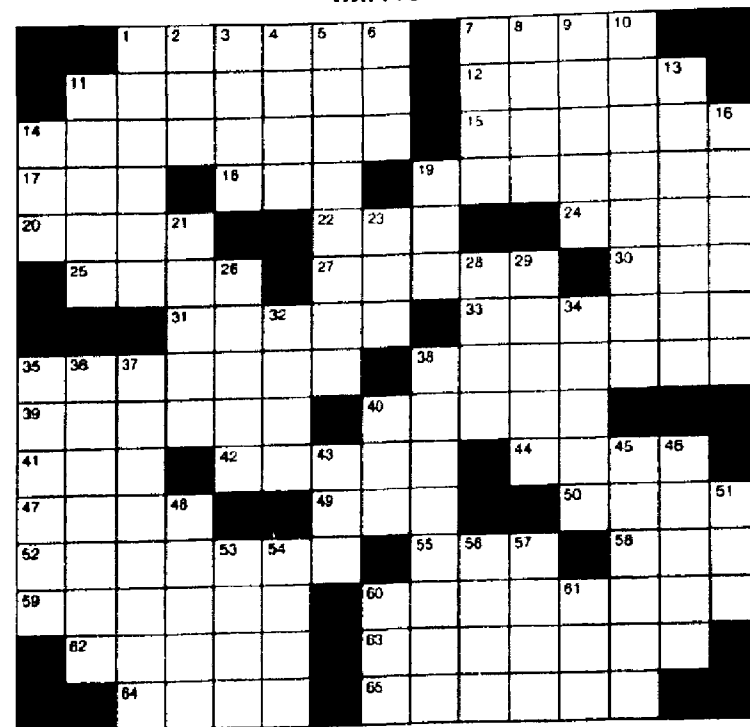
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IMPACT



ACROSS

1. Switch or May

7. Places

11. Useful muscle

12. Author John Henry

14. Undeveloped

15. Meaning

17. Agnus

18. Apropos

19. Vanilla or almond

20. Caesar's years

22. Moor or pea

24. Cob or cognet

25. Some Dicks

27. Bar, legally

30. Recipe word

31. Admira's word

33. "Mao is — seen"

35. Xanthippe, et al

38. Prima leone

39. Feldman and

Burton

40. Profic to modern

or marine

41. River of Pyrenees

42. Ms. Reed

44. Angels' delights

47. German composer

Frank, and family

49. Dressing ingredient

50. Basis of an

invention

DOWN

1. Coronation for

2. Place for "The

lowing herd"

3. Deeds

4. Lap — imbibe

graciously

5. Certain winds

6 — how

7. Output of a Sonat

8. Resistance

measures

9. Mantles

10. Unbreakable

crochery?

Correct

11. Gain places

14. Mc — jun or

collage

16. Fondness, in

France

19. Finding to par or

pat

21. Self —

23. Superative

ending

26. Dshurse

28. What —?

29. TV's Jack, and

family

32 — "through"

34. Japanese china

35. Native of

Kaimandu

36. Rock 'n' roll

anger

37. Pgs. e.g.

38. Emulated the

Mahros

40. Lead-in to form or

art

43. Con —

45 — de Crecy?

Proust's cocotte

46. Basilis

48. Notational s gn, in

music

51. Indian murrery

53. Diplomat Whitlaw

54. Dukes, in the

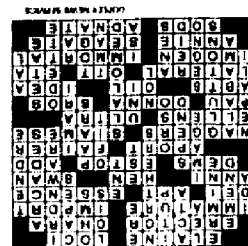
Agos

56. Treasury agent

57. Relative of a stola

60. OI book

61. Squelcher



Nov. 24, 1999

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- Roast Beef
- Bar-B-Q Ribs (Beef)

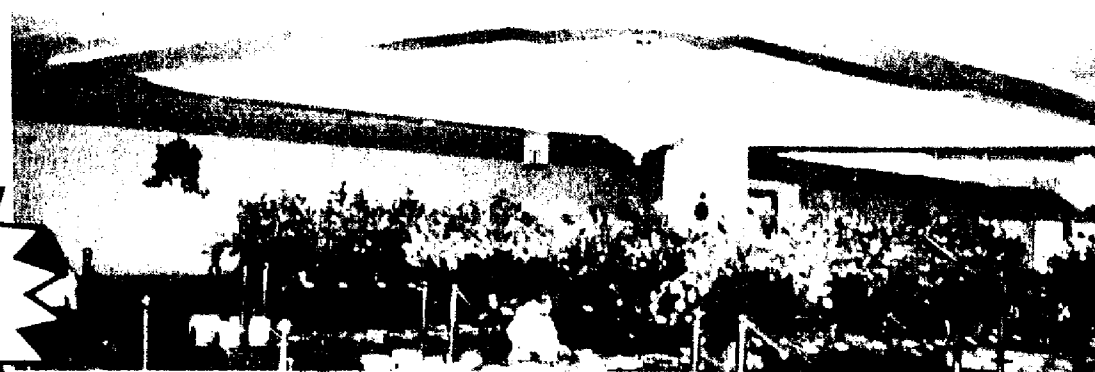
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Calling all entertainers

UNION — If you're stuck in a holiday rut, why not consider giving the gift of joy and happiness to those less fortunate?

All you need is talent and time.

On Christmas Day, at the Garden Restaurant, on Magie Avenue in Union, strolling entertainers will be invited to sing a song, play the piano, perform magic tricks, put on a skit with a few friends, play a musical instrument or tell jokes for an audience of less-fortunate from around Union County.

It's an opportunity for skilled performers to brush up their acts or wannabe-entertainers to fulfill a fantasy and perform before an audience. It's a chance to have fun, make some new friends and, most importantly, bring a smile to someone's face and heart on Christmas Day.

For the past 11 years, the Garden Restaurant has closed its doors to the public on Christmas and opened them to the homeless, the lonely and the less fortunate of the county. Owners George and Maria Handrinos, and Spiro Kritikos, along with Maureen Bugel, orchestrate the event.

The festivities begin at dawn, when volunteers begin to arrive. The tables are set complete with linen tablecloths, china, silverware and holiday centerpieces. The whole restaurant is transformed into a holiday wonderland. Before the guests start arriving, all the volunteers gather in a circle joining hands and telling everyone why they are grateful to be there and taking part in this heartwarming event.

Donated buses with volunteer drivers pick up the dinner guests at various churches in Union County and transport them to the restaurant. Then the buses arrive carrying men, women and children who had no other place to be on this day and who would not have otherwise had a holiday dinner. As one group leaves with full bellies, smiles on their faces and a gift in their hands, a new group arrives. This continues all day and long into the evening, until Santa enters bearing hundreds of gifts.

To become a part of this wonderful holiday tradition of love, or for more information, call Maureen Bugel at (908) 558-0101.

Kismet sets Cajun event

GARWOOD — "Cajun Happenin's" is the theme of a singles event sponsored by Kismet on Dec. 18 at Crossroads, 78 North Ave.

An authentic Cajun dinner will be served 7:30 p.m. Live music by Swampadecha will follow. Cost is \$45; there will be a cash bar.

For more information, visit www.thatskismet.com or call (908) 232-8827.

Horoscope guide: Dec. 13 - 19

By **WANDA PERRY**
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Be prepared for the unexpected, especially where friends are concerned. Your luck improves toward week's end. If you want to be a winner in love and romance, get in the game.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Family relations are harmonious and will help in stabilizing your daily life and domestic environment. Enjoy spending quality time with your loved ones during an unusual activity.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21): With a strong sense of justice,

you can take on a diplomatic role among your peers and help settle a reining dispute. A few nice words will soothe all the ruffled feathers.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22): Avoid oversteering your body with work-related demands. Beautify your inner and outer worlds. Invest in art or other luxury items that will give you peace and a proud feeling of ownership.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22): Show your affection to another by nurturing, not smothering. Your self-confidence abounds. Get a lot accomplished working with children on a creative project. Step out in faith.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): Investigate a unique diet or exercise program. Do your best to be emotionally supportive of others, and they will do the same for you. Visit a sick friend, and share a gift.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23): You can talk yourself into or out of almost anything. Chose your words very carefully. This is a period of reward or recognition. Be open, and accept the positive energy coming your way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21): Make a splash on the financial scene, but don't get roped into doing anything that seems shady. Those who are uncomfortable with restrictions will uncover a way to break free.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Don't believe a rumor

about a sibling or neighbor, and don't partake in the spreading of false facts. An honest exchange or conversation sets the stage for a community event.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Self-deception is a real possibility this week. Make sure that your actions support your beliefs. Discuss your dreams, and figure out a way to make them come true.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Friendships take a very positive turn if you're willing to let others be themselves. Rethink your commitment to a relationship. Honor thy partner with trust and honesty.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Carelessness or restlessness could create a costly mishap. Watch your back, and proceed

with a sense of caution. Opportunity comes your way through club or group affiliates. If your birthday is this week, use your time and energy in very constructive and productive ways during the coming year. Without a sense of focus, you are doomed to a period of waste, squandering and frustration.

Social or financial changes are highly probable. Work to stabilize

your income and important relationships.

Overall, you'll find this year in your life very expansive, positive and beyond satisfaction.

Also born this week: Gustave Flaubert, Margaret Chase Smith, Nero, Ludwig van Beethoven, Paracelsus, Steven Spielberg and Jean Genet.

(c) Copley News Service

Junior musical club sets concert, auditions

WESTFIELD — The Junior Musical Club of Westfield is a performing group of high school musicians who meet once a month to share their love of classical music.

The club is planning an ensemble concert for 3 p.m. March 12 at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. The concert will be open to the public, as is the club's senior recital planned for May. The club's next meeting is the holiday party for current or previous club members scheduled for Dec. 19.

Auditions for prospective members will be held at 7 p.m. March 1 in the home of Kate Walsh, 521 Tremont Ave.,

Westfield. Those who audition must be in eighth through 12th grade and must perform two pieces on their instrument, one from the period up to and including Beethoven, and one from the Romantic or Modern periods. Call Walsh at (908) 232-5817 for more information.

Members from Westfield and the immediate area met Oct. 3 and Nov. 7 to discuss this year's club activities.

The head officers of the 1999-2000 season are: President Tanya Tran; Vice-President of Programs Heather Baxter; Vice-President of Auditions Kate Walsh; Treasurer David Puik; Secretary Elizabeth Powell; Hospitality Sasha Bartolf; and Publicity Chitra Kalyanaraman.

Colonial Christmas at museum

CRANFORD — The Cranford Historical Society will be hosting its annual Holiday Open House at the Crane-Phillips House Museum from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Sunday.

Everyone is welcome to the museum to enjoy refreshments and good fellowship in this holiday season. The Victorian cottage will be decorated for Christmas by the Garden Club of Cranford in period decor, and the annual Christmas tree will be adorned with antique decorations.

Visitors will meet "Kate Phillips" and her "Aunt Cecelia" and "Uncle Henry," who will be at their house celebrating Christmas.

The Crane-Phillips House Living Museum is open Sundays, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., September through June. The Victoria Shop, the museum's gift shop, is open Thursdays, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. The museum is located at 124 Union Ave. North, Cranford.

Children's shows set at SP-FHS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Young theater-lovers in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood area will have the chance to see four performances by a variety of well-known arts companies, beginning with "Sorcerer's Apprentice," scheduled for 1 p.m. Jan. 8.

The National Marionette Theatre has created a fast-paced production filled with surprising plot turns set to the famous musical score "Sorcerer's Apprentice." Set in Medieval England, the show follows the adventures of 12-year-old Raphael as he discovers he is more than just an apprentice. The production is filled with mystery, laughs and wonderful stage effects, and features the famous "broom dance."

Doors open one-half hour before show time. Seating is general admission with reserved group seating available for birthday parties and scout troops.

Upcoming shows include "Story Salad," a musical revue based on eight popular multicultural books, on Jan. 29; "The Russian-American Kids Circus," a captivating performance by children, on Feb. 12; and "All Nations Dance Company," featuring international performances, on March 4.

Tickets for "Sorcerer's Apprentice" are on sale now at \$5 apiece. A subscription to all four shows costs \$18. Tickets may be purchased at Dairy Queen on South Avenue, Plainfield; Nuts 'N Plenty on Park Avenue, Scotch Plains; and the Scotch Hills Pharmacy, Mountain Avenue, Scotch Plains.

All shows will be held at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, located on Westfield Road in Scotch Plains.



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This Ichabod's neither sleepy nor hollow, but Bond's been better

New Releases

"SLEEPY HOLLOW" — Johnny Depp plays Ichabod Crane, constable (to some) crank, in a "new century" man. This believer in "sense and reason, cause and consequence" brings his haughty sleuthing skills to the cozy burg of Sleepy Hollow, where few are sleeping — corpses are turning up with their heads missing. And there is the crazy Headless Horseman, who decapitates like a galloping guillotine. When he does have a head on his stump, he is Christopher Walken in one of his party roles,

like a Kiss vampire drunk on blood lust. The absurd plot is a machine, lobbing its shocks and gags, but the lack of inner depth doesn't truly harm "Sleepy Hollow." This is a fleshed cartoon, full of masterful bits and effects, a gleeful cascade of preening and kinky surfaces. Cast: Johnny Depp, Christina Ricci, Michael Gambon, Christopher Walken, Miranda Richardson, Jeffrey Jones, Marc Pickering, Michael Gough, Richard Griffiths. Running time: 1 hour, 45 minutes. (Elliott) Rated R. 3 1/2 stars.

"THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH" — Pierce Brosnan

Films In Focus

takes his third Bond tour, far from the worst, but also far enough from the best. As willowy contrast, Sophie Marceau is Elektra, crazed to master the world by achieving total, but foxy control of the oil supply. There is some fast business in Spain and London, showing such modern architectural wonders as Frank Gehry's Bilbao Museum and the huge Millennium Dome near the Thames, then the plot is off to those kickier spots, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, with a final jump to Istanbul, where Elektra hires an ex-Soviet nuclear sub to melt down the city and the Bosphorus. Remember when Bond villains had wit and sizzle? Now we're down to a snarly thug with gold teeth, to Robbie Coltrane as a cute-fat meanie, and to Robert Carlyle as a surly shavehead constipated with nihilism — he's like Raskolnikov from Nintendo. Cast: Pierce Brosnan, Sophie Marceau, Robert Carlyle, Denise Richards, Robbie Coltrane, Judi Dench, John Cleese. Running time: 2 hours, 8 minutes. (Elliott) Rated PG-13. 2 stars.

Recent Releases

"ANYWHERE BUT HERE" — has its middling moments, and it is bound to be dismissed by some as a sooper. But there is something quite wonderful in it: Natalie Portman as Ann, the daughter of Adele (Susan Sarandon). Adele, a single parent, has bounced through mar-

riages, one to an Egyptian Romeo who fathered Ann and then dumped them both, and then a nice dullard who teaches skating in Wisconsin. Adele packs Ann into a Mercedes-Benz they can't afford, and heads off to dreamland, California, figuring she can teach and sparkle and win a fabulous guy, while Ann will scoot into acting. "Anywhere But Here" is one of those movies that goes where it must, on a rather worn trail, but mostly it is not simply filling in the steps. Susan Sarandon adds another milestone to her own path, and Natalie Portman takes a great step on what promises to be a major career. Cast: Natalie Portman, Susan Sarandon, Shawn Hatosy, Corbin Allred, Bonnie Bedelia. Running time: 1 hour, 54 minutes. (Elliott) Rated PG-13. 3 stars.

"THE BACHELOR" — Chris O'Donnell, Mr. All American dreamboat, stars as Jimmy, a typical, 29-year-old who loves his girlfriend, Anne (Renee Zellweger). But he isn't ready to take that next step and get married. But all Jimmy's friends have been tying the knot lately and he realizes it's time to follow suit. His proposal to Anne, however, is anything but romantic, and he gets dumped. Soon after, his grandfather dies and there's a complication concerning the will: Jimmy must get married by his 30th birthday or lose an inheritance worth \$120 million. The problem is, he's turning 30

tomorrow and Anne's on her way to Athens. So Jimmy, desperate to keep the money and save the family business, seeks out all his ex-girlfriends in hopes that one will accept his proposal. And through this search down the streets of San Francisco, Jimmy learns the true meaning of love. Cast: Chris O'Donnell, Renee Zellweger, Hal Holbrook, James Cromwell, Artie Lange, Edward Asner and Marley Shelton. (Garin) Rated PG-13. 1 1/2 stars.

"BEST MAN" — A number of old college friends are getting together again for the wedding of one of their number, Lance (Morris Chestnut), a Bible-quoting football star. The title character, Harper, is played by Taye Diggs. The spoiler at this party is the fact that Harper is just about to get his first novel published and its characters are thinly veiled depictions of his friends. The book tells of an unconsummated love affair between Harper and Jordan (Nia Long). And then there's the question of whether Harper had a college affair with Mia (Monica Calhoun), Lance's fiancée. Lance feels very strongly that women should be faithful, and is bound to explode if he figures out who's supposed to be whom in the novel. As they say, complications ensue. Cast: Taye Diggs, Nia Long, Morris Chestnut, Harold Perrineau and Terrence Howard. (Britton) Rated R. 3 stars.

"THE BONE COLLECTOR" — Denzel Washington is Lincoln Rhyme, the finest forensic investigator on the New York police force, then ruined when a chunk of hardware falls on him. A big

case lands in his lap and he can't resist bringing to it his undimmed, Sherlockian skills and a magpie mind. When a billionaire is found murdered, part of him chopped off, and his wife is set up for a ghastly death on the killer's teasing schedule, Lincoln brings his brilliant instincts into play. And he finds another instinctualist — Angelina Jolie as Amelia, now working the juvenile detail, drafted by Lincoln to be his arms and legs and back-up intellect. The material is crude, sado-porn slop, and not even gem talent like Washington (or a rising one like Jolie) can make it smell much better. Cast: Denzel Washington, Angelina Jolie, Luis Guzman, Michael Rooker, Queen Latifah, Ed O'Neill. Running time: 1 hour, 46 minutes. (Elliott) Rated R. 1 1/2 stars.

"BRINGING OUT THE DEAD" — Nicolas Cage gets his first Martin Scorsese role as Frank, a paramedic who rides ambulances through wipeout nights. He's hollow-eyed, a chain smoker, a drinker, wary of dating, haunted by the image of a girl he couldn't save. Too many of the stricken are dying despite Frank's ferocious zeal, his hunger to save them. And his own mortality attacks him, for New York has become a very personal hell. For all its throbs of pain, the film has a transporting tenderness, the yearning of people to find comfort and shelter. New York, we see, is both condemned and redeemed by its citizens. There is the eroticized danger of "Taxi Driver" and "Mean Streets," but also the naked spiritual hunger of "Kundun" and "The Last Temptation of Christ." In other words, Scorsese is back home, and still a very special artist. Cast: Nicolas Cage, Patricia Arquette, Ving Rhames, John Goodman, Tom Sizemore, Cliff Curtis, Marc Anthony. Running time: 1 hour, 51 minutes. (Elliott) Rated R. 3 1/2 stars.

"DOGMA" — might have been un-releasable except that the Catholic Church went into one of its periodic movie snits. For months, the church has been rewarding this lame loser with a fierce campaign of publicity, including pamphlets that feature an image of the Virgin Mary under the line, "My children, what have I done to deserve such insults?" Matt Damon and Ben Affleck play fallen angels who try to get back into heaven through a loophole in Catholic dogma. Along the way, they crack jokes and kill people. Watching movies like this, you wonder if the actors aren't given a special drug so they won't read beyond that day's script page. Imagine their relief when they did come to the end and found that God is (wow) a woman, played by Alanis Morissette. A truly cosmic rebuff for Tori Amos fans. "Dogma" gets, of course, our dog rating. Don't blame the dog for yelping. Cast: Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Linda Fiorentino, Alan Rickman, Salma Hayek, Chris Rock, Jason Mewes, George Carlin, Kevin Smith. Running time: 1 hour, 41 minutes. (Elliott) Rated R. No stars.

"FIGHT CLUB" — In the "ring" of the secret club where young men clobber one another, Edward Norton seems like a mascot or towel boy, but proves to be a winner — "Fight Club" is always pure fantasy. Tyler is Brad Pitt, as another of his Joe Cools. Tyler preaches an anti-corporate, anti-consumerist message in this dirty but slick film that is a corporate consumer product. He is a buff visionary, Johnny Rottenscend scattering nihilistic corn. He slips off into the shadow of his manly myth, like John Galt in "Atlas Shrugged." The Narrator goes hunting for him, in the manner of a noir obsessive, finally realizing that Tyler is his own schizoid clone or projection (the climax is even more confusing). "Fight Club" is an almost total debauch of taste and talent. Its only lurid virtue is the fascination of its awfulness. Cast: Edward Norton, Brad Pitt, Meat Loaf, Jared Leto, Bonham Carter, Aday Leto. Running time: 2 hours. (Elliott) Rated R. 1 star.

"THE INSIDER" — I don't think anyone lights up in "The Insider," a 160-minute movie about the assault on the dishonesty of the tobacco biz by CBS' "60 Minutes." Thanks to star hardball reporter Mike Wallace and his even tougher segment producer, Lowell Bergman, the show finally broke the story of whistle-blower Jeff Wigand, a chemist who had headed research for a top tobacco company in Kentucky. Russell Crowe gives one of the finest performances in modern films as Wigand, a proud, terse but emotional "man of science" who tries to maintain his scientific objectivity, and a corporate mask of

(Continued on page B-9)

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Junior Strings ready to kick off new season

WESTFIELD — Several local musicians, along with the rest of the Junior Strings, are all tuned up for their first concert of the season.

The Junior Strings will make their season premiere 3 p.m. Sunday at Roosevelt Intermediate School, located on Clark Street in Westfield.

Families and friends are invited to enjoy a concert of classical works and participate in a "holiday pops" sing-a-long. The 53-member ensemble is a division of the Murray Hill-based New Jersey Youth Symphony.

Among the Junior Strings musicians are Matthew Bierman and Brian Marken, both of

Cranford; Hyacinth Dyogi and Dennis Lin, both of Scotch Plains; and Theodore Chou, Lizzy Myers and Eunice Park, all of Westfield.

Barbara Barstow will conduct the string players in "Arioso," by J.S. Bach; a "Christmas Concerto," by Corelli; "Greensleeves," by Vaughan

Williams; and an unspecified work by Johann Strauss.

Flute soloists for "Greensleeves" include Elizabeth Grausso of Scotch Plains.

Admission is by donation. For more information on Sunday's show or other performances scheduled for this season, call (908) 771-5544.

How-to book exposes secrets of a great tea

CRANFORD — The Garden Club of Cranford has published "Tea and Flowers," a how-to book for holding a tea.

Invitations, floral arrangements, table settings and favorite recipes of club members are included. "Tea and Flowers" is available at Martin Jewelers, the Victoria Shop, Dovetails, The Arrangement, Cafe Rock and the Chari-Tea Room. In addition, the book is available at Lancaster's and Periwinkles in Westfield and at The Gifted Sparrow in Chatham.

Films In Focus

(Continued from page B-8)

prudence, but is fired for not playing ball with his bosses. After much soul stress, he breaks a company non-disclosure agreement and walks into the cruel public light. The quavering heroism of Wigand, the more battle-hardened bravery of Bergman, the cynically textured virtue of Wallace provide us with three mature people to admire, intelligently. Cast: Al Pacino, Russell Crowe, Christopher Plummer, Diane Venora, Philip Baker Hall, Debi Mazar, Lindsay Crouse, Bruce McGill. Running time: 2 hours, 40 minutes. (Elliott) Rated R. 3 1/2 stars.

"THE MESSENGER: THE STORY OF JOAN OF ARC" — Milla Jovovich as the Maid of Orleans is in a role that is seriously out of her depth. The film, a Franco-American production in association with Gaumont, is lavishly mounted, but neither its nor costumes fill the eye in the way that makes some big-budget movies worth watching for those elements alone. Joan's trial, the focus of great dramatizations, is oddly skimped over here, though this does have the benefit of relieving Jovovich of time acting chores. In prison, she sometimes looks like a wayward teen-ager being punished for staying out too late. The script is never going to give much competition to Shaw, and Luc Besson is hardly to be confused with Robert Bresson, whose "The Trial of Joan of Arc" (1962) is a hallowed classic. Besson invests a lot of kinetic energy in "The Messenger," while falling well sort of epic sweep. Cast: Milla Jovovich, John Malkovich, Faye Dunaway and Dustin Hoffman. (Britton) Rated R. 1 1/2 stars.

"MUSIC OF THE HEART" — Meryl Streep plays Roberta Quaspari, a New Yorker who created an innovative music program, teaching East Harlem public school kids the violin. It starts sudy, as Roberta is dumped by her Navy husband, leaving her with two young boys. She's at a loss, but she has spine. Soon, volunteering for the job in mostly Hispanic and black East Harlem, a job she must fashion herself, she's living there with her boys. Roberta brings the no-guff principal (Angela Bassett) around to the value of violin training as a soul booster for students. They stage a big benefit concert at New York's most famous hall, with names like Perlman and Isaac Stern. But the real stars are Roberta and her violin kids. Anyone who doesn't like this event should avoid all music, entirely. You'd have to be a tone-deaf dullard not to respond with some heart. Cast: Meryl Streep, Angela Bassett, Aidan Quinn, Jay O. Sanders, Gloria Estefan, Cloris Leachman, Josh Pais, Kieran Culkin. Running time: 2 hours, 4 minutes. (Elliott) Rated PG. 3 stars.

"POKEMON: THE FIRST MOVIE" — is 69 minutes of fake movie embedded in a vastly genuine marketing campaign. The feverish, insider giddiness continued during much of the preliminary short, "Pikachu's Vacation," a softly psychedelic bauble of non-plot that stars the most adorable ("Pik-a-chu") of the 150 or so Pokemon characters. All are

fabricated and fantastically sold by Japanese wizards of childhood addiction strategy. The "feature" is like a long (long) short, or like TV segments pasted together. It features an alienated bio-tech "master trainer" called Mewtwo, who chases the old dream of General Tojo, eager to conquer the world. He feels that clones get no love and respect. The problem is not the violence. It is the lack of ideas, the paucity of story flow and dramatic imagination, the sterile, vacuum-packed cartooning "directed" by Kunihiro Yuyama. (Elliott) Rated G. 1 star.

"PRINCESS MONONOKE" — Director-writer Hayao Miyazaki's incredibly gifted team of animators achieve entrancing forests, weather you can taste, surging waters and placid pools, skies of wondrous clouds, critters that are more excitingly interesting than the well-done but formulaic humans. What chills it off a few degrees is the story. You feel the narrative imagination is not

equal to the prodigious investment of money and technique. There are monsters right out of a pollution doomsday scenario. It's intense for anyone, and I wish Miyazaki had textured his very full story, a quest saga with revenge and salvation as core themes, with more delicacies of humor and rapport. "Princess Mononoke" is worth seeing because of its cartooning style. Whether it makes a movie for your kids is up to you. Voices: Billy Crudup, Minnie Driver, Billy Bob Thornton, Claire Danes, Jada Pinkett Smith, Gillian Anderson. Running time: 2 hours, 13 minutes. (Elliott) Rated R. 2 1/2 stars.

"THE STRAIGHT STORY" — Alvin Straight, in tiny Lauren, Iowa, hears that his brother Lyle, over in Mount Zion, Wis., has had a stroke. Both men are retired and creaking apart. He and Lyle, once very tight, are estranged due to an old feud. But Alvin determines that he must visit his brother. He can't get a driver's license and will not trust the bus. So he gets on his rather weebegone lawn mower, the kind you ride, attaches a light

trailer containing a pallet and some food, and heads down the highway for several hundred, often hilly miles. His pals marvel and so, also fretful is his dear daughter, Rose (Sissy Spacek). "The Straight Story" is so bracingly, intelligently lovable that you feel burnished by its tender, homespun graces. On a long and winding road, it reveals the value of a life. Cast: Richard Farnsworth, Sissy Spacek, Barry Dean Stanton, Everett McGill, James Cade. Running time: 1 hour, 51 minutes. (Elliott) Rated G. 4 stars.

"THREE TO TANGO" — Neve Campbell is Amy Sheppard, a charming glass-blowing artist who men can't help falling in love with. Amy's dating a powerful, anal-retentive business tycoon, Charles Newman (Dylan McDermott), who also happens to have a wife. Wife or no wife, Charles is the jealous type. So when Oscar Novak (Matthew Perry) and his homosexual partner, Peter Steinberg (Oliver Platt), try to land a project with Charles' company, Charles asks Oscar to spy on the free-spirited Amy. Somehow, Charles thinks it's Oscar, not Peter, who's the gay

one. Oscar is falling for her, hard. But when Oscar gets named Gay Businessman of the Year, he has to decide which is more important: the money or the girl. But with all the enduring characters and witty lines (along with breathtaking shots of old Chicago streets and buildings), it's difficult to resist this surefire recipe for cuteness. Cast: Neve Campbell, Matthew Perry, Dylan McDermott, Oliver Platt. Running time: 1 hour, 45

minutes. (Garin) Rated PG-13. 2 1/2 stars.

RATINGS 4 STARS Excellent.

3 STARS - Worthy.

2 STARS - Mixed.

1 STAR - Poor.

0 - Forget It.

NR - Not Rated. Capsule

compiled from movie reviews written by David Elliott, film critic for *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, and other staff writers.

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☐ Chicken Fingers

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☐ Swedish

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Livingston kids to perform for Atria seniors

CRANFORD — The Livingston Avenue School band, chorus and orchestra will be bringing a little holiday cheer to the residents of the Atria Senior Housing development, formerly known as Cranford Senior Housing.

On Dec. 22, the Livingston Avenue School's musical contingent, under the direction of Lorraine Marks and Dennis Connelly, will perform for the senior residents at Atria.

Atria Senior Housing had extended an invitation to the school.

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GROWING OLD TOGETHER
Pretty, white, young-looking female in her 50's, with beautiful eyes and a warm heart. Likes dancing, music, long walks, the relaxing and garage sales. Is seeking a male who is happy and goes with the flow of life for a long-term relationship. BOX 33368

MY HEART IS YOURS!
Very attractive, 4'10", white female with long blonde hair and green eyes, enjoys the outdoors, hiking, movies, camping, walking and much more. She is looking for a fun loving, white male who enjoys the outdoors, to share good times, friendship and maybe more. BOX 12393

SWEET LOVING A YOU!
25 year old, 5'10", white female with blonde hair and brown eyes, is seeking an caring, honest, loving, romantic male, to share good times, friendship and maybe more. BOX 13186

I'M FAMILY ORIENTED
5'3", divorced white female with auburn hair in her early 50's. I love cooking, sports, history and travel. I'm interested in meeting an intelligent, non-smoking, family oriented man. BOX 15294

HIT ME BABY!
27 year old, 5'2", 90 lbs, white mother of two with blonde/brown hair and eyes. Seeking a white male, 27 to 33 with a great sense of humor to share good times, friendship and maybe more. BOX 13447

LET'S ENJOY LIFE
Single white female who would like to enjoy life with someone special, good sense of humor, attractive, honest and sincere. Seeking for a single male, who likes to have fun and it's ready to party. BOX 13302

HOPING TO MEET YOU
I am a cute, funny female with a sense of humor who enjoys life, going to the beach, hiking, cooking, and traveling. Seeking a single male, who likes to have fun and it's ready to party. BOX 13302

LET'S GET CLOSER
38 year old, college educated, physically fit, single white female with blonde hair and brown eyes. I love to travel, star gazing, hiking, cooking and tennis. Seeking a single gentleman, 32 to 40, who is fun, interesting and wants to start a relationship. BOX 37391

UNTIL WE MEET...
32 year old, 5'8", 132 lb, single female who enjoys driving out, movies, good conversation and much more. Looking for an honest, caring man for a possible long term relationship. BOX 37632

JUST THE TWO OF US!
We can find love together! 35 year old, 5'2", attractive, intelligent, fun loving, easy going, Jewish female with brown hair and hazel eyes, enjoys driving out, movies, reading, the outdoors, quiet time alone and much more. Is seeking a Jewish male, 33 to 45, to share similar interests, friendship and maybe more. BOX 37652

BE MY CHRISTMAS GIFT
33 year old, single white, professional female is looking for a caring, financially secure man with a great sense of humor. Why don't you be my Christmas present. BOX 37762

DO U FIT THE BILL?
Mid 30's, petite, single, white, energetic female who likes quiet time, outdoors, dancing, comedy shows, movies, and much more. Looking for an understanding, easy going, attractive male up to 45 for good conversation and companionship. BOX 37762

TRYING AGAIN AT LOVE
I'm an intelligent, sexy, honest, good looking female with a great sense of humor. I'm ready to look and feel young again. Please send your e-mail or phone call. BOX 11849

HAPPINESS AWAITS!!!
Pretty blonde, attractive, single, Christian female, 30 years old, non-smoker, non-drinker, no dogs, financially secure, fun loving and romantic. Seeking a single, professional, single male, 30 to 40, successful, sincere, honest, happy and caring. BOX 13882

ATTRACTIVE BLONDE
40 year old, 5'5", non-smoking, blue eyed female, single, seeking a divorced or widowed, professional male, 45 to 51, college educated and financially secure, with a positive attitude, for a long term relationship. I'm interested in meeting a man who is fun, romantic, and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and much more. BOX 14760

TAX FREE DIVIDEND
...ME? Funny, warm, appealing, compassionate, professional single female, 30 years old, blonde, outgoing, caring, single, no pets, travel, etc. Looking for a good looking, financially secure, fun loving and romantic male. Seeking a single, professional, single male, 30 to 40, successful, sincere, honest, happy and caring. BOX 13882

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR
Single Native American female, 23, dark, earthy, gentle, intelligent, and hearted, and gentle. Seeking for a single white male, 25 to 35, who is sweet, gentle, romantic, and good looking. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. No games, you won't be disappointed! BOX 32458

RU MY DESTINY?
Mid 30's, single, white female, blonde hair, 30 to 40, who is a fun loving, romantic, and good looking. I'm looking for a single white male, 30 to 40, who is sweet, gentle, romantic, and good looking. I'm looking for a long-term relationship. No games, you won't be disappointed! BOX 32458

LET'S DANCE!
Attractive, vivacious, 55 year old, 5'2", 115 lb, petite, widowed, black female who enjoys dancing out, movies, reading, dancing, music, and much more. Seeking a single male, 45 to 55, who is fun, romantic, and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and much more. BOX 14760

THIS IS MY HEART
Single white female who enjoys theater, ballet, arts, traveling, hiking and walking. Seeking for a single male who enjoys the same. BOX 42125

LAUGH INTO MY HEART
30 year old, female, who is looking for a really nice, sincere, funny guy, 30 to 35, for friendship and possible long term relationship. Likes movies, dining out, theater, New York City, good conversation, quiet times and romance. BOX 11804

THE WOMAN FOR YOU
Together forever, that's what I'm hoping to find. Single, white Jewish female, 34, 5'5", non-smoker, looking for a single, Jewish white male, 34 to 40 who enjoys the outdoors, day trips, holding hands, the zodiac, games, good conversations and amusement parks. BOX 14398

HEART OF GOLD
Divorced white female, 65 year old, who enjoys dancing, music, laughing, listening, relaxing on the beach, candles and poetry. Looking for a single male with similar interests and qualities for fun, friendship and possibly more. BOX 14738

LOOKING FOR FRIEND

Slender, attractive, divorced female in her early 50's, is looking for an unattached, attractive male, no less than 5'10", for friendship and a possible relationship. East River area. BOX 33368

SLIM FEMALE
Single white female, young 50, 115 lbs, attractive, with good sense of humor, looking for a friendly, single male, 30 to 40, who is fun, romantic, and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and much more. BOX 13186

DOWN UP, DOWN DOWN
But I'm single! I'm 40, white, and looking for a single male, 30 to 40, who is fun, romantic, and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and much more. BOX 13186

HOW SWEET IT IS
Single white female, 41 year old, non-smoker, great shape and looks, with great sense of humor. Looking for a single male, 38 to 45, with great sense of humor, fun, and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and much more. BOX 10793

LOVE TO HEAR FROM U
Attractive, retired, 52, easy going, Italian female with brown hair and eyes, non-smoker, non-drinker, in good health. Enjoys travel, reading, music, travel, movies, travels, walks, good conversations and quiet evenings at home. Looking for a male, 54 to 70, in good shape, educated, fun loving, who is financially secure with same interests. BOX 10512

NEW TO DATING
I am a widowed, professional, Catholic female, early 50's, 5'4", 135 lbs, who likes the outdoors and looking for a man for companionship. BOX 40886

CUTE AND SASSY
Single white female, 38, Scorpio, brown eyes and dark blonde hair, 5'10", 100 lbs, enjoys going to the beach, camping, traveling, and much more. Looking for someone with same interests, honest, romantic, good sense of humor, and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and much more. BOX 33368

NUBIAN PRINCESS
I am a single, black female, 5'3", who likes hiking, reading, travel, water sports and sitting by the fire. Seeking an intelligent, sports-minded, charming male for a possible relationship. Non-smoker. BOX 40886

STILL BELIEVE
I am a single, white female who likes driving, the show, movies, good conversations, and much more. Looking for a single male, 30 to 40, who is fun, romantic, and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and much more. BOX 15294

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THE WOMAN FOR YOU
Together forever, that's what I'm hoping to find. Single, white Jewish female, 34, 5'5", non-smoker, looking for a single, Jewish white male, 34 to 40 who enjoys the outdoors, day trips, holding hands, the zodiac, games, good conversations and amusement parks. BOX 14398

HEART OF GOLD
Divorced white female, 65 year old, who enjoys dancing, music, laughing, listening, relaxing on the beach, candles and poetry. Looking for a single male with similar interests and qualities for fun, friendship and possibly more. BOX 14738

LOOKING FOR FRIEND
Slender, attractive, divorced female in her early 50's, is looking for an unattached, attractive male, no less than 5'10", for friendship and a possible relationship. East River area. BOX 33368

SLIM FEMALE
Single white female, young 50, 115 lbs, attractive, with good sense of humor, looking for a friendly, single male, 30 to 40, who is fun, romantic, and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and much more. BOX 13186

DOWN UP, DOWN DOWN
But I'm single! I'm 40, white, and looking for a single male, 30 to 40, who is fun, romantic, and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and much more. BOX 13186

HOW SWEET IT IS
Single white female, 41 year old, non-smoker, great shape and looks, with great sense of humor. Looking for a single male, 38 to 45, with great sense of humor, fun, and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and much more. BOX 10793

LOVE TO HEAR FROM U
Attractive, retired, 52, easy going, Italian female with brown hair and eyes, non-smoker, non-drinker, in good health. Enjoys travel, reading, music, travel, movies, travels, walks, good conversations and quiet evenings at home. Looking for a male, 54 to 70, in good shape, educated, fun loving, who is financially secure with same interests. BOX 10512

NEW TO DATING
I am a widowed, professional, Catholic female, early 50's, 5'4", 135 lbs, who likes the outdoors and looking for a man for companionship. BOX 40886

CUTE AND SASSY
Single white female, 38, Scorpio, brown eyes and dark blonde hair, 5'10", 100 lbs, enjoys going to the beach, camping, traveling, and much more. Looking for someone with same interests, honest, romantic, good sense of humor, and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and much more. BOX 33368



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TAKE ME AS I AM

32 year old, single female, non-smoker, non-drinker, 5'7", 135 lbs, enjoys driving out, outdoors, movies, working out. Looking for friendship and possible relationship. BOX 11488

PHILIA SEKS ELVIS
54 year old, single female with green eyes and long dark hair. Loves music. Wants to meet Elvis look alike for companionship. BOX 32653

FALL PREVIEW
52 year old, 5'2", attractive, fun loving, divorced, white, professional female who enjoys the outdoors, dancing, driving, etc. Seeking a single male, 30 to 40, who is fun, romantic, and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and much more. BOX 15294

SHOW ME AROUND
Single, professional, white female, 32, 5'4", 135 lbs, looking for a nice looking, tall, gentleman, religious, back round, non-smoker, for companionship. BOX 34113

LIGHT UP MY LIFE
Single white female, attractive, non-smoker, 41, likes to dance, travel and have fun. I'm looking for an attractive, clean cut male, 38 to 45, who has a nice shape and looks, who is willing to try anything. BOX 15750

STILL GOT IT
Good hearted divorced black female, attractive and outgoing. I enjoy movies, music, the outdoors and quiet times alone. I'm looking for a single male, 30 to 40, who is fun, romantic, and enjoys the outdoors, hiking, and much more. BOX 10442

NEED A FRIEND
White single male, 44 years old, never married, no children, 5'8", 195 lbs, non-smoker, non-drinker, easy to get along with. Looking for single female, open, honest, good looking. BOX 13892

YOU NEVER KNOW!
I may be the one for you! 52 year old, 5'11", warm, caring, loving, professional, Jewish male, enjoys working out, movies, reading, amusement parks, theater, the art and much more. Seeking an attractive, professional, white female, 42 to 50, to develop a loving and romantic relationship. BOX 13327

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FULL OF ENERGY

41 year old, white professional female, non-smoker, 41, likes to dance, travel and have fun. I'm looking for an attractive, clean cut male, 38 to 45, who has a nice shape and looks, who is willing to try anything. BOX 15750

SEEKS MR. RIGHT
Charming, white, widowed female, 60 years old, honest, young at heart and a great personality. Seeking white male, 55 plus, who is sincere, honest, humorous, non-smoker for a long term relationship. BOX 34294

LOOKING FOR COMPANY
I am a 52 year old, 5'3", 120 lb, divorced female who likes traveling, movies and the outdoors. Seeking a male with similar interests for friendship and romance. BOX 34317

JUST FOR YOU!
I am a 32 year old, 5'10", 120 lb, thin, white male with blonde hair and blue eyes, now the area, who enjoys driving out, movies, reading, concerts, classic rock, and more. Seeking a single female, 27 to 32, with similar interests for a long term relationship. BOX 16156

MARRIAGE MINDED
34 year old single white male, from Westfield, 5'7", 170 lbs, brown hair and eyes, non-smoker. Enjoys working out, movies, dining and trying new things. Seeking attractive single or divorced single white female, 27 to 32, with similar interests for long term relationship. BOX 32070

RETIRED PROFESSIONAL
Athletic, non-smoking, financially secure, sincere, white male, enjoys skiing, sailing, hiking, quiet dinners, fitness evenings, good conversations and more. Seeking a single female, 42 to 50, to develop a loving and romantic relationship. BOX 13327

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LET'S TALK FURTHER!

28 year old, Italian female

Sports

Devils looking towards repeating as champs

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

While the holiday wish lists of the Westfield High girls swimming team may be long, the catalog of goals for the 1999-2000 season is simple.

"Repeat. That's the only thing they are thinking about," said Head Coach Bev Torok.

The Blue Devils return all but four members from last season's Union County and state championship team, and are anticipating adding more championship trophies to the halls of the high school.

Westfield began its quest for state glory in strong fashion, blowing out Bridgewater-

Raritan Friday, 108-63 in its first dual meet of the season. The Blue Devils took first in seven of the 11 events against the over-matched Panthers.

Torok sees Westfield's depth and versatility as its most important asset, even though the Blue Devils face a light schedule. After Wednesday's meet with Pingry, who scored a 117-53 victory over Voorhees in its opening meet, Westfield has only seven dual meets remaining, mainly because Torok had a hard time finding teams who wanted to compete against the Blue Devils.

"We're deeper than usual," said Torok. "It's nice to have a chance to use a variety of kids in different events. It's healthier for

them not always swimming the same event."

The Blue Devil lineup will be led by senior captain Jesse Coxson who set the school record in the 200 yard freestyle last year, and is aiming to shatter a few more records this season. Coxson finished first in both the 200-yard free (1:59:13) and the 500-yard free (5:14:58) against Bridgewater. She was also on the winning 200 and 400-yard free relay teams.

Joining Jesse as a captain will be her twin sister Abby Coxson. Abby is returning from shoulder surgery which forced her to sit out the season last year, and will be a valuable addition to the Blue Devil lineup. Abby won the 50-yard free and was part of the winning relay teams against Bridgewater.

"She looks really good so far," said Torok.

Katie Bartholomew is the third captain and will compete mostly in the breast stroke and the individual medley this season.

Ashley Saul is one of the most versatile Blue Devils, swimming the butterfly, IM, breast stroke, backstroke and competing on the top relay teams. Saul won the 100-yard butterfly against Bridgewater in 1:02:13, and the 200-yard IM in 2:18:55. She was also a member of the 200 yard free relay team. Junior Chrissy Schwab will be the Blue Devils leading distance swimmer this season.

Torok has also welcomed a trio of newcomers to the lineup and expects them to make strong



GEORGE PACCIELLO

Westfield's Katie Bartholomew was part of the Blue Devils 200-yard medley relay team and in their victory over Bridgewater.

contributions as the season progresses. Freshmen Alexa Vantosky and Heather Lane are versatile swimmers who Torok says she is still trying to find positions for.

The biggest addition to the Blue Devil lineup may be junior Jennie Fowler, who is expected to have a huge impact in her first season with the team. Fowler was a member of the winning 200-yard free relay team, and is expected to fill some of the holes left by last year's senior class.

"She will be able to really help us in some spots," said Torok. "She has made an impact already which was nice."

Torok also believes the

Westfield divers will have a successful season, if and when they do actually dive.

Torok expects the team to compete in only "a couple" of meets this season due to regulations concerning the depth of the water needed to hold diving competitions which has cut back on the previously low number of diving teams in the state. But Torok is confident that when the county and state championships roll around in early February, the diving team can join the swimming team in the quest for championship gold.

Junior Lindsey Guerriero will be the veteran force on a team which also features two rook-

ies gymnastics standouts sophomore Jessica Caravello and freshman Ashley Flood.

"Lindsey has added a couple new dives and has looked good," said Torok. "Jessica and Ashley are both very good gymnasts and are picking it up fast."

The Blue Devils toughest competition of the season should come Jan. 11 when they host Bishop Ahr. Until then Torok will try to build up the team's power points in an effort to gain one of the top seeds in the state tournament, and try to plug any holes in the lineup.

But, while it is still early in the season, she admits she has yet to find any.



GEORGE PACCIELLO/RECORD-PRESS

Chrissy Romano swam backstroke in the 200-yard medley relay, and was part of the winning 400-yard freestyle relay team in the Blue Devils first meet of the season.

Raiders reload with hopes of a championship season

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

After losing by one point to eventual champion Parsippany in last year's state semifinals, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High wrestling team will try to rebuild for another run at a state championship.

The Raiders were hit hard by graduation, losing nine seniors, leaving a lot of spots to fill. Scotch Plains registered a 14-3 record last season which included two close losses to Rahway and Roselle Park. The near miss against Rahway cost the Raiders a conference championship.

"Everyone was close," said second year head coach Mike Artigliere. "Unfortunately we were on the short end of the stick."

The Raiders will look to reverse their fortunes behind some of last year's starters. Senior Dave Loewinger and his brother Mike will return to the Scotch Plains lineup and wrestle at 112 and 119 pounds, respectively.

Senior A.J. Romeo will settle in at the 135 class, after rotating around Tony Melendez last season. Senior Mike Tripete will take to the mat for the Raiders at 140, senior Mike Natale will start at 145, and senior Mike Grabel will compete at 152.

"They've all wrestled before," said Artigliere. "We're looking to them for leadership."

Tripete is the only one of the bunch who didn't start last season. According to Artigliere he

would have, but missed the beginning of the season due to injury, and couldn't crack the lineup when he returned late in the season.

"Although we lost some key wrestlers, we have a solid team," said Artigliere. "We can fill all the weights with average to above average wrestlers. Hopefully it will work out for us."

Artigliere will focus the Raiders on being able to pull out some of the close matches they lost last season. He wants to make sure they are prepared for the big matches on the schedule, and are at the top of their games when the post-season tournaments roll around.

"The biggest thing we are focusing on is getting ready for the big matches," he said. "Hopefully, this year, we can pull out some of the big ones."

One of those big matches is the Raiders opening contest next Friday against Kearny, a traditionally tough opponent. Artigliere is also looking ahead to Roselle Park on Dec. 22, and Rahway and Union in February.

"We have a shot to win every match we wrestle," said Artigliere. "It depends on some guys not giving up big points, and some guys getting some big points."

"Our biggest goal is to go out there and win every match we can and hopefully some championships at the end of the year," said Artigliere.

But with a week before the first match, Artigliere is making sure the team is working hard,

and picking up on the coaching philosophies of he and his staff.

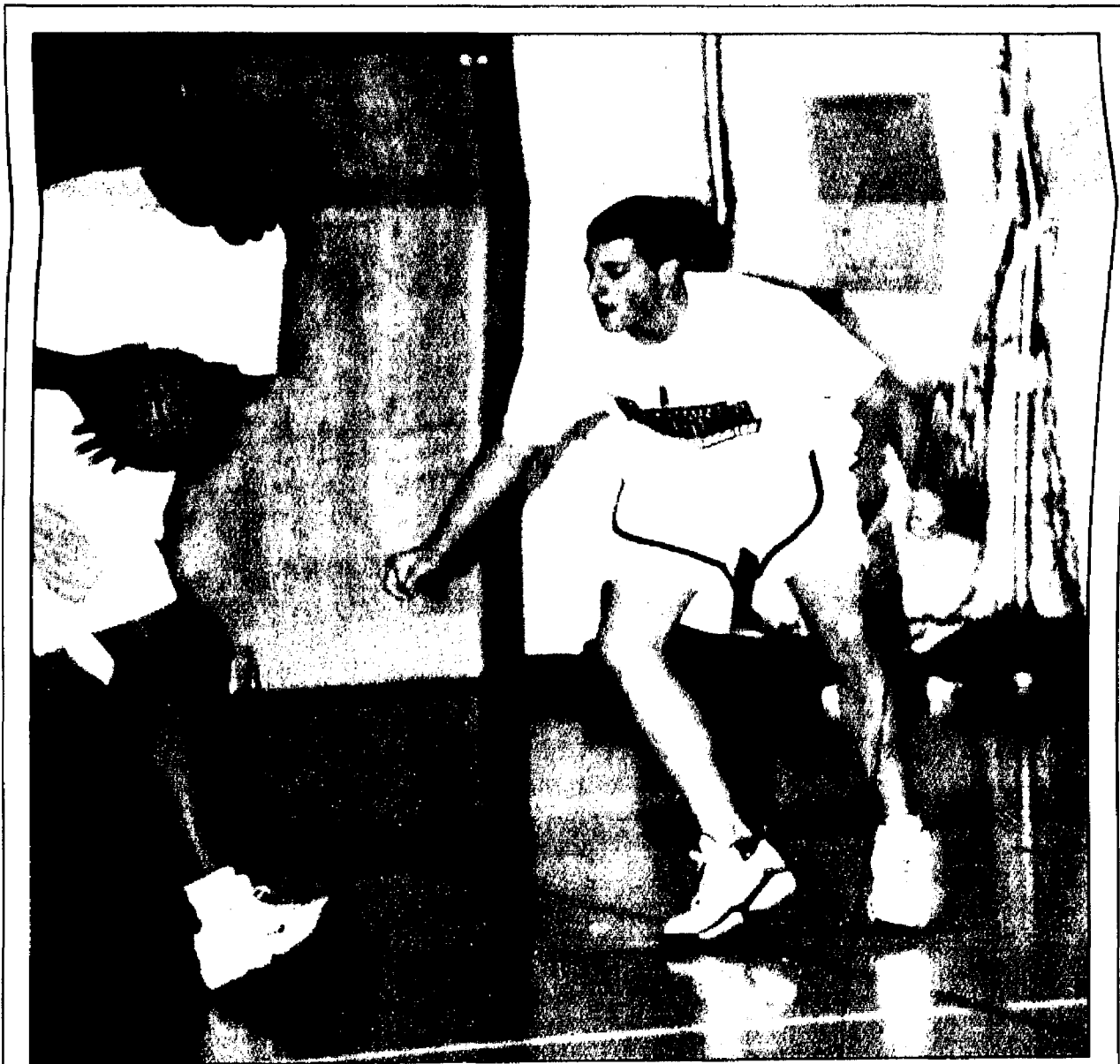
"The team as a whole works real hard," said Artigliere. "They drill and condition hard. They are very dedicated, they believe in their coaches' our philosophies and goals."

Artigliere credits his assistants with having this team prepared for a successful season. He extended credit to former head coach, now assistant, Dave Bello for the success of last year's team, and praised the efforts of new assistant coach Mike Siter, and new middle school coach John Scholz for their efforts in continuing to develop the program.

"They are all doing a great job," said Artigliere. "They have all been a real asset to the program."

So far the coaching, and the hard work in practice is paying off. Artigliere is impressed with the progress and development of the team this early in the season, especially the younger kids. He said he saw positive signs in the teams scrimmage with Millburn, which he described more as a glorified practice than a match.

"I saw some real good things," said Artigliere. "We're right where we should be. Maybe even a little bit ahead. The new kids are surprising as far as how fast they are picking up on things. I give credit to our senior leadership for that. They have done well helping the younger wrestlers. The seniors have done a great job with guidance and leadership so far."



GEORGE PACCIELLO/RECORD-PRESS

Take it to the hole

Ron Jenerette and Dave Herrmann go one-on-one in practice, preparing for the Raiders first game of the season, next Friday when they host Linden.

Raiders looking to take next step towards championship

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High coed swimming team is planning on having another successful season this winter and return to the state finals where it fell short against Shawnee, after compiling a 13-1 record.

"We're hoping for a good year," said senior Annie Espinoza. "We're gonna do well. We have good depth on both teams."

"It all depends on our competition and how well everybody swims in the big meets," said junior Chris Smith who will be competing in the 50 and 100 yard freestyle and on relay teams. "It comes down to how each individual performs at the

big meets."

The boys team will look to win a second consecutive Union County championship after ending Westfield's 42 year county winning streak last season. While the girls, who finished second in the county last season, will try to upset the Westfield, who will be gunning for its second consecutive Union County and state title.

"We want to keep up our one year streak at counties," said senior Evan Flath. "Even though we lost some key people we have some good freshman coming in and are looking to have a good year."

Leading the way for the Raiders will be senior Chris Swenson. Swenson will be competing mostly in the breaststroke, and Head Coach Jessica

Hulnik is expecting another impressive season from him.

"I'm expecting a big year out of him," said Hulnik. "And he's expecting a big year out of him."

Senior Steve Berkowitz will provide versatility to the Raider lineup. Hulnik describes him as the team's most well rounded swimmer, and says he can do it all with very fast times.

"Anything I ask him to do, he can do it," said Hulnik. "Meet to meet he can do something different."

On the girls side, junior Dana Berkowitz, Steve's sister, and Espinoza will be relied on heavily. Espinoza specializes in the butterfly and backstroke, and like her brother Berkowitz will be asked to do it all.

Espinoza said she is looking to capture a county championship in the 100 yard butterfly, but is still unsure as to what events she will be competing in.

Hulnik will be leaning on her seniors this season. She says so far they have provided strong leadership, and will their experience will be an important factor in leading both the boys and girls team to the top of the county.

"They have been great at motivating people," said Hulnik.

"Depth has always been the strength of our team," said Flath. "The underclassman could be our secret weapons."

Hulnik is expecting the boys' county meet this season, which recently has been virtually a

dual meet between Westfield and Scotch Plains, will be much more balanced and competitive from top to bottom.

"It's going to be competitive throughout which is the way it should be," said Hulnik. "I'm just hoping for a competitive meet."

She also expects the girls meet to come down to Westfield, Oak Knoll and Scotch Plains.

"I think we'll be in there with them (Westfield and Oak Knoll)," said Hulnik. "The girls will do a good job."

But with the first meet of the season coming up on Tuesday, Hulnik is trying not to look too far ahead. A long season awaits, and the coach still has questions she needs answered.

"Right now, for the first cou-

ple of meets, I'll be trying to figure out where to put people," said Hulnik who is faced with a smaller roster than in previous years. "But everyone is real excited and attendance at practice has been excellent."

"The first couple of weeks we are working hard to get back in shape," said Flath. "We're trying to get prepared for the season, and team spirit seems high."

Espinoza feels that as the season rolls along, if the Raiders can unite and raise their intensity, they should be in good shape to take the next step towards a state championship.

"If we can come together as a team and have more team spirit, we should be able to do well," said Espinoza.

Blue Devils aiming for states with young team

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

In his third season as head coach, Kevin Everly will try to lead a young and inexperienced Blue Devil squad to its first winning season since 1988.

Westfield returns only one starter from last season's 3-16 team, and will go to battle with only two seniors.

Senior captain Jeff Weber, the only starter back from last season where he was mainly a role player, averaging close to 4 points a game, will be looked towards to provide leadership and experience on the court. The only other senior on the team, Steve Sargent, will play center.

Joining Weber in the starting lineup will be two sophomores, Jim McKeon and 6-foot-3 Jay Cook. Junior 6-3 center Mark Kolvites will share time with Sargent in the middle, while juniors Doug Minarik and John Semenov round out the starting lineup.

"We have a lot of inexperience," said Everly. "We have talent, but a lot of inexperience."

Westfield also lacks size up front. After 6-9 270 pound cen-

ter Thomas Langlon graduated the Devils are left with a perimeter oriented team.

"We don't have a whole lot of height, strength or experience," said Everly.

But what the Devils lack in physical attributes, they make up for in the mental aspect of the game. Everly described the team as an intelligent group, that have the athleticism to play in the highly competitive and tough Watchung Conference.

"They are smart kids," said Everly. "They execute things well. As long as they stay within themselves, they'll do fine. They're fairly athletic and are good shooters."

Everly will rely on the Blue Devils smarts in his game plan. He says Westfield will mix up their defensive looks and often throw different schemes out of the same defensive look to confuse opponents and keep them on their heels.

"We want to be more deceptive in what we do," said Everly. "We're going to do a lot of things out of the same looks—like trapping in different spots."

But Everly knows there will be growing pains as this young

team tries to gain an understanding of complicated defensive schemes.

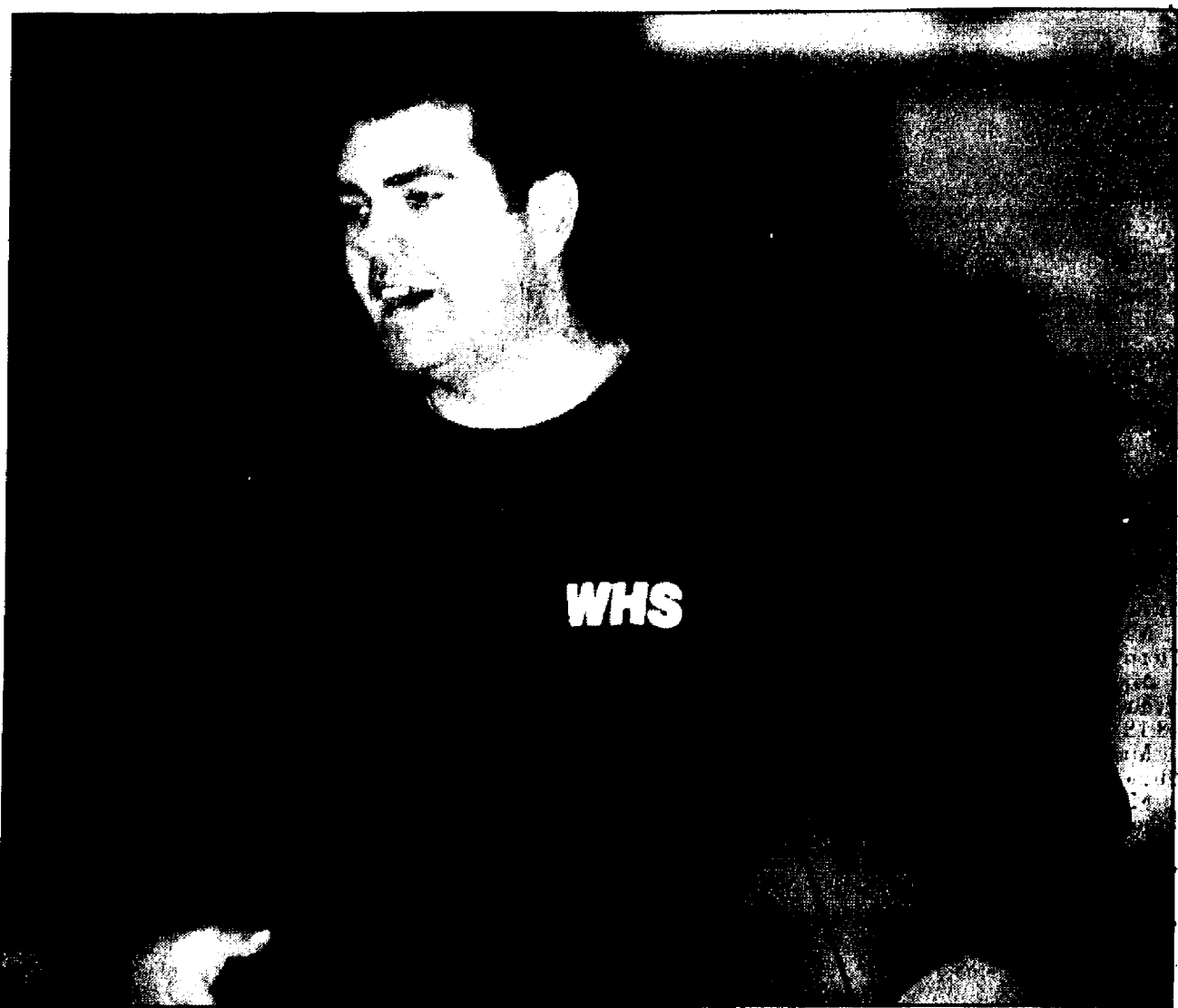
"It's a long process," he said. "It's a lot of new stuff. They're young kids and are working hard at it, but it's going to take time. We'll continue to get better as the season goes on."

Offensively the Devils will look to run more than they did last year, but Everly said they won't be sprinting up and down the floor like rival Cranford. Westfield will pick its spots to run, and work in a continuity offense.

"We'll look to run more when we can," said Everly. "Last year we did very little. This year we will do more. We have talent this year."

Helping the learning process will be Weber. Without any assistants, Everly said he has been relying heavily on his captain to push the younger players in practice and teach them some of the intricacies of the offense.

"He's been doing a great job," said Everly. "He's my coach on the floor. When we separate into groups I know I can concentrate on the kids I need to work with and he can work with the other kids. He's done a great job."



NICOLE DIMELLA/RECORD-PRESS
Westfield High boys basketball head coach Kevin Everly will try to guide a young squad to Westfield's first winning season since 1988.

Blue Devils kick off promising season with victory

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

The young and the old will come together this year and hope to lead the Westfield High boys swimming team back to the level of success it had become accustomed to.

The Blue Devils will field a deep team that combines a strong, experienced senior class, with a young and talented freshman group. Westfield is looking to regain the Union County crown they lost last year after 42 consecutive championships, as well as regain a state championship which has eluded them since 1995.

Westfield was defeated by

Moorsetown in the state finals last season, and Scotch Plains-Fanwood in the Union County Championship.

The Blue Devils kicked off the 1999-2000 season in impressive fashion, defeating perennial power Bridgewater-Raritan Friday, 88-82. The victory convinced Westfield Head Coach Martha Heintzelman that this season holds a lot of promise for the Blue Devils.

"It was an excellent meet," said Heintzelman. "I thought we were going to have a good team. Now I know we will."

"Everyone pulled together nice," continued Heintzelman. "It was nice to see the enthusiasm. It's gonna be a good season."

Senior captain Kyle McCloskey was also pleased with how the Blue Devils started their season.

"We swam really well," he said. "It was a good meet and a good way to start off the season."

The Blue Devils will attempt to return to their past glory on the strength of a strong senior class led by captains Scott Kautzmann, McCloskey and Matt Cahill. Kautzmann will compete mainly in the butterfly, relays and freestyle, according to Heintzelman. McCloskey will concentrate his efforts on freestyle sprint events, and backstroke. Also contributing heavily for the Blue Devils will be junior Cliff Haldeman.

Leading the crop of newcomers will be freshman Zack Koppa, and Vincent Schen. Koppa will specialize in the individual medley and Schen in the backstroke, but Heintzelman says both are very flexible, and she hasn't completely decided where to use either yet.

"I think our strength is in our depth," said Heintzelman who is in her third season as the head coach of Westfield.

"We don't have on major star, but we have a ton of kids that are good. That is where we will do well."

"Everyone is about equal," said McCloskey. "It's hard to place one above the other. We're gonna win meets on our depth."

We have no stars, but everyone is real good."

Heintzelman is also leaning on her seniors to provide leadership to the freshman. She hopes they teach the younger kids what it takes to compete at the high school level, and what it means to compete for Westfield.

"The seniors are all very committed," she said. "Westfield High School is very important to them and their showing the freshman how important it is and how exciting high school swimming can be."

"Westfield has always been about a strong team," said McCloskey. "Our first task is to make sure they (the freshman) know what it is all about."

The lessons continued for the freshman yesterday when the Blue Devils battled rival and perennial power St. Joseph's. The Blue Devils will next take on Kearny, Tuesday.

Westfield will have a tough schedule this season, facing Shawnee Dec. 21, East Brunswick, Delbarton and of course Scotch Plains. Heintzelman said she purposely scheduled strong teams to push her team and prepare them for the postseason meets.

"I knew we were going to have a strong team and wanted to give them a chance to compete," said Heintzelman. "Our record comes second. I want to get them used to good, fast meets for states."

Blue Devils off to shaky start after first week of action

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

The Westfield High Ice Hockey team has gotten off to a shaky start this season, dropping its first two games, before rebounding to win the third Monday.

The Blue Devils will hope to continue the turn-around today when they travel to Bayonne for a 8:15 game.

Westfield lost its first two games to tough private school teams, St. John Vianney 10-0 in the opener, and Don Bosco Prep, 4-3 Friday. Private school teams are traditionally ice hockey powers in the state, and aren't in the Blue Devils division.

"We're struggling right now," said Head Coach Brian La

Fontaine. "We played poorly in the first game, and a little better in the second."

The Blue Devils rebounded from the 0-2 start to beat Morris Knolls 4-3 Monday in the first round of the Cron Holiday Tournament. Brandon Kape led the Blue Devils with two goals, including the game winner with 1:43 remaining in the third period. Max Langford and Neil Cieminiecki scored first period goals to give Westfield a 2-0 lead.

Kevin Keiper of Morris Knolls cut the lead to 2-1 in the second period. Kape scored to give Westfield the 3-1 lead in the second, but Morris Knolls came roaring back when Brian Hodes scored twice on the special teams, a power play goal followed by a short handed

goal, in a span of two-and-a-half minutes.

But Kape responded with the game winner, and Westfield held on for its first victory of the season, and handed Morris Knolls its first loss.

La Fontaine anticipated a struggle defensively at the outset of the season, and said he wasn't surprised St. John Vianney was able to score goals against the Blue Devils. What did surprise him was how good St. John Vianney was, and how effectively they shut down the Westfield attack.

"The goaltending was a little shaky the first two games," said La Fontaine. "But it has been great the last two. I'm very pleased with that."

La Fontaine has been pleased with the play of Kape,

and the improvement of Chris Schwartz and Matt O'Neil.

"Brandon has played well," said La Fontaine. "And Chris and Matt have picked it up. We need them to pick it up to be successful."

While La Fontaine anticipated a strong offense heading into the season, he said it is not where he would like it to be at this point. So far the Blue Devils have struggled on the power-play, a problem La Fontaine believes can be solved with a little more practice time.

"We need more practice," he said. "We haven't been on the ice enough. Once we get some time to practice, I know we will improve."

Westfield will get to find out

exactly where it stands over the next two games. Bayonne today, and Summit Monday in the second round of the Cron Holiday Tournament should provide the Blue Devils a diagnosis of where they are early in the season.

"Those are two big games," said La Fontaine. "They are regular rivals and public schools. It will provide a little better idea of where we are."

1999-2000 Schedule
all times p.m. unless otherwise noted
all home games played at Warinanco Park, Roselle

Dec. 1 St. John Vianney L 10-0
Dec. 3 Don Bosco L 4-3
Dec. 7 Morris Knolls W 4-3
Dec. 10 at Bayonne, 8:15

Dec. 13 Summit, TBA
Dec. 15 Cron Finals, TBA
Dec. 20 Cranford, 6
Dec. 28 Summit, 8:30
Dec. 29 Randolph, 4:14
Jan. 3 Roxbury, 3:45
Jan. 5 Clifton, 8:30
Jan. 10 Hun, 3:45
Jan. 12 Bayonne, 8:30
Jan. 14 at St. John Vianney, 5:15
Jan. 19 Montclair, 8:30
Jan. 21 at Clifton, 7
Jan. 25 at Toms River North, 4
Jan. 26 Don Bosco Prep, 8:30
Jan. 29 at Montclair, 6:30
Feb. 2 Toms River North, 8:30
Feb. 7 Hightstown, 3:45
Feb. 9 Summit, 8:30
Feb. 12 at Mendham, 4:15

Cranford Bantams win Thanksgiving tourney

The Cranford Hockey Club's Bantam Team won the Montclair Thanksgiving Tournament Championship, going undefeated through the tournament.

The Montclair Thanksgiving Tournament ran from Nov. 24 through Nov. 28. In the opening game, Cranford beat the host Montclair Blues 3-1 behind strong goaltending from first year Bantam Brian Klimchak.

Chris Bleiweis took a pass from behind the net from Brett Berger and wristed the puck past Montclair's goalie to open the scoring in the second period. Ryan Ahern and Kirstin Whelan each added goals to lift Cranford to the 3-1 win.

In the Bantam's next game, co-captains Brett Berger and Jonathan Nudo led the offensive fireworks.

Cranford held a 4-2 lead late in the second period when defenseman Ross Kravetz started an end to end rush. The puck was tipped away from Kravetz inside the Bear's zone but Berger picked it up and backhanded a shot over the shoulder of the Bear's goalie to make it 5-2. Berger added another goal in the third period to secure Cranford's 8-3 victory over Bear Mountain.

On the third day of the tournament Cranford faced the New Jersey Penguins who had won their first tournament game 9-1. Behind strong goaltending from Brian Klimchak, Cranford shut down the Penguins high powered offense and went on to win 5-1. Gatto led the team scoring two goals, and Chris Bleiweis, Ryan Ahern and Chris DellaSerra all found the back of the net.

In the championship game, Cranford again faced the Montclair Blues. Mike Davitt opened the scoring on an unassisted wraparound goal and Ahern gave Cranford a 2-0 advantage, scoring from in front of the net off a pass from Tyler Hardin.

After Montclair closed the gap to 2-1 midway through the second period, Cranford killed off several penalties and withstood constant pressure from the Blues until Ahern scored his second goal of the game, an open netter, as time ran out to ice the championship for Cranford.

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Local runners excel at Turkey Trot

Below are the winners in each of the 20 divisions in Westfield's 16th annual Turkey Trot 5K race held Nov. 27 in Tamaques Park with the overall place in the field of 352 runners in parentheses. Also listed are the top 30 finishers with their hometown.

Jillian Hobson of Westfield was the youngest competitor in the race and the 11-year-old won the female under 14 division. Geoffrey North of Westfield was the area's top finisher, placing fifth overall in 27:35.

Male 1-13: Andrew Silber, Fanwood 42:14 (234)

Male 14-19: Michael Loenser, South Plainfield, 28:40 (10)

Male 20-24: Kurt Krause, Cranford 27:09 (1)

Male 25-29: Hal Smith, Florham Park, 28:13 (7)

Male 30-34: Daniel Avondoglio, New Providence, 28:18 (8)

Male 35-39: Manuel Pereira, Linden, 27:26 (3)

Male 40-44: Rick Pingitore, Elmwood Park, 27:21(4)

Male 45-49: Frank Turner, Maplewood, 33:02 (38)

Male 50-59: James Colvin, Westfield, 30:46, (29)

Male 60-89: Eric Nutter, Basking Ridge 36:49 (104)

Female 1-13: Jillian Hobson, Westfield, 43:07 (251)

Female 14-19: Cindy Carleon, South Plainfield, 37:26 (126)

Female 20-24: Cathy Williams, Watchung 33:55 (50)

Female 25-29: Megan Bell Phillips, Spring Lake Heights 31:12 (32)

Female 30-34: Jennifer Buccino, Westfield, 32:50 (37)

Female 35-39: Loraine Simunek, Garwood, 37:20 (120)

Female 40-44: Cindy Maronivich, Westfield, 34:28 (63)

Female 45-49: Vera Stek, Somerset 35:03 (73)

Female 50-59: Patricia O'Hanlon, Jersey City, 40:09 (190)



The sixteenth annual Turkey Trot 5K race took place Thanksgiving weekend at Tamaques Park with over 300 participants.

Female 60-89: Dolores Papirman, Staten Island, NY, 47:23 (315)

Top 30

1. Kurt Krause, Cranford 27:09

2. James Canterbury, Lake Ariel, Pa 27:13

3. Rick Pingitore, Elmood Park, 27:21

4. Manuel Pereira, Linden, 27:26

5. Geoffrey North, Westfield, 27:35

6. Mike Krug, Garwood, 27:57

7. Hal Smith, Florham Park, 28:13

8. Daniel Avondoglio, New Providence 28:18

9. Chris Valan, Kendall Park, 28:32

10. Michael Loenser, South Plainfield 28:40

11. Steve Oliveira, Cranford, 28:42

12. Kevin Devine, Morristown, 28:51

13. Doug Fitzhenry, Edison, 28:55

14. Kevin Cashman, Williamstown, Mass. 28:58

15. Jason McCaul, Chatham, 29:04

16. Michael Grabell, Montville, 29:10

17. Jim Grizzetti, West Caldwell, 29:12

18. Robert Wallden, Scotch Plains, 29:17

19. Sergio Cano, Union City, 29:29

20. George Walsh, W. Orange, 29:39

21. Paul Fiorilla, Milltown, 29:41

22. Tim Morgan Jr., South Plainfield, 29:43

23. Jim Gelson, Mendham, 29:49

24. Andy Vogel, East Hanover, 29:50

25. Sergio Londono, W. New York, 29:58

26. Robert Costanza, Westfield, 30:03

27. Chris Muldoon, Robesonia, Pa. 30:06

28. Bill Plough, Hamburg, 30:15

29. James Colvin, Westfield, 30:46

30. Kevin Sharkey, Iselin, 31:08

NICOLE DIMELLA/RECORD-PRESS

SPORTSCENE

ALL COUNTY GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

The Westfield High girls soccer team placed seven players on the All-Union County Coaches team.

Donna Schaller and Leigh Kendrick each made the first team. Taryn Wycoff and Kristen Salmond were voted to the second team, while Michelle McLaughlin, Gwyn Lederman, and Susan Williams were selected to the third team.

Each coach from the county submits players from their team for consideration. A panel comprised of coaches from around the county then make the final decision.

30 & OVER LEAGUE HEATS UP

After four weeks of play in the Scotch Plains men's 30 and over league C&C held a one game lead in the standings.

Last Wednesday saw the Blazers hold off Paperchase, 50-43. The offense of Aslanian and Freer was too much for Paperchase, even though Gallagher scored 18 in a losing effort.

This year, Family Investors is staking claim as one of the teams to beat after knocking off Campbells 66-53. Foley ignited the offense for Family Investors with 18 points while Grady of Campbells was the game's leading scorer with 26.

Swan Motel, led by the Scott Miller's 22 points, John Sullivan's 18 and David Nathanson's 16 beat Basketball Jones, 86-68. Peter Costello and Robert Shaw led the scoring for Basketball Jones while Mike Shuman and Tom Ruby's smothering defense helped support the Swan Motel victory.

The most exciting game of the evening however, was when Dave Rothenberg's Shootin' and Lootin' took on undefeated C&C and came within four points of pulling off the upset. 68-64. C&C was led by Mike's 32 points,

Nelson with 14 and Otis with 12 points.

Standings through 12/1/99

C&C	4-0
Swan Motel	3-1
Family Investors	3-1
Blazers	2-2
Basketball Jones	2-2
Paperchase	1-2
Campbells	1-2
Shootin' and Lootin'	0-4

SPORTS COMPLEX OPEN

A new regional indoor sports complex is now open in Rahway. The Center Circle is now taking reservations for winter teams, leagues and tournaments for indoor soccer, roller hockey, field hockey, and lacrosse. Women and men, youth or adults can participate as individuals or as a team. For more information call (732) 396-9100.

The facility is open seven days a week, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

TOTH TAKES OVER AS HEAD COACH

Robert Toth, Jr. was named head women's basketball coach at Union County College. Toth has more than seven years experience as an assistant coach on the collegiate level. Before coming to Union County College, Toth was the head coach of a women's basketball team at a rival community college where he successfully recruited eight players and worked to rekindle its program, according to a UCC press release. Toth began coaching on the collegiate level in 1982 as an assistant coach at Fairleigh Dickinson University. He then moved on to become the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator of the women's basketball team at Pace University, where the team recorded a two year record of 53-8, two league and tournament championships, two post-season appearances and reached the final eight NCAA Division 2 tournament.

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— William Shatner

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The different faces of Y2K

Electric industry expert says fear of 'bug' is much too much ado about nothing ...

By THOMAS R. KHUN

The author is president of the Edison Electric Institute. A TV promotional spot poses the question, "What if they're right?" The advertisement refers to those who predict that the dawn of the new millennium on Jan. 1 will bring computer chaos, blackouts and panic in the streets. For some, Y2K has been a sales boon — a national retail chain CEO, touting the potential of a Y2K frenzy at his convenience stores, says "this may be the single biggest opportunity we've ever had" — but for others, the "millennium bug" is nothing to sneeze at.

While there are some troubling signs indeed as we approach the transition to the year 2000, the fact is experts believe the U.S. has largely conquered the Y2K problem and that the nation's critical computer systems will be able to read the year 2000 date correctly.

In other words, come Jan. 2, most Americans likely will be able to use their ATM cards and their phones and will be able to buy gasoline, bread and milk. In fact, Y2K is now less of a technology problem than it is a people problem. TV networks, overzealous entrepreneurs and other scare-mongers ought to be asking themselves whether they're sowing unnecessary fear about the nation's readiness for year 2000.

For the record, the nation's electric utility industry — like other network industries including banking, telecommunications, transportation, gas and oil — is ready for the Y2K transition. Shareholder-owned electric utilities, the companies that deliver most of the nation's power, have spent about \$2.5 billion testing and updating their systems so that the lights will stay on New Year's Eve.

Overall, nearly everyone — from White House Y2K czar John A. Koskinen to workers who have toiled for years to fix potential date glitches — say that at most, New Year's Day may cause sporadic disruptions and inconvenience for Americans, much like a winter storm.

Indeed, there will almost certainly be localized power outages come Jan. 1, just like there are every day in the winter because of snow, ice storms or cars that crash into utility poles. The bottom line is that we expect New Year's Day to be pretty much like every other winter day of the year. Our industry's biggest variable is weather.

So, when TV films depict panic in blacked-out cities or merchants try to sell you a year's supply of batteries or dried rations, remember this: It would be a shame to let unwarranted fear and uncertainty mar what arguably is the most exciting New Year's Eve celebration of all times.

(North American Press Syndicate)

... While Red Cross of Union County says people should be prepared for the worst

As the countdown to the year 2000 continues, the Greater Union County and Plainfield Area Chapter of the American Red Cross can provide local residents with valuable information on how to prepare for emergencies.

The American Red Cross has been helping people prevent, prepare for and cope with disasters and other emergencies for more than 100 years.

According to Trish Mulligan, executive director of the Greater Union County and Plainfield Area Chapter, "While most people do not anticipate serious Y2K disruptions, we are encouraging people to take a common sense approach to Y2K preparedness in order to respond to disruptions safely." Mulligan added that the American Red Cross is working with local and county governments to increase awareness and assure communities that the Red Cross will be there to respond if there is a need.

Some basic Y2K recommendations from the American Red Cross include:

- * Stocking a few days to a week's worth of non-perishable food, bottled water and an ample supply of the prescription and non-prescription medications.

- * Keeping some extra cash or traveler's checks on hand in a safe place and withdrawing money from the bank in small amounts in advance of Dec. 31.

- * Having the car's gas tank at least half full, as in preparation for a winter storm.

- * Keeping flashlights and spare batteries on hand. Never use candles for emergency lighting.

- * Examining smoke alarms now and replacing all batteries in all smoke alarms as a general fire safety precaution.

To learn more about how to prepare for emergencies, obtain a special American Red Cross brochure, "Y2K, What You Should Know," as well as brochures on winter storm preparedness, fire safety and family disaster supply kits that may be purchased at the chapter for use at home and in your car. These kits make great holiday gifts, too.

For more information, call Sandy Hornak, disaster director, at (908) 353-2500.

"We are encouraging people to take a common sense approach to Y2K preparedness in order to respond to disruptions safely."

— Trish Mulligan
Red Cross of
Greater Union County

New book explores 'Scottish Ceramics'

BY LINDA ROSENKRANTZ

COPY NEWS SERVICE

Often overshadowed by the reputation of the ceramic products of neighboring England and Ireland, Scotland, too, has a rich tradition of making attractive ceramics, dating back more than 200 years. However, since many of the ceramics were unmarked and aimed at the export market, they have been therefore difficult to identify.

A new book, "Scottish Ceramics" by Henry E. Kelly — a Scot himself — (A Schiffer Book for Collectors) goes a long way toward rectifying this situation. Much of the focus is on wares produced in and around Glasgow and the west coast during the Victorian era, and ranges from classic blue-and-white pitchers and plates from the Annfield Pottery of Glasgow to colorful stoneware examples from the Links Pottery of Kirkcaldy to simple salt-glazed pieces made at the Caledonian Pottery of Glasgow to figures of Newhaven fish wives.

One chapter of the book — "Painting Ladies — the Glasgow Girls and Early Art Potteries" — tells the interesting story of women entering the Scottish pottery profession. It was toward the end of the 19th century that the Glasgow School of Art began to admit female students, who then went on to become painters, sculptors, potters, jewelers, metalworkers and needleworkers. Another group began to decorate pottery, buying blanks and having them glazed and fired by commercial potters. Those who did it professionally were known as The Glasgow Girls.

One of the most successful was Jessie Marion King. Her decorative touch was usually very delicate, with precise depictions of flowers, animals, children, fairies and nursery rhymes. Another notable Scottish pottery painter was Elizabeth Mary Watt, who depicted a wide variety of subjects, including realistic children, flowers, elves and toadstools, as well as purely abstract designs.

There are also two potteries in particular that stand out in terms of the quality of their workmanship. The first had sev-

eral different names at various points in its history. It began as a humble, four-kiln enterprise in 1875 as Bayley, Murray and Brammer, then became known as the Saracen Pottery. Its initial wares were primarily teapots and pitchers in Rockingham, black basalt, jet and blue.

When, at the time of the 1888 Glasgow Exhibition, a switch was made to stoneware manufacture, the name was changed to Possil Pottery. Later, it produced tea sets, dessert and ornamental wares of extremely high quality and delicate hand-painted porcelain, as well as finely modeled porcelain figures. In 1936, a range of unglazed white stoneware, known as Possil Ware, was launched, and these objects are now extremely rare and collectible.

Another name to look for is Fife, or Gallatoun Pottery, which has a history dating back to 1790. In more modern times, it made transfer-printed and painted wares, as well as colored and sponge-printed pieces. One of the high points of the firm was the production of Wemyss Ware, single-colored pots based on antique designs. Author Henry E. Kelly feels that this raised the pottery to a new level, because of the superior quality of the painting.

Values in the book are given in both pounds and dollars and cover a wide range. Among the most valuable objects listed are: A Fife or Gallatoun pug dog figure painted with flowers, \$33,400; a fine Delftfield Pottery creamware punch bowl with Scottish Masonic Arms and the remains of painted swags of flowers, \$2,500; an ornamental green Dunmore Pottery wall plaque depicting a cherub, \$835; a beautifully modeled Possil or Saracen Pottery porcelain figure of a water carrier, \$2,500; a Glasgow ("Bells") Pottery pair of earthenware "Wally dogs," circa 1900, \$585; a Clyde punch bowl commemorating the royal wedding of 1863, \$270.

Linda Rosenkrantz edited Auction magazine and authored nine books, including "My Life as a List."

(c) Copy News Service

Parent, teachers hosts Zany fund-raiser for Westfield schools

SPRINGFIELD — The Parent-Teacher Council of the Westfield Public Schools is holding a holiday shopping fundraiser from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday at Zany Bruins, located at 295 Route 22 East.

Ten percent of all proceeds

will go directly to the Westfield Education Fund.

All parent-teacher organizations representing nine schools in the Westfield district are participating. Although the store will remain open late specifically for the benefit of the

Westfield Public Schools, anyone is welcome to shop during the three-hour period.

The Education Fund of Westfield is a philanthropic community-based organization comprised of Westfield residents.

The non-profit group was formed to provide an on-going, centralized source of additional funds and resources to assist the public schools in maintaining and enhancing the quality of education.

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Real Estate

Burgdorff ERA has holiday marketing program

"Tis is the season to be jolly, for mistletoe, menorahs and even for home selling?

Contrary to what most sellers believe, the holiday season presents exciting opportunities for home sales. And now Burgdorff ERA has unveiled a holiday home marketing program sure to bring joy to every home seller.

"There are tremendous advantages for consumers who list their homes during the holiday season," said Judy Reeves, president of Burgdorff ERA. "Holiday buyers are particularly serious, motivated and focused.

In fact, relocation information shows that corporate executive transferees have more free time to shop for a home during the holiday season than at any other time of the year. Additionally, there are fewer homes available over the holiday. Therefore, homes are likely to sell faster and for a higher price."

"Additionally, homes project an ambience of seasonal radiance during the holidays," added Reeves. "Houses are generally more appealing when decorated for the holidays. The festive holiday touches make it easier for

buyers to make an emotional connection to a home and see themselves celebrating the holidays there next year."

Reeves also noted that the holiday season is traditionally a period of unmatched consumer confidence, and mortgage rates tend to be very attractive at the end of the year.

This holiday season, Burgdorff ERA makes it easy to list a home through the exclusive Burgdorff ERA Homes for the Holidays program. The new program provides a variety of select service options - with no hassle.

Showings can be arranged by advance appointment or through the listing agent allowing for extra convenience during the busy holiday season. Home sellers can even reduce holiday stress and obtain peace of mind by having their property covered by a Home Warranty, offered through the ERA Home Protection Plan.

Through the unique Homes for the Holidays program, sellers benefit from innovative marketing features. Decorative Burgdorff ERA signs featuring festive holiday bows offer eye-

catching curb appeal to the home. Festive home feature sheets and in-house mortgage displays complement holiday decorations and distinguish the home from others on the market. Home sellers also receive the added advantage of a complimentary IPIX virtual tour on the Burgdorff ERA web site. Additionally, homes can be featured in a Holiday Open house, which is especially effective when coupled with seasonal refreshments and festive holiday music.

And in keeping with the spirit

of holiday giving, Burgdorff ERA is recognizing the support of its real estate competitor colleagues by offering gift certificates to elite local spas. Any real estate sales associate who accompanies their client or directs his or her clients to a Burgdorff ERA Home for the Holidays open house, is eligible to win one of five gift certificates.

For more information about the Burgdorff ERA Home for the Holiday program, call a Burgdorff ERA sales associate or stop by the local Burgdorff ERA office.

Demand is creating more assisted living facilities

BY JAMES M. WOODARD

COPY NEWS SERVICE

As we are about to enter a new millennium, major changes are taking place in the design and operation of senior-care residences.

By the end of this year, nearly 7 million seniors will require some form of assisted-living services at their residences, noted a report from the Urban Land Institute. The growing number of seniors will call for more and higher-quality senior care facilities.

About 68 percent of new construction within the senior housing market is devoted to assisted living, the report said. Some of the most significant advances involve the design of

residences and units for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia.

Today's senior housing industry is focusing on facilities that cater to diverse individual needs by creating a more livable environment.

"Replacing traditional institutional settings with residential areas that include all the comforts of home has had a tremendous impact on the availability of high-quality care," said Amy Kervin Self, senior vice president of Resources for Senior Living, based in North Carolina.

"Successful projects create a sense of neighborhood by clustering patients' rooms together, painting hallways with colorful street scenes and constructing a

main street at the center of the facility. These improvements can help residents remain oriented to their surroundings."

This general concept has spread even beyond the assisted-living industry and into the nonresidential senior centers. An example is the Village of Arlington Heights Senior Center in Illinois. Here, a vacant grocery store is now used as a popular gathering space for seniors. Certainly a creative "highest and best use" of this property was selected.

The center offers several facilities, including a billiards room, garden-style cafe and a landscaped main corridor that is also an exercise area.

"Providing a main street within a senior-care residence is more than just a way to redecorate an interior," the ULI report noted. "It's also a way to create a sense of community. To that end, senior residences have changed the way they provide

care. They foster residents' continued health by stimulating their senses through familiar sights and experiences."

Most retirees want to continue living independently in a conventional home as long as possible. But for many, they reach the point where they must receive continuing care. For these folks, a well-planned and operated senior-care residence is vitally important. And steps are now being taken to provide better facilities for them.

When researching senior residence communities, take time to carefully check out the pros and cons of each development being considered. Stay for a few days at each residence. Most senior projects offer prospective residents a few days at their site to help them decide whether or not this is the community for them.

While there, talk to as many residents as possible - not just the marketing director or your host resident. You might pick up some very valuable and unexpected input about that community.

Q. Do real-estate brokers still use lockboxes to gain access to homes listed through the local MLS?

A. Yes, in many areas, lockboxes are still in use. Most home buyers and sellers are familiar with the lockbox used by real-estate brokers to provide access by fellow brokers to their currently listed homes. Typically, each broker has a key to the lockbox. Inside, he finds a key to the house.

As with most other aspects of the real-estate industry, revolutionary changes are being made in lockboxes. A new handheld organizer, roughly the size of a pocket calculator, is now being offered by one firm. It doubles as a lockbox key but goes far beyond that.

The new organizer combines numerous broker-specific business utilities into a single, highly portable tool. The device keeps records, makes schedules, retrieves updated listing data, calculates amortizations and reads e-mail. It also provides high-speed Internet access to the latest Multiple

Listing Service, listing data based on specified profile parameters.

At night, the broker can park the device in its modem-equipped cradle that connects it to a secure server for easy information exchange and backup. At that time, detailed information on what properties have been shown, by whom and when, is automatically delivered to the device.

Other information delivered on the gizmo includes new properties on the market, price changes and new information on listed properties. The device, called eKey, is now being produced by Supra Products, a long-time producer of lockbox systems for the real-estate industry.

It's definitely an indication of future high-tech systems to be used by real-estate brokers in the next century.

Q. Where might I find information on the history and evolution of real estate as we know it today?

A. We can look forward to several in-depth reports on the evolution of real-estate transactions over the past century as we move into the new millennium. Such special reports are planned by the National Association of Realtors and several state associations.

"Less than a century ago, real estate was bought and sold with nothing more than a vague property description scribbled on a crumpled paper napkin, a handshake and a smile. That's a far cry from the standard forms, termite inspections and disclosure reports of today," said Diana Bull, president of the California Association of Realtors, which is now planning a major feature on the subject in its official publication.

Send inquiries to James M. Woodard, Copy News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190. Questions may be used in future columns; personal responses should not be expected.

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336 Coolidge Drive from William L. & Theresa Broeg to Charles F. Hauser for \$135,000.

349 Maplewood Ave. from Carolyn Bassar to Arnold R. Vogel for \$30,000.

564 Newark Ave. from Elio M. Rossy Jr. & Frances G. Rossy to Anthony D. Martinez for \$164,000.

628 Newark Ave. from Nathan Best to Joaquin A. & Esther Diaz for \$195,600.

351 Oakwood Ave. from Jeffrey M. & Lynne B. Baumann to Michael Santangelo et al. for \$159,000.

583 Quinton Ave. from Kenneth P. & Lisa Kasper to Daniel R. & Joanne M. Palumbo for \$168,000.

378 Roosevelt Lane from Mary E. Jaekel to Patrick J. Murphy for \$165,000.

54 S. 18th St. from Gregory Rice to Christopher Buchia et al. for \$185,500.

238 N. 19th St. from Eduard Treirat to Donald J. Rica for \$125,000.

57 S. 22nd St. from Dominick Petracca to Thomas & Joanne Zelinsky for \$270,000.

553 Richfield Ave. from Daniel & Mary A. Verno to Damian & Sheri Buccine for \$176,000.

12 Upsala Court from Doris I. Swanson to Scott D. & Krista Swanson for \$225,000.

30 N. Ninth St. from Dominick & Claire Morabito to Gregory Rice for \$270,000.

SCOTCH PLAINS

5 Brookside Court from Norman J. & Keely M.L. Betts to Michael & Christine Fossaceca for \$627,500.

18 Burnham Court from Patricia Kay to Sharon Waldman & B.V. Murphy for \$202,000.

204 Carriage Post from David Wolk et al. to Aleksandr & A. Klyushnichenko for \$112,000.

1930 Church St. from Kevin S. Wass to Dolores Totillo for \$173,000.

1992 Church St. from Biswajit & Mimi Sengupta to Nicholas & Lorraine Gilbert for \$192,500.

2 Crestwood Common from Patricia Pielech to Cynthia Petrucci for \$156,000.

2225 Elizabeth Ave. from Jay & Thea Skanes to Francine R. Flanigan-Hargey for \$232,000.

2268 Elizabeth Ave. from Anthony J. & Vivian M. Mattered to Patricia A. Pielech for \$245,000.

920 Fox Hill Lane from Archino & Carole A. LaLuna to Nicholas A. & Mary J. Cannone for \$521,500.

2119 Gallagher Ave. from Nancy Steibing to Peter & Ellen Wallden for \$332,000.

109 Glenside Ave. from John J. & Rebecca O'Connor to Henry L. & Karen Johnsen for \$440,000.

28 Harwich Court from Steven J. & Arlene Silverman to Shirley B. Miller for \$190,000.

358 Hunter Ave. from Rhonda Flournoy to Moses & Damita Sutherland for \$155,000.

2 Jenna Court from Robert R. & Laurie E. Stanicki to Lewis R. Hood Jr. & C.J. Ponn for \$620,000.

2 Laurie Court from Sarah Siegel to Dominick Ciabattari for \$253,000.

2334 Lyde Place from Claude & Maria L. Baruch to Roger N. & Ellen Daudelin for \$242,000.

16 Maddaket from Joanne F. Lavender Trust to Shirley C. Capone for \$210,000.

19 Marion Lane from John R. Mann III & Lisa G. Mann to Michael & Melissa Keenan for \$596,000.

2069 Meadowview Road from Frank Lettera to Christopher & Meredith Love for \$173,000.

370 Montague Ave. from William N. & Mildred V.K. Roger to Gregory L. Wilson & R. Yarin for \$242,900.

220 Mountainview Ave. from David & Denise Geyer to Barbara Dolan & E. Dolan for \$203,000.

1736 Rahway Road from Constant L. & Barbara Baldassarre to Richard A. & K. Marsiglia for \$275,000.

864 Sims Ave. from Gerald Infantino et al. to Joy Varr Pelt & M. Van Pelt for \$233,000.

1411 Sylvan Lane from Benjamin & Julia A. Chiodo to Anthony M. & Laura Pina for \$307,000.

16 Village Park Court from Kenneth Sommer to Michael Donnatio for \$160,000.

215 Westfield Road from Antonio & Gisella Appezato to Robert Zimmerman & A. Betau for \$220,000.

519 Westfield Road from Keith & Faith Banks to Robert T. Spillane Jr. for \$174,500.

2109 Westfield Road Circle from Anthony Messina to Ronald & Bonnie Cohen for \$260,000.

5 Blackbirch Road from Cheng-Yi & Janet T. Wu to Jeffrey & Gail Arkin for \$453,500.

1200 Christine Circle from James E. & Lorraine Washbourne to Michael & Patricia Lusk for \$315,000.

2044 Elizabeth Ave. from Michael J. & Patricia Lusk to Peter & Jane Costello for \$315,000.

1498 Golf St. from Dorothy I. Shea et al. to Alan Sabatino & J. Desmedt for \$486,000.

441 Henry St. from Joseph K. & Karen A. Wenson to John & Jennifer McConnell for \$225,000.

34 Highlander Drive from William G. & Colleen Plietowski to Tomasz M. & Mary E. Stachowiak for \$410,000.

1800 Lamberts Mill Road from John L. & Beryl M. Tittle to Xavier M. Sanchez & N.A. Novak for \$21,000.

875 O'Donnell Ave. from David & Leticia Patash to William D. Mallack Sr. for \$140,000.

1582 Ramapo Way from Elaine M. Speth to Robert & Debbie Speth for \$160,000.

1221 Raritan Road from Gary W. & Catherine R. Rice to Christopher & Anne Walsh for \$377,000.

1192 Woodside Road from Paul & Theresa Belford to Craig T. Currie for \$240,000.

24 Bell Drive from John M. & Marjorie E. Kmetz to William T. Harth Jr. & Joanne Harth for \$315,000.

131 N. Cottage Place from Gordon S. & Rosemarie Inamine to Waldemar & Anna D. Garbowski for \$200,000.

12 Cowperthwaite Place from Patricia A. Heller to Joseph H. Sydnor Trust et al. for \$355,100.

17 Cowperthwaite Square from Virginia J. Glenn et al. to Frank J. & Evelyn J. Schaefer for \$280,000.

634 Downer St. from John Jefferson to Wesley Nowak & J.S. Khan for \$180,000.

107 Elmer St. from Dorothy McCoy to Francis L. Percier for \$175,000.

908 Everts Ave. from Scott R. & Tara A. Heuschkel to Donald C. Cassett Jr. et al. for \$190,000.

751 Fairacres Ave. from Alfred J. Moskal to Peter Jacobello & E.A. Fealy for \$379,000.

10 Floral Court from Robert A. & Susan L. Spass to Niraj K. & Shubha G. Jha for \$605,000.

536 Forest Ave. from Michael & C. Fossaceca to Scott & Noreen P. Singer for \$380,000.

210 Grove St. from John S. Billias to Christine D. Kraemer for \$53,000.

236 Hyslip Ave. from Philip S. & Cynthia Goldweitz to David & Jill Schlenger for \$369,000.

641 Knollwood Terrace from Ira B. & Brenda M. Skolnick to Philip S. & Cynthia Goldweitz for \$525,000.

302 Landsdowne Ave. from Lenore K. Hodes to Owain & Courtney C. Rees for \$295,000.

1053 Lawrence Ave. from Daniel C. & Sandra L. Frantz to Mary E. Ball for \$875,000.

111 Marion Ave. from Susan R. Carrigan to Mark & Irit A. Malinsky for \$208,000.

839 Nancy Way from Edna B. Heffernan to Ronald & Jennifer A. Snyder for \$415,000.

624 Ripley Place from Jerry Simunovich to Mark P. Porretti for \$196,500.

925 St. Marks Ave. from Harry E. Lupia Jr. & Dorothy A. Lupia to Gary & Diane M. Odachowski for \$430,000.

651 Shadowlawn Drive from Katherine K. Bonamo to Robert J. & Cheryl McCormack for \$625,000.

671 Shadowlawn Drive from Robert J. & Cheryl McCormack to Shadowlawn 2000 L.L.C. for \$525,500.

370 South Ave. East from William & Margaret Branch to Lottie Wright for \$59,500.

1143 South Ave. West from Helen Yastine to Paul M. & Mary E. Davis for \$122,500.

239 Sylvania Place from Lee E. Miller & L.G. Milley to Neil P. Horne III & Stacy K. Horne for \$510,000.

762 Westfield Ave. from Geoffrey & Marla Hewitt to Marla Hewitt for \$40,000.

776 Austin St. from Walter R. & Ruth N. Degutis to Andrew & Lisa K. Goldenberg for \$354,500.

110 Barchester Way from Donald M. & Margaret E. Hubsch to Ronald Poyston for \$448,000.

786 W. Broad St. from Martha Brenkach to Lisabeta Zornilla for \$213,000.

814 Cedar Terrace from Bruce P. & Linda H. Shotts to Stephen & Cheryl Hinel for \$835,000.

748 Clark St. from Charles A. Higgins to Lakshmanan & V. Natarajan for \$445,000.

24 Cowperthwaite Square from Emilie M. Kerner et al. to Robert M. & Susan Durecca for \$264,000.

509 Downer St. from Robert O. & Susan M. Dattner to Enrique & Ana M. DeRojas for \$156,000.

553 Fairmont Ave. from Vaughn V. & Patricia B. Harris to James & Jill Higgins for \$325,000.

135 Lamberts Mill Road from Edward J. Cooper & K.M. Cooper to Rudolph & Janet R.

Alba for \$200,000.

413 Lawrence Ave. from John P. & Nancy W. Reynolds to Barry L. & L. Lee Corcoran for \$426,800.

32 Manchester Drive from Alan M. & Arlene Wachstein to Glen & Mindy Goldberger for \$470,000.

117 Massachusetts St. from Roy & Susan K. Konray to Patricia S. Salvato et al. for \$218,500.

761 Norman Place from Henry R. & Lee S. Rouda to Manny & Gail Erlich for \$599,000.

321 St. Johns Place from Manny & Gail Erlich to Peter G. & Lucia M. McGovern for \$475,000.

252 S. Scotch Plains Ave. from Frederic M. & Michelle M. Krug to Stephen V. & Sandra Robertson for \$305,000.

814 Stevens Ave. from Glenn W. Mai & Mary L.B. Byrne to Debra Gelb for \$340,000.

116 Sycamore St. from Surene Limited Partnership to Arthur & Linda DiBenedetto for \$315,000.

259 Tuttle Parkway from John A. & Joyce Feldman to Karen L. Finn for \$385,000.

317 Vernon Place from Raymond D. Saggio & N. Davis to Peter & Malgorzata Magierski for \$191,000.

303 Walnut St. from Lawrence M. & Kimberly Rolnick to Peter L. Skolnick for \$550,000.

422 Washington St. from John L. & Clare B. Miller to Donald Gauthier & C. Thompson for \$300,000.

538 Westfield Ave. from Vincent J. Knett to Betty J. Sharella for \$405,000.

1 Willow Grove Parkway from Stephen & Cheryl V. Hinel to Robert & Beth Kirsch for \$367,500.



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Sincerely,
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15 YR FIXED 7.500 0.00 7.650 5% 60 DAY						15 YR FIXED 7.375 0.00 7.427 5% 60 DAY						10/1-30 YR 7.875 0.00 7.953 10% 90 DAY					
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Automotive/Classified

Motor Trend names Lincoln LS its '2000 Car of the Year'

BRIDGEWATER — Motor Trend magazine named Lincoln's all-new LS luxury sport sedan its 2000 Car of the Year this week, citing the LS's performance, luxury features and overall value as major factors in earning the award.

"Among all the impressive entries in this international competition, none left a more notable mark in its class, pushed the boundaries further among its peers, and turned the heat up on its direct competition more than the Lincoln LS," Motor Trend editors wrote.

Lincoln's goal from the beginning was to create a vehicle in the luxury sports sedan market with timeless design, European performance dynamics and all the traditional luxury comforts to which Lincoln customers are accustomed. Starting at \$31,450, the LS is priced well below its primary competitors and offers comparable, if not superior, performance and luxury attributes. The LS is

available with a V-6 or V-8 engine and offers the first manual transmission in a Lincoln since 1951.

Town & Country Motors in Bridgewater has been one of the busier Lincoln dealers in the region.

"The LS has been a great success for us," said Cliff Nagle, general manager of Town & Country Motors, noting the consumer demand for the LS. "Consumers have been praising the LS on its own merits and now Motor Trend's Car of the Year award only adds to the credibility of the LS. We encourage people to come in and test drive the LS for themselves."

Town & Country Motors sells a full line of Lincoln and Mercury vehicles. The Lincoln line includes Town Car, Navigator, Continental and LS. The Mercury product line includes Cougar, Sable, Grand Marquis, Mountaineer, Villager and Mystique.



Time running out to participate in Flemington Mazda car care clinic

FLEMINGTON — If you missed out on the Flemington Mazda car care clinic in early November, there's still time to make sure your Mazda vehicle is in tip-top shape in time for winter.

Flemington Mazda, a member of the Flemington Car & Truck Country family of dealerships, is inviting all Mazda owners who are interested in getting a low-cost car check-up to call 908-788-5858 for an appointment.

During the complete checkup, your vehicle will undergo a thorough inspection of its engine, brakes, drive train, suspension, steering components, electrical system, body and trim. You will receive a detailed report of your car's condition from one of the trained service technicians.

There is a charge of \$4.95 per vehicle for the complete checkup.

The Nov. 6 car care clinic attracted 50 customers who were quite pleased with the low-cost complete checkup and the complimentary gifts they received.

Valerie Slack, customer relations manager of Flemington Chrysler, Flemington Mazda and Flemington Infiniti, said the Mazda service team didn't turn away customers away.

"People loved the car care clinic because it's a pre-winter safety check," she explained. "By participating, people know their vehicle is safe with winter coming up. Besides, during car care clinics we can catch small problems before they become bigger problems."

Here's what some of the Flemington Mazda customers had to say about the car care clinic:

"If you continue this level of concern for your customers at such a small fee you can only increase customer loyalty."

"Flemington is, by far, the best dealership as far as friendliness and service goes. The clinic is a great idea. It's fast, effective and issues are not created unnecessarily."

"The was my first time ever going to a car care clinic and I would definitely go to the next one. I enjoyed the complimentary gifts."

Every customer who signed up for the Nov. 6 car care clinic at Flemington Mazda received mugs, drink holders, pens and key tags, in addition to the free car wash.

Flemington Mazda is a member of the Flemington Car & Truck Country family of dealerships located on routes 31 and 202 in Flemington.

The ML55 sport utility from Mercedes-Benz comes on strong

By Mark Maynard

COPY NEWS SERVICE

Now, this Mercedes ML55 AMG is more like it.

More like what a Mercedes-Benz truck should be: quieter, more refined and a heck of a lot faster than its siblings, the ML320 and V-8-powered ML430.

The V-6-powered ML320, built in Alabama, is a nice enough sport-utility, a welcome mat for someone entering the Benz family. It's also the least expensive five-passenger, V-6 Benz offers and a capable competitor on road and off.

The ML line is compact and nimble, boasting meaty tires, a secure Benz feel to steering and brakes and the scent of good leather, though other elements to the interior don't have that bullet-proof Benz distinction.

Much of that has been upgraded in the limited-edition ML55 AMG,

which is a showcase of performance and luxury. Basically, it starts as a ML430, to which is added the best and brightest from the Benz/AMG parts bins.

If ever there were a device to take away the bad taste of an unpleasant past, this is the model to do it - for the ML55 is all about performance and pleasure.

The 55 in ML55 AMG stands for the 5.5-liter V-8, which is also used in the E55 and European S55. It's a well-endowed variant of the 5.0 liter.

AMG is the high-performance division of Mercedes-Benz. The acronym stands for company founder Hans-Werner Aufrecht. The A is Aufrecht; the M is Melcher, Aufrecht's partner; and the G is Grossaspach, Aufrecht's birthplace.

Perfectly logical. Mercedes bought a big chunk of

AMG in 1998 so it could build limited-edition muscle cars and trucks.

High-horsepowered muscle cars used to be a handful, but modern applications of energy management make the silky ML55 both heavy-duty and comfortable. The stronger it gets, the better it feels.

AMG took the Benz 5.0 liter and increased displacement to 5.5 liters by adding a longer, balanced crankshaft to lengthen the stroke by about a third of an inch. The single-overhead-cam engine was modified for better air intake and other higher-volume improvements.

The engine has three valves per cylinder and twin spark plugs for reduced emissions and more miles between tuneups. It uses a Flexible Service System to electronically monitor oil level and temperature, coolant temperature, engine speed, road speed and engine load.

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'92 HONDA CIVIC	\$5995	'95 TOYOTA COROLLA	\$7995
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4Dr. Auto, PS/PB, A/C, Tilt & More! 15475MI/VIN#WM128701/STK#91230A		4-Dr. 6-Cyl. Auto, PS, Pwr ABS Brks, Climate Cntrl, AM/FM Stereo, Cass/CD, Dual Air Bag, PWR, P/DL, Moon Roof & More! 32,684MI/VIN#TC225400	

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\$13,590

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2000 FORD

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\$13,990

SAVE \$4525!

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2000 FORD

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\$17,590

SAVE \$5230!

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Partial Listing

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'93 MERCURY COUGAR XR7	\$5890*
'89 BMW 325IX	\$6690*
'96 MERCURY SABLE GS	\$8890*
'93 FORD EXPLORER	\$9990*
'94 BUICK GRAND SPORT REGAL	\$10,990*
'94 FORD EXPLORER XLT	\$11,790*
'98 MAZDA 626 LX	\$12,990*
'96 FORD WINDSTAR GL	\$13,790*
'96 NISSAN MAXIMA GXE	\$13,790*
'97 FORD F150 XL	\$13,890*
'97 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE	\$14,890*
'97 JEEP WRANGLER SE	\$14,990*
'97 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GTP	\$16,990*
'97 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE GST CONV.	\$16,990*
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'96 ACURA SLX	\$19,990*
'97 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER	\$20,890*
'97 FORD CONY VAN	\$21,890*
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Partial Listing

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'94 PLYMOUTH SUNDANCE	\$4989*
'95 EAGLE TALON ES	\$6989*
'93 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS	\$6989*
'94 MERCURY COUGAR XR7	\$6989*
'94 MAZDA B4000 PICKUP	\$7989*
'94 TOYOTA CAMRY LE	\$9989*
'96 MERCURY SABLE GS	\$10,989*
'95 PONTIAC TRANS SPORT SE	\$10,989*
'94 FORD MUSTANG GT	\$10,989*
'97 PLYMOUTH VOYAGER SE	\$13,989*
'99 CHRYSLER CIRRUS LXI	\$14,989*
'98 DODGE INTREPID ES	\$14,989*
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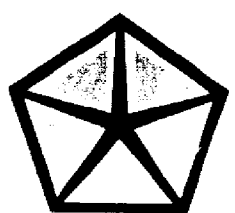
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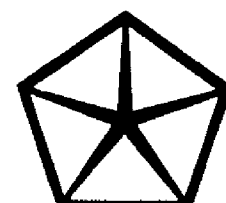
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*Prices include all costs to be paid by a consumer, except licensing, reg., and taxes. *99 Lincoln Continental, 4dr, 8cyl, p/s/b, VINYU609801, slk#L997035, MSRP \$38,995, Buy for 27,585, Save over 11,000! Closed-end lease terms: vehicle/fact rebate/ pur opt/ bank fee/ total payments/ total cost/ due at inception/ mi per yr/ refundable sec deposit. Voyager \$12,500 fact & \$7500 Lincoln/Chrysler-Plymouth Recent 3 yr Owner Loyalty Discount/ \$11,141/ \$550/ \$7164/ \$7164/ \$0/ 12K/ \$0. Neon \$10000/ Concord/ \$10000/ Town & Country/ \$18,018/ \$495/ \$10,044/ \$10,044/ \$0/ 12K/ \$0. Continental/ First no payment paid by Ford Motor Company up to \$750 on 24, 30 or 36 month leases for previous Ford Motor Co. Lessee/ \$15,820/ \$0/ \$17,244/ \$18,765/ \$2000/ 12K/ \$0. Mountaineer/ \$500 fact & \$1000 off lease rebate/ \$17,639/ \$0/ \$6936/ \$8146/ \$1499/ 12K/ \$0. Grand Marquis/ \$500/ Excursion/ \$50 \$25,396/ \$495/ \$14,781/ \$18,902/ 12K/ \$4500/ \$0. Windstar/ \$1500/ Explorer 4 dr & 2dr/ \$500 fact/ \$150/ \$300 Commercial Rebate/ Lease resp. for maint. & excess wear. 15¢/mi excess. Not responsible for typos or omissions. Prices apply to ad vehicles only and include \$400 college grade, where applicable, plus all manufacturers rebates and incentives/ subject to availability. Vehicles subject to sale prior to adv and sold cosmetically as is & as equipped. This adv supersedes previous advs, all offers are mutually exclusive and subject to change, and are good for 72 hrs from pub date to qualified buyers. †Available at similar savings.



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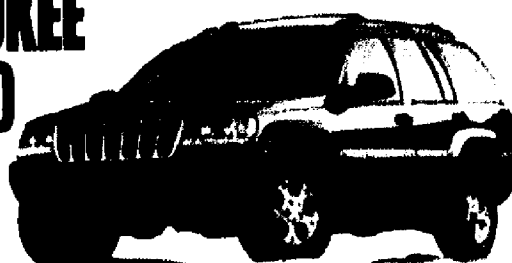
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4X4, Automatic, 6 cylinder, p/s/b, abs, dual airbags, air, cruise, tilt, tint, fog lamps, 16" cast alum. whls, keyless entry, p/w/l/m, am/fm cassette, bucket seats, 24 hr r/s assist, MSRP: \$29,695, Vin #YC12775, Stk #Y055JE. \$1839 Due at lease incep.

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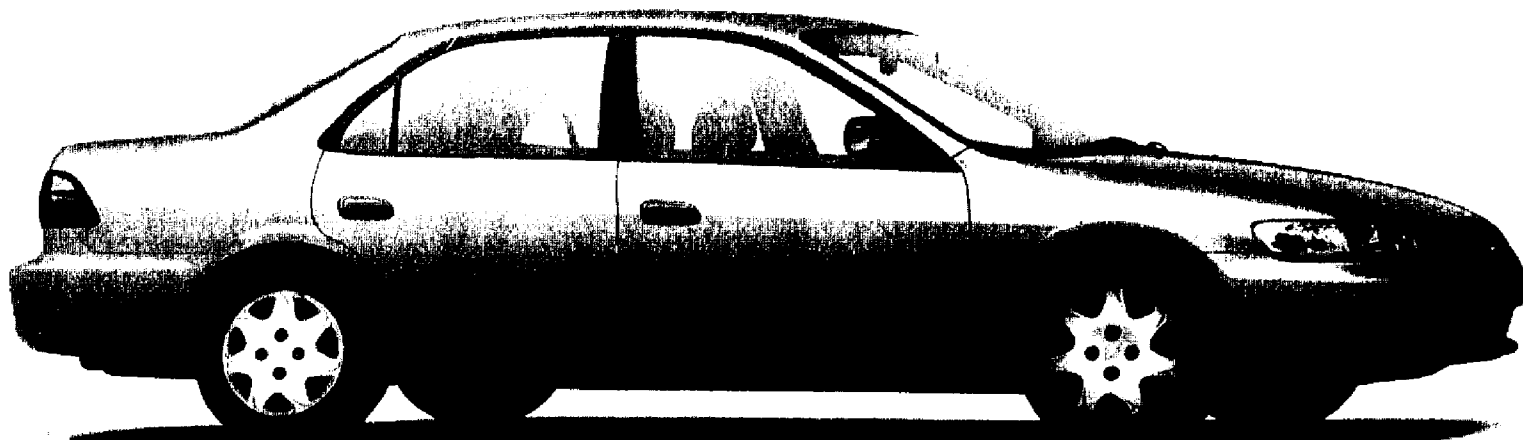
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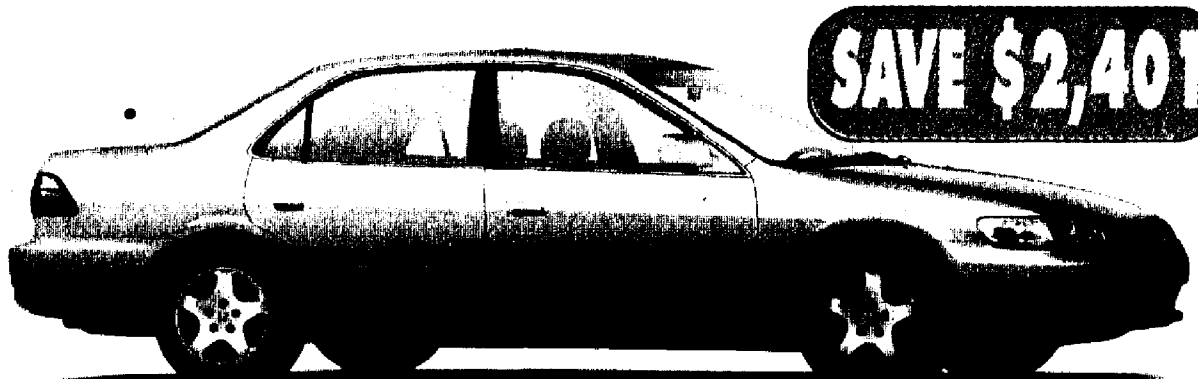


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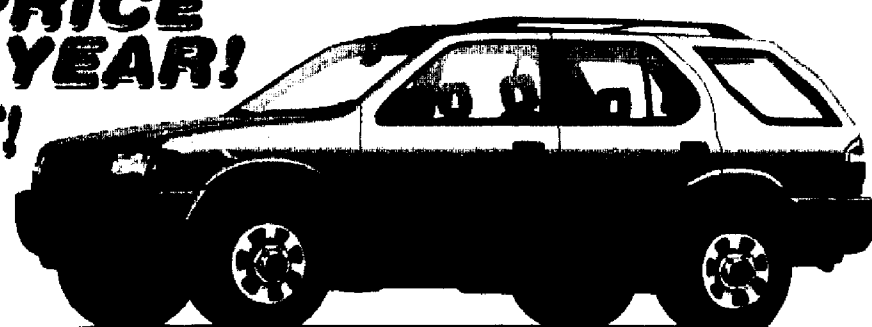
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\$5,892

'95 SATURN SL2

4-cyl., 5-spd., 4-dr., PS, PB, AM/FM cass., A/C, R/def., 91,999 mi., VIN#Z251943.

\$6,681

'93 HONDA ACCORD LX

4-cyl., 4-dr., auto, PS, PB, PW, PDL, AM/FM cass., cruise, A/C, R/def., 120,362 mi., VIN#A022319.

\$6,987

'90 JEEP WRANGLER

4x4, 6-cyl., auto, PS, PB, AM/FM cass., tilt, hard top, 91,114 mi., VIN#J508533.

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'94 HONDA ACCORD LX

2-dr., auto, PW, PDL, PS, PB, AM/FM cass., A/C, R/def., cruise, 98,075 mi., VIN#A037457.

\$7,922

'95 MITSUBISHI GALANT ES

4-dr., auto, PS, PW, tilt, AM/FM cass., R/def., 73,996 mi., VIN#E042061.

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'93 HONDA ACCORD

10th anniversary, 4-dr., 4-cyl., auto, PS, PB, PW, A/C, leather, ABS, 63,342 miles, VIN#A080292.

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'94 NISSAN MAXIMA SE

6-cyl., 4-dr., auto, AM/FM cass., A/C, PS, PW, PB, PDL, cruise, R/def., tilt, alloys, 101,176 mi., VIN#RT00999.

\$9,366

'96 SATURN SL1

4-cyl., 4-dr., auto, PS, PB, AM/FM CD, R/def., alarm, 53,364 mi., VIN#Z309138.

\$9,331

'97 HONDA CIVIC LX

4-cyl., 4-dr., 5-spd., PS, PB, PW, PDL, cruise, AM/FM cass. w/CD, tilt, 33,518 miles, VIN#H559199.

\$12,773

'97 HONDA CIVIC EX

4-cyl., 2-dr., 5-spd., PS, PB, PW, PDL, AM/FM cass., A/C, R/def., sunroof, 52,267 miles, VIN#L033563.

\$12,993

'96 HONDA ACCORD EX

4-cyl., 4-dr., 5-spd., PW, PS, PB, PDL, AM/FM cass., sunroof, P/seat, A/C, R/def., 56,974 mi., VIN#A057569.

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The Somerset Messenger-Gazette has an immediate opening for an advertising sales assistant. Candidates must possess excellent organizational and communication skills, be detail oriented, and have the ability to handle multiple tasks at once. Candidates must also enjoy working in a fast-paced environment with the ability to meet deadlines. Benefits include medical and dental insurance, prescription plan, paid holiday and vacation, and a 401K plan. If you are looking for an exciting opportunity and want to be part of a successful sales team send or fax your resume to:
Steve Jankowski
Somerset Messenger-Gazette
44 Veterans Memorial Drive East
Somerville, NJ, 08876
Fax: 908-575-6666

Sales Help 265
RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING SALES
NUN Publishing has an immediate opening for a sales professional. Candidates must possess the motivation to sell in a competitive market, be willing to work hard to achieve sales excellence, manage multiple tasks on a regular basis, and have excellent communication, presentation, and closing skills. In return, the successful candidate will earn an excellent salary and incentive package from a newspaper group that recognizes accomplishment. Also included are health, dental, eye care and life insurance programs, paid holidays and a 401K plan. Earnings potential \$30,000+.

If you are looking for an exciting opportunity that will challenge your sales skills, email or fax your resume with a cover letter detailing why you should be considered for this position:

Reply to:
Cathy Clark
Classified Sales Manager

Fax: 1-877-330-9955
email: ccclark@express-times.com

Employment Trades 275
CONSTRUCTION
Laborer needed for growing company. Will train. \$8.25/hr. plus benefits. 908-272-0394

PAINTER
\$8.50/hr. to start. Avail. immed. 973-770-1979

GARAGE DOOR INSTALLERS & HELPERS
Good benefits package & overtime. Call 732-356-5522

Situations Wanted 280
AAA HOUSECLEANING
Housecleaning and light laundry service. own trans. exc. ref's. 973-589-0960

HOUSE CLEANING
Good References
973-589-4949

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All nationalities. Screened. Lic. Bonded. Serving Tri State area. **AURORA AGENCY** 732-222-3369

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Specializing in elderly/sick care. Call 908-689-9140

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Live in/out. Polite Agency. Call 908-625-0494

HOUSE CLEANING
Exp'd w/refs. Reasonable rates. 908-704-2147 or 581-9043

HOME & APT CLEANING
References, own trans. Call Annabelle 732-469-1835

Real Estate Sales 360
Real Estate Wanted
ALL/ANY CONDITION
Cash paid for your property. Fast closing. No red tape. Call Today. ERA Queens City Realty. Ask for Lydia at 908-322-5454

Real Estate Rentals 405
Apartments (Unfurnished) 405
CRANFORD 2 bdr., 2nd fl. spec. 3BR, 1 1/2 BA, Dev. LR. DR. Kt. w/w carpet, walk to train. Quiet living. \$1500/mo. + util. 908-276-2831

LINDEN 4 bdr., new klt. BA & HT. W/D. \$900/mo. + util. 1 1/2, no sec. 908-497-1251

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FAR HILLS 2BR apt on 2nd flr. Close to park/NYC train. W/D. util. incl. \$121. \$450/mo. Jan. 908-781-1676 or 908-781-8966

MARTINSVILLE 5 bdr., 2 story, 1 1/2 wshy, EIK, DW, W/D, priv. encl. off-st. pkg. yd. Near 287, 78, 22, & 206. 12/1. No pets. \$800/mo. + util. 908-874-4400

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SCOTCH PLAINS
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Housing to Share 435
MADISON 2 rms. avail. in Newmarket. \$400 & \$500. No smoking. 973-966-5311

Office Space for Rent 440
CRANFORD 2rm office, 2nd fl., ideal for any business. Central business area. \$425/mo. 908-693-7511 or 908-273-2152 Lv. Meg. Individually furnished offices with business support services. Call Terri at 973-821-3000

SOMERVILLE - 2 1/2 room suite. Handing, carpet, w/c, parking. 908-725-6660

Office Space for Rent 440
SCOTCH PLAINS - Prof. office space. Elevator building, covered pkg. in the heart of downtown Scotch Plains. From \$500/500sq ft. avail. Call owner at 908-322-8079

WESTFIELD - Prof. space available. Reception area 2 offices and lavatory. \$850/mo. Call for details. **BURGDOFFER REALTORS**
WESTFIELD OFFICE 908-233-0665

Rooms (Furnished) 460
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General Merchandise 580
99 TREX \$200 - Racing Bike. 56 cm carbon, red/whl. 18sp. flight deck computer. Shimano. Peds. 110k. \$2100. 908-272-6996

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Exc. lake \$30. Hoover multi gym. \$30. Perfect Ab machine. \$75. Walk glider. \$50. 1000 trainer. \$50. Slide. \$30. Mini Max workout mach. \$30. 908-232-6955 ext. 6pm.

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KENILWORTH MOVING SALE - 29 N. 8th St. 12/11, 9-12. Bunk beds / dresser, HH items, some furniture. Much More. No entry. 908-272-6996

NO. PLAINFIELD Garage sale. Inside! 171 West End Ave. Sat. 12/11/99. HH items.

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SAVE \$4892

BRAND NEW 1999 CHEVY BLAZER 4x4

4 dr, 6 cyl, auto trans, pwr strg/bks/wnd locks/mir, AIR, tilt, cruise, rddr, 19" alloy wheels, all seas, tres, lgg rack, dual air bags, pwr suspension. VIN #X2195806 MSRP \$28,295. Incl. \$2500 Factory Rebate

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THE ONLY THING NEW AT LEASE IS YOUR FIRST PAYMENT!

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4 Door, 4 cyl, auto trans, pwr strg/bks/wnd locks, AIR, cassette, rddr, VIN #Y9144613, MSRP \$19,625. 36 mo. Closed end lease w/\$247 (1st Payment due at lease signing) 10 Pymts. \$8992. 10 Cost. \$8992

\$247

LEASE PER MO. 36 MOS.



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BRAND NEW 2000 CHEVY Cavalier

4 Door, 4 cyl, auto trans, pwr strg/bks, AIR, cassette, rddr, VIN #Y9144613, MSRP \$14,449. 36 mo. Closed end lease w/\$199 (1st Payment due at lease signing) 10 Pymts. \$7164. 10 Cost. \$7164

\$199

LEASE PER MO. 36 MOS.



ALL NEW FOR 2000!

BRAND NEW 2000 CHEVY PRIZM

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\$195

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'97 CHEVY LUMINA 4 door, 4 cylinder, automatic trans, pwr strg/bks/wnd locks, AIR, cassette, rddr, VIN #Y9144613, MSRP \$14,449. 36 mo. Closed end lease w/\$199 (1st Payment due at lease signing) 10 Pymts. \$7164. 10 Cost. \$7164 \$11,990	'97 CHEVY BLAZER 4x4 4 door, 6 cylinder, automatic trans, pwr strg/bks/wnd locks, AIR, tilt, cruise, rddr, 19" alloy wheels, all seas, tres, lgg rack, dual air bags, pwr suspension. VIN #X2195806 MSRP \$28,295. Incl. \$2500 Factory Rebate \$17,350	'96 GEO PRIZM 4 door, 4 cylinder, automatic trans, pwr strg/bks/wnd locks, AIR, cassette, rddr, VIN #Y9144613, MSRP \$14,449. 36 mo. Closed end lease w/\$199 (1st Payment due at lease signing) 10 Pymts. \$7164. 10 Cost. \$7164 \$8695	'99 CHEVY ASTRO PASSENGER VAN 4 door, 4 cylinder, automatic trans, pwr strg/bks/wnd locks, AIR, cassette, rddr, VIN #Y9144613, MSRP \$14,449. 36 mo. Closed end lease w/\$199 (1st Payment due at lease signing) 10 Pymts. \$7164. 10 Cost. \$7164 \$16,959	'98 CHEVY CAVALIER 4 door, 4 cylinder, automatic trans, pwr strg/bks/wnd locks, AIR, cassette, rddr, VIN #Y9144613, MSRP \$14,449. 36 mo. Closed end lease w/\$199 (1st Payment due at lease signing) 10 Pymts. \$7164. 10 Cost. \$7164 \$8995	'98 CHEVY LUMINA 4 door, 4 cylinder, automatic trans, pwr strg/bks/wnd locks, AIR, cassette, rddr, VIN #Y9144613, MSRP \$14,449. 36 mo. Closed end lease w/\$199 (1st Payment due at lease signing) 10 Pymts. \$7164. 10 Cost. \$7164 \$8295	'99 CHEVY MALIBU 4 door, 4 cylinder, automatic trans, pwr strg/bks/wnd locks, AIR, cassette, rddr, VIN #Y9144613, MSRP \$14,449. 36 mo. Closed end lease w/\$199 (1st Payment due at lease signing) 10 Pymts. \$7164. 10 Cost. \$7164 \$12,595	'97 CHEVY VENTURE 4 door, 6 cylinder, automatic trans, pwr strg/bks/wnd locks, AIR, tilt, cruise, rddr, 19" alloy wheels, all seas, tres, lgg rack, dual air bags, pwr suspension. VIN #X2195806 MSRP \$28,295. Incl. \$2500 Factory Rebate \$17,895
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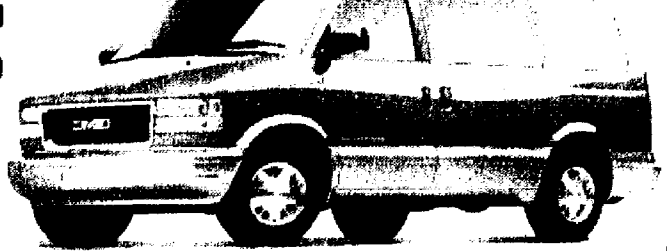
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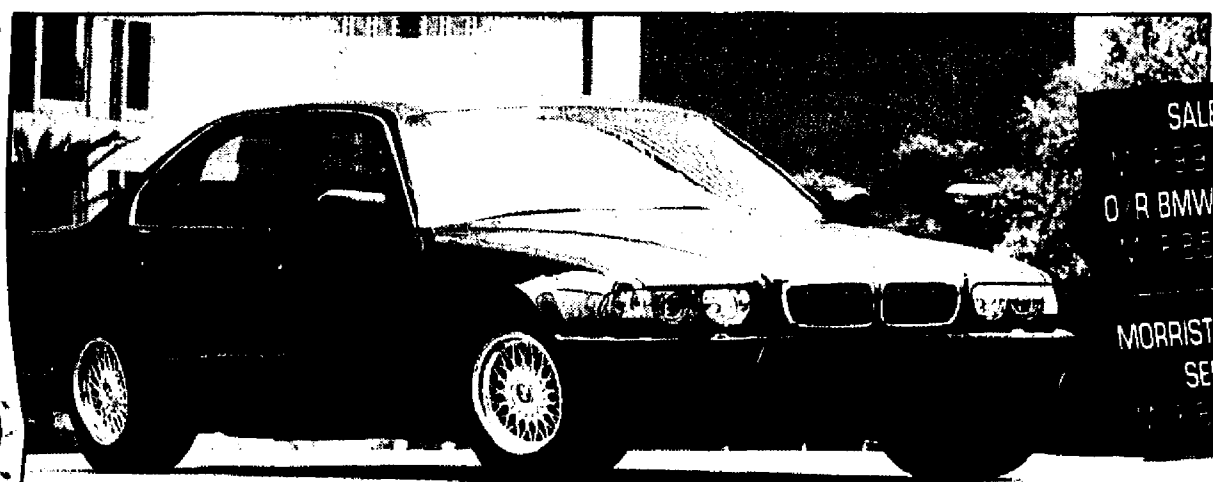
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'97 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GLS	BLACK
'97 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GLS	GREEN
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'96 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GL	BLACK
'96 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT GLX	GREEN
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SEDAN

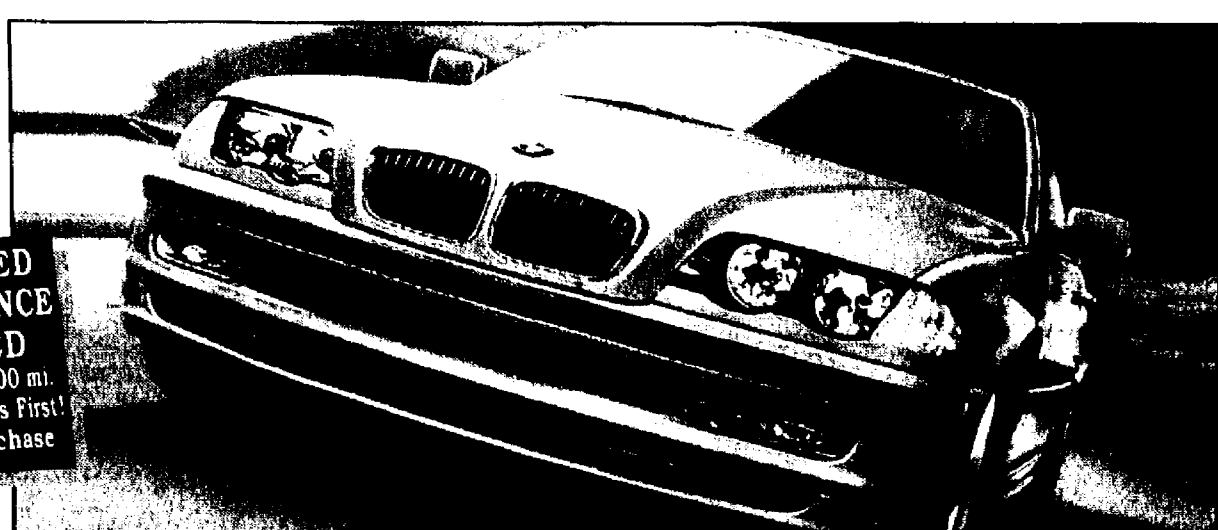
Steptronic Trans, Auto, 6 cyl, PS, PABS, A/C, AM/FM Cass, Moonroof, Heated Seats, Premium Package, MSRP \$45,645, VIN# YGU11139, \$3,979 due at delivery incl. \$2,500 cap cost reduction, \$500 ref sec dep, \$480 bank fee & 1st payment. Total payments \$17,964. Total lease cost \$20,944. ELPO \$30,582.



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