

Record-Press

WESTFIELD · SCOTCH PLAINS · FANWOOD

Vol. 15, No.6

Friday, February 11, 2000

50 cents

What Can You Do For Your Sweetheart?



See Valentine's Day Pages in Today's Issue

Briefs

Westfield schedules special ed meeting

WESTFIELD — On Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m., the Office of Special Services of the Westfield Public Schools will hold a meeting for parents of students with disabilities.

The meeting will take place in the Edison Intermediate School auditorium at 800 Rahway Ave. In the event of inclement weather, the meeting will be rescheduled for Feb. 29.

According to Dr. Ted Kozlik, the school district's director of special services, the New Jersey Department of Education will be monitoring Westfield's special education programs and services during the month of March. "As a vital partner in the process, we are inviting parents and guardians to participate in a public meeting to discuss our district's efforts in providing appropriate services to students with disabilities," Dr. Kozlik said. "We appreciate the assistance of our parents in our efforts to provide quality programs for our students."

Representatives from the New Jersey Office of Special Education Programs will be chairing the meeting and leading the discussions.

Fanwood library to screen films

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Memorial Library on North Avenue continues its film series with two offerings this month.

"Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" will be shown 7:30 p.m. today. The 1997 release, adapted from the best-selling novel, was directed by Clint Eastwood and stars Kevin Spacey of "American Beauty" fame.

Last year's remake of "The Thomas Crown Affair" will be shown 7:30 p.m. Feb. 18.

A short subject precedes each screening. Admission is free and snacks will be provided. For more information, call (908) 322-6400.

The series is sponsored by the Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library.

'Multimedia sale' helps school library

SCOTCH PLAINS — A "Multimedia Sale," scheduled to be held 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Wednesday, will benefit the library of Park Middle School, located at 580 Park Ave.

Gently used books, compact discs, CD-ROMs and videos are available at nominal prices.

The sale is sponsored by the Friends of the Park Middle School Library.

Inside

CommentaryA-6

Community LifeB-1

Sports.....C-1

Prime TimeB-2

ObituariesA-8

Real Estate.....C-4

Police LogA-2

ClassifiedC-5



NICOLE DIMELLA/RECORD-PRESS

To your health

Most folks believe healthy, wealthy and wise is the way to go — and the Westfield Y hosted a special event Sunday that gave area residents a chance to nail two out of three. Several of Westfield's wisest residents showed up to take advantage of the Y's Health Fair and underwent blood pressure tests or other simple check-ups. Marion Wetzel (above) came to the fair to make sure her hearing was up to snuff, while chiropractor Kenneth Clarocca of Westfield's Clarocca Chiropractic Center (left) made sure town resident Wayne Hu's spine was properly adjusted.



Humane Society targets 'cruel' puppy peddlers

Poor breeding habits lead to sickly pets, warns specialist

By TERRENCE DOPP
THE RECORD-PRESS

That doggy in the window might cost a little bit more than you think.

At least 90 percent of the dogs and cats purchased in pet stores are the products of breeding operations that resemble automobile assembly lines more than humane breeding operations, according to the Humane Society of the United States, and the humane society is warning that many of these pets suffer serious health problems because of the poor breeding practices of so-called "puppy mills."

"Basically, (puppy mills) are inherently cruel," said Dug Hanbicki, a specialist on companion animals at HSUS headquarters in Washington, D.C., noting puppy mills that ship large numbers of animals to both large chain pet stores and smaller shops look at female animals as breeding machines. "They're bred until they wear out — then they're disposed of," she said.

While some local pet store owners would admit to importing dogs from Pennsylvania, none would say they do business with the controversial puppy mills — and one noted he specifically steers clear of such enterprises.

Most of the puppy mills on the East Coast are based in Lancaster County, Pa., an area which one Pennsylvania state senator recently told the *Philadelphia Inquirer* was the "puppy-mill capital of the East Coast." Many others are allegedly based in Missouri, although these dogs rarely if ever appear in New Jersey stores, according to the HSUS.

Hanbicki said the mills are divided into two types: the large-scale puppy mills and the smaller "back-yard breeders," who breed dogs without the controls used by more reputable breeders. She said both often breed dogs irresponsibly, meaning puppies from these breeders are often inbred or have serious congenital health problems or both.

The HSUS specialist said hip dysplasia and parasites, as well as less-serious disorders such as "kennel cough," a curable upper respiratory infection, are common in dogs coming from a puppy mill. Longer-eared breeds such as spaniels often do not receive the regular ear cleanings they may need to prevent infection, according to Hanbicki, and all of these myriad problems can take expensive surgeries or medication to rectify.

The HSUS gets several complaints each week about such health defects in puppies coming from pet stores, Hanbicki said. Laws in most states, including New Jersey's "puppy lemon law," require pet stores to reimburse a

customer for the medical costs or take the dog back from a customer and either refund the money or replace the animal, but Hanbicki said many of these laws backfire because the "warranty" period is, in many cases, no more than two weeks. "A lot of times, congenital problems don't show up for years," she said.

(Continued on page A-2)

Parking issues top 'Goals' list

Westfield council looks ahead to 2000's big issues

By TERRENCE DOPP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Town Council's main goal for the year is simple, according to at least one Town Council member: improve the parking infrastructure.

Councilman Larry Goldman said during Tuesday night's "Goals 2000" meeting that making sure the town moves on its efforts to build a downtown parking deck should be fast-tracked throughout the year. Goldman said the council, which expects to hear Feb. 16 a consultant's report on possible locations for the deck, should ensure the plans are not sidetracked by other business. "I see everything else as secondary to that," Goldman said.

"Everything."

Other council members agreed the parking deck was a major concern, but said the council should look at all of the town's parking facilities, including the municipal lots it currently in place and the metered parking along downtown streets. Councilman Neil Sullivan called this the "parking system" and said the town should work to make improvements to all of these facilities in order to further the strides the council has already made.

Other council members agreed with Sullivan and Goldman that town officials must do more to follow-up on the projects they commit to. Councilman Gregory McDermott, the council's liaison to the Special Improvement District, said he would like to see the council finish several projects they began in the SID last year, citing as examples the landscaping and other improvements at

(Continued on page A-2)

Scotch Plains eyes \$17 million budget

Health insurance, police salaries lead increases

By JON LEDERMAN
RECORD-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

SCOTCH PLAINS — With a recommended increase of \$364,787 on the table, the Township Council could be looking at a \$17 million municipal budget for 2000.

Township Manager Thomas Atkins' budget proposal designates six areas for increased spending — including the Scotch Plains Police Department, which would receive an additional \$167,581 to cover salaries and wages.

The total proposed 2-percent increase is significantly lower than last year's 5-percent hike, which resulted in a budget increase of more than \$900,000 in 1999.

Other major elements in the proposed budget increase for 2000 include \$78,820 for municipal health insurance; \$36,800 in payments to the Rahway Valley Sewage Authority; \$20,000 for the Plainfield Area Regional Sewage Authority; and \$50,000 in reserves to cover uncollected taxes.

Offsetting some of the proposed increases are anticipated cost savings of approximately \$80,000 related to personnel issues, according to township officials. Atkins said he expects the recently installed telephone system at Municipal Hall to

yield \$30,000 in savings by eliminating the position of telephone operator, while other department consolidations are expected to contribute nearly \$50,000 in savings.

In addition, some departments may simply have to make do with less. Police Chief Thomas O'Brien's requests for two additional patrol officers and a public safety telecommunicator would have cost taxpayers close to \$100,000 and have been denied. Fire Chief Jonathan Ellis' requisition for four emergency medical technician-certified crew members and a full-time fire inspector would have added more than \$200,000 to the budget, and have been similarly turned down by township officials. The Scotch Plains Public Library Board of Trustees, meanwhile, asked for eight months of salary for another professional librarian, but was granted only four, officials said.

The second of three scheduled public budget meetings was expected to be held Wednesday night after press deadline. The third public budget meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. this coming Wednesday at Township Hall, but Mayor Martin Marks could not say for certain if all loose ends would be tied up at that third session. "That's the tentative schedule," the mayor said. "We don't know yet if we'll need any more meetings."

Marks said township officials plan to introduce the 2000 budget at their first meeting in March, and may adopt it 30 days after that introduction.

Parish mourns loss of priest

Father Merlucci remembered with 'high regard'

By TERRENCE DOPP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — St. Bartholomew Church is mourning the loss of beloved pastor Father Michael A. Merlucci, who died Saturday.

The Newark native, who joined St. Bartholomew in 1997, died at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston. He was 52.

Friends, family, parishioners and fellow priests serving in the Archdiocese of Newark attended visitations Tuesday and Wednesday at Rossi's Funeral home on Westfield Avenue, to pay their last respects or just say goodbye to a man who meant so much to this community.

Before coming to Scotch Plains, Merlucci studied in Belgium, where he attended seminary. He was ordained a Catholic priest July 12, 1975.

He had been pastor at St. Joseph's in East Orange and churches in Jersey City and Massachusetts, as well as St. Anthony in Northvale. Parishioners in Northvale recalled Father Merlucci as someone who always had an ear for people, someone who was willing to give everything he could to make sure his parishioners got the guidance they needed.

"He was a great guy, really nice," said Mary Schneider, a parishioner of St. Anthony's Church in Northvale, which is in northern Bergen County. "He was always there for people."

Merlucci held a number of important positions with the Catholic Church and the Archdiocese of Newark, including

Dean of Two Deaneries, a geographic groupings of churches within the diocese, and consultant for the Archdiocese. Consultants help the church make business and physical decisions such as when and where to build new churches and schools.

Merlucci was also an assistant to the Papal Nuncio, essentially the ambassador to the Pope, at the Vatican Embassy in Washington, D.C.

"He was very well thought of in the Archdiocese," said one official at the Archdiocese of Newark. "He was held in high regard by everyone."

Father Merlucci was also involved in a number of other organizations within the church. He was director of continuing formation of priests, chaplain of the Father Nelligan Council No. 8730 of the Knights of Columbus in Scotch Plains and a moderator

(Continued on page A-2)

Westfield

Rashad Abdullah, 22, of Irvington, was charged Feb. 2 with possession of a controlled dangerous substance and four counts of contempt of court.

Abdullah was taken into custody on Elm Street near Edward's Food Store in connection with a fugitive warrant issued by the Union County Sheriff's Department and contempt of court warrants issued by courts in Union, Hillside and Cranford, police said. After he was arrested, police discovered he was in possession of under 50 grams of suspected marijuana, according to police reports.

A resident of the 500 block of Cumberland Street reported Feb. 3 the side window of her car was broken while the vehicle was parked in the driveway of the home, police said.

The front license plate of a car parked on the 900 block of Boulevard was reported stolen Feb. 3, according to police records.

Jeffrey R. Chicola of East Broad Street was charged Saturday with contempt of court warrants issued by the Middletown Municipal Court, according to police records. Chicola was released after post-

Police log

ing \$260 bail, police said.

A West Broad Street resident reported a wallet containing several credit cards was stolen Saturday while the resident was on a NJ Transit train, according to police records.

Clothing valued at \$752 was reported stolen Sunday from the Talbot's Store on North Avenue, police said. Store employees reported three suspects committed the crime, although the descriptions of the three suspects were not released by police.

Rafael Gonzalez, 36, of Plainfield, was charged Monday with contempt of court for failing to appear in Westfield Municipal Court for several tickets he received in April 1997, police said. The tickets were issued for driving while on the suspended list, careless driving and driving while uninsured, police said. Gonzalez was released after posting \$500 bail, according to police reports.

Scotch Plains

Twelve packs of cigarettes, val-

ued at more than \$40, were reported stolen Jan. 31 from a Route 22 gas station, according to police records.

The front screen door of an East Second Street residence was reportedly slashed during the daylight hours of Feb. 1, police said. There was no attempt to gain entry to the home, according to police reports.

Two 17-year-old females were taken into custody Feb. 2 for alcohol offenses after police received a complaint they were consuming alcohol and causing a disturbance on Park Avenue, according to police reports.

Juvenile complaints of underage drinking are pending against both, and one of the girls was also charged with driving under the influence while under the legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages, police said. Both teens were released to family members, according to police records.

Employees at Buy Rite Liquors on Route 22 confiscated false identification from an individual under age to purchase alcohol at around 6:40 p.m. Saturday, according to police records. The suspect left the store prior to police arriving at the scene, police said.

Union FEMALEs schedule bake-off

CRANFORD — The Union County Chapter of FEMALE will hold a bake-off 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Hanson House, located at 38 Springfield Ave.

All who attend can submit a dessert for judging or be one of the judges. Prizes will be presented in three categories: chocolate, fruit and the always-mysterious "other."

FEMALE stands for Formerly Employed Mothers at the Leading Edge. The not-for-profit organization is for women who have altered their career paths to care for children at home. Meetings are held the first and third Wednesday of

every month at the Hanson House.

New members are always welcome.

Parish mourns loss

(Continued from page A-1) for the National Council of Catholic Women.

Merlucci left the Archdiocese of Newark briefly to accept positions in Massachusetts and Washington, but later returned.

He was predeceased by his parents, Angelo and Rachel, and is survived by aunts, uncles and cousins.

For more information, call Deann at (908) 653-0842 or Kathy at (732) 636-4862.

Funeral services were held Thursday at St. Bartholomew Church, followed by burial at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in East Hanover.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Joslin Diabetes Center, South Orange Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039.

Humane Society targets 'cruel' peddlers

(Continued from page A-1)

The laws can also make many dealers of animals coming from puppy mills look like they are giving a guarantee of good health and proper breeding, and Hanbicki said for this reason, the laws are not always helpful. "They actually make pet stores seem more reputable," she said.

The animals that are not bought from the pet stores, meanwhile, usually suffer fates worse than curable health problems, according to Hanbicki. Dogs more than 2 months old

are often considered unsellable and not worth the cost of feeding or keeping, she said, while certain breeds are often sold to laboratories for research, or simply put down.

"They don't think twice about disposing of these puppies," said Hanbicki. "It's not worth the time and money feeding them when they could get a new puppy in that cage."

At Choice Puppies on Route 22 in Scotch Plains, owner Mark Harris said he gets most of his puppies from different parts of Pennsylvania, including Lancaster County. He declined to show any proof of his dogs' lineage, such as papers from the breeder showing bloodlines, unless a customer is buying a dog. He said it is not his responsibility to ensure a puppy is well-bred. "I don't have to show proof," he said.

At The Pet Shanty, also on Route 22 in Scotch Plains, the owner who declined to give his name said he tries to

steer clear of puppy mills, though he works through a broker, not a breeder, to get most of his puppies. Some of his dogs do come from Pennsylvania, he said.

The problem with efforts to close down puppy mills is the people most against them are often the people who support them the most — those who buy dogs in an effort to save them. Hanbicki said this perpetuates the industry. "I think one of the most interesting, if not frustrating, things is that the people who keep the puppy mills alive are the people who love animals the most," she said.

Hanbicki and representatives from St. Hubert's Giralda, a non-profit animal shelter with locations in Madison and Branchburg, said the best choice for those seeking a purebred dog is to go through a reputable breeder or breed-specific rescue organizations, such as golden retriever or Doberman rescue groups.

Parking issues lead 'Goals' list

(Continued from page A-1) the Rialto Theater and under the Central Avenue downtown underpass and improvements at the Boulevard gateway. "One of the things I've felt we have not been doing is we don't have closure or true completion (on these projects)," McDermott said.

Other goals set by council

members included a number of safety initiatives, such as Councilwoman

Janis Weinstein's desires to install a system of sirens allowing the lightning detector at Memorial Pool to cover every field in town and to install flashing lights to warn motorists in the zone around the McKinley School.

Councilman Matthew Albano agreed with Weinstein's goals. "I think we should put our priority on safety," Albano said.

Mayor Tom Jardim, who announced his own goals during his State of the Town address in January, repledged his commitment to form a committee to look into ways to improve conditions and revitalize the area near Central Avenue and Cacciola Place. The mayor also restated his hopes of creating an arts space at the Board of Education offices on Elm Street.

Jardim said he would also like to see the town work on some of the issues highlighted in the school system's study of student attitudes. He said the town should look into "how we can strengthen ties amongst the institutions in our community."

New Township Administrator Tom Shannon was quiet for much of the meeting, while another newcomer to the council — Democrat Claire Lazarowitz, who was sworn in last week to replace Jack Walsh — laid out two goals: installation of a street light on Central Avenue near Clover Street, and the placement of gold stars on all street signs to commemorate those who died in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Sullivan, who in January prepared a written memo stating his goals for the year, expressed dissatisfaction with the council's decision to start the goals meeting at the end of their regularly scheduled conference meeting instead of earlier in the meeting, when time would have permitted the council to discuss more options for the upcoming year. "I was disappointed the choice was made to go when there was no time left in the meeting," Sullivan said.

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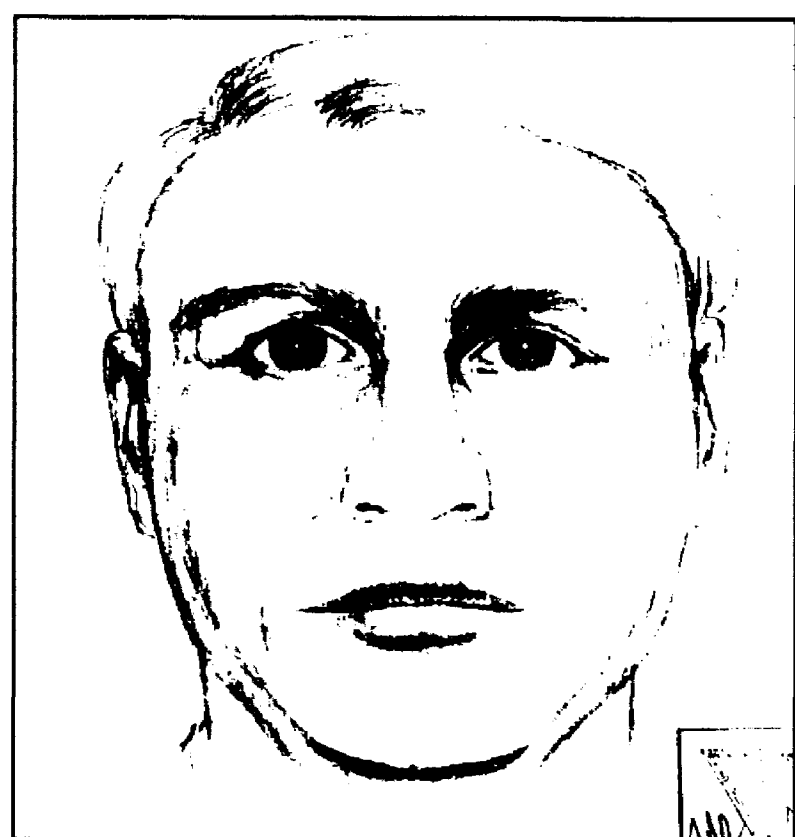
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Police seeking suspect in second luring case

By **TERRENCE DOPP**

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Town police are searching for a man who approached two teen-aged girls and attempted to lure them into his car.

The suspect approached the teens while they were walking home from school about 3 p.m. Jan. 28, police said. According to police reports, the two girls were approached by a slightly over-weight white male with white hair at the northwest corner of Clark Street and Dudley Avenue. The suspect — further described as being 55 to 65 years of age with a medium complexion — was driving a light-blue, four-door Ford Taurus or Mercury Sable, police said.

After approaching the girls, the man offered them a ride and told them to get in his car, according to police reports.

Police could not comment on the suspect's height, weight or eye color.

This is the second time in recent months Westfield youth have been approached on Clark Street by a stranger who offered them a ride, according to police records, and in both cases, the description of the suspect was similar.

On Dec. 6, a 10-year-old boy was approached by a man described as a white male in his 40s — with a mustache and white hair — who said "get in the car, your mother told me to drive you home, it's too wet." Police said the boy ran away from the man, who in that case was reportedly driving a white car.

Police officials could not say if the two cases are related and would not comment on whether they are being investigated separately. "They may be related, they may not be," said Lt. John Parizea of the Westfield Police Department. "We don't know."

Anyone with any information about either case is asked to call the Westfield Police Department at (908) 789-4018. All calls are confidential.

Westfield considers wireless 'net access

By **TERRENCE DOPP**
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD

Technological advancements could make the work of local police and fire officials a little easier, and may benefit town residents as well.

When the fire department pulls up to a fire scene, they may be able to download — on the spot — a copy of the building's blueprints and better plan

Officials, residents could benefit from town-wide beacon network

how they will attack the fire. Likewise, police officers may be able to identify suspects by mug shots or fingerprints instantly downloaded into computers in their patrol cars. These high-tech advancements, and others, may become reality

in Westfield if town officials move ahead with plans to create a seamless network of wireless Internet access throughout town.

Residents and business owners throughout town would also be able to access the wireless World Wide Web service, which could be in place by August if town officials give the green light to move ahead with the project.

Metricom, a Los Gatos, Calif.-based communications company, is seeking to install 36 to 45 shoe box-sized radio beacons similar to the one test beacon already installed on a lamppost in front of the Fleet Bank at the intersection of East Broad and Elm streets.

The beacon system, according to the plan, would be installed on lightpoles throughout Westfield, and would facilitate connection to the Web through the Ricochet wireless Internet service offered by MCI Worldcom.

Subscribers would be able to access the Internet from any location within the coverage area at speeds up to 128 kilobytes per second — substantially faster than traditional telephone line-based Internet access.

"There's a lot of exciting possibilities relating to law enforcement and fire safety," said Councilman Neil Sullivan, who called the possibility of the fire department instantly accessing building plans and police officials being instantly connected to headquarters large improvements over current communications. Sullivan noted building and health

inspectors could also file reports from the field instead of hand-writing them and then entering them into a computer.

Officials in the Westfield Police Department are also optimistic about the possibilities. Currently, officers can only retrieve license plate and driver's license information using the Mobile Data Terminals in their patrol cars. The MDT terminals, a county service, give officers access to the National Crime Information Center and state Motor Vehicle Department databases, but do not give patrol officers access to the computer records kept at the Westfield Police Department's East Broad Street headquarters.

Lt. John Parizea of the Westfield Police Department said the new system would be a substantial improvement over the department's current ability to disseminate information. "This might be one way to do it," the lieutenant said.

Florence Latrowski, a representative of Metricom, told the Town Council Tuesday night that residents and officials would follow many other municipalities, including Fairwood, New York City and Saddle River, in allowing a Metricom franchise to be set up in town. In exchange, the town would receive six free subscriptions and a reduced rate, and in the future may collect a franchise fee of 5 percent.

While a preliminary contract with Metricom has been drawn up, officials could not comment on how much the service would cost Westfield.

Latrowski said residents connecting to the high speed service would probably pay upwards of \$30 per month. "With the higher speed, it would probably go more," she added.

Cub Scouts rev up Pinewood Derby

WESTFIELD — Cub Scout Pack 171 of the Wilson School recently conducted its annual Pinewood Derby.

The event was organized by Committee Chairman D. Michael Hart. Cubmaster Dale Hagstrom was the Master of Ceremonies. The starters were Steve Allen and Frank Mascari, the recorder was Peter Patel. Schneider and the awards were arranged by John Rivell. The judges were Wilson School Principal Andrew Perry, Rob Sexton and Tony DeMartino.

Sixty-eight boys participated in the event, with 18 parents operating the event.

The Tiger results were as follows:

Tiger Den 1: Justin Mascari 1st place; William Reynolds 2nd place; Jack Allen 3rd.

Tiger Den 2: Jesse DeMartino 1st place; Hayden Kasper 2nd; Chris Mench 3rd.

Tiger Den 3: Phil Chertoff 1st place; Mark Andreonis 2nd; Mitchell Young 3rd.

The Champions of the Tiger Division were Justin Mascari 1st, Jesse DeMartino 2nd, Phil Chertoff 3rd.

The Wolf results were as follows:

Wolf Den 1: Andrew Cordiero 1st, Connor Farley 2nd, Austin Wenta 3rd.

Wolf Den 2: Casey Kerkoff 1st, Andrew Marino 2nd, Andrew Gates 3rd.

Wolf Den 3: Robert Shane 1st, Ryan Ingram 2nd, Eric Warrell 3rd.

The Champions of the Wolf Division were Andrew Cordiero 1st, Casey Kerkhof 2nd, Robert Shane 3rd.

The Bear Results were as follows:

Bear Den 1: Michael Abbattista 1st, Andrew Wenta 2nd, Zachary Frantz 3rd.

Bear Den 2: Brian Hart 1st, Josh Schwartz 2nd, John McGroary 3rd.

Bear Den 3: Ryan Gradel 1st, J.T. Camille 2nd, Leo Powell 3rd.

Bear Den 4: William Mascari 1st, Philip Reynolds 2nd, Chris Yeager 3rd.

The Champions of the Bear Division were Brian Hart 1st, Michael Abbattista 2nd, William Mascari 3rd, Ryan Gradel 4th.

The Champions of the Webelos Division were also Chris Engel 1st, Justin Adams 2nd, and Russell Miller 3rd.

The Scouts who came to the meet early had the opportunity to vote on "The Coolest Car." The winner was John Streaman and second was Kyle Stanzel.

The purpose of the Pinewood Derby is for the boys to do a craft project with their parents and develop good sportsmanship. Each Scout carves a block of wood into a race car, sands it, paints it, then races it in the big race.

Justin Mascari-Tigers, Andrew Cordiero-Wolves, Brian Hart-Bears and Chris Engel will represent Pack 171 by competing in the Patriot District Finals in the spring. The Patriot District encompasses western Union County.

Church hosts education chat

WESTFIELD — The public is invited to a lecture by Patricia Frawley on "Loving to Learn — Education in the 21st Century" 1:30 p.m. Monday at the Congregational Church, located at 125 Elmer St.

The lecture is part of the Woman's Club of Westfield general meeting that begins 1 p.m.

Frawley is a learning consultant with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education and the Institute of Child Study at Kean University. She has designed courses for preschool handicapped children; materials and methods in special education; diagnosis of learning disabilities; and assessment of the preschool handicapped child.

A past president of the Association of Learning Consultants and an officer of the Kean University Council for Exceptional Children, Frawley is an adjunct instructor at Kean and a part-time instructor at Rutgers University. She holds a doctorate in education from Rutgers.



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Schools almost out of snow days

By **TERRENCE DOPP**
THE RECORD PRESS

WESTFIELD — Mother Nature has been good to students in the Westfield School District.

A little too good, perhaps. With September's Tropical Storm Floyd closing schools for one day and a snowstorm closing them again Jan. 25, district officials are almost out of scheduled "snow days" — and may be forced to end the scheduled four-day President's Day weekend early.

If district schools are forced to close due to inclement weather one more time before Feb. 18, district officials said this week, schools will be open for business Tuesday, Feb. 22 — day four of the four-day mini-break. Monday, Feb. 21 would still be a regularly scheduled off day.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley announced the plan to hold classes Feb. 22 this week, but district officials stressed it is only a contingency plan in case there is another snow day between now and then.

"If a third (snow day) is used before (Feb. 22), we're okay," said Lorre Korecky, head of the Westfield School District's public relations department, who noted that opening schools Feb. 22 would allow the district to fulfill state-mandated obligations about the number of days schools are open each year.

However, further inclement-weather closures could cause considerable scheduling problems. Korecky said Foley was concerned if all three of the district's snow days were used up, any school closings after that could mean the district would have to make up school days during spring break — traditionally, a time for vacations for district students and their families. ("Opening schools over spring break" often interferes with peoples' plans," Korecky said.

Westfield schools are expected to be closed between April 8 and April 16 for spring break.

Meteorologists believe there is a slight chance of some minor snow passing through the region Saturday, but no major snowfalls or tropical storms are expected in the foreseeable future.

Briefs

Fanwood library schedules children's story times

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Memorial Library has announced its second session of winter children's story times.

Registration for these programs is in person at the library on North Avenue Monday through Friday. Fanwood residents will receive priority where registration is required. There is no fee. The schedule:

"2-Year-Old Storytime" with a story and craft, 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 29-April 4 or 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, March 1-April 5. All children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver; siblings are not allowed. Registration is required.

"3- and 4-Year-Old Storytime" with a craft, 11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 29-April 4. A parent or caregiver must be present in the children's department; children under 3 are not allowed. Registration is required.

"4- and 5-Year-Old Storytime," 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays, March 1-April 5. Registration is required.

"After-School Storytime" for kindergarten-grade three, 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 29-April 4. All children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. No registration is necessary.

"Family Story Time," 6 p.m. Monday. Children under 5 must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. No registration is necessary.

Cellular company sponsors donation program

CRANFORD — New Jersey Cellular will run a cellular telephone donation program from Feb. 21 through March 1.

Anyone who has a cell phone that is no longer in service is welcome to bring it to the store, located at 11 Eastman St. in Cranford. The cell phone will be reprogrammed to dial 911 (for emergency calls only) and then donated to charity.

For more information, call (908) 497-2100.

Registration begins for Spring Spelling Bee

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Recreation and Parks Department and the Junior Woman's Club will sponsor their Spring Spelling Bee on March 11 at the Scotch Hills clubhouse.

Grade three will compete 9 a.m., grade four will compete 9:30 a.m. and grade five will compete 10 a.m.

Prizes will be awarded to the first- and second-place finishers in each grade. Club members will serve as judges.

Parents and relatives are invited to attend as spectators.

Registration begins Monday in the recreation office at the Municipal Building, located at 430 Park Ave., Scotch Plains. For more information, call (908) 322-6700, ext. 222.

PET OF THE WEEK



Chipper's song

"Chipper" obviously likes music, although these days, even his favorite songs can't completely cheer him up. You see, the handsome 8-month-old is a little lonely — all of his litter-mates have been adopted, and he loves being around other cats! Chipper has been neutered, is current on all his shots, has tested negative for FELV and FIV and is waiting to meet you at Noah's Ark, the Clark-based non-profit humane rescue organization. To meet him or any of his furry friends, call Noah's Ark at (732) 815-1633 or visit their World Wide Web site at www.noahsark.petfinder.org.



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Campus notes

Five area students were named to the dean's list for the fall 1999 semester at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa.

Catherine G. Baker of Deer Path, Scotch Plains, the daughter of Stephen and Marjorie Baker.

Ian R. Doebber of Sylvan Lane, Scotch Plains, the son of Thomas and Lynne Doebber.

Kelly J. Korecky of Lincoln Road, Westfield, the daughter of Ed and Lorre Korecky.

Lauren E. Rabadeau of Winding Brook Way, Scotch

Plains, the daughter of Gerard and Evelyn Rabadeau.

Matthew F. Steenberg of Lincoln Road, Westfield, the son of Russell Steenberg and Patricia Colbert.

Krista Jarmas of Westfield was named to the dean's list for the fall 1999 semester at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Mass. She is a freshman majoring in communications and economics.

User group to discuss e-commerce

FANWOOD — The Central New Jersey SBT User Group will hold its monthly meeting 6 p.m. Thursday at LPS Consulting Co., located at 313 South Ave.

An open discussion on e-commerce and SBT technical support issues is planned.

Pre-registration is required; e-mail info@lpsconsulting.com or call (908) 889-6300, Ext. 102.

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by Jill Guzman

GETTING FIXED-UP

A "fixer-upper" is a home in poor condition that sells for less than houses in the surrounding neighborhood. For the buyer with vision, energy, and some construction knowledge, the fixer-upper presents a unique opportunity to get into a neighborhood that otherwise would be unaffordable. The key to having a successful experience with a fixer-upper is having a realistic idea of how much money it will take to make the renovations. By doing his or her homework in this regard, a prospective buyer can avoid the big mistake of paying too much for the property. Once the price of the property and renovations are set, the buyer can look for a loan that includes both in one mortgage.

It's a good idea to insist on a professional home inspection before you buy a fixer-upper. You want to make sure that what appears to be a cosmetic problem is not masking a structural defect. If you are considering selling such a property, having such an inspection done prior to putting your home on the market can set prospective buyers' minds at ease. When you are ready to list or look for property, call the pros: Phone JILL GUZMAN REALTY, now proudly celebrating a decade of service to our community. "Our Best Reference is your Neighbor."®

HINT: Those who purchase fixer-uppers should be careful not to overestimate their ability to perform repairs.

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Westfield student survey prompts meeting of the minds

By **TERRENCE DOPP**
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Though most Westfield eighth- and 11th-graders say they are in good shape with things like grades, sex and alcohol, school officials and students alike say there is still some work to be done.

To that end, more than 500 students, parents, school officials and other town residents filled the auditorium at Westfield High School Feb. 2 for a special town-wide meeting, at which they received a complete rundown of a November survey's results. School administrators issued the anonymous survey in hopes of finding out everything from students' attitudes toward homework to whether they had been hassled by Westfield police, and while the survey was a worthy step toward learning about the needs and concerns of town youth, more efforts are needed, according to the students themselves.

"The survey was a good start, but more needs to be done," said

Connor Mulvee, an 11th-grader who represented his classmates during the town meeting. "We cannot be content because most students seem to be happy."

Connor said despite the fact that some students saw the survey as an excuse for a free period and may not have been serious in their answers, he considered the results "pretty accurate."

The overwhelming majority of students — 82 percent — said they live with both parents and reported much stability and support from home, according to the survey, which is available for viewing at town schools, the Westfield Memorial Library and at www.westfieldnj.com.

The stability at home is mirrored in school, with 71 percent of students agreeing that teachers challenge them to do their best and 76 percent reporting they care about their school. Student attitudes toward the town as a whole were also good; 70 percent said they liked participating in town activities on a regular basis, while only 19 percent said the town offered no sport that inter-

Kids, parents, officials gather to discuss students' needs

ested them.

Students were roughly split on whether students their age were treated fairly by police, while only 36 percent said they have been stopped and questioned by police.

While most students participating in the survey appear well-adjusted, it is the minority

respondents that most concern school officials. The theme repeated Feb. 2 by Superintendent of Schools William Foley and other panel members was finding a way to help the minority of students who reported being disenfranchised about school and peers.

Some of the other problem

areas discussed during the meeting were the 39 percent of students who reported feeling sad or depressed more than three times per month and the 10 percent of students who reported binge eating followed by throwing up, or using laxatives to get rid of what they had eaten.

Also troubling to school officials was the 61 percent of students who said drinking alcohol as a teen-ager was not against their values, and the 42 percent who reported teen sex did not conflict with their values. The number of children who objected to teen-age drug use and sexual activity dropped as they moved

from eighth to 11th grade, according to survey results.

Particularly troubling to Foley was the 8 percent who reported having access to a gun either within the home or outside of it. "I don't want to cause alarm, but I was surprised students reported having access to a gun," the superintendent said.

John Boyd, an eighth-grader at Edison Intermediate School, said the survey and the town meeting were positive steps toward creating a dialogue between students and adults to solve the problems of all district students. "If one student is hurting, it effects all of us," John said.



RUTHANNE WAGNER/RECORD-PRESS
Westfield High School senior Justin Renard (left) and Maureen Mazzarese (above), student assistance counselor, were just two of the town residents and officials who turned out to discuss the needs and desires of Westfield teens at a special Town Meeting, held Feb. 2.

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*Source: Most recent (1995-1997) NJRB - 92 patient discharge database
**Source: Press Ganey Patient Satisfaction Survey

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Commentary

The Senate takes the proper action

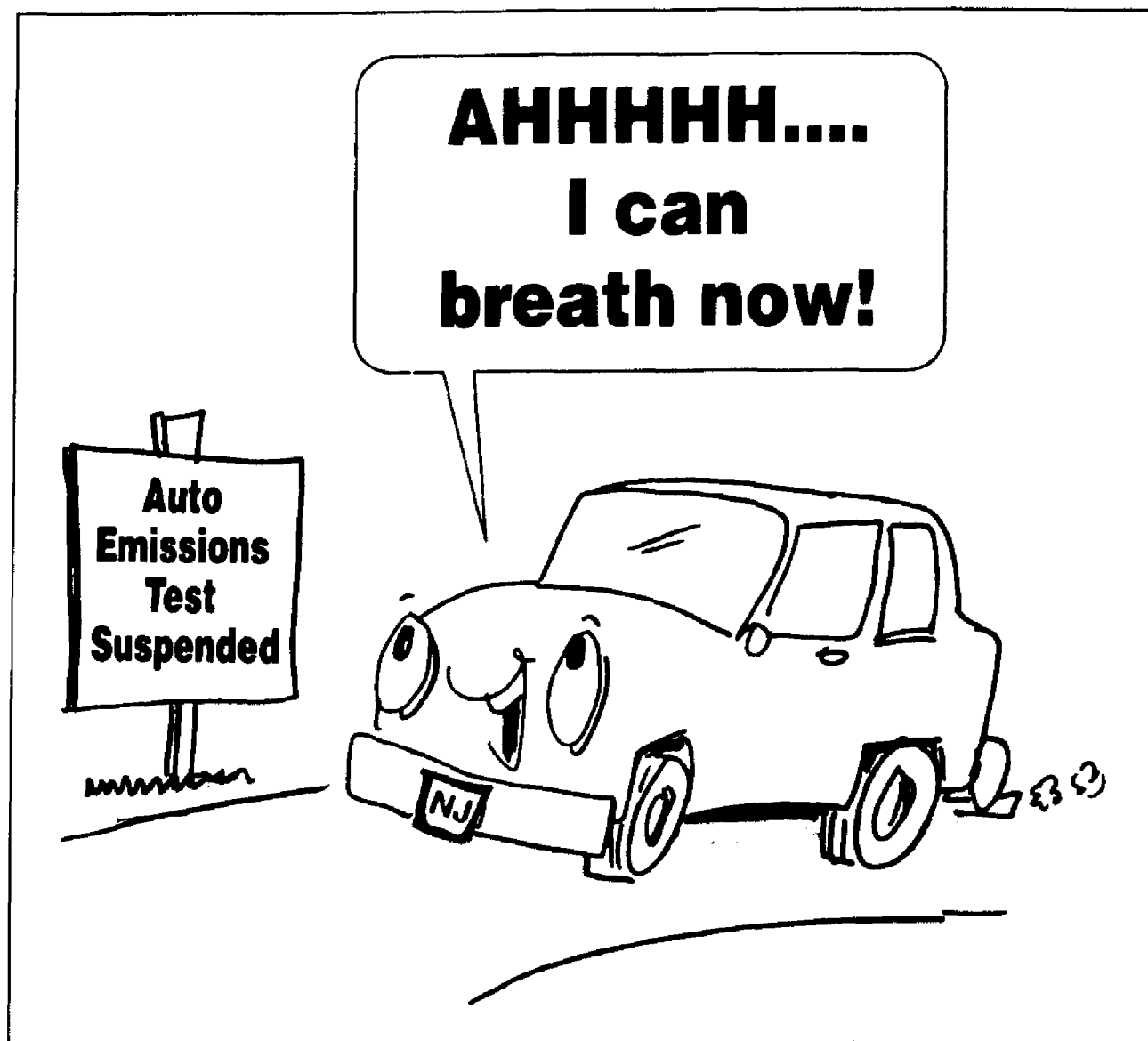
Much to the consternation of Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, the State Senate overwhelmingly passed a bill Monday to suspend the state's new auto emissions test for up to five months.

The bill is a victory for state Senate President Donald DiFrancesco and enjoyed bipartisan support, passing by a 37-1 margin. The bill's future, however, is more uncertain in the state Assembly, where Speaker Jack Collins wants to extend all inspection deadlines for 120 days.

The Senate's action came in response to the public's outrage over one of the biggest snafus in the state's modern history. From the very moment the new auto emissions test was implemented in December, confusion reigned and the state tried to deal with long lines at inspection stations. Now, nobody really knows what is going on as the state lurches from one stopgap measure to another. The rules seem to change every week. New Jersey motorists don't know what to do about their inspections and the owners of private garages, who have paid to install the new testing equipment, are not earning back their investment.

That's why it's a good idea for DiFrancesco and Democratic State Sen. Richard Codey to create a special Senate panel to probe both the inspection mess and the delays in the E-Z Pass electronic toll system on the Garden State Parkway. The State Commission of Investigation has also announced it will investigate why only one company submitted a bid for the emission test.

New Jersey residents deserve an explanation for the chaos prevailing at the state Division of Motor Vehicles. Most residents have their only contact with the state through the DMV and, as most people can tell you, it is not always a pleasant experience. Residents have every right to be wary as the DMV introduces new services, such as getting a registration renewal over the Internet. Perhaps the state Senate's probe can expand to include a full review of the DMV operations to determine if the agency is serving the needs of residents — or if the system needs a complete overhaul.



Jersey Boy

Mike Deak



The undying romance with triple coupons

Who needs Valentine's Day when there's triple coupons?

Nothing makes my heart flutter more than getting a good deal at the grocery store. When a new supermarket opens, like the Shop-Rite in Branchburg, triple coupon fever infects everyone and it spreads to other stores. Last Friday I scored big at the A&P, bringing a \$20 total bill down to \$10 (and that included a \$3 package of chicken). What boundless joy filled my lonesome soul on that cold February night as the stars arranged themselves into a constellation of a happy heart.

Come Monday morning I will be rummaging through my sock drawer for the black armband I always wear on Valentine's Day. For those of us not in love it is a grim reminder that we are not in love. While the rest of the world revels in passion and celebrates romance, we play the role of the vicarious outsider, our noses pressed against the glass of the invisible wall that separates us from the realm of love.

I thought about this last Saturday after I bought a bottle of a wine at a neighborhood liquor store. On this cold, raw night, the voluptuous girl — a Daisy Mae on the sordid side of 21 — at the cash register was wearing something that revealed her navel and too much of the surface of her heart. I immediately started to ache for lost youth and wasted time; if only I was half my age again! But as the cold wind in the parking lot slapped some sense in me, I realized I was feeling the same phantom pain amputees experience. Even if by some television miracle I was 21 again, I still wouldn't have known how to answer the sweet and gentle howl of lust butting against my ear drum. She was a woman who would be more attracted to a man who chops wood for a living, than a man who parses sentences. Budweiser and cognac just don't match.

But just as I was beginning to feel sorry for myself (i.e. return to my normal state of being), I experienced the joy of triple coupons. Once again it was proof that one of life's simplest pleasures can be just as satisfying as love, one of life's more complex pleasures. My sigh of satisfaction in the parking lot of the store momentarily tamed the cruel wind and I caressed the cash register tape as if the numbers were a cabala of ecstasy.

But triple coupons, like a summer romance on the shores of Lake Weenie, can not last forever. In a week or so, we will return to the routine of double coupons and the heat of supermarket madness will be frozen by barren winter doldrums. But I will still be busy enjoying the bounty of triple coupons, mixing and matching jars of tomato sauce with boxes of pasta, cleaning the nooks and crannies of the kitchen and bathroom with the rolls of paper towels and lining up the containers of deodorant like soldiers in the war against B.O.

I am still going to wear a black armband on Valentine's Day, the darkest day of the year. I don't really know what I will be mourning on Monday. Perhaps it's just a protest against a fake holiday whose sole purpose is to boost the first quarter sales figures for florists, restaurants, confectioners and lingerie boutiques. Perhaps I will be mourning the unredeemable lost of time; what could I have possibly been thinking when I was dancing with words when I should have been doing the Hustle at Studio 54 or discovering on the shores of Lake Weenie if the hokey-pokey really was what it was all about. I will shake my fist at the Heavens and demand that God give me a coupon for time.

But, more likely, I will spend the evening sorting my coupons and planning strategy for my next killing at the market and life, for those moments, will be good.

Letters to the editor

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.

Photographs

We welcome submitted photos — color or black-and-white — of community events. Individuals in the photos should be identified and clearly visible.

If you would like to request a photographer at a community event, call 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 — taken by a staff photographer — that appeared in *The Record-Press*, call the photo department at (908) 575-6708 for a reprint request form.

Shame on town for greedy planning

To The Editor:

Last week's paper quoted Town Attorney William Jeremiah as saying "... State law does make it illegal for a town to deny a subdivision that is within zoning guidelines" and "the board had no legal grounds for denying the plan" when referring to rezoning large lots in town. This statement deliberately implies a different outcome would occur if developers were not in compliance. "As long as developers do not seek variances, or exceptions from zoning laws, the Planning Board cannot stop applications from being approved." This is a despicable camouflage of the ugly greed of some home homeowners and those eager to increase the tax base of Westfield.

My family has been residents of Westfield since 1991. We experienced the town's greed when it granted variances permitting four homes to replace one, then the owners of the house on Lawrence Avenue, just north of Minisink Way, sold to a developer who tore it down and applied to the town for variances in order to erect five houses and a new street, local residents protest-

ed vociferously. We were only able to alter the number of homes from five to four despite the fact that these new homes were not in keeping with the existing neighborhood. Our neighborhood enjoys large lots with beautiful grounds. The resulting strong market values and area desirability were factors in our decisions to invest our lives in Westfield. These new houses DID require exemptions from the zoning laws. The town, blinded by \$\$\$ signs, happily said yes to the rape of our neighborhood.

My family used to look out of our windows and see a large wooded lot. We now see the glare of floodlights mounted on the new house behind us. We can't even sleep with our draperies open in the spring due to this light. Shame on the town officials for not maintaining the character of our town. And shame on them for not being honest and accountable. Come look out of our window ... the glaring truth is evident to anyone willing to open their eyes.

TERI GERSON
Westfield

Pocket redistricting is no answer

To The Editor:

The following is a third-party letter to Carol Choye (superintendent of Scotch Plains-Fanwood Schools) and the SP F Board of Education:

The Board of Education cannot be serious trying to tell the parents of Scotch Plains and Fanwood that "pocket redistricting is a long term solution." It is time to make sound thought-out decisions that are good for all the children going to school in Scotch Plains and Fanwood. The approach of trying to effect the least number of children is commendable if the change did not require those children to endure a transition of attending a school much further away from their home and without other neighborhood friends. Longer bus rides will result in a reduced capacity to absorb material as well as anxiety toward the end of the school day due to the bus ride home. Some children that may have gone home for lunch would be unable to do so given the change from neighborhood schools. Consideration has obviously not included the after school effects which result from pocket redistricting. Children develop relationships and friends from the school environment. Most religious education classes take place after school, longer bus rides will result in children being late for these classes or having to go immediately to these classes without parents being able to spend time in between to see how their child's day is going. Should children be attending school across town with children from other areas of town it restricts the ability to walk or ride their bicycle to a friend's house. It also places extra burden on parents when children are doing group projects outside of school for assignments. Just tonight we were advised that there is a possibility that children in kindergarten through eighth grade may be bused together, should the pocket-redistricting concept be utilized. Another possibility we heard tonight was changing the starting times at some schools. As this process progresses and we hear possible variations to concepts it becomes clear that more time needs to be given to evaluate options and with additional time and effort a more beneficial long term solution can be found.

When trying to understand the problem with racial balance in the schools, I was advised that there was no actual data available to utilize in adjusting for the increased number of children, which will be attending our schools in the upcoming years. In looking at the pocket redistricting that was done with Country Club apartments, from the information I have this redistricting hurt the racial balance of Coles School and did not affect the

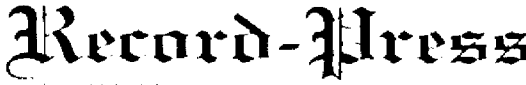
balance at Brunner School. Regardless of where you live in Scotch Plains or Fanwood, I am sure that residents would like to see their children going to a school with other neighborhood children. It is in the best interest of all involved to make a long-term solution at this time. I feel after speaking with many residents that the school board needs to look at redistricting all schools if redistricting is necessary, to eliminate pocket districts and to provide neighborhood schools for all children. At this juncture the trend should be to readjust the boundaries of each district to accomplish the goals listed above and to eliminate any student from having to endure long bus rides or traveling across town to attend school. Maintain neighborhood schools and keep children in classes with neighborhood friends.

I feel the approach of making the middle school fifth-eighth grades has not been researched enough. While the changes to Coles School are not that extensive and the school is modern, the expansion would be money well spent. With regards to Park Middle School I am not sure if consideration was given to the age of the facility and the operating costs associated with it. We are told that the renovations necessary at this facility are "not a small price tag" yet we are not provided any cost projections to help us evaluate the concept. An earlier study recommended "demolishing this school by the mid-1980s" why are we considering investing unknown amounts of money in it some 15 years later. It may be a better long-term solution to replace the current building with a new building, which could be built on the same property and will not need to be replaced in a few more years. While this would create an increased cost for construction it may also reduce annual operating costs while eliminating the need for replacing this building at a later date. I think more time needs to be utilized in evaluating the merits of renovating such an old facility.

In speaking for my wife Cheryl and myself, one of the main reasons why we came to Scotch Plains was for the school system. I encourage you to take some more time after hearing the comments of the people at the public meetings and develop a concept, which better addresses the school district as a whole. I also offer our assistance for any needs you may have in accomplishing this task.

GARY McDERMOTT
Scotch Plains

More letters, Page A-7




WESTFIELD SCOTCH PLAINS FANWOOD

A MediaNews Group Newspaper

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Letters to the editor

A huge 'thank you' to Westfield

To The Record-Press:

Every year as Valentine's Day approaches, I remind myself that this is the perfect time to take the opportunity to say "thank you" to all those wonderful caring hearts out there in the Westfield community who gave so generously over this past holiday season. Thanks to your kind efforts, hundreds of Westfield men, women and children were assisted in helping to make their holidays so very bright and by restoring their faith in our community through this caring and sharing program.

So to all the service groups, schools, churches and religious organizations, social and civic group members, I thank you. And to the private individuals and families who donated to the Caring Neighbor Fund, your donations will enable the

Department of Human Services to provide emergency assistance throughout the year, not just at holiday time.

I would also like to thank the Westfield High School Key Club, St. Helen's CCD students, my children and their friends for being bell ringers for this year's Salvation Army kettle drive. Ninety percent of the money collected during this drive stays here in the Westfield Service Unit and increases our ability to assist in times of need.

Again, a huge "thank you" from my heart to yours!

LILLIAN W. CORSI
Director of Human Services,
Town of Westfield

Article omitted vital SP-F option

To The Record-Press:

In regard to your article (Feb. 4) on Scotch Plains-Fanwood's public schools facilities proposals, I am writing to highlight a glaring omission, as well as clarify some information regarding the plans under consideration. In the paragraph that describes the plans under consideration, the plan that has received the most attention in the public presentations Dr. Choye has made is a proposal to move the fifth grade students out of the elementary schools and into the middle schools with the sixth through eighth grade students. This proposal appears to be motivated primarily by the space considerations and not for educational purposes. At several of the school presentations, parents have voiced their concern regarding the appropriateness of

placing the fifth graders in the middle school environment. In addition, to clarify the article's description of the proposed plans (again drawing from Dr. Choye's public comments on the options), she has basically eliminated two of the five consideration: the first one cited in your article (keeping the current grades K-5 in elementary schools and Grades 6-8 in middle schools, and redistricting students throughout the township) and the second a proposal to move sixth graders into the elementary schools, convert Terrill (Middle School) to an elementary (school) and house all seventh and eighth graders in Park Middle School.

RALPH FERRARO
Scotch Plains

Valentines Day

The perfect weekend for a romantic trip

Plymouth County, Maine, has historically been noted for its beautiful scenery and shoreline and the romance of legends and stories.

The poetry of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow immortalized his ancestors, John and Priscilla Alden, as New England's first romance. Other legends and stories abound regarding whaling ships that sailed from the ports of Plymouth County and area lighthouses which brought sailors safely home from the sea to tell their stories of adventure and romance.

Today, Valentine's Weekend in Plymouth County offers visitors a chance to relax in small, coastal communities; to enjoy hearty meals at the end of a day of exploring shops, beaches and museums; and to see seals playing in the warmer waters of the bay, protected from the Atlantic ocean.

New World Tours offers a Colonial Lantern Tours, evening tours by lantern light. Call (508) 747-4161 for more information.

Pilgrim Hall Museum has the largest collection of original Pilgrim possessions and is the oldest public museum in America. Call (508) 746-1620 for more information.

Art museums and plenty of antiques, art and crafts galleries complete the cultural scene for Valentine's weekend.

Three hostels are offering Valentine's weekend specials including The Governor Bradford on the Harbour, the John Carver Inn and the Pilgrim Sands Motel. The Governor Bradford on the Harbour has a \$75 one-night stay in a standard room which

is double occupancy and includes one \$10 dinner voucher per person (dinner vouchers are valid at Wood's Seafood and the Mayflower Restaurant). The Governor Bradford also offers a two-night stay in a standard room, double occupancy for \$145 and includes two \$10 dinner vouchers per person. Contact the Governor Bradford for reservations at (800) 332-1620.

The John Carver Inn offers a Suite Deal of one night and two dinners on one of their four-poster suites for \$119 over Valentine's weekend or \$179 for a 2-room fireplace suite. The John Carver Inn's dinner for two is served in their Hearth'n Kettle Restaurant, or delivered to your room. Contact the John Carver Inn for reservations at (800) 274-1620.

The Pilgrim Sands Motel and Bert's Cove Restaurant are teaming up for a Valentine's Weekend by the Sea including one dinner for two from the chef's special Valentine's menu (either Saturday or Sunday evening), one brunch for two on Sunday and an oceanfront room for one night, either Saturday or Sunday, for \$159 per couple. Contact the Pilgrim Sands Motel for reservations at (800) 729-SANDS.

All packages are by reservations only, plus taxes and gratuities, not available in combination with other discounts, and are based on availability.

In keeping with the spirit of the legend of John and Priscilla Alden, the Plymouth County Convention and Visitors Bureau is calling for all couples whose names are John and Priscilla to write their love stories and provide a modern con-

text to the poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. To enter, the first or middle names of the couple must include John and Priscilla, they must be 21 years of age or older and they must send their story in 150 words or less to the Plymouth County Convention and Visitors Bureau, P.O. Box 1620, Pembroke, MA 02359, or e-mail it to valentines@plymouth-1620.com.

Entries must include the names, address, phone number and e-mail address (when available) of the John and Priscilla couple. Entries are due by Feb. 14 and winners will be announced March 1. Winners receive a weekend in Plymouth County Nov. 17-19, including lodging, dining, and a bountiful basket of goodies.

For a free vacation guide to Plymouth County, call the Plymouth County Convention & Visitors Bureau at (800) 231-1620 or visit www.plymouth-1620.com.

Want The Best Valentine?

You may be longing for your special valentine. To love and be loved is a basic human need. We even have a special holiday to celebrate it! This Valentine's day people will be going to great extremes to prove and earn love.

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent his Son (Jesus) to be the propitiation (substitution) for our sins. (John 4:10)

Yes, you do have a special Valentine - the very author of love itself - God. He has proved that He loves you in spite of your failings. Will you respond to Him? Call for more information.

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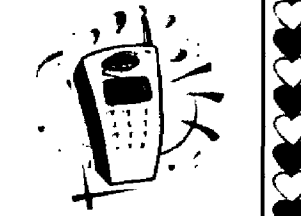
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Rev. Michael A. Merlucci Pastor of township parish

SCOTCH PLAINS — Rev. Michael Angelo Merlucci, 52, pastor of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church on Westfield Avenue, died Saturday at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston.

He also was chaplain of Father Nelligan Council 5730, Knights of Columbus, in Scotch Plains.

Within the Archdiocese of Newark he was the director of continuing formation of priests; director of the Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults; and moderator of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Rev. Merlucci was the secretary to the papal nuncio in Washington, D.C., before being named pastor of St. Bartholomew the Apostle parish in 1997. He earlier was pastor of St. Joseph's parish in East

Orange and Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in Jersey City.

Before becoming a pastor, he was a parish priest at Mount Carmel parish in Worcester, Mass., and St. Anthony parish in Northvale. He attended the seminary in Louvain, Belgium, and was ordained in 1975.

Rev. Merlucci was born in Newark and is survived by many aunts, uncles and cousins.

A vigil Mass was celebrated Wednesday evening at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church. A concelebrated funeral Mass was held yesterday at the church, followed by burial in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, East Hanover. Donations may be sent to Joslin Diabetes Center, South Orange Avenue, Livingston, NJ 07039.

Arrangements were by the Rossi Funeral Home.

John C. Brown

SCOTCH PLAINS — John C. Brown, 72, died Jan. 31 at his home.

He was born in Elizabeth and lived in Scotch Plains since 1955.

He was a decorated U.S. Marine in World War II. He was among the Marines who participated in the landing on Okinawa. He was awarded a Silver Star, a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

He received a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University.

In civilian life, he was chief

design engineer and production manager for MacMillan Bloedel Inc. He was with MacMillan Bloedel for 40 years and retired in 1989 from its Union plant.

Surviving are his wife, Joann Major Brown; son Robert C. at home; daughters Diane Robinson of Scotch Plains and Laura Forrestal of Edison; brother Edward of Colts Neck; and two grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by the Higgins & Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home in Westfield.

Diana De Quollo

SCOTCH PLAINS — Diana Shedrowitz De Quollo, 79, died Feb. 7 at her home.

She was born in the Bronx, N.Y., and lived in Scotch Plains since 1947.

She was with the security office of the former Bamberger's and Macy's department stores in Plainfield from 1965-90.

She was a member of the Scotch Plains Senior Citizens

Club.

Predeceased in 1989 by her husband, Anthony, she is survived by daughter Kathleen; sister Miriam Shedrowitz; and a grandchild.

Private arrangements were by the Rossi Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be sent to Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 325, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076, or to the Scotch Plains Public Library.

Mary E. Soehl

CRANFORD — Mary E. Rohrer Soehl, 90, died Jan. 30 at the Jefferson Manor Nursing Home in Louisville, Ky.

She was born in Roselle and lived in Cranford before moving to Louisville in 1990.

She owned the former Powder Puff Beauty Shop in Cranford.

Predeceased by her husband, Charles E., she is survived by brother Edwin T. Rohrer of Louisville and several nieces and nephews.

This week

FRIDAY

FEB. 11

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICK — "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," 1997 release with Clint Eastwood. Fanwood Memorial Library, North Avenue, Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Free admission. Call (908) 322-6400.

SUNDAY

FEB. 13

MUSICAL JOURNEY — "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," with choirs of Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 S. Martine Ave., Fanwood, 4 p.m. Free admission.

Call (908) 889-8891.

MONDAY

FEB. 14

SWEETHEART NIGHT — love songs with Sheila Lounsberry, soprano. Patricia M. Kuran Cultural Arts Center, 129 Watson Road, Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Free admission. Call (908) 889-7223.

TUESDAY

FEB. 15

AUDITIONS for Celebration Children's Choir, ages 9-13. Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 Lincoln

Ave. East, Cranford, 6:30 p.m. Call (908) 245-2339.

MORE 'CREAM' — seminar on how to "Get Completely Out of Debt." Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 6:30 p.m. Cost \$39. Registration: Call (908) 709-7600.

HISTORY AND THE INTERNET — lecture by Darryl Walker, webmaster for Westfield and Fanwood municipal Web sites. Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, 7:45 p.m. Call (908) 233-6160 or (908) 654-4100.

WEDNESDAY

FEB. 16

MULTIMEDIA EXCHANGE — sale of used CDs, CD-ROMs, books and videos to benefit Park Middle School, 580 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, 6-9 p.m. Donations accepted until Feb. 11; call (908) 889-1732 or (908) 322-9025.

BAKE-OFF — of desserts, sponsored by Union County Chapter of FEMALE, Hanson House, 38 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 7:30 p.m. New members welcome. Call (908) 653-0842 or (732) 636-4862.

THURSDAY

FEB. 17

TECH SUPPORT — monthly meeting of Central New Jersey SBT User Group. LPS Consulting Co., 313 South Ave., Fanwood, 6 p.m. Pre-registration required; call (908) 889-6300, Ext. 102 or e-mail info@lpsconsulting.com.

Almeta Hurtt

WESTFIELD — Almeta Boykin Hurtt, 76, died Feb. 2 at her home.

She was born in Scotch Plains and lived in Westfield since 1963.

She was the senior dietitian at the Westfield Community Center prior to her retirement.

She also was president of the Floral Club at St. John's Baptist Church in Scotch Plains.

Surviving are son Kevin; daughter Gladys "Bunny" Chambliss; sisters Luise Briggs, Marion Stewart, Priscilla Bullock and Edwina Davis; 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Services were held Monday at St. John's Baptist Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery with arrangements by the Nesbitt Funeral Home in Elizabeth.

Howard Rogers

WESTFIELD — Howard Rogers, 87, died Feb. 3 at his home.

A native of Jersey City, he lived in Roselle before moving to Westfield in 1970.

He retired in 1997 after 20 years with Cryogenics APC Systems Inc., the Westfield company he founded with a son, Thomas.

The elder Mr. Rogers owned the Automotive Machine Co. of Elizabeth and was a trucking industry consultant before opening Cryogenics APC Systems.

He was superintendent of the Sunday school at the Second Presbyterian Church and the organist at the Washington Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons, all in Elizabeth.

He also was a member of the Old Guard of Westfield, the Elizabeth Rotary Club and the Craftsman's Club of the Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Marion Boyce Rogers; sons Thomas and David; brother Nick; sisters Leanne Smith and Delaphine Vogel; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday in the chapel at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield. Entombment was in the Fairview Cemetery mausoleum with arrangements by the Dooley Colonial Home.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

Dominick Sicola

SCOTCH PLAINS — Dominick Sicola, 87, died Feb. 2 at the Medical Center of Ocean County-Brick Hospital.

He was born in Jersey City and lived in Scotch Plains before moving to Brick in 1966.

He retired in 1977 after 35 years as a refrigeration engineer with Merchants Refrigeration in Secaucus.

Predeceased by his wife, Margaret C., he is survived by son Carlo of Scotch Plains; daughter Dolores Gudzak of Brick; brother Joseph of East

Brunswick; sister Barbara Mirabelli of Toms River; six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Monday at St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church, Brick, following services at the D'Elia Funeral Home in Lakewood. Entombment was in St. Mary of the Lake Mausoleum, Lakewood.

Memorial donations may be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Memorial Honor Program, P.O. Box 3704, Memphis, TN 38173-0704.

A memorial service will be held at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Louisville with arrangements by Pearson's Funeral Directors in Louisville.

Memorial donations may be sent to the American Diabetes Association.

John M. Ward Town Red Cross VP

WESTFIELD — John M. Ward, 81, a decorated World War II soldier and a local Red Cross official, died Jan. 31 at his home in Toms River.

A native of Litherland, England, he lived in West Orange and Westfield before moving to Toms River in 1976.

He attended Pace University and the Newark College of Engineering (now the New Jersey Institute of Technology).

He was among the first wave of soldiers to land at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944. He was awarded the American Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and a Good Conduct Medal for his wartime Army service.

In civilian life, he was vice president of the Westfield-Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross. He also was a member of the Westfield Rescue Squad for 19 years and president

of the Hudson County Industrial Safety Council.

He was a safety supervisor with Public Service Electric & Gas Co. prior to his 1980 retirement.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus council in Westfield and the Elks lodge in Toms River.

Predeceased by sister Eleanor Hanley, he is survived by his wife, Teresa A. Arnot Ward; son David of Metairie, La.; daughters Mimi Van Nortwick of Belhaven, N.C., Lin Ward-Ziskoski of Edison and Cathy Centanni of Jupiter, Fla.; six grandchildren and a niece.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Friday at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, West Orange, following services at the Dangler Funeral Home of West Orange. Burial was private.

Memorial donations may be sent to Van Dyke Hospice, 99 Route 37 West, Toms River, NJ 08755.

Janet Blom-Taylor

SCOTCH PLAINS — Janet G. Blom-Taylor, 62, died Feb. 3 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and lived in Somerset before moving to Scotch Plains.

She had been with AT&T Corp. for 20 years, retiring in 1986 as a financial monitor based in Bedminster.

Predeceased in 1980 by brother Thomas, she is survived by sons Arthur of Pennsylvania and Steven of Maryland; daughter

Susan Dzikas of Riverdale, N.Y.; brothers Walter Hughes of Bradenton, Fla., Ernest Hughes of Arkport, N.Y., Jack Hughes of New York State, James Hughes and Douglas Hughes, both of Staten Island, N.Y., and Howard Hughes of Piscataway; sisters Frances Bissett of Brentwood, N.Y., Annie Davis of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Lillian Nelson of Ledgewood; and eight grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by the Piscataway Funeral Home.

Joseph Donatelli Stone industry officer

SCOTCH PLAINS — Joseph Donatelli, 81, a prominent officer in the stone industry, died Tuesday at his home.

In 1964 he founded the Eastern Marble Corp., a Scotch Plains-based supplier of marble, granite and slate to stone industries around the world. Mr. Donatelli was awarded patents for cutters and other machinery used in the stone industry; he was active in marketing and sales of such machinery. He once owned the Domar Corp. stone fabrication shop in Florida.

Mr. Donatelli was a past president and former director of the Building Stone Institute, based in New York City. He was a director of Stone Expo, a national convention for the industry, and held a gold card as a life member of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen.

He had a 1-handicap in golf and scored three holes-in-one at the Twin Brooks Country Club, Watchung, of which Mr. Donatelli was a past president and chairman of the greens committee. He also was a past president of the Vero Beach Country Club in Vero Beach, Fla.

A lifelong Scotch Plains resi-

dent, Mr. Donatelli served with the 385th Air Service of the Army Air Corps during World War II. He was a member of UNICO International and Father Nelligan Council 5730, Knights of Columbus, both in Scotch Plains.

Surviving are his wife of 53 years, Mary Morel Donatelli; three sons, Joseph M., Thomas P. and John J.; nine daughters, Kathryn, Mary Ann Reilly, Virginia Perrotti, Rosalie, Margaret Black, Josephine Kronsteiner, Anne Marie, Betsy Bianchi and Laura Walker; three brothers, Thomas, Mauro and Robert; a sister, Josephine Capparelli; and 13 grandchildren.

His late brother, Franklin, served on the Scotch Plains Township Council. Another brother, Henry, also is deceased.

Services will be 9 a.m. today at the Rossi Funeral Home, 1937 Westfield Ave. A funeral Mass will follow 10 a.m. at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, 2032 Westfield Ave. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield. Donations may be sent to Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 325, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

Golden Nuggets SENIORS

Old Guard of Westfield

The Old Guard is open to retired and semi-retired men.

Meetings are 10 a.m. Thursday at the Westfield Y on Clark Street. 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 Broadwell at (908) 232-5150.

JCC Senior Adults

Seniors 60 and older are welcome to take advantage of programs run by the Senior Adult Department of the Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey.

Classes, trips and special events are available with many of them at the JCC building at 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. A kosher lunch is provided three days a week. Transportation is available for those who do not drive.

In addition, a new program for newly retired seniors begins in the spring. For more information, call Nan Statton at (908) 889-8800, Ext. 207.

'Over 55' Travel Club

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

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

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 Pocmount. Cost is \$54.

May 6-12 — 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.

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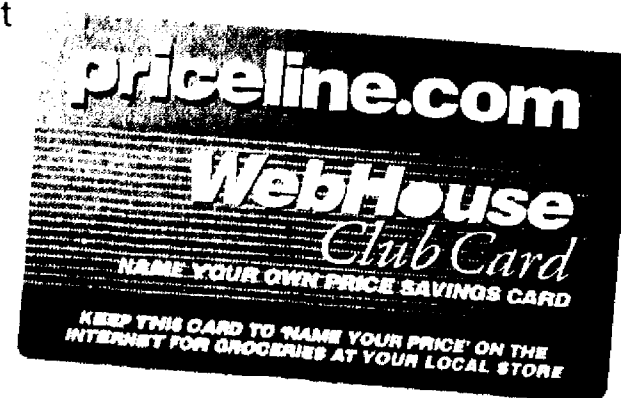
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Community Life

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Inside



nicole dimella/record-press
Lily Yip (left), a professional player when she lived in her native China, smashes a forehand over the net during an exhibition table tennis match played Monday at Westfield High School. Yip, who has played twice for the American Table Tennis Olympic Team and is in the running for a spot on the team heading to Sydney, Australia, this summer, joined table tennis veteran George Brathwaite (above), one of the members of the American team that visited Communist China before Richard Nixon, in an exhibition they hoped would spur local interest in an international sport. The pros called for more table tennis leagues and tournaments catering to American youth and played a few games for an assembly of about 600 students; in one match, Yip got the better of her husband, Barry Dattel (below) of the New Jersey Table Tennis Club. The club is located on North Avenue in Westfield.

(Table) tennis, anyone?

Pingpong pros stage smashing exhibition at Westfield High School

By **TERENCE DOPP**
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Almost everybody has fooled around on a friend's pingpong table, but Lily Yip and her husband Barry Dattel know there's more to it than that. That's why they want to see table tennis become a high-profile sport in America.

Yip, who was a professional player in China from age 15 to 23 before coming to the United States in 1987, joined Dattel and George Brathwaite, a table tennis giant in his own right, in an exhibition match Monday morning before roughly 600 oohing and aahing Westfield High School students. The exhibition was staged with the hopes of increasing the name recognition of what these experts say is a highly competi-

ing," she said.

And that is why, Yip said, she would like to expand the prominence of her beloved sport in America. She said after her second and final qualifying round for the U.S. Olympic team, and hopefully an appearance at the Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia, she would like to concentrate her efforts on promoting the sport with exhibitions such as the one staged Monday. "In the future, after the Olympics, I wish I could do more coaching and introduce the game to children," she said.

Dattel agreed the sport should be thrust into a larger arena than it currently occupies. "There are about 20 million people (in the U.S.) who play recreational table tennis," he said, adding that only 8,000 to 10,000 of those recreational players play in league-sanctioned tournaments. That's compared to over 600,000 tournament players in Germany, Dattel noted, while in China, "there's 40,000 full-time professionals."

Competitive table tennis has not caught on in this country because people have never been made aware of the fast-paced game and rule structure of competitive play, according to Dattel. Although most people have either seen or played pingpong, he said, most have never seen true table tennis played in a tournament environment.

Dattel noted Westfield has one of the premier tournament facilities in the country, the New Jersey Table Tennis Club, located on North Avenue. The club has about 160 regular members, Dattel said, and many players relish the thought of coming to Westfield to play a tournament. The club holds tournaments from September to May.

"Table tennis has many qualities to it," said Brathwaite, vice president of the USA Table Tennis Association, citing cardiovascular benefits, increased hand-eye coordination and aerobic exercise. Those qualities alone, he said, qualify table ten-

nis for more attention than it has received in America. "Over many decades, we seem to have lacked exposure," Brathwaite said. "We're making efforts to change that."

According to USA Table Tennis literature, a well-played 30-minute game burns about 150 calories — the equivalent of a 27-minute walk or 32 minutes of

light gymnastics. Players can hit a regulation 2.5-gram ball at speeds up to 100 miles per hour on the 9-foot by 5-foot table, and that sort of exertion, according to the pros, can be a considerable workout.

Brathwaite said organizing a national table tennis structure with organized play and regional tournaments — something akin

to Little League Baseball or Pop Warner Football — will be key to helping the sport grow in prominence. He said it would bring players together and foster the same spirit of competition felt by athletes in other, more popular sports. "All (of these sports) have leagues," he noted.

Brathwaite was part of the famous "Ping-Pong Diplomacy"

team that traveled to Communist China before President Richard Nixon. He credited the trip by U.S. players to face Chinese players as being one of the first steps toward warming relations between the two countries, and said this is testimony to the global nature of his sport. "Where governments fail, sports succeed," Brathwaite said.

"Table tennis has many qualities to it. Over many decades, we seem to have lacked exposure. We're making efforts to change that."

— **George Brathwaite**
USA Table Tennis
Association

tive sport played the world over.

"I believe a lot of kids would love it," said Yip, who will face other table tennis players from the U.S. in a second round of Olympic Trials in April. If Yip makes the team, it will be the third time the Warren resident has represented America on the Olympic Table Tennis Team. "It's a good sport and anyone can play," she said, "from 7 to any age."

Yip said one of the biggest culture shocks she felt when she came to this country, after being a professional player in China, was finding such a small market for table tennis. "That was surpris-



BEST BETS

Hammond presents Owen organ concert

LINDEN — The Hammond Organ Society of New Jersey will present Greg Owen in concert at 8 p.m. Feb. 22.

The concert will be held at Presbyterian Church hall, located at the intersection of Orchard Terrace and Princeton Road in Linden.

Owen is making a name for himself with his infectious enthusiasm and lively musical style. He has played on some of the most famous organs in the nation in concerts at many locations, including Long Island University in Brooklyn, N.Y., The Trenton War Memorial, Birmingham's Alabama Theater, The Grand Court Organ at Philadelphia's Wannamaker's Store, Detroit's Fox Theater, The Atlanta Fox and the former N.Y. Paramount Wurlitzer at Wichita's Century II Civic Center.

He has entertained at the local Ramada Inn and is senior organist of First Church of Christ, Scientist, located in New Bern, N.C.

HOSNJ members and friends usually meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month from September to June for almost 50 years of great music, refreshments and friendship.

Everyone is welcome to the Feb. 22 show. For more information, call (973) 256-5480.

'Warm strings' at Masonic Temple

CRANFORD — The Summit Strings are coming to town to provide "Warm Strings for Cold Nights."

The show, a benefit for the Lincoln Heights Association, will be held 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26 at the Masonic Temple on South Avenue. A Broadway medley as well as light classics and standards are on the program.

Members of the Summit Strings are Bob Paoli, viola/manager; Kathy Daly and Allen Weakland, violin; and Linda Fink, cello.

Donation is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Coffee, tea and homemade snacks are included.

For more information, call (908) 931-0638.

Community Players offer partial plan

WESTFIELD — Half-year memberships in the Westfield Community Players are now available.

The \$20 fee covers admission to the troupe's two remaining shows this season, "The Price" in March and "Brigadoon" in May and June.

This is a savings of \$7 over individual show tickets, according to Letty Hudak, membership director.

Checks payable to Westfield Community Players should be sent to Hudak at 409 Harrison Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090.

Inside

CrosswordB-2

Films In Focus . .B-5

HoroscopeB-4

Broadway beware: Temple show is 'better'

Performers lining up
for Feb. 27 concert

CRANFORD — "Better Than Broadway" is the theme of a concert scheduled for 5 p.m. Feb. 27 at Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim, located at 338 Walnut Ave.

Scheduled performers are Cantor Frank Lanzkron-Tamarazo, from the Cranford synagogue; Lisa Lanzkron-Tamarazo, his wife; Cantor Arthur Katlin, from Adath Israel Congregation in Lawrenceville; and Evette Katlin, Mr. Katlin's wife.

In keeping with the theme, the concert will include Yiddish songs, opera and cantorial liturgy as well as show tunes. Piano accompaniment is by Cynthia Shaw.

Lanzkron-Tamarazo is also education director for Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim. A singer from age 15, he attended the Manhattan School of Music and holds a master's degree in sacred music from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He sang Aeneas in the opera "Dido and Aeneas" with the Annapolis Opera while attending St. John's College in Annapolis, Md.

Mrs. Lanzkron-Tamarazo is teaching voice, violin and piano at the Academy of Music in Rahway. She studied violin and

piano at the Manhattan School of Music, where she became a trained singer under former Metropolitan Opera soprano Natalie Bodanya.

Most recently, Mrs. Lanzkron-Tamarazo sang in a solo recital at the Donnell Library Center of the New York Public Library and in a joint recital with her husband. She sang Lauretta in "Gianni Schicchi" with the New York Singers' Theater.

The Lanzkron-Tamarazos live in Cranford and are expecting their first child in April.

Katlin is primary conductor and concert coordinator for the New Jersey Cantors Concert Ensemble, which appointed him its chairman in 1998. He has been cantor of the Lawrenceville synagogue since 1991.

Mrs. Katlin has been guest cantor for High Holy Days services at the Marlboro Jewish Center for 10 years. A psychotherapist, she is scheduled to earn a doctorate in health education from Temple University in January 2001.

The Katlins have a son and a daughter.

Admission is \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Sponsorships of \$50 includes reserved seating for the concert and an Italian dairy buffet dinner afterward. Group rates are available.

For more information or reservations, call (908) 276-9231.

Program delves into history and the 'net

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Historical Society and Westfield Y are co-sponsoring a multimedia lecture/presentation with Darryl Walker on "History and the Internet."

The program is open to the public and is scheduled to be held 7:45 p.m. Tuesday in the Kellogg Room at the Westfield Y, located at 220 Clark St.

Walker is Webmaster for more than 500 World Wide Web sites, including the official Web sites for Westfield, Fairwood and Springfield (Union County). He maintains www.westfieldnj.com with his wife, Debbie.

His 19-year career in the computer industry covers hardware and software design and integration; network design and imple-

mentation; Internet and Web site design; high-speed Internet access; Web servers; video servers; and e-mail servers.

Emerging technologies Walker is involved with include voice and fax communication over the Internet.

Off-line, the Walkers are members of the Westfield Historical Society, the Westfield Y, the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce, the Westfield Rotary Club, the Friends of the Westfield Symphony Orchestra, the publicity committee for First Night Westfield and the Patriot's Path Council, Boy Scouts of America.

The Walkers have lived in Westfield since 1987.

Refreshments will be served.

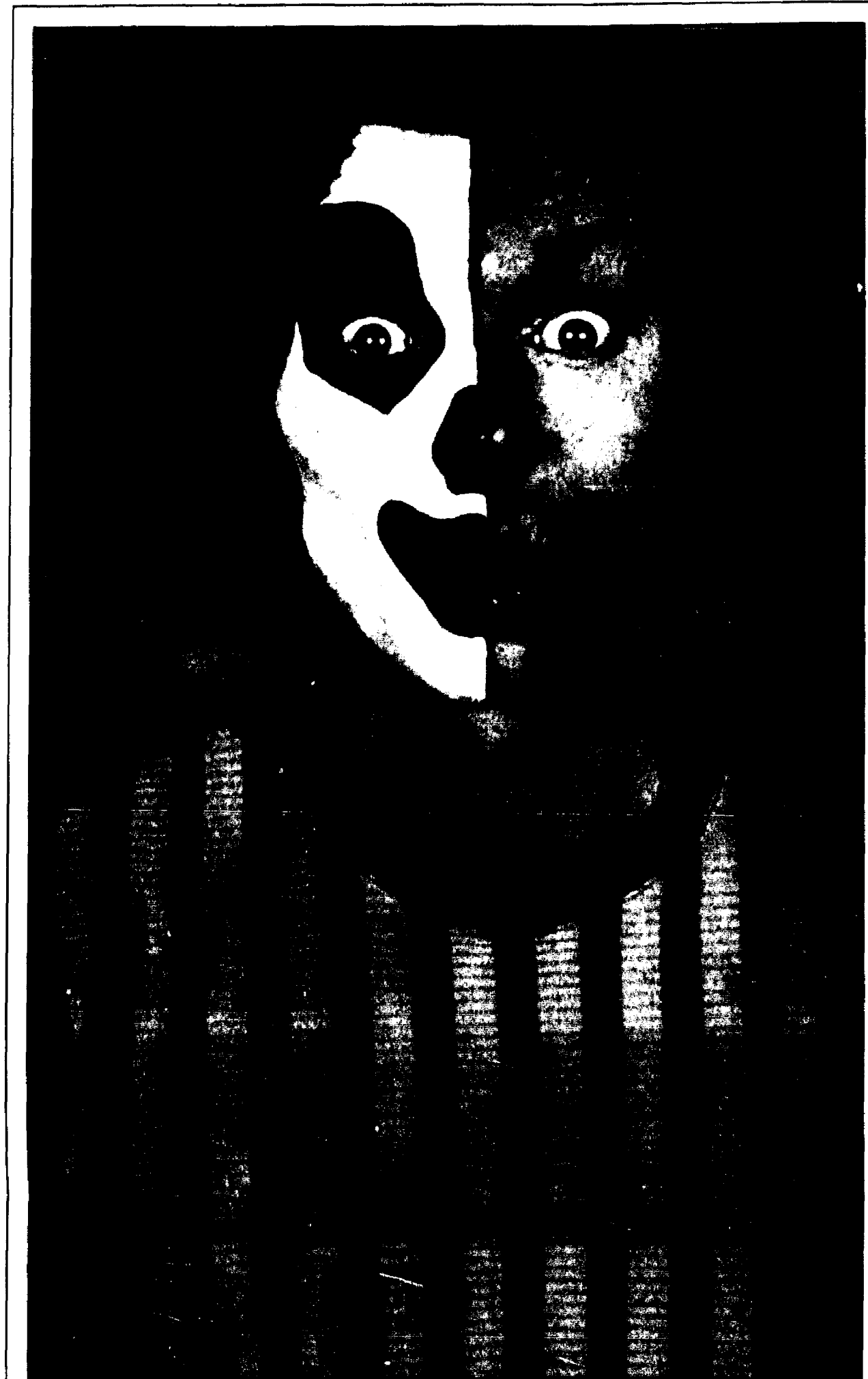
Bridesmaids' Ball benefits charities

CRANFORD — The Cranford Junior Woman's Club will sponsor its annual Bridesmaids' Ball on April 7 at The Westwood in Garwood.

The annual dinner-dance is a benefit for two charities, the Engel Adult Day Care Center of

Cranford and the Boomer Esauon Foundation for Cystic Fibrosis.

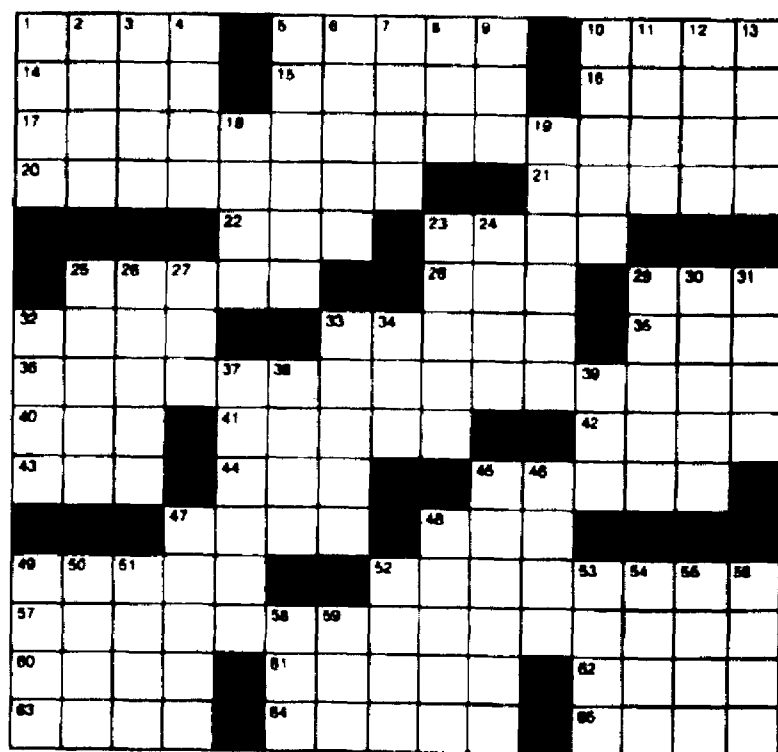
Admission of \$75 per person includes a cocktail hour, full dinner, open bar and live band. In addition, theme baskets and sports memorabilia will be auctioned or raffled off during the



Return of the carrot

Carrot Top, one of the most popular — and energetic — performers to perform each season at the State Theatre in New Brunswick, is returning for another night of outrageous comedy. The frenetic comedian is scheduled to be at the State Theatre at 8 p.m. Feb. 18. For more information, directions or tickets, call the State Theatre at (732) 246-7469.

TRACKED



ACROSS

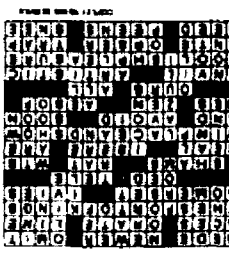
1. John Adam
4. WASA
10. Leave out
14. Necktie
15. Hurdle
16. Link's piece
17. Jack attraction
20. Literary magazine
21. Penn and Pincus
22. Reference work
23. Prefix for type or vision
25. Three others
28. Square
29. Be and oes
32. Close hermatically
33. Rhine tributary
35. Part of to be
36. Across-the-board
40. "Yes — Sympathy"
41. Each
42. Before long
43. Parasol
44. Asen
45. Famous lecture
47. Not yours
48. Without exception
49. "E. Tronzo"

DOWN

1. Cave dwellers
2. Role in "Annie Hall"
3. Consider
4. To be in Rome
5. Lasso loops
6. Slipped
7. Unit of power
8. WWII abbreviation
9. Limp
10. Marine additive
11. Lined-in for start or cab
12. "Bus Stop" playwright
13. Polanski film
18. Highschool highlight
19. Dressed like a Highlander

ACROSS

23. The birds
24. Ment
25. First New's river
26. Workers
27. Mathematics
29. Under a g
30. Scout unit
31. Stashed
32. Did me turkey
33. Images
34. Six in Scat
37. Laps
38. Allege as fact
39. Draft organization
45. Changes
46. Director Kazan
47. Lubricated
48. "Stormy Weather" composer
49. At a distance
50. "And Then There Were —"
51. November abbreviation
52. Church part
53. JFK signs
54. Rotate
55. Dues
56. Edible mushroom
58. Saturated
59. One's realm



Death on the West Side

Maria (Dara Fritz) mourns the death of Tony (Shayne Austin) in the Kean University production of the classic romance "West Side Story." Performances of one of the American musical theater's few great tragedies will be staged at 8 p.m. Feb. 18, 19, 23, 24, 25 and 26 and 2 p.m. Feb. 20 and 27 at Kean's Wilkins Theater. Tickets are \$12 apiece for the general public, \$10 for senior citizens and Kean faculty, staff and alumni, and \$8 for students. For more information, call the university at (908) 527-2371.

'Sundays' series features works of composer Sichel

MURRAY HILL — The second concert in this season's "Sundays at Three" series at the Suburban Community Music Center will be devoted to original works for cello, piano and flute by prize-winning composer John Sichel.

Performing in this concert — scheduled to begin 3 p.m. Sunday — will be SCMC faculty artists Sara Barash, flute, and Tomoko Harada, Robert Kelley and

Sichel, piano. They will be joined by guest artists Michael Finckel, cello, and Evelyn Luest, piano.

This concert will feature three world premieres and one New Jersey premiere in a varied program that includes two works for flute and piano, two for solo piano and one for cello and piano. Sichel, a noted lecturer on topics of musical interest, will introduce and discuss his music.

The composer has had his music published regularly since 1984. His most recent work, "Barcarolle Triste," had its world premiere last year with the Morristown-based New Philharmonic of New Jersey. Sichel's "Music from Avalon" had its world premiere in 1995 with the Eberli Ensemble in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students.

The SCMC building, located at 570 Central Ave., is accessible to the handicapped. Large-print programs are available. For a brochure, directions or more information, call (908) 790-0700.

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Your horoscope guide, Feb. 14-Feb. 20

ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Don't make a mountain out of a molehill — this is the time for peace of mind. But don't let your guard down too much — opportunities abound, if you know where to look for them.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): It doesn't have to be Valentine's Day to know romance is in the works — but it doesn't hurt! When it comes to that special someone you've been thinking about, just follow your heart. The proper path will come clear.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21): Troubles at work will abate this week, but only if you channel your energies in the right direction. Take time to perform a good deed — chances are, it will be returned in spades.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22):

Get busy on those plans for that business venture — the time is right. At home, be sure to pay special attention to everyone's needs; right now, someone is feeling a little left out.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22): Don't resist the good advice your friends are giving you — sometimes, someone who's not personally involved indeed knows best. This is a great time to consider additional schooling.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): Money has never been a bigger issue — and that's not all bad. Pinching pennies now could lead to dividends later, although even the frugal must be willing to take an educated chance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23):

Romance is in the air, but this Valentine's Day, a simple box of chocolate won't do. Go the extra mile to make that special someone feel loved, and prepare for an abundance of affection in return.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21): Chance works in your favor this week. When you're hot, you're hot, and right now, you're hot. But use this good fortune wisely — even the lucky can suffer a bad break.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): An out-of-the-blue proposal that sounds too good to be true probably is. That's not to say you shouldn't take any chances this week — with thought and consideration, the bold may find success. Your creative juices are flowing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): You continue to take a leadership role, and it continues to pay off. The powers that be have noticed your extra efforts. Don't let up now; you've never been closer to the next level.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Your fortunes are due for a radical change — don't be surprised if things start going your

way. Read that book you've been putting off; hidden messages may be found between the lines.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): No doubt, this your time of the year. A new millennium means new opportunities — watch for them, and don't be afraid to take a chance. Watch for an unfortunate incident with an animal.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAY: Communication is your key word for the coming year.

Your mind is very active and packed full with wonderful ideas.

Find a way to express your thoughts effectively and creatively. Consider writing, painting or public speaking as a way to reach a large group of people. Be prepared for an unexpected turn of events surrounding romance and your finances. Look to a female family member to help settle a domestic dispute.

Celebrating birthdays this week are Mario Andretti, Anne Lee, Sandro Botticelli, Mikhail Gorbachev, Alexander Graham Bell, Irina Ratushinskaya and Pier Paolo Pasolini.

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Romance through the ages

CRANFORD — The Cranford Historical Society is celebrating Valentine's Day with "Silhouettes and Other Love Tokens," the program at the Crane-Phillips House Museum on Sunday.

The arts and crafts oriented program will be geared towards families and children, demonstrating various forms of paper art that can be done at home. The afternoon will include making silhouettes and pierced paper artwork.

Silhouettes were popular during the late 18th and early 19th centuries as parlor art. People wanted miniatures (small oil paintings), but most could never afford them. So silhouettes became popular as an art form and an inexpensive alternative to paintings only the wealthy could afford. They are said to have been named for France's Minister of Finance during the French Revolution, who was known for pinching every penny.

The art form fell out of popularity after the camera was invented. Pierced paper artwork will also be shown. This art form features designs made with pinholes in paper, limited only by the imagination.

The program on these early American art forms coincides with the Museum's ongoing exhibit "Washington, The Revolution and New Jersey" to commemorate the bicentennial of George Washington's death and this area's role in the American Revolution. The exhibit will be on view through the Spring.

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 Saturday/Sunday, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

The Museum is located at 124 Union Ave. North in Cranford.

Show recalls 'Lovestruck Memories'

CRANFORD — The College Women's Club of Cranford will sponsor "Lovestruck Memories" with Fred Quinn 7:45 p.m. Monday.

The show will be held in the youth center of the First Presbyterian Church, located at 11 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

Quinn conducted more than 600 interviews over four years to come up with the "Lovestruck Memories," all of them true. The Cranford resident is a member of the Garden State Storytellers and the National Story League. For more information, call (908) 272-2539.

'Angela' an 'ordeal of pathos,' and gutsy 'Cradle' not Robbins' finest

"Angela's Ashes" — Almost the entire film shows the miserable childhood of author Frank McCourt. We see Frank responding, slowly transforming as three siblings die, others are born. His wastrel father drinks up the tiny welfare money in the Depression Ireland to which, crazily, he has returned the family from New York. The family lives in a horrible, muddy tenement in Limerick. Like a muckraker who has given up hope, director Alan Parker emphasizes the cold and rain, the grisly food, the bedbugs and chamber pots, the crude bigotry of priests and teachers, a hatchet-faced aunt and scowling money-lender, even Frank's ordeal from conjunctivitis. Probably every film critic is meant to be set straight by McCourt's own "review": "Angela's Ashes" is the perfect realization of my book on film. It is everything I could have hoped for and imagined. I sing its praises." Forgive some of us if we sit out the song, preferring to notice that the film is a literal translation of the book into an ordeal of pathos larded with folksy humor and patronizing empathy.

Cast: Emily Watson, Robert Carlyle, Michael Legge, Ciaran Owens, Joe Breen. Running time: 2 hours, 14 minutes. Rated R. 2 stars.

"Cradle Will Rock" — Writer/director Tim Robbins pounces onto one of the legendary patches of American theater, the New Deal's brief, vital and then Red-baited Federal Theater Project (FTP) of the mid-'30s. This grand effort in populist theatrics ran afoul of the deadly Dies Committee and anti-FDR forces, but its legend casts a bright shadow. Robbins salutes the FTP's most famous episode — the shuttered but then instantly reborn debut of Marc Blitzstein's pro-union play, "The Cradle Will Rock," a bravura blast of rhetoric with music. Blitzstein, with director Orson Welles and Wellesian partner John Houseman, led most of the cast and a burgeoning, enthused crowd on a parade 21 blocks north to another theater — theirs had been locked by a federal order. "Cradle Will Rock" seeks to say a lot, and it should, given the big themes. It has drive and some wit, but its plunging gutsiness often seems amateurish and facile. It's a kind of "put-on-a-show" lark for nostalgia fanatics, and for the morally comfy. Cast: Hank Azaria, Cherry Jones, Emily Watson, Vanessa Redgrave, John Cusack, Angus Macfadyen, Cary Elwes, Bill Murray, Philip Baker Hall, John Turturro. Running time: 2

Films in Focus

hours, 12 minutes. Rated R. 2 stars.

"Play It to the Bone" — Fighter Cesar Dominguez (Antonio Banderas) hangs out in an L.A. gym with his born-again pal Vince Boudreau (Woody Harrelson), another over-the-hill fighter. Then comes a phone call from Las Vegas: The two boxers on the undercard of Mike Tyson's title fight, to take place this very evening, have become extremely unavailable (one dead, one doped up), and the slimy promoters (Robert Wagner, Tom Sizemore) need two subs pronto. Fifty grand apiece. They have to be there tonight, so of course, they drive a chance to take a trip in a hot car with Grace (Lolita Davidovich), Cesar's current squeeze and Vince's ex, and to turn this thing into a mini road buddy flick. Then it's back to the hand we got dealt, which devolves into an appallingly brutal slugfest. Cast: Antonio Banderas, Woody Harrelson, Lolita Davidovich, Tom Sizemore, Lucy Liu. Running time: 125 minutes. Rated R. 1 1/2 stars.

Ratings: 4 stars, excellent; 3

stars, worthy; 2 stars, mixed; 1 movie reviews written by David Elliott, film critic for The San Capsules compiled from Diego Union Tribune.



Nothing says love quite like chocolate

On Valentine's Day, millions will select a gift of chocolate to express their love.

Chocolate, like flowers, is the language of love. How better to express your passion for a loved one than with a box of exquisite Belgian chocolates. But could the type of chocolate selected — white, dark or milk — be carrying a secret meaning?

Perhaps there is a "language of chocolate" just as there is for flowers. After all, since Victorian times, flowers have been tangible symbols of emotion: A forget-me-not conveys true love while a carnation symbolizes unrequited love.

To help those selecting a Valentine's Day gift for their dearly beloved, Guylian Chocolate offers gift-givers the following guide as food for thought.

Guylian's Language of Chocolate tells us that:

- White chocolate represents pure love: dedication, patience, steadfastness.
- Dark chocolate is for adventurous love: sophisticated, experiential, worldly passion.
- Milk chocolate stands for balanced, enduring love: tradition, true romance.
- And filled chocolates (hazelnut praline, truffle, cappuccino cream) represent newly discovered love: zestful, zany, exuberance.

No matter what the sentiment to be conveyed, Guylian offers a mouth-watering selection of boxed chocolates that will demonstrate your all-encompassing love. There's Guylian's original hazelnut praline Seashells; La Truffina, a collection of creamy truffles enrobed in either white, dark or milk chocolate; Opus, Guylian's musical-themed collection of eight unique varieties of Belgian chocolate; La Perlina, sculpted chocolate creations with a whole Turkish hazelnut nestled in a smooth cappuccino center; Solitaire, individually wrapped milk and dark chocolates from around the world.

Of course, if your loved one doesn't happen to know the language of chocolate, there's still a sure-fired way to convey your ardent feelings. Select Guylian's I Love You chocolates, a box of gold foil-wrapped, praline-filled chocolate hearts with those three little words imprinted on top. That way, you can express your meaning in a forthright manner.

Does chocolate really translate into a language of love? Only the gift-giver and recipient know for sure. This Valentine's Day, find out for yourself.

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Valentines Day

Art from the heart: Even St. Valentine knew the power of pictures

It has been said that Valentine's Day is a holiday created by greeting card companies. The romantics of

the world attribute it to a timeless love story. According to the most popular

account, Valentine's Day is celebrated as a February 14 festival of romance because of a Roman bish-

op named Valentine, who in A.D. 270 secretly married young couples despite emperor Claudius II's edict

forbidding marriage. He fell in love with a beautiful blind woman and miraculously restored her sight

with his love for her. Before he was executed for his treason by the emperor, Valentine left her a farewell note signed "From Your Valentine."

Other legends about Valentine's Day customs exist - with one thing in common - Valentine's Day is about taking time to give a token of love. Over the nearly 2000 years since the first Valentine's gift, those tokens have evolved into traditional gifts that are often fleeting. Flowers are beautiful but die. Candy tastes scrumptious but is eaten. Reservations at a favorite restaurant end within hours of the giving.

This year, celebrate Valentine's Day by giving your beloved a gift that harkens back to the original celebration of love. Along with that Valentine's card, give art - even if you don't have the miraculous powers of St. Valentine to restore sight, you can give something wonderful to see. Art is the perfect gift for Valentine's Day because it celebrates beauty in a way that is lasting and personal.

Art is also an easy gift to give, thanks to Art.com. The most modern, hip, simple and affordable art site online, Art.com offers one of the world's largest selections of framed and unframed prints, posters, photographs and fine art, as well as unique gifts in the special Valentine's Art.com online Gift Guide. Without leaving home, you can make this Valentine's Day gift one your beloved will treasure for years to come.

Choose from thousands upon thousands of works of art and art-inspired gifts, including beautiful reproductions of antique framed mirrors, journals, nightlights and watches based on popular artist images.

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This Valentine's Day, leave those flowers in the garden. Simply log onto www.Art.com and give the gift that celebrates love the way bishop Valentine intended. Give art from the heart. Art.com makes it fun, fast and affordable, and will even throw in the chocolates! With every purchase of \$50 or more, Art.com and Godiva will give you a \$5 gift certificate for godiva.com.

Courtesy of Article Resource Association, www.aracopy.com; e-mail: info@aracopy.com

Don't forget importance of fresh breath

There are many moods of love - romantic, playful, sensual, sexy. The holiday of love, Valentine's Day, inspires all kinds of feelings. Sweethearts everywhere will be getting up close and personal - but there is one thing that can burst the love bubble: bad breath.

The right breath freshener could be the "secret weapon" for a successful Valentine's experience.

Here are some tips on how the different flavors of Rembrandt Dazzling Breath Drops can help you create the perfect love moods for Valentine's Day.

• Sassy - Go salsa dancing, then dig in at a local Spanish restaurant. Lemon-Cool gives you a zing for flirtatious bantering.

• Reserved - Visit the museum, then have a quiet lunch at an outdoor cafe. Play it cool with Wintergreen.

• Playful - Have a picnic at the beach and then visit an amusement park. Peppermint will bring back memories of an old school crush.

• Hot - Oysters and champagne at home with the fire burning and Barry White singing. Cinnamon will help keep the sizzle going.

• Romantic - Share a bruschetta at a nice restaurant with a view. Spearmint will complement mint juleps and eggs benedict.

• Pure - Just like loyal love, original Mint is tried and true.

For more tips on how to create the right mood, visit www.rembrandt.com or call 1-800-648-3663.

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The more things change ... 100 years of romance

How has the mating game changed over the past 100 years? Dramatically!

The folks at Fannie May Candies were eager to find the differences, since their boxed chocolates have played such an important role in the lives of young couples since 1920, when the company was founded.

1900: The courting call was a complicated event. One had to observe the appropriate amount of time between invitation and actual visit.

2000: "Maybe I'll drop by later."

1900: The first courtship calls must be made with the girl's mother present at all times. It was appropriate to bring a small gift of chocolates or a bouquet of posies for the daughter.

2000: Savvy guys know to bring Mom and girlfriend each a box of their favorite chocolates.

1900: It was extremely important to conduct a proper discussion on only a small amount of topics, all of which covered the man's interests, but nothing too personal.

2000: "Pass me the remote for the game, hon."

1900: Men sent absurdly romantic love letters gushing such scribes as a "thousand kisses for you, forever yours".

2000: "E-mail me."

1900: Men arrived at the young lady's house in a horse and carriage and left a calling card for consideration.

2000: "Beep me."

1900: It was customary for a local older woman to serve as a matchmaker for young couples. This woman was well known and well regarded in her town or village and garnered much respect from her peers and their offspring.

2000: www.matchmaker.com

1900: Chaperones on "dates"

Valentines find one-stop shopping at Mall.com

Valentine's Day is a day to commemorate the love we feel for those special people in our lives. Over the years, countless stories have tried to untangle the mystery behind this enchanting day.

One story says it originated in Rome on February 14, 269 A.D., when a priest died for refusing to give up his religious beliefs. He left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter who became his friend and signed it, "From your Valentine."

These legends and others remind us to embrace the day of love, never missing the opportunity to let our loved ones know how much we care. In some countries today, it is custom that a young woman receive a gift of clothing from a man. If she decides to keep the gift, it means she will marry him.

For all of you men out there planning to get your girlfriend a sweater this Valentine's Day, there's no need to worry. Buying her a piece of clothing in America doesn't signify a marriage proposal unless you want it to.

Whether you want to buy your wife a watch or send your parents flowers and chocolates, there is finally a place where you can find it all under one roof — your roof. Mall.com is your one stop online shop. It's closer than the neighborhood mall, but has more selection than five malls put together.

So this year when you realize Valentine's Day is right around the corner and you haven't yet begun to shop, you're in luck. Just go to Mall.com and click on the store of your choice. You can have a gift shipped immediately to you or your loved one right on time for any occasion.

Shop from J.Crew, the Gap, the Disney Store, Best Buy, the Museum Company, Godiva, FTD, Fannie Mae and so many more. Best of all, you won't need to stop at the drugstore for a card. Instead, you can take a virtual stroll down to American Greetings and stock up on all of your holiday cards.

were required. They accompanied the couple even on walks. If the young man showed up and there were many chaperones present, it was a clear sign that his intentions were unwelcome.

2000: "I'll meet you there."

1900: When a relationship progressed to a certain point, the couple might begin to "spoon" which was the term for kissing during courting.

2000: "Got a spoon? Can't handle these chopsticks."

1900: Parlor games were extremely common. They presented a casual diversion for the couple and their chaperone. Among them were the card game of whist and, as the relationship progressed, perhaps a little "spin the bottle".

2000: Couples spend time "spinning" at the health club.

1900: The bride's trousseau was a most important factor in her wedding preparations. It consisted of handmade chemises, nightgowns, hats and linens. Dresses had high necklines, puffed sleeves and a tight waist.

2000: www.victoriassecret.com

1900: Men had to go out of their

way and spend a great deal of their wages to bring their young ladies a gift of chocolate: a symbol of love.

2000: www.fanniemaycandies.com

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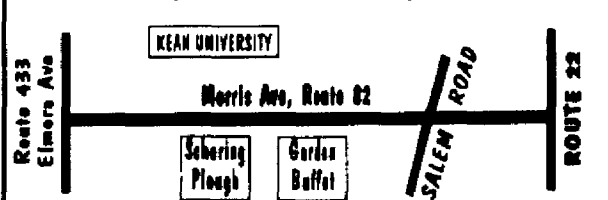
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Sports



Pete Sivins of Scotch Plains beat Alex Nowak of Arthur L. Johnson in a 140 pound first round match at the Union County Tournament.

NICOLE DIMELLA/RECORD-PRESS

Raiders win conference, place fourth at counties

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD PRESS

Capturing the conference championship, and peaking at the end of the season were two of the goals for this year's Scotch Plains-Fanwood High wrestling team. It accomplished both in the past week.

The Raiders placed seven wrestlers in the top four, and finished in fourth place, just four points behind third place Brearley, in the Union County Tournament this past weekend and clinched their first Watchung Conference championship since the 1983-'84 season Tuesday, when Irvington forfeited a dual meet with Scotch Plains.

"It's a great accomplishment," said Head Coach Mike Artigliere. "One of our top goals was to win the conference. We had some holes and had to give some forfeits, but our guys pulled through, stepped up and did the job."

At the county tournament the Raiders garnered 160 points, led by Gary Cousar's first place finish at 189 pounds, Mike Loewinger's (119), Lucas

Francavilla's (125) Mike Grabel's (152) and Matt Loomis' (217) second place finishes, A.J. Romeo's (130) third place finish, and Matt Denichilo's (103) fourth place finish. Dave Loewinger finished fifth at 112.

"We wrestled real well," said Head Coach Mike Artigliere. "Overall we had a real good tournament."

"When you miss out on third place by four points you have a tendency to look back and see where you could have gotten more points," said Artigliere. "But I couldn't do that here. I'm proud of the guys. It was a hard earned fourth place."

Artigliere was especially impressed with Cousar's performance, who has been improving all season, and has a very good chance of advancing far in the districts, regions and state tournaments.

"He's doing some real good things," said Artigliere. "He's peaking at the right time. His conditioning is there, and he's beginning to put some moves together. He's doing some of his best wrestling of the season."

Artigliere was also pleased

with the performance of Romeo. Romeo trailed 11-1 to Ryan Best of Johnson, but was able to come back and score a pinfall to advance. Romeo also pinned Nick Pennetta of Roselle Park in the consolation final. Pennetta had defeated Romeo 8-1 in a dual meet earlier this season.

The teams performance at counties, and wrapping up the conference has boosted the Raiders confidence heading into the state sectionals Tuesday. Scotch Plains garnered the fourth seed and will face Nutley in Rahway. The winner will battle top seeded Rahway that same day.

"Everybody is more relaxed," said Artigliere. "That's one of the reason's we wrestled so well. Everybody was relaxed. We had a good feeling we'd win the conference."

The confidence of a conference crown, and the momentum from a successful county tournament has the Raiders on the right track going into the sectionals.

"This is what we wanted to do," said Artigliere. "We're peaking at the right time."

Kivetz places second at counties, Devils finish 11th

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD PRESS

Westfield High wrestling head coach Glen Kurz thought he had his team fully prepared to be at its best when the post-season tournaments finally began. He had been working with the Blue Devils on skills, conditioning, and technique all season so they would hit their peak beginning with last week's Union County Tournament.

He just didn't count on the buses not showing up.

After waiting in the Westfield High school gym for over 45 minutes Friday, Kurz and his coaching staff finally gave up sitting around, and had the seniors drive the team to Union High School just minutes before weigh-ins finished.

"I totally panicked," joked Kurz. "I thought 'Here we go.' But we wrestled a great tournament. Every kid I watched wrestle I was happy with. I thought they did an excellent job."

"I knew we were improving, but this tournament really demonstrated that," said Kurz. "They exceeded my expectations. They did a great job."

Westfield finished 11th as a team, with 61 points, behind

champion Roselle Park (223.5), Rahway (220) and third place finisher Brearley (164).

But while it finished towards the back of the pack, Kurz was extremely pleased with the individual efforts of the team, led by senior Mike Kivetz.

Kivetz finished second at 171 pounds, falling to Union's Barry Stein in the finals in 48 seconds. Despite the quick pin by Stein, Kurz is confident that Kivetz, who was 1-2 against Stein last season, can turn the tables in the district and regional tournaments down the road.

"I still don't think Mike has wrestled a smart match against Stein," said Kurz. "If he wrestles smart he can beat anyone in the county or region."

Kivetz knocked off the top seed, Cranford's Greg Donofrio, 4-3 to reach the finals for the first time, after placing sixth at 171 last season.

Westfield saw three other wrestlers place at the county tournament, John Leonardis (119), Justin Reyes (160) and Nick Clark (heavyweight) all finished fifth, and had solid tournaments.

"They've all come along nicely," said Kurz. "They turned it up a

notch this weekend."

Leonardis entered the tournament unseeded, but opened with a win over fifth seeded Matt Sidie from Governor Livingston. Leonardis then held a 2-0 advantage over fourth seeded Lou Panetta from Roselle Park, but gave up three points in the final minutes and suffered the loss.

He went on to quickly pin Cranford's Nick Seeman and held a 12-6 lead over second seeded Altay Vigilante from Brearley before getting pinned.

"He worked real hard," said Kurz. "He wanted to win. As a coach it makes you happy to see him out wrestle the second seed."

The Blue Devils had a dual meet with Linden, who finished 13th at the counties, Wednesday and will have a tri-meet with Cliffside Park and Seton Hall tomorrow. Kurz is hoping the Devils can build on their success at the counties and carry that momentum into the districts which begin Feb. 25.

"This county tournament points us in the right direction," said Kurz. "We're peaking at the right time. Everyone that wrestled showed quite a bit of improvement, whether or not they lost."



Gil Arbitaam of Westfield defeated Cranford's Dan Genovese in the first round of the 130 pound weight class at the Union County Wrestling Tournament.

NICOLE DIMELLA/RECORD-PRESS

Deeper Devils win county title

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD PRESS

ELIZABETH—It may not be able to boast the intimidating national record of consecutive county championships anymore, but for the Westfield High boys swim team, 43 of 44 isn't bad either.

The Blue Devils used their superior depth to return to the top of Union County Saturday at the Dunn Center in Elizabeth, capturing the championship by 64 points over runner up Scotch Plains-Fanwood, despite winning only one event, compared to the Raiders who took first in five of the 11 races.

"Last year Scotch Plains had stars and depth," said Westfield Assistant Head Coach Bruce Johnson. "This year they just have stars. We don't have stars, but we have lots of depth."

"I'm really pleased with the way our kids swam," said Scotch Plains Head Coach Jessica Hulnik. "I couldn't have been more pleased with the way our kids performed, regardless of where we finished. They were just a little deeper than we were."

"It feels great," said Westfield senior captain Scott Kautzman. "That was one of the major goals—to restart the streak."

All 16 Westfield swimmers

scored and at least two Blue Devils placed in seven of the eight individual events. Westfield grabbed first place in the 200-yard freestyle relay, and second in both the 400 free relay, and 200 medley relay to cruise past its arch-rival and regain the county title it lost to the Raiders after 42 years of dominance.

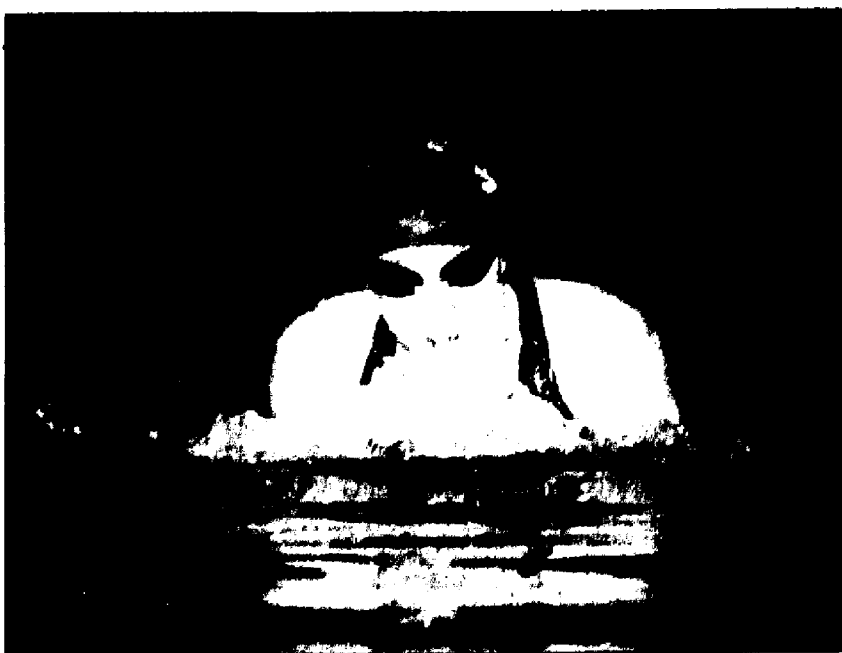
Charlie Rowe led the Raiders with first place finishes in the 200-yard freestyle (1:51.76), and 500 free (5:04.55). Steve Berkowitz scored a victory in the 200 individual medley (2:01.34) and he and Rowe led the Raiders to victories in the 200 medley relay (1:44.39) and 400 yard freestyle relay (1:44.39).

"It's a good feeling," said Westfield senior Kyle McCloskey. "It's a relief."

Regaining the county championship has not only been on the mind of the Blue Devils, but also on the tee-shirts. They have been donning tee-shirts with the date, 2-5-00, since last season. But while winning the counties, and regaining its superiority was an important goal, the Blue Devils have their sights set on much bigger trophies.

"It wasn't the major goal of the season," said McCloskey. "We wanted to win it and regain it, but we're focusing on states."

"We're focusing on much big-



Westfield's Ashley Saul placed second in the 200 yard individual medley (2:16.58) behind Scotch Plains' Dana Berkowitz. The Blue Devils won their eighth consecutive Union County championship.

GEORGE PACCIELLO/RECORD-PRESS

ger things," said Westfield Head Coach Martha Heintzelman.

"Our emphasis is always on the state tournament," said Johnson. "It's nice to be number one in your area, but it is better to be number one in a much larger area."

"The county tournament is the biggest meet for us on our way to the state tournament," said Johnson. "Last year the county meet was bigger than it should have been because of the streak."

And as the Devils look ahead at the state tournament, a very familiar foe looms on the horizon. Johnson said he is very confident Westfield will meet up with

Scotch Plains again Feb. 21 in Bayonne for the North Jersey Public A sectional title. It will also be a much stronger Raider team, as Dana Berkowitz and Anne Espinoza will rejoin the squad, adding some more depth to compliment the Raider stars.

"In the dual meet with Scotch Plains we swam really well," said Johnson. "In the states we are going to have to be better. The stakes are higher."

Westfield, the top seed, will face the winner of Livingston versus Randolph and second-seeded Scotch Plains will take on the Wayne-Vernon winner Feb. 17.

Blue Devils repeat as county champs

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD PRESS

The goal for the Westfield High girls swim team at the beginning of the season was to repeat in the two major tournaments of the season. It's halfway there.

For the eighth consecutive season the Blue Devils won the Union County tournament, doing it in convincing fashion beating out runner up Scotch Plains-Fanwood 291-238.5.

The Blue Devils got outstanding performances from Abby Coxson, Jesse Coxson, Stephanie Kollerjohn, Katie Bartholomew, and Ashley Saul.

The highlight of the day came when Abby Coxson, Alexa Vantosky, Jenny Fowler, and Jesse Coxson teamed up to set the record in the 200 freestyle relay with a time of 1:44.94, beating the previous time of 1:45.31 set by Westfield in 1998.

"We did pretty much as we expected to," said Westfield Head Coach Bev Torok. "It was nice to set the record in the sprint relay. They were shooting for it."

The performance by Abby Coxson gives her and the Blue Devils an increased level of confidence heading into the state tournament. Coxson has been fighting through last year's shoulder injury which she says is only about 70 percent.

"It was definitely one of my best

meets so far," said Coxson. "It gave me a bit of a boost. I needed to win for myself going into state tournament. One win can push you forward and give you a lot more confidence."

Scotch Plains received great performances from Anne Espinoza, who set a record in the 100 butterfly at 59.59, and finished second in the 100 backstroke. Dana Berkowitz won the 200 individual medley in 2:12.78, and was also second in the 100 breaststroke. Berkowitz and Espinoza teamed with Jenna Bozrutezyk and Julia Sheffield to win the 200 yard medley relay (1:57.39).

The Blue Devils will now focus on repeating in the state tournament. Westfield received the top seed in North Public A section, and will face the Morris Knolls-Roxbury winner Feb. 18 in the sectional semifinals. The sectional finals will be held Feb. 21 in Bayonne.

The biggest concern for the Devils heading into the state tournament is they haven't been tested yet. Aside for its victory at the Pirate Invitational, Westfield has yet to be pushed by an opponent.

But Torok does not for see overconfidence being a problem in the state tournament.

"That's my job," she said. "I have to make sure we're prepared—know what our opponent has and put people in the proper events."

Devils finish fourth in county bowling tourney

The Westfield High bowling team finished fourth in the Union County Championships Tuesday, after leading after the first round.

Cranford won the title, bowling a record setting 3,081 behind Frank Eichenlaub's record setting 761 series. Linden was second with a 3065, Union third (2966) and Westfield fourth (2918).

The Blue Devils were led by their three freshman, Matt Rothstein (664 series, 242 high game), Scott Villa (614, 223) and Willie Masket (625, 231).

"Everybody was really bowling," said Head Coach Mike Tirone. "The lanes were flying. Usually any one of those top four scores would be good enough to win it. It's hard to be disappointed when you bowl that well."

Dan Rock bowled a 525 series with a 182 high game, and Chris Marotta had a 490 series with a 190 high game.

Westfield competes in the sectional championships Saturday at Bel Claire Lanes in Montclair. Tirone thinks the four teams from Union County all have an excellent chance of winning the title, especially if they bowl like they did Tuesday. The top three teams advance to the state finals.

WINTER TRACK

Junior Alexis Anzelone raced to a second place finish in the

Westfield

High School
Roundup



girls indoor track Group 3 state championships at Princeton's Jadwin Gym Sunday to lead the Blue Devils to an eighth place finish.

Maura McMahon placed fourth in the 1600 (5:34.74) behind Anzelone (5:31.02) to round out the Blue Devil scoring. Roxbury placed first with 49 points, Willimantic (45) was second, and Middletown South (22) was third. Westfield finished with 12 points.

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Blue Devils trailed by just two points to county rival Cranford, 44-42, entering the fourth quarter Monday, but the Cougars pulled away in the fourth quarter and escaped with the 62-53 victory. Jim McKeon led Westfield with 20 points, but it wasn't enough as the Blue Devils fell to 3-11.

Westfield will battle Elizabeth in the first round of the Union County Tournament. The Blue Devils fell by a point in overtime to the Minutemen in their previous meeting this season.

Westfield 53

McKeon 6-2-2-20, Deserio 3-0-0-6, Cook 6-0-1-13, Minark 2-0-0-4, E. Turner 2-0-0-4, A. Turner 2-0-2-6. Totals: 21-2-5-53.

Cranford 62
Snyder 7-2-3-2, Brown 1-1-0-5, Sands 3-0-1-7, White 2-0-0-4, Polintza 2-1-4-11, Davis 2-0-4-8, Brennan 0-0-1-1, Rajahn 0-1-0-3. Totals: 17-5-13-62.

Cranford 10 17 18 — 62
Westfield 8 20 14 11 — 53

Livingston 51, Westfield 48—The Blue Devils came out on the short end of the stick for the second straight time, falling to Livingston Friday, 51-48.

After losing to Elizabeth in the final seconds of overtime three days earlier, the Blue Devils lost to Livingston on a buzzer-beating three point shot by Erez Cohen. Jim McKeon led Westfield (3-11) with 16 points.

Westfield 48
Weber 1-0-1-3, McKeon 6-0-4-16, Deserio 0-1-2-5, Cook 3-1-0-9, Minark 0-0-2-2, Carroll 0-0-0-0, E. Turner 5-0-2-12, A. Turner 0-0-1-1. Totals: 15-2-12-48.

Livingston 51
Lutera 1-0-4-6, Derrick 3-0-1-7, Trigub 1-0-2-2, Cohen 3-2-2-14, Carey 2-3-1-14, Minerva 0-0-0-0, Massa 4-0-0-8, Martins 0-0-0-0. Totals: 14-5-8-51.

Livingston 9 14 16 12 — 51
Westfield 9 19 11 9 — 48

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Devils received scoring from eight different players but it wasn't enough as they fell to the Cougars for the second time this season, 46-37, and saw their record fall to 4-12.

Westfield 37
Cusimano 2-1-0-7, Matthews 0-1-0-3, Manahan 1-0-3-5, El Koury 1-0-0-2, Masterson 1-0-0-2, Gonzalez 3-1-0-9, Thornton 1-0-3-5, Leonardis 2-0-0-4, Wicks 0-0-0-0, Infantino 0-0-0-0, Passananti 0-0-0-0. Totals: 11-3-6-37.

Cranford 46

O'Donnell 4-2-0-14, Sands 2-0-0-4, Borges 0-0-0-0, Murray 2-0-0-4, Fontana 0-0-0-0, Brady 3-0-0-6, Penouille 0-0-0-0, Carney 2-1-0-7, Bashaw 0-0-0-0, Clark 2-0-2-6, Strauss 0-0-0-0, Majors 2-0-1-5. Totals: 17-3-3-46.

Cranford 16 16 10 4 — 46
Westfield 15 9 3 10 — 37

Livingston 58, Westfield 55—After Karen Manahan's free throw capped a 12 point Westfield comeback and tied the game at 51-51, Livingston's Stephanie Del Preore scored six points in the final two minutes to hand the Blue Devils another disappointing loss.

Sophomore Jackie Cusimano led Westfield (4-11) with 18 points.

Westfield 55
Cusimano 3-3-3-18, Matthews 3-2-0-12, Manahan 5-0-1-11, El-Koury 2-0-0-4, Masterson 4-0-2-10, Gonzalez 0-0-0-0, Thornton 0-0-0-0, Infantino 0-0-0-0. Totals: 17-5-8-55.

Livingston 58
Del Preore 8-1-5-24, Janjukovic 4-2-2-16, Nafide 2-0-1-5, Derrick 1-0-5-5, Pally 4-0-0-8, Shon 0-0-0-0, Gospin 0-0-0-0. Totals: 19-3-11-58.

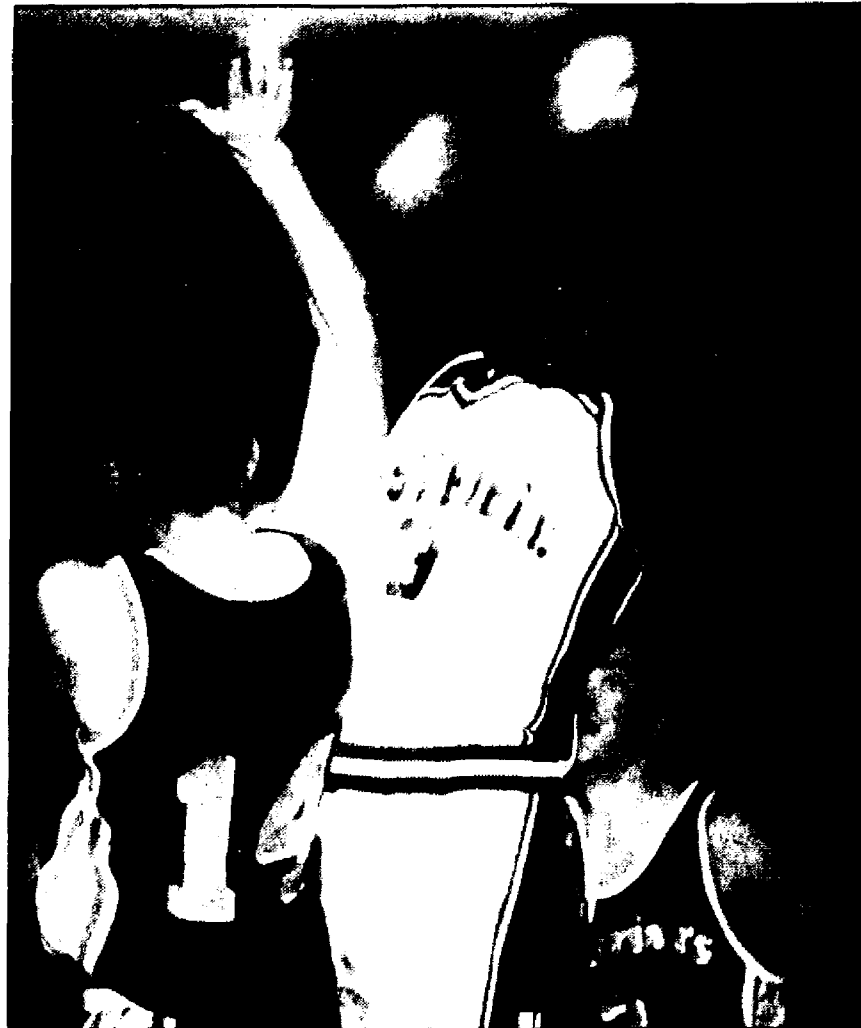
Livingston (7-8) 17 9 17 15 — 58
Westfield 11 6 14 24 — 55

Ridge 51, Westfield 34—Ridge blew a close game wide-open in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Blue Devils 15-4 and cruising to the 51-34 victory.

Westfield 34
Cusimano 4-0-2-10, Manahan 3-0-1-7, Thornton 2-0-0-4, Masterson 1-0-0-2, Gonzalez 2-1-0-7, Leonardis 1-0-0-2, El Koury 1-0-0-2. Totals: 14-1-3-34.

Ridge 51
Knapp 1-0-0-2, Meredith 1-0-1-3, Gronske 3-0-2-8, Scribner 6-0-6-18, Henold 1-0-0-2, Kelly 5-0-1-11, N. Meisler 1-0-0-2, Grabowy 0-0-3-3. Totals: 19-0-13-51.

Ridge (9-6) 12 11 13 15 — 51
Westfield 6 12 12 4 — 34



LARRY MURPHY/RECORD-PRESS CORRESPONDENT
Westfield's Eric Turner looks around a Watchung Hill player in the Blue Devils victory Jan. 29. Westfield will face Elizabeth in the opening round of the Union County Tournament.

Tumolo wins county diving title

Beth Tumolo of Scotch Plains won her first individual Union County diving championship Friday with a six dive combined score of 155.80, after placing third last season.

Westfield won the girls team title, with Lindsay Guerriero placing third (153.30) and Ashley Flood fourth (134.50).

WINTER TRACK

Both the Scotch Plains boys and girls indoor track teams finished tied for 17th place in the Group 3 state championships at Princeton's Jadwin Gym Sunday.

The boys tied with Middletown South after scoring six points on Nathan Jones' fourth place finish in the 55-meter dash (6.74) and a fifth place finish in the 1600 meter relay team (3:35).

Willingboro won the meet with 36 points, Camden (30) was second, and Lakewood (27)

was third.

The girls team tied with Williamstown, and Passaic Valley with four points. Erin Kelly placed fifth in the 800 meter race (2:29.02) and Christina Hillman placed fifth in the high jump (5 feet).

Roxbury took first place in the event (49), Willingboro was second (45), and Middletown South finished third (22).

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Raiders held a five point halftime lead, and were tied 36-36 at the end of the third quarter, but fell apart in the fourth quarter as Elizabeth outscored the Raiders 26-6 to close the game and win 62-42 in Elizabeth Tuesday.

Scotch Plains 42
Jackson 1-1-3-8, Allen 2-1-0-7, Brown 6-0-4-16, Feeley 1-0-1-3, Herrmann 2-0-0-4, Bender 0-0-0-0, Schiller 0-0-0-0, Williams 1-0-0-2, Chewing 1-0-0-2. Totals: 14-2-8-42.

Elizabeth 62

Robinson 3-0-4-10, Lott 0-0-0-0, Jaaber 3-0-1-7, Cancio 4-2-2-16, Griffin 7-2-1-21, Pittman 2-0-4-8, Delaney 0-0-0-0, Walton 0-0-0-0. Totals: 19-4-12-62.

Elizabeth 5 14 17 26 — 62
Scotch Plains 13 11 12 6 — 42

Scotch Plains 55, North Hunterdon 46—The Raiders rallied from six points down after the first quarter to take a five point halftime lead against North Hunterdon Saturday.

Derek Brown's eight points in the fourth quarter propelled the Raiders to the 55-46 victory, and improved their record to 6-10.

Scotch Plains 55
Jackson 4-1-0-11, Feeley 6-0-1-13, Williams 5-0-0-10, Allen-Osborne 3-1-0-9, Herrmann 1-0-0-2, Brown 3-0-4-10, Schiller 0-0-0-0.

North Hunterdon 46
Mandelberg 1-1-0-5, Hogstrom 1-1-0-5, Sharp 1-0-1-3, Beasley 2-5-6-25, Dills 3-0-2-8. Totals: 8-7-9-46.

Scotch Plains 10 16 13 16 — 55
North Hunterdon 16 5 14 11 — 46

Union 79, Scotch Plains 61—Despite losing by only five points to the defending North Jersey Section 2 Group 4 champions in December, the rematch between the Raiders and Union was never close, as the Farmers went on a 23-5 run to open the game and cruised to a 79-61 victory.

Scotch Plains was able to cut

the lead to 13 in the second quarter, but couldn't dig themselves out of the early hole. James Allen-Osborne led the Raiders with 14 points.

Scotch Plains 61
Feeley 3-0-1-7, Brown 3-0-0-6, Jackson 3-1-0-9, Herrmann 0-0-2-2, Allen-Osborne 5-1-1-14, Bondick 0-0-5-13, Williams 5-0-0-10, Montgomery 0-0-2-2, Chewing 0-2-0-6. Totals: 19-4-11-61.

Union 79
Zinkowicz 7-0-2-16, Nann 1-2-2-10, Chudwick 1-2-1-9, Mintell 0-1-0-3, Gluck 6-0-0-12, Oliver 4-0-0-13, Lee 1-0-0-2, Whittington 3-1-1-10, Walter 1-0-0-2, Arthur 0-0-0-0, Fields 0-0-0-0, Morgan 0-0-0-0, Prince 1-0-0-2, Wilson 0-0-0-0. Totals: 25-6-11-79.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

A 14-0 deficit after the first quarter was too much to overcome for the Raiders as they fell to one of the best teams in the state, 54-32 Feb. 3 in Union.

Kate Feighner led Scotch Plains with 14 points.

Scotch Plains 32
Glover 1-0-2-2, Foughtner 6-0-2-14, Pennella 2-0-0-4, Gray 1-0-0-2, Blom 1-0-0-2, Santo 1-0-0-2, Gillooly 3-0-0-6. Totals: 15-0-2-32.

Union 54
Porter 8-0-1-17, Gray 9-1-0-21, Francis 1-0-1-3, Watson 1-1-0-5, Blake 3-0-0-6, Scanton 1-0-0-2, Hubbard 0-0-0-0, McKenzie 0-0-0-0, Robinson 0-0-0-0. Totals: 23-2-2-54.

Union 14 15 13 12 — 54
Scotch Plains 0 12 8 12 — 32

BOYS SWIMMING RESULTS

TEAMS: 1-Westfield 307 2-Scotch Plains 243 3-Summit 185 4-Oratory 94 5-Gov Livingston 93 6-Roselle Catholic 59 7-Cranford 56 8-Union 55 9-Dayton 48 10-Rahway 44 11-Plainfield 35 12-New Providence 32 13-Elizabeth 29 14-Johnson 10 15-Union Catholic 5.

50-YARD FREE: 1-Pat Cuffe, Roselle Catholic, 22.88 2-Brandon Shea, Summit, 23.31 3-Scott Kautzmann, Westfield, 23.33 4-Chris Smith, Scotch Plains, 23.48 5-Hoshi Iida, Cranford, 23.79 6-Sean Baran, Westfield, 24.31.

100 FREE: James Lawlor, New Providence, 50.22 2-Chris Smith, Scotch Plains, 52.07 3-Scott Kautzmann, Westfield, 52.55 4-Hoshi Iida, Cranford, 53.19 5-Nick Russo, Oratory Prep, 53.35 6-Kyle McCloskey, Westfield, 53.36.

200 FREE: 1-Charlie Rowe, Scotch Plains, 1:51.76 2-Paul Kollerjahn, Westfield, 1:56.38 3-Sveo Swenson, Scotch Plains, 1:56.97 4-Kyle McCloskey, Westfield, 1:58.33 5-Zach Coppa, Westfield, 1:58.48 6-Alex Lovejoy, Summit, 2:05.19.

500 FREE: 1-Charlie Row, Scotch Plains, 5:04.55 2-Paul Kollerjahn, Westfield, 5:07.94 3-James Lawlor, New Providence, 5:11.89 4-Sveo Swenson, Scotch Plains, 5:16.97 5-Zach Coppa, Westfield, 5:23.94 6-John Hamill, Gov Livingston, 5:30.52.

100 BUTTERFLY: 1-Nick Russo, Oratory, 53.29 2-Sveo Berkowitz, Scotch Plains, 54.79 3-Vincent Shen, Westfield, 58.42 4-Frank Eaton, Roselle Catholic, 58.45 5-Greg Matthews, Westfield, 59.87 6-John Chiesa, Westfield, 1:00.02.

100 BACKSTROKE: 1-Andrew O'Neill, Oratory, 56.64 2-Frank Eaton, Roselle Catholic, 58.06 3-Vincent Shen, Westfield, 58.42 4-Kevin Bobenchick, Rahway, 1:00.97 5-J.R. Parker, Summit, 1:01.71 6-John Chiesa, Westfield, 1:01.96.

100 BREASTSTROKE: 1-Nick Nagel, Summit, 1:02.11 2-Cliff Halderman, Westfield, 1:03.62 3-Chris Swenson, Scotch Plains, 1:04.04 4-J.D. McMillan, Gov Livingston, 1:05.99 6-Pat Cuffe, Roselle Catholic, 1:06.35.

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 1-Sveo Berkowitz, Scotch Plains, 2:01.34 2-Nick Nagel, Summit, 2:05.76 3-Cliff Halderman, Westfield, 2:07.49 4-Robert Freundlich, Westfield, 2:11.29 5-Chris Swenson, Scotch Plains, 2:15.57 6-Brian Baumer, Summit, 2:18.53.

200 FREESTYLE RELAY: 1-Westfield, (Cliff Halderman, Rob Freundlich, Matt Cahill, Sean Baran) 1:35.76 2-Summit, 1:36.27 3-Scotch Plains, 1:38.20 4-Cranford 1:44.90 5-Rahway 1:45.02 6-Dayton, 1:45.24.

400 FREE RELAY: 1-Scotch Plains (Sveo Berkowitz, Chris Swenson, Chris Smith, Charlie Rowe, Chris Smith), 1:44.39 2-Westfield, 1:45.94 3-Summit, 1:47.48 4-Oratory Prep, 1:51.46 5-Gov Livingston, 1:52.76 6-Union 1:57.51.

ONE METER SPRINGBOARD (six dives): Jamie Sample, Summit, 129.10 2-Kevin Belancurt, Elizabeth, 109.15.

GIRLS SWIMMING RESULTS

TEAMS: 1-Westfield, 291 2-Scotch Plains 238 3-Summit 139 4-Gov Livingston 120 5-New Providence 98 6-Cranford 96 7-Union 88 8-Johnson 87 9-Oak Knoll 61 10-Kent Place 32 11-Union Catholic 19 12-Rahway 14 13-Roselle Catholic 12 14-Plainfield 6.

50-YARD FREESTYLE: 1-Abby Coxson, Westfield, 26.49 2-Jenny Fowler, Westfield 26.63 3-Julie Sheffield, Scotch Plains and Lindsey Jordan, Summit 26.70 5-Lori Schneider, Kent Place 26.91 6-Karen Bocian, Gov Livingston and Megan Janson, Oak Knoll, 26.92.

100 FREE: 1-Jackie Feintheil, Cranford, 55.88 2-Abby Coxson, Westfield 57.22 3-Jen Basman, Scotch Plains, 57.31 4-Julie Sheffield, Scotch Plains, 58.43 5-Kristine Kath, New Providence, 58.70 6-Karen Bocian, Gov Livingston, 58.81.

200 FREE: 1-Jessie Coxson, Westfield, 1:59.82 2-Lindsay Conroy, Summit, 2:08.57 3-Stephanie Kollerjahn, Westfield, 2:07.56 4-Chrissy Schwobel, Westfield 2:08.13 5-Pam Cameron, Scotch Plains, 2:09.29 6-Sarah Thrasher, New Providence, 2:09.73.

500 FREE: 1-Jessie Coxson, Westfield, 5:14.56 2-Jackie Feintheil, Cranford, 5:15.53 3-Chrissy Romano, Westfield, 5:41.73 4-Lindsay Conroy, Summit, 5:43.57 5-Pam Cameron, Scotch Plains, 5:45.21 6-Jenn Bezluczyk, Scotch Plains, 5:45.57.

100 BUTTERFLY: 1-Anne Espinoza, Scotch Plains, 59.14 (new record) 2-Liatte Krueger, Union 1:01.30 3-Ashley Saul, Westfield, 1:02.66 4-Jackie Whitty, Cranford, 1:03.27 5-Sandy Zeah, Gov Livingston, 1:06.34 6-Kery Hart, Westfield, 1:07.46.

100 BACKSTROKE: 1-Kandra Kennedy, Johnson, 59.99 (new record) 2-Anne Espinoza, Scotch Plains, 1:01.79 3-Jackie Whitty, Cranford, 1:02.66 4-Lindsay Conroy, Summit, 1:03.27 5-Sandy Zeah, Gov Livingston, 1:06.34 6-Kery Hart, Westfield, 1:07.46.

200 MEDLEY RELAY: 1-Scotch Plains (Jenna Bezluczyk, Dana Berkowitz, Ann Espinoza, Julie Sheffield) 1:57.39 2-Westfield, 2:00.07 3-Summit, 2:00.17 4-Gov Livingston, 2:02.55 5-Johnson, 2:04.45 6-Cranford, 2:06.48.

ONE METER SPRINGBOARD (SIX DIVES): 1-Beth Tumolo, Scotch Plains, 155.80 2-Juliana Mur, Kent Place, 153.50 3-Lindsay Guerrero, Westfield, 153.30 4-Ashley Flood, Westfield, 134.50 5-Caitlin Mehner, Summit, 132.35 6-Carolina Rokan, Elizabeth, 111.45.

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WANTED: TEDDY BEAR
Single white female, 38, 5'4", medium build, blond with blue eyes, enjoys many things. Looking for a single white or Hispanic male, 32 to 50. All inquiries answered! BOX 10486

SEEKING A GENTLEMAN
Cultured, artistic, divorced, Asian female, romantic, attractive, healthy, young looking and minded. Enjoy traveling, poetry, dining out and movies. Seeking calm, romantic, attractive, decent man of wisdom, 37 to 43, 5'8" plus, medium built. Friendship, possible long term relationship. BOX 32470

SHARE MY LIFE
White female, 125 lb, 5'5", with blonde hair. Enjoys life, dancing, theater, New York City, travel and much more. Looking for a white male, 58 and up for companionship first, leading to a relationship. BOX 32471

CASE OF MISSING MR.
Clues: attractive, single, Jewish female attorney, vivacious, affectionate. Seeks successful, caring, fun loving, Jewish male who likes tennis, theater, animals, comedy, music and mystery. Help me solve this case. BOX 32472

SINCERE AND LOVING
Single, white female, 48, 5'8", romantic, intelligent with a good sense of humor. Enjoys music, movies, computers, dining out and quiet times. Seeks single or divorced, white male, 38 to 58, with similar interests for possible long term relationship. BOX 32475

STOP YOUR SEARCH
Divorced, white, professional mother of three, 46, petite, brown hair and eyes, youthful, pretty, warm, fit and playful, enjoys the outdoors, cooking, arts, and dancing, seeks a single male who is caring, adventurous, fit and a risk taker, 44 to 52. BOX 38584

SEEKING ROMANCE
Single white female, petite, attractive. Enjoys dancing, candlelight dinners, movies, traveling. Seeks honest, attractive, romantic male, 38 to 44, to share love, laughter and happiness. BOX 32482

LET'S GET TOGETHER!
Outgoing, loving, caring, 19, 5'7", white female with brown hair and green eyes. Enjoys dining out, movies, reading, bowling, long walks and the sun. Seeking a single male, for fun times and friendship. BOX 38587

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 zoo, wilderness, good conversations and amusement parks. BOX 14398

LET'S MEET
Single white, professional female, 27, enjoys nature hiking, traveling, theater, music and more. Seeking a single male, non-smoker with similar interests. BOX 11946

LET'S MEET
Single white Catholic female, 39, family oriented, enjoys having fun. Seeking a single white Catholic male, 39 to 44, with same values, non-smoker please! BOX 13400

GIVING YOU MY ALL
Pretty, divorced, Jewish female with blue eyes and brown hair with a sense of humor and a warm, caring personality. For friendship and romance. BOX 11561

TIED OF BEING ALONE
45 yr old, 5'8", slightly overweight, down to earth female, blond hair, brown hair, green eyes and good sense of humor. Likes hiking, music, movies, long walks, reading and flea markets. Looking for a down to earth male, non-smoker who is not afraid of showing affection. BOX 11740

WINTER DAZE!
52 yr old, 5'2", attractive, fun loving, divorced, white, professional female who enjoys theater, music, dining out, enjoys life, romantic, youthful, caring male, 50 to 58, for a possible long term relationship. BOX 32646

YOU WON'T REGRET IT
31 yr old, single, white female, open minded, reliable, never married, no dependents. Enjoys the outdoors, staying at home and spending quiet times together. Seeking a single male with similar interests for friendship first. BOX 11845

40 SOMETHING FEMALE
40's, attractive, single female, 5'4", with hazel blue eyes and blond hair. Interests are: traveling, dining, dancing and long walks. Looking for a single male who's sincere, fit, attractive and enjoys similar interests. BOX 11823

HEART OF GOLD
Attractive, single, Jewish female, 37, enjoys reading, traveling and renting movies. Looking for a non-smoking, single, Jewish male, 34 to 41, who's kind and caring with a great sense of humor, ready for a committed relationship. BOX 11838

MISSING PERSON
Optimistic, friendly, outgoing, professional female, 47, blonde hair with varied interest. Looking to find my best friend to share jazz, tennis, cultural events, outdoor activities and laughter. Seeks professional male, 40 to 50 who's honest, caring and with a good sense of humor. BOX 32489

IRRESISTIBLE
Balding, obese, humorous, grouch, be a tall, white, active, caring, non-smoking, Christian gentleman, with integrity who is 55-63. Humor a must, hair a plus. BOX 32488

LOVE IS IN THE AIR!
59 yr old, widowed, white female with brown hair and blue eyes, is seeking a sincere, honest, white male who knows how to have a good time! BOX 13610

POSITIVE & ENERGETIC
Single white female who's friendly, energetic, outgoing, attractive, professional, 5'5", 47 yrs old and blonde. I enjoy an active life style. Seeking a professional male, mid 40's to 50, with a great personality who enjoys the outdoors, romantic fun times and more. BOX 37994

LET'S ENJOY LIFE
Single white female, 41. Looking for an easy going, outgoing, single male who likes to have fun and is willing to try anything new. If interested, give me a call. BOX 10793

SOUNDS INTERESTING
45 yr old, 5'8", full figured, divorced female with two children and short brown hair. I like cooking, walking, reading and more. Looking for a single male, 45 to 60, who has the same things I do. BOX 11504

CUTE, BRIGHT, FUNNY
Warm, divorced, Jewish female, late 40's, enjoys long drives, flea markets, music, movies, dining out, talking, listening, caring, spicing and being spoiled. Seeks a long relationship, possible long term relationship. Never rush anything. BOX 32511

WAITING FOR YOU
Educated, attractive, Hispanic lady with green eyes and olive complexion. Looking for an educated, financially secure man in his 50's for a possible long term relationship. BOX 14523

DOWN TO EARTH
Divorced white female, 40's, slim, feminine lady. Enjoys movies, dining out, good conversation, together, neat, and good evenings at home. Seeking an honest man, 48 to 58, for a serious relationship. BOX 32699

ARE YOU THE ONE I ME
31 yr old, attractive, single white female, active, love the outdoors, traveling and have fun in company of good people. Looking for an attractive male, 27 to 35 with similar qualities for friendship and possible relationship. BOX 13793

ROCK MY WORLD
Honest, sarcastic humor, single white female, non-smoking, 27, 5'3", petite, enjoys trying things, country music and life's simple pleasures. Seeking white male, 28 to 34, non-smoker, athletic, ability to go from a suit to sweats with communication skills and similar interests. BOX 32810

LET'S CONNECT
I'm a 35 yr old, attractive, divorced female, 5'2", 120 lbs, with brown hair & eyes. I enjoy music, history, travel, dining out and more. I'm looking for someone friendly and family oriented. BOX 12580

STILL LOOKING!
I'm not cure and sorry! I am just an average single woman who feels it is not too late to find real love! BOX 11453

ON A MAN HUNT
5'11", 32 yr old, single white female, attractive and physically fit, enjoys walking in the park to strolling in the Catskills. Seeking a single white male, 30 to 37 who is honest, fit, loving and a good kisser. Looking for that someone with similar interests. BOX 33382

SPEND IT WITH ME
35 yr old, 5'9", attractive, single white female with blue eyes and blond hair. Enjoys dining out, flea markets, hiking, games and movies. Looking for a man, 35 to 50 with similar interests for a long term relationship. BOX 11422

LIFE IS TOO SHORT
Single white widow, likes dancing, movies, New York City and life. Seeking a single white male in the 60 age range for companionship and perhaps a relationship. BOX 37331

MAKE ME YOURS
Friendship, romance, love, passion, happily ever after. Mid thirties, single white female, non-smoker with interest ranging from mountain trails to sandy beaches, to dry side-walks. Seeking single white male, mid 30's to 40's. BOX 32542

LOOKING FOR FRIEND
Slim, attractive, well educated 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 Brunswick, and surrounding area only. BOX 33018

FRIENDS FIRST
Divorced, warm hearted early 40's, 5'3", 160 lbs is seeking a single or divorced white male, 45 to 60, wonderful person who is down to earth. Serious replies only. BOX 32809

PRICILLA SEEKS ELVIS
54 yr old, fun loving female with green eyes and long dark hair. Loves music. Wants to meet Elvis look alike for companionship. BOX 32659

ROMANCE 101
I am a 48 yr old, divorced, Cuban female with hazel eyes who likes dancing and romance. Seeking a loving, caring, down to earth male, 50's, for a long term relationship. BOX 13580

HAPPY TOGETHER
Attractive, honest, loving, 5'9", European woman 30's seeks fit single white male similar qualities for a life of love, laughter, and marriage non smoker. BOX 32530

A PHONE CALL AWAY
Divorced white female, 47, thin, 5'6", honest, attractive, is seeking a single white male, 45 to 60, who is ready to meet this special lady for friendship, long term relationship. I am down to earth and seek your companionship, if the spark is there! BOX 32524

LET'S SHARE OUR LIFE
45 yr old, 5'2", average build, divorced white female, down to earth, suburban hair, blue eyes. Likes long walks, movies, music, dining out, music, traveling, vacations and shopping. Looking for a nice, down to earth guy, not into games for a nice serious relationship. BOX 13450

IN YOUR ARMS
Is where this pretty, bubbly lady would love to be. Let's dance the night away as we discover each other's charms and fall in love for the very last time. Seeking a verbal, 58-62 yr old, non-smoking gentleman who wants to embrace life with energy, laughter and love. BOX 32522

TALL AND ATTRACTIVE
36 yr old, green eyed, tall, voluptuous brunette female, I enjoy working out, music, comedy clubs and shopping. Looking for a nice, down to earth guy, not into games for a nice serious relationship. BOX 32522

GET A LITTLE CLOSER
Attractive, petite, white female, 5'2", brown hair and eyes, non-smoker or drinker, easy going with a good sense of humor. Enjoys traveling, theater, museums, movies, long walks and more. Seeking a single male, 35 to 50, educated with similar interests. BOX 15690



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Outgoing, loving, confident, 5'3", childless, black female, non-smoker, non-drinker, with light brown complexion, hazel eyes and dark brown hair. Enjoys theater, movies, reading, travel, dining out, the outdoors and more. Seeking a strong, loving, tall, fit, black male, to share a loving relationship. BOX 12875

ARE YOU OUT THERE
I'm a single white female, 50 yrs old, very feminine, blonde hair, blue eyes, friendly and outgoing. I'm looking for a very sincere male for friendship and possibly more. BOX 34385

LET'S GET MARRIED
Single attractive, honest, sentimental, white male, 48 yrs old, 6', slim, non-smoker and professional. Seeking a single, attractive female with a cute nose, for marriage. BOX 10706

SPENDING TIME
Single, physically fit, white male, 80, 200 lbs, with brown hair and eyes who enjoys Atlantic city, dining, working out, concerts, plays and traveling. Seeking a single or divorced, fit, fun loving, white female who enjoys life and spending time together. BOX 10066

LET'S MEET
Single white male, in his early 40's, 6', average weight, attractive, smoker, not into bar scene. Looking for a single white female, for a nice, easy going relationship. Age, race and weight unimportant. BOX 11712

JUST YOU AND I
Single male, attractive, enjoys dancing, the beach, have fun, walks on the board walk, camping, fishing and more. Seeking a petite to average female, attractive with similar interests. BOX 12520

I'LL GET BACK TO YOU
54 yr old, 5'10", single male that enjoys home racing, dining out and more. Looking for a fun woman who is financially secure for friendship and more. BOX 12721

LOVE IS MINE!
43 yr old, 6'1", 180 lb, divorced, professional white male, great sense of humor, black hair, hazel eyes. Enjoys dining out, movies, reading, the outdoors, the shore, movies and quiet times. Seeking a single female with similar interests, to develop a long term relationship. BOX 12961

A TICKETDAR DARLING
Witty, warm, and appealing Jewish Professional 53-inch, favors tall, Jewish men, with whom to share feelings, laughter and banter, our interests. Let's talk and explore the possibilities! BOX 33351

A HIGH YIELD RETURN
Reflexive and warm, appealing, professional lady who loves a good natured, flexible, educated, tall white Jewish male, 53-62. Can we build nurturing friendship with laughter, consideration, our interests and the future? BOX 32657

JUST YOU AND I
This single, attractive white female, 5'5", with a medium build, blond hair and blue eyes is tired of the bar scene. Seeking a single attractive white or Hispanic male with a good sense of humor. If interested, give me a call. BOX 34315

CALL ME SOON
60 plus, single white female who enjoys theater, movies, dancing, reading, traveling and more. Looking for a Jewish male with similar interests. BOX 34401

LET'S MEET
Divorced, attractive white female, 45, full figured, enjoys reading, walking, cooking and much, much more. Seeking a single male, 35 to 60 with similar interests. BOX 34324

NEW YEAR DIVIDEND
ME: Funny, warm, appealing, compassionate, professional, Jewish lady enjoys the arts, antiquing, dining, some sports, travel, etc. Seeking a single male, 45 to 60, who is ready to meet this special lady for friendship, long term relationship. I am down to earth and seek your companionship, if the spark is there! BOX 32524

LOOKING FOR LOVE
I am a 32 yr old, 5'5", French Canadian female with blonde hair and blue eyes who enjoys traveling, movies, the outdoors and dining out. Seeking an honest, romantic male, 35 to 55, for companionship. BOX 33939

STARTING AS FRIENDS
I am a 40 yr old, attractive female. Seeking a caring, fun loving male for friendship and a long term relationship. BOX 13008

SEEKING SOULMATE
Divorced, white female, 63, pretty red head, 5'11", 114 lbs. Likes movies, music, dancing, dining in or out, love outdoors, flea markets, beach, mountains, weekend get-aways. In search of a single white male, at least 5'8", 48 and 55, friendship first, hoping for a long term relationship. BOX 32519

ARE YOU SERIOUS
Single Italian female, 50's, seeking a single white male, 50 to 60, intellectual, professional and emotionally stable. If interested, leave me a message. BOX 12232

LOOKING FOR YOU!
21 yr old, full figured black female with light brown eyes and dark brown hair, is seeking a single male with a great sense of humor and personality, 21 to 25, to share good times, friendship and companionship. BOX 11574

THE BEST CATCH
Single white female, 58, 5'5", brown hair and eyes, young at heart, warm and very sincere, enjoys dancing, comedy shows and traveling. In search of a single white male, 57 to 62 with a sense of humor for friendship and companionship. BOX 10739

MEN SEEKING WOMEN
Call 1-900-454-2259
\$1.99 per min.

2 GOOD 2 BE TRUE
Single white female of 26, 170 lbs, black hair and hazel eyes, enjoys camping, fishing, boating and much more. Seeking a petite to average female, 27 to 37, children are welcome. BOX 10609

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Single white female of 26, 170 lbs, black hair and hazel eyes, enjoys camping, fishing, boating and much more. Seeking a petite to average female, 27 to 37, children are welcome. BOX 10609

TIED OF THE GAMES!

Are you looking for real love? Romantic, loving, 5'7", 225 lbs, white male who enjoys dining out, movies, reading, working out and much more. Seeking a loving, mature, single female, 25 to 35, to develop a serious relationship. BOX 13438

ROMANCE IS THE KEY
Single white male, 87, tall, brown hair and eyes, enjoys classical music, theater, plays, dining out and more. Seeking a single, sweet, sincere, white female, 38 to 48, who is ready for a long term relationship. BOX 15750

CALL THIS AD
I am a 5'11", 165 lb, fit, attractive, single female. Looking for an attractive, single male for a serious relationship. BOX 15823

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Isn't attraction incredible? Imagine releasing into strong arms, holding you, feeling safe, appreciated and intimate, knowing it is totally right. Single white male, 43, 6'10", tall, fit, attractive, emotional, literate and willing to take risks. If she speaks to you, please call. BOX 33463

MARRIAGE MINDED
Divorced white female of two, 44, 5'11", 175 lbs, physically fit, well educated, enjoys the simple pleasures of life, dining, hiking, movies, bicycling and more. Seeking a single, romantic, caring female, sweet, devoted, 38 to 45 who is tired of being in a relationship and broken promises. BOX 13646

JUST LOOKING
52 yr old, single male, brown hair and eyes, 240 lbs, 6'3", looking for an attractive, outgoing female, 40 to 50, weight and height proportionate, non-smoker who likes dancing, movies, camping and traveling. BOX 13615

IRISHMILANAL MALE
Single Irish/Italian male, 44, 5'10", young at heart, with black hair and brown eyes, enjoys the outdoors. Looking to meet a female, 21 to 44, who is seeking a loving, respectful, one on one relationship. BOX 13903

GET A LITTLE CLOSER
Single white male, 44, 5'7", 200 lbs, never married and no children, attractive with a good sense of humor, outgoing, honest, easy going, considerate and well educated. Seeking a single white female, 25 to 35, for friendship possible relationship. BOX 35113

WHY, HEBITATE?
Single white male, attractive, in his 30's, 5'6", non-smoker, enjoys New York City, Atlantic City, movies and reading. Seeking a pretty lady, for a possible long term relationship. BOX 37174

LOVE IS IN THE AIR
Nice looking, single white male, 44, 5'10", medium build, is seeking an attractive, single white female, 21 to 44, marriage minded, nice, sweet, affectionate and respectful. BOX 37508

SEEKS SINCERITY
50 yr old, single male, professional musician in good shape. Interests include boating, carpentry, astronomy, history and having a good time. Looking for a single female who is honest, open minded and sincere. BOX 37540

ARE YOU FORMER?
25 yr old, 5'7", 225 lb, Italian male who enjoys dining out, movies, working out, good conversation and quite time alone. Seeking a single female, 25 to 35, to share good times, friendship and companionship. BOX 37721

TAKE IT FROM HERE
40 yr old, single, Catholic male, educated, financially secure, 5'10", 200 lbs, brown hair and eyes. Looking for a single, white, Catholic female, 30 to 35 who's looking for a serious commitment leading to marriage one day. BOX 37842

ARE YOU THE ONE I ME?
Single male, 38, 6, with brown hair, green eyes and broad shoulders. Enjoys meditation, kindness, dining, movies and nature. In search of a single, attractive female, 38 to 48, who is intelligent and who can give as well as receive. BOX 32698

LOVES TO SING
Seeking athletic, shapely woman, under 40 for romance and outdoors activities. I'm a athletic, single, Jewish male, not religious, 48, 5'10", 170 lbs. All replies will be answered. BOX 32807

ENJOYABLE TIMES
Single white male, 8, with positive, enjoys long walks on the beach, movies, holding hands and just relaxing. Seeking a single female, 25 to 45 for a fun and loving relationship. BOX 14303

GOOD HEARTED MAN
Single white male, 37, 6', 195 lbs, physically fit, enjoys the outdoors, hiking, skiing and more. Seeking a single female, 27 to 35, with similar interests for possible relationship. BOX 14243

ARE YOU ALL I NEED!
Romantic, outgoing, affectionate, 5'6", medium build, white male with brown hair and hazel eyes, enjoys the outdoors, movies, reading, romantic evening, long walks, cooking and much more. Seeking a single female, to share good times, friendship and maybe more. BOX 13098

JUST YOU AND I
Divorced white male, 48, 190 lbs, 5'10" with blue eyes, non-drinker or smoker. Seeking a single or divorced white female, just keep it simple, honest and sincere. Smoker and drinker are okay. If interested, give me a call. BOX 13333

ENJOYABLE TIMES
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LONG LASTING LOVE

44 yr old 5'11", 175 lb, fit, divorced white father of two. I enjoy dining out, picnic, movies and flea markets. Looking for a single, sweet, sincere, white female, 38 to 48, who is ready for a long term relationship. BOX 15750

Real Estate

Help is available for marginal buyers

BY JAMES M. WOODARD
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Rising home prices require buyers to apply for higher mortgage loans. And that means tougher qualifications must be met to satisfy lenders.

This is creating a real problem for many families - particularly young families who want to own a home, requiring them to qualify for a larger mortgage loan. In many cases, it means they can't make that dream-home purchase now. They must wait until they have a greater family income and more money available for a down payment.

However, some of those "marginal" buyers are determined to find a way to purchase and finance a home. And they will probably accomplish their goal, with knowledgeable guidance by professionals.

The primary reason for a lender to turn down a mortgage applicant is a weak credit history, it was determined in a recent survey. About a third of applicants applying for a mortgage loan are denied based on their credit history. Although poor credit ratings are more pervasive among minorities, the results spanned across all racial and economic lines.

There are ways to break out of the bad-credit mold, but it usually involves professional help. Many mortgage lenders offer help and advice to prospective borrowers on how they can enhance their capability to qualify for a needed loan.

At least one major lender, Norwest Mortgage, now has a structured program in place specifically designed to help marginal borrowers. When such a borrower asks for help, they are assigned to a credit counselor who will work with the prospect for one to 12 months to correct their situation to the point where they can return to the housing market as a pre-approved buyer without any strings attached.

The prospects are serviced by phone, mail, fax or e-mail. Multilingual services are also offered.

"It's amazing what an education on spending and saving can do for debt-ridden consumers," said a spokesperson for Norwest. "If they are willing to make the full commitment, we are ready to provide the counsel necessary to help them clean up their credit and set them in a direction

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"It's amazing what an education on spending and saving can do for debt-ridden consumers," said a spokesperson for Norwest. "If they are willing to make the full commitment, we are ready to provide the counsel necessary to help them clean up their credit and set them in a direction toward better financial health. In most cases, it really works."

If you need help, start by asking for special assistance and advice from a local mortgage lending firm in your area. Tell them you're seeking guidance for working out a plan that will boost your qualifications for obtaining a home loan. If they don't offer such a service, make the request at another lending firm.

Q & A

Q. In the wake of rising home costs, when will HUD raise its mortgage loan limits?

A. In a recent move to boost homeownership in the U.S., the Department of Housing and Urban Development has raised its insurance limits on home mortgage loans. HUD will now insure loans for single-family homes ranging from \$121,296 in communities where housing costs are lower to a limit of \$219,849 in areas with higher housing costs. Last year, the limits ranged from \$115,200 to \$208,800.

"These higher loan limits will help create more homeowners, more home construction, more jobs and more economic growth," said Andrew Cuomo, HUD secretary.

Q. Will the swing toward high-tech systems eventually eliminate the need for personal human-to-human service in the real-estate brokerage business?

A. As real-estate firms become more high tech in their marketing methods, they also must remain very high touch if they are to satisfy consumer demands in the new century.

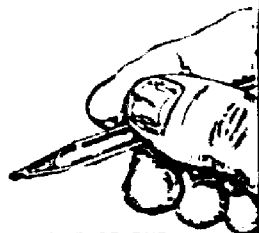
That's the conclusion of a recent study by the National Association of Realtors. Consumers expect much more of a real-estate agent today than in the past, NAR noted.

They expect real-estate professionals to use the latest technology to meet clients' needs. And they demand more information and a more efficient delivery system that is at the same time easy-to-use, interesting and personalized.

A study from Jupiter Communication indicates that 90 percent of consumers prefer human contact. What does this mean for real-estate brokers?


The answer is that despite the technology boom on- and off-line, the real-estate industry must, and will, remain high touch, NAR concluded.

**Thank you
Jill Guzman**



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to explain everything. The service was so unbelievable! Jill, I will recommend you to
all my friends!

Sincerely,
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\$16,995



New 2000 Cabrio

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Available!**



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Stock No. 10311, VIN No. YM108853, 39 Mo. Lease, \$1595 Down, 10K mi/yr, w/15% over, MSRP \$18,200. \$495 bank fee, \$165 MV Fee, \$299 Ref. Sec. Deposit, First Payment, Taxes, Residual \$11,648.

\$199 MO.



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Jetta: 4 Cyl, auto trans, power steering, ABS brakes, & locks, A/C, AM/FM stereo cass, front & side airbags & factory alarm.

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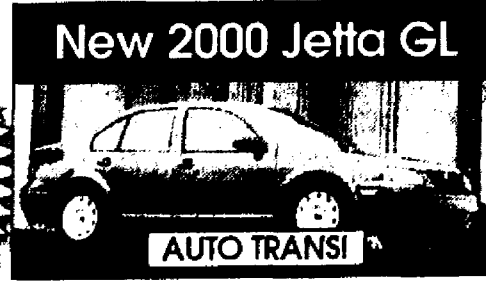
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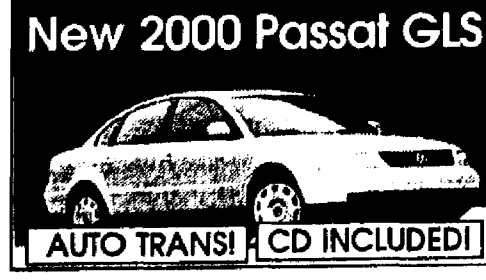
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New 2000 Jetta GL

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\$199 MO.



New 2000 Cabrio

Stock No. 14941, VIN No. YL124875, 39 Mo. Lease, \$1595 Down, 10K mi/yr, w/15% over, MSRP \$23,345. \$495 bank fee, \$165 MV Fee, \$359 Ref. Sec. Deposit, First Payment, Taxes, Residual \$14,941.

\$259 MO.

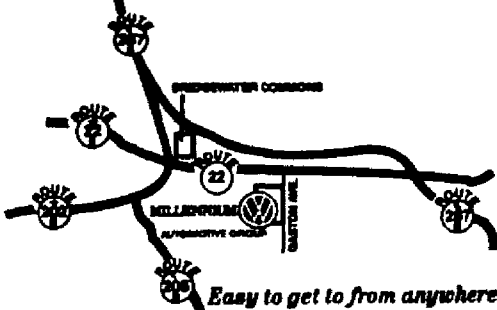
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General Help 240

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Personable energetic person required for surgical office. Insurance experience requested. Good working cond. Profit based bonus package. Salary & hours neg. Fax resume. 908-789-1720

CUSTOMER SALES/SERVICE
Must have exp. Flex hrs.
Conditions apply 732-254-1411

General Help 240

VETERINARY RECEPTIONIST/TECHNICIAN

Seeking hard worker for vet. receptionist/tech. Cleaning is involved. Must love animals. 908-245-7853

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For interview call

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CASHIERS/STOCK HELP

FT/PT. Apply at: Super Saver Liquors, 888 Rt. 22E Somerville, NJ. 908-722-6700

General Help 240

A + B TECHS

G.M. dealer has immediate openings for A + B Class Techs. G.M. experience, valid and clean NJ drivers license and A.S.E. certificate a Must! Graduated pay plan on individual capabilities.
Contact:
Bob Hampton
908-725-3020

GOING, GOING, GONE!
CLASSIFIEDS

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WAREHOUSE/MESS-
GIRL
FULL-TIME
Monday 9-5:30
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Wednesday 9-5:30
Thursday 9-5:30
Friday 9-5:30
Full medical & Dental
Must have valid NJ Drivers License
\$7 per hour
Call Cathy at 732-300-4455 for interview.

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General Help 240

HAIR STYLIST

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Owner operators and company drivers for an executive corporate limousine company. Good driving records. 908-218-8400

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Call 908-755-1111

Medical Help 250

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2 Days a week, Wed. a must, and help with Maternity Leave. Call 908-786-8833.

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Part-Time Employment 255

CHILD CARE

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MERCHANTISERS

GREAT PT OPPORTUNITY

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RETAIL

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Cosmetics Division
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OFFICE ASST.

General office clerical assistant needed to support NJ office of Non-profit organization. 20 hrs/wk. Proficient in Word, Excel & Database management. Fax resume or letter of introduction to: Mitchell 312-634-2345

RECEPTIONIST

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Professional Help 260

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Sales Help 265

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Classified Sales Manager

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Situations Wanted 280

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HOUSE CARE FOR ELDERLY, SICK, DISABLED. Live in/out. Polinter Agency.

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HOUSE CLEANING

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\$33,918
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4 dr. 4 cyl. auto trans, pwr strng/bkrs, AIR, AM/FM Stereo-cass, rr defogger, VIN#Y212676, MSRP \$15,025 0 cost cash! \$500 GM Loyalty Coupon if qualif. down pymnt + \$169 1st pymnt & \$300 sec dep. \$369 due at lease signing. Til Pymnts = \$6084. Til Cost = \$6084
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LEASE PER MO. 36 MOS.

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\$199
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Malibu
4 dr. 6 cyl. auto trans, pwr strng/bkrs/wind/locks, AIR, AM/FM stereo-cass, ill, VIN#Y8199818, MSRP \$18,415. Lease incl \$500 GM Loyalty Coupon if qualif as part of down pymnt. \$0 due at lease signing! Til Pymnts = \$8244. Til Cost = \$8244.
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<p>NEW 2000 CHEVROLET Malibu</p>  <p>Automatic, V6 engine, power steering, power brakes, airbag, air cond, bucket seats, rear defrost, MSRP: \$17,175, Vin #Y6145071, Stk #Y337CV</p> <p>\$13,989</p> <p>BUY FOR</p>	<p>NEW 2000 CHEVROLET Lumina</p>  <p>Automatic, V6 engine, p/s/b, air cond, dual airbags, cruise, tilt, tint, p/w/l, am/fm cassette, rr defr, MSRP: \$19,787, Vin #Y9188312, Stk #Y354</p> <p>\$16,989</p> <p>BUY FOR</p>	<p>NEW 2000 CHEVROLET ASTRO CARGO VAN</p>  <p>Automatic, V6 engine, power steering, power brakes, no air, am/fm cassette, bucket seats, MSRP: \$20,782, Vin #YB101860, Stk #Y052CT</p> <p>\$16,989</p> <p>BUY FOR</p>	<p>NEW 1999 CHEVROLET ASTRO CONV. VAN</p>  <p>Automatic, V6 engine, p/s/b, air conditioning, bucket seats, TV, cruise, tilt, tint, p/windows, p/locks, cast alum whls, am/fm cassette, MSRP: \$30,985, Vin #XB184309, Stk #X969</p> <p>\$21,995</p> <p>WAS</p> <p>\$19,995</p> <p>NOW</p>

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'93 MERCURY SABLE GS Automatic, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'96 CHRYSLER CONCORDE Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'98 FORD TAURUS Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 33,000 mi. Vin #F8A30040, Stk #P5430	'96 FORD CROWN VICTORIA Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 33,000 mi. Vin #F8A30040, Stk #P5430	'97 TOYOTA CAMRY LE Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 33,000 mi. Vin #F8A30040, Stk #P5430
'93 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX Automatic, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'96 FORD F150 P/U Automatic, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'97 DODGE INTREPID Automatic, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'98 MERCURY MYSTIQUE LX Automatic, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'99 FORD F150 CARGO VAN Automatic, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401
'95 NISSAN ALTIMA GXE Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'98 DODGE NEON Automatic, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'99 FORD ESCORT LX Automatic, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'96 HONDA ACCORD LX Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'98 JEEP WRANGLER 4X4 4 spd man trans, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401
'97 FORD ESCORT Automatic, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'98 BUICK SKYLARK Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'97 MAZDA 626 LX Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'94 CHEVY BLAZER 4X4 Automatic, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'96 FORD EXPLORER Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401
'95 FORD T-BIRD Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'95 DODGE AVENGER Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'98 DODGE CARAVAN Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'97 TOYOTA CAMRY LE Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'96 TOWN & COUNTRY Chrysler, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401
'94 ISUZU AMIGO Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'97 MERCURY SABLE WGN Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'97 HONDA CIVIC Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'93 LANDROVER COUNTRY 4X4 Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'98 CHEVY BLAZER 4X4 Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401
'97 PLYMOUTH BREEZE Automatic, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'96 TOYOTA COROLLA WGN Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'95 FORD BRONCO 4X4 Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'95 CHEVY BLAZER LS 4X4 Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'96 OR CHRONOS LAREDO 4X4 Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401
'97 GEO PRIZM Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'95 FORD WINDSTAR Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'95 HONDA ACCORD Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'99 OLDSMOBILE 88 Automatic, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'97 CHEVY BLAZER 4X4 Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401
'96 CHRYSLER CIRRUS LX Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'95 FORD WINDSTAR Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'94 NISSAN MAXIMA GXE Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'98 CHRYSLER SEBRING Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'98 CHRONOS LAREDO 4X4 Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401
'95 CHRYSLER LHS Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'95 ISUZU RODEO 4X4 Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'97 BUICK LESABRE Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'96 DODGE GR. CARAVAN Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401	'97 OR CHRONOS LAREDO 4X4 Auto, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, p/s/b, air, airbag, cruise, 58,884 mi. Vin #F8A40182, Stk #P5401

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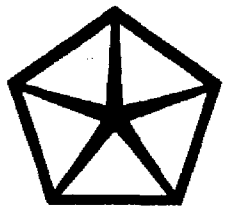
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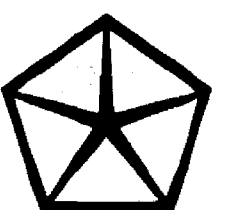
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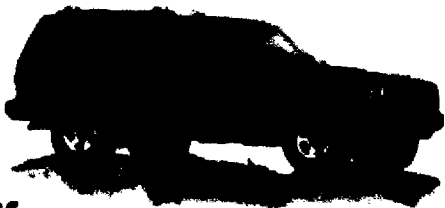


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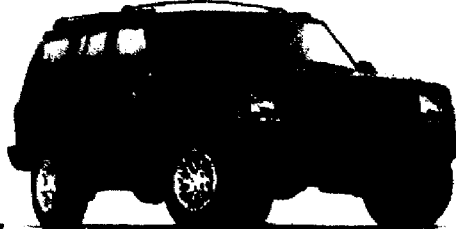
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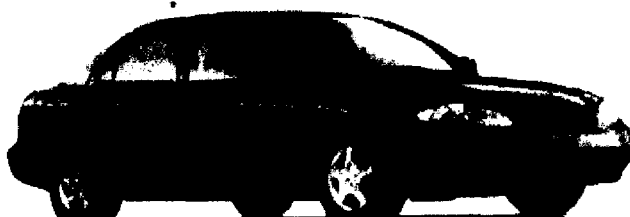


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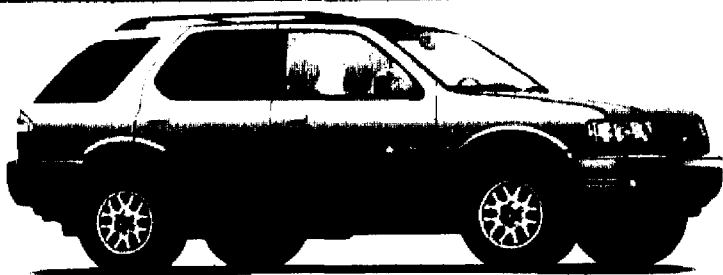
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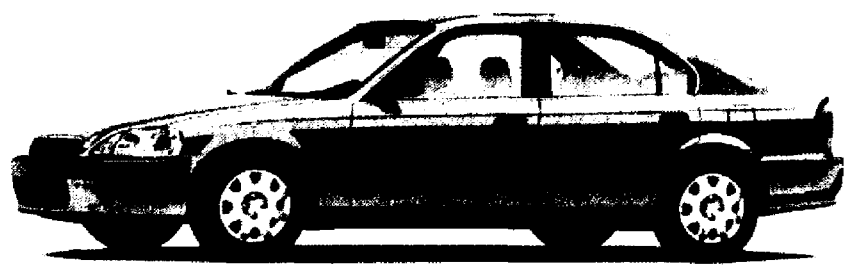


6-cyl., auto, PS, PB, PW, PDL, ABS, cruise, alloy wheels, roof rack, AM/FM cass., A/C, VIN#407533. Model#9B325Y4BA.

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MSRP
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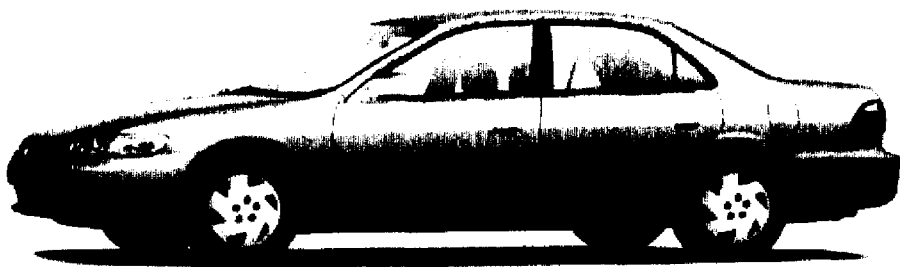


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MSRP
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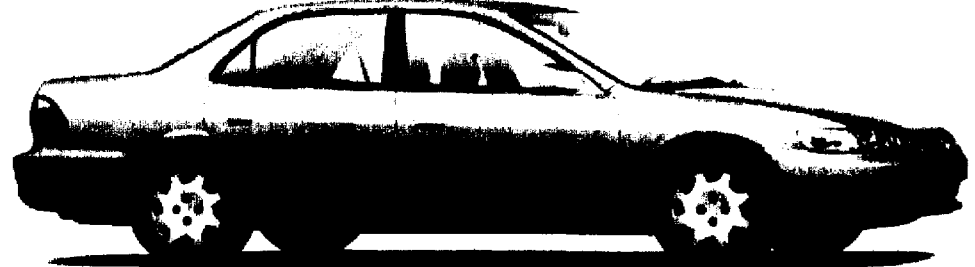


6-cyl., auto, 4-dr., A/C, AM/FM cassette w/CD, PS, PB, PW, PDL, leather, sunroof, VIN#A007562. Model#CG165YJNW.

\$23,126

MSRP
\$24,965

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4-cyl., 4-dr., auto, PS, PB, PW, PDL, cruise, AM/FM cass., A/C, cruise, VIN#XA153192. Model#CG665XPBW.

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'95 NISSAN ALTIMA GXE 4-cyl., 4-dr., auto, PS, AM/FM cass., A/C, sunroof, 57,055 mi., VIN#C194966. \$8,993	'96 HONDA ACCORD LX 4-cyl., 2-dr., auto, PS, PB, PW, PDL, AM/FM cass., R/def., cruise, 138,267 mi., VIN#A02112. \$9,622	'95 FORD WINDSTAR GL 6-cyl., auto, 7-pass., PS, PB, PW, PDL, AM/FM cass., cruise, A/C, R/def., 61,376 mi., VIN#BB83031. \$10,993	'98 TOYOTA COROLLA VE 4-cyl., auto, PS, PB, AM/FM cass., A/C, R/def., 22,798 mi., VIN#Z019911. \$11,773	'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 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT 6-cyl., 2-dr., auto, PS, PW, PDL, PB, AM/FM cass., A/C, alloys, sunroof, 53,273 mi., VIN#L527935. \$14,768
'97 HONDA ACCORD EX 4-cyl., 2-dr., auto, sunroof, PS, PB, AM/FM cass., w/CD, A/C, R/def., alloys, 50,070 mi., VIN#A023002. \$15,997	'97 HONDA ACCORD EX 4-cyl., 4-dr., auto, PS, PB, AM/FM cass., A/C, R/def., sunroof, 29,725 mi., VIN#A055156. \$16,232	'97 MERCURY VILLAGER GS Van, 7-pass., 6-cyl., auto, PS, PB, PW, PDL, ABS, dual A/C, P/seats, 39,199 mi., VIN#J29966. \$16,887	'97 VW JETTA GLX 6-cyl., 4-dr., auto, 11hr., PS, PB, PDL, PW, A/C, alloys, AM/FM cass., R/def., cruise, moonroof, 37,332 mi., VIN#VM091595. \$17,535	'97 HONDA CRV LX 4-cyl., auto, PS, PB, PDL, A/C, cruise, buckets, tilt, 32,644 mi., VIN#VC014991. \$17,876	

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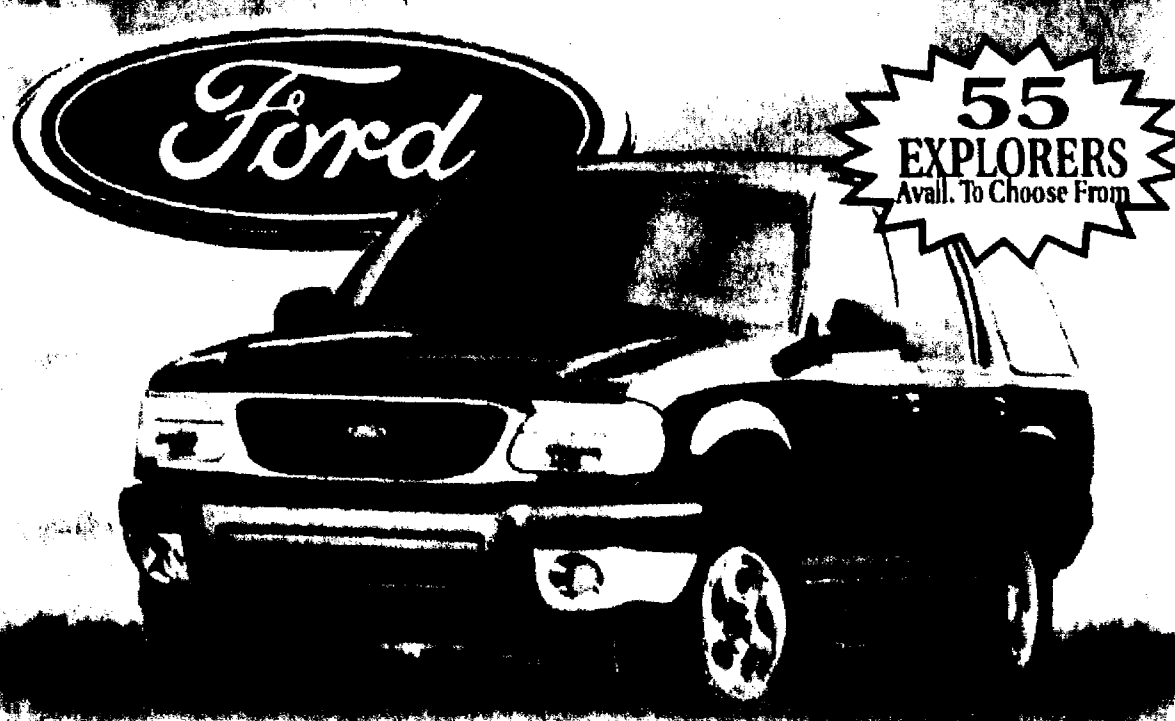
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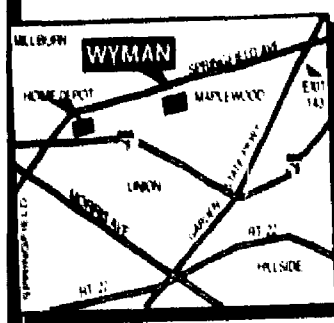
4 dr. 4.0L V-6, 5 spd auto OD trans, pwr strng/bkrs, AIR, cloth capt chairs, AM/FM stereo, CD, Trailer/Tow Pkg, VIN#YUB13170, MSRP \$27,270. Buy price incl. \$1000 rebate, \$400 coll. grad rebate if qual' & \$2871 Wyman discount. 36 mo. closed end lease w/12,000 mi/yr, 15c thereafter. \$500 cust cash. \$1000 rebate & \$400 coll. grad rebate if qual' = down pymnt + \$300 sec dep + \$269 1st pymnt = \$1089 due at lease signing. Ttl Pymnts = \$9684. Ttl cost = \$10,184

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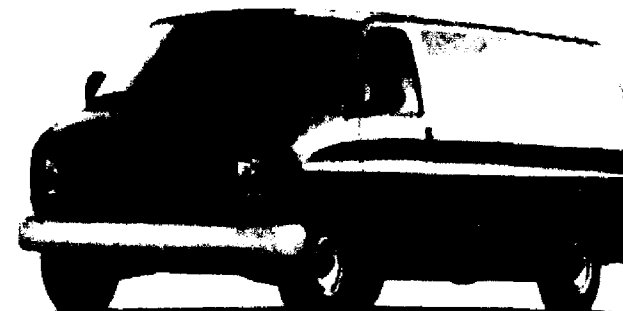
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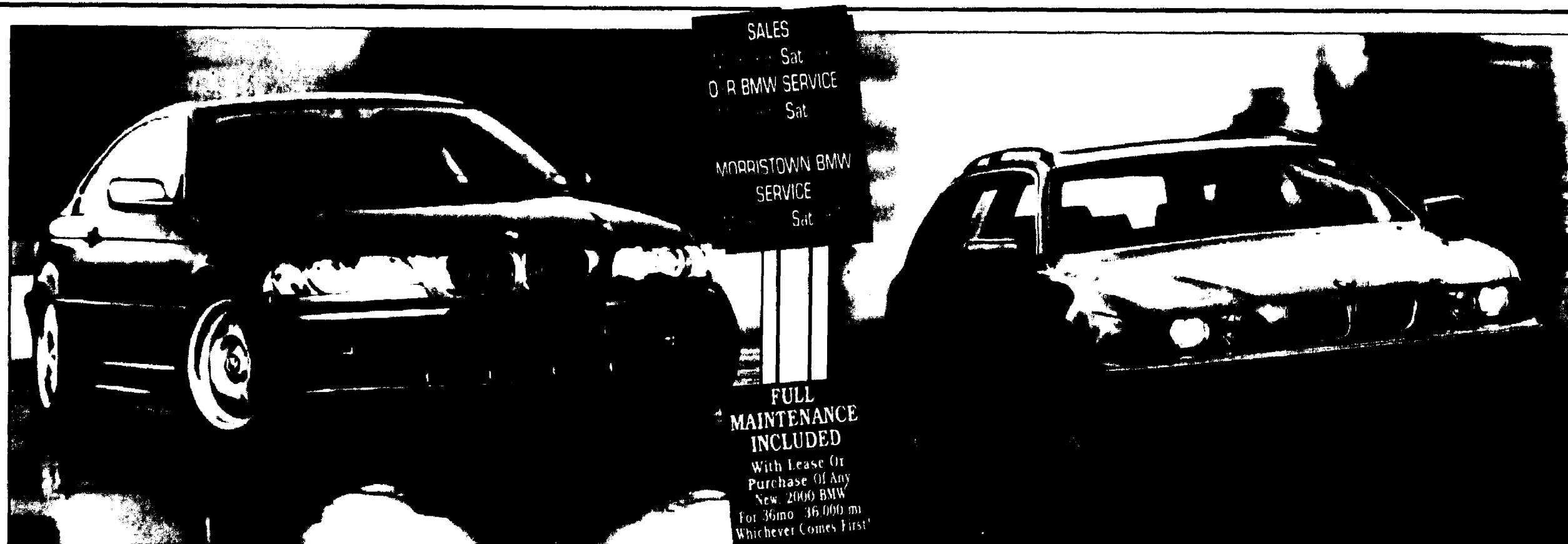
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6 Cyl, 5-Spd, PS, PABS, A/C, AM/FM St. CD, Full Power, Heated Seats, Moonroof, Premium Package, MSRP \$38,160, VIN# YJP00563, \$3,779 due at delivery incl \$2,500 cap cost reduction, \$400 ref sec dep, \$480 bank fee & 1st mo payment, Total payments \$14,364; Total lease cost \$17,344. ELPO \$25,567

2000 BMW 528it
SPORT WAGON

\$449
Lease for 36 mo.

6 Cyl, Auto, PS, PABS, A/C, AM/FM St. Cass, Leather Int., Full Power, Heated Seats, Moon Roof, Premium Package, MSRP \$47,345, VIN YBV64618, \$3,879 due at delivery incl. \$2,500 cap cost reduction, \$450 ref sec dep, \$480 bank fee & 1st payment. Total payments \$16,164. Total lease cost \$19,144. ELPO \$31,721.15

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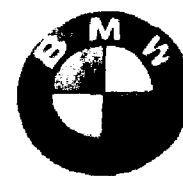
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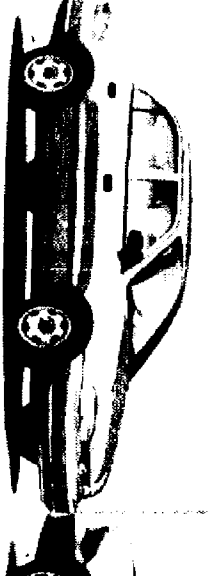
4 dr. 6 cyl., auto trans., pwr. steering/locks, AIR, AM/FM stereo, cass., 1 del., cruise, pw. tires, Stk. #Y1218. VIN #YZ404655. MSRP \$15,571. Purch. opt. at lease end \$282. 12,000 myw., 20c/mi. thereafter. Lease price based on \$0 due at lease signing. Ttl. pymts=\$7020. Ttl. cost=\$7020. Lease price incl. \$1375 GM cap. reduction rebate. Buy price incl. \$1000 GM reb. See dealer for details.

\$195

LEASE PER MO. 36 mos.

\$14,098

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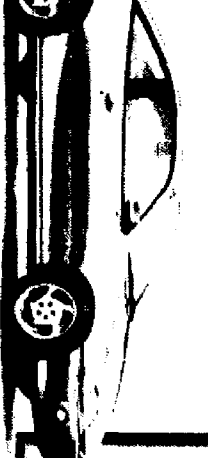
2 dr., 4 cyl., auto trans., pwr. steering and lock brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo, cass., 1 del., door locks, console, all seats, brs. Stk. #Y1219. VIN #F7177440. MSRP \$14,340. Purch. opt. at end of term \$770. 12,000 myw., 20c/mi. thereafter. Lease price based on \$0 due at lease signing. Ttl. pymts=\$7894. Ttl. cost=\$7894. Lease price incl. \$1000 GM cap. reduction rebate. Buy price incl. \$1000 GM reb. See dealer for details.

\$219

LEASE PER MO. 36 mos.

\$12,752

NO BUY FROM



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CONVERSION VAN

HEADQUARTERS

New 1999 GT Conversion Van EXPRESS.

V8, 4.8 auto trans., pwr. str./brk/wind/lock/mirr/ant., AIR, AM/FM stereo, cass., 13" TV, VCP, running boards, 1fr mats, tilt, cruise, u/lgs, remote keyless entry, alumi. whts. Stk. #44539. VIN #X1064661. MSRP \$36,060. Price incl. \$2000 GM rebate.

\$22,800



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TRACKER

The all new Chevy Tracker. It gets around.

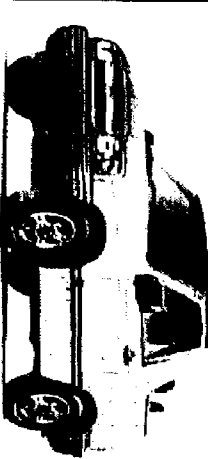
4 dr., 5.3 turbo trans., pwr. steering brks, AIR, AM/FM stereo, cass., tilt, door locks, 15" alloy wheels, 1 del., Stk. #Y1136. VIN #Y6901737. MSRP \$17,785. Purch. opt. at lease end \$324. 12,000 myw., 20c/mi. thereafter. Lease price based on \$0 due at lease signing. Ttl. pymts=\$8172. Ttl. cost=\$8172. Lease price incl. \$1650 GM cap. reduction rebate. Buy price incl. \$1500 GM reb. See dealer for details.

\$227

LEASE PER MO. 36 mos.

\$15,527

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VENTURE

Chevy Venture. Let's Go!

Van 6 cyl., auto trans w/OD, pwr. steering and lock brakes/mirr/ant., AIR, AM/FM stereo, cass., 1 del. and side impact air bags, door locks, Stk. #Y1154. VIN #1D2026251. MSRP \$23,722. Purch. opt. at lease end \$172. 12,000 myw., 20c/mi. thereafter. Lease price based on \$0 due at lease signing. Ttl. pymts=\$11864. Ttl. cost=\$11864. Lease price incl. \$500 GM cap. reduction rebate. Buy price incl. \$1500 GM reb. See dealer for details.

\$324

LEASE PER MO. 36 mos.

\$19,990

NO BUY FROM

