

Around Town



Gotta love it

Westfield first singles player Griffin Maloney hopes to lead Westfield to a county championship. See preview on Page

Proclamation puts autism in spotlight

WESTFIELD - Mayor Gregory McDermott has issued a proclamation declaring the month of April as Autism Awareness Month.

Autism is a disorder that frequently affects a person's behavior, learning ability and/or social Originally thought to be relatively rare and occurring in as few as one in 10,000 children, autism is now known to be much more common, perhaps

one in 500 children is autistic. Early intervention often means that a child can be educated in a regular class-

The cause of the disorder is not known, and there is no

No 'snow days' means long weekend

WESTFIELD ---Westfield Board of Education has approved an extended spring vacation for the Westfield Public Schools.

Monday, April 1, will be a holiday because the district has not had to use "snow days" in the 2001-02 school calendar.

If the mild weather continues, schools will also close on May 24 and May 28 for an extended Memorial Day weekend. The 2001-02 school calendar had three built-in "snow days" to allow for closings due to inclement weath-



Arts festival

Lieberman Westfield demonstrates origami at the Union County Teen Arts Festival in Cranford March 13. See story, another picture on Page B-2.

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ntative SP-F school agreement

THE RECORD PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Board of Education and the Plains-Fanwood Scotch Education Association have arrived at a tentative contract agreement.

Contract negotiations continued until 3 a.m. Tuesday.

School Board President Dr. Donald Sheldon, characterized the settlement as a "potential

agreement" made between his board, the teachers' union and the fact finder who took over mediation.

Barbara McGuane, chief negotiator and first vice president of the teachers' union, said there was "give and take" by both parties to resolve the contract. Negotiations have been going on for more than a year. The teachers' contract expired in June 2001, but the teachers have continued to work under

Sheldon could not comment on the agreement. He said terms of the agreement would be shared and considered at the next Board of Education meeting which was scheduled for last night.

Members of the teachers' union will hear the terms of the agreement at a meeting on April 3. A ratification vote can be held three days later, on April 6, McGuane said.

"There was a fact finder who was with us and he mediated with both sides," Sheldon said. "That leaves us with a possible agreement that has to be reviewed with both sides."

This is the fourth time teacher contract negotiations have occurred during Sheldon's nine-year career on the school board. While on the board Sheldon served two of those nine years as vice president and six years as president.

A stumbling block in the negotiation has been giving equal health benefits to new teachers and tenured teachers and starting salaries for new

"I'm very hopeful that both sides will approve what was tentatively agreed upon last night,"

Sheldon said. If all the steps of the negotiation process don't work the board will be left to impose a contract, Sheldon said.

School tax not high enough?

By TINA PERROTTA

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD -- The school tax may be more than expected, but that's not what's making Westfield residents upset.

Despite the fact that the school tax on the average home will rise \$487 yearly, an 8.9 percent increase, residents who attended Tuesday night's meeting only showed concern for the activities and programs cut to keep the budget down.

The two reductions of most concern was the elimination of the Elementary All City Chorus and the position of TV Technician from the preliminary \$57.7 million budget.

The cutbacks were due to the amount of programs the cap would allow and the amount of state aid the district can receive.

"This is the first time in 25 years the state has frozen aid. What we can normally offset with state aid is now affecting ' said School Superintendent William J. Foley. "We're considered a relatively wealthy district, and what I mean by that is in income, but when it comes to ratables on property we don't have a lot. Most educational activities

are funded by property taxes." Foley went on to explain that districts normally receive 30 percent of their budget in state aid, but Westfield is only receiving 7.9 percent.

"Even with a cap, this budget doesn't include everything we wanted to include," said School Board President Arlene Gardner.

Resident Travis Hudelson told board members that the tax increase was only part of the cost for supplying their children with a 'quality education' that often includes parents having to purchase the items needed in school.

"I'm probably going the opposite direction of all these people," Hudelson said. "I think our property taxes have skyrocketed in the last couple of years, but if anyone here doesn't understand it's due to the quality of our schools, you just missed the boat."

One resident who did understand the quality of a Westfield education was 16-year old Robert McGowan, McGowan was one of three students who stood before the board to show his support for TV Technician Bill McMeekan.

McMeekan sat in the audience listening to his students after learning last Tuesday that his position is part of the budget reductions.

"Now that I am involved with TV and I have learned so much from just watching what Mr. McMeekan does, I have now looked into TV production as a career choice for college," McGowan said. "If you take Mr. McMeekan away from the school community it will affect the way I feel about the school I am in and most importantly, the way I will feel about taking a TV course next year. Mr. McMeekan is more than just a person who does TV 36 productions and sits in the TV room. He's involved with every kid that does a TV shoot or project. He goes to every shoot that

(Continued on page A-2)



Patriotic fervor

One of the most visible effects of Sept. 11 has been the proliferation in the display of American flags. Pictured above is one of the many flags that fly over Downtown Westfield. This one is near the intersection of Central Avenue and Broad Street. The house displaying Old Glory is on Walnut Street, Westfield.

NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



No lawsuit yet in teen sex assault case

By TINA PERROTTA

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS - The parents of the 13-year old girl who was sexually assaulted by five male students last week have yet to file suit against Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District.

And there have been no negotiations or talks of a settlement between the victim's family and the school, said Sally Rowland, executive asssistant Superintendent Dr. Carol Choye.

The incident occurred Jan. 2 after the girl was allegedly dragged from Park Middle School property to a neighboring creek bed where the boys forced her to perform a sex act.

After the assault one of the boys followed the girl back to the middle school and assaulted her again in the stairwell, according to Union County Prosecutor's

Alter a three-day investigation by Scotch Plains police all five boys were arrested. Detective

Brian Mahoney and Detective Jeffrey Briel were credited with obtaining enough detailed evidence that two of the boys pleaded guilty to charges in adult court.

Following the arrests, Union County Prosecutor Thomas V. Manahan met personally with the victim's family and told them that he would seek adult prosecution due to the seriousness of

the charges. Manahan said members of the Juvenile Justice Unit and the Victim Witness Advocacy Unit are keeping the family informed with progress in the case. The victim's parents support the sentencing recommendations that will result in state prison, adult convictions and mandatory lifelong Megan's Law registration and supervision requirements, he said.

They've been in constant contact with members of our office including the victim's witness counselor," said Robert O'Leary, executive assistant prosecutor. "They've been in years in prison on the aggravatagreement and advised of what's happened so far.

Rowland said there have been no negotiations or talks of a settlement between the victim's parents and the school. "I don't know where they're

going at this point," Rowland said. "We're still waiting for the trials." The oldest of the five Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students to be arrested was 17-

year-old Mark Russell who will stand trial as an adult after Superior Court Judge Rudolph N. Hawkins in Elizabeth signed an order transferring the case from family court.

Russell is the former boyfriend of the girl and the alleged ring leader in the attack. Authorities believe he also pushed, slapped and punched the girl during the assault.

If convicted, Russell could face a maximum sentence of 25 years to life on kidnapping charges and an additional 20 ed sexual assault charge, according to O'Leary.

Russell is currently being held at George W. Herlich Juvenile Quarters in Elizabeth awaiting trial.

The other minors, 16-year-old Manuel Batista and 16-year-old Brian Soriano, pleaded guilty as adults to aggravated sexual assault. Both agreed to testify against the codefendants and in return accepted five-year terms in state prison as part of their plea bargain.

Soriano and Batista will face review at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Avenel to determine if they are repetitive compulsive sex offenders requiring treatment, O'Leary said.

Out of the five, two more teenagers, ages 14 and 16 have cases pending. These boys are currently suspended from school and are provided with home instruction by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District.

Merchants show a token of appreciation

By GREG MARX

STAFF WRITER

CRANFORD - Downtown shoppers may be seeing a hometown discount of sorts, as a new batch of parking tokens becomes available for public

The tokens, available for purchase from the Downtown Management Corp. office, "are really geared to business owners," said DMC Director Kathleen Miller Prunty, Local storeowners can purchase them, then distribute them free of charge to patrons. Each token can be used for 30 minutes of parking at a downtown

"It's a merchant's way of saying 'thank you," Prunty said.

The token program has never been discontinued. But most of the tokens had been lost through attrition.

So about a year ago, the township purchased 8,000 new tokens for about \$2,000. But there were some production problems - the first batch was ordered correctly, but minted at the wrong size - and the tokens are just now being put into circulation.

The new tokens are identical to the old, except the words

"Chamber of Commerce" have been replaced with "Township of Cranford." The chamber once operated the program, but it is now run by the police depart-

The Township Committee last week authorized the free distribution of some tokens to encourage store owners and shoppers to begin using them agnin. A pack of 40 normally

To ensure the supply will not

dwindle again, said Lt. John Baer of the Traffic Bureau, police sort out the tokens from coins before parking revenues

Bassoonist tapped for All-State

Velderman, a junior at Westfield High School, has Been named to the New Jersey All-State Orchestra as a bas-

Velderman regularly plays with the Westfield High School Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble. Recently, he performed with the New Jersey Region II Symphony Orchestra. In addi-

tion, he plays cello with the Greater Newark Orchestra.

Besides music, Velderman's interests include projects involving robotics. His college goal is to study engineering.

For the past five years, Velderman has been studying at the Music Studio of New Jersey Workshop for the Arts. His teacher, Howard Toplansky, is the author of "The Essentials of Bassoon Technique," long considered the bassoonist's

"I am really pleased with Matt's work. He is a multitalented young man and this is further confirmation of his fine abilities," Toplansky said.

are taken to the bank. That might seem a daunting task, but "it's not that bad,"

Baer said. "I have great employees, and they've got it down to a science.

"When you go into the stores downtown, ask the merchants if they have tokens," Prunty encouraged residents.

Crossing builder upset by pace of application

By GREG MARX

STAFF WRITER

CRANFORD Representatives of Kushner Companies presented several improvements to the Cranford Crossing site plan at a March 13. Planning Board meeting. But a host of new questions arose, and the slow progress on the application continued to frustrate the

Kushner traffic engineer Nicholas Verderese proposed numerous improvements in traffic circulation, based on a meeting with the Cranford officials and the Department of Transportation. While the original plan called for South Union Avenue to be widened to a total of four lanes, including two-way traffic, under the new plan the street would remain one-way and would be narrowed from its corrent width.

The change allows the township to retain on-street parking on South Union. The sidewalks will also be widened to 10 feet

a major criticism of the first plan was that some sidewalks were narrower than 7 feet allowing for more trees and street furniture. And curb "bump-outs" at the intersection will narrow the distance pedestrians must travel to cross the street.

To maintain access to the garage, the new plan would allow cars to turn from South Avenue into the Blockbuster lot and enter the garage from the rear. That change, along with the addition of a new stairwell in the garage, would bring the number of spaces from about 310 down to 304.

Board members appeared to approve of the changes, offering few criticisms. But the placement of that stairwell - inserted because the board wanted a westerly exit - inspired an hour of contentious debate.

The stair would lead pedestrians directly into a traffic nisle in the Blockbuster lot. "This is not being pedestrian-

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friendly," said board chairman Kurt Petschow. He and others urged the developer to install a corridor allowing garage users to walk directly to the street outside the retail stores, but Kushner representatives said the redevelopment plan for the site mandated the buildings remain separate.

The board also raised questions about insufficient loading space and inadequate maintenance. Melvin Scheinerman. vice-president of Kushner's property management arm, said that while no employees would have full-time offices at the site. a property manager, custodian and other maintenance workers from the company's Westfield Duncan property. Apartments, would have a daily presence.

But Petschow displayed a number of photos from Duncan Hill showing potholes, overgrown vegetation, and other maintenance. neglected "Obviously, Westfield does not have a landscaper," he said.

"Actually, they Scheinerman admitted. He later asked for the photos, saying "I want to make sure we address

The company had hoped to get preliminary site plan approval at the meeting — the pace of the hearing "is creating some problems for us," Kushner representative Richard Driver told the board.

But at the board's 10 p.m. curfew, one Kushner representative had yet to testify, and the board had not reviewed the report of its planner. After Driver pleaded with the board to stay another hour or two, Petschow consented to a vote. Board members voted 8-1 to adjourn.

The application will continue at a special meeting 7:30 p.m. April 10, at which Kushner representatives hope to be granted both preliminary and final site plan approval.

If the project is approved then, said special counsel Joseph Baumann, a July date for beginning construction would still be feasible.

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Subscription rates by mail, one year within Union County \$17, out of county \$20, out of state \$24. To subscribe call 1-800-300-9321

School tax

(Continued from page A-1) the school has. Taking him away is like taking a whole school program away. Please do not take this away from me or all the other kids that are involved. I don't think the board understands how much he does for the kids and the school com-

Afterward, Foley shared his fondness for McMeekan's compassion to the program, but also explained why he had no other choice but to eliminate the position from the budget.

The program may not run as well without Mr. McMeekan, but it will run," Foley said. These are the decisions I'm faced with. If I find a way, after the schedules are done, ... I will restore the program."

The board made 16 budget reductions that included reducing the number of lunchroom aides, eliminating the eighthgrade sports program, cutting back on salary adjustments and tuition savings, and eliminating the positions of part-time nurse and elementary teacher.

The Gifted and Talented pilot program may also be put on the back burner.

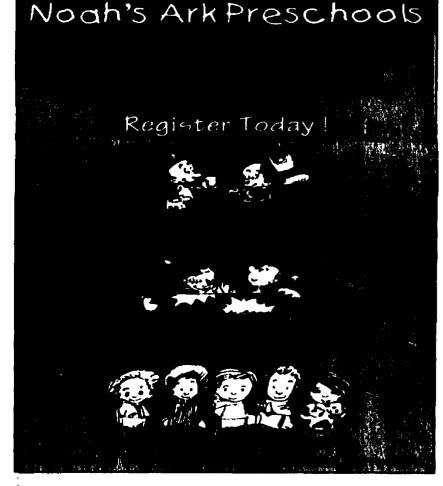
Ann Freedman, co-president of the ALP Parent Association told board members she thinks funds for the sixth-grade pilot program for advanced learners should be provided and the ALP program should be kept in the budget.

"There are reasons for supporting these programs." Freedman said. "First, the board made gifted and talented programs one of its top six priorities for this school year. The district hired a consultant to evaluate ALP and recommend changes. Second, the consultant, Sara Lampe, made her presentation to the Board in Jan., but the board has not yet determined which of Ms. Lampe's recommendations to accept. Finally, we need to preserve ALP in its current format while differentiated instruction is phased in. We know that you support all the children in Westfield. We borrowed the slogan of the US Army, we're sure you would agree with their goal for our kids. Be all you can be!"

Despite the budget reduca tions, the board also added items including training for differentiated instruction, the introduction of the Gifted and Talented pilot program, the replacement of both fifth-grade and high school computers, improving district fields, updated program for sixth-grade curriculum and new textbooks for revisited curriculum.

After the meeting, the members voted in favor of the tentative budget with the hope that Foley could find alternate sources of funding McMeekan and the All-City-State Chorus.

"What I find surprising is for my generation a 27-cent tax increase would make your head spin and I'm surprised we're not more focused on that," Foley said. "Twenty-seven cents is the highest tax increase in the history of Westfield. I think All City Chorus is a great program, but we are trying to keep the music and art program to the level we have now.



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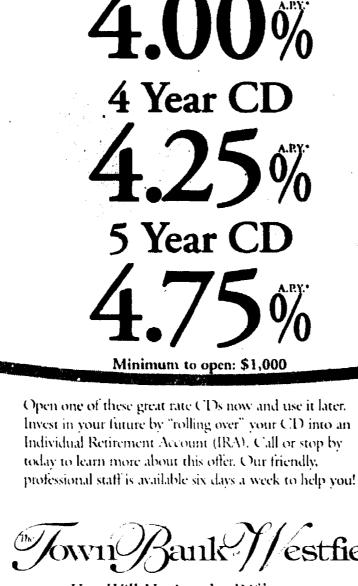
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Sharpshooters kill 47 deer during Reservation hunt

THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS - Several shots were fired inside the Watchung Reservation last week and it wasn't deer hunt-

It was an order by the county to keep the deer population level and resulted in the deaths of about 47 deer last Monday and Tuesday.

This is the sixth year the county has utilized the deer management program and the results, according to Assistant Public Information Officer, Tom Plante, are successful.

Despite the controversy, harvesting the deer has kept the population down to 20 deer per square mile compared to the 1996 count of 180 deer per square mile.

The overcrowding caused

deer to venture out into areas of Scotch Plains and Watchung looking for food. The population grew because deer hunting is forbidden in Union County, said

"They were eating the vegetation in the park so much so the trees were suffering and the deer began roaming out into yards for food. They then began roaming into roads and caused car accidents." Plante said. "Because they were basically kept together the population soared and they were eating everything in sight."

By using cameras from a helicopter, county officials are able to monitor the deer population yearly within the reservation. Though this approach only gives an approximate number it has been successful in figuring out how overpopulated the reservation had

Since the programs establishment the deer population along with the accidents have decreased, causing the county to change its goal from reducing the population to maintaining the current population

This year the program was completed with the help of 12 marksmen who were handpicked by the county and accompanied by state officials from the Fish and Wildlife Department and the county Sheriff's Office.

"lt's very controlled and these people are good at what they do." Plante said. "The deer athat are harvested) are processed at a USDA approved butcher The venison was distributed to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and given to needy families."

Cheers and jeers for Hyatt Hills course

By GREG MARX

STAFF WRITER

CRANFORD - Local residents offered praise of the Hyatt Hills Golf Course, but criticisms of the proposed management plans, at a public meeting March 14.

The course itself, which will open in July or August of this year, won acclaim from the more than 50 members of the public in attendance - one said just, "great job." The nine-hole course has been given a slope, or difficulty, rating of 130 from the championship tees, competitive with private courses in the area.

And course superintendent Joe Flaherty, who worked on several U.S. Opens during his three-decade tenure as superintendent at Springfield's Baltusrol Golf Club, described the quality of the grass as "equal to any private club in the

"We're trying to make this an upscale golf course," said Rich Donofrio of the Hyatt Hills Golf

"We're trying to make this an upscale golf course, as if everybody belonged to a country club."

> Rich Donofrio. Hyatt Hills Golf Commission

Commission, "...as if everybody belonged to a country club."

But several residents felt the "country club" analogy to be a little too apt, arguing proposed greens fees are too high and a limited membership proposal will turn the course into a "semi-private" facility.

Proposed fees for Clark and Cranford residents, after purchasing a \$30 resident ID card, are Mon.-Thu. \$16/9 holes, \$25/18 holes; Fri.-Sun. \$30/18 holes (there is no 9-hole option on weekends). Seniors would be able to play for a reduced rate of \$13/9 holes and \$20/18 holes after 11 a.m. during the week. Commissioners said a youth price would be offered, but did not specify a rate.

Electric carts would be required for weekend play at a the memberships, commission-

cost of \$26.

The Commission also proposed selling 100 \$1,500 memberships. Membership benefits would include \$600-700 in greens fees and use of the driving range and miniature golf course, but the primary advantage would be first apportunity. to book coveted weekend morning tee times.

The result, said resident Rich Hurley, is "you're going to have a group of 100 people dominat-

ing the golf course."
"This is essentially a semiprivate course if you run it the way you're proposing," said former Township Attorney Robert Renaud. "I think the citizens of Clark and Cranford are expecting a public course.

Part of the justification for

ers said, is they provide a guaranteed revenue source for the course. Profits from the course will be divided between the two municipalities, with Cranford receiving one-third.

Golf Commissioner and former Clark Mayor Robert Ellenport said the course had always been intended as both a recreational opportunity and revenue generator for the towns, "Those are two competing and not necessarily consistent concepts," he acknowledged.

Commissioners declined to estimate course revenue, but said the fees were not designed to make the course a "cash cow." Should the facility make "an outrageous amount of money" in the first year, Donofrio said, the responsibility falls to the commission to lower the rates.

And commissioners said they may be lowered sooner than that. "After tonight, we may not have memberships," said Robert Hoeffler, "Nothing's cast in concrete at this point.



Read all about it

Ricardo Johnson of Jefferson Elementary School in Westfield shares one of his favorite books with a few first-graders during Read Across America activities at the school.

Questions needed for board hopefuls

WESTFIELD -- The candidates for the Westfield Board of Education will answer questions at a forum to be taped in the Westfield High School TV Studio and broadcast on Channel 36 from early April through the election date, April 16.

The Westfield Parent-Teacher Council and the League of Women Voters, co-sponsors of the taping, welcome questions to present to the candidates. Although no audience participation will take place this year, all of the questions will be composed from issues that the public has provided.

Questions can be emailed to the league at westfieldnj.com/lwv. Questions can also be mailed c/o Westfield Parent Teacher Council, 726 Tuxford Turn, Westfield, NJ 07090, no later than April 1.

The program will begin with opening statements from each candidate. Following that, questions will be directed to the candidates. Dorothy Dawson of the Hillside Area League of Women Voters will moderate.

The program will adhere to the traditional criteria of discussion of the issues.

The four candidates vying for three seats on the Westfield Board of Education include Arlene Gardner, Alice C. Hunnicutt, George M. Kattak and William B. Ziff.



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Union County honors its top 10 women of 2002

time and energy to building a health center in Kenya. One woman built a thriving childoare center in Plainfield. Another worked to educate rescue workers on spinal cord

In all, 10 Union County women will be honored by the county's Commission on the Status of Women and the Board of Freeholders Friday. It will be held at the Westwood in Garwood and will begin at 7

Among the honorees is Mary Ellen McGlynn of Westfield, who will be honored for her achievements in medicine. McGlynn has worked with The Sharing Network since 1987 and is now its manager of Family Support Programs. She has helped families who have lost loved ones and who have made the decision to turn their loss into a lifesaving option for people in need. In this position she has raised awareness and made a difficult decision much easier for families.

While they represent many of Union County's different communities, professions and backgrounds, these women have all been chosen because of their dedication, leadership and commitment in their areas of activi-

"These women we are honoring come from all walks of life and all parts of Union County, but they all share one thing in common - a concern about their communities," said Freeholder Deborah P. Scanlon, liaison to the commission. The Union County Commission on the Status of Women was created by the Union County Board of Freeholders in 1976. In addition to the annual Women of Excellence Awards, the commission develops and presents special programs of interest to women throughout the year. The other honorees are: Margareta Paslaru of Summit, Arts & Catherine Humanities; Rousseau-Saintilien

Elizabeth, Community Service; Phyllis Lynda Volker of Rahway, Education; Faheemah S. El-Plainfield, Elizabeth Entrepreneur; Councilwoman Carla A. Mazza, Government;

Assemblywoman Linda Stender of Fanwood, State Government; Tonnie Glick of Summit, Health Care; Mary A. Krech of Roselle Park, Volunteerism; the Rev. Luciel Haynes Hatchett of Union, Women's Advocacy.

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Westfield woman comforts victims' families By TINA PERROTTA

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD - When the hand of death touches a family, Mary Ellen McGlynn of Westfield is the angel who comforts those left behind.

McGlynn's job as manager of the Family Support Programs for the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network is not easy.

She regularly meets with organ donor families, feels their loss, and then tries to help them cope. Her life's work and dedication to donor families and transplant recipients has recently earned her the honor of being one of the 10 Union County Women of the Year.

McGlynn's achievements in medicine began as a critical care nurse in Newark, then as a transplant coordinator.

"The reason I initially got into it was because my background was in critical care and I had a tremendous commitment to people in need of getting transplants. I saw the benefits that could happen. The people willing to give also have a benefit, they have a came out of a tragedy," McGlynn

As a transplant coordinator McGlynn was contacted every time a patient died and then had to talk to the victims family about donating their organs. While the family sat in the hospital after learning of their loved one's death, McGlynn had to evaluate the suitability of the organ with an in-depth interview.

Despite being on 24-hour call, McGlynn took pride in helping patients on the national waiting list live longer and healthier lives. McGlynn found solace in meeting the transplant patients and the families of the donors so she joined the Sharing Network.

"Basically, in the beginning we would be involved with the donation and making the arrangements for the transplant to happen and say thank you to the families with a letter. We realized that families who make that decision about donation do so at a critical time when they just found out that someone has died," McGlynn said. "They make that decision out of the kindness of

benefit to know something good their heart because they're the kind of person that wants to help somebody out."

The Family Support Program offers comfort to donor families who may have questions or doubts after their loved one has died. The program does this by contacting the families and holding meetings.

"When somebody is an organ donor the family's dealing with a sudden death. They're (the victim) usually very young. The most difficult think to do is come to terms with the awful that happened and come to them with the compassion, kindness and support to help them deal with the situation," McGlynn said. "You don't want the families to second guess, you want them to say thank God I did that and something good came out of this."

Though there are thousands of donor families throughout New Jersey, McGlynn has come across many families who are not willing to donate their loved ones' organs. This decision varies for each family but is mostly due to a lack of knowledge regarding what the victim wanted, according to

"A lot of times people don't know what the person would have wanted. I've heard I would donate, but my husband and I didn't talk about it. A lot of times people will have misconceptions and think we won't take care of the organs," McGlynn said. "There are reasons why people will say, 'She's been through enough, I don't want her to go through more.' But some people will tell me, 'I didn't donate when my sister died and now I regret it. It's hard to say yes if it's the first time you've heard about it."

For more information contact the New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network at (800) SHARENJ.

"We need to get the word out about the value of this ahead of time before they're in crisis. Then, when the time should come you can say, my husband and I talked about this and he wanted to help people. We have the technology but we can't buy an organ." McGlynn said. "There's a saying, don't take your organs to heaven, heaven knows they need them

Scotch Plains student writes thesis on Eric Sevareid's role in WWII

An interest in journalism and World War II has inspired Michael Milberger of Scotch Plains, a Lafayette College history major, to investigate Eric Sevareid's work as a radio correspondent during World War II.

Sevareid, former national correspondent for "The CBS Evening News," joined CBS as a broadcast. journalist to cover the outbreak of the war in Europe in 1939.

"The general themes of my (senior honors) thesis include a character sketch of Sevareid's personality and talents, the emergence and impact of radio during the war, and how Sevareid's work reflected the brutal realties of modern war against the political and social backdrop of the time period," Milberger said

He says the project excites him because of the opportunity to explore primary sources for a topic on which little secondary literature has been produced. Milberger, a psychology minor,

says he was also excited by the idea of focusing on one individual and trying to piece together the kind of person Sevareid was and how his mind worked, "almost in a psychological fashion."

Donald L. Miller is serving as Milberger's thesis adviser. Miller has received critical acclaim for The Story of World War II," a revised, expanded and updated version of Henry Commager's classic book, published in November by Simon Schuster/Lou Reda. This month, Miller will appear on The History Channel's "Hardcover History: The History Channel Book Club" and on C-Span2's "Book TV."

"It is an exciting privilege to work with one of the most esteemed professors at Lafayette," Milberger said. "I have always enjoyed his classes and found them extremely rewarding. His work in print and television is extensive and speaks volumes of his knowledge and ability. I am looking forward to working closely with Professor Miller as I begin the writing phase of my thesis this semester.'

"The faculty and staff in the history department and the library have been extremely helpful," Milberger adds. "The small school environment is very conducive to doing personal research."

A graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Milberger is a member of the varsity soccer team, Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and Phi Alpha Theta, the history academic honor society. He wrote for the student newspaper, The Lafayette, last spring, and participated in Lafayette's Alumni Externship program during the January interim session, shadowing Peter T. Holran, a 1987 Lafayette graduate who is deputy general manager of the full-service government relations firm The Wexler Group, in Washington, D.C.

Lafayette is one of only 56 colleges and universities in the nation classified as most academically competitive by Barron's, publishers of Profiles of American Colleges and Guide to the Most Competitive Colleges. There are about 2,300 students and 184 full-time faculty, all of whom hold the doctorate or other terminal degree in their

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Young moms treated to shower

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield hosted a baby shower for participants in the Healthy Families program, on Feb. 16, at the Visiting Nurse and Health Services building Elizabeth. Seventeen first-time mothers, under the age of 21, were treated to a healthy breakfast and goody bags brimming with baby necessities.

The moms also received a presentation, in English and Spanish, on baby health and safety, given by Judith Francis Ingram. Their "bundles of joy' received baby outfits, as well as, baby hats, which were handmade by Healthy Families Director, Arlene Slizewsky, R.N.

"I am overwhelmed by the participation and success of the shower," said Slizewsky.

The baby shower is the first collaboration between Junior League and Healthy Families but hopefully not the last, said Cyndi Salemy, the league's Helping Hands Chairwoman.

At the shower, the moms were very appreciative.

They received important information, and went home with some goodies to get them started too, thanks in part, to a generous donation from Gerber Products, said Salemy.

Healthy Families, a nationwide organization, offers a variety of support programs to young, first-time mothers in an effort to enable them to care for their new babies in a positive,

nurturing environment. They offer emotional support, access to health-care services, parenting instruction and assistance with obtaining community services (housing, education, child care, job training) through individual visits by Healthy Family caseworkers.

They establish relationships with these new moms that begin during their pregnancy and continue until the children reach kindergarten age. For information about Healthy Families, call (908) 352-5694.

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield is an organization of over 300 women drawn from throughout Union County committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Organizations that would like to work with the Junior League are invited to contact us concerning the development of community projects.

Women who are interested in becoming members of the league may contact us at (908) 709-1177.

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Holy Week Services

announced their schedules for Holy Week, the most sacred week on the Christian calendar.

Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 S. Martine Ave., has a Palm Sunday service 10 a.m.

Morning prayer is 7 a.m. Monday, Tuesday Wednesday. The Maundy Thursday service 7:30 p.m. includes Holy Communion.

A solemn service is 7:30 p.m. Good Friday, March 29.

For Easter Sunday, March 31, there is a sunrise service in the garden 7 a.m. and a service in the sanctuary 10 a.m.

Child care is available at all services. For more information, phone (908) 889-8891.

A full Holy Week schedule is in effect at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains:

Palm Sunday — Service, 10:30 a.m. Rev. Kenneth Hetzel, the pastor, delivers a sermon on "The Kingdom His "Children's Come!" Message" early in the service features cartoons to illustrate the meaning of Palm Sunday. Palms will be distributed after the service with an ice cream social to follow. Child care is available.

Tuesday and Monday, Wednesday — Bible readings, 7:30 p.m. Each night's program also includes a sermon by Hetzel.

Maundy -ThursdayPassover ceremony and Seder meal, 6:30 p.m. The ceremony and Seder coincide with the Jewish holiday of Passover, which begins at sundown Wednesday. Holy Communion will be incorporated into the

Good Friday, March 29 -Candlelight service, 7:30 p.m. Special hymns for this service

are by the Chancel Choir. For more information, phone (908) 232-5678.

A special presentation will be incorporated within services 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, 170 Elm St.

Actress Paula shares "God Sightings Through Sorrow" with her rendition of the trial and crucifixion, based on the Gospel According to Mark. She is director of Christian education at Trinity

Baptist Church in Manhattan. Special hymns are by the Chancel Choir under the direction of Music Minister Bill Mathews. The Cherub Choir of singers 2-6 years old performs "Ho, Ho, Ho, Hosannah!"

A reception follows the service. For more information, phone (908) 233-2278.

The Scotch Plains Baptist Church, 333 Park Ave., has a full schedule of Holy Week services open to the public.

Palms will be distributed within services 10:55 a.m. Sunday, March 24. Special music is by the church choir.

Holy Communion will be administered 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday in a joint service with the Calvary Chapel of Watchung and the Terrill Road Baptist Church of Scotch Plains. Rev. Tom Dickerson, pastor of the Calvary Chapel, has a sermon around Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Music is by the Calvary Chapel worship team and Scotch Plains Baptist Church choir. Rev. Michael Seamon, pastor of the Terrill Road Baptist Church, ends the service with Psalm 22.

The "Seven Last Words" of Christ are the locus of a solemn service at noon Good Friday, March 29. This also is a joint service with the Calvary Chapel and Terrill Road Baptist Church.

Services 10:55 a.m. Easter Sunday, March 31 feature special music from the choir. Rev. Gary Rothwell, the pastor, delivers his sermon on "What a Difference a Day Makes."

For more information, phone (908) 322-5487.

First United Methodist Church of Westfield invites the community to join in the celebration of Easter.

On Maundy Thursday, March 28, participants will gather for a symbolic meal at 7 p.m. where the meaning of Holy Thursday is remembered and reenacted. From the quiet, simple supper worshipers will gather at 8 p.m. for a service with readings and music in keeping with the Lord's Last Supper.

On Good Friday, March 29, there will be a vigil in the sanctuary with appropriate readings every half hour from noon until 3 p.m. On Easter Sunday, March 31, there will be two worship services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Continental breakfast will be served between the services at 10:15 a.m.

The church is located at 1 E. Broad St. There is ample parking off Ferris Place. For more information, contact the church office at (908) 233-4211.

Special services, music and activities will mark the celebration of Holy Week at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

Worship services will be held on Passion/Palm Sunday at 8 a.m. in the chapel and at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of the church, 140 Mountain Ave. The Children's Choirs, under the direction of Cyrene Foltz, will participate.

The Maundy Thursday service will be conducted at 7:30 p.m. March 28 in the sanctuary.

On Good Friday, March 29, there will be two services — at noon in the chapel and at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The Chancel Choir, directed by William Clisham, will perform George Frederick Handel's "The Passion of Christ" accompanied by strings, oboes and harpsichord at the evening ser-

An Easter Vigil begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 30, in the sanctuary.

On Easter Sunday, March 31, identical services celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ with words, music and Holy Communion will be conducted in the sanctuary at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. A brass quintet will perform at both ser-

Dr. William Ross Forbes is the senior pastor. The associate pastors are the Rev. Christina McCormick, the Rev. Victoria

Scotch Plains squad gets new wheels

SCOTCH PLAINS — The township Rescue Squad has purchased a new ambulance at a cost of more than \$100,000.

The new ambulance, a 2002 Braun Super Chief, replaces a 1997 Braun model that logged 46,342 miles in responding to 4,178 calls.

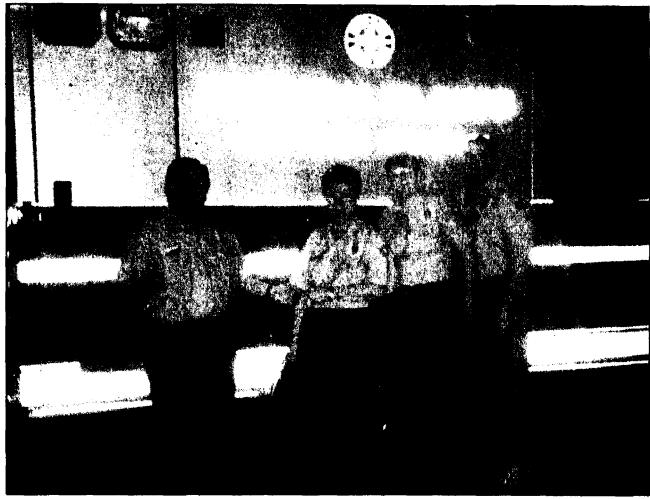
Although the vehicles appear similar, the new rig incorporates the latest in ambulance technology.

The retiring rig responded to the World Trade Center on Sept. 11 and on the days immediately following the disaster.

Founded in 1937, the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is the oldest emergency medical service organization of its kind in Union County. The squad depends entirely on volunteers and voluntary contributions to continue providing its service to the community.

Squad members undergo a rigorous course of training that leads to certification as an emergency medical technician by the New Jersey Department of Health and the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians.

For more information, contact the squad at 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains, or call (908) 322-2103.



Scotch Plains Rescue Squad President Bob Speth presents the keys to a new ambulance to Capt. Joanne Gurake while 1st Lt.Joan Lozowski and 2nd Lt. Ernesto Hernandez look on.

Fanwood police ask for old cell phones

FANWOOD — The borough police department has begun collecting old cell phones in an effort to combat domestic vio-

Working in conjunction with the Cellular Telephone and Internet Association, old cell phones are sent to a central location where they are reprogrammed for 911 use and one additional telephone number. The cell phones are then issued to victims of domestic violence as an added safety strategy.

Old phones and their accessories can be dropped off at the Fanwood Police Headquarters. They are then brought to a participating cell phone dealer Ney and the Rev. Wendy Thode. which sends them to the

Wireless Foundation.

The program, known as Call to Protect has been assisting victims of domestic violence for

"It's such a simple efficient way to combat domestic violence," said Sgt. Tom Jedic, coordinator of the program. "Every day people change cell phone companies and are issued new phones. The old phones are in perfect shape, but are often discarded and left in boxes to be thrown out. Why not make use out of them?"

Cell phone donations are tax deductible.

For more information, call Jedic at (908) 322-5000, exten-

School notes

Catholic High School during

Caitlin Yergalonis of Scotch Catholic Schools Week for a ser-Plains was honored at Union vice volunteer project she com-



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This promise to be an informative and enjoyable experience Thursday April 18th 7pm - 9pm. Refreshments will be served. Seating is limited so please contact Barbara Martin at (908) 232-3006, ext. 106

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STAFF WRITER

The State Department of Education's school report cards were released two weeks ago, to considerable media fanfare. But two local superintendents cautioned that while the reports contain useful information, they can often not be taken at face value.

"One of the things I caution members of the public about is making comparisons," said Superintendent Cranford Lawrence Feinsod. "Every district has its unique set of goals, strengths and weaknesses.

Even for data within a district, Feinsod said, "we need to understand that it's a sketch, it's a snapshot. ... Is it worthwhile? I think it is. But is it an encyclopedia of what a school district is all about? No." He encouraged parents and other residents to read the report cards, but to ask questions of teachers and administrators before drawing conclusions.

One statistic in Cranford's report card that stands out is a percent increase in total administrative salaries and benefits from 2000-2001 to the current school year. That average increase statewide is 7 percent.

But, Feinsod said, the reported increase is not the result of large **raises or new hires.** Rather, four positions totaling about \$300,000 in salary — the athletic director, director of student services, director of special services, and

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grant writer — had mistakenly been categorized as supervisors in previous report cards. The big increase results from reclassifying them correctly as administrators, he said.

There is a similar situation on the report card for Kenilworth's David Brearley High School. Though suspension rates have fallen at the school for the past four year, the rate for 2000-2001, the most recent year for which data is available, is 21.5 percent. The state average for that year is 15.1 percent.

The explanation for the difference, said Superintendent Lloyd Leschuk, is not that Brearley students get into more fights. The school has an acknowledged tardiness problem, and until recently used in-school suspension to discipline regular offenders. The district has since switched to Saturday school, which most other districts used already. Saturday school assignments are not reported as "suspensions."

"The accounting system we were using was very different than everyone else's," said Leschuk, who said suspension rates should now show a "dramatic decrease."

While he said the report cards are necessary to provide information to residents, Leschuk criticized the state's current approach. "I think they give you some basic information about schools... (but) a lot of it is mean-



County's grand marshal

Marilyn Ryan of Rahway served as the grand marshal of the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday. She was honored for her work in education, nursing and volunteer work as director of Helping Hands and Hearts Program at St. Helen's Church in Westfield, Above, she is honored with a proclamation from Rahway Mayor James Kennedy.

Cranford motorists get to see the light

Cranford are seeing bright red but that's a good thing.

The township is changing light bulbs at 17 intersections to LEDs or Light Emitting Diodes. The north side of the town is already relamped; the south side work is expected to be completed in a few months.

"The new LED lamps use 90 percent less power than the older incandescent bulbs, burn brighter and last 10 times longer," said Cranford resident Steve Andelfinger, who also is a lighting specialist for PSEG Energy Technologies. Andelfinger has been instrumental in the relamping.

In addition the township will save about \$35,000 a year in energy bills.

In fail 2001, Andelfinger heard that the town had decided to have municipal workers relamp 258 signal lamps at 17 intersections. That's when he stepped in, advising town officials of a rebate plan through the New Jersey SmartStart Buildings program that would

CRANFORD - Drivers in carve approximately \$10,000 out of the \$28,000 project cost. The program benefits small businesses and towns interested in upgrading to energy-efficient lighting, so long as it involves 40 or more fixtures.

Burnt-out traffic lights are a big cause of fender-benders.

"Because LEDs are brighter and last longer, we expect fewer accidents as a result," said Lt. John Baer, of the Cranford police. "And when accidents drop, so does our liability expo-

Baer already sees a reduction in accidents. "A lot of time used to be spent monitoring accidents," Baer said. "Now, without the frequent burn-outs, we don't have to worry about it. Our overtime has dropped by about 10 percent."

"We estimate that by using energy-efficient LEDs in traffic lights, there is a savings of about \$95 per month per intersection," said Andelfinger. "So, that's over \$1,500 off of Cranford's energy bill each month, or just under \$20,000 a year."

State ruling good news for Garwood

STAFF WRITER

A recent State Board of Education ruling about the distribution of assets of the former Union County Regional High School district would award millions of dollars to Garwood and Mountainside at the expense of Kenilworth, Springfield, Clark and Berkeley Heights.

But a lawyer for Kenilworth said last week the borough will appeal the ruling. And Garwood Superintendent William Murphy acknowledged that although the district disbanded in 1997, sorting out the money would continue to be "a lengthy process."

In its March 6 ruling the state board, following the recommendation of its legal committee, ruled that \$10.6 million in "liqthe high school district at the time of deregionalization should distributed only Mountainside and Garwood.

The board ruled that Mountainside should receive 76 percent of those funds, and Garwood 24 percent. The two boroughs would be given all the liquid assets because they were the only municipalities in the district not to inherit a highschool.

According to the board's report, \$8.6 million has been distributed already. Of that amount, \$6.9 million would be taken from the four towns that inherited schools and redistributed. Approximately another \$2 million has yet to be distributed.

But the board acknowledged it was "not able to ascertain on this record the exact amount to be distributed." It remanded the case to Commissioner of Education William Librera to determine the precise value of the district's assets at the time of

deregionalization, and to establish a five-year payment sched-

Kenilworth counsel James Granello has said the borough has received \$682,000 since deregionalization. Garwood, which would be entitled to \$2.3 million should the state board's ruling stand, has thus far only received \$248,000.

But the case, which has already been before the New Jersey Supreme Court, may be headed back to the courts. Granello last week took issue with numerous parts of the report, and said Kenilworth will likely appeal following the commissioner's ruling.

In its ruling, the board accepted Mountainside's claim that the district had \$10.6 million, of which \$8.6 million has been distributed. But Kenilworth believes the total assets were only \$9.2 million, of which \$5.3 have been distributed.

Also, Granello argued, the balance of the funds is being held in

Union County begins publication

escrow for potential litigation awards against the former district, and it would be irresponsible to allocate that money to any district. "There's no such thing unexpended anymore," he said.

principle Mountainside and Garwood should receive all the money stems from a Supreme Court ruling that overturned an earlier state board decision. But the court at the time was following an earlier finding that the district had only \$3.3 million.

"I truly believe the Supreme Court had no perception they were talking about money in the magnitude of \$10.6 million,' Granello said.

Kenilworth hopes to convince Librera to hold a fact-finding hearing to determine just how much money the district had. Depending on the nature of his actions, Kenilworth can appeal the case back to the state board or directly to the state appellate

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The deadline for filing an Opt Out Request form is June 17, 2002. To request additional information from which you can determine whether you are eligible to opt out of the class action settlement or to request either a Claim Form or an Opt Out Request form, you may write to: LP Siding Litigation Claims Administrator, P.O. Box 3240, Portland, OR 97208-3240. You may also call the Claims Administrator at 1-800-245-2722. Additional information is also available over the Internet at www.lpsidingclaims.com If you have damaged LP siding that is eligible for compensation under the settlement agreement and desire to file a claim, you must complete a Claim Form and return it to the LP Siding Litigation Claims Administrator postmarked on or before December 31, 2002.

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of its new Cultural Connections ELIZABETH — The Union—role played by the arts, cultural—nizations. County Board of Freeholders is and history organizations in the

publishing a new countywide cultural newsletter. Formerly known as The Beacon, the revived and reformatted publication now is called Cultural Connections. "County residents repeatedly

stressed the need for coordinated, consistent broad-based information during the recent cultural summit," said Freeholder Vice-Chairman Mary Ruotalo. "Cultural Connections will act as a centralized clearinghouse for arts and cultural heritage infor-

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will be available in libraries, by request (908) 558-2550, and on the Union County website: www.unioncountynj.org/econdev/cultural.htm.

Residents can read Cultural Connections to learn about upcoming technical assistance workshops, grant and exhibition opportunities, helpful websites, and the projects and accomplishments of Union County people mation, reflecting the important and cultural and historical orga-

For more information, or to send ideas for future newsletter editions, contact the Union County Division of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, NJ 07202. Telephone (908) 558-2550. NJ Relay users dial 711. Or send E-mail to: scoen@unioncountynj.org. This newsletter is available in large print on request.

Cultural Connections is funded in part by the Board of Freeholders; the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; and the Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State.

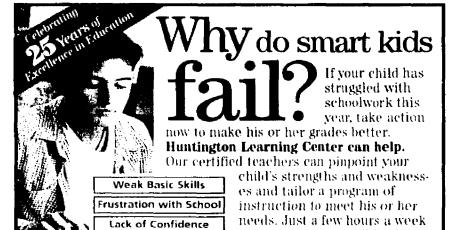
Campus notes

Two area students were named to the dean's list for the fall 2001 semester at Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y. They are:

Tyler Maloney of 869 Shadowlawn Drive, Westfield, a junior majoring in sports information and communication. He graduated from Oratory Prep School in Summit.

Lacey Shulman of 914 Irving Ave., Westfield, a senior majoring in occupational science/occupational therapy. She graduated from Westfield High School.





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Patricia Schieffer planning August nuptials

John M. Schieffer of Kokomo, Ind., has announced the engagement of his daughter, Patricia Ann to Christopher Morgan Owens, son of Cathy and David Owens of Westfield. The couple will be wed on Aug. 10, 2002 at St. Patrick's Church in Kokomo.

Ms. Schieffer, the daughter of the late Sandra Schieffer, graduated from Northeastern High School in Kokomo in 1998 and is pursuing a degree in elementary education at Purdue University.

Mr. Owens is a member of the Westfield High School class of 1998. He will graduate with honors from Purdue in August with a Bachelor of Arts degree in health and fitness.

Following their wedding, the couple will reside in Irvine, Calif., where Mr. Owens has



Patricia Ann Schieffer and Christopher Morgan Owens plan to marry in Kokomo, Ind., in August.

accepted a position as a coach with MVP Sports and strength and conditioning

Physical Therapy Centers.

Campus notes

Four students from Westfield achieved academic honors in the fall 2001 semester at College Middlebury Middlebury, Vt.

Honored as college scholars were Alaina J. Buckland, the daughter of Gail Buckland of

McGovern of Westfield, was named to the dean's list with a grade point average of 3.3 or

This week

FRIDAY MARCH 22

AFRICAN VIOLET -- annual show and plant sale. All Saints' Episcopal Church, 559 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, 6-9 p.m. March 22, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. March 23. Free. (908) 276-3221

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICK -"Shrek," major box office hit from last year. Fanwood Memorial Library, North Ave., Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Free. (908) 322-6400.

'KISS ME KATE' - winter musical of Union Catholic High School, 1600 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, 8 p.m. March 22, 23. Adults \$10; students, seniors \$8. (908) 889-1600.

SATURDAY MARCH 23

RABBIT RUN - visit from the Easter bunny plus a way to color Easter eggs. The Chelsea at Fanwood, 295 South Ave., Fanwood, 10 a.m.-noon. (908) 654-5200.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER - annual event for Newcomers Club of Westfield, 6:30 p.m. Details: (908) 389-9248 or (908)

'VINTAGE GERMAN FIN-ERY' — Beethoven, Wagner and Brahms, all with the Westfield Orchestra. Symphony Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 8 p.m. \$60-\$25. Tickets: (908) 232-9400.

SUNDAY MARCH 24

INTERFAITH SINGLES for single men and women over 45. First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield, 9 a.m. March 24, 31, \$2, (908) 889-5265 or (908)

TINSEL PAINTING

delayed program with Laurie and

Amy Mills. Miller-Corv Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 2-5 p.m. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; under 6 free. (908) 232-1776.

MONDAY MARCH 25

VERBAL ABUSE --- informa tion and guidance with Elaine Hewins. Center for Women and Families, 1801 E. Second St., Scotch Plains, 7:30 p.m. Registration; (908) 322-6007.

UPDATE — on Parkinson's disease with Charmaine Hamada, All Saints' Episcopal Church, 559 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, 7:45 p.m. \$10, (908) 754-9499 or (908) 272-7239.

TUESDAY MARCH 26

DINNER MEETING -- for Union County Legal Secretaries Association, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 36 Valley Road, Clark, 6 p.m. \$23. Reservations: (908) 527-4200 or (908) 241-0611.

'CHICK FLICK' - movie night for Newcomers Club of Westfield, 7:30 p.m. (908) 389-9248 or (908) 233-5605.

SCAPEGOAT OR TRAI-TOR? - Vincent Lindner on the life of Benedict Arnold. Railroad station, North Ave., Fanwood, 8 p.m. (908) 232-1199.

FRIDAY MARCH 29

STATIONS OF CROSS - Good Friday ritual at St. Helen's Church, Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, 7:30 p.m. (908) 232-1214.

BLOOD DRIVE --- at Red Cross office, 321 Elm St.,

in Summit

BUICK W

Westfield, 3-8 p.m. April 3. Donor requirements: (908) 232-7090. JEWISH LECTURE =

Jason Shulman on "Why Reform Jews Need Kabbalah," Temple Emanu-El, 756 E. Broad St., Westfield, 7:30 p.m. April 4. Free, (908) 232-6770.

'BATTLE OF THE BANDS' for Grades 9-12. Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey, 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, 8 p.m. April 6. \$6/advance, \$8/door. Band signup: lbieber@jccnj.org or (908)

889-8800, Ext. 253. 50's DANCE -- benefiting Westfield Coalition for the Arts. VFW hall, 6 Broadway, Clark, 7:30-11:30 p.m. April 6. \$20. Tickets: (908) 789-4417.

BOOK SALE - annual event for Friends of Westfield Memorial Library, 550 E. Broad St., Westfield, April 9-13. Donations accepted April 5, 6, 8, (908) 233-

C.R.E.A.M. Frica Fried on "How to Avoid Losing Your Shirt in the Stock Market." Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 300 North Ave. East, Westfield, 7 p.m. April 11. \$5. Registration required: (908) 654-9854.

ART-CRAFT MARKET = held in the spring for the 14th year, Armory, 500 Rahway Ave., Westfield, 5-8:30 p.m. April 12, 10 a.m. 6 p.m. April 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. April 14. Adults \$6; under 10 free (no strollers). (800) 834-9437 or www.americancraftmarketing.com.

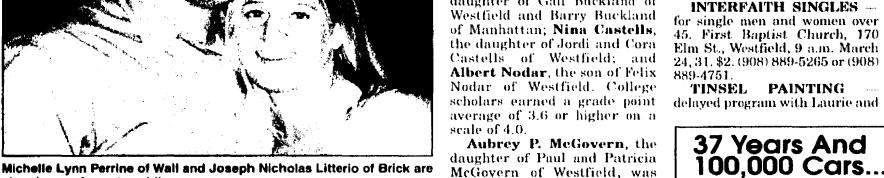
WINE TASTING -- benefit for Westfield High School Band Parents Association, Knights of Columbus hall, 2400 North Ave., Scotch Plains, 7:30 p.m. April 12, \$20, Tickets; (908) 233-6011.

TRICKY TRAY — auction for Parents' Guild of Union Catholic High School, 1600 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains, 6 p.m. April 19, \$8. Reservations: (908) 889-1600.

ANNUAL CONCERT . Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea. Presbyterian Church, 120 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 8 p.m. April 20. Adults \$25; seniors \$20; students \$10. Tickets: (908) 233-2042.

auto

group



Joseph Nicholas Litterio to wed Michelle Lynn Perrine of Wall

Frank and Frances Litterio of Cranford announce the engagement of their son Joseph Nicholas Litterio of Brick to Michelle Lynn Perrine, daughter of James and Paulette Perrine, all of Wall

planning an August wedding.

Township. The future bride is a graduate of August of this year.

Brookdale Community College. She is employed as a manager with Ann Taylor at Menlo Mall.

Her fiancé is a 1994 graduate of Rutgers University. He is Head Baseball Coach at Wagner College.

The couple plan to be married in

Westfield Recreation plans 12th annual running events

Urgent news for people who took

Many Baycola consumers have developed an illness called Rhabdomyolysis that

causes kidney failure, muscle pain and weakness and even death. If you or a

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WESTFIELD — The Westfield Recreation Commission will host its 12th Annual 5-Miler and 1-Mile Fun Run Saturday, April 27, at Tamaques Park. Proceeds from the event will benefit Westfield High School's Project Graduation and the September 11 Fund for Westfield families. The 1-Mile Fun Run will begin at 9 a.m. followed by the 5-Miler at 9:30 a.m.

Registration fees postmarked before April 20th will be \$15 for the 5-Miler and \$5 for the 1-Mile Fun Run. On race day, fees will be \$20 for the 5-Miler and \$10 for the 1-Mile Fun Run. T-shirts will be issued to the first 200 registrants of the 5-Miler. The race features a fast and flat certified course with

REALTY

EXECUTIVES

mile splits and water stations. Runners should come dressed to

Trophies will be awarded in the following categories: overall male and female winners of the 5-Miler and first-, second- and third-place finishers in each age group of the 5-Miler. (19 and under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60 and over) Medals will be awarded to all participants of the 1-Mile Fun Run and T-shirts will be awarded to the first overall male and female runners of the 1-Miler.

For more information, contact Westfield Recreation Commission at (908) 789-4080 or westfieldnj.net/ visit: townhall/recreation.



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Teen activities are good idea

"There's nothing to do!"

How many times a day do parents of teenagers hear that?

Their bedrooms often hold stereos and sometimes TVs, computer game systems and computers, but the youngsters still have trouble finding something to keep busy with.

Cranford is looking for the answer to the perennial quandary. Beginning last weekend, the Community Center on Walnut Street has been opened to students in grades 9 through 12. They have exclusive use of the teen room, lounge, game room and gym.

But the Township Committee and recreation director aren't satisfied. They want to entice more young people to enjoy the facility and the company of their classmates.

One idea under consideration is to organize dances for high school students with performances by student bands. The center will also soon begin to operate pool, table tennis and basketball tournaments for the high school students.

Cranford should be congratulated for going the extra mile to

As Commissioner Dan Aschenbach said, "Having (teens) there for two, three, four hours on a Saturday night — it's just a lot less time for them to get in trouble."

The annual cost of \$2,300 for extra staffing is well worth the cost.

New look for downtown

Expect to be inconvenienced as you try to drive through Westfield next month. But the wasted time and aggravation will

The downtown will finally begin its beautification project in

New brick crosswalks, landscaping and street and wall lighting will make the downtown more attractive and more pedestri-

The \$450,000 to be used to spruce up downtown — and hopefully make it safer for shoppers and pedestrians - has been accumulating over the past two years.

The project has been a long time coming, but the end result should be worth the wait.

The Record-Press is here for you

aideas and community news into The Record-Press:

For sports, call Dan Murphy at (908) 575-6698.

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

Correction policy

presentation and clarify any news content that confuses

Deadlines

to The Record-Press is 5 p.m. Friday. The letters deadline

Letter policy

edited for content, brevity, good taste and libel. Letters should be typewritten and include the writer's daytime

Announcements

announcements are printed without charge in The Record-

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call Tina McAleer at (908) 575-6703 and ask for a form.

do not send irreplaceable photographs. If you would like

your photo returned, send along a stamped, self-

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Letters should be no longer than 200 words and may be

The deadline for submitting articles and press releases

The Record-Press will correct errors of fact, context or

misleads readers. Please report errors to Editor

story suggestions, questions or comments.

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Kathleen Phillips at (908)575-6686.

telephone number for verification.

Somerville, NJ 08876.

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Call Editor Kathleen Phillips at (908) 575-6686 with

Our address: The Record-Press, P.O. Box 699,



Letters to the editor

Toughen penalties for sex assault

To The Record-Press:

New Jersey news headlines proclaimed "Five boys charged with assault on 13-year-old girl," on school grounds in broad daylight. The high school bullies were arrested for slapping, punching and sexually assaulting the victim after luring her out of her middle school. When she ran back inside the school for help, one of the boys followed her and sexually assaulted her again.

Tragically, this latest school sexual violence is not the isolated incident some would like to believe. The U.S. Department of Justice quietly admitted to 19,000 reported rapes and sexual assault of victims over 12 "in schools or on school property" in 1999, while USA Today announced that of 274 college campuses, 60 percent confess to counseling students victimized by "stalking incidents."

Since New Jersey laws governing sex crimes were changed back in the 1970s, penalties for these types of crimes were diminished, and the incidence of sex crimes has skyrocketed. Even more disturbing

is the fact that we are also seeing greater incidences of sexual assaults involving children. It is high time revise these laws and institute stiffer penalties.

Some media have advised parents to ask themselves "what their children are learning about sexual behavior — at home, in school, from their friends, from the movies and television shows they watch and the music they listen to," and to talk to their

It is naïve to think that a chat with the kiddies will stop the violent carnage when the moral air we breathe is daily poisoned, and when FBI data shows a 418 percent increase in forcible rape for 1960-99. Instead, join a campaign to restore New Jersey's pre-Kinsey sex laws. On the evidence, those laws did a pretty expert job of stopping would-be rapists, both in and out of school.

Let your children see you go into battle! Actions are louder than words.

Judith Reisman, Ph.D., author of "Kinsey Crimes and Consequences"

Gun crime crackdown promised

To The Record-Press:

Gun violence represents a significant threat to the health and safety of all our citizens. Every day in this country, about 100 people perish from wounds inflicted by guns. Every day, almost 250 individuals sustain gunshot injuries. In an effort to combat this epidemic, Union County law enforcement has worked diligently over the course of many years to develop effective solutions to the problem of gun violence.

In January, I was invited to attend an informa-"Project conference on Neighborhoods," a comprehensive, strategic approach by federal, state and local law enforcement to reduce gun violence in America. The project is intended to promote enhanced coordination among law enforcement to reduce gun violence in America. The project is intended to promote enhanced coordination among law enforcement agencies in order to develop and implement a plan to combat gun violence and to ensure that gun cases are prosecuted in the most appropriate

This office has taken immediate steps toward bringing about its laudatory goals.

In Union County, those who utilize a gun to commit a crime of those who possess a gun or ammunition who are not legally permitted to do so will forfeit their right to remain free. These criminals will face substantial mandatory prison terms either at the state or federal level. All cases will be screened by assistant prosecutors in order to determine whether federal or state law provides the greater penalty and which laws will remove these individuals from our streets and neighborhoods for the longest period of time.

In the words of Attorney General John Ashcroft during his remarks to the attendees of the Project Safe Neighborhoods conference, "Together, in strong coordination with law enforcement and communities across America, we can help break the deadly link between guns and crimes and keep gun-wielding criminals off our streets and out of our neighborhoods.."

Thomas V. Manahan **Union County prosecutor**

Enron debacle: A look at our future?

To The Record-Press:

Before Enron officials declared bankruptcy, upper-level management gave themselves tens of millions of dollars in bonuses. Having distributed the available cash, they fired their employees and had security guards escort them to the streets. There, they held each other and wept, stunned by the disappearance of their jobs, the loss of their retirements and the demise of a company they had worked so hard to build.

When George W. Bush came into office, the nation had a record surplus. However, our President immediately went about giving bonuses to the wealthy. These came in the form of huge tax cuts and attempts at gutting environmental protec-

tions. Undoing the Clean Air Act would help his many friends in oil refinement. Relaxing restriction on arsenic and cyanide would be a big bonus to his friends in the mining business. Ending the research on super-efficient cars and trucks would aid his friends and family in the energy industry.

Is America's fate similar to that of Enron's employees? Our retirement fund, Social Security, is disappearing. Our government coffers are being drained. And our future is being made bleaker by dirtier air and water. Perhaps we need to scrutinize the longtime friendship between Kenneth Lay and George W. Bush. The parallels are a bit too chilling.

GREG AMMON North Plainfield

Consider donating your corneas

To The Record-Press:

March is National Eye Donor Month, a time set aside to commemorate the miracle of corneal transplant surgery that reverses blindness and to honor those who give the gift of sight. Nearly everyone can be an eye donor, but not enough people are aware of how their donation of eye tissue changes lives or exactly how to donate. National Eve Donor Month is the perfect time to spend five minutes to take the most important step in becoming an eye donor: Tell your family that when you die you want your eyes to be donated to the Eye Bank. If family members know now how you feel, they'll be able to confidently agree to donate when the time comes. Signing a donor card, though commendable, is not enough; nor is

leaving a note in your will. Those directions may not be found in time, since eye tissue has to be taken as quickly as possible after death. Just a five-minute family discussion and you have changed someone's life forever by restoring his

Last year more than 50,000 Americans benefited from corneal transplants. The Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey has been providing eye tissue for transplants and for critical research and education since 1970 and with your help we will continue to serve the people of New Jersey. This March, discuss donation! It's five minutes well spent.

Call (800) 653-9379 for more information. Marshall S. Klein

president of Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey



I never got a break on spring break

Like most American men, my right thumb is probably the most active part of my body on the weekend.

That's because it controls the television's remote control.

In these dull, pointless days after the excitement of Christmas and before the blossoming of spring, on weekends I slump on the couch and let my thumb do all my thinking. That's why I often end up watching television shows I would not ordinarily watch, such as MTV's coverage of spring

Every American male, from the slippery onslaught of puberty to the withered seasons before death, hears the howl of lust once spring has sprung. For some of us, the howl is lost among the cacophony of everyday life, just another honking horn in reality's traffic jam. For others, it is as aggravating and stimulating as a Britney Spears song you can't get out of your head. My thumb on the remote control senses the uncontrollable vibes of the howl and will not rest until it finds the appropriate image to match the sound.

MTV's coverage of spring break celebrates the orginstic excesses of youth. What better portrayal of feckless hedonism can we have than the images of tanned and taunt bodies throbbing to the music of warm beer and aimless passion? Those days of reckless freedom have long been evaporated by time, yet mý thumb sweats and yearns for what will never be and for what

A quarter century ago, as a student at Johns Hopkins University, spent a couple of spring breaks in Florida. Unlike those libertine young men on MTV, I did not revel in bacchanalia under the dumb palms; I had the much more serious — and perhaps impossible task of defending the honor of Johns Hopkins on the golf course.

Johns Hopkins, which awards no athletic scholarships, always regarded golf as an afterthought (an irony given the university's reputation for producing doctors). If we didn't hurt ourselves or run out of golf balls, we considered it a good day.

For three years I traveled south with the golf team during spring break and for three years I had a lousy time. My sophomore year was worst; we went to Fort Myers to participate in the GAC Invitational against teams that awarded golf scholarships and belonged to the Big 10 conference. For Johns Hopkins, an equal opponent was Franklin and Marshall or Lebanon Valley; instead we were playing against Michigan and Florida State.

We came in last. And I wish I could say it was because we drank too much, spent too much time by the pool ogling girls or stayed up too late carousing. But it was simply a case of us being outclassed; it was the first time in my life that I felt, to use George Gobel's classic phrase, like a pair of brown shoes in a world of tuxedoes. If only we had taken them on in a battle of book reports!

Coming into the tournament I was playing the best golf of my life. I was hitting a high, long draw off the tee — the type of shot that makes golfers drool. And my short game was deadly. I was scoring in the high 70s; I never felt better in my life.

Of course that came to an end at the tournament. Trying to keep pace with golfers above my class, I tried too hard. My swing fell out of sync and the graceful draws off the tee became hideous squirters. And the harder I tried to correct my swing, the worst it became, The stress accelerated my swing and by the end of the week, I was scrambling to break 90. I blamed it on the water.

It took me three years to get out of the slump that started during that week in Florida. By that time, I was out of college and my competitive days were over. And by that time, I was too old (and had a job) for the rowdy times of spring break. And now only my thumb has fun,

addressed envelope.

Record-Press WESTFIELD-SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD

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GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the Diocesan Choir sing at the installation ceremonies for Bishop Paul Bootkoski, the new Bishop of Metuchen. The choir was expanded to 130 members for the event.

3,000 attend installation of Bishop Paul Bootkoski

By GARY GOVELITZ

STAFF WRITER

EDISON - When it came time for the celebrants to answer with an "amen," the response was so thunderous that it shook the rafters.

So it was with the installation of Bishop Paul Bootkoski on Tuesday in the New Jersey Expo-Center in Raritan Center everything was big, colorful, joyous and inspirational.

The Newark native officially became the fourth Bishop of Metuchen before a congregation of more than 3,000 representing all of the diocese's 108 parishes in Warren, Somerset, Hunterdon and Middlesex counties. He once served as the parochial vicar at St. Michael's Church in Cranford.

In the congregation were Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, the Papal Nuncio to the United States, Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the first Bishop of Metuchen, Gov. James E. McGreevey, 40 archbishops and bishops and more than 400

"This is magnificent, I am

"He is a real person, down to earth. He will give the diocese truthfulness and hard work. He appeals to all levels of people.

-Randy Klimek Fanwood

very much looking forward to having a new bishop in Metuchen," said Thomas Hansen who has been an usher at St. Francis Cathedral in Metuchen for 18 years.

One person in attendance was Bishop Bootkoski's cousin, Randy Klimek of Fanwood.

"He is a real person, down to earth," said Klimek, who was accompanied by his wife, Cheryl and two daughters, Jackie and Michelle. "He will give the diocese truthfulness and hard work. He appeals to all levels of

"We all knew that he (Bootkoski) had a calling, even as kids. When we were all playing with toy army men at our grandmother's house, he had religious statues of Jesus and the Virgin Mary.

"We attend many installa-

tions and this is a major event within the Diocese Metuchen," said Frank Russo of Scotch Plains, a fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus. "I don't know him personally, but I am sure he (Bootkoski) is an excellent man. That's why he has been elevated to this post.'

"This is very impressive. There is more brass here than in a hardware store," said Tom Russell of Bridgewater another fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus who was in the procession with the George Washington Assembly Somerville.

"I would like to thank, publicly, Pope John Paul II for the confidence he has placed in me,"



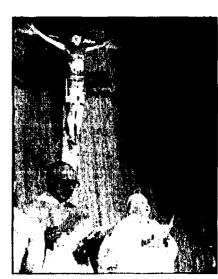
GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFT PHOTOGRAPHER at the congregation who came to the ceremony. A bishop's chair, cathedra in Latin, is one of the symbols of the office of bishop and is the root

Bishop Bootkoski said as he began his homily, "People have been asking me What is your vision for the Diocese of Metuchen? and I say, 'I don't know, give me a break'. I wish I had an angel of the Lord appear to me like Joseph did to clarify the situation. Then again, it is good that I do not have preconceived notions on what to do. Look at our first reading from Second Samuel: King David planned to build a temple for the Lord, but that was not in God's plan and God sent Nathan the prophet to inform David that his heir would build the temple of the Lord.

of the word cathedral.

"So, I am at odds, because I do not dream of angels and I have not encountered a prophet such as David did in the person of Nathan. All I know is that the hand of God has touched me very deeply."

He pledged to fight "prejudice, racism, sexism, hatred and injustice on every level" and called on those present to emulate the Holy Family.



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STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Bishop Paul Bootkoski celebrates his first Mass as the fourth Bishop of the Diocese of Metuchen. More than 3,000 people attended his installation Tuesday in the Expo Center in Edison.

Girl Scout helps infirm get books from library

CRANFORD — The Cranford Public Library will continue to offer a delivery and pickup service for those who are homebound.

In conjunction with her Girl Scout Gold Award, Kimberly Argen of Cranford is organizing a group of volunteers who will be available for

An honor student at Cranford High School, Kimberly has decided to focus her efforts toward her Gold Award on serving the library because, after feeling the impact of the temporary storage of many books while the library was being renovated, she had to turn to other libraries or settle for inferior sources for research. She was also appalled by a newspaper article she read regarding the burning of books and the destruction of libraries in areas of the world governed by propaganda and censor-

The service will compile a group of volunteer drivers and any Cranford Library card holder who is homebound, either permanently or temporarily, will be able to call the library to request help. A volunteer will then call the recipient in order to take requests of either specific books or a general topic of interest, and to arrange for a mutually convenient time for a visit. If you are interested in this service and do not have a Cranford Library card, you can still participate by either coming to the library to get a card, or requesting a library representative or volunteer to come to

Kimberly anticipates that her service will be a way for people to maintain a feeling of connection to the community. Furthermore, shehopes that mothers of chronically ill children will utilize this service as well because she realizes how important and fun a library can be for a young child.

Kimberly will be visiting other service organizations in order to explain her project. If you would like to get more information or to; sign on as a volunteer, leave a mes-; sage at the reference desk at the Cranford Public Library at (908); 709-7272, or call Kimberly Argen at:

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Fanwood police probe mischief complaint

WESTFIELD

Nicole Dukeschesson, 27, of East Orange, was arrested 1:15 a.m. March 11 on 13 warrants issued by the Municipal Court of East Orange for a total bail of \$1,010 and two warrants issued by the Municipal Court of Newark for \$138.

Scott Taylor, 40, of Plainfield, was arrested 4:24 p.m. for an outstanding warrant.

Rasoul A. Jones, 21, of Plainfield, was arrested 9:51 p.m. and charged with contempt of court out of Watchung Borough.

Brenda L. Petterway, 30, of Cacciola Place, was arrested 7:54 p.m. March 17 on a contempt of court warrant.

rant out of Asbury Park.

A homeowner on the 200 block been charged yet.

Police log

Kevin Marino, 44, of Westfield, was arrested 10:30 p.m. March 17 on a contempt of court war-

Samuel M. Ball, 36, of Plainfield, was arrested 9:35 p.m. March 18 on a contempt of court

FANWOOD

of Forest Road woke up the morning of March 17 to find eggs had been thrown at his house. He reported the incident at 7 p.m. as criminal mischief. No one has

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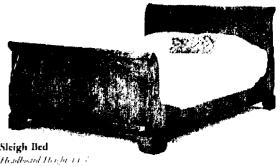
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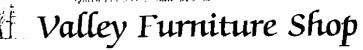
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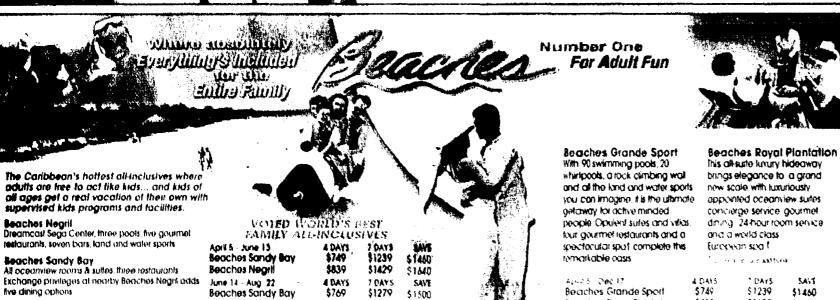


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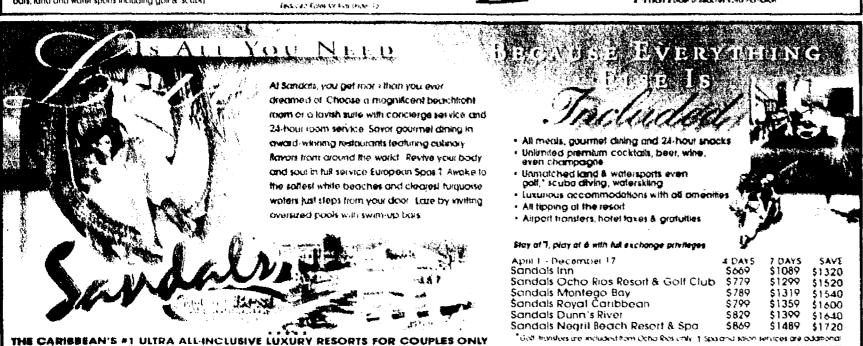
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Devils, Raiders ready to battle for local titles

By DANIEL MURPHY

With strong veteran leadership and some talented newcomers, the Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High golf teams are looking forward to another successful spring on the links.

Westfield returns three seniors and one jumor who were heavy contributors to last year's Group 4 championship season which included an 18-1 dual-meet Watchung record and a Conference championship.

Seniors Erin Cockren, Jeff Luker and Gerritt III and junior

Adam Karnish bring not only talent, but loads of tournament experience to the Blue Devils. Combined with a talented group of six freshman, led by Ryan Shallcross, who won the boys division of the New Jersey State Golf Association/William Dear championship over the summer, Westfield Head Coach John Turnbull is confident the Blue Devils will have a championship caliber club this year and down the road.

"Westfield golf is pretty much set for years to come," said Turnbull. "There is a good mix coming back and I don't think

many freshman who are so good at golf. This is their game, these kids are into it.

Joining Shallcross in the talented freshmen class is Garrett Cockren, Erin's brother, Mark Mollowa, Chris Tropeano, Tom DelDuca and Scott Callender At points during the season Turnbull might have a starting lineup of just freshman.

The heart of the season comes down to May 6-13 when the Watchung Conference, Union County and sectional tournaments are all contested. If Scotch Plains gets hot that week they

Westfield has had a group of so have the talent to be right in the thick of the race with Westfield and Cranford. Cranford is the defending county champ and returns two-time UCT and defending conference champ Mike Occi and defending Group-3 champ Jason Occi.

"I think we can definitely be as good as last year," said Turnbull. "Scotch Plains is good, Cranford has (Mike and Jason Occi). But depth-wise, I think we have the most depth, and we'll be gunning to be county, conference and Group 4 state champs. That would be a good year."

Scotch Plains also returns

three seniors and a junior from last year's squad and hopes the addition of strong underclassmen can pull it closer to Westfield and Cranford in the hunt for the conference and county titles.

Seniors Steve Lowen, Jack Egan, Brian Muller and junior Matt Notoany lead the squad and freshman Mike Sprung is expected to crack the lineup and be a strong contributor after a very successful junior golf career. In total 22 players have come out for the team, and Head Coach Steve Ciccotelli is excited to see what they all can do.

"We should be all right," said

Ciccotelli. "We have a good nucleus of kids who've played since their freshman year. The tough thing about golf is you either have it that day or you don't. It's tough to be so consistent

"On any given day we can be right there with anybody, but the other guys have done it. Our guys haven't done it yet, but are certainly capable of it. In sports sometimes you know you can do it, but you just have to do it and get that confidence. If you can do it once you'll have that extra confidence to do it again. I think our guys can play with (Westfield and Cranford). I really do."



GEORGE PACCIELLO/RECORD-PRESS Senior Griffin Maloney will be shooting for a Union County first-singles title as the Westfield High tennis teams looks to return to the top of the county.

Balanced Devils sprinting towards top of conference

By DANIEL MURPHY

RECORD PRESS

With strong sprint and jump teams returning and an improved throwing squad, the Westfield High boys track team is looking forward to an exciting spring season.

Led by the sprint team the Blue Devils are coming off a successful winter campaign, and with most of last year's throwers bigger and stronger, Head Coach Jack Martin believes Westfield has the balance to be a contender for the conference and county championships

We should be pretty solid," said Martin "We have some good returning kids, we had some success in the winter and most of the kids from the winter are back out.

"I think we're bringing back some solid kids and if some of the other kids who were on the team last year step up a bit we'll have a good season."

Westfield opens the dual-meet season by hosting Shabazz April 2, will head to the Kearny Relays April 6 and will have its first big test April 9 when travels to Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

Matt Andzell (discus, javelin), LaQuan McCoy (100/200) and Diano Reavis (200/400/long jump) captain this year's squad.

In addition to McCoy and Reavis, the strong sprint squad is rounded out by Earl Lambert, who will run the 400 meters and the intermediate hurdles, Richard Miller in the 200, 400 and Alexis Gonzales Lambert, Reavis, Miller and Gonzales team up to form one of the strongest 4x400 relay teams Westfield has fielded in a while, and reached the Meet of

Champions in the winter. Westfield should also be strong in the jumps with Adam Wendell coming off an impressive winter season where high jumping 6 foot 4, and was a 20 foot long jumper last year. Miller will also long jump again this year, after leaping 22 feet last spring. Joe Hubbard is back at pole vault and hopes to improve on his 12-6 from a year

Dan Lyons leads the middle distance runners, after running a 2:01 800 in the winter. Martin is still hoping to find more depth in the middle distance and distance events.

The throwers are all back, and stronger than last year. Dave Perez, Matt Kahn, Will Taylor and Chris Williams will all handle the discuss duties, with Andzell the main javelin thrower.

"We want to at least make a run at the National Division of the conference and at the county relays," said Martin. "Union County is always really tough in the sprints. There are a lot of good teams and a lot of tough competition."



The St. Helen's 5th/6th grade girls basketball team won the Our Lady of Peace tournament and has now reached the Union County CYO final. Front row, from left: Kate Sheridan, Danielle Infantino, Allison Oberlander, Rose Driscoll. Back: Stephanie Slodyczka, Erin Miller, Annie Depaimer, Nina Brownstone, Alli MacDonald, Head Coach Ed Miller, assistants Jamie and Danielle. Missing: Cassie Simcox, Elizabeth Harbaugh, Krissy Wendel. See Youth Sports, C-3.

Maloney looking to help Devils return to summit

RECORD-PRESS

Buoyed by the return of six starters the Westfield High boys tennis team is looking to return to the top of Union County and have one of its strongest seasons in

The Blue Devils, who finished second behind Summit in the Union County Tournament last year, have been steadily climbing back to the dominate level they were perched out in the mid 1990's and hope to take the final leap to the top this spring.

Westfield is led by senior Griffin Maloney, who returns to first singles after placing third in the UCT as a junior and has to be considered a strong contender for the county title this year. He has the patience to find weaknesses in his opponents game and the talent to do whatever necessary to exploit them

"He does everything well," said Head Coach George Kapner "He has a complete game and a tremendous amount of confidence. He has a legitimate shot to be number one in the county and do very well in the state tournament."

Starting the season at second singles will be sophomore Rich Moran, who has improved a great deal since last season and has been a pleasant surprise for Kapner. He was able to defeat Dave Eisenberg for the slot, but his big test will come when the Devils open the regular season with traditional powers Livingston April 1 and Millburn April 3 before facing Old Bridge April 4 and Piscataway April 5.

As of press time Eisenberg was slated to play a challenge match with sophomore Alec Justow for the third singles slot once the weather provided an opportunity. Eisenberg won the UCT at third singles last season and is described

by Kapner as a tenacious player who refuses to lose, Justow is another player who worked himself into a starting opportunity and has taken a few teammates by surprise during the singles challenge matches.

The two doubles teams have yet to be decided, but Kapner figures two have two good pairs at his disposal. Seniors Shaun Simone, Ryan Miller, Devin Power and junior Doug Shineman will compete for the slots, after Simone and Miller finished third in the county at first-doubles last year and Power and Shineman took second at second-doubles.

With the talent and experience Westfield has in its lineup, the Devils are poised to return to the top of the county and make a deeper run in the state tournament, after reaching the semifinals last season. As always, they'll learn quickly where they stand by playing a very challenging schedule.

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SPORTSCENE

5-MILER AND FUN RUN

The Westfield Recreation Department will host its 12thannual 5-miler and one mile Fun Run Saturday, April 27 at Tamaques Park in Westfield. Proceeds from the event will benefit Project Graduation for Westfield High School students and the Sept. 11 Fund for Westfield families. The Fun Run will begin at 9 a.m. followed by the 5-Miler at 9:30 a.m.

Pre-entry registration fees (postmarked before April 20) will be \$15 for the 5-Miler and \$5 for the Fun Run. Registration fees on race day will be \$20 for the 5-Miler and \$10 for the Fun Run. Tshirts will be issued to the first 200 registrants of the 5-miler. The race features a fast and flat USATF certified course with mile splits and water stations. Runners should come dressed to

Trophies will be awarded in the following categories: overall male and female winners of the 5-

Miler and first, second, and third place finishers in each age group of the 5-miler. (19 and under, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and over). Medals will be awarded to all participants of the Fun Run and t-shirts will be awarded to the first overall male and female runners of the Fun Run.

For race application information contact the Westfield Recreation Commission at (908) 789-4080 or visit their website at westfieldnj.net/townhall/recre-

TRACK CLUB

The Westfield Flyers Track Club, a youth track team affiliated with the New Jersey Track and Field Association, has been formed. The club, for boys and girls in grades 4 through 8, will start practices in April and plans to compete in regional meets in May and June.

For more information contact the Westfield Y Sports Department at (908) 233-2700 ext. 258 or email dsroka@west-

fieldnj.org HOOPS CAMP

14th annual John Somogyi Shooting Camp, codirected by state championship coaches Neil Horne and John Somogyi, will be held for two days at Rutgers Prep in Somerset, N.J. during the weekend of June 15. Somogyi, who once held the state's boys career scoring record of 3,310 points and held the alltime national high school foul shooting record for the most free throws made in a career (1,034) amassed a career coaching record of 275-111 while at St. Peter's, St. Joseph's, Madison Central and McCorristin high schools. Horne accumulated a 290-135 record while winning two state titles at Westfield and Union Catholic

high schools. The camp, which is open to boys and girls ages 9-17, will include two three-and-a-half hour sessions that will enable players to improve on their shooting techniques and give them individual and partner drills for further practice. Each player will have his/her shot videotaped and ana-

lyzed during this two day period. For further information and an application call Somogyi at (732) 846-8928. Register early, last year's camp was filled by June

S.A.F.E.T .Y. CLINICS
The Westfield Recreation
Department headed by Bruce Kaufmann has arranged four S.A.F.E.T.Y. (Sports Awareness For Educating Today's Youth) clinics for 2002. This program has been coordinated so potential coaches in any sport may attend, however seating is limited. To assure a seat, please complete and mail in the a pre-registration form at least seven days prior to the date of the clinic. A minimum number of pre-registration forms received seven days in advance of the clinic are required or the clinic may be canceled or postponed.

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Recreation at 789-4080. Clinic dates during 2002: Monday, March 25, 7 p.m., Westfield Town Hall, sponsored by Westfield Lacrosse Club: Thursday, June 13 7 p.m., Westfield Town Hall, sponsored by Girl's Softball League of Westfield; Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m., Westfield Town Hall, sponsored by Westfield Soccer Association, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m., Westfield Town Hall, sponsored by Westfield Basketball Association. Walk-in registration begins one-half hour prior to the clinic start time. No-one will be admitted once the clinic has begun. The clinic will take approximately three hours and will cover a variety of topics, including legal and psychological aspects of coaching, training and conditioning and first aid. Please bring a pen or pencil. The cost to the attendee is \$26 for the materials provided. The sponsoring sports associations and Westfield Recreation will bear all other

costs related to providing the clin-

TEN STAR CAMP

Final applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All-Star Summer Basketball Camp. The camp is by invitation only. Boys and girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply. Past participants include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill and Antawn Jamison. Players from 48 states and seven foreign countries attended the 2001 camp. College basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team. Camp locations include: Boiling Springs, NC; Thousand Oak, CA; Babson Park, FL, Gainseville, GA; Champaign, IL; Greencastle, IN; Dubuque, IA; Hillsdale, MI; Saint Paul, MN; Rochester, NY; North Canton, OH; Lock Haven, PA; Bristol, RI; Athens, TN; Commerce, TX; Blacksburg, VA; Olympia, WA.

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YOUTH SPORTS

ST. HELEN'S HOOPS

8TH GRADE BOYS

The St. Helen's 8th Grade CYO boys basketball team had a spectacular undefeated season in both the Metuchen (11-0) and Union County (14-0) CYO Leagues. Their performance culminated in sweeping through the playoffs to capture championships in both divisions.

Tom Bonard and Josh Gerckens at point showed superior ball handling throughout the season and when Tom Fringer and Dan Noonan stepped in, there was no slow down in the action. Unparalleled defense was continually demonstrated by Tad Walsh and Kris Kagan, with rebounding expertise displayed by Tom Bottini and Dave Weinstein. Colin Weber, Nick Brownstone and Tom Meylor protected the boards while Mike Diaz and Luke Ricci mixed it up on the wings.

The team has been together since 4th grade coached by Joe Freisen, Joanne Walsh and Loren Weinstein.

5TH/6TH GRADE GIRLS

The St. Helen's 5ht/6th grade girls basketball team upped its season mark to 57-8 by beating St. Theresa's of Summit 38-18 in the Union County CYO semifinals.

Once again St. Helen's used a balanced scoring attack in winning. Brin miller led the way with 12 points and five assists, Alli MacDonald and Stephanie Slodyszka had six points each along with 14 rebounds each. Allison Oberlander had four points and five steals, Rose Driscoll had 2 points and seven assists. Krissy Wendel, Elizabeth Harbaugh, Nina Brownstone and Annie DePalmer all scored two points each.

In the IHM Tournament Sunday St. Helen's won their tournament pool by beating Secaucus, who had beaten St. Helen's earlier in the season. In an exciting game St. Helen's won 30-26. Erin Miller and Stephanie Slodyszska were the scoring leaders with 11 points each but St. Helen's won by a total team effort in all phases of the game. Krissy Wendel, Danielle Infantino, Alli MacDonald did a great job both on the boards and defensively. When St. Helen's center Stephanie Slodyszska went out with an ankle injury for 10 minutes Elizabeth Harbaugh went in and St. Helen's didn't miss a beat. Elizabeth did a great job blocking five shots and getting eight rebounds. Rose Drioscoll did a great job in guarding Secacus' best scorer and holding her down. All season St. Helen's has won with a 12 girl effort and each player stepping up when needed and doing a

GYMNASTICS

great job.

SURGENTS

Surgents Elite Level Five Gymnasts Excel at State-Qualifier Following Tough Competition at International Gymnastics Meet

The Level 5 gymnasts from Surgents Elite School of Gymnastics in Garwood participated in the season's third and final state-qualifier competition held in Middletown, New Jersey March 9 with excellent results.

Kevin Clancy, Bobby Oberlander and Andrew Gialanella, of Westfield, Justin Catalano, and of Mountainside, were coached by Newton Ribeiro, Each competitor finished in the top nine in all six events plus the all-around.

Gialanella placed first in pommel horse, second in floor exercise, third in vault, parallel bars and high bar, and fourth in rings. He took third place in all-around with a score of

Catalano placed fourth in pommel horse and vault, fifth in floor and high bar, and eighth in rings and parallel bars. He took sixth place in all-around with a score of

Oberlander placed third in pommel horse, sixth in rings and parallel bars, seventh in floor, and ninth in vault and high bar. He took seventh place in all-around with a score

Clancy placed fifth in pommel horse and vault, sixth in high bar, and ninth in floor, rings and parallel bars. He took ninth place in allaround with a final score of 43.8.

A week before the state qualifier the team traveled to Stroudsburg, Pa. to participate in the 15th Annual Pocono Invitational Meet at International Gymnastics. Daniel Zavaro of Westfield, who was unable to attend the state-qualifier, excelled in vault and captured seventh place in that event. He finished with an all around score of 47.05.

Oberlander and Clancy took first and second place in the handstand competition at the conclusion of the meet. Each boy is training for the New Jersey USA Gymnastics States 2002 competition to be held later this month in Clifton.

YMCA The C-Division gymnastics team of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA hosted a competition this March 9 against Montclair YMCA, Westfield YMCA and the South Brunswick YMCA. The Fanwood-Scotch Plains team finished in second place with

75.1 points, behind Montclair YMCA's 80.2 and just edging Westfield's 75.0 points. South Brunswick did not field a team.

Kelsey Herbig and Cathryn Vaccaro competed for the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA team along with the following ribbon winners in two age groups. The 9-and-under group saw Olivia Dunham place second on vault and third on floor; Marissa Mastrocoloa was third on uneven bars and balance beam and Sarah Van Buskirk placed first on vault. Van Buskirk and Mastrocola tied for second on the beam. First place honors on the uneven bars went to Samantha Mazzucco, along with second place on balance beam. Victoria Shack placed first on vault and second on floor. Cathryn Vaccaro received third place on beam.

Julia Capodicasa was the only team member competing in the 12and-over age group from Fanwood-Scotch Plains, earning third place on vault and in the all-around competi-

The YMCA offers gymnastics for children from walking through advanced competitive levels. For more information on gymnastics and future competition at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA call Barbara Breuninger at (908) 889-

SOCCER

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Pythons, a U-10 boys soccer team began the spring season by playing in the prestigious PDA Spring Kickoff Tournament March 9 and 10 in Mercer County Park. This early soccer tournament was a true test for the Pythons because it was loaded with top-quality teams from

New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The Pythons entered the tournament with many players either injured or fighting off the flu bug that has spread through the town. The unseasonably warm weather greeted the teams Saturday as the Pythons opened up the tournament against the Tewksbury Jaguars. Both teams began the game by moving the ball up and down the field without any serious threats. Finally, almost 19 minutes into the first half, the Pythons struck first with Steven Bello opening up the scoring from a pass by Scott Keogh, About two minutes later Bello returned the favor to Keogh as he notched his first goal of the young season. The first half ended with the Pythons holding onto a 2-0 lead. In the second half, Rory Szeto came to life, scoring a hat trick of goals with assists coming from Ricky Shevlin, Steven Bello, and Louis Mazzella. The defense, anchored by Gary Binkiewicz, Greg-Stein and Joey D'Annunzio, took over the remainder of the game and shut down the Jaguars attack as the Pythons sealed their first shutout 5-

In the afternoon game the Pythons faced off against a topflighted team from Howell. The Howell United Green took the opening kickoff in for a goal and it looked like it would be a very long afternoon for the Pythons. But instead of lying down, the early goal ignited the Pythons. Every team member picked up their game a notch and countered every Howell attack with one of their own. The first half ended with Howell hanging on to a 1-0 lead. John Maxwell excelled in goal, making save after save.

Maxwell's heroics continued in

the second half for by scoring for the Pythons from his goalie position. With the wind at his back, Maxwell boomed a goalie kick the entire length of the field that the Howell goalic misplayed and the ball rolled into the goal. Ricky Shevlin then seemed to have scored the go-ahead goal but it was negated due to an offsides call. With about four minutes left to go in the physical contest, Howell scored off a corner kick. Gary Binkiewicz, John Maxwell and Louis Mazzella were stalwart on defense and in goal as the Pythons dropped a 2-1 decision.

March 10, the Pythons faced off against another top-flighted team from neighboring Westfield. The weather had changed drastically from the day before as the wind continued to blow and the temperature dropped. The Pythons and Raptors played most of the first half with the ball being exchanged in the midfield area. The Raptors struck first and that's how the first half ended, 1-0. In the second half, both teams put together numerous attacks but the Raptors defense shut out the Pythons from finding the net. Matthew O'Donnell and Greg Stein continually broke up the Raptors advances on defense and Donavan Garrett and Stephen Kuchinski provided the Pythons with numerous offensive chances. The Raptors scored once in the second half to seal a 2-0 victory.

The coaches were thrilled with the way the Pythons played during this tournament against some of the best talent in the area and are looking forward to a successful season in flight-5 of the Mid-New Jersey Youth Soccer Association League starting next week.

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Westfield names honor students

WESTFIELD — Westfield High School Principal Dr. Robert Petix announces that the following students were named to the second marking period honor roll for the 2001-2002 school year:

GRADE 9 DISTINGUISHED HONOR ROLL

Jeffrey Bane, Evan D. Bilheimer, Jacqueline A. Burns, Caroline R. Cariste, Allison M. Clancy, Garrett R. Cockren, Amanda L. Cohen, Daniel P. Cohen, Arielle A. Confino, Christina N. Cordeiro, Lyndsay Couture, Urmi R. Dedhiva. Thomas Del Duca, Leah Di Matteo, Carina C. Don, Mark Doss, Gilad Edelman, Katherine Fahrenthold, Michael J. Fantini, Scott B. Fishberg, Megan Fowler, Lauren Gelmetti, Justin Goncalves, Camille Hausheer, Alexandra K. Hermann, Kate Judd, Henry H. Koehler, Jeremy Krell and Michelle Kuppersmith.

Also, Abigail M. Lewis, Elizabeth M. MacKay, Emily Rose MacNeil, Suzanne Merkelson, Michelle L. Morawski, Kathryn R. Mulvey, Michelle Hillard Nicoll, Lauren E. Nolan, Tara O'Donohue, Katharine Okamoto, Annie Onishi, Brian Oxman, Giovanna Palatucci, David P. Reinhardt, Abigail Rosenstein, Rebecca Schulman, Kirsten Selert, Sasha Sharif, Anne E. Siwulec, Amanda Spector, Kayli Spialter, Monica C. Sull, Brendan J. Sullivan, Elizabeth T. Trimble, Benjamin Wieder, Kathy Yang, Lisa Zhang and Dana Zichlin.

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Gerckens, Deanna Goldner, Ashton Golembo, Julia Gormley, Michael Gorski, Julie Gralla, Emily Rose Greenberg, James R. Hanas, Mark D. Harbaugh, William Hearon, Max Heitner, Christina Henry, Craig H. Hewit, Christopher Hild, Meisha J. Hill, Katelyn Hoens, Jeffrey Hogan, Ralph D. Iannazzone, Kevin Jean-Louis, Bryan M. Kahn, Lauren Kelley, Brian R. Kender, Edward Kerins, John Kerr, Valerie Kerr, Philip Kim, Samuel Kim, Colleen Kirk, Sarah L. Klass, Perri J. Koll, Rebecca K. Korn and Edward Kramkowski.

Also, Sara A. Lesko, Andrew R. Levy, Zachary Lowenstein, Alyson Ludmer, Christian K. Brendan Mahoney. Nicholas Malaspina, Michelle Markowski, John Marks, Sarah Masel, Mary McCall, Tara J. Meagher, Jared Messina, Britany Mironovich, Mark T. Molowa, Jennifer Monnet, Taylor Mulvee, Joel Nemec, Barrett Newell, Lisa H. Novick, Roshan Nozari, Adrienne O'Rourke, Michael S. Oliff, Emily R. Ortuso, Brett Paulan, Jeffrey Pazdro, Rebecca Perch, Sarah Perch, Nicholas Petrarca, Bryan Power, Emily M. Printz, Elizabeth Purcell, Patrick G. Rizk, Alison Beth Rodino, Jessica N. Ropars, Gregory Ryan Jr., Perry Sacks, Willa A. Schaefer, William Schoenbach, Jessica Schor, Ryan Shallcross, Emily K. Sheehan, Neda Simaika, Andrew Skoller, Katherine Smith, Dana Brett Spass, Gregory J. Speir, Brian Stotter, Elizabeth Strickland, Adam Subhas, Evan M. Sullivan, Jessica Sussman, Jonathan Tannenbaum, Mikala Tidswell, Allison Tiedrich, David Torres, Thomas Tresnan, Christopher Tropeano, Allison Turitz. John H. Velasco, Christopher Velderman, Brittany Vella, Bailey Verdone, Alec Wasserman, Jacqueline Weidman, Lauren Winchester, Cameron Wong, Anne Yingling, Zoe Zachariades, Lorena Zamarelli, Nicole Zubizarreta and Tammy Zurawa.

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Alex Regenstreich, Margaret Reynolds, David B. Riggs, Catherine Rimondi, Matthew Rowe, Andrrew Royston, Meredith Rucinsky, Alice Ryan, Rebecca Sabreen, Carolina Saafar, Christina Santilli, Joshua Schoenfeld, Matthew Schoenfeld, Tarik Shah, Adam D. Sharpe, Michael Sheflin, Laura Shelman. Irina Sheremetyeva, Caroline Sheridan, Ella Shuster, Andrew Sinnenberg, Andrew Jay Spiegel, Erin Sullivan, Anne Tabachnick, Shari Thomashow, Tovah Tripp, David Urban, Shanna Vella, Aaron Webb, Allison Wicks, Christine Wicks, Donald Williams III, Christopher Wolski, Alex Wright, Ashley Yarusi, Kyle Yost and Jenna Zorn.

GRADE 11 DISTINGUISHED HONOR

Gil Arbitsman, Raj Bhandari, David Eisenberg, Angela W. Kim, Marisa K. Lau, Joshua T. Lawrence, Christine leiz, Joshua Lerner, Albert Lin, Orlee J. Maimon, William Masket, Beth Mokrauer, Tyler Patla, Alexander Pinho, Angela M. Ricci, Tracy Rood, Vincent Shen, Juhie Tamboli, Christopher Thayer, Jill Woodbury and Kelly Yang.

HONOR ROLL

Sara H. Ackerman, Francine Agnone, Anthony Agresta, Amato, Michael Joseph Babetski, Sean M. Baran, Alison Bennett, Beniam Biftu, Mary Bogatko, Catherine Bonard, Kenneth Borland, Jacquelyn Born, Ryan Cahill, Karen Castaldo, Angelina Chaplygina, James Charatan, Emily Chen, Shelby Cherin, Vanessa Church, Matthew Cleaves, Holly Coleman, Jennifer Dalrymple, John Daly, Michael DeFazio, Sean Devaney, Dominique Diaz, Tammi Dondiego, Daniel Driscoll, Allison Edles, Gregory Engel, David A. Falk, Lauren Federgreen, Michael Federici, Stephanie Finn, Jennifer Fleck, David R. Flynn, Vivian J. Futran, Mara Ganz, Maryanne Garry, Pryce T. Gaynor, Eileen Gessner, Mollie Gibbons, Kurt Giresi, Jason Gundrum, Amanda Haddad, Charles Hely, Samantha Hermann, Toby Hershkowitz, Ryan Hoens, Zontee Hou, Gabriela Izmirlian, Christa Jensen, Matthew Kahn, Daniel R. Kane, Lawrence J. Kao, Adam Karnish, Ariel B. Kaye, James Kennedy, Susan E. Kennedy, Ashley M. Kent and

Also, Whitney Laird, Heather Lane, Elizaabeth Latulippe, Jessica Lee, Allison Lemberg, David Lizmi, Kristen LeBrutto, Christopher Lynn, Matthew Marks, Benjamin Masel, Sarah Masterson, Gregory Matthews, Alexandra Maus, Christina McCabe, Joseph McCabe, Paul Meierdierck, Ryan Mench, Stefan Mogielnicki, Jenise Morgan, James R. Nelson, Colleen Nika, Jenna Noonan, Scott E. Nuzzo, Darcy O'Brien, Adam Osborn, Jihae Park,

Jake A. Kramer.



Day in the life of a lawyer

Westfield High School students, seated, from left, Sean Perlman, Chad Rubin and David Hedman, share a day in the life of a New Jersey business lawyer at the Westfield law firm Lindabury. McCormick and Estabrook at the Westfield Rotary Club's Youth in Business Day. Attorneys David A. Balaban, Mark S. Kuehn and Isabel Machado mentored the students.

Kaitlyn Patella, Elizabeth Paynter, Christine Pirot, Lauren Pollock, Jaqueline Ramalho, Daniel N. Rea, Katlyn M. Ropars, Alexa Rose, Corie Rosenberg, Matthew Rothstein, Chad Rubin, Andrew Ruotolo III, Kathleen Salmon, Erin Salmond, Kenny Sanocki, Rita Santos, Kelly Schmidt, Marc Jessica Schwahl, Schott, Douglas Shineman, Julian Siano, Rachel Skolnick, Staci Spass, Emily N. Suda, Anna Tabachnik, Ashely Tate, Andrew J. Tucker, Christian Urban, Stephanie Valenti, Christine Velazco, Matthew Velderman, Patricia Veltri, Lisa Venezia, Christopher Wagner, Melissa Walsh, Jordan Warner, Alison Weinstein, Gregory Whitney, Amanda Wilhelm, Susan E. Williams, Sean Wright, Alison Yuhas, Joshua Zucker and Joseph Zulewski.

GRADE 12 DISTINGUISHED HONOR ROLL

Ashley A. Carr, Michael Charney, Moriah H. Cohen, Jacquelyn Cusimano, Daniel DeSerio, Rachel Falcone, Daniel J. Goldberg, Eli Harel, Sarah Heitner, Shannon E. Kunath, Matthew K. Lowenstein, Sarah Mahran, Erin M. McClellan. Sara McGovern, Ashley Nemec, Caroline Page-Katz, Rosanne Palatucci, Gina Pepe, Blair Richardson, David Santoriello, Rosemary Topar, Adam G. Yoffie and David Zorn

HONOR ROLL

Matthew Andzel Christopher Annese, Michael Attanasio, Sasha Bartolf, Rachel Bavolar, Tara Behr, Jonathan Bender, Joshua Bengal, Charles Benisch, Priya Bhasin, Alicia Bilheimer, Sara Bobertz, Samantha Bourque-Trieff, James Bridgeman, Alexandra Brill, Matthew Brinkmann, Theodore A. Brown, Lesha Brummell, John Brunetto III, Jessica Caravello, Lauren Caravello, Erica Cenci, Michael Charmatz,

Charles Chaung, Wan Ting Chen, Remington E. Cherin, Valerie S. Chu, Erin E. Cockren. Stephen Collucci, Maureen Cooke, Erin Corbett, Kevin J. Cutro, Ngoc Lan Dang, Katharine Danskin, Robert Daurio, Courtney Donahue, Amy Beth Early, Erica Eisner, Gregory Elliott, Alex Emmet, Kiera Evans, Joseph Fischetti, Heather Fishberg, Bret Fleming, Amy L. Frank, Christopher Freisen, Robert Freundlich. Pamela Fried, Eric Gale, Jonathon Gerson, Katherine A. Gilrain, Christopher Gismondi, Goldweitz, Jessica Elyse Gordon, Adam Gormley, Alvaro Guerra, Megan Hein, Katherine Hild, Eric Hollander, Karen Huskey, Gerritt Ill, Nicole Infantino, Hannah Israelow, Katie Jenkins, Mara Judd; Daniel Kaagan, Leah Kaplow, Theresa Keil, Kyung Tae Kim, Aaron L. Klinger, Kirsten Kolb, Steven Krakauer and Katherine Kreil.

Also, Michael Lau, Matthew Leiz, Megan A. Lesko, Brian J. Levy, David Louie, Joshua Ludmer, Mary M. Lygate, Michael MacKechnie, Caitlin MacDonald, Christopher MacKay, Elizabeth Madresh, Timothy Mansfield, Katie Massenzio, Samantha Materek, Martta McGlynn, Katherine McGuiness, Kathleen Miller; Julee Noguchi, Neil Owens, Anura Patil, Morgan Pearlman, Christine M. Pecoraro, Elizabeth Perrella, Andrew Pilecki, Alexandra Pino, Kristen Pollock, Pilecki, Christina Popola, Laura Pregenzer, Christopher Quackenbush, Gregory Ralph, John Edward Alvaro, W. Valerie Rawnicki, Christine Romano, Sarah E. Round, Carol Rudnicki, Pedro A. Ruiz, Elisabeth Salemme, Schulman, Daniel Seeger, Shaun Simone, Edward Singh Baba, Lauren Solon, Jessica Ann Speir, Erin Steinbrecher, Gregory Stewart, Rebecca Swenson, Stewart, Rebecca Joanna Todaro, Meghan Tomlinson. Marie B. Tracy, Adam Turner, Jessica Tyminski, Andrea Waksman, Thomas Weingarten, Karen Zelawski and Miriam Zichlin.

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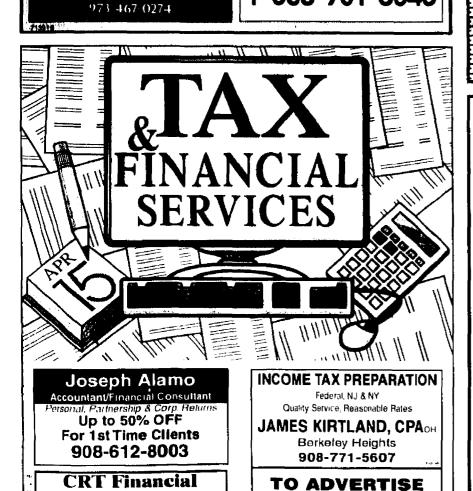


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by Jill Guzman

BUY LOW, SELL HIGHER It is stating the obvious to advise an

investor to buy low and sell high. And while the purchase of a home is usually considered to be more of an investment in lifestyle than a pure investment, it pays to keep this principle in mind. By purchasing the least expensive home on the block, buyers put themselves in a position to realize the most appreciation in value. The surrounding, more expensive homes will pull up the value of their less expensive house. By then spending the difference between the purchase price of their home and the more expensive ones in the neighborhood on renovations, buyers can get the home they want and realize a very good return on their dollar.

Before you consider making major renovations on a home that would make it much more valuable than other homes in the neighborhood, talk to a real estate professional about the advantages of finding a new home with the amenities that you want. You may be quite surprised to find the latter situation to be preferable in terms of both immediate cost and resale value later. When it's time to consider selling, call JILL GUZ-MAN REALTY: "Our best reference is your neighbor." Look for our homes

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Estate

ERA Statewide earns 10-year Milestone award at conference

SAN ANTONIO, TX - ERA Statewide Realty was awarded the 10year Milestone Achievement at the ERA International Business Conference.

"Reaching such an accomplishment is a credit not only to the firm, but also to the owners Tom Crivello, Steve Crivello, and Peter Lozito," stated ERA Vice President Dave Kovalsky.

"We are extremely proud to have served the local residents as well as the Leaders of the Banking community for so many years," said Tom Crivello, owner/broker for the firm.

ERA Statewide Realty with over 35 major banking clients has closed almost bank-owned foreclosures. Respected clients such as Freddie Mac, Fannie Mae, Citicorp, New Jersey Housing Mortgage & Finance Agency, The Dime, Fleet Bank as well as numerous financial agencies can all attest to ERA Statewide Realty's competency and professionalism.

Because we are members of every multiple listing service in New Jersey as well as having agents residing throughout the entire state we can offer our clients quick, reliable service and satisfy all of the needs," said Steve Crivello.

Two office locations in Cranford and Hillsborough afford ERA Statewide with true "Statewide" coverage for both their national clients as well as the local

"We can assist our customers in finding their new home, whether it's a foreclosure or resale property, anywhere in the state, plus help them sell their existing home in any community "Statewide" said Lozito.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

ERA Statewide has enjoyed the honor of having several award winning agents during the past decade, in fact 14 of its agents has won the Prestigious Leadership Award with four agents honored as the "Top Producer in the Nation" for the entire ERA Franchise System.

ERA Statewide Realty is a full service real estate company, Offering assistance in the home finding process for buyers plus marketing of the sellers current home. Several market segments are fully serviced which include: Resale Single family homes, Town homes, Condos, New construction, Multi family properties, Adult Communities as well as the popular Foreclosure market.

"From condos to castles, from northern Bergen County to southern Cape May County, our goal is to put your needs first," states Crivello.

An award-winning company from its inception, ERA Statewide Realty is truly thankful to all the clients it has had the pleasure to serve in the past decade and looks with great anticipation in helping new clients in the future.

CRANFORD

43 Blake Ave. from Richard A. & Anna M. Horn to Anna M. Horn for \$175,000. Claremont Place Christopher J. & Anna Koscica to Daniel & Patricia Powles for \$7,500.

7B Parkway Village from Jeffrey S. & Carol Zimmerman to Jack Sargent et.al. for \$170,000.

KENILWORTH

140 S. 23rd St. from Alice Teipel to Joan Greenig et.al. for \$150,000. SCOTCH PLAINS

328 Evergreen Blvd. from William &

Samuelsen for \$260,000.

789 Muir Terrace from Helen A. Muir to Angelo & Dina Rosato for \$339,000. WESTFIELD

123 Grove St. from Henry & Margaret Benaquista to Jeffrey Pravlik et.al. for

58 Mohawk Trail from Eric & Susan Wentworth to Garman & Carmen Hui for \$319,000.

829 Tice Place from Cendant Mobility Financial Corp. to Matthew & Kelly Werder for \$310,000.

856 Tice Place from Timothy J. & C. Jessica L. Wilkins to Warren & Mary Hartigan to Samuele & Daniela P. \$310,000.

Butera for \$444,000.

6 Wychview Drive from Jane T. Butler to Ralph Marano Jr. & Kelly Marano for \$365,000

BERKELEY HEIGHTS

94 Briarwood Drive East from John C. & Erin E. Angelo to Louis & Mary R. Mastria for \$335,000.

NEW PROVIDENCE

135 Commonwealth Ave. from Miriam J. Nori to Raymond & Stephanie Carlson for \$365,000.

21 Maple St. from Margaret Yendrick to Matthew S. & Emily J. Hagadorn for

SUMMIT

28 Van Dyke Place from Kevin & Laura S. Wieland to Khalid & Nihal Z. Hamdy for \$280,000.

78 Ashwood Ave. from Halit & Yonca Ozbelli to David & Karen L. Baldwin for \$370,000.

62 Blackburn Ave. from Robert S. & Stephanie A. Hull to Andrew R. & Melinda F. Waskow for \$975,000.

15 Brainerd Road from Edward F. & Nora H. Curley to John W. Huen & L.Z. Hui for \$389,000.

11 Dale Drive from Laurence V. Senn Jr. & Katharine Senn to Michael R. &

Linda C. Oliver for \$807,000.

1-6A Euclid Ave. from Gucia Landau to Hyla B. Garlen for \$512,000.

7 Glen Oaks Ave. from Theodore Vi Adams Jr. & Lorraine Adams to Martin J. & Jessica O. Burke for \$600,000.

69-71 Morris Ave. from William A. & Alicia M. Lubrano to Edward F. & Mauri G. Buchanan for \$501,500.

177 Summit Ave. from John J. Durnin & C. Vietta to John J. Durnin et.al, for

\$257,118. B8 Summit West from Edward S.

Nathan et.al, to Merridith E. Crawford for \$60,000.

Home remodeling, construction recovering from Sept. 11

BY JAMES M. WOODARD

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Homeowners are on a remodeling kick. Last year, owners spent more money on remodeling projects than ever before, despite a slowdown period following Sept. 11. Remodeling activity is now again on the upswing.

Consumers spent about \$161 billion on home remodeling during the past year — a record for that segment of the construction industry, according to a report from the National Association of Home Builders. That reflects a 5-percent increase over the previous year.

"It isn't really surprising that remodeling activity eased up after Sept. 11," said Bill Owens, chairman of NAHB's Remodelers Council. "We expected a slowdown in remodeling in the second half of last year due to the sluggish economy and rising unemployment.

"Things are now starting to look up as the economy begins to gain momentum and more homeowners, buoyed by the continuing appreciation in real estate values, move back into the remodeling market."

NAHB recently completed a survey remodeling jobs their companies expe- the survey stated.

rienced following the Sept. 11 tragedy. About 35 percent of remodelers indicated there were no notable changes. But 28 percent reported their clients were choosing smaller or scaled-back projects, yet 10 percent of remodelers said they were working on larger projects. In other words, a greater variety of remodeling projects are now in the

When remodelers were asked to name the most significant issues that will shape the industry during the next five years, the top issue was the availability of skilled labor, or lack of same. Also, the aging population will be an issue, they indicated. This will have a major impact on the number and type of remodeling projects in future years.

Remodelers in the U.S. might take note of trend-changing developments in Canada, where more senior homeowners are accepting lifestyle changes that embrace older family members into their household. In a recent survey, 61 percent of Canadians would now consider adding an in-law apartment to their home.

"The reality of caring for an aging population is trickling down the family of remodelers nationwide, asking a tree for Canadians who report that variety of key questions. One question they are likely to consider letting an asked about changes in the type of older family member live with them,"

Other findings from the survey show that Canadians feel a strong emotional attachment to their homes. It's become more important to them because of recent events in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world, the report

More family togetherness in a single home is undoubtedly triggered, to a great extent, by the rising costs of homes. Young and old family members are particularly vulnerable to this problem. They just can't afford a home of their own at this point, so they move in with other family members.

This often involves a remodeling job to provide special accommodations for the moving-in family members. Thus, the remodeling industry continues to

A few weeks ago, this column quoted a couple of readers who expressed views about home inspection services. One said she would hire an engineer to inspect her home in the future, not a general inspector. The other inquired about services that would identify areas of the home that needed attention to keep the property well maintained and ready for a future

I subsequently received an e-mail message from an inspector, addressing both these concerns.

"A periodic inspection of an existing home is a great idea," said home inspector Joe Nernberg. "Independent home inspectors, like myself, check systems operation and look for general wear and tear. Our job is to point out conditions that may affect a homeowner's health and safety.

"A trained home inspector is unbiased in his or her findings, as opposed to a contractor or engineer who may be generating additional revenue as a result of their findings. A non-technical, visual examination will determine if other specialists are needed."

Q. Is the number of new homes being built still breaking records?

A. The pace of new home construction is finalsimmering down, after a record-high volume during the last quarter of

last year. "We're seeing things slow down from what had been an extraordinary sales pace last year," said Gary Garczynski,

National Association of Home Builders, "Even so, there's no indication of fundamental weakness in the market, and higher numbers last month could substantially offset this latest decline.

"Our latest surveys indicated some retrenchment in home builder expectations following the rebound our industry experienced from the effects of Sept. 11. Things are likely to smooth out in the year ahead, however, and we're forecasting that total new home sales this year will about equal last year's record-setting pace of 906,000 units."

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Cuccaro joins Burgdorff ERA as sales associate WESTFIELD — Burgdorff belongs to the Garden State hands is an honor to me." ERA has announced that Ileen Bocchino Cuccaro has joined the

company as a sales associate in the Westfield office, located in 600 North Ave., West.

 As a top producing sales agent, lieen has achieved membership in the prestigious New Jersey Association of Realtors Million Vollar Sales Club on many occasions, awarded with Silver Level, 2000 and the Bronze Level, 1996, 97, 99, 1998. She has been a full time Realtor since 1996 and

Multiple Listing Service, Greater Union County Association of Realtors and Middlesex County Board of Realtors.

Cuccaro has served on the Planning Board in Garwood and prides herself on being there for her customers saying "I have been very fortunate to have the type of clients that refer other people to me over and over again, so I really believe I must be doing something right. To put the trust of their friends or family in my

Cuccaro attended Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark and graduated from David Brearley High School in Kenilworth after moving to Garwood. She is working toward an advanced degree in urban studies. Before entering the real estate profession, she was a successful hair stylist in Springfield for 15 years. Ileen is married to John Cuccaro, who is a lifelong Garwood resident, and also has a son, Eric Meyer.

A New Jersey native who has lived in Garwood for more than 30 years, Cuccaro can offer firsthand information about the area to all her clients. She specializes in Union County properties, with knowledge that comes from living in the area she serves. She is familiar with local school districts, housing inventory, neighborhoods, shopping, dining, trans-

portation and more. You can contact Cuccaro at (908)233-6439 or email her at Heen-Cuccaro@Burgdorff.com.

Thank you Jill Guzman

ANOTHER ONE OF OUR "SUCCESS STORIES"" **CONGRATULATIONS: MEET COREY FLOYD** PROUD NEW HOMEOWNER OF 445 MAPLE AVENUE, LINDEN, NJ THANKING JILL GUZMAN REATLY INC. HOME CLOSED ON MARCH 6, 2002

Dear Mrs. Jill Guzman

I'd like to take the opportunity to recognize your Sales Representative, Ms. Amell Bobbitt for a great job on my recent purchase of 445 Maple Avenue in Linden, NJ. Ms. Bobbitt was very courteous, knowledgeable and efficient. She also demonstrated professionalism throughout the entire process.

I am ecstatic over my recent investment and I couldn't have done it without your staff. I look forward to working with Jill Guzman Realty, Inc. in the future. Thank you again for a job well done.

Sincerely Corey A. Floyd

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Automotive/Classified

Ryan **Automotive** has moved into new HQ

Ryan Automotive Limited has entered a long-term lease for a facility located at 200 Carter Drive in Edison to be used as the new corporate headquarters, owner Rod Ryan announced recently.

It will be the first time, in its 30 years of operation, that Ryan Automotive Limited will have a separate, centralized headquarters.

Ryan explained that, "the new headquarters represents a goal that I've been trying to reach, to consolidate much of the accounting and record keeping for our growing roster of Ryan Automotive dealerships and to create a corporate headquarters befitting the level of our operations.'

Ryan Automotive Limited consists of 10 dealerships throughout New Jersey that include: Brunswick Acura, 1041 Route 18, East Brunswick; Morristown BMW, 170 Madison Ave., Morristown; Morristown BMW's Certified Pre-Owned BMW Showroom, 59 Bank St. in Morristown, which will share its facility with the new Morristown MINI dealership that is scheduled to open in March, 2002; Open Road BMW, 731 Route 1, Edison; Open Road BMW's Certified Pre-Owned BMW Showroom, 540 Route Open Honda/Mazda/Isuzu, 50 Route 1 Edison;

The 56,000- square-foot Carter Drive building consists of 6,000 square feet of office space and 50,000 square feet of warehouse space. Open Road BMW will store their new and Certified Pre-Owned BMW's in the large parking area beside the building and in the ware-

and Wayne Acura, 1425 Route 23,



The new 56,000-square-foot headquarters of Ryan Automotive Limited is located at 200 Carter Drive in Edison.

house, which will also be used for Open a private, glass-walled conference room, Road BMW's P.D.I. (Pre-Delivery Inspection), and will also house a wash-

The 6,000 square feet of office space will house the offices of Ryan and other Ryan Automotive corporate executives. In addition, the offices will have the very latest in computerized record storage and retrieval systems that will keep the financial records for all Ryan Automotive dealerships.

The new corporate headquarters is modern, well-designed and intelligently engineered. There are large, airy offices, Automotive dealerships.

a spacious training room, a lunch room with a full kitchen and an attractive lobby with a marble entrance way.

"It's a beautiful building," Ryan said. "It's so modern, both structurally and technologically, and I really believe that it is going to bring Ryan Automotive into the 21st century."

Ryan and other Ryan Automotive executives moved into the new offices in mid-February. The Carter Drive building is centrally located off Route 287, so it's easily reached from all Ryan

Associates honored by Flemington Car and Truck Company

Looking for a car but hate the haggling over price? Would you like individual treatment, not a canned sales pitch?

Award-winning associates at Flemington Car and Truck Company are waiting to help you purchase the best car at the price possible

Flemington Car and Truck Company Family of Dealerships recently awarded 37 associates with Tiffany Stars for their commitment to customer service and sales volume.

"Our sales associates are very dedicated employees who work hard for each customer," said Steve Kalafer, chairman and CEO of the Flemington dealerships. "Each associate understands the importance" of satisfying the customer and working to get every customer who comes through our doors the best price.

The sales associates recognized are: Rick Hungerford and Alex Leist, Flemington Subaru/Isuzu; Pete Chicarelli, Joe Kelly, Rob Kugler, Kevin Lawler, Britt Long and Jim Sheehan, Ditschman /Flemington Ford; Bob Golomb, Rob Presuto and Carl Soltis; Flemington Nissan; Donald Bowker, Bob Campbell, Rob Dvoor and Lee Garcia, Flemington Buick Chevrolet/ Pontiac GMC: Steve D'Argenio, Joel Lambert, George Smith and Tom Smith, Flemington Porsche Audi/ BMW/Volkswagen; Charlie Cook, Crescent DiConstanzo, Ron Drewry, Frank Krohel, Bob Lenczak, Aziz Medhat, Tom Mullen, Tony Pellicano and Patrick Romano, Flemington Chrysler; Ernie Andrasik, Chaz Carroll, Gene DiFazio, Tracy Fazzolari, Joe Orlando and Keith Thomas, Flemington Mazda; and Ted Cadieu, Iggy Descala and Tom Szczepanski, Flemington Infiniti.

Ford dealer earns Blue Oval

Ditschman/Flemington Ford has earned Blue Oval certification, a mark of excellence from Ford Motor Company, for the second consec-

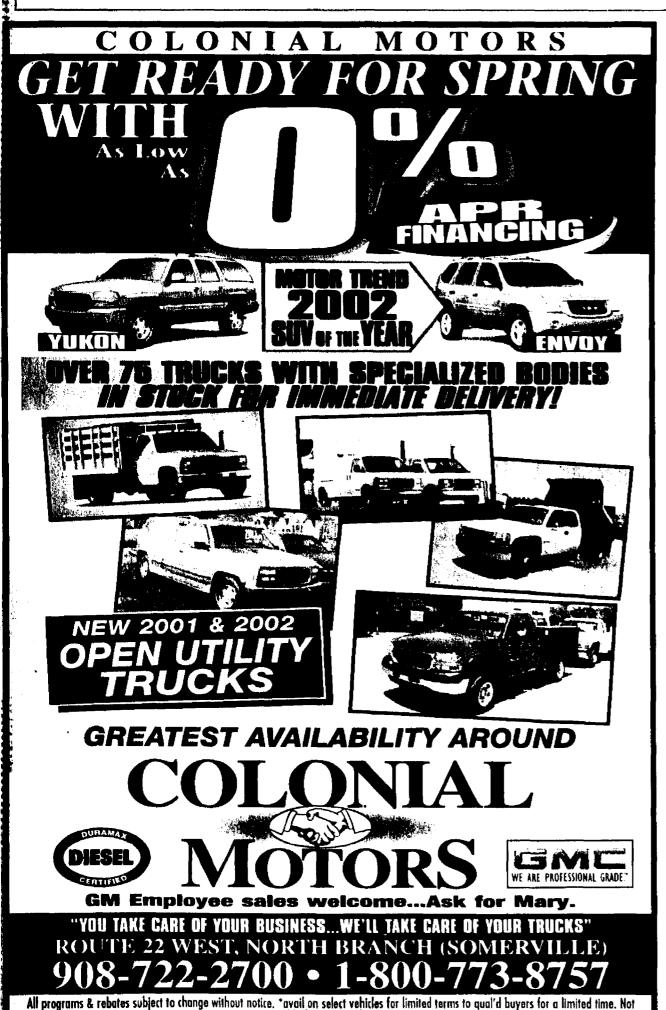
The certification recognizes the Ditschman/Flemington Ford's superior commitment to customer satisfaction and service.

Jerry Sheehan, general manager, noted that the dealership was one of a selected few large volume dealers nationally to be automatically certified this year.

It is very impressive and rewarding to be large volume dealership and to maintain the customer satisfaction scores at this high level," said Sheehan. He noted that "our Voice of the Customer Scores was more than 10 point above the national average. These scores are certified by JD Powers and Associates were more than 10 points above the national average.

We are very proud of the Blue Oval certification. It shows that our customers are happy with our service and our sales teams," said Ellen Nardoni, customer service manager. "We also appreciate all that our associates do; It's a team effort."

Ditschman/Flemington Ford, located on Rts. 202 and 31, is a member of the locally owned and nationally known Flemington Car and Truck Company Family of Dealerships.



responsible for typographical errors.





inception + taxes, title, & reg. Stock #13051 Vin #2M804997 Auto, 4 cyl, a/c, am/fm cass, power steering/brakes/locks, ABS, front & side oir bags, keyless entry, factory alarm, + much more. MSRP: \$21,125

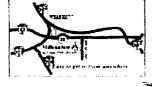
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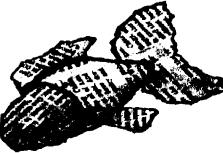
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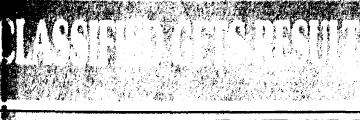
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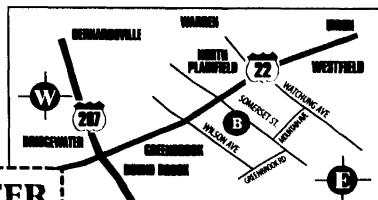
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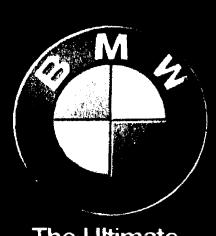
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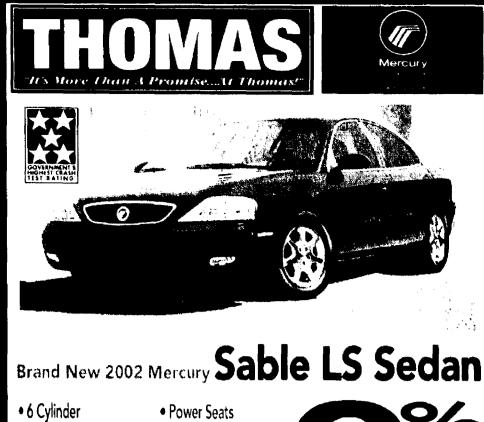
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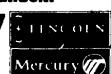




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