

Police Log

Westfield

A Sinclair Place resident reported Dec. 26, that pieces of silverware were missing and presumed stolen from the victim's residence, police said. The missing silverware was valued at more than \$4,000, according to police reports.

Robert Harris, 27, of Vreeland Terrace in Jersey City, was arrested Dec. 28 and charged on an outstanding warrant issued by the Westfield Municipal Court.

Harris was released after posting \$132 bail, according to police reports.

An Elizabeth resident reported Monday being the victim of a simple assault. The incident occurred while the victim was at a residence on South Avenue, according to police reports.

An Edgewood Avenue resident reported Monday being the victim of a simple assault and harassment, according to police reports.

'Hands-On Science' classes return to Westfield schools

WESTFIELD — "Hands-On Science" is returning for its 11th year in the town.

The after-school enrichment activity, sponsored by the Westfield Optimist Club in cooperation with the Westfield school system and Westfield Parent-Teacher Council, is scheduled to run this year from Feb. 5 to March 30.

Program goals are to encourage young children's interest in science with fun, hands-on activities. Chemistry, mathematics, physics, biology and environmental science are the areas explored. Activities are aimed at the elementary grade.

All classes are scheduled to

meet at the elementary and intermediate schools in Westfield. Each class meets once a week for eight weeks with 10-14 pupils per class. Teachers from Westfield and other school systems serve as the instructors.

Registration forms will be available at any Westfield elementary school beginning Monday.

In addition, "Hands-On Science" is looking for class mothers, who help out in the classroom, organize a lineup of volunteer classroom help, set up telephone trees and coordinate activities.

Each class mother receives a reduced fee for one course as an incentive.

Freeholders tab Mirabella as new chairman

ELIZABETH — The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has named Alexander Mirabella its chairman and Lewis Mingo as vice chairman.

Both appointments will take effect with the freeholders' reorganization meeting, scheduled to begin 1 p.m. Sunday at the Union County courthouse in Elizabeth.

"I look forward to working with my colleague on the board to move Union County ahead in

Roselle Park resident promises progress; Plainfield's Mingo named vice-chairman

the coming year," said Mirabella, who succeeds Daniel Sullivan as chairman. "We will continue the board's focus on economic development, a better quality of life for all residents and improvements to our roads and infrastructure."

"I look forward to another year where this board continues the services that so many Union

County residents depend on every day," Mingo said. "I'm pleased to be part of the freeholder board's leadership team, and I look forward to working closely with Freeholder Mirabella."

The new chairman was elected to a second four-year freeholder term in November and had been vice chairman last year. He

was president of the Roselle Park Borough Council in 1994-95 as well as a Roselle Park councilman from 1991-96. His wife, Phyllis, is a current Roselle Park councilwoman.

Mirabella worked closely on the Freeholder Scholars program with Union County College, which has a campus in Scotch Plains. As a member of the Union County Citizens Insurance Review Committee he helped save the county millions of dollars in premiums.

Mingo was appointed a freeholder in 1998 and elected to fill an unexpired term that year. A retired telephone company executive and longtime Plainfield resident, he was appointed by Gov. Whitman to the Coalition on Affordable Housing last year.

He helped found the Plainfield Area Youth Development Tennis Association and is a deacon of St. John's Baptist Church in Scotch Plains.

Scotch Plains Girl Scouts blast off at 'challenging' scientific camp-in

Scouts assume roles of ground controllers, astronauts at Buehler

SCOTCH PLAINS — Girl Scouts from Troops 621, 707 and 857 in the township recently attended a camp-in at the Buehler Challenger and Science Center.

The Buehler Challenger and Science Center is located at the Bergen Community College campus in Paramus.

Thirty-four Junior and Cadette Girl Scouts set off on a Friday evening and spent hours learning team-building techniques. The also learned about the role of women in aviation and space exploration, and then rolled out their sleeping

bags on the Science Center floor to get a little sleep.

They were awakened at 6:30 a.m. for a "pre-mission breakfast," and the scouts were then divided between Mission Control and the Space Craft personnel.

They assumed roles on teams — such as communication, data, medical, isolation, probe, life support and remote — to help each other through to a successful mission.

The scouts then switched roles so that each spent time both in mission control and the spacecraft. Both missions were successful.

There are more than 30 Challenger Science Learning Centers in the United States and in Canada dedicated to inspiring students, educators

and the community in the pursuit of scientific education.

The centers were created in the memory of the astronauts that lost their lives in the 1986 Challenger tragedy.

Make an impression

(Continued from page A-1) water and healthcare initiatives that we've introduced.

"I'm going to focus the next several months on that agenda, combined with the budget we want to have, working with Assembly Speaker Collins, who is the other person involved with the leadership end," DiFrancesco added.

While the months ahead will be busy, he noted he would not attempt — and does not expect — an overhaul in Trenton. "From my standpoint, not a whole lot changes, except of course the overall responsibility of making sure that state government runs efficiently and effectively," he said. "I will rely on the people that are there and, for anyone who is leaving, get some topnotch people who are ready to hit the ground running."

"Of course, I don't want people to leave, because that could create a problem with continuity," DiFrancesco added. "But where they do, and we've heard of a couple, we're going to try

and find people that are already experienced and have the know-how to deal with (the respective) departments or issues."

Whether DiFrancesco will use the coming months as a warm-up for his own gubernatorial bid in November (Whitman's term concludes in January 2002) is on many minds around the state. DiFrancesco said he is looking at this appointment as an opportunity "to see how the state government really operates from the other end, (and) to see perhaps what policy change I can make to improve on that — or perhaps put my imprint on state government the way I always thought it should be."

Knights seeking contestants for free-throw contest

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Father John S. Nelligan Council No. 5730, Knights of Columbus, is inviting girls and boys ages 10-14 to participate in its 25th annual basketball foul shooting championship, scheduled to take place at 1 p.m. Jan. 27 at St. Bartholomew's, located on Westfield Avenue.

The winners will receive certificates for their age group. All contestants will receive a participation certificate. The winners will advance to the district finals in February.

Applications can be filled out at St. Bartholomew's on Jan. 27.

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| Blenington - Hunterdon Central H.S. | Curriculum & Instruction | 15-310-500 | Fanelli | T | 5:00pm-7:40pm |
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| Morristown - Morristown H.S. | Learning Disabilities | 15-293-522 | DeMarino | T | 4:30pm-7:10pm |
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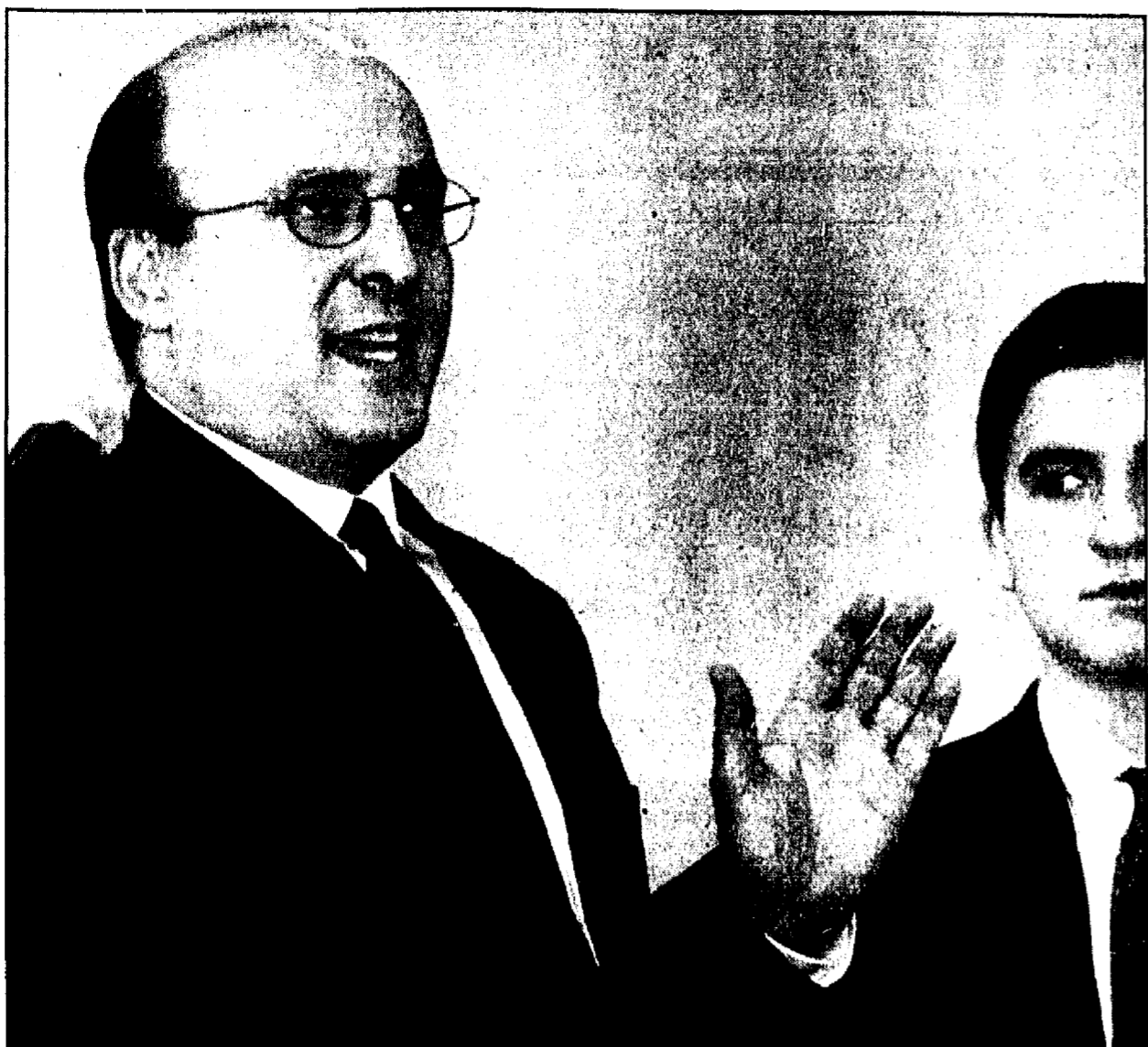
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He does solemnly swear ...

Rafael Betancourt, who won his Second Ward race for a Westfield Town Council seat in November's election, takes his oath of office Tuesday night at the council's annual reorganization meeting. New Westfield Mayor Gregory McDermott was also sworn in at the meeting, which saw various municipal appointments made for the coming year. For a complete rundown of the happenings at the reorganization meeting, please see the story on Page A-1.

Freeholders eye Route 28 study

Traffic, development along bustling road to be targeted in 2001

By THOMAS SCOTT
THE RECORD-PRESS

UNION COUNTY — Traffic flow and pedestrian concerns along Route 28 will be put under a microscope this year, thanks to a new traffic study sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Route 28 runs through the heart of downtown districts in Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Cranford, Garwood, Elizabeth, Roselle, Roselle Park and Plainfield. It is a heavily traveled east-west corridor that has been plagued in recent years by myriad traffic problems and development questions.

To answer some of those questions, the freeholders have hired the East Orange-based Louis Berger Group to complete a new traffic study. The study — which will explore traffic and pedestrian safety and the development of idle properties along Route 28 — is being paid for with federal highway and county funds.

The Berger Group was hired via

a county resolution sponsored by Freeholder Linda Stender, a resident and former mayor of Fanwood. "The Route 28 corridor has evolved from a residential to a more highly traveled commercial

"The Route 28 corridor has evolved from a residential to a more highly traveled commercial route. Property that was primarily farmland 20 years ago has changed to residential and commercial. We continue to feel the strain and frustration of these growing pains."

— Linda Stender
Union County
Board of Chosen
Freeholders

route," Stender said. "More growth in the area is behind many of the problems we're seeing. Property that was primarily farmland 20 years ago has changed to residential and commercial.

"We continue to feel the strain and frustration of these growing

pains," the freeholder added. "It's a quality of life and environmental issue."

Stender said she supports more investment in the state's transportation infrastructure to alleviate some of these constant "growing pains."

"It is important that state and federal dollars be directed into mass transit," she said. "The priority has to be set at the top, however, at the federal and state level, to allocate more money for mass transportation projects."

The goal of the study, Stender said, is to "identify the existing ... traffic patterns along Route 28" and "find ways to make traffic move smoother." That may include adjusting traffic lights, setting new speed limits or prohibiting left-hand turns "at key spots," she noted, depending on the results of the study.

But the Berger Group study — which is expected to begin soon and last up to seven months, officials said — will not be the only factor in whatever Route 28 plan the freeholders eventually formulate.

"We will look for input from local communities to see how proposals can work better," said Stender. "We recognize that change is hard without the support of residents and local officials."

Mothers & More explore keys to work-life balance

CRANFORD — Mothers & More, a not-for-profit organization supporting women who have altered their career paths to care for children at home, has scheduled a special seminar on pursuing career goals while staying home to watch the kids.

Lisa Cullhane — a representative of Flexible Resources, a

Montclair-based consulting and staffing agency — will discuss nontraditional work arrangements including permanent part-time, innovative job-sharing and telecommuting.

The presentation is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 17 at the Hanson House, located at 39 Springfield Ave. in Cranford.

The Union County Chapter of the international Mothers & More organization normally holds meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Hanson House. New members are always welcome. For more information, call Jennifer at (732) 382-7578 or Tricia at (908) 232-7352.

Town Book Store schedules visits by two authors

WESTFIELD — The Town Book Store has scheduled two appearances by authors for Jan. 13.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., New Jersey author Jan Barry is scheduled to visit the store to promote his new book, "A Citizen's Guide to Grassroots Campaigns."

According to Barry, civic movements are essential to America's freedom and quality of life, and active citizens have led the way from the American Revolution to urban renewal. However, the author notes in his book, fiery emotions and good intentions — without skillful organization — can lead to frustration.

In his book, Barry — a journalist with the *Bergen Record* — explores how individual concerns can be transformed into effective community action. Using case studies, the author hopes to provide a pragmatic, common-sense handbook for civic action, what a press release issued this week by the Town Book Store called "a guidebook for creative improvement on the American dream."

Then, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., author John Thomas is scheduled to appear to promote his new children's book, "Bindi Bindu and the Lost Turban."

The lavishly illustrated children's paperback tells the tale of Bindi Bindu's magical turban and its adventures in New York City.

The book comes complete with an audio tape of the story, according to the press release.

Visitors are invited to stop in Jan. 13 and meet the authors.

Anyone who cannot attend the event but would like to reserve a signed copy of either or both books can call the Town Book Store at (908) 233-3535.

Episcopal church sets MLK service

SCOTCH PLAINS — All Saints' Episcopal Church has scheduled a special Martin Luther King celebration.

Dr. Jeanne Noble, an Episcopal layman and educator who worked with the civil rights leader, is the scheduled guest preacher for a 10 a.m. service on Jan. 14, the day before King's birthday. Dean of the Dorothy Height Leadership Institute of the National Council of Negro Women, Noble's teaching credits include stints at New York University and the City University of New York. She is a past president of the Delta Sorority, one of the nation's largest sororities for Black women, and the author of numerous books and articles. She also served in appointed positions under Presidents Ford, Nixon and Johnson.

All Saints' Episcopal Church is located at 559 Park Ave. in Scotch Plains. For more information, please call (908) 322-8047.

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Commentary

Suggestions for a prosperous 2001

The beginning of a new year is an appropriate time to take stock of where we are and where we want to be a dozen months from now.

In the Garden State there are various questions, local and statewide, that require answers. Not every problem or issue in the state will be resolved in the next 52 weeks; some, like the racial profiling stigma settled over New Jersey, will take years to fix.

But others demand attention now. They can and should be resolved, or at least addressed, in 2001.

Here are some suggestions to help make it a productive year:

More teeth for the state Master Plan. Development in New Jersey needs to be regulated on a larger scale, and not left just to municipalities and counties. A large-scale commercial development in one county, for example, often affects life in other counties — just like the coming Union 22 Plaza may be good for Union Township but bad for Kenilworth. We need a regional or state process to oversee the impact of proposed developments; a good way to start is to put more teeth into the state's Master Plan, which defines a sensible approach to future growth in the state.

Property tax reform. This has been on our wish list for years and chances are it will be for many more years. What is needed is a radical overhaul of the way public education is funded in the state, not a patchwork of rebates and deductions that no one understands. The property tax burden falls unfairly on the shoulders of the middle-class and senior citizens on fixed incomes. Unfortunately, because it is an election year, reform is not likely to be even considered this again. We will hear talk of more gimmicks, such as rebates, but the inequitable system will likely remain in place.

School construction. Voters in the Westfield and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school districts approved the bond referendums put before them in December. The successful passage of the referendums means further state aid for the districts, and finally, long-anticipated and much-needed construction projects can begin.

We hope school officials proceed with caution. Yes, in both districts, officials have long been working on plans and designs, and they know exactly what they want to do with their newfound money. If these school officials are enthusiastic right now and itching to get started, we can understand that — they worked hard to get to this point.

But these project designs still require all levels of official approval, and the governmental bidding process is never a smooth thing.

The Westfield and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood boards of education were wise enough to identify coming problems before they spun out of control and savvy enough to get their referendums passed. Now, the real work begins. Let's hope they do it right, and as members of the community, let's support them in their efforts.

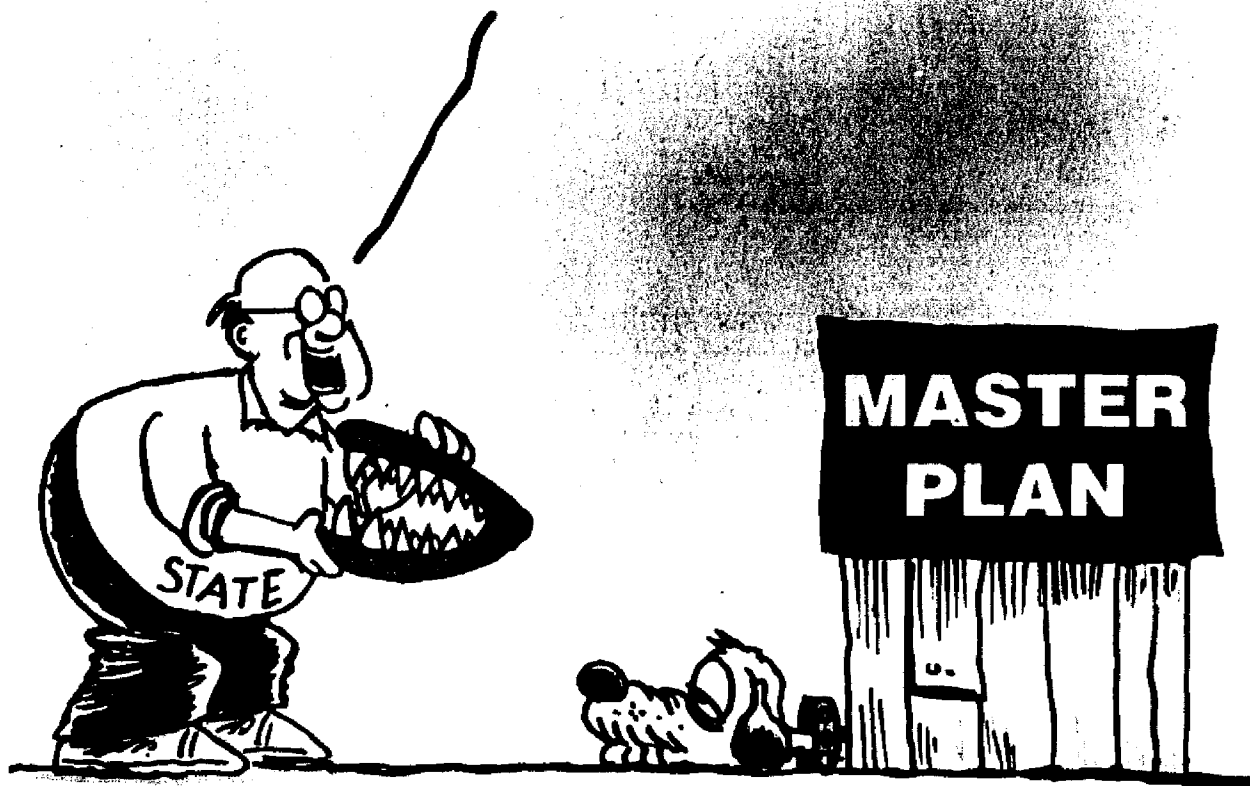
Why can't we be friends? A fundamental shift has occurred in Westfield, where Republican Gregory McDermott this week took the mayor's reins from Democrat Tom Jardim. The party affiliation of whoever sits in the Town Council's center seat, however, is less important than what is done with that leadership role.

Issues come and go in Westfield, just like everywhere else. Not every agenda item is as vital as, say, downtown parking or a resident commuter shuttle. But no item is unimportant, and whether council members are selecting a location for a parking deck or passing a resolution in honor of Arbor Day, they must learn to do so in an amicable and professional manner.

McDermott has his work cut out for him. This Town Council — which remains largely intact from its 2000 counterpart — has had problems getting along. Its cantankerous nature has at best slowed progress, and at worst been an embarrassment.

As the most visible member of the municipal government, McDermott will be charged with keeping the peace on the council, especially at heated council meetings. But the responsibility is not the mayor's alone. All council members must agree to leave their partisan differences at the door. Instead of simply saying they are willing to work for Westfield's best interests, they must prove it with their actions — and leave the posturing outside the council chambers.

OPEN WIDE



Letters to the editor

Interesting reaction to Connelly letter

To The Editor:

I found rather interesting the letter that Maryanne Connelly wrote to *The Record-Press* (Dec. 1). On the one hand, she said all the right stuff as it relates to thanking her supporters. That is at it should be.

However, I found it to be hubris of the highest degree for her to present her failed platform to congressman-elect Mike Ferguson. She persists, like Al Gore, in the deluded belief that she won. Consider a few of her more extreme points of view:

A woman's right to choose? What is it about people on the left? Do they hate the "A" word as much as we do? For your information, abortion is about the rights of irresponsible men, and their "right to privacy." The rights of women and girls have never been a part of the equation. You don't believe me? Consider the fact that some of the foremost defenders of abortion "rights" include Bill Clinton, Ted Kennedy and pornographers such as Bob Guccione, Hugh Hefner and Larry Flynt. Likewise, last summer, the New Jersey Supreme Court affirmed the right of adult men to engage in sexual relations with teenage girls. Where I come from, we call that statutory rape. Why did Maryanne Connelly support such a point of view during her campaign?

Use the budget surplus wisely? Good little liberal democrat that she is, Maryanne felt constrained to put in the words "use" and "wisely." If she could get away with spending every penny of the taxpayers money, she would do so. It's our money, and we

need a tax cut.

Maryanne Connelly — environmentalist? This is perhaps the best of her fibs. When Maryanne was on the council, serving as acting mayor, in place of the perennially absent then-Mayor Linda Stender, she tried to bulldoze approximately an acre of trees at the Fanwood railroad station for the benefit of NJ Transit. At the time, as a member of the council, along with then-Councilman and now-Mayor Louis Jung, we fought Maryanne on her efforts to destroy a piece of the Fanwood environment. (By the way, why do so-called environmental groups support Democrats on a knee-jerk basis?)

Protect Social Security? Like Maryanne, I am a baby boomer. From the looks of things, my wife and I will get our Social Security. However, for the future, the question on Social Security is not whether it will go broke but when. The program is nothing more or less than a huge chain letter scheme. My advice to anyone under 40 years of age: get into an IRA, 401(k) or other such program. If you rely on the liberal Democrats and their failed socialistic policies, you will literally starve in your old age! The best protection is reform.

Oh yeah, congratulations to Mike Ferguson on a well run campaign. The people of the 7th Congressional District wish you well.

ANDREW J. MACDONALD
Fanwood

Headlines overplayed town's support

To The Editor:

The 2,564 votes for the (Westfield school) bond were cast by the parents who have children in the school system. The 742 votes against were probably cast by retired people, and the remaining 14,000 or 15,000 registered voters didn't bother to vote because they don't care.

That hardly justifies headlines such as: "Thumbs up

for Westfield bond ..." (and) "Westfield voters embrace referendum ..." and "In a strong show of community support ..."

What community support are you talking about?
Very truly yours,

DONALD BEINER
Westfield

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) 575-6691. Our address: *The Record-Press*, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876. Our fax number is (908) 575-6683. Our e-mail address is union@njpublishing.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



Promises, promises

In recent years, I have steered clear of making new year's resolutions.

Every year, I would resolve to exercise more, eat better, quit the cigarettes and save money. But come the following New Year's Eve, I would invariably find myself out of shape, stuffed full of McNuggets, enveloped in a perpetual smoky haze and broke. The failures started wearing thin, so I stopped setting myself up for the annual disappointment. I resolved to stop making resolutions.

But now it's the first week of January and everyone else seems to be having so much fun with their resolutions. Former smokers are trembling their way down the street, snapping grumpily at whomever crosses their path; resolute dieters are merrily munching on their rice cakes and carrot sticks. Up and down the pike, people are bettering themselves, and I'm feeling a little left out.

So I've decided to come up with a tardy list of resolutions, reasonable goals I believe can be accomplished with a minimum of pain and suffering. I will not swear off cigarettes (not yet) nor back away from Big Macs (never). I will not sign up for a membership at the gym, nor will I open a new savings account, as I can barely keep anything in the one I already have.

But here and now, in front of witnesses, I make these promises for the year 2001.

I firmly resolve to:

- **Not kill a single elephant.** Elephants are our friends. No, they're not as cute as baby monkeys or a litter of puppies, but they deserve to live, just like the rest of us.

- **Eat less tofu.** It will be a sacrifice, no doubt, to give up those delectable tofu burgers. But a man's gotta do what a man's gotta do.

- **Stop pouring vinegar over the heads of world leaders.** You'd be surprised how touchy the Secret Service gets over things like that.

- **Not write any more "Z Files" about religion.** There's a mistake you only make once.

- **Cut rutabaga completely out of my diet.** I do this for Lisa's sake more than my own.

- **Watch more television.** This will be difficult, but if I can install a TV set in my bathroom and one in my car, I think it can be done.

- **Avoid contracts that don't pay me what I'm worth.** The Mets can have me, but it will cost them \$252 million. That does not include a signing bonus.

- **Stop making fun of Chads.** It's not their fault.

- **Climb a mountain with only my bare hands and some rudimentary tools.** If this doesn't pan out, I resolve to get some take-out at Taco Bell and drive up a moderate hill.

- **Finally win that Emmy.** Criminy, even Susan Lucci's got one. I must be up soon.

- **Clean out my bedroom closet.** If I can take June off, this won't be a problem.

- **Be nicer to my fellow humans.** You got a problem with that, pinhead?

- **Finish my Christmas shopping earlier.** Not enough stores are open at 4 a.m. Dec. 25.

- **Share the remote control with Lisa.** Actually, once we get a TV in the john, this shouldn't be a problem.

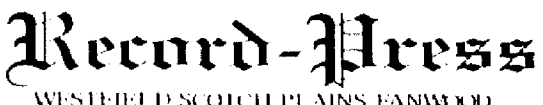
- **Reinvent the wheel.** I have always felt the basic design, while worthy, needs work.

- **Drink less coffee.** Hee hee. Heee hee hee. Haaaaa ha ha heeee! ha! HAAAA haaaa haaaa!

- **Not streak naked across the platform at the presidential inauguration.** Really, that was only funny once.

I don't want to overburden myself, so I'll stop there. It will not be easy to accomplish all of these goals in the next 12 months, but bettering yourself is never a simple thing. And like the man said, if it's easy, it's probably not worth doing, so now I'll just clam up and get to work.

First, though, I need to get a cup of joe. It's going to be a long year.




WESTFIELD SCOTCH PLAINS FANWOOD

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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) 575-6691. Our address: *The Record-Press*, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, NJ 08876. Our fax number is (908) 575-6683. Our e-mail address is union@njpublishing.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

Irwin S. Gleich

WESTFIELD — Irwin S. Gleich, 76, died Dec. 30 at St. Joseph Hospital in Savannah, Ga.

He was born in New York City and lived in Westfield before moving to Hilton Head Island in 1989.

During World War II, served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

He graduated with honors from the City College of New York.

He had been a certified public accountant and was active in the Westfield Community Players theater troupe.

He was a partner in N. Tannenbaum & Co., the accounting firm he was associat-

ed with for 38 years.

He was a member of the Townsend Harris Alumni Association and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Surviving are his wife, Gladys Wechsler Gleich, and daughters Debra of Burbank, Calif., and Cynthia Meryl Gleich Agress (and husband Ted) of Westfield.

A memorial service was held Wednesday in Hilton Head Island.

Memorial donations may be sent to American Diabetes Association, 2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 205, Columbia, SC 29204.

Margaret Johansen

SCOTCH PLAINS — Margaret B. Johansen, 80, died Dec. 26 at her home.

She was born in Plainfield and lived in Scotch Plains since 1952.

She was a member of the Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield and a former member of the Monday Afternoon Club in

Plainfield.

Surviving are her husband, Jack C.; daughter Joyce Dolan of Scotch Plains; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Services were held Friday at the Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery.

Mary Moriarty

WESTFIELD — Mary H. Moriarty, 79, died Dec. 30 in Westfield.

She was born in New York City and lived in Springfield before moving to Westfield in 1993.

Her husband, John J., died in 1993. Two sons are deceased, Neil in 1968 and Joel in 1974. Another daughter, Marianne, died in 1992.

She is survived by her daughter, Joanne Romer of Westfield, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Wednesday at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, of which Mrs. Moriarty was a parishioner. Burial was in St. Teresa's Cemetery, Summit.

Arrangements were by the Gray Funeral Home.

Ruth Bergstrom

KENILWORTH — Ruth Decker Bergstrom, 87, died Dec. 27 at her home.

She was born in Elizabeth and lived in Kenilworth since 1949.

She once was a supervisor for a toy manufacturer. She joined the Roselle Park-based Childhood Interest toy company in 1957 and retired as a supervisor in 1975.

She was a member of the Kenilworth Senior Citizens Club and the Martha Circle at Calvary Lutheran Church in

Cranford.

Predeceased by her husband, Carl G., and sons Carl G. Jr. and Howard, she is survived by daughters Constance R. Kregge and Lorraine A. Voll; 10 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Tuesday at the Mastapeter Funeral Home in Roselle Park. Burial was in Graceland Memorial Park.

Memorial donations may be sent to Calvary Lutheran Church.

Henry Kramkowski

CRANFORD — Henry E. Kramkowski, 81, died Dec. 30 at his home.

He was born in Jersey City and lived in Union before moving to Cranford in 1956.

During World War II, he was a technician third grade with Company E, 3rd Military Regiment.

He retired in 1984 after 35 years as a frame man in Jersey City with the former New Jersey Bell Telephone Co.

He was a member of the Cranford Senior Citizens Wednesday Club and a parishioner of St. Michael's Roman

Catholic Church.

Predeceased in 1986 by his wife, Emma C. Gallini Kramkowski, he is survived by daughter Rosemary Kargus of Garwood; sons Raymond of Westfield and Richard of Garwood; sisters Stella Andrews and Nellie Warren, both of Toms River; and six grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Thursday at St. Michael's Church on Alden Street. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Arrangements are by the Gray Memorial Funeral Home.

Virginia Ehrler

CRANFORD — Virginia A. Stafford Ehrler, 99, died Dec. 29 at the Cranford Hall Nursing Home.

She was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and lived in Allendale, Ho-Ho-Kus and Verona before moving to Cranford in 1956. She later moved in 1966 to New Port Richey, Fla., and returned to Cranford in 1978.

She retired in 1963 after 20 years as a seamstress with the former Hahne & Co. in Montclair.

She was a member of the Cranford Senior Citizens Tuesday Club and the Altar Rosary Society at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church. She also was a Red Cross volunteer while living in New Port Richey.

Predeceased by her husband, Vincent, she is survived by daughter Virginia A. Ball of Hobe Sound, Fla.; son Vincent Jr. of Florida; seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchild-

dren.

Visitation is 9 a.m. today at St. Michael's Church, 40 Alden St., where a funeral Mass will be follow at 9:30 a.m.

Arrangements are by the Dooley Funeral Home.

Memorial donations may be sent to Mount St. Vincent Convent, 125 Oakland St., Wellesley Hills, MA 02481.

Obituaries

Kenneth Iversen Past UCC president

CRANFORD — Kenneth W. Iversen, 88, a past president and former dean of Union County College, died Friday at Rahway Hospital.

He also was a professor at the county college and retired in 1978 after a 32-year career on its main campus in Cranford. In addition to his college duties, Dr. Iversen headed the Cranford adult school.

He received a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and psychology from Louisiana State University in 1934, a master's degree in psychology from New York University in 1940 and a

doctorate from NYU in 1945.

Dr. Iversen was born in Schenectady, N.Y., and had lived in Cranford since 1949. He was a member of the Cranford Kiwanis Club.

Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Mildred F.; a daughter, Carol Diane Iversen of Cranford; and a son, Gary Kenneth Iversen of Salinas, Calif., and Huntington, N.Y.

Private arrangements were by the Gray Memorial Funeral Home in Cranford. Donations may be sent to the Cranford First Aid Squad or Union County College.

Helen F. Slater

WESTFIELD — Helen F. Slater, 88, died Dec. 26 at Gnauden Huettner Memorial Hospital in Leighton, Pa.

She was born in Jersey City and lived in Westfield before moving in 1988 to Jim Thorpe, Pa.

She had been a clerical worker in New Jersey prior to her retirement.

Predeceased in 1971 by her husband, Alexander Joseph Slater, she is survived by son Richard of Jim Thorpe; daughter Joan Schasny (and husband

Theodore) of Hendersonville, N.C.; three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, a niece and a nephew.

A memorial service was held Tuesday at Redeemer Lutheran Church, of which Mrs. Slater was a member.

Arrangements were by the Edward F. Melber Funeral Home in Jim Thorpe.

Memorial donations may be sent to American Cancer Society, 33 W. Ridge St., Lansford, PA 18232.

Rose Bracchitta

CRANFORD — Rose Barraia Bracchitta, 87, died Dec. 25 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

She was born in New York City and lived in Cranford before moving to Westfield in 1934.

She received an associate's degree in business from the Drake Business College in Elizabeth.

She once was a chief operator with the former New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. She was with New Jersey Bell for more than 39 years and retired in 1968 from its Elizabeth offices.

A member of the Telephone Pioneers of America, she was a longtime member of the Altar Rosary Society and Senior Social Club at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.

Surviving are her husband, Salvatore, and daughter Joan Cavanaugh of Westfield.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Thursday at Holy Trinity Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Colonial Home in Westfield.

Peter Piccirillo

CRANFORD — Peter Anthony Piccirillo, 90, died Dec. 26 at Rahway Hospital.

He was born in Newark and lived in Cranford since 1947.

He was a decorated World War II soldier. He served in northern France, Belgium and the Netherlands with Company C, 40th Tank Battalion, 7th Armored Division. He was awarded a Purple Heart plus the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three bronze stars.

In civilian life, he was a warehouse worker with Dodge Motors

in Newark prior to his 1975 retirement.

He was a life member of New Jersey Chapter 524, 7th Armored Division Association, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 681 in Clark.

Surviving is his friend of 50 years, Anna Gymkowski of Cranford.

Services were held Tuesday in the chapel at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Arnytown.

Arrangements were by the Pettit-Davis Funeral Home in Rahway.

Hannah Buzzone

CRANFORD — Hannah B. Phillips Buzzone, 87, died Dec. 25 at her home.

She was born in Arcola, Va., and lived in Cranford since 1960.

She worked in a defense plant in Newark during World War II.

She was a banker with the former Kenilworth State Bank.

She also was a member of the Cranford Senior Citizens Wednesday Club; Order of the Eastern Star Chapter 87; and the Ladies Auxiliary to Capt. Newell Rodney Fiske Post 335, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Surviving are her husband of

49 years, George; daughters Lois Garrison, Nancy Powers and Cheryl Miller; brother Chester Phillips; sister Bessie McDermott; 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Services were held Dec. 29 at the Cranford United Methodist Church, of which Mrs. Buzzone was a member. Entombment was in the Hollywood Memorial Park mausoleum, Union.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Funeral Home.

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
NOTICE OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION.
(In compliance with open public meetings act chapter 231, p.l. 1975)
Notice is hereby given by the Environmental Commission of the Township of Scotch Plains of the following Scheduled Meetings:

- January 8, 2001
 - February 12, 2001
 - March 12, 2001
 - April 9, 2001
 - May 14, 2001
 - June 11, 2001
 - July 9, 2001
 - August 13, 2001
 - September 10, 2001
 - October 22, 2001
 - November 26, 2001
 - December 10, 2001
- All meetings are held at 8:00 p.m. on the second floor of the Municipal Building, Room 202, located at 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. HPI 11 15/01 \$12.69

Jerome Morrow

WESTFIELD — Jerome Samuel Morrow died Dec. 24 at his home.

He was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and lived in Mountainside before moving to Westfield in 1978.

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

He graduated from New York University.

He developed a transdermal delivery system for medication while with Ciba-Geigy Corp. (now Novartis Corp.). He retired from Ciba-Geigy in

1992 as its director of medical affairs, based in Summit.

He was a member of the American Board of Rheumatology, the Masonic lodge in Westfield and the Salaam Temple in Livingston.

Surviving are his wife, Phyllis Reder Morrow, and daughter Lisa.

Graveside services were held Dec. 26 at Mount Ararat Cemetery in Farmingdale, N.Y.

Arrangements were by the Menorah Chapels at Millburn, in Union.

Salvatore Amoroso

WESTFIELD — Salvatore J. Amoroso, 82, died Dec. 24 in Garwood.

He was born in Kenilworth and lived in Westfield since 1955.

He retired in 1992 after 60 years as the owner of Mayfair Provisions in Kenilworth.

He was a member of the Elks lodge in Mountainside.

Predeceased by his wife, Mildred Del Conte Amoroso, he is survived by daughters Mildred Marris, Dolores

DiFonzo, Ruth Venturella and Shirley; brother Pat DeSure; 10 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Dec. 28 at the Mastapeter Funeral Home, Roselle Park, followed by a funeral Mass at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Garwood First Aid Squad.

Lorraine Kwasek

WESTFIELD — Lorraine E. Kowalewski Kwasek, 75, died Dec. 27 at St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark.

She was born in Newark and lived in Westfield since 1952.

She had been a bookkeeper for the Westfield High School cafeteria for the past 30 years.

Predeceased in 1986 by her husband, John, and in 1999 by sister Helen Wolfe, she is survived by her mother, Mary Cowalewski of Homestead,

Fla.; son Philip of Westfield; daughter Lorrie Bielen of Ringoes; brother Stanley Kowalewski of Keansburg; and sister Dorothy Wall of Bayville.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, of which Mrs. Kwasek was a parishioner. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery with arrangements by the Dooley Colonial Home.

G. Arthur Lepree

CRANFORD — G. Arthur Lepree, 91, died Dec. 27 at the Monroe Village Health Center in Monroe.

A native of Elizabeth, he lived in Cranford and Jamesburg before moving to Monroe in 1992.

He graduated from the New Jersey Law School (now the Rutgers Law School) in 1929.

He began a 52-year grocery career as a delivery boy and ended it as a supermarket executive.

He started delivering groceries at age 13; he continued to work part-time through high school and college.

He joined the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. in 1929 and worked in A&P's national claims and personnel depart-

ments until his retirement in 1974.

Surviving are his wife, Candida Crincoli Lepree; daughter Andrea Richel of Berkeley Heights; son Robert of Fanwood; sister Ellen Farinola of Stamford, Conn.; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

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

Memorial donations may be sent to Center for Hope Hospice, 176 Hussa St., Linden, NJ 07036, or to the American Heart Association, 2550 Route 1, North Brunswick, NJ 08902-4301.

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How to submit obituaries to the Record-Press

The Record-Press prints obituaries and memorial service notices free of charge.
The deadline for submission of obituaries is noon Tuesday.
Obituaries received after this time will be published the following week.
Please ask funeral directors to forward the information to us via fax at (908) 575-6683 or e-mail at union@njnpublishing.com.
For more information, call Editor Gregory Zeller at (908) 575-6686.

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McDermott takes the oath

(Continued from page A-1)
Other appointments would also draw fire from council dissenters. Salisbury, Goldman, and Lazarowitz abstained from the vote to appoint Danser as labor attorney, as did McDermott, citing a possible conflict of interest. Goldman said he was for the appointment of Keith Hertell to the Westfield Recreation Commission, but not for Hertell's appointment as its chairman.
Mayoral appointments to the Planning Board included Jay Boyle, a former candidate for council from the Forth Ward, as the mayor's designate; and Kenneth B. Marsh, Jay McDonald, Vic Trzesniowski and Rich Ebert as full members.

Betancourt was appointed council liaison to the Planning Board. Zoning Board of Adjustments appointees included David Haas and Frank Isoldi, with Michael Brandman and Jane Sentiven selected as alternate members.
Appointees to the town's Special Improvement Board included Joseph Spector as a property owner; Bernadette M. Houston as a merchant; Councilman Matt Albano as the Town Council designee; Alan DeRose as the designee for the mayor; and Jim Gildea as the designee for the town administrator.
As he assumed the center seat, McDermott called on the special sense of spirit, which he said dates back to the Colonial

origins of the town, to forge a new partnership between town and government.
"Some 300 years later, I hope to invoke that same public sense, that same sense of community that has served this town so well for so long," the mayor said. "In fact, I am counting on the good people of this town to help me usher in the new millennium not as spectator, but as full participants in the process of government."
McDermott also reiterated campaign pledges to address the downtown parking deck, improve town playing fields, develop a long-range capital plan and call for greater accountability from municipal boards and committees.

Mayor to work for tax relief

(Continued from page A-1)
SP-F Parent-Teacher Association Council.
Marks as will serve as council liaison to the Township Environmental Commissioner, and appointed commission members Joanne Ryan, Brian Doyle and Cathy Budzinski. Jonathan Lindros and James Denman were named as alternate members.
Appointments to the Towne Centre Task Force included Ray Pardon, Steve Goldberg, Vi Brown, Peter Tripet, Samuel, Seymour Stein, Bruce Yakre and Robert LaCosta.
The mayor opened 2001 with the theme of rising property taxes and the way they are eating away at the economic stability of longstanding members of town and their families.
"We are a bedroom community, (but) along with that comes the fact that close to 90 percent of our tax revenues base comes from residential taxpayers," the mayor said. "We do not have a

(municipal) sales or income tax ... nor do we receive the kind of state municipal aid some other communities receive."
Marks has a strategy to work against a local tax increase. "The

DiFrancesco stumping point. "Return money from whence it came," the mayor said. "To the property taxpayers of New Jersey. DiFrancesco and I are on the same page on this philosophy."
Marks said he is also strong on pursuing shared services opportunities with neighboring municipalities and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District.
Shifting gears, Marks noted some of the successes of 2000 — including the township's "open government" policies, initiatives for improvements in the downtown district and closing the gap on Marks' 1998 promise to create five new ball fields in five years.
Several projects already discussed or planned for completion in 2001 — such as the completion of the Route 22 overpass, reaching a decision on the sale and development of the Hedge Property and commencing work on the Terry Park — will be completed this year, Marks said.

"We are a bedroom community, (but) along with that comes the fact that close to 90 percent of our tax revenues base comes from residential taxpayers."

— Martin Marks
Mayor of Scotch Plains

Jung focuses on the future

(Continued from page A-1)
George Weiss and Robert Buck to the borough's Assessment Commission; Dean Talcott, Judith Nadolny and Pat Plante to the borough's Environmental Commission; Nancy Koederitz and Gregory Cummings to the borough's Planning Board, with William Populus and Regina Tenzer serving as alternates and Sophie Kauchak serving as the mayor's Planning Board representative.
The mayor also named Harry McNally as his representative on the Union County Transportation Advisory Committee named

McNally and Plante to the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition.
Appointed chairmen of standing borough committees include Stuart Kline for the Administration and Finance Committee and Whitaker for the Land Use and Historic Preservation.
Jung took a moment at Monday's reorganization to give a word of thanks to Cynthia Swindlehurst for her 10 months of service on the Borough Council, and especially for her review of the revised land use ordinance. Swindlehurst will be formally recognized at a council meeting on Thursday, officials said.

Looking ahead, Jung said the top priority for 2001 will be Fanwood's downtown area. "We can't afford for it not to be," the mayor said. "Surveys show that Fanwoodians want more and better retail stores, as well as additional, appropriate residential housing."
The next major priority, Jung said, will be the two borough parks — Carriage House Park and Forest Road Park.
"Using funds from a 1999 county park grant, a 2000 county Seniors Facilities grant and Fanwood capital funds, the Recreation Commission will be overseeing projects that will include the expansion and upgrade of facilities at Forest Road Park and the upgrade of two ball fields," the mayor said.

Towns triumph over first

(Continued from page A-1)
including Rahway Boulevard and Lawrence, Rahway and Summit avenues. "Depending on the depth, we hit the main roads first, then the secondary roads," he said. "Smaller trucks in each area — there are 18 areas — clean up secondary roads."
In Scotch Plains, the road-plowing arm of the Public Works Department was also prepared for long days and nights of clearing township roads. "Our New Year's party plans will be cut a little short this year," Public Works Foreman Dave Klastava said Saturday as the snows continued to fall. "Overall, we expect to have about 25 trucks — including outside contractors — clearing roads."
Klastava brought to bear all 17 members of the Scotch Plains Public Works Department, as well as five members of the Recreation Department and 21 other workers hired under seven separate contracts, according to the foreman.

They operated the township's fleet of two wing-tip plows, three front end loaders, five trucks for sand and salt and "numerous smaller trucks with plows," Klastava said.
In Fanwood, eight Public Works employees — including borough Director Ray Manfra — took to the streets early on Saturday. That, according to Manfra, is the key to battling a major snow event.
"It's not just plowing the streets," he said. "You have to salt. You have to sand. To do a snow-storm correctly, you have to get out there early and start salting the streets. You have to fight a snow-storm from the ground up."
Helping Fanwood win that fight, according to Manfra, were two things: the type of snow that fell in Saturday's storm and the fact the storm struck on a day when most people could stay home.
"We had two things in our favor," he said. "Number one, it was on a weekend, which helped with traffic. And number two, it was a dry snow,

which helped with the plowing. It's a lot easier on us and our equipment. When you start to roll that many inches, the powdery stuff moves pretty easily."
Manfra's department got busy Saturday with three dump trucks, a packer truck and a front-end loader, each armed with a plow, as well as two plow-packing pick-up trucks that targeted Fanwood's cul-de-sacs and dead-end roads. That was enough equipment, the Public Works director said, to keep the borough's roads clear — and its residents happy.
"The complaints have been very, very little," Manfra said. "Wet snow, you get a lot of calls. But we've had very few calls."
While Fanwood was able to handle the season's first major storm, Manfra — a veteran public works employee — said one snow event would be enough for this winter. "I think the snow is pretty," he said. "It's all part of the job. But after 30 years, you kind of get tired of it."

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(908) 688-8545
(908) 688-8447



GEORGE PACCIELLO/RECORD-PRESS

The snow must go on

By late Saturday, the sun was shining on Mindwaskin Park in Westfield — on the park, and on the better than 15 inches of snow that covered the park grounds. The sunny skies belied the ferocious nature of the storm, which at times produced three inches of snow per hour and left area roads an icy mess.

Openings available in Vo-Tech spring classes

SCOTCH PLAINS — Day classes for the spring semester of the Union County Vocational-Technical School are scheduled to begin Jan. 22.

Openings are available for adult students in five particular classes. The classes involved are Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology; Automotive Technology; Baking; Carpentry/Construction; and Cosmetology and Culinary Arts.

Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology is full-time or part-time; it prepares people for work on HVAC systems.

Automotive Technology is full-time or part-time. It offers training for certification in repairing brakes, steering/suspension, engine performance, heating/air conditioning systems, electrical systems, engines and transmissions. An introduction to

dynamometer work is included.

Baking is also full-time or part-time. Students learn how to bake bread, cake, pies, pastry, cookies and muffins. Specialty items and fancy desserts are also covered.

Carpentry/Construction has one of the highest job placement rates for vo-tech graduates, according to a press release from the vo-tech school. The class is full-time or part-time.

Cosmetology is full-time only; it gives students the required training for the New Jersey cosmetology licensing examination in one school year.

Culinary Arts also is full-time only. Graduates get to work as chefs, sous chefs, banquet cooks, relief cooks, garde managers and prep cooks.

For more information, call (908) 889-8288, ext. 340 or ext. 341.

Workshop helps divorcees with recoveries, new starts

WESTFIELD — The First United Methodist Church of Westfield has announced a new program aimed at supporting those who have undergone a recent divorce.

"Starting Again: A Divorce Recovery Workshop" is slated to be held at the church on seven Tuesday nights, beginning Jan. 16. It is scheduled to run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night and is open to all area persons who are currently in the process of a divorce, or have recently undergone a divorce.

The Rev. Dan Bottorff, a licensed marriage and family

therapist with over 15 years of experience, is slated to serve as facilitator for the workshop. Bottorff is also the associate minister for Pastoral Care and Nurture at First United Methodist.

A \$35 contribution is suggested for the complete series of seven sessions. Financial assistance and child care will be available upon request, according to a press release issued this week by the church.

The church is located at 1 East Broad St. For more information, or to register for the workshop, please call the church office at (908) 233-4211.

Briefs

Association plans Martin Luther King activities

WESTFIELD — The Martin Luther King Association has announced its town-wide activities for the annual holiday on Jan. 15.

A procession is scheduled to begin at noon from Bethel Baptist Church on Trinity Place in Westfield. The procession will go through Westfield and end at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church on Lamberts Mill Road, where a memorial service is slated to follow at 1 p.m.

Dr. Kenneth Saunders, pastor of North Stelton A.M.E. Church in Piscataway, is the scheduled keynote speaker for the memorial service.

In addition, winners of a special Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest — which was open to Westfield School District students — will be honored in each grade level. Last year, more than 700 pupils submitted essays, with the first-place winners reading their essays at the memorial service.

Fanwood library to screen Hollywood hits

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Memorial Library, located on North Avenue, has scheduled a "Friday Film Festival" of Hollywood hits for January.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. for each movie, which will be shown in the library's downstairs Fanwood Room.

Titles scheduled to be included in this month's Friday films are "The Green Mile" on Jan. 12; "The Patriot" (with Mel Gibson) on Jan. 19; and "High Fidelity" on Jan. 26.

Admission to each film is free and snacks will be provided. For more information, call (908) 322-6400.

College Club accepts scholarship applications

SCOTCH PLAINS — Applications are now available for scholarships sponsored by the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains.

The grants are awarded to current high school seniors who plan to attend a four-year college, and are also awarded to current college students. To qualify, high school seniors must live in Fanwood or Scotch Plains and college students must have lived in the borough or township when they graduated from high school.

For high school students, applications are available in the guidance office at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. For college students, applications must be obtained in writing from scholarship Chairman Manya S. Ungar, 10 Brandywine Court, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

Each application must include letters of reference, a transcript and (for high school students only) SAT scores.

Applications must be postmarked by March 1; hand-delivered applications will not be accepted.

Last year the College Club awarded \$14,500 in grants to 10 young women.

Questions may be referred to Anna Martinelli at (908) 233-1601.

Specialty camps sponsored by JCC of CNJ

SCOTCH PLAINS — Tsofim Specialty Camps are the newest summer camps sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey.

Campers in grades four through six are invited to an open house for the specialty camps, scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the JCC, located at 1391 Martine Ave. in Scotch Plains. Camp officials will be on-hand to conduct registration.

Adventure travel, soccer, baseball, basketball, all sports, fine arts, theater arts and gymnastics/dance are the specialty camps' themes. Each camp is offered in two-week sessions. Campers must sign up for at least two sessions, neither of which need be consecutive.

Most specialty camps will be at the Springfield municipal pool; transportation to and from the JCC is included. Theater arts and gymnastics/dance camps will be in separate locations.

For more information, call (908) 889-8800, ext. 236.

Births

Jim and Lisa Marano of Garwood are parents of twin daughters, **Victoria Ann and Samantha Jamie Marano**, born Dec. 17, 2000 at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston.

Victoria Ann weighed 5 pounds 5 ounces and was 17 inches long; she was born at 2:48 a.m. Samantha Jamie also weighed 5 pounds 5 ounces and

was 18 inches long; she was born at 2:49 a.m.

Maternal grandparents are Bill and Joanne Gall of Cranford. Paternal grandparents are Ralph and Adeline Marano of Westfield. Maternal great-grandparents are Sadie Aliseo of Cranford and Phyllis Pugliese of Clark. The paternal great-grandmother is Grace Marano of Garwood.

This week

SATURDAY

JAN. 6

CPR TRAINING — for the "professional rescuer." American Red Cross, 321 Elm St., Westfield, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Cost \$60. Registration required; call (908) 232-7090.

OPEN HOUSE — for students interested in Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 10 a.m.-noon. Call (908) 709-7518.

'A SHOT IN THE DARK' — stage play not related to the second "Pink Panther" movie. Westfield Community Players, 1000 North Ave. West, Westfield, 8 p.m. Jan. 6, 13, 19, 20. Cost \$12. Tickets: Call (908) 232-1221.

SUNDAY

JAN. 7

SKI TRIP — to Camelback, sponsored by Westfield Recreation Commission. Bus leaves Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield, 6 a.m. Cost \$55. Registration: Call (908) 789-4090.

INTERFAITH SINGLES — for single adults over 45. First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield, 9 a.m. Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28. Cost \$2. Call (908) 889-5265 or (908) 889-4751.

MONDAY

JAN. 8

BREASTFEEDING? — La Leche League of Westfield meeting at "Blue House," Westfield Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, 8 p.m. Call (908) 301-1339.

TUESDAY

JAN. 9

OPEN HOUSE — for Cisco (computer systems) training. Roy W. Smith Theater, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 1-3 and 6-8 p.m. Call (908) 709-7603.

MONTHLY MEETING — and installation of officers of 2001 officers for Fanwood Republican Club. Railroad station, North Avenue, Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Call (908) 322-3241.

OPEN HOUSE — for Tsofim specialty camps. Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey, 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, 7:30 p.m. Call (908) 889-8800, Ext. 236.

WEDNESDAY

JAN. 10

EAT WELL — nutritionist workshop in Community Room, Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield, 10 a.m. Free. Call (908) 789-4080.

FRIDAY

JAN. 12

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICK — "The Green Mile," Tom Hanks hit from 1999-Y2K. Fanwood Memorial Library, North Avenue, Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Free. Call (908) 322-6400.

COMING UP

CULINARY SEDUCTIONS — cooking class for singles. Classic Thyme Cooking School, 161 E. Broad St., Westfield, 7 p.m. Jan. 13. Cost \$65. Visit www.thatskismet.com or call (908) 232-8827.

WATERCOLOR CHARM — demonstration with Joan McKinney. Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield, 2-4 p.m. Jan. 14. Call (908) 687-2945.

MLK SERVICE — at St. Helen's Church, 1600 Rahway Ave., Westfield, 1 p.m. Jan. 15. Procession begins at noon from Bethel Baptist Church, 539 Trinity Place, Westfield. Call (908) 789-4420.

STARTING AGAIN — first of seven-part "divorce recovery" workshop. First United Methodist Church, 1 E. Broad St., Westfield, 7 p.m. Jan. 16. Cost \$35. Registration: Call (908) 233-4211.

TAKING STOCK — "The Basics of Investing: Surviving Market Volatility" for singles. 109 North Ave. East, Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18. Cost \$10. Visit www.thatskismet.com or call (908) 232-8827.

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICK — "The Patriot," Mel Gibson hit from Fourth of July last. Fanwood Memorial Library, North Avenue, Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 19. Free. Call (908) 322-6400.

VINEYARD TRIP — to Renault Winery, sponsored by Westfield Recreation Commission. Bus leaves Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield, 9 a.m. Jan. 20. Cost \$30. Registration: Call (908) 789-4090.

NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY — Edward Jackowski, chief executive officer of fitness company Exude. Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey, 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, 1:30 p.m. Jan. 21. Call (908) 889-8800, Ext. 224.

HYPNOSIS — workshop in Community Room, Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22. Free. Call (908) 789-4080.

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICK — "High Fidelity," Disney release from spring 2K. Fanwood Memorial Library, North Avenue, Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 26. Free. Call (908) 322-6400.

SINGLES GAME SHOW — "What Would You Do for Romance?" Bravo Center, 1100 South Ave. West, Westfield, 8:30 p.m. Jan. 27. Cost \$30. Visit www.thatskismet.com or call (908) 232-8827.

BUSTRIIP — for "Beauty and the Beast" at Continental Arena. Bus leaves Municipal Building, 430 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, 1:45 p.m. Jan. 28. Scotch Plains residents \$28; non-residents \$30. Prepayment required; call (908) 322-6700, Ext. 222.

YOGA — workshops in Community Room, Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St., Westfield, 9-10, 10:15-11:15 a.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. Jan. 29. Free. Call (908) 789-4080.

Epiphany, Seekers services slated at First United church

WESTFIELD — Epiphany services at the First United Methodist Church on East Broad Street are scheduled for Sunday.

Rev. David E. Harwood, senior minister, will deliver the sermon "On Not Being Overwhelmed." The church's schedule:

Sunday — Seekers Service, 9:30 a.m. (child care available). Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Fellowship, 10:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. (child care available). Lunch, noon. Youth Fellowship and music, 6 p.m.

Monday — Mothers' Group, 9:15 a.m. Boy Scouts, 7 p.m. Stephen Ministry, 7:30 p.m. Oratorio Singers, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday — Bible study, 9:30 a.m. Five and Drum Corps, 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry training, 7 p.m.

Wednesday — Disciple Bible study, 7:30 p.m. Spiritual Life, 8 p.m.

Thursday — Sanctuary Choir, 7:30 p.m. Men's Cornerstone, 7:30 p.m.

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

Golden Nuggets SENIORS

Old Guard of Westfield Area

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

Meetings are 10 a.m. every Thursday at the Westfield Y on Clark Street. Programs:

Jan. 11 — Joe Gibilisco on sports memorabilia.

Jan. 18 — Doctors Workshop Bureau speaker on general health and lower back pain.

Jan. 25 — Robert Miller on the sinking of the USS Monitor (1862).

Group activities for the Old Guard include golf, bowling, bridge, day trips, luncheons, shuffleboard and women's events. In addition, the Old Guard sponsors the Merryman chorus that sings for charity functions, public gatherings and formal concerts.

For more information, call Robert Broadwell at (908) 232-5150.

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BEST BETS

Philharmonia schedules New Year's performance

WEST ORANGE — A New Year's concert has been scheduled by the Philharmonia intermediate orchestra.

The Philharmonia is an intermediate orchestra sponsored by the New Jersey Youth Symphony for student musicians in grades 6-9. The New Year's concert is scheduled to begin 3 p.m. Jan. 14 at Seton Hall Preparatory School in West Orange.

The program is slated to include the Symphony No. 1 in C major, by Ludwig von Beethoven; the "Marche Militaire Francaise," by Camille Saint-Saens; the "Symphonie Antiquie," by Emma Lou Diemer; the "Marche of Homage," by Edvard Grieg; and "On the Trail," from the "Grand Canyon" suite by Ferde Grofé.

Among the musicians are Matthew Bierman and Brian Marken, both of Cranford; Theodore Chou, Carina Don, James McCabe, Lizzy Myers and Eunice Park, all of Westfield; and Hyacinth Dyogi of Scotch Plains.

Admission is by a donation at the door. For more information, call (908) 771-5544.

Trinity Concerts sets trumpet, organ recital

CRANFORD — Trinity Concerts at Trinity Episcopal Church has scheduled a recital for 4 p.m. Sunday with Donald Batchelder, trumpet, and James Little, organ.

Batchelder plays the principal trumpet in the Westfield Symphony Orchestra and the Stamford Symphony. A member of the music faculty at Montclair State University, he also has been acting principal trumpet player in the New York City Opera orchestra since February.

Little is director of the Westfield-based Choral Art Society of New Jersey, which gives choral concerts throughout the area. As organist and choir-master of Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit he serves as director of three choirs and a concert series.

A free-will offering will be received. For more information, call (908) 276-4047.

Trinity Episcopal Church is located off North Avenue East at Forest Avenue in Cranford.

Westfield temple hosts fifth Israeli film festival

WESTFIELD — Temple Emanu-El is hosting fifth-annual Israeli Film Festival.

The festival is scheduled to take place Jan. 17 and Jan. 31, beginning at 7:30 p.m. each night.

The featured movie on Jan. 17 is scheduled to be "Crossfire," the story of a Jewish girl and an Arab boy who fall in love in 1948 Palestine. As Jews and Arabs prepare for the war to come, the young couple secretly carries on their romance.

On Jan. 31, two short films — each lasting approximately 45 minutes — will be featured. "The Fifth Commandment" and "Longing" both focus on one of the greatest rifts in modern Israeli — secularism versus religion.

A short discussion will follow each film. Both evening's programs are offered free of charge and the public is invited to attend.

Temple Emanu-El is located at 756 East Broad St. in Westfield. For more information, please call Carolyn Shane at (908) 232-6770.

Armory eyes vision quest with Remodeling Showcase

MORRIS — Whether you've just bought a home or you've lived in the same place for years, chances are you have a list of home improvement ideas.

There's landscaping, which can improve your "curb appeal." You can install new cabinets in your kitchen, bath or den. With a little redesigning, you can turn a basement into a laundry or a recreation room.

If you want to bring those ideas into reality, a place to start is the seventh-annual Garden State Home Design and

Landscape Show. The National Guard armory in Morris Township is about to be turned into a "Total Home Remodeling Showcase."

Show hours are scheduled for 4 p.m.-10 p.m. Jan. 12; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Jan. 13; 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Jan. 14; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Jan. 15.

Landscapers, architects, builders and contractors are preparing to convert the armory into their vision quest: Thousands of feet of lush gardens, sculptured shrubs, yard

ponds and cobblestone-covered walkways.

More than 150 exhibitors are scheduled to bring their appliances, sun-rooms, awnings, windows, doors, fireplaces, floors, carpet, spas, pools and other niceties.

Want to add some "curb appeal" but don't know where to start? Bring some pictures (but not if the curb is covered with snow from the New Year's weekend storm). The landscape architects will show how you can frame a house with flowers

planted along the foundation.

Gotta have security? Find out which shrubs will make your house more secure and which will grow best when you plant them.

Does the kitchen need to get an overhaul? Start with a new floor. Work your way up to counters, cabinets, built-in appliances and other accents. New Jersey chefs plan to put those built-in appliances to good use by showing off cooking skills.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$2 for children under 12 and free

for toddlers.

Bagels, coffee and full meals are available in the deli on site.

From Union County take Route 22 West into Bridgewater, then Interstate 287 North to Exit 35. Follow Route 124 West around the Morristown Green to the stop light at Western Avenue. Turn left and go about 1 1/2 miles. The armory and parking are on your left.

For more information, call (973) 326-1333 during show hours.

Busy seasons set at County Arts Center

RAHWAY — The Union County Arts Center has issued its winter and spring schedule:

- Liz Story in "A Winter Solstice Concert," 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 13. Admission is \$25 and \$18.

- "Five Guys Named Moe" (Broadway musical), 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20. Admission is \$18.

- Chuck Mangione (70's jazz star), 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27. Admission is \$28-\$20.

- The Amazing Kreskin, 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2. Admission is \$18.

- Westfield Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3. The program includes "Creation of the World" by Milhaud, the "L'Arlesienne Suites" by Bizet and a piano concerto by McGurty. Admission is \$40-\$25.

- "Ramona Quimby" (stage play for families), 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4. Admission is \$9.

- The Lettermen (60's pop vocal group), 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10. Admission is \$24-\$17.

- "Unforgettable: The Nat 'King' Cole Story," 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11. Admission is \$18.

- "Baba Yaga and Other Folktales," 3 p.m. Sunday, March 4. Admission is \$9 for adults and free for children under 12.

- Benny Goodman Tribute Orchestra, 1 p.m. Thursday, April 5. Admission is \$15.

- Maureen McGovern (singer) and John Pizzarelli (guitarist), 8 p.m. Saturday, April 7. Admission is \$36-\$26.

- "The Adventures of Peter Rabbit" (stage play for families), 1 p.m. Saturday, April 14. Admission is \$9.

- Blood, Sweat and Tears

(60's rock group), 8 p.m. Saturday, April 21. Admission \$32-\$22.

- Sammy Kaye Tribute Orchestra, 1 p.m. Thursday, May 3. Admission is \$15.

- "Snoopy: The Musical," 3 and 7 p.m. Sunday, May 6. Admission is \$18.

- The Manhattan Transfer (vocal group), 8 p.m. Friday, May 12. Admission is \$40-\$28.

In addition, the Union County Arts Center is the sole New Jersey location for the Library of Congress Film Preservation Tour. Titles scheduled:

- "Big Business" (1929, silent) and "Dr. Strangelove" (1963), 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22.

- "What's Opera, Doc?" (1957, animated) and "Yankee Doodle Dandy" (1942), 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23.

- "What's Opera, Doc?" (1957, animated), "Gertie the Dinosaur" (1914, animated, silent) and "Duck Soup" (1933), 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24.

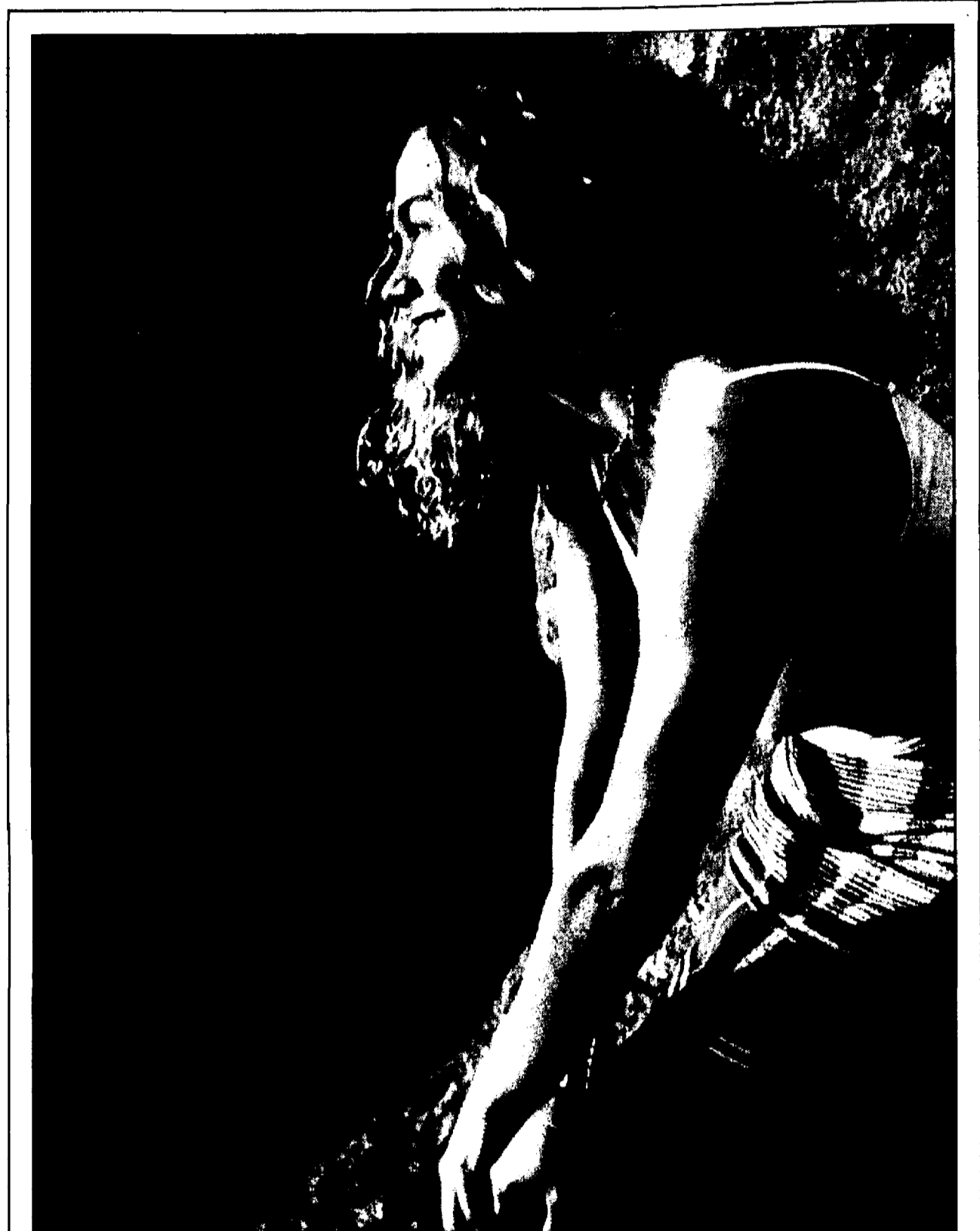
- "On the Waterfront" (1954), 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24.

- "The Great Train Robbery" (1903, silent) and "Raging Bull" (1980), 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24.

- "The Great Train Robbery" (1903, silent) and "Safety Last" (1923, silent), 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25.

- "Jammin' the Blues" (1944) and "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre" (1958), 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25.

For more information, visit www.ucac.org on the World Wide Web or call (732) 499-8226.



All new, all cool

The Sands Casino Hotel in Atlantic City is continuing its "all new, all cool" theme in 2001 with the January premier of its New Artist Series. Kicking off the series on Jan. 27 is Sally Taylor, daughter of Carly Simon and James Taylor. She arrived on the music scene in the last year and has already completed three national tours. She recently co-wrote and recorded a duet with her mother for the soundtrack of the motion picture "Anywhere But Here," and also appeared on the "Me, Myself and Irene" soundtrack with a cover of Beverly Bremers' "Don't Say You Don't Remember." Tickets for the Jan. 27 show and all performances in the New Artist Series are \$15 apiece; the series is slated to continue in February with the Big Kahuna & The Copa Cats and a joint performance by A.J. Croce and Carl Thomas. For tickets or more information, call the Sands Casino Hotel at (609) 441-4000.

CHINESE

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Fall in love with tasty, easy pasta

Pasta amatriciana (Love of pasta)

- 4 tablespoons virgin olive oil
- 4 medium onions, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 pound bacon, cut into 1/4-inch pieces
- 1 two-pound can crushed tomatoes
- 3/4 cup red wine
- 1 pound spaghetti or ziti pasta
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup grated cheese (optional)
- 1 small can pitted olives



Let's get back to my favorite dish of food — pasta. Pasta can be served every night of the week and at my house, we never get tired of it. Since there are so many ways to prepare the pasta, I thought I would send along a recipe which is very tasty and, most of all, very easy to prepare.

The flavor of this week's dish, *pasta amatriciana* (love of pasta), is very unique. The calls for second helpings will come from all around the table!

If you have any questions, please contact me via fax at (908) 272-2974.

In the meantime, *buon appetito!* Enjoy!

Heat the olive oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add the chopped onions and sauté for five minutes.

Stir in the bacon pieces and garlic until the bacon is translucent. Then stir in the tomatoes, sugar and wine, and season to taste (this recipe doesn't normally call for extra salt, since the bacon adds plenty).

Simmer the sauce, uncovered, for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the olives for the last 15 minutes of simmering.

In a separate pot, boil water for the pasta. Remember to add a drop of

oil so the pasta won't stick! Cook your spaghetti or ziti, and serve the sauce over the pasta. Top with grated cheese, if desired. *Ecco, tutto e pronto!*

To my fellow cooks and readers,

I would like to take this opportunity during the holiday season and the beginning of the New Year to thank all of you for your interest and for the kind remarks I have received through faxes, telephone calls and people who have approached me personally.

In 2001, I will have many more interesting and delicious recipes to share with you.

Have a happy and healthy new year!

— Susan Mauriello

Recent releases

"Bounce" — Ben Affleck plays Buddy Amaral, a benignly arrogant ad exec stuck at a snowed-in airport. He meets up with both a friendly blonde named Mimi (Natasha Henstridge) and a homesick writer named Greg (Tony Goldwyn), who has written a flop of a play. Buddy figures he'll help everyone, himself in particular, by giving Greg his boarding pass for the one flight out, thus freeing himself up for an evening with Mimi. The plane goes down. So does guilt-ridden Buddy, into an abyss of alcoholism. And back in L.A., Greg's widow, Abby, is left to struggle with two young sons and a nowhere job in real estate. A year later, out of rehab and determined to make amends, Buddy tracks down Abby. From the moment they meet, the movie starts to take on a sense of inevitability. Cast: Ben Affleck, Gwyneth Paltrow, Joe Morton, Natasha Henstridge, Tony Goldwyn, Jennifer Grey. Running time: One hour, 42 minutes. Rated PG-13. 2 1/2 stars.

"Charlie's Angels" — After an action-packed opening scene that has nothing to do with the rest of the movie, we finally meet Charlie's new Angels. First comes Natalie (Cameron Diaz), a "Jeopardy!"-winning nerd with a thing for fast cars and disco dancing. Then there's Dylan (Drew Barrymore), a martial-arts specialist with a kick-but attitude and a weakness for questionable men. Rounding out the photogenic trio is Alex (Lucy Liu), a well-bred beauty with a knack for crossbows and computers. Keeping a paternal eye on the gals is Bosley (Bill Murray). The gals are ostensibly hired to find kidnapped computer genius Eric Knox (Sam Rockwell) and spy on Roger Corwin (Tim Curry), the flamboyant competitor who may have stolen Knox's top-secret voice-identification system. Loud, fast and uproariously excessive, "Charlie's Angels" is the kind of empty-calorie good time you can enjoy in the moment and forget about on your way to the parking lot. Cast: Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz, Lucy Liu, Bill Murray, Sam Rockwell, Tim Curry, Kelly Lynch. Running time: 92 minutes. Rated PG-13. 3 stars.

"The Emperor's New Groove" — The new emperor is a princely stripling, Kuzco, a dude without a mall. He's a cute attitude brat, and if pink hair had been around in Old Peru, his would challenge the sun. David Spade voices him, flipping gobbs of adolescent imperiousness. But then Yzma, the dowager or "devious diva," usurps control by turning Kuzco into a llama. Now hoofed and hairy, Kuzco wanders down valleys and up peaks and across chasms with Pacha, a huge, good-natured peasant. Payoff bits include a swell poisoning scene. And there is a roadside diner

Films in Focus

episode where Yzma's boy-toy hunk flaunts impromptu chef skills and twirls hints of show-biz gayness. The upshot of this up movie is that the boy emp learns lessons in honorable humility before regaining the throne and teaching Yzma a lesson in payback. Voices: David Spade, John Goodman, Eartha Kitt, Patrick Warburton, Tom Jones. Running time: 1 hour, 20 minutes. Rated G. 3 stars.

"A Hard Days Night" — Richard Lester's 1964 mock documentary about the Beatles is more than just the defining rock 'n' movie. It's a chance to hang out with John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr. You'll go on mischievous missions, visit cool London pubs, dodge thousands of screaming girls and have just enough wind left in you to enjoy some of the most influential songs of the last half-century. Why was Ringo so quiet? What drives John's wackiness? Who's cuter — Paul or George? The film touches upon these issues just as the Fab Four was hitting the big time. With its cheeky humor and contemporary camera work, it's no wonder "A Hard Day's Night" garnered two Academy Award nominations — for screenwriter Alun Owen and music director George Martin. 91 minutes. Not rated. 4 stars.

"102 Dalmatians" — You don't know fat-fried ham acting until you've seen Glenn Close as Cruella De Vil (like the biggest queen at Truman Capote's Black and White Ball) rip up scenes with the equally overdeserved Gerard Depardieu as a vile Parisian furrier (he's like Attila plus Liberace). This lavish kibble pile of Disney fun is made somewhat charming and always active by the 102 pooches plus many other breeds. The sequel goes for more rather than better and, on that level, seems to satisfy kids. 87 minutes. Rated G. 2 1/2 stars.

"Proof of Life" — A rather bloated, involving, not quite convincing throwback to the old foreign intrigue movies that starred Bogart and Mitchum. Russell Crowe subs for them nicely as an expert in ransom negotiation and hostage rescue, helping a desperate American (Meg Ryan, liberated from cutes) whose engineer husband (David Morse) is held in a "classic" Latin American country by rebel extortionists. There is too much mood milking and plot dawdling, but all the actors do rather well, including a big thug who seems like a sordid Cesar Romero, and Taylor Hackford's direction finds a tough, exciting rhythm in the big action climax. 2

hours. Rated R. 2 1/2 stars.

"Unbreakable" — A smooth but faltering attempt by young "auteur" M. Night Shyamalan to duplicate his whatzit hit "The Sixth Sense." Bruce Willis is the dazed victim of a train wreck who walks away unscratched, then discovers his miraculous, genetic invulnerability after a sly "devil" figure (Samuel L. Jackson, stealing scenes) leads him to clues he should have fathomed years before. It's all brooding, teasing, murky and incredible, with nice little Spencer Treat Clark trying forlornly to fill the "mythic" kid shoes of Haley Joel Osment in the 1999 hit. Serious fans of comic books had better avoid this one (also, fans of drama). 123 minutes. Rated PG-13. 2 stars.

"Vertical Limit" — Viewing this sadistic drivel isn't like climbing K2 in the Himalayas, it's like having K2 fall and crush us. Full of bad acting and heavy snow action, this thrill show is about the rescue of an "elite" team of climbers, stuck in an ice cave, by six bold fools strapped to canisters of liquid nitro (the wise man who gave it to them is ignorant of its vulnerability to sunlight). The mountains are majestic and only sometimes fake. The effects are hurled at us like huge blobs of budget, and the dialog is stupefying in the meaningfully macho, vaguely spiritual, utterly Hollywood manner. Director Martin Campbell climbs the dud script because, well, it's there. 107 minutes. Rated PG-13. 1 star.

"What Women Want" — Mel Gibson plays Nick Marshall, a Chicago ad man who lives high and ripe but is now falling behind the curve. Female-friendly ads are the new surge. "Man's man" Nick, raised by showgirls in Vegas, loyal to Rat Pack "get me a broad" attitudes, is yesterday's heat. The agency hires a "go, girl" wizard of ad craft, Darcy McGuire (Helen Hunt). Not to worry. A presto-gizmo gives Nick a fresh edge. After being mildly electrocuted by a hair dryer (big pratfall moment), he finds he can read women's thoughts. After many yucks, meet-cutes, double-takes, hard knocks to the groin of his ego, Nick is sensitized, feminized. "What Women Want" is an eviction notice for wit in movies. Attempting to be hip and feminist, it is a debauch of sense and sophistication. Cast: Mel Gibson, Helen Hunt, Marisa Tomei, Ashley Johnson, Lauren Holly, Alan Alda, Delta Burke, Betto Midler. Running time: 1 hour, 48 minutes. Rated PG-13. 1 star.

Ratings: 4 stars, excellent; 3 stars, worthy; 2 stars, mixed; 1 star, poor; 0 stars, forget it.

Capsules compiled from movie reviews written by David Elliott, film critic for *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, and other staff writers.

Your horoscope guide, Jan. 8 to Jan. 14

By WANDA PERRY
COPELY NEWS SERVICE

ARIES (March 21 - April 19): In order to launch a successful joint venture, all parties involved must be willing to contribute their best. Put your personal stamp on a group project.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Take advantage of a powerful professional opportunity that will have a great impact on the masses. The sky is the limit. Think big!

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21): Hit the open road with the wind at your back this week. See travel as a healthy detour around a dull routine. Make lots of new friends along the way.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22): Allow your creative talents to shine through and perhaps point you in a new career direction. Add funds to a retirement or long-term savings account.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22): Think about ways you can improve a special relationship. A philosophical discussion with a friend raises some interesting questions. Pay attention!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): Take time to get organized on the job front. A simple plan of

action helps everything and everyone run more smoothly and efficiently.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23): Renew your mind and spirit through meditation or an active expression of creative talents. You will have the full support of a partner or mate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21): This is the time of year when you are naturally a bit more withdrawn or reserved. Lay low and absorb or receive energy as opposed to putting it out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Honesty is the best policy in your close personal relationships. Speak up, clear the air and avoid a possible misunderstanding among family members.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): Straighten out your budget and get a clear picture of your financial goals. Learn from previous mistakes and avoid the pitfalls of going into debt.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Dress for success this week. You can easily attract a high-profile position if you are in uniform and mentally ready to play the role.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): Daydreaming provides a brief and wonderful escape

from a stressing situation. Your financial situation improves. Don't spend it all in one place.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTH-DAYS: Timing plays an important role in your personal or professional success during the coming year. Be patient, observe restrictions and be willing to work hard behind-

the-scenes until it's your turn to step up. Pay close attention to financial matters. Your budget or long-term financial plans may require revision. The good news is, your mental or intellectual faculties are in excellent shape. Create wonderful opportunities using the power of thought.

"Amici RISTORANTE" Italian Continental Cuisine. Wonderful food with great atmosphere.

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Alexus Steakhouse & Tavern, home of the original 24 Oz Delmonico and NY Sirloin Steaks for only \$11.95, great burgers, overstuffed sandwiches and other delights, is open for dinner in Mountainside and Brielle and both lunch and dinner in Clifton. The menu also offers chicken and seafood entrees and specials, soups and salads, an array of appetizers and desserts, and both domestic and imported beer and wine. How can Alexis offer such good food at such low prices? A manager explained, "Our goal is to offer better quality, quantity, service and prices than other restaurants. Why pay more somewhere else and get less for your money?"

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CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH SUNDAY
10 am to 2 pm
Only \$12.95
"All You Can Eat"

- Serving Champagne, Mimosa & Bloody Mary's
- FRESH SHRIMP COCKTAIL
- FROM OUR HOT BUFFET: Chicken Marsala, Sliced Sirloin of Beef, Hot Turkey, French Toast, Waffles, Bacon, Etc.
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- Bottomless Cups of Brewed Coffee, Tea & Sanka

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Low priced, high quality food are not the only reasons for Alexis Steakhouse & Tavern's popularity. There are many more at these easy-going, high quality family restaurants. The atmosphere is always light and cheery with families, groups and couples enjoying themselves. Eating here is believing!

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Every meal starts with complimentary bowls of pickles, cherry peppers and fresh-cut health salad. After a choice of tasty appetizers and soups come the specialties of the house—the enormous 24 oz. Delmonico Steak or the 24 oz. NY Sirloin Steak...cooked to juicy perfection with Alexis' special seasonings. Each has generous helpings of home-made french fried potatoes or other vegetable. Other selections include Baked or Blackened Swordfish, Lobster, Bar-B-Cue Ribs, Chicken Alexis and specials.

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Alexus sandwiches are meals in themselves. The juicy hamburgers, made to order with various trimmings, are a full 8 oz of fresh onions topped with mozzarella cheese and bits of Swiss cheese. New England Clam Chowder is a meaty mix of clams and fresh-cut chunks of potato.

Appetizers include house specialties like Alexis Onion Flower, a colossal onion carved into a blossom and deep-fried for a sweet-tasting treat. The Hot Buffalo Wings are Tangy.

Among the desserts are the enormous Hot Fudge Sundae, Strawberry Shortcakes, Carrot Cake and New York Cheesecake. There are free soda and coffee refills as well as domestic and imported beer, wine and spirits. For people who just want a drink and a snack, the bar has its own ambience. Alexis welcomes table reservations. Party rooms are available for special events.

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POPEYES CHICKEN & BISCUITS

FREE
2pc. Chicken Dinner
With purchase of 3pc. dinner and medium drink at full price.
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FREE
1/3lb. ORIGINAL FUDD BURGER WHEN YOU PURCHASE A 1/2LB. BURGER, FRENCH FRIES AND A SOFT DRINK.
*Not to be combined with any other offer.
This substitution limit 1 per customer. Exp. 12/31/01

FREE
1/3lb. ORIGINAL FUDD BURGER WHEN YOU PURCHASE A 1/2LB. BURGER, FRENCH FRIES AND A SOFT DRINK.
*Not to be combined with any other offer.
This substitution limit 1 per customer. Exp. 12/31/01

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WOMEN SEEKING MEN

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

LIMITED TIME ONLY!

40 yr old, 5'5", 125 lbs. fit, divorced white mother of one, hard working, sport minded, with a good sense of humor. Looking for a physically fit, single white male, who likes working out, the beach and more. BOX 37387

SHARING IS CARING!

Single white female, attractive, 5'4", non-smoker, social drinker, who enjoys dancing, and much more seeking single white male, with similar interests. BOX 34737

ASIAN ATTRACTION

Single female, down to earth, sophisticated, Artist, marriage minded, enjoys ballroom dancing, walks in the village and more. Looking for an Oriental for long term relationship. BOX 36596

GRAND EXPECTATIONS

31 yr old female, 5'2", long blonde hair, blue eyes, physically fit, petite, college educated, likes tennis, rollerblading, biking, the beach, and more. Looking for a single white professional male, 30 to 39, who's college educate, fit and knows what he wants out of life. BOX 36604

ROMANTIC AT HEART

Widowed female, 67 yr old, 5'7", slim, easy going, brunette hair, blue eyes, likes books, music, conversation and new experiences. Looking for an active, intelligent, good natured man, 65 to 75, from Union or Essex County. All calls answered. BOX 37020

TAKE OVER PLEASE

Single female, 36, 5'2", brown hair and eyes, shy, seeking attractive, romantic, dominant male, 35 to 49, for a long term serious relationship. BOX 13561

BEAUTY AND BRAINS

Single, attractive, female, 48, 5'5", 127 lbs, brownish blonde hair, brown eyes, educated, healthy, non-smoker, non-drinker, enjoys walking, biking, movies and the comforts of home. Seeking educated, white Christian male, 47 to 51, committed, emotionally stable, affectionate and caring, to enjoy friendship, love, laughter and happiness. BOX 13644

ROMANCE WANTED

Athletic, slim, single white professional female, 36, dirty blond hair, Irish catholic, 5'5", outgoing, attractive, non-smoker. Likes to work out, run, and bike. Seeks single white professional male, non-smoker, catholic, fit, athletic, 33 to 39, for friendship, and possible long term relationship. BOX 29228

WHAT MAKES U HAPPY?

61 yr old, single widow, 5'5", auburn hair, blue eyes, warm, cheerful and down to earth, seeking widower white male, in early 60's, with similar interests and qualities. BOX 39429

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

A GREAT CATCH

Very attractive, upscale blonde, 46, MBA in finance, dedicated Christian for 28 years, and Christ is the center of my life. Seeking a tall professional, handsome, well educated male, with strong Christian and family values. If you feel you have these credentials, please call. BOX 13060

ON THE HUNT

Are you looking for single white female, who's intelligent, attractive, and fun loving. If you are a single white male, non-smoker, between the ages 56 and 64, who likes dancing, New York and Atlantic City and live in the Union County area, give me a call. BOX 13253

HOPELESS ROMANTIC

Big green eyes, 5'4", 117 lbs, fit, 50, Law Enforcement professional, interests are: hiking, dining, dancing, movies, the art, quiet times and more. Looking for a male, who's assertive, with salt/pepper hair and mustache. BOX 13318

LOOKING FOR LOVE

Single white female, 66, 5'3", 115 lbs, gray hair, blue eyes, non-smoker or drinker, enjoys quiet times, walks, bowling, the outdoors and more. Seeking a single male, with similar interests, for possible relationship. BOX 13363

DESTINY CALLS

Youthful, attractive, slim, brunette, 50 yr old female, with good sense of humor, enjoys movies, theater, fine dining, beach and oldies seeking single, attractive white male, 40 to 58, non-smoker, for friendship and possible long term relationship. Please be caring, honest, educated and financially comfortable. BOX 13489

FREE SPIRIT

47 yr old, attractive single white female, is seeking a spiritual relationship with a sensitive and caring, single or divorced Hispanic or black male, 47 to 58, with a good sense of humor. I enjoy good conversations, movies, music and dining out. BOX 13535

LOVE HAS NO COLOR

Single professional black, full figured female, 55, who enjoys theater, movies, traveling, and fine dining. Seeking a single or divorced professional male, non-smoker, fun loving, and enjoys life, for friendship, possible relationship. BOX 16030

EX ASIAN MODEL

32 yr old, 5'5", ex model, very slender, affectionate, caring, good sense of humor. Looking forward to meeting a down to earth, financially secure, college educated and family oriented male, who's also loving and caring. Enjoys swimming, tennis music, movies, travelling, cooking and dining out. BOX 29232

ONE MAN WOMAN

Single white female, 63, affectionate, caring, faithful, full figured woman, in search of marriage minded, single or divorced, white male, for everlasting love and happiness. BOX 29259

ATTENTION JOHNI

You're 39 and a pharmaceutical executive, triathlete, you responded to my ad "Romance Wanted", mailbox #29228, your message got cut off before I could get your telephone number, could you please call again and leave your number. BOX 29264

BALLROOM DANCING?

Glamorous, 50's, female, smart, artist, intelligent, self-employed. Enjoys dancing and painting. Seeking someone to dance with. BOX 36890

TALL AND ATTRACTIVE

36 yr old, green eyed, tall, voluptuous brunette female. I enjoy working out, music, comedy clubs, shooting pool, sports, and movies. Looking for a tall, spontaneous, single man with a good sense of humor. BOX 36287

FIRST TIME AD

Youthful, 45 yr old, attractive, single Italian white male is seeking an attractive, single female, to develop a long term relationship. BOX 13565

GIVE ME A CALL!

55 yr old, 5'8", 165 lbs, single white male financially secure, professional, who enjoys working out, is seeking a petite, single Asian female, 40 to 55, that want to be treated the right way! BOX 37043

LIKE TO LAUGH???

Single male, 6', 195 lbs, French/Italian. Looking to meet someone who likes to laugh. BOX 39150

SOMEONE SPECIAL

Single white female, non-smoker, social drinker, enjoys dancing, painting and more. Seeking a single male, with similar interests, for possible relationship. BOX 36974

WEST SEEKS EAST

Single white female, 50's, down to earth, enjoys quiet times, working, the outdoors, museums and more. Seeking a single Asian male, with similar interests, for possible relationship. BOX 40886

OLD FASHIONED LADY

Single Jewish female, attractive, very caring, 34, 5'7", 125 lbs, long brown hair and green eyes. I have a nice figure, never married, slender, non-smoker, college grad. Enjoys holding hands, cuddling and likes taking things slowly. BOX 42755

ARE YOU OUT THERE?

Single white male, 43, 5'8", 150 lbs, attractive, healthy, honest, affectionate, sincere, enjoys laughing, life, and all it offers. Seeks sincere, romantic, attractive female who enjoys dining, good conversation, quiet times for dating and possible long term relationship. (Region County) BOX 29277

HAPPY NEW YEAR

This 5'11" 40 something single white Italian male, hopeless romantic, spiritually aware, emotionally stable, Hal Hoping to hook up with a similar attractive, spontaneous, doesn't care what other people think type woman to ring in 2001 and maybe keep on ringing for 2002, 2003, 2004. Hudson County. BOX 29280

JUST THE TWO OF US

21 yr old, single black and Italian male, 6'1", 192 lbs, attractive, good personality and great sense of humor. Enjoy EMS, playing ball, motor cycles and just having fun. Looking for a single female 18 to 25, who is attractive, honest, fun loving and willing to experience life to the fullest. Hudson county. BOX 29227

CLASSICAL MUSIC...

...Lover. Single white gentleman, European, U.S. Citizen, seeking a lady for possible long term relationship. I am modest and educated, my great entertainment is classical music because it brings me to a higher level. The lady I seek need not like it, however she should be understanding. BOX 15636



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CREAM IN YOUR COFFEE

Divorced white Italian male, 52, 6'3", 198 lbs, black hair, green eyes. Seeking a female, 55 to 60, who is affectionate, caring and likes good conversation. Race unimportant. BOX 37445

YOU LOOK JUST FINE

53, white male, fine mind and body, nice looking professional, 5'8", looking for a fun, trim, well groomed companion, under 5'5", petite, thin to slender, who can appreciate a special, fun, uncommon guy. I am not into opera or the ballet. Passaic County. BOX 29284

WOMAN OF MY DREAMS

White male, mid 40's, 5'9", 190 lbs, outgoing, likeable, nice looking, with a fantastic personality and a sense of humor. Enjoys movies, sports, music, dining out, good conversations, outdoors and just quiet times. Seeking an open, motivated, single female, for friendship, companionship and more. BOX 36037

COMMUNITY THERAPIST

Kind, bold, Jersey City or Hoboken woman, sought for very significant romance, with this single white male, 59, 5'8", trim, interested in progressive politics, jogging, music, improvement of self and others. Any religion, serious only. Hudson County. BOX 29282

I'M WAITING!

Single white male, tall, attractive, 36, high school grad, who enjoys dining out, dancing, swimming, and quiet romantic evenings. Seeking single white female, 25 to 45, non-smoker, with similar interests. BOX 13249

STRIKE YOUR FANCY

Single white male, 45, 5'9", 110 lbs, husky build, attractive, well proportioned, fantastic personality, never married, no children. Enjoys dining out, movies, good conversations, malls, flea markets. Seeks one who is open, honest, easy going, for friendship, companionship, long term relationship. BOX 36474

SEEKS CHRISTIAN

43 yr old single black Christian male, 6'2", down to earth, loves Christian music and walks in the park. Seeking someone, who loves the Lord, never married, and has no children. Race and age. BOX 13438

LET'S MEET

40 yr old male, 5'9", 185 lbs, dark eyes, brown hair, athletic build, good looking, with a good personality and sense of humor. Enjoys boating, fishing, dining out, travelling, working out and more. Looking for female, who's easy going, attractive and interesting. BOX 37066

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Sports



Andrew Feeley (left) of Scotch Plains will to play big and lead the Raiders to a victory over Westfield tomorrow. NICOLE DIMELLA/RECORD-PRESS

Devils, Raiders looking for a much needed win

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

Boys Basketball



When the Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High boys basketball teams meet tomorrow afternoon in Scotch Plains, both squads will be looking to use the other to right their respective ships and grab a much needed victory.

Both squads began the new year yesterday with just one win and will need a victory tomorrow in one of the more winnable games on each of their schedules to harbor hopes of reaching the state tournament. The Watchung Conference is loaded this season, with several publications listing Shabazz, Linden and Plainfield among the top ten in the state, making tomorrow's game is a must win for both clubs.

"It's a good opportunity for both teams to get some momentum," said Westfield Head Coach Kevin Everly. "They've been struggling record wise and we have too."

The key for Westfield will be to handle the Scotch Plains size in 6 foot 9 Andrew Feeley and 6-7 Mike Brennan. The Blue Devils will need to limit their advantage on the glass and scoring opportunities in the paint, while taking advantage of superior experience on the perimeter.

The combination of Dan Deserio and Jay Cook make up what they lack in size with heads up play and smart positioning. If they can take Feeley out his comfort zone around the

hoop and push him out of the paint, the Blue Devils will be in good position to grab an important victory.

"They're big, but we have some big guys who have handled them in the past," said Everly. "It's going to be a matter of who gets better guard play and if we can shutdown Feeley. It should be a good game. Their strength is the inside play and we'll approach it that way. We'll sag in our zone and if they are getting good perimeter play we'll extend. But we want to make it difficult for them inside."

Everly has been pleased with the progress of his defense and their improving ability to rebound the ball. Westfield has been balanced offensively with four different leading scorers in its first four games and when they are keeping the turnovers to a minimum the Blue Devils have shown flashes of brilliance, hanging right with Linden for three quarters.

The Devils managed a split of two games in the Joe Silver Holiday Tournament in Hillside, defeating Staten Island Tech before falling to Hillside. The Blue Devils were without starting point guard Eric Turner against Hillside for disciplinary

reasons, and the absence of its top ball handler severely hurt Westfield against the quick, trapping Hillside squad.

Scotch Plains dropped two disappointing games over the holiday break, falling to Colonia and Columbia. The Raiders led Columbia, ranked in the top 20 in the state, at the half but faltered down the stretch.

After playing Shabazz, Linden and Columbia, Scotch Plains Head Coach Dan Dougherty sees the next week's worth of games against Westfield, Kearny and Elizabeth as a chance to find out just exactly where his team stands.

"The schedule has been the problem," said Dougherty. "When you play the number seven, and number nine team in the state, and Columbia is top-25 — that's the main part of the problem. We've got an easier part of our schedule coming up. We'll probably learn a lot this week and see where we are."

Dougherty doesn't have anything special planned for Westfield just yet, but knows it is a dangerous team and the Raiders will have to play well to win.

"They've got everybody back and from what I've heard they are a solid team," he said. "They were beating Linden at half, which is a lot better than what we were able to do. We just have to go out and play our type of game, they'll play there game and we'll see who is playing the best that day."

After trip to San Diego, Raiders ready for rival

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High girls basketball team escaped the bitter cold and snow of New Jersey for the surf and sun of San Diego last week, where it won one game and lost two at the Surf and Slam Tournament.

After flying across the nation to play a high level of competition, the Raiders will take a short bus ride to meet their arch rival tomorrow when they take

on Westfield at 2 p.m.

The Raiders played well, dropping the first game by just two points on a buzzer beater after rallying back from a 14 point deficit, before winning the second game with a furious second half comeback and dropping the third game by just nine.

"Everything went well, the weather was great, I thought we played well," said Head Coach Brian Homm. "We were competitive — which was good. It could have been better if we pulled out that first game."

Erin Gillooly scored in double figures in each game, Lindsey Pennella had 18 points in the Raiders first game, and Najwa Glover played well throughout the tournament, scoring 12 in the Raiders victory. Kellie LaForge also had a strong tournament.

Before leaving for California, Scotch Plains had two big wins over Linden and Watchung Hills. The Raiders took on Cranford yesterday and will look to continue playing well against teams from the frozen state when they

take on Westfield tomorrow.

"We have our work cut out for us, but we're ready to go," said Homm. "We're looking forward to being back and seeing what we can do."

The Raiders trailed a team from Washington state for all of the game, before rallying back from a 14 point deficit to tie the score with 12 seconds remaining. After a timeout, the Raiders played strong defense, but a miscommunication left a girl open under the hoop for the game winning basket with two seconds

left.

The Raiders bounced back with a convincing win over Golden Valley (Ca.) after trailing early. The Raiders trailed by nine at halftime, but a 17-3 third quarter turned the tide on the California school and Scotch Plains cruised to a 43-32 victory. Erin Gillooly scored 13 points, Najwa Glover had all 12 of her points in the second half.

Scotch Plains fell in the final game of the tournament, but the experience was what counted most to the team, not a won-loss

record.

"It's a nice experience. I think it brought them all a little closer together than they would be normally," said Homm. "They did everything together. They hung out together, and I know they stayed up late hanging out in the rooms together."

"Seeing some of these other teams — some very good teams — shows them what they need to do to get to that level," said Homm. "They understand better what it takes to be successful and they want to get better."

Devils want to prove themselves against Kearny

By DANIEL MURPHY
RECORD-PRESS

After a disappointing showing at the Blue Devil Invitational Dec. 28, the Westfield High wrestling team faces its toughest dual meet challenge of the season tonight when it hosts Kearny, and will find out quickly just how good it is and can be.

Head Coach Glen Kurz is hoping for a packed house when the Cardinals come to town 7 p.m. tonight and present the toughest competition Westfield has seen in a dual meet so far. Westfield faced four Kearny wrestlers at the Kearny Tournament Dec. 16, and won all four bouts, but will be in for a battle tonight. Kearny is the most technically skilled wrestling team, but are physically tough and scrappy.

"They are a very physical team," said Kurz. "They are not the most technical team, but they will come at us hard, go for head locks and try to push our kids around and intimidate them. They'll tire quickly though — our kids will be in better shape. The key will be if we can withstand their first push. We need to keep it tight in the beginning."

After a relatively light dual meet schedule to start the season, tonight's meet is an opportunity for the Blue Devils to prove themselves against some better competition, making a statement to the rest of the conference they are better than last year's 5-14 season and finding out for themselves just how for they still have to go.

"We haven't really beaten anyone. We were expected to win those first four matches,"

said Kurz. "This would be a great win if we can pull it off. It will be a real test of where we are."

"Conference wise, they are a good team to see how we can do," continued Kurz. "It's a measuring stick. It will be a good sign as to where we are as a team and where we have to go."

The Blue Devils will have time to build on those lessons. Westfield will get a week off before hosting Irvington Jan. 12.

"That's good, we could use a week of practice," said Kurz. "We need some time to make some adjustments. You can always improve technique and you can always improve your conditioning. There are a lot of things we want to teach, but haven't had a chance yet. We could use four straight days of practice."

Especially after finishing ninth of 10 teams at the Blue Devils Classic last week Kurz was pleased with a couple individual efforts, especially Ethan Powell's performance at 130 pounds, but overall wasn't happy with the way the team performed.

Powell finished third, defeating Matt Melta of Howell 9-8 in the consolation final. Kurz was also happy with the performance put in by Joe DeCampo who dropped a 5-0 decision to Nick Zangari from Roselle Park in the 112 consolation final, and Lee Tomasso, who took fourth at 135, after dropping out of the consolation final due to a head injury. Justin Reyes defeated Kyle Krug of Dover 4-3 in overtime at 171 to finish third, and

Chris MacKay was pinned by West Milford's Rami Samman to finish fourth.

"Ethan had a great tournament," said Kurz. "He is really coming on right now. He works hard everyday, and is very detailed in his drilling."

"Lee had a nice tournament. He gave Bryan Garrison of Roselle Park a great match, he wasn't intimidated. Joe DeCampo had a good tournament. He's really learning how to win. Justin we felt could have made the finals. He kept

attacking but he just needs to take advantage of opportunities better."

Danny MacDonald also turned in a strong performance at 145 pounds. MacDonald has been working hard at taking more shots and the work

showed as he was very aggressive on his feet throughout the tournament.

Westfield had some strong individual efforts in front of its own crowd last week, but will be looking to turn in a powerful team effort tonight.



Ethan Powell defeated Kerron Joseph of Placatway on his way to placing third at 130 pounds at the Blue Devil Classic Dec. 28. The Blue Devils host Kearny 7 p.m. tonight. NICOLE DIMELLA/RECORD-PRESS

Raiders repeat at county relays

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High girls winter track team rallied from behind for a dramatic victory to repeat as champions at the Union County Relay Championships Tuesday night at the Dunn Center in Elizabeth.

The Raiders were tied for second with Linden behind Cranford heading into the final event and managed to pull out a 4:35.2 time in the mile relay to edge Linden by two-tenths of a second, finishing second in the event and capturing the title. Cranford failed to place and finished third.

Scotch Plains won the two-mile relay (Stephanie Heath, Caitlin Mahony, Lauren Belford, Alyssa Sams), the distance medley (Erin Kelly, Jill Koscieloeki, Heath, Sams), finished second in the mile relay, tied for third in the team high jump and took fourth in the team shot put.

BOYS BASKETBALL
Scotch Plains dropped its

fourth straight Thursday falling to Colonia 59-43 in the second round of the Cindy Pools holiday tournament.

The Raiders came out slow and quickly fell behind by 11 after the first quarter and could not recover. Mike Brennan led the Raiders with 18 points and eight rebounds and Andrew Feeley had nine. The loss dropped Scotch Plains to 1-4.

Colonia (59)
Chiera 3-5-1-22, Gallrell 1-0-0-2, Tolin 0-0-0-0, Lukabu 5-1-3-16, DuBois 0-1-0-3, Stoner 0-0-0-0, Ibeh 4-0-0-8, Wagner 0-0-0-0, Morgan 4-0-0-8, Flammarion 0-0-0-0. **Totals: 17-7-4-59.**

Scotch Plains (43)
Feeley 3-0-3-9, Bundik 0-0-0-0, Montgomery 2-1-0-7, S. Williams 1-1-0-5, Brennan 7-1-1-19, Schiller 0-0-0-0, H. Williams 1-0-0-2, Paynter 0-0-0-0, Adams 1-0-0-2, DeCataldo 0-0-0-0. **Totals: 15-3-4-43.**

Colonia 19 14 17 10 - 59
Scotch Plains 7 11 12 13 - 43
Columbia 68, Scotch Plains



5 5 — The Raiders led at the half, and trailed by just three heading into the fourth quarter, but faltered down the stretch and fell

to Columbia 68-55 in the first round of the Cindy Pools Tournament Wednesday.

Adam Bendick led the Raiders with 12 points, Anwar Montgomery had eight and Andrew Feeley had nine points.

Columbia (68)
Morgan 6-1-0-15, Owai 0-0-0-0, Martin 6-0-0-12, Arthur 7-0-3-17, Bowen 0-3-1-10, Stephens 4-0-1-9, Williams 0-0-0-0, Jenkins 0-1-0-3, Nicholas 0-0-0-0, Oliver 0-0-0-0, Turner 0-0-0-0, Arawale 0-0-0-0, Stanley 0-0-2-2. **Totals: 23-5-7-68.**

Scotch Plains (55)
Feeley 3-0-3-9, Bendik 1-3-1-12, S. Williams 0-2-0-6, R. Williams 3-0-1-7, Brennan 3-0-0-6, Schiller 1-0-0-2, Montgomery 2-0-4-8, Adams 0-0-0-0, DeCataldo 0-0-0-0, Paynter 0-1-2-5. **Totals: 13-6-11-55.**

Columbia 10 21 17 20 - 68
Scotch Plains 15 17 13 10 - 55

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Scotch Plains 43, Golden Valley 32—Najwa Glover and Lindsay Pennella sparked a second half comeback, as the Raiders rallied from a nine point deficit with a 21-12 third quarter spurt to overcome Golden Valley in the Surf and Slam Tournament in San Diego.

Glover scored all 12 of her points in the second half, Pennella scored all six of her points in the third quarter and Erin Gillooly had five of her game high 13 points in the decisive third quarter.

Scotch Plains (43)
LaForge 3-0-4-10, Pennella 3-0-0-6, Glover 3-0-6-12, Gillooly 6-0-1-13, Blom 1-0-0-2, Coyle 0-0-0-0, Feeley 0-0-0-0, Redington 0-0-0-0. **Totals: 18-0-11-43.**

Golden Valley (32)
Heliner 1-0-7-9, Hawks 0-0-1-1, Romo 3-1-0-9, Ferreria 0-3-0-9, Versage 1-0-0-2, Perez 1-0-0-2, Mendoza 0-0-0-0. **Totals: 6-4-4-32.**

Scotch Plains 10 2 17 14 - 43
Golden Valley 10 11 3 8 - 32

LOWYNS TO RUTGERS
Scotch Plains-Fanwood High senior Brad Lowyns committed to attend the University of Rutgers on a soccer scholarship.

Lowyns set the school record for career shutouts with 43 while helping lead the Raiders to a 20-2-2 record this season. He also set school record for 19 shutouts this season and a .33 goals-against average.

HOT STOVE LEAGUE
The 65th annual Hot Stove League Baseball Dinner, sponsored by the Union County Baseball Association, in cooperation with the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. at L'Affaire Restaurant on Route 22, Mountainside.

At the dinner, awards will be presented to local athletes who have distinguished themselves during the years and seven individuals will be inducted into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame. The inductees are: the late

Howard Anderson of Summit, Tom Dooley of Cranford; Randy Guerra of Linden, Ray Matlosz of Elizabeth, Leo Spirito of Elizabeth, Mike Szabo of Union, and Raymond Thompson of Roselle Park.

According to James Iozzi, dinner chairman, the awards for Most Outstanding Male and Female Athlete of Union County, which will be presented that evening, will be announced soon along with the names of the three special guest speakers. Proceeds for the dinner help fund the Union County Youth Baseball League for youngsters eight to 15 years of age. Started in 1945 with just eight teams, the league now encompasses 16 teams in three divisions.

Tickets for the dinner at \$30 and can be purchased from 8-4 p.m. at the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, County Administration Building in Elizabeth. For further information, please call (908) 527-4910.

Blue Devils crushed by Randolph

The Westfield High girls basketball team came out flat in the second half, scoring just 10 points in the 16 minutes, and quickly saw the game get out of reach as Randolph stretched an eight point lead into a 21 point advantage by the end of the third quarter and cruised to a 73-35 victory in the first round of the Rams Roundball Festival in Randolph Dec. 28.

Karen Manahan and Jackie Cusimano each had eight points in the losing effort.

Randolph (73)
Magaglio 4-0-0-8, D'Amato 5-0-3-13, Cook 12-0-2-26, Nudliff 2-0-1-5, Gubliosa 0-1-4-7, Chang 2-0-3-7, Kordall 1-0-3-5, Hecht 1-0-0-2. **Totals: 27-16-73.**

Westfield (35)
Cusimano 1-2-0-8, Matthews 3-0-0-6, Manahan 3-0-2-8, MacMahon 1-0-4-6, Infantino 2-0-0-4, Passanunni 0-0-1-1.

Broughton 1-0-0-2, Total: 11-2-7-35.
Randolph 20 16 17 20 - 73
Westfield 12 13 4 6 - 35

BOYS BASKETBALL
The Westfield High basketball team notched its first victory of the season, defeating Staten Island Tech 64-48 in the Joe Silver Tournament in Hillside.

McKeon finished with 19 points, after scoring 10 in the second quarter when Westfield rallied back from a seven point deficit to take a 30-20 halftime lead. Dan Deserio, who finished with 11 points, scored five in the second quarter. Jay Cook finished with 10 points.

Westfield (64)
McKeon 7-1-2-19, Cook 4-0-2-10, Deserio 3-0-5-11, Simonoro 1-0-0-2, A.



Turner 4-0-0-8, Clark 3-0-0-6, Friesen 1-2-0-8. **Totals: 23-3-9-64.**

Staten Island Tech (48)
Coscia 0-1-0-3, Wesrick 2-3-5-18, Jordan 4-0-4-12, Hidrag 1-0-0-2, Bernis 1-0-2-4, Lee 1-0-2-4, Jackenon 1-0-0-2, Jibowu 0-1-0-3. **Totals: 10-5-13-48.**

Westfield 6 24 17 17 - 64
Staten Island 13 7 8 20 - 48

ICE HOCKEY
Brian Pirot scored his second goal with just nine seconds remaining to help Westfield forge a 4-4 tie with Ridgewood

Dec. 27. Westfield led 3-1 after two periods but fell behind with just under a minute remaining, before Pirot salvaged the tie with his late goal. Brandon Kape scored twice for Westfield and James Donovan made 27 saves.

TRACK
Westfield placed fifth at the Union County Girls Relay Championships Tuesday night at the Dunn Center in Elizabeth.

Westfield finished second in the two mile relay, fifth in the shuttle hurdles, third in the sprint medley and fourth in the distance medley.

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HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

(all times p.m. unless otherwise noted)

FRIDAY, JAN. 5
Wrestling
Westfield vs. Kearny, 7
Ice hockey
Westfield at West Essex, 7
Boys basketball
Union Catholic at Roselle Catholic, 7
Girls basketball
Union Catholic vs. Roselle Catholic, 7
Swimming
Union Catholic at Johnson, 3:15

SATURDAY, JAN. 6
Boys basketball
Westfield at Scotch Plains, 2
Girls basketball
Scotch Plains at Westfield, 2
Girls swimming
Westfield at Pirate Invitational at West Windsor-Plainsboro South
Wrestling
Scotch Plains at Parsippany Hills

MONDAY, JAN. 8
Ice hockey
Westfield vs. Red Bank Catholic, 3:45
Bowling
Union Catholic vs. Hillside, 3:15

TUESDAY, JAN. 9
Boys basketball
Westfield vs. Union, 4
Scotch Plains at Kearny, 4
Union Catholic vs. Gov. Livingston, 4
Girls basketball

Westfield at Union, 4
Scotch Plains vs. Kearny, 4
Union Catholic at Gov. Livingston, 4

Swimming
Westfield at Shawnee, 3:30
Bowling
Westfield vs. Shabazz, 4
Scotch Plains vs. Elizabeth, 4

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10
Winter track
Boys Union County Relay Championships
Dunn Center, Elizabeth
Wrestling
Scotch Plains at Cranford, 7
Ice hockey
Westfield vs. St. Peter's, 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 11
Boys basketball
Wrestling
Westfield at Irvington, 4
Scotch Plains vs. Elizabeth, 4
Union Catholic at Roselle, 4
Girls basketball
Westfield vs. Irvington, 4
Scotch Plains at Elizabeth, 4
Union Catholic vs. Roselle, 4
Swimming
Westfield at East Brunswick, 4
Scotch Plains vs. Cranford, 3
Union Catholic at Gov. Livingston, 5:15
Bowling
Westfield vs. Livingston, 4
Scotch Plains vs. Shabazz, 4

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Community Players take 'Shot in the Dark'

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Community Players' winter production is "A Shot in the Dark" by Marcel Achard and Harry Kurnitz.

The mystery is not related to the second "Pink Panther" movie, which shares the same title.

Show times are scheduled for 8 p.m. Saturday and Jan. 13, 19 and 20 in the theater, located at 1000 North Ave. West in Westfield.

Josefa, a goodhearted and guileless woman, is brought before a local magistrate on a murder charge. She was found naked and unconscious, clutching a gun with her dead lover beside her. Amazingly, the magistrate begins to believe her story at the risk of his own career.

Starring are Mary Kate Cullinan as Josefa; Scott Stern as Paul Sevigne, the magistrate; Even Blank as Morestan, the cynical clerk; Jim Caffrey of Garwood as Benjamin Bearevers, her employer;

Sondra Ferra and Peggy E. Seymour, both of Cranford, and John Duryea of Scotch Plains.

The Community Players' version of "A Shot in the Dark" is being directed by Maurice J. Moran Jr.

Admission is \$12. Opening night patrons are invited to stay for a champagne reception with the cast, scheduled to take place at the conclusion of Saturday's performance. On Jan. 19, the troupe is scheduled to give a backstage tour after the show.

For reservations, season tickets or more information, call (908) 232-1221.

Group rates are available; for more information on those, call (908) 232-9568.

Funding for the Westfield Community Players is provided in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.



Moving on up

Four veteran officers are being promoted through the ranks of the Union County Prosecutor's Office, according to a press release issued this week by Prosecutor Thomas V. Manahan (standing, center). Kathleen Callahan (seated, right) and Joseph Vitell (standing, left) are being promoted from sergeant to lieutenant, while Tracy Morgan-Diaz (seated, left) and Ricardo A. Osborne (standing, right) are being promoted from detective to sergeant. The four officers will officially assume their new positions after a special Jan. 16 promotion ceremony. Manahan said in the release the four promotions will "improve the leadership in an office that is widely recognized for innovation and achievement throughout New Jersey."

Husband, wife team up for art exhibition

SUMMIT — Michael and Janice Metzger of Westfield are painter and printmaker, respectively. Together, the husband and wife collaborating on a joint exhibit with the connected theme of "His Wife/Her Husband." Their recent works are in the Kent Place Gallery at the Kent Place School, Summit, beginning Monday.

Mr. Metzger is a professor of fine arts at Kean University in Union, where he has been on the faculty since 1985. His paintings reflect influences of places seen imagined in his travels over the past five years.

Galleries that have exhibited the work of Mr. Metzger include the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, also in Summit; the Princeton Gallery of Fine Arts; the Blondelle Gallery, in New York City; and the Detroit Institute of Art. His paintings are in the corporate collections of Prudential Securities and Mikasa Corp.

Mrs. Metzger is an art teacher at Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights. She also is on the adjunct faculty of Caldwell College; Kean University, and Douglas College, located on the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University.

Her recent work is a series of drawings and prints depicting figures that float, struggle, swim or have fallen. The drawings and prints in the Kent Place exhibit show multiple images of the figures overlapping reality and the imaginary.

Mrs. Metzger was represented in the 44th annual National Print Exhibition at the Hunterdon Museum of Art, in Clinton. She earlier had exhibits at the Morris Museum, in Morristown; at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts; and the Kenilworth offices of Schering-Plough Corp.

"His Wife/Her Husband" may be seen through Feb. 2. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by appointment.

For more information, visit www.kentplace.org on the World Wide Web or call (908) 273-0900, ext. 332.

JCC lecture on fitness is not for women only

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey, located at 1391 Martine Ave., has scheduled a physical fitness lecture titled "Not for Women Only!"

The lecture is slated to begin at 1:30 p.m. Jan. 21.

Speaker is Edward Jackowski, chief executive officer of the New York City-based fitness training company Exude Inc. He is the author of "Hold It! You're Exercising Wrong" and the soon-to-be-published "Escape Your Shape."

For more information, call Karen Rosen at (908) 889-8800, ext. 224.

The program is sponsored by the JCC's Fitness Department.

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Contestants are sought for pageant

CRANFORD — Men and women, ages 16-21, are wanted to compete for the titles of Mr. Rainbow 2001 and Ms. Rainbow 2001.

The Rainbow Talent and Fashion Pageant is scheduled for Feb. 16 in the Roy W. Smith Theater, located on the main campus of Union County College. The pageant is a chance to show off talents and model the latest fashions.

Contestants can win a scholarship to the county college or to the Barbizon School of Modeling and Acting. Each contestant will participate in fashion modeling and talent production numbers. Each contestant is also expected to sell tickets at \$10 each, solicit ads for the journal and find sponsors.

Entrants must have at least a C average in school and submit a copy of a transcript or report card, plus a photograph, with their entry.

Forms are available from high school guidance counselors, Jersey Gardens in Elizabeth and participating Burger King restaurants. All entries must be submitted no later than Friday, Jan. 26.

For more information, visit www.uccfoundation.org on the World Wide Web or call (908) 709-7505.

President, CEO retires at Trinitas

ELIZABETH — David Fletcher is retiring as president and chief executive officer of Trinitas Hospital.

The hospital was formed in January 2000 by the merger of Elizabeth General Medical Center and St. Elizabeth Hospital. Fletcher was president and chief executive officer of Elizabeth General prior to the merger.

He will remain in his Trinitas post until a new president is named and then become a consultant to the new president until January 2002. In addition, Fletcher will remain president of the Trinitas Health Foundation and a trustee of Trinitas Health Corp.

"I set my retirement goals years ago," the retiring president said in a letter to the hospital's employees and physicians. "My hope was that — if it were at all possible — to retire at age 60. In January, I will be one year away from this milestone.

"2001 will see Trinitas Hospital embark on a number of long-range projects that will shape this institution for years to come," he added in the letter. "I feel strongly that it would be most fair to the new president and to the hospital to start searching for my replacement now, and to let that person put his or her stamp on these projects and carry them forward."

Fletcher joined Elizabeth General in 1967 as its assistant director; he was named senior vice president in 1973 and chief operating officer in 1983.

Camera Club sets meeting for Monday

CRANFORD — The Cranford-Millburn Camera Club has scheduled a business meeting for 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Township Community Center, located on Walnut Avenue.

Catherine Roxburgh is expected to present slides of her recent trip to Japan.

A competition has been scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Jan. 22, at the George Bauer Community Center in Taylor Park, Millburn. Black-and-white prints, color prints and slides have open competitions.

In addition, slides will be judged on subject of "Photo Travel." Klaus Schlein-Dieter is the judge.

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Real Estate

Be careful with what you do with your home's equity

BY JAMES M. WOODARD
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Sometimes the equity accumulated in a home is too accessible. It's only too easy to succumb to tempting advertising promoting home equity loans that can "quickly and easily generate money for vacations, education, business use, etc." On average, homeowners lost about \$1,500 in home equity during the past decade, according to a report from the Consumer Federation of America.

It's interesting to note that most equity loss was by young homeowners with minimal experience in owning a home. Older, more experienced homeowners enjoyed gains in their equity, it was noted by the federation.

Older homeowners, age 55 and older, had increased equity in their homes over the past decade - increases ranging from 3.4 to 6.5 percent. On the other hand, younger owners experienced

equity declines ranging from 7.1 to 13.8 percent, according to the federation.

Generally, home equity is eroding even though we have enjoyed a prolonged economic expansion, along with record number of homeowners. A family's home now accounts for about half of the average household's net worth.

"People have been using equity in their homes for years and I don't have a problem with judicial equity use," said Ray Brown, a real estate broker and co-author of the "Mortgages for Dummies" book. "There's a big difference between stupidly squandering equity and judiciously using it."

Brown himself used equity in his home to send two kids to school and to start a business.

Stephen Brobeck, CFA executive director, made this comment: "In a period when income and wealth have grown rapidly, it's worrisome that home equity has

been stagnant." Frank Nothaft, housing economist for the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. (a major secondary buyer of mortgage loans) noted that the increased use of home equity and low-down payment loans are the biggest equity drains in today's market.

During the past decade, the ratio of mortgage debt to the value of all homes increased from 31 to 34 percent. About two-fifths of the growth in outstanding mortgage debt in the late 1990s represented home equity loans and cash-out financing.

Randy Johnson, owner of a mortgage brokerage firm and author of the book, "How to save thousands of dollars on your home mortgage," offered an interesting perspective on the current situation.

"When you go back 20 years, you had to put 20 percent down, without FHA and VA financing, and that was it," he said. "Now you have marketing campaigns

with the 'equity police' coming to your home and telling you about unused equity. I think that's a heinous way to solicit people."

Condo sales are on the increase, particularly in areas where home prices are dramatically increasing. Buyers who can't afford the rising prices of single-family homes are turning to condos as a viable alternative.

"Higher home prices and affordability concerns increased the sales of smaller single-family detached homes and pushed many buyers (especially at the

lower and moderate end of the market) into lower-priced condo alternatives," said Gary Thomas, president of the California Association of Realtors.

"Overall, home sellers in our state have reaped the rewards of the robust real estate market, pocketing a median net cash gain of \$80,000. That's up 23.1 percent compared with last year."

Rising sales of condos are particularly prevalent in East and West Coast markets, where home prices have increased substantially in recent years, and are

still increasing. ***

Q. Is the proportion of families who can afford a median-priced home in their market increasing or decreasing?

A. The number of families who can afford the median-priced home has dropped to about 39 percent, according to a report from The Meyers Group, a real estate research and consulting firm. That's the lowest national ratio since November of last year.

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Homebuyers' event coming to Union County on Jan. 13

MOUNTAINSIDE — To prepare for a home purchase in the New Year, first-time home-buyers will have an opportunity to attend an event designed to educate consumers on purchasing a home in today's competitive market.

The Homeownership Now Event, which has toured New Jersey for the last six years, will be in Union County on Saturday, Jan. 13, with tips on purchasing real estate.

"Potential buyers learn in less than two hours what can take them months to figure out by trial and error," states Earl Myers, keynote speaker and member of the American Homebuyer's Education and Counseling Institute in Washington, D.C. "There has

been tremendous feedback from attendees that found the information extremely useful in purchasing their first home," adds Myers.

Topics discussed at the seminar include: the four keys to homeownership; how to select real estate professionals; how much home you can afford; Fannie Mae & HUD First-Time buyer programs; purchasing a home with no money down; reduced rates for first-time buyers; how to purchase a home in need of repair, and financing options for those with past credit problems.

"The seminar concentrates on the keys to a successful purchase and introduces home-buyers to often unexplored home buying options," states Joseph Farella,

executive vice president for American United, the Mountainside based Mortgage Banker and co-sponsor of the event. "Many people just don't realize that they can purchase a home with little to no money down."

The event is also sponsored by mywayhome.com, a real estate services web site promoting homeownership opportunities and featuring hundreds of homes for sale throughout Central New Jersey. Reservations for the event are required. To reserve space, contact mywayhome.com at their Mountainside, NJ headquarters. Attendees will receive the mywayhome.com Guide to Home Purchasing and American United's First-Time Homebuyer Certification.

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15 Tip Top Way from Timothy & Colleen Williams to Mark & Leslie Kepner for \$538,000.

7 Wren Court from Mohammed Y. & Rehana Modan to Gayle C. Duym for \$79,591.

NEW PROVIDENCE

43 Colony Court from Thomas J. & Marianne Szeluga to Thomas & Tonya Donnelly for \$365,000.

2 Crane Circle from Edward R. Baureis Jr. & Linda A. Baureis to Paul D. & Suzanne Carstensen for \$388,000.

26 Fourth St. from Arthur Paradise Jr. et.al. to Peter P. Paradise for \$140,000.

37 Hillside Terrace from Jerry W. & Nancy P. Jackson to Nancy P. Jackson for \$109,000.

87 Sagamore Drive from Edward & Joyce E. Johnson to Joel M. & Darlene S. Weisskopf for \$417,500.

SUMMIT

1-5B Euclid Ave. from Duncan H. & Aileen S. Looney

to Ruth H. Cooper for \$425,000.

24 Henry St. from Fernando & Sonia M. Rodriguez to Mariana Soto for \$225,000.

11 Morris Ave. from Erich K. Gerstberger to Nube M. Matute for \$220,000.

B5 Summit West from Marybeth A. Dunham to John G. O'Gorman for \$224,500.

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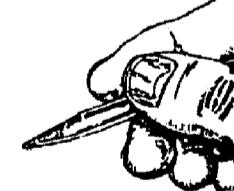
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Automotive/Classified

Lexus is entering a new arena with its IS 300 model

BY MARK MAYNARD
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

The more things change ... the more they get like the competition. At least that's how it seems with the evolution of sports sedans.

The 3-Series sedans from BMW, for example, are much more supple, rounded and soundproofed - more Lexus-like - than the previous generation.

And now Lexus comes out with the IS 300, a 3-Series competitor, and it has the angled lines and chiseled personality that the stock BMWs once had.

This entry-level sports-sedan segment is a new arena for Lexus, and it has issued a competent first offering.

This luxury division of Toyota sells the larger and more expensive GS 300/400 sports sedans, but it wanted a less expensive car to pull in younger buyers to groom them for future sales of bigger and better cars.

To do that required style and speed. The IS 300 is quick - 0 to 60 in 7.1 seconds - and head-turning shapely. It is a Lexus for someone who wouldn't typically consider Lexus. Read that: male, 35 to 40 years old, highly educated, married and with a \$100,000 household income.

Prices for the IS 300 start at \$30,945, including \$495 destination fee. The test car stickered at \$34,156, which is reasonable value for the hardware.

The car is new in the United States, but it comes from a tested foundation, the Toyota Altezza, which has been on sale in Europe and Japan for two years. The IS 300 is special for Lexus in the United States and won't be shared with Toyota.

Despite a nicely Lexus-ized package, some Toyota roots are showing, but few buyers of the IS 300 will notice ... or care.

Not all manufacturers can pull



This new Lexus is designed to give BMW a run for its money.

off the re-imaging and re-fitting of hinter-market models for U.S. consumption, but not all manufacturers have such a good car to start with.

With the BMW 3-Series as a benchmark, the IS 300 is fluent in German, but with some street-savvy influences of its own.

Among the Teutonic accents are rear-wheel drive, inline 6-cylinder engine and front and rear bumpers that crop closely to the tires. There's even a roof-top antenna.

Specific enhancements for North America include more soundproofing, a huskier exhaust note, clear-lens taillights, high-intensity headlights with composite covers and air dam with fog lights.

Not all changes were cosmetic:

The engine, battery and fuel tank have been moved toward the center of the car to enhance balance.

There's a nice array of shiny metal accents that try to spill up Toyota plastic, but it lacks the continuity of a ground-up Lexus original design.

The large circular speedometer is ringed with a chronograph (Rolodex-like) bezel that calls out "Rolodex." The theme meshes well with the cog-like dials for climate control and the chrome bezels around the gear shift console and the chrome (Tootsie-pop) ball shifter.

A margin of titanium-gray trim spans the instrument panel and window switch plates on the door panels.

Drilled and brushed-stainless steel pedals (including driver's foot

rest) are another nice touch that were a "tyrannical battle" with Toyota headquarters in Japan to be OK'd. The driver's footrest in the test car, however, had come loose and wiggled around like a cheap add-on.

Softening the metallic and black interior were optional leather and Ecstaine upholstery and door trim panels. Pronounced like Ecstaine, this man-made material looks and feels like ventilated suede.

Dead center in the speedo are three small analog gauges, including one for instant MPG, another BMW likeness, but it is just as unnecessary here. The 18 mpg city and 23 highway ratings are good enough that few buyers of this car will obsess over mileage.

Also useful is the 8-speaker

240 watt AM-FM-cassette with in-dash 6-disc CD that cranks as strong as the engine and, thank you, there are no redundant steering wheel radio controls.

The only controls on the tight-leather wrap of the steering wheel are the E-shift buttons for the 5-speed automatic transmission. The only shifter of choice now, but a 5-speed manual will be offered some time in the next year.

(At the time of launch there was just too much time-consuming data acquisition for EPA certification to offer both auto and manual transmission.)

Horsepower comes from the 3.0 liter I-6 from the GS 300 sedan and SC 300 coupe.

Better to be a "have" than a "have not" in this group - and at 215 hp is very capable at motivat-

ing the 3,270 pound curb weight. (The engine is just 5 hp shy of the heavier GS/SC 300s because of its single exhaust. It's also certified as a LEV, low-missions vehicle.)

Not that car needs more power, but a range of sport-racing accessories are planned through Toyota Racing Development, which already has engine enhancements for the GS and SC 300s.

The IS 300 slips through traffic with ease, controlled through the E-Shift transmission and big disc brakes.

The floor shifter can be manually selected for sport or snow mode. Bump the shift lever to the manual-shift slot and gear changes are done through thumb buttons on the steering wheel.

Place your hands at 3 and 9 o'clock on the tightly wrapped leather wheel, and you are poised for trigger shifting. Thumb the top-side buttons for downshifts; the index or middle finger can flick the back side buttons for upshifts.

Shifts are well-timed and the car behaves competently, but it doesn't have the grace under pressure of a BMW. The steering isn't as communicative or responsive.

Big praise goes to the engineer who insisted traction control be standard equipment. A heavy right foot at the traffic light will easily break loose the low-profile Bridgestone Potenza O40 tires. Also considerate is the option for 16-inch all-season tires for wet and winter drivability.

The car's wedge-like silhouette - also reminiscent of the older BMW sedans - earns it a very low coefficient of drag, 0.29. Still, at interstate speeds there is noticeable wind at the outside mirrors and from the wide, open wheels.

The IS 300 isn't like any other Lexus, but it has the horsepower, street smarts and high fashion to survive. Purebred Lexus breeding will come in time.

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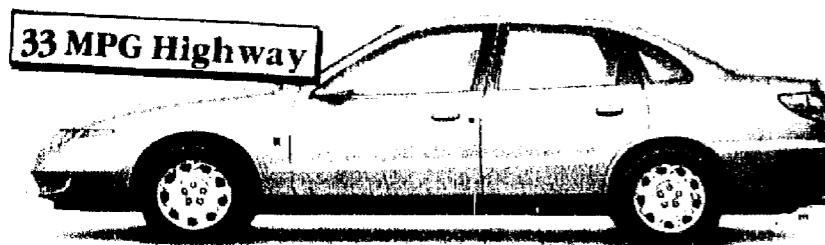
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