

an duped in area-wide scam

Vol. 17, No. 16



By GREG M RECORD PRESS

A phone scam targeting elderly woman has been reported in several local towns and victimized at least one area resident, according to local police departments.

An 81-year-old Scotch Plains

had been swindled out of \$4,000 by a woman posing as her friend. The suspect called her, pretending to be a friend in need of financial assistance to avoid foreclosure on a mortgage.

The caller told the victim she needed more than \$4,000, and a bank representative would come by to pick up the money. The vicwoman reported April 10 she tim turned over the money to a

light-skinned Hispanic woman, but when she contacted her friend, the woman told her she had never requested the money.

Cranford police said they have had seven reports of similar behavior, though they do not know of any residents who have turned over money.

The suspects are female callers who call elderly woman between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., police said. The suspect addresses the victim by her first name, then asks, "Guess who this is?" When the woman answers with the name of a friend, the suspect says "yes," then asks to borrow money. Kenilworth police said there

had been two reported attempts of the same scam, though no one had been victimized.

The amount of money requested differs in each case, but is in the \$2,000-\$6,000 range, police said.

To date, officers said, each town is handling the investigation independently. The Union County Prosecutor's Office could not be reached for comment.

Rabbi Charles Kroloff retiring after 36 years

Devils rule

Westfield's Andrew Garrison pitched four innings of shutout baseball in the Blue Devils' 17-1 shellacking of Scotch Plains Monday. See story on Page C-1.



Raffle prize

Patricia Colbert of Westfield, Kathleen Clark of Mountainside, Maureen Foley and Julia Wood-Verdic, both of Scotch Plains, hold a hand-woven Persian Tabriz rug that will be raffled in the Oak Knoll School Grand Prix. See Page A-7.



By GREGORY SHORO

THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD --- For the past 36 years, Charles A. Kroloff, rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield, has given new meaning to the words "do unto others.

As a rabbi in the reform branch of Judaism, the largest in North America, Kroloff has made it part of his duties to combine Jewish religious traditions with the needs of modern times, all while paying close attention to social justice and improvement of the world.

During his tenure as president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis in which he oversaw 1,800 reform rabbis, one of Kroloff's accomplishments was overseeing the organization's acceptance for rabbis who conduct wedding ceremonies for gay and lesbian couples.

"I look for a basis of Judaism to bring them in. Treat your neighbor as you want to be treated," said Kroloff, adding that Jews know very well what it is like to be excluded. "I realize that we know a lot more about it (homosexuality) today then we did then, and I'm looking for ways to include Jews into Judaism rather than exclude them. I've tried to find ways to outreach and embrace our fellow Jews and our fellow humah beings.' Kroloff, who will retire at the end of May to spend time with his family, travel and play golf, never limited his responsibilities to the service of his own people. "He is very beloved in the gation." profession, but at the same in 1963, Kroloff traveled to time, he is a friend and counselor and he is sympathetic to Long Island with two buses of everyone," said Rabbi Eric people from the temple to



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Budgets pass in Westfield, **Scotch Plains**

Voters in the Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood school districts approved their school budgets Tuesday.

The margin in Westfield was 533 votes, 1,979-1,446. In Scotch Plains-Fanwood the vote was closer, 1,680 to 1,425, or 255 votes.

The Westfield school budget of \$57.8 million includes \$1.8 million in debt repayments. This translates into a tax increase of 27 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, meaning a house valued at \$180,000, the town average, will pay \$487 more per year in taxes, or \$41 per month.

Eliminated from next year's budget is eighth-grade sports, but not field hockey, which will save \$40,000; an elementary teacher, a part-time nurse and cafeteria staff.

"I am gratéful for the support of the community in approving next year's school budget," said Schools Superintendent William J. Foley.

"Westfield voters have once again demonstrated the value that they place on education. We have all faced difficult decisions, endeavoring to balance academic goals with even greater fiscal challenges. With the support of the community, we are ready to face those challenges and continue educational excellence in Westfield," he added. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood budget is \$55.2 million, of which voters approved the current expense tax levy of \$47.8 million. The taxable portion of the budget is up 6.65 percent and translates to a \$354 annual increase for the average home in Scotch Plains, which is assessed at \$117,000.

Board seats also filled

Voters in Tuesday's school election also chose three members for the Westfield Board of Education and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education.

In Westfield, voters elected Alice Hunnicutt, with 2,080 votes, incumbent president Arlene Gardner, with 2,070 votes, and William Ziff, with 1,845 votes. They all will serve three-year terms. George Kattak garnered 1,669 votes.

Elected in Scotch Plains were Edward J. Saridaki Jr., with 1,079 votes, and Norman "Trip" Whitehouse, with 1,112 votes. In Fanwood, Susan Dyckman was elected with 654 votes. None of those candidates had been opposed.

\$334 on the average home, which is assessed at \$83,000.

"I want to express my sincere

Living history

Soldiers in the colonial army fire away on Main Street in Bound Brook Saturday at the re-enactment of the Revolutionary War Battle of Bound Brook. See story on Page A-5.

REMINDER

The Fanwood Environmental Commission needs help to plant wildflower seeds 10 a.m. Saturday. The area to be planted is along the high-tension lines adjacent to the Fanwood Nature Center, off Cray Terrace east of Terrill Road. Access to the planting area is through a gravel driveway. Bring metal T-shape rakes and dress for mutday terrain. In case of steady rain, the planting will be rescheduled for 1:30 p.m. Sunday. For more information, phone Dean Taicott at (908) 322-6577.

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Rabbi Charles Kroloff relaxes with a book in the library or his Westfield home. His library includes volumes he himself has authored.

Yoffie, a longtime friend and speak on civil rights.

rights."

colleague. "Our movement "I feel that religion insists that we treat all people equally, believes that we have to apply our beliefs within society and he has exemplified this fact and to this day we still don't do it," Kroloff said. "Racism is an both in his life and his congreabomination and so as a rabbi, I try to root out racism whenev-During Martin Luther King er I've seen it, marched against Jr.'s march on Washington, D.C. it and always stood up for equal

See Rabbi, page A-2

In Fanwood, the increase is

thanks to the voters for reaffirming their understanding of the importance of education," said Superintendent Carol B. Choye.

"We will continue to work hard to provide a strong academic program to meet the learning needs of all of our students. Educational excellence is an investment in the future of our students and our communities," she added.

Eliminated from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood budget are six secretarial and classroom aide positions, but no teachers or staff who directly influence class instruction were cut.

Elizabethtown Gas seeking rate increase of 9 percent

investment made in its New Jersey utilities division for the past 12 years and the cost of providing service, NUI Corp. announced Tuesday that Elizabethtown Gas Co. has filed a request with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) to increase its base rates by \$28.6 million or about 9 percent.

Elizabethtown Gas also is seeking changes to its tariff that will enable it to more accurately reflect current weather patterns as well as recover the costs of system improvements without the need for frequent base rate increases.

The company also is proposing an increase in its service charges to more directly match the cost of providing service to its various classes of customers.

Under the proposal, Elizabethtown Gas Company's typical residential customer would see the monthly bill for 100 therms of gas increase by \$12.17, from \$97.49 to \$109.66, or 12.5 percent. The bills of commercial and large volume users would change by varying amounts, depending on the class of customer and volume of usage. 'Elizabethtown Gas has not increased its base rates since

BEDMINSTER - To recover February 1, 1990," said Victor Fortkiewicz, vice president of NUI Utilities. "In fact, when adjusted for inflation, Elizabethtown Gas' current base rates are actually 24 percent lower than they were in 1990. Even with this proposed increase, when adjusted for infla-tion our rates will be 17 percent lower than they were in 1990." Fortkiewicz also noted that Elizabethtown Gas was the only gas utility in New Jersey not to increase its base rates during that period.

That was due in large part to Elizabethtown Gas and its parent NUI succeeding in containing costs, all of which benefited customers, Fortkiewicz said. Those measures included the elimination or renegotiation of pipeline and/or gas supply contracts for an annual cost saving of nearly \$7 million; the closing of a field operations center that resulted in a one-time credit to customers of \$2.8 million; three early retirement programs; the reorganization of NUI to allow for greater efficiency among its business units; outsourcing and other operational efficiencies; and the reduction of the average cost of long-term debt by more than 40 percent.

Between 1990 and 2002, Elizabethtown Gas Company held growth in operating, administrative and general expenses to just 1.5 percent annually. This was achieved despite an inflation rate during that time of 2.6 percent per year, contractual annual wage increases for employees and significantly higher medical insurance costs, according to Fortkiewicz. In fact, Elizabethtown Gas was successful in limiting the aggregate increase in expense levels from 1990 to 2002 to 17.5 percent, he said.

"Although we have worked hard to contain and manage expenses, our current rate structure is not adequate to permit recovery of our costs of providing safe and reliable service while enabling us to earn a fair return on our investment," Fortkiewicz said. "Thus, the need for a change in our rates."

In recent years, Elizabethtown Gas Co. has averaged approximately \$28 million in annual capital investment in its distribution system, much of which goes toward work that does not generate new revenues, such as system maintenance, repair and replace-

See Gas, page A-2



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kids Day at Y

Lt. Jeff Foulks of the Union County police checks out 1-year-old Caltlin Clancy's car seat at the Healthy Kids Day event at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA on Saturday. More pictures on Page B-1.

Rabbi Kroloff retiring after 36 years

Continued from page A-1

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During the '60s and '70s, the rabbi took to the streets of Westfield, to protest the United States involvement in the Vietnam War and offer counseling to those who, for reason of conscience, chose not to serve.

Kroloff, graduated from Yale and attended graduate school at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Columbia. He also has a certification in marriage and family therapy, which he says has aided him in helping the more than 1,150 families in the temple congregation

Kroloff has also written two books, with plans for more in retirement, concerning the homeless. His first, "When Elijah Knocks; A Response Religious Homelessness," was published fol-

lowing his participation in the late '80s with the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, for which he served as vice president for two years. Kroloff was part of the team that developed a program in which Union County churches and synagogues would host the homeless overnight.

"They would sleep here and we would provide opportunities for the**m and** help them find jobs," said Kroloff, whose second book "54

What you can do

A commemorative weekend of prayer and celebration honoring Rabbi Kroloff will be held the weekend of May 31 at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield.

Contributions for "The Fund to Honor Rabbi Kroloff's Retirement," to help continue his involvement with the community, can be made until April 15 by calling the temple at (908) 232-6770.

Ways You Can Help the Homeless," lists ways to help the needy, such as volunteering time at a shelter or carrying \$5 McDonald's gift certificate in your wallet. "Not only are you helping someone else, but you are making yourself feel better in the process.

The council eventually grew to more than 80 networks around the nation, housing more than 120,000 people through the years.

Kroloff has been a major contributor and plans to continue with his role in the temple's "I Have a Dream" foundation, a vision of the project's primary financier and temple member, Warren Eisenberg. Last year Temple Emanu-El adopted a first-grade class and provided the children with aid, tutors and occasional trips to a basketball game.

The biggest contribution, to the class of 55 who are now in second grade, is the promise that if they graduate from high school, their college tuition will be paid for.

Kroloff and his temple also maintain a strong relationship with St. Mark's, an interracial Episcopal Church in Plainfield. The congregations not only study, pray and socialize together, but also put on two Broadway shows a year and rehabilitate housing in Plainfield.

"When churches, synagogues and mosques work together we can do amazing things to improve our communities and serve God," said Kroloff.

"He is a man with the unique ability to bring people with different views, backgrounds and beliefs into cooperation with one another." added Yoffie.



Award winner

Janice Jones has been awarded the Rebecca Oakes Good Citizenship Award. The annual award, established by Warren Victor in 1982, is given to a member of the congregation of Bethel Baptist Church in Westfield, who best exemplifies good citizenship and volunteerism. Jones serves the church by working with the youth ministry, the women's fellowship auxiliary and is superintendent of the Sunday school.

Garwood likely to lift restriction on parking spaces

GARWOOD - The Borough Council introduced an ordinance April 9 that would allow Shop-Rite patrons to use commuter parking spaces in the store's lot.

The lot's 16 spaces reserved for commuter permit parking have been empty since the building opened. As of this week, said Mayor Michael Crincoli, the borough has sold only one permit for the lot.

The spaces are restricted to permit use from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays. But once the new ordinance passes, shoppers will be able to use any spaces that have not been used by commuters by 11 a.m.

Business

Chris Kirby of Scotch Plains has joined the retail consulting and design firm CDI Group as vice president for Sales and Marketing.

Kriby, 42, comes to the Manhattan firm from HMG Worldwide, where he served as vice president of account management.

He graduated from Ioná College, New Rochelle, N.Y., with of Business Bachelor Administration degree.

Elizabethtown Gas seeking rate increase Continued from page A-1

ment. The company anticipates increasing that by about \$10 million per year during 2003-2006 to **cover** accelerated system upgrades needed to enhance deliverability to its customers and enable it to con-

tinue providing safe and reliable service. The company also plans to introduce new technology designed to improve service to its customers. Normally Elizabethtown Gas would not recover those future expenses until it returned to the **BPU for another base rate increase**



request. To avoid the need to file new requests frequently, as part of today's filing Elizabethtown Gas is proposing that it be allowed to recover these system improvement costs as the work is completed.

"This will benefit both the company and our customers because it will eliminate the need for and negative impact of less frequent but larger rate increases, and provide for smoother recovery of expenses," Fortkiewicz said.

"While we have grown our customer base by 1.2 percent since 1990, that growth has been insufficient to offset the cost of operating our system, including the necessary upgrading for customer service and safety," Fortkiewicz continued. "While our extraordinary efficiency during the past 12 years has allowed us to do this without seeking an increase in rates, inflation and the cost of doing business require that we be allowed to recover our operating costs in a more timely fashion.'

Elizabethtown Gas Company also is seeking to have the weather period upon which its base rates and weather normalization clause (WNC) are set changed from an average of a 30-year period to an average of a 10-year period to better reflect current weather patterns. Elizabethtown Gas, which was the first utility in New Jersey to request and receive a WNC, uses the clause to protect both the com-

Flood project bond faces final vote Tuesday night

By GREG MARX

RECORD PRESS

CRANFORD — The Northeast Quadrant Flood Control project may inch forward again Tuesday night, when the \$9.2-million bond ordinance to fund the project comes up for final approval by the Township Committee.

The ordinance was unanimously introduced March 12. The long wait between introduction and a final vote was designed to allow the township to apply to the Local Finance Review Board for a waiver of the required 5 percent down payment.

That waiver was granted last week, sparing the township from having to make a budget-busting \$462,500 down payment.

While the ordinance would fund the full estimated cost of the project, local leaders have said they do not expect to spend all the money. The township has a \$2.4-million commitment from Union County, and commissioners remain hopeful that \$3.3 million in state aid cut earlier this year will eventually be restored. While the committee was waiting for the down payment

waiver, it did take several other actions on the project. At its April 9 meeting, the committee authorized engineer Killam Associates to complete final design work on Phases I and II of the project, including the controversial swale in the Herning Avenue woods and express sewer from the swale to the Rahway River.

The new work will cost up to \$88,000, bringing Killam's total fees to \$399,100,

The committee will also try to determine the location of the swale and express sewer before approving the bond. In an April 4 memo, Township Engineer Jeff Sias reported that Killam had reviewed two alternative locations for the swale suggested by residents and found them unfeasible. The preferred alternative, he said, is "a meandering swale with suitable end buffers" in the woods.

No final recommendation has been made about the location of the express sewer, which will run near the foundation of several homes along the river, said Commissioner Phil Morin.

Commissioner Bradley Campbell had agreed to meet with a town: ship delegation to discuss restor. ing the state funding for the project. The money was pulled as: part of Gov. James E. McGreevey's response to the state budget crisis, but Morin, said the governor's proposal on new corporate tax revenues;, some of which would be dedicated to the DEP, might make the funds available again.

Campbell does not have the authority to restore the funds, but Morin said a recommendation from the DEP would influe ence the Legislature.

Relive history at encampment

CRANFORD **Revolutionary War encampment** is the first event marking the 75th anniversary of the Cranford

pany and its customers from the impact of variations in weather.

Elizabethtown Gas hopes to receive a decision on its filing sometime in the fall, following review by the Board of Public Utilities.

Morin also reported that Department of Environmental



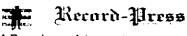
Historical Society.

The encampment runs 9 a.m. 3:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27, in-Hanson Park on Springfield Avenue. Lamb's Artillery and Mott's Artillery, two organizations experienced in putting onre-enactments of wartime battles, stage the event in full battle. dress. Music of the period comes from the Westfield Fife and: Drum Corps.

Cooking, children's games, military drills, arts and crafts from the 18th century also can be found on the site. Admission is free.

For more information, phone (908) 276-0082.

Funding for the encampment. is through a Heart Grant from the Union County Board of Freeholders.



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Commission decides not to sell memberships after all

by GREG MARX THE RECORD-PRESS

CRANFORD - Bowing to pressure from area duffers, the Hyatt Hills Golf Commission has scrapped its plan to sell memberships to the Raritan Road facility.

At a March 14 meeting, the commission proposed selling 100 memberships at \$1,500 apiece. The monetary value of the memberships in greens fees and other benefits would be less than \$1,000, but the main perk would be the first opportunity to reserve coveted weekend morning tee times.

But the plan drew strong criti-

cism from residents, who said the selling of memberships would restrict play to a small group of people and turn what is supposed to be a public course into a "semiprivate" facility.

The commission heeded the complaints. At its April meeting, the group approved a fee schedule that does not include the memberships.

But Commissioner Robert Hoeffler said the membership policy could still be put in place for 2003. By not selling them this year, he said, "we're letting the public get the experience of playing on the course" before asking anyone to commit to the substantial membership fee.

At the March meeting, commissioners said the memberships would provide guaranteed revenue to the course in the case of a rainy summer. But Hoeffler said that should not be a concern.

"We don't have a revenue problem," he said. With a miniature golf course and driving range onsite, he said, "we have enough other options that will make more money than the golf course."

But the membership policy might still have value to the commission, he said, because it would make it easier to manage the golf course. A decision on whether or not to sell memberships in 2003

will not be made soon, he said. Former Township Attorney Robert Renaud, who criticized the

first proposal, said the new approach is reasonable. "I think it's a good thing if they're going to try it out for a year and see what happens," he said.

Other than the memberships, the fee schedule is little changed from the March proposal. Fees for Clark and Cranford residents, after purchasing a \$30 resident ID card, will be Mon.-Thur. \$16/9 holes, \$25/18 holes; Fri.-Sun. \$30/18 holes (there is no 9-hole option on weekends). Residents 65 and over and 17 and younger will play for a reduced rate of

\$13/9 holes and \$20/18 holes. Fees drop to \$16 for "twilight" rounds every day.

Electric carts will be required for weekend play, and will cost \$26.

The only changes are eliminating a restriction on hours the senior rate applies, and setting the junior rate.

The driving range will cost approximately \$4 per 40 halls. The miniature golf fees are adults \$7 (\$6 before 6 p.m.), children 16 and under \$5 (\$4 before 6 p.m.).

The greens fees at Hyatt Hills are higher than those charged at public courses run by Union County. After buying a \$30 resident ID card, county residents can play 18 holes at Galloping Hill, Oak Ridge, or Ash Brook courses for \$18. And those courses are 18 holes, while Hyatt Hills is a nine-hole course.

But the golf commission has said the quality of the course, and the entire facility, will be worth the higher rates. "We're trying to make this an upscale golf course," Commissioner Rich Donofrio said at the March meeting, "as if everyone belonged to a country club.

Hyatt Hills is expected to open sometime in the first two weeks of July.

Campus notes

Joanne E. Garibaldi, a junior majoring in early childhood education, and Katherine E. Tway, a senior studying communication, have been named to the Dean's List at the University of Scranton. Both women are residents of Scotch Plains.

Three area students have distinguished themselves through programs offered by Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y.

Craig Long of 2 Floral Court, Westfield, received the Jules G. and Ruth B. Haft Scholarship. He is a senior in the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Syracuse.

Julia Pomann of 526 Tremont Ave., Westfield, is spending the spring 2002 semester studying in London, England. She is a junior major-ing in English at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Brett Rosenblatt of 8 Sandra Circle, Westfield, also is spending the spring 2002 semester studying in London. He is a junior majoring in finance at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa.

Corkery Devin and Matthew Eberts, both of Westfield, were named to the dean's list for the fall 2001 semester at Caldwell College. Both students are juniors.

Anthony J. Attanasio was named to the Dean's List for the fail 2001 semester at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. He is a political science major graduating in May. Upon graduation, he will work for the U.S. Senate campaign to elect Douglas Forrester.



Essay winner

Chairman Joe McCourt, left, and Allen Weingartner, commander of VFW Post 10122, congratulate Emily Everson, an eighth-grader at Park Middle School in Scotch Plains, Emily won the District 5 level of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Youth Essay Contest. Other local winners were Ashley Meyn and Denise Breen of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Interparochial School in Scotch Plains and Nick Mondi, also of Park Middle School.

Hearings continue Wednesday on townhouse development

By GREG MARX THE RECORD-PRESS

GARWOOD On Wednesday, the Planning Board will continue hearing an application to build 16 townhouses behind Hidi's Deli on Fourth Avenue.

Rahway-based developer Giapedi hopes to buy the properties at 484 and 490 Fourth Ave., and divide the two lots into three. The newly-created lot would be used as an entranceway to the development, which would be built in a cul-de-sac near the rear of the property.

The application was to be heard last August, and to be made to the Board of Adjustment. But it was postponed numerous times due to procedural errors; in the interim, the Borough Council abol-

Cranford may yet help pay the downtown chief's salary

By GIREG MARX

THE RECORD-PRESS

CRANFORD The Township Committee may contribute to the salary of Downtown Management Corp. Director Kathleen Miller Prunty, after all.

The 2002 municipal budget introduced April 9 includes nearly \$30,000 that could be used to pay half of Prunty's salary, said Commissioner and DMC liaison Phil Morin.

The DMC, which gets its revenue from a special tax on downtown properties, has requested the township contribute to Prunty's salary, saying her job includes economic development responsibilities that benefit the entire municipality. If the township agrees, the DMC would then hire an administrative assistant for Prunty and devote more of its budget to marketing the downtown. The SID tax of 37 cents per \$100 would remain flat.

The Township Committee rejected a similar request last year, and seemed about to do the same this year. But the committee decided to allocate another \$30,000 that could go towards Prunty's salary, Morin said.

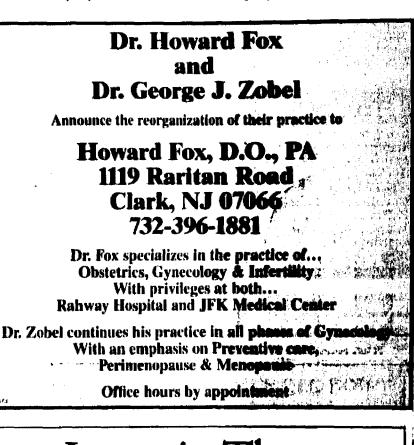
Half the money was taken from Township Administrator Marlena Schmid's professional services budget, and the other half from the township's surplus, he said. As a result, the change will have no tax impact this year, Morin said.

ished the Board of Adjustment – and assigned its responsibilities to the Planning Board. The hearing finally began March 27.

The developer has shrunk the original 18-unit proposal to 16, but is still requesting several variances. The area is zoned for one-family homes, not townhouses. And while at 32 feet the buildings are not taller than allowed, the proposed three stories are more than the permitted two-and-a-half.

The developer is also seeking variances from open space and setback requirements.

While entirely in Garwood, the project is near Cranford and Westfield. At a previous aborted hearing an the application, about 50 residents came to protest the project, claiming it would increase traffic and lower property values.



Invest in These

300 trout available for the catching at annual derby

The Union County Board of Freeholders and the Newark Bait combines the excitement of a conand Fly Casting Club will host the 23rd Annual Trout Derby at the Lower Echo Lake section of Echo Lake Park, between Mountainside and Westfield, from Saturday to May 3, rain or shine. The derby was designed for children 15 years of age and under. All others must have a valid New Jersey fishing license and trout stamp. The competition was created to give city children the opportunity to catch trophysized trout.

"Amateur fishermen look for-

test with the relaxation of fishing," said Freeholder Deborah Scanlon, liaison to the Union **County Parks and Recreation** Advisory Board. About 300 rainbows, brookys and browns, 12 inches and larger, will be delivered about 8 a.m. Saturday.

Fish caught on April 20 should be weighed at the gazebo at the Lower Echo Lake section of the park between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. All fish that are caught between Sunday and May 3 should be taken to Sportsman Outfitters,

1061 Raritan Road (in the Clark - Lake section of Echo Lake Park Village Shopping Complex), Clark.

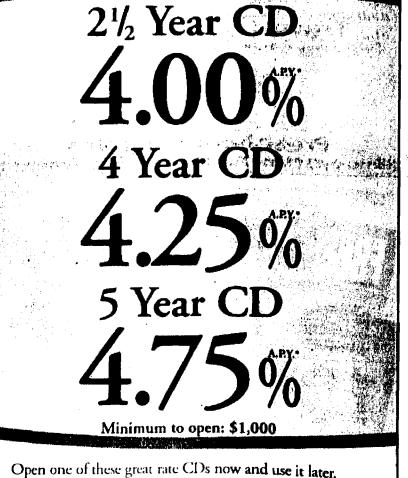
In order for fish to be eligible for consideration in the derby, they must all have a Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club tag in the fish's lower jaw.

Registration will take place at the gazebo in the Lower Echo

from about 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

Anglers must provide their own fishing equipment and brown bag lunches. Prizes, including fishing equipment, will be awarded. For more information, call Oscar Ressler at (908) 241-7808.





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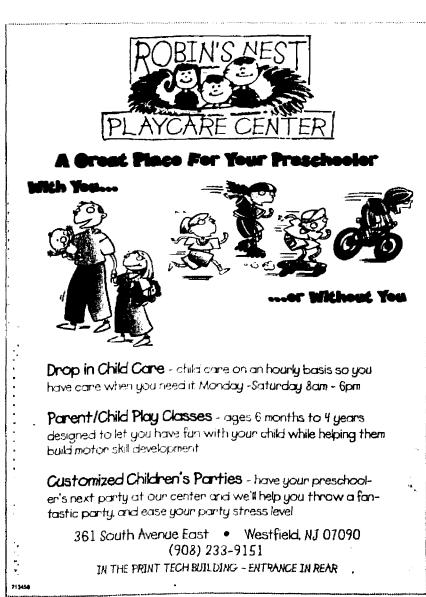
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*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) Offer is for a limited time. Rate and term subject to change without notice. Early withdrawel may cause substantial penalties







FRIDAY **APRIL 19** JUNGLE GYM

A-4

Newcomers Club of Westfield event for children 18 months-3 years old. The Little Gym. 20 South Ave. West, Cranford, 12:15 p.m. Reservations required: (908) 389-9248 or (908) 233-5605.

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

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICK "Captain Corelli's Mandolin," Nicolas Cage movie from last summer. Fanwood Memorial Library, North Ave., Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Free. (908) 322-6400.

SATURDAY **APRIL** 20

BLOOD DRIVE Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park Avenue, Plainfield, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Donor requirements: (800) NJ BLOOD, Ext. 140.

PLANT SEEDS - for wildflowers to grow along high-tension lines, Cray Terrace, Fanwood, 10 a.m. (steady-rain date 1:30 p.m. April 21). Bring T**rakes**; dress for muddy weather. (908) 322-6577.

BOOK SIGNING "In the Footsteps of George Washington" by William Clotworthy. Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad St., Westfield, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (908) 233-3535

ANNUAL CONCERT Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea. Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 8 p.m. Adults \$25; seniors \$20; students \$10. Tickets: (908) 233-2042.

DOUBLE BILL "Cavalleria Rusticana" and "Pagliacci" with the Little Opera Company of New Jersey. Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Road, Westfield, 8 p.m. Adults \$25; seniors/students \$18; under 12 free. Tickets: (800) 631-6215.

SUNDAY APRIL 21 SINGLES GROUP --- for sin**gle/divor**ced/widowed people over –

45. First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield, 9 a.m. April 21, 28. \$2. (908) 889-5265 or (908) 889-4751.

OPEN HOUSE -- for summer camps sponsored by Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 1-3 p.m. (908) 709-7600.

SHEEP TO SHAWL Festival, annual event of Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 1-4 p.m. Free. (908) 232-1776.

"THE SOLDIER'S TALE' ---Stravinsky work with the Arbor Chamber Players. Presbyterian Church, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 4 p.m. Adults \$18; seniors \$15, Tickets: (908) 232-1116

RETIREMENT --- service for Homer Tricules, chaplain at New Jersey racetracks, Scotch Plains Baptist Church, 333 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, 5 p.m. Donation. (908) 322-5487.

MONDAY APRIL 22

'OPEN A NEW DOOR' ---adult education open house. Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, 641 Westfield Road, Scotch Plains, 7 p.m. \$5. Registration recommended: (908) 889-4361.

TUESDAY **APRIL 23** FUNDRAISER for Jack

Molenaar and Thomas Plante, candidates for Fanwood Borough Council. Sun Tavern, 15 South Ave., Fanwood, 6-8 p.m. \$35. (908) 789-7577

DINNER MEETING and election of 2002-03 officers for Union County Legal Secretaries Association. B.G. Fields, 560 Springfield Ave., Westfield, 6:30 p.m. Reservations: (908) 241-0611 or (908) 558-2369.

SPRING FASHION -- show benefiting Center for Women and Families (Scotch Plains). Chico's Casual Clothing, 206 E. Broad St., Westfield, 7-9 p.m. \$15. Tickets: (908) 322-6007.

HISTORY IN HATS --- program for Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood. Railroad station, North Avenue, Fanwood, 8 p.m. (908) 232-1199.



APRIL 24

140.

Ext. 309.

APRIL 25

BUSINESS

BLOOD DRIVE - at Lord &

Taylor, 609 North Ave. West,

Westfield, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Appointments/donor require-

ments: (800) NJ BLOOD, Ext.

and dogs in Scotch Plains.

Firehouse, 430 Park Ave., Scotch

Plains; cats 6:30-7:30 p.m., dogs

7:30-8:30 p.m. (908) 322-6700,

THURSDAY

PLAY TIME --- Newcomers

Club of Westfield event for par-

ent and child. Mindowaskin

Park, Westfield, 10:30 a.m. (908)

exchange for Union County

Chamber of Commerce, UBS

PaineWebber, 109 North Ave.,

Westfield, 6 p.m. Chamber mem-

bers \$15; non-members \$20.

Reservations: (908) 352-0900.

CARD

389-9248 or (908) 233-5605.

RABIES CLINIC - for cats

FRIDAY WEDNESDAY **APRIL 26**

Award-winning educator

given \$24,000 in grants to local educators since its inception.

Record-Press

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICK ----"Billy Elliot," upmarket movie from fall 2000. Fanwood Memorial Library, North Ave., Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. Free. (908) 322-6400

Sally Hagan, president of the 8-year-old Education Enrichment Foundation, presents the 2001 Service

to Education Award to Peggy Tan at All Saints Church Parish Hall in Scotch Plains. The foundation has

DINNER NIGHT for Newcomers Club of Westfield, 8 p.m. Bring dessert, party game, after-dinner drinks. (908) 389-9248 or (908) 233-5605.

SATURDAY

APRIL 27 RECEPTION

--- for spring exhibition of Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association. Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains, noon-2 p.m. (908) 233-7458.

BOOK SIGNING - "The Reasons Why They Are Rich and You Are Not" by Tyrone Lowman. Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad St., Westfield, 2-4 p.m. (908) 233-3535.

SUNDAY APRIL 28 STREET FAIR --- 14th annu--

al event in downtown Westfield,

Urgent news for people who took

Briefs

Young musicians plan spring concert

WESTFIELD -William Shore and Albert Wu, both of Scotch Plains, will be among the performers when the Orchestral String Training Ensemble performs at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at Edison Intermediate School.

The ensemble is the New Jersey Youth Symphony's voungest orchestra. The intermediate flute ensemble, Flute Choir, will join them in the spring concert

The two ensembles will combine to play "Circle of Life," composed by Elton John from the Disney production of "The Lion King." The strings ensemble's performance will include "Sine Nomine, Overture in G for Strings" and "Rondo Caprice." The Flute Choir will perform "Quatuor" by P. Dubois, "Jamaican Rhapsody" by Jerry Nowak and an "Arioso" from J.S. Bach's Cantata No. 156.

Admission is by door donation.

Bagger is chosen 'Craftsman of Year'

State Sen. Richard Bagger is the recipient of the first "Craftsman of the Year" award given by the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts in Madison.

He will receive his award at a reception from 5-7 p.m. May 15 at the museum, Main Street and Green Village Road, Madison.

Girls, moms invited to Watchung Stables

CRANFORD - Two township girls seeking their Girl Scout gold award are offering a free-mother-daughter horseback-riding outreach clinic at the Watchung Stables on April 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Girls ages 7 to 9 and their mothers are invited for a tour of the stables, a pony ride and a talk about horse care and safety.

Stephanie Schimkowitz and Jackyn Rey, members of Girl Scout Troop 583, raised funds to host the event. Their program is designed to introduce young girls to horses and give them an activity to share with their mothers.

La Leche League schedules meetings

La Leche League of Westfield, a breastfeeding information and support group, holds meetings on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 9:30 a.m. Meetings are held at the Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 E. Lincoln Avenue, Cranford. Meetings for mothers of toddlers are held on the first Thursday while meetings for mothers of infants and babies are held on the third Thursday. Mothers and their children are welcome to come learn more about breastfeeding, have questions answered and meet other breastfeeding moms. The next meeting dates are May 2 (toddlers) and May 16 (infants and babies). For more information call (908) 301-1339, (908) 789-4772, or (908) 233-7164.

11 a.m.-5 p.m. (908) 789-9696 or (908) 233-3021.

QUILLING - how it was done in days of yore. Miller-Corv House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield, 2-5 p.m. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; under 6 free. (908) 232-1776.

COMING UP

FBI PROGRAM Standing Together Against Hate VIIL" St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church. Lamberts Mill Road, Westfield, 7 p.m. May 2, Free, (908) 653-0357 or (908) 527-4505.

OPEN HOUSE for summer camps sponsored by Union County College, 232 E. Second St., Plainfield, noon-2 p.m. May 4. (908) 709-7600.

CANDIDATES NIGHT

with Republican candidates for county office. Railroad station, North Ave., Fanwood, 7:30 p.m. May 6, (908) 322-3241.

OPEN HOUSE - at Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 10-11:30 a.m. May 11. (908) 709-7518 or www.ucc.edu.

BENEFIT CANCER 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," benefit for Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (Scotch Plains). Roy W. Smith Theater, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 8 p.m. May 31, \$15, Tickets: (908) 322-4323, Ext. 17.



This week





Fanwood Democrats holding fund-raiser

FANWOOD - The Fanwood Democratic Committee is holding a fund-raising event to support the campaigns of Borough Council candidates Jack Molenaar and Tom Plante.

The fund-raiser is 6-8 p.m. Tuesday at the Sun Tavern, 15 South Ave., near the Plainfield border.

"The committee welcomes Fanwood voters to meet our candidates for the two three-year council seats that will be contested in the Nov. 5 general election." former Councilman William Populus said.

"It's a good_chance to talk with Jack and Tom in a casual atmosphere and get acquainted with other Fanwood neighbors who are concerned about our local government," he said.

Admission of \$35 includes pizza and beverages. For more information, phone Populus at (908) 789-7577.



Children's Hospital team to compete in regional meet

MOUNTAINSIDE — Seven members of Lightning Wheels, the Children's Specialized Hospital junior wheelchair athletic program, will participate in a sanctioned regional swim meet at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Werblin Rutgers Sonny Recreation Center in Piscataway.

Participants that meet the event's qualifying standards will become eligible for the Wheelchair Sports USA Junior National Competition which will be held June 25-30 in New London, Conn.

"Children's Specialized Hospital has always encouraged children to be independent despite any challenges that arise," said Trisha Yurochko, Lightning Wheels head coach and a Mountainside resident. "To encourage independence and to benefit from athletic competition, Children's developed a junior wheelchair athletic program in 1981."

Participants in the swim meet range in age from 9 to 18 and all have disabilities such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, polio or spinal cord injuries. The swim meet participants are: Maxwell Brown, 9, of

Livingston; Joseph Bruno, 9, of of the team are national record Paramus; Jaclyn Daya, 16, of Matawan; Jessica Galli, 18, of Hillsborough; Mariya Redden. 12. of Jersey City; Emily Seelenfreund, 11, of West Orange; and Nicholas Teodoro, 14, of North Caldwell.

achieve great success both as a team, earning the title of "Number One Large Team in the Country" for the past eight years at the Junior National Wheelchair Competition, and on an individual level. Many of the past and present members

holders in track and field and swimming. The team also has been represented at several competitions international including the 1996 and 2000 Paralympics.

"Though not all children will Since 1981, Lightning set records or compete on a Wheels has continued to national or international level, they will have benefited from being part of a team and the friendship and self-esteem that it brings," Yurochko said. "We know that participation in athletics helps to build a level of confidence in young people that will greatly contribute to their

ability to meet life's challenges. Many Lightning Wheels graduates have gone on to successful college and professional careers. They attribute their success, in part, to the experience they had as a member of the Lightning Wheels, Athletic competition is one of the truest tests of the human spirit. Children's Specialized Hospital is committed to nurturing that spirit in every way possible."

For more information about Lightning Wheels, contact Yurochko at (888) CHILDREN (888-244-5373), Ext. 5424 or email at tyurochko@childrens-

Specialized Children's Hospital, an affiliate member of the Robert Wood Johnson Health System, is the largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital in the United States. Children's treats infants, children, and young adults from birth to 21 years of age, through a network of services including outpatient services, acute rehabilitation, and longterm care at its sites in Mountainside, Fanwood, Toms River, Elizabeth, Newark and Union, as well as outreach programs in many communities.

specialized.org

Battle of Bound Brook re-enactment a big hit

By CHAD HEMENWAY

THE RECORD-PRESS

For H. Kels Swan, it was a day he had been waiting for a long time.

Swan, a nationally-known historian and South Bound Brook resident said, "I never thought in all my 73 years that I'd see this happen."

Swan addressed crowds at the Staats House in South Bound Brook and the Stone Bridge in Bound Brook, dressed in colonial attire.

Dennis Quinlan, South Bound Brook councilman and member of the historic committee in the borough that organized the event, said his group estimated that 1,000 visitors came to the Staats House grounds to see the encampment of soldiers and take part in tours through the old Dutch estate.

"The event was beyond my wildest dreams. I think everybody got lost in the 18th century as soon as they walked down the driveway and saw the house," Quinlan said.

Quinlan said all the re-enac-"tors said they "had a blast" camping on the lawn overlooking the canal, carriage house ruins and brand new trees 'donated by the Fisher House.

Wide-eved tourists seeing 'the house for the first time seemed to express the same sentiment.

"I didn't even know this was back here. The house is beautiful and they did such a good job reproducing the encampment. It's like walking back in time," said Shirley Newborne of New

Women dressed in long skirts and bonnets cooked under tents and craftsman showed off his goods under another. Inside, local historian Joyce Smith walked visitors through the house, telling them its amazing stories like that of Tory Jack, a slave who lived at the estate and spied on British Tories for the Continental Army.

After a march down Main Street, the soldiers stopped at the Stone Bridge where onlookers enjoyed the history of the site as told by historian Ernest Bower. With detail, he spoke of how Hessian Jaegers first shot upon Continental soldiers 225 years to the day.

"It is amazing how important our own area is to the formation of our nation," said Rep. Mike Ferguson at the Stone Bridge.

Ferguson said he will work in the future to continue efforts such as the celebration of the Battle of Bound Brook. A former history teacher, Ferguson said it is vital to "let kids know where we come from."

From the bridge, the soldiers and crowd moved to Main Street in Bound Brook. In front of the Bound Brook Hotel, Continental soldiers and British troops lined up in the streets and battled. The sidewalks were lined with onlook-

ers, some covering their ears from the loud gunfire.

"This is much more than I expected. The battle re-enactment was fabulous. Bound Brook should do this every year," said Mary Antonio of 'iscataway.

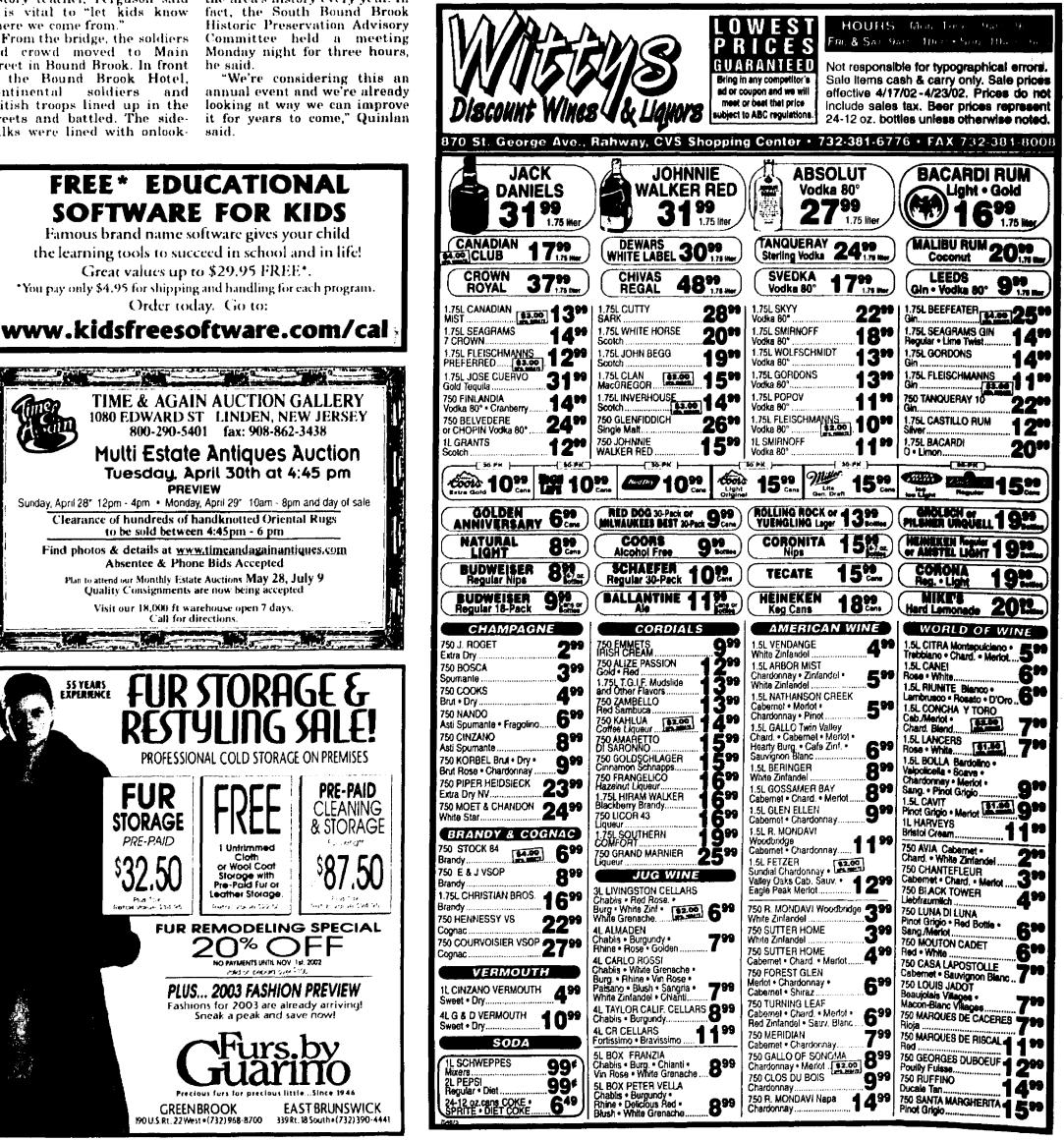
Lining the streets, businesses like Ävatar Pottery participated by allowing children to work with clay and glaze pottery. Many storefronts were decorated with artwork from schoolchildren in town and restaurants advertised special menus. In the municipal parking lot, spectators took pleasure in crafts from the Amish and enjoyed food from the pig roast.

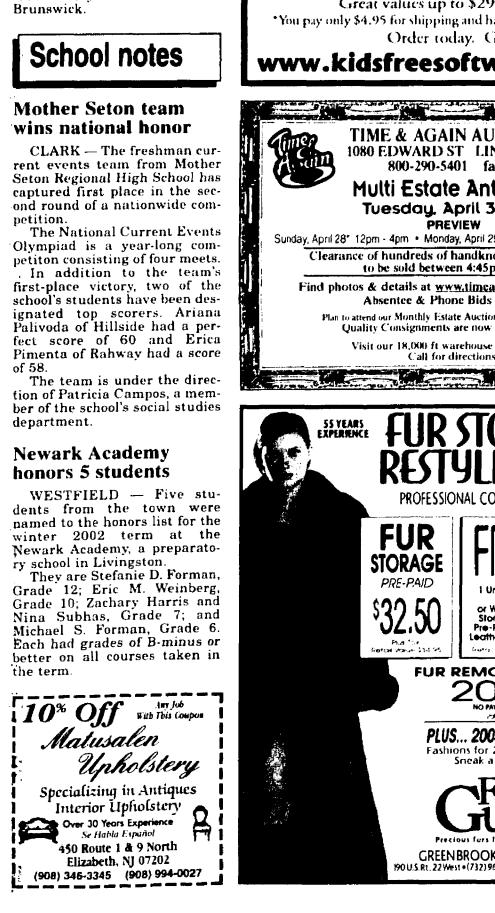
"I think people really enjoyed themselves and were able to see what Bound Brook can do," said Karen Fritz of the CommUnity Development Association. "It was definitely a success."

Quinlan said he would like to see this type of celebration for the area's history every year. In



Soldiers in the colonial army fire away on Main Street in Bound Brook Saturday at the re-enactment of the **Revolutionary War Battle of Bound Brook.**





Commentary

Give religion a sporting chance

There is probably nothing better for a child than to be a member of an athletic team. In this technological age, children spend far too much time in front of home computers, computer game systems and TVs. As a result they are becoming obese and their social skills are being neglected.

Boys and girls should be trying to shag a fly ball or shoot a soccer ball in the net from midfield. And their parents should be watching them -- sharing in their children's accomplishments and sharing their pain over a strike out with the bases loaded.

Children who participate in recreation programs, which tend to be more instructional than competitive, and in more competitive baseball/softball and soccer programs tend to be healthier and have better self-esteem and more friends.

It's a win-win for their parents as well.

Long days on the job, housework and yardwork that never seem to be caught up, shopping, cooking and scheduling dental appointments in between -- life in Union County is stressful. So even if there isn't time to stop and smell the roses, sharing a child's moment in the sun is a special time.

But children and their parents shouldn't have to make a choice between an activity that's good for the body and another that's good for the soul.

Sure, there is a shortage of ballfields and scheduling practices and planning contests can be a nightmare. But there has got be a way to share resources in such a way that it doesn't conflict with a parent's obligation to meet his own and his children's spiritual needs.

Westfield dergymen have noted the increased scheduling of sporting events on Sunday mornings and early afternoons. "It is wrong to force children and their families to choose between enriching one's religious life and participating in sports," they wrote in a letter to The Record-Press.

They couldn't be more right.

If coaches continue to schedule sport activities on Sunday mornings, our communities should step in. Permits for park and school ballfields should be revoked.

No one should have to choose.

Earth Day should be second nature

Throughout the country, Earth Day has become a symbol of environmental responsibility. Started in 1970, the event was created as a way for people to demonstrate the critical need to improve Mother Nature's condition.

Thirty-two years ago, there were many people who saw those who promoted the first Earth Day as dangerous radical liberals and a threat to what was then quaintly called The Establishment.

Over the next three decades, however, those haby boomer "radicals" have ironically become members of The Establishment themselves and Earth Day, not unsurprisingly, is now part of the country's mainstream culture. Schools mount Earth Day programs' and community groups volunteer to clean up a part of their hometowns. Politicians at all levels



Letters to the editor

Violence is done in name of God

To The Record-Press:

find Martha McLoughlin's letter of April 5th to be very presumptions in it's insistence that God is what we all need (and is all we need) to help us cope with the events of September 11th. We must remember that these attacks were based in religious intolerance, and that organized religion has been the cause of many, many other borrific acts of violence throughout history.

The terrorists of Sept. 11th were also convinced that their God is the only way to sulvation, so

much so that they died for it. I believe Ms McLoughlin's letter varies from their acts by method and intensity of conviction, but not in motive

I feel that many Americans can see that more religion is not what we need, and choose to follow the path of thought and reason in these times of trouble. Are we somehow lesser Americans because of this?

Pax Dickinson Fanwood

Dollars for Students another success

To The Record-Press:

The 35th annual Dollars for Students Drive was conducted the weekend of April 13-14 by the Scotch-Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation. We would like to express our appreciation to the local students who participated in our drive and to the generous citizens of Fanwood and Scotch Plains who - over the \$1 million mark of community assistance

We look forward to announcing our own Dollars for Students recipients as well as those students who will be receiving monies from the 25 additional funds which we maintain and the 21 passthrough funds which we administer. This year we will be administering \$95,975 which will take us



Jersey Boy

By the time you read this, I will be sunning on a beach in Rio and supping a sweetly powerful rum punch served by a thongedwaitress named Lola. The party lasts all day and Eve already prepaid my ransom to the gangsters who kidnap Americans for a living. I take a look at Sugarloaf Mountain and all my previous rhapsodic thoughts about the syl-van glades of the Watchungs vanish, especially as I watch Lola unwrap the straw to my drink.

All that will be true, if I had won the Big Game lottery Tuesday night. In fact, flanking me on the beach at Rio, are the rest of the employees of NJN Publishing who have also won the lottery. The women are being served by a thonged-waiter named Fernando, known about these parts as "The Bull.") If our pooled numbers hit this week for \$300 million, I don't know who will be around to publish next week's newspaper Quite frankly. with Lola and Fernando tending to our every need, who needs the excitement of school board meet ings

Of course it's not going to happen. There is a better chance of me taking Brittney Spears to my cousin Elrod's wedding at the Keansburg VFW Hall I'm still waiting for a call back). The chances are also better that all of Central dersey will be pulverized in an instant when a long forgotten asteroid smashes into Route 22. But despite the incomprehensible odds that defy logic, we still waste our hard earned dollars on the Big Game.

Plunking down five bucks in the office pool for the lottery is the stuff of which dreams are made It's really a form of cheap entertainment, for five bucks, you are allowed to fantasize about a life free from financial pressures You don't have to worry about fighting the ceaseless Central Jersey traffic every day. You don't have to worry about the mortgage or the relentless MasterCard bill that never seems to go down. Instead, vou've earned your freedom from the pressures and demands of everyday life and you've received a voucher to be oiled by Lola or Fernando But the truth remains that no matter how much we like to complain and I'm convinced that the cell phone industry thrives because it gives everyone the instant ability to complain to someone else — chances are we would not chuck our jobs or responsibilities if we won the lotters Well, sometimes the math just won't allow it. For example, we've taken the cash option here at NJN Publishing. That means the jackpot is reduced to about \$150 million, after Uncle Sam takes his piece of the pie, we're left with only \$100 million to divide among the 50 shareholders. That means each of us only ends up with \$2 million. But that's based on the hope there's only one winning ticket. If there are, for example, three winning tickets, we lend up with about a measly \$330,000. Given the high cost of hving in Central Jersey, that doesn't buy much. Instead of having rum punch on the beach at Rio, we may be only able to afford a 6-foot hoagie on the boardwalk at Keansburg. But even if \$330,000 were enough to launch a new life. chances are most of us wouldn't do it anyway. Despite all the complaining and the kvetching, basically most of us are relatively happy in our lives. Sure, there are the occasional speed bumps that slow down the journey, but most of us do not lead lives of quiet desperation. We find happiness in things that surprise us like a summer heat wave in the middle of April, the return of flowers and the rebirth of all life with the flourishing of spring. This is the stuff that keeps us going. But it would still be nice to meet Lola.

of government rush to plant trees, especially if there's a photographer present.

But there is more to caring for the environment than just these Earth Day activities. Sometimes the original message of Earth Day is forgotten or, worse, ignored. The same baby boomer radicals who started Earth Day are now driving gasguzzling sports utility vehicles that deplete a finite resource of this planet. That is a sad and pitiful irony.

Earth Day may provide a special message in 2002. While our attention may have shifted to the threats posed by global terrorism or the unrest in the Middle East, environmental issues still remain vital to the future of our hometowns, state, country and planet. Federal and state legislators on Monday urged the Bush administration to support a bill restoring the corporate tax that will pay for the cleanup of Superfund sites. The legislators argue that if the tax is not restored, then New Jorsey residents may have to bear the burden of paying for the cleanup of the 111 Superfund sites throughout the state.

The cleanup of the Superfund sites - some of which have been delayed for years and years — is an investment in our planet's future. And the cost is too great to be borne at either the local or state level. The resources of the federal government must be harnessed to solve this problem which blemishos our state.

made their efforts a successful venture.

The monies collected will be presented as scholarships to graduating high school students at the annual Awards Night at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School on May 23 and to college students on June 14 at our awards reception to be held at All Saints' Episcopal Church.

This year marks the 36th anniversary of the founding of the Scotch Plains Fanwood Scholarship Foundation. For 35 consecutive years, the foundation through its volunteer board of directors has been able to assist local students with scholarships with a total value of \$971,070. This year we have received 113 applications for assistance with 31 submitted by college students.

to tocal statients

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to all of our neighbors who so willingly continue to show the young people of Scotch Plains and Fanwood that they value them and their effort to continue their education. If you were not at home when our students stopped by, or if you did not receive a request through the mail but would like to support our efforts, please send your contribution to Scotch Plains Fanwood Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box [123] Funwood, NJ 07023.

ELLIE KRAMPS President, Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation **Scotch Plains**

PAL ball team made coaching fun

To The Chronicle:

I coach the Cranford eighth grade Police Athletic League girls basketball team. This was my fifth year coaching the girls and it was a very gratifying experience. There are many reasons why I enjoy coaching but the primary reason is the joy I receive from teaching a game I really love. I get back more from this experience than I ever imagined I could. The enthusiasm, energy and effort that the girls

have shown were remarkable and I really feit they learned not only more about the fundamentals of basketball but also how working together is essential to a team's success.

I would like to thank the girls who played on the team and to Bill Mitchell who coached with me

Thanks again. It was a lot of fun. **CHARLIE WISCHUSEN**

Cranford

Westfield

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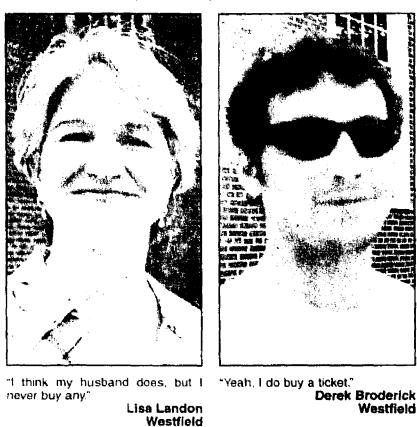
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"When the jackpots get big, do you buy lottery tickets?"



David Wroe musical director of the Westfield Symphony Orchestra



Briefs

Business card exchange planned

WESTFIELD - The Union County Chamber of Commerce sponsors a business card exchange 6 p.m. Thursday at UBS/PaineWebber, 109 North Ave.

Employees of UBS/PaineWebber will be on hand to answer investmentrelated questions. The brokerage recently joined the Union County chamber.

Admission is \$15 for chamber members and \$20 for non-members; bring plenty of business cards. Refreshments will be served.

For reservations, phone (908) 352-0900.

Children's choirs performing Sunday

WESTFIELD - A children's choir from the Presbyterian Church is scheduled to appear in the 32nd annual Plainfield Area Children's Choir Festival.

This year's edition is 4 p.m. Sunday at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church in Plainfield. Nearly 200 young singers from 10 churches will perform sacred choral works around "The Church Year in Song

Accompaniment is by Brenda Day, music minister at First Presbyterian Church – of Metuchen.

A free-will offering will be taken. For directions, phone (908) 756-2468.

Women, families benefit Tuesday

WESTFIELD --- The Center for Women and Families has its fourth annual Spring Fashion Benefit 7-9 p.m. Tuesday at Chico's Casual Clothing, 206 E. Broad St.

Spring and summer apparel will be modeled. Goods, services and gift certificates are being donated for prize drawings.

Admission is \$15. For tickets, phone (908) 322-6007. Proceeds benefit the Scotch Plains-based Center for Women and Families.

History in hats program Tuesday

FANWOOD -- Several years ago Marie Leppert and Betty Eves wrote "History Housed in Hats" as a way to teach schoolchildren the history of Fanwood and Scotch Plains.

Leppert and Renata Maroney repeat this program for adults 8

Wavne Morse.

"History of Negro League Baseball." Larry Hogan "An Armchair Tour of the

Presidents' Homes," Helen Meyer. "Keeping Those mily Memories." Special Mickey Family

Howard. "So You Want to Buy a Computer?" Bill Machrone.

Digital photography, Machrone.

Admission is \$5. Pre-registration is recommended; phone (908) 889-4361

Proceeds benefit school programs offered through the Enrichment Education Foundation.

Rabies clinic in Scotch Plains

SCOTCH PLAINS ---- The Health Department has a rabies clinic Wednesday at the Park Avenue firehouse for cats and dogs that live in the township. Cats may be brought in 6:30-7:30 p.m. All cats must be in carriers and accompanied by an adult.

Dogs may be brought in 7:30-8:30 p.m. Each dog must be on a leash or in a carrier; the dog must be accompanied by an adult.

Dog licenses for 2002 also will be available at the clinic. Fee is \$6.20 if the dog has been spayed or neutered, \$9.20 if not. For more information, phone

(908) 322-6700, Ext 309. The Park Avenue firehouse is located behind the Municipal Building.

Track chaplain honored Sunday

SCOTCH PLAINS Homer Tricules was often known as the "Race Track Chaplain."

He spent more than 30 years ministering to jockeys, stable hands, security guards and other racetrack workers in the Garden State, Tricules held chapel services at the racetrack and invited other pastors to have them get a look at what he was doing.

The "Race Track Chaplain" also was from 1982-88 the pastor of the Scotch Plains Baptist Church. He returns to the Park Avenue church 5 p.m. Sunday for a retirement service conducted by the New Jersey Council of the Race Track Chaplaincy of America.

A free-will offering will be taken. Dinner in the chapel follows the service.

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

'Soldier's Tale'



Raffle prize

Patricia Colbert of Westfield, Kathleen Clark of Mountainside, Maureen Foley and Julia Wood-Verdic, both of Scotch Plains, hold a hand-woven Persian Tabriz rug that will be raffled in the Oak Knoll School Grand Prix. The auction/dinner dance will be Saturday, April 27, at the Mansion on the grounds of Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison. The event benefits the school's operating budget.

Westfield Adult School offers a variety of classes this month

WESTFIELD --- The Westfield Adult School will present the third class of its cheese tasting series at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Town and Country Wine and Marketplace, 333 South Ave. East.

The class, led by Regina McDuffe, a member of the Board of Directors of the American Cheese Society, will learn about and taste cheeses from some of the prominent cheese-making regions of the world.

Four one-session classes are scheduled on Monday, April 29. All will be held at the high school, 550 Dorian Road.

Lose Weight or Stop Smoking with Hypnosis will be conducted by hypnotist Marc Sky, who will show participants how to gain control over their habits and

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cravings with the power of the subconscious. Students need to bring a pillow or sleeping bag for the session that lasts from 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Superpower Memory is a workshop designed to help students develop near-photographic memory. It begins at 8:30 p.m. and Sky is the instructor.

Wills Trusts and Probate, a financial strategies course, will be presented from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Roch T. Williams Esq., will also explain elder law issues and estate planning options.

Those attending the Rambling Rose Heart session will create a heart-shaped wreath with lifelike roses, pepperberries and ivy. Cheryl Wiley, owner of Herbs, Spice, Everything Nice herb farm is the instructor for the 7-9 p.m.

class.

The Westfield Adult School is an independent nonprofit, voluntary organization formed for the purpose of providing educational opportunities for people in Westfield and its surrounding

areas. The school receives no taxpayer money and is supported by nominal tuition fees as well as by charitable donations.

Pre-registration is required and can be done by calling (908). 232-4050 or on the school's website, www.westfieldnj.com/adult school.

Red Cross schedules **CPR** classes

WESTFIELD - CPR for the Professional Rescuer classes are offered the at being Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross. This life-saving course is intended for individuals who have the duty to respond to emergencies such as lifeguards, medical personnel, health club staff, camp directors and emergency workers. It covers caring for and recognizing breathing and cardiac emergencies, CPR for infants, child, adult and twoperson rescuer. The course also includes certification in AED (automated external defibrillation) use.

Two classes will be offered, The first will be from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, May 11, and again on June 4 and June 6 from 6-10:30 p.m.

Also offered will be recertification classes for this level of CPR. The class is open to those individuals who hold a current CPR for the Professional Rescuer certification but need to renew (certifications are only valid for one year).

The chapter will hold four of these classes. They are 6-10 p.m. tonight; Tuesday, May 7, 6-10 p.m.; Tuesday, May 21, 6-10 p.m.; Tuesday, June 18, 6:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Participants need only attend one of these dates.

All training takes place at the American Red Cross Chapter, 321 Elm St., Westfield. Advance registration is required and space is limited.

For more information, call the chapter at (908) 232-7090 or send an email to johnsonl@crossnet.org



p.m. Tuesday at the North Avenue railroad station. Their presentation is within the monthly meeting of the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

The public is invited and refreshments will be served. For more information, phone President Richard Bousquet at 908) 232-1199.

Mini-classes offered to adults

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Enrichment Education Foundation of Scotch Plains-Fanwood wants adults to "Open a New Door."

This "evening of educational explorations" is Monday at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, 641 Westfield Road. Registration begins 7 p.m. with classes 7:15 or 8:15 p.m. Classes and their instructors:

"Beginning Your Genealogy," Janet Mann Family

"A Parent's Survival Guide," Deidra Hickey and Giselfe Frederickson.

"Long-Term Medical Care," Jay S. Kennedy.

"Safety Facts for Seniors," Peter Campinelli.

"The Art of Stained Glass." Susan Citrano.

"When You're Thinking of Getting a Pet," Linda Sperco. "Rules of the Game," Gordon

Moser and Derek Van Langen. How the U.S. Economy Affects Bond Yields and Stock

Prices," Eugene Reiss. Tai chi, Barry Galitzer. "Planning to Pay for College,"



coming Sunday

WESTFIELD Igor Stravinsky wrote "The Soldier's Tale" as a reaction to the horrors inflicted in the first World War.

The Arbor Chamber Players bring his work with a full chorus p.m. Sunday to the .4 Presbyterian Church 013 Mountain Avenue. Key players are Pete Rush as the soldier, Brent Popolízio as the devil, Cherilyn Biggs as the princess and Suzzanne Douglas as the narrator.

"The Soldier's Tale" is conducted by Ted Sod with choreography by Biggs. Music is under the direction of Raymond Wojcik.

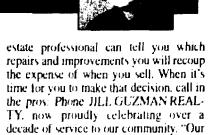
Admission is \$18 for adults and \$15 for seniors. A lecture 3:30 p.m. precedes the performance. A discussion with the actors, director and conductor follow the program.

For tickets, phone (908) 232-**-1116**.



HAVING IT ALL! The same prosperity that has led car buyers to prefer large sports utility vehicles is also leading homebuyers to purchase homes with all the amenities they have dreamed about. Topping the wishlist of new-home buyers is a great room adjacent to the kitchen with sufficient room to seat at least six for meals, followed by a master bedroom suite with a whirlpool, double varity, and sitting area-Rounding out the list are front toyers with cathedral ceilings, four to five bedrooms, and a three-vehicle garage. And, none of these features comes at the expense of a formal living room. In fact, this uncompromising spirit extends to move-up buyers, who still want formal dming rooms. for holiday entertaining

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HINT: Prospective homebuyers are usually greatly influenced by the layout and condition of the kitchen.

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Helen Tamburello

April 19, 2002

Carl R. Young

WESTFIELD --- Carl R. oung, 71, died April 10, 2002 t his home in Manalapan. An rt collector, world traveler and etired financial officer, he held ne of the largest collection of aintings by the Chinese artist hiang.

1-8

Mr. Young was born in taten Island. He lived in Vheaton, Ill., and Mountain rook, Ala., before moving to Vestfield in 1969. He moved to ea Bright in 1995 and had ved in Manalapan since 1998.

He began his career in the ite 1950s with the U.S. lypsum Co. at its former taten Island plant. Mr. Young as transferred in 1961 to the I.S. Gypsum plant in Chicago. le was the controller of Vulcan foundries **faterials** in Iountain Brook from 1966-69 nd Clark from 1969-74.

Mr. Young joined Associated container Transport in 1974; he retired in 1994 as its vice president of finance, based in Manhattan. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics and a Master of Business Administration degree from Wagner College on Staten Island.

He joined the Navy in 1951 and was a machinist in Norfolk, Va., until his discharge in 1954 with the rank of ensign. Mr. Young was a parishioner of St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church in New Brighton, Staten Island.

Surviving are his wife of 46 years, Maureen Kelly Young; Insurance Co. She was a memthree daughters, Elizabeth Rotella, Sheila E. Golden and ber of the Altar Rosary Society at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Jr., Patrick and Michael J.; two sisters, Elizabeth Driscoll and

on Staten Island.

Arthur Mazzucchelli

SCOTCH PLAINS — Arthur Mazzucchelli, 89, died April 2002 at McCutchen Friends lome in North Plainfield. He sceived U.S. patents and pubshed articles in professional urnals while a plastics engieer with Union Carbide Corp.

Mr. Mazzucchelli was born in omo, Italy, and lived in loomfield before moving to cotch Plains in 1950. He had esided most recently in North lainfield.

He joined Union Carbide in 930 as a laboratory assistant; Ir. Mazzucchelli later became he company's assistant direcor of research and developient. He also spent two years s a plant manager in rgentina and retired from the ompany in 1971 as a product lanager.

He carned a degree in chem-

Joseph Neubauer

SCOTCH PLAINS -- Joseph l. Neubauer, 78, died April 14, 002 at Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune, He founded he Astro Tool & Machine Co. of tahway in 1963 and was its resident until his retirement n 1996.

A native of Newark, he lived n Scotch Plains for more than 30 years before moving to l'inton Falls eight months ago.

Mr. Neubauer graduated rom the Vocational School for Machinists in Newark and was a radarman third class in the Navy during World War II. He was a member of the New Jersey Tool and Die Association and the St. Anthony of Padua Mary Anne; three sons, Carl R. Alma DiSimone; and six grandchildren. Mass was offered Saturday

ical engineering in 1937 from the Newark College of Engineering (now the New Jersey Institute of Technology), where he was president of the resident school and a member of Tau Beta Pi.

Mr. Mazzucchelli and his wife, Naomi, who died in 2000, planted more than 350 roses in his formal garden of 1/2 acre. As a member of the Westfield Men's Garden Club he spoke often about his garden and those he visited abroad. Surviving are two nieces.

A memorial service was held yesterday at McCutchen Friends Home with arrangements by Memorial Funeral Home in Fanwood. Donations may be sent to McCutchen Friends Home, 112 Linden Ave., North Plainfield, NJ 07060.

Secular Franciscan Fraternity

Immaculate Heart of Mary

Michael Neubauer and Anna

Ellis Sommers Neubauer; and a

friend, John Kopi of Tinton

at Memorial Funeral Home,

Fanwood, followed by a Mass at **Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Church. Entombment was in

Mausoleum at St. Gertrude

Chapel

Shepherd

Roman Catholic Church.

He was a parishioner of

Deceased are his parents,

Surviving is a lifelong

Services were held yesterday

in Scotch Plains.

brother, Francis.

Cemetery, Colonia.

Falls.

Good

SCOTCH PLAINS - Clara DiMeola D'Addona, 79, died April

14, 2002 at the St. Cloud Healthcare Center in West Orange. She retired in 1977 after 15 years as a packager at the Hillside plant of Bristol-Myers Co.

Mrs. D'Addona was born in Newark and lived in Kenilworth before moving to Scotch Plains in 2000

Surviving are her husband, Cemetery, Westfield.

Armand Amabile Sr.

SCOTCH PLAINS — Armand J. Amabile Sr., 73, died April 15, Partyka Amabile; a daughter, 2002 at Overlook Hospital in Diane Olsen; two sons, Armand

Roman Catholic Church. Her husband, Frank B., died in 1969.

Surviving are a son, Anthony; a daughter, Maryann Bogle; two brothers, Rudy Del Nero and Dan Del Nero; two sisters, Margaret Caparola and Irene Carlin; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mass was offered Saturday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church, following services at Rossi Funeral Home. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

of St. Bartholomew the Apostle

Roman Catholic Church in

His wife, Anne Eva Mazur

Surviving are two daughters.

Mass was offered Monday at

St. Bartholomew the Apostle

Church, following services at

Memorial Funeral Home. Burial

was in Fairview Cemetery,

Surviving are her husband,

James H.; a daughter, Juneann

Hudson; four sons, August T.,

Alan P. Sr. and James R.; six

grandchildren and a great-grand-

at August F. Schmidt Memorial

Funeral Home in Elizabeth.

Burial was in Somerset Hills

Donations may be sent to

Memorial Park, Basking Ridge.

American Diabetes Association,

101 Eisenhower Parkway, P.O.

Services were held Wednesday

Geraldine A. Inman of Fanwood

and Paulette Jensen of South

River; and five grandchildren.

Frederick Konig

Scotch Plains.

Konig, died in 1999.

FANWOOD - Frederick A. Konig, 92, died April 12, 2002 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. He had been with the former Central Railroad Co. of New Jersey for more than 40 years, retiring in 1974 as an administrative assis-

Obituaries

SCOTCH PLAINS - Helen

J. Del Nero Tamburello, 88, died

April 11, 2002 at Avante at Red

Bank. She had been for more

than 50 years a piano teacher in

Plains and lived in the township

before moving to Long Branch

telephone operator at the East

Orange office of Liberty Mutual

Mrs. Tamburello once was a

She was born in Scotch

Scotch Plains and Fanwood.

in 1997.

tant. Mr. Konig was born in Fall River, Mass., and lived in Middletown before moving to Fanwood in 1999. He was a member of the Fanwood Senior Citizens Club and a parishioner Middletown.

Dolores Marshall

child.

SCOTCH PLAINS - Dolores Maguire Marshall died April 13, 2002 at her home in Freehold. She retired in 1995 after 15 years as a chef with Marriott Corp. in Woodbridge.

A native of Elizabeth, Mrs. Marshall lived in Scotch Plains from 1945 until she moved to Freehold in 1985. She earlier worked in the Scotch Plains-Fanwood school system for 11 years and was a former den mother for Cub Scout Pack 34 in Scotch Plains.

> Carmine; three sons, Angelo, Pat and Carmen; two daughters, Amy Stevens and Lucielle Piccolo; four brothers, Alphonse Ponnetti, Anthony DiMeola, Pat DiMeola

and Vito DiMeola; a sister, Julie Puglio; and 11 grandchildren. Mass was offered Wednesday

at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Union, following services at Galante Funeral Home in Union. Burial was in Fairview

and three grandchildren.

2032 Westfield Ave.

is deceased

Road, Clark.

Clark.

Surviving are his wife, Agnes

10 a.m. at St. Bartholomew the

Apostle Roman Catholic Church,

Her husband, Leonard C. Sr.,

Surviving are a son, Leonard

Services will be 7:30 p.m.

C. Jr. of New York City; and a

brother, Joseph Macaluso of

today at Walter J. Johnson Funeral Home, 803 Raritan

Police probing assault at Union **Catholic High**

SCOTCH PLAINS

Police are investigating a potential aggravated assault of a Plainfield teenager at Union Catholic High School.

At 2:30 p.m. Friday, police responded to the school following a report of a disturbance. There was no disturbance on the scene when they arrived, but police later located a 19-year-old Plainfield male at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center being treated for bruises on his face and a laceration to the side of his head.

The victim, who is not a student at the school, told police he went to the school with two other people to visit a relative. While in the parking lot, he alleged, a confrontation started with another group, and he was assaulted.

The laceration to the victim's head may have been caused by a weapon, police said. At press time, police had not determined the identity of other individuals involved in the dispute. ***

John Lamotta, 41, of Scotch Plains was charged April 11 with driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to a breath test, and driving with a suspended license.

Lamotta was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Mountain Avenue at 12:30 a.m.

A wallet and credit cards belonging to an employee of a Route 22 business were stolen at about 12:30 p.m. April 9. ***

A Terrill Road business owner reported threats had been made against his property during a dispute with a customer the evening of April 9.

WESTFIELD

Ivan Clark, 23, of Roselle was charged April 11 with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (believed to be cocaine).

Clark was also arrested on warrants from Hillisde, Elizabeth and Newark totaling over \$1,100. He was arrested at 11:20 p.m.

Briefs

Friends of Library holding book sale

Police log

Bessie Rodriguez, 19, Plainfield, and an unidentified juvenile were each charged Friday with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (believed to be marijuana).

Edward Singhbaba, 18, of Westfield was charged Friday with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

He was arrested at 11:52 p.m. and held in police custody in lieu of bail.

Luigi Marciante of Elizabeth was charged Sunday with shoplifting at Lord & Taylor.

Marciante was arrested at 5:35 p.m., issued a summons and released.

Matthew Dubberke of Cranford was charged Monday with driving while intoxicated. He was pulled over at 12:15 p.m.

A resident of the 400 block of the Boulevard reported April 9 a large water bottle containing about \$2,000 had been stolen.

A resident of the 700 block of Dartmoor reported April 9 a jewelry worth about \$1,520 had been stolen. There were no signs of, forced entry at the house, policereported.

Westfield resident Jonathan Singhbawa was arrested April 9 ontwo contempt-of-court warrants out of South Orange. He was releasedafter posting \$1,000 bail.

A Westfield woman reported April 10 her wallet had been stolen. while she was at a Mountain Avenue church. The wallet and its contents were worth approximately \$70. ***

An owner of a New Street business reported Tuesday morning his property had been burglarized. It was not clear at press time what had been stolen.

Parents Guild of Union Catholic High School. The auction is 6 p.m. today in

Box 513, Roseland, NJ 07068. **Clara D'Addona**



Summit. He retired in 1990 after 38 years as a construction worker with Bell Laboratories, AT&T Corp. and Western Electric.

A native of Archbald, Pa., Mr. Amabile lived in Elizabeth before moving to Scotch Plains in 1962. He was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America.

Jean La Banco

WESTFIELD --- Jean M. La Banco, 83, died April 15, 2002 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. She was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary to Martin Wallberg Post 3, American Legion.

Mrs. La Banco was born in Newark. She lived in Roselle Park, Union and Westfield before moving to South Venice, Fla.

The Record-Press is here for you

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

Call Editor Kathleen Phillips at (908) 575-6686 with story sugrestions, questions or comments.

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

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

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

A Guide To Your Local Professionals



SCOTCH PLAINS - The Jr. and Anthony M.; a sister, Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Yolanda Cuppie; a brother, John; Library sponsors its annual book sale Saturday, May 18, in associa-Services will be 9 a.m. today at Rossi Funeral Home, 1937 Westfield Ave. Mass will follow tion with the Junior Women's

Club Books, CDs, DVDs, VHS videos and Books on Tape can be donated for the sale. Bring your donations to the Bartle Avenue library 5-9 p.m. Wednesday or 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday.

All donations must be in very good condition. TV and radio programs taped off the air will not be accepted. Home videos also are not wanted.

For more information, phone (908) 322-5007.

Theme announced for holiday parade

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Fanwood-Scotch Plains Memorial Day parade takes place on the holiday, May 27.

America the Beautiful ... The Bold ... The Brave" is the theme of this year's parade. Trophies will be awarded for entries that best depict the parade theme.

If your group is interested in participating, phone Toni Rollis at (908) 322-6700, Ext. 314.

Tricky Tray auction scheduled tonight

SCOTCH PLAINS — "Patriotic Pizzazz" is the theme of the annual Tricky Tray auction for the

the Union Catholic cafeteria at 1600 Martine Ave. Gifts for bid include four box seats to a New York Yankees game, printer/scanner/copier/fax machine, mountain bikes, a 27inch TV set, a DVD player, a gold bracelet, department store and restaurant gift certificates.

Admission of \$8 includes one sheet of bid tickets. Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be served. Bring your own snacks. Children under 18 will not be admitted.

For more information, phone (908) 889-1600.

Students perform in select orchestra

Students Nancy Twu, Flora Alexander and Michael Gleason, all Scotch Plains-Fanwood students, were selected to perform with the Central Jersey Music Educators Association Orchestra at Monroe Township High School. The concert was under the direction of Gabriel Gordon.

Nancy is a sophomore oboe player and Flora, also a sophomore, performed on the flute.

Michael, a junior, was selected as a trumpet player with the orchestra. He also represented the high school recently in the New Jersey All-State Symphonic Band and Orchestra at the Nicholas Music Center at Rutgers University. He will represent the school again in the fall when he performs at the NJ All-State Orchestra Concert.

Beauty

Hillside Cemetery's gentle slopes are dotted with stately trees and evergreens. Flowering trees and bushes accent the grounds. All lots, graves, cremorial graves and bronze cremorial niches are in fully developed areas and include perpetual care. Located on Woodland Avenue in Scotch Plains, a non-profit, non-sectarian organization. 908.756.1729

> Hillside Cemetery Established 1886 www.hillsidecemetery.com



Huntington can help break the failure chain

smart, but never had the resources to help him. Thank you for your help."-Carla N.

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Huntington's experience is that many students are locked into what Huntington calls the failure chain—a continuing cycle of frus-tration and failure. These students look at the learning experience as a threat rather than a challenge. Often they deal with this threat by daydreaming, acting out, or even tuning out. This behavior goes on in school and at home, affecting the whole family.

Huntington Learning Center breaks this failure chain by carefully building basic skills, boosting self-confidence, and restoring the motivation to succeed. Huntington takes kids who have given up on

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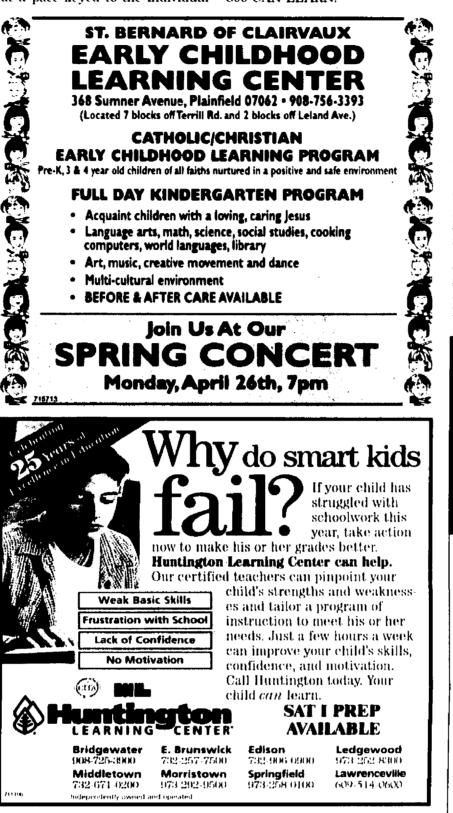
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themselves and give them back their self-esteem.

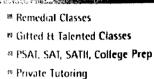
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Huntington's teachers instruct at a pace keyed to the individual child, using materials geared to his or her level. The program begins at a comfortable level with assignments gradually increasing in difficulty as each new skill is mastered. One by one, these newly mastered skills form a foundation for further learning and success in the classroom.

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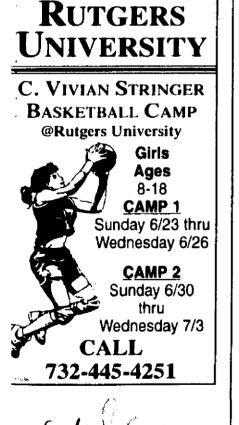
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A-9





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> For reservations and information please contact the **Office of Admissions**

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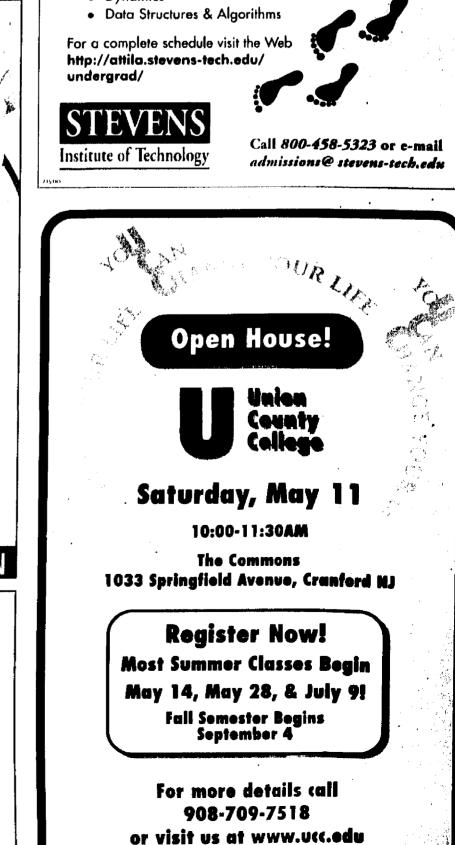
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10

April 19, 2002



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Now - Dec 17	4 DAYS	7 DAYS	SAVE	
Couples Ocho Rios	\$749	\$1249	\$1670	
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Prices slightly higher at Couples Negril & Couples Swept Away beginning September 28



Prices are per person, double occupancy in lowest room category based on midweek airfares valid for travel Monday thru Friday, April - December 17, 2002 unless otherwise specified. Add \$52 each way if traveling on Saturday or Sunday. Hurry sale extended for a limited time only. Travel must be completed within effective dates where specified. U.S. & Island Departure taxes and related fees of up to \$93 are additional and due with final payment. Restrictions and penalties apply. Number of days includes departure and return days. Prices are subject to change, vary by travel date and may not apply to the entire sale period. Air and hotel blackouts apply over peak travel periods. Savings are per couple based on 7-night stay in comparison to undiscounted hotel rates and airfares.

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Community Life



B-1

Briefs

College foundation holding 10th tourney

WESTFIELD — The Union County College Foundation sponsors its 10th annual golf and tennis tournament Monday.

Registration begins 10 a.m. at the Echo Lake Country Club. A buffet brunch follows 10:30 a.m. The golf portion begins at noon at the country club while the tennis portion begins 1 p.m. at the Mountainside Indoor Tennis Center.

Cocktail hour in the Echo Lake clubhouse is 6 p.m. Dinner, an awards ceremony and raffle follow. Participation in the golf portion or tennis portion is not necessary to attend the dinner.

For reservations and fees, phone Diane McCurdy at (908) 709-7505.

Proceeds benefit student scholarships and programs at Union County College, which has its main campus in Cranford and a satellite campus in Scotch Plains.

Hats are used to chart history

FANWOOD — Marie Leppert and Renata Maroney will present a program on the history of Scotch Plains and Fanwood at the monthly meeting of the Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood at 8 p.m. Tuesday at the Fanwood train station.

Leppert and Betty Eves wrote the program, which utilizes hats, some years ago to teach local history to elementary schoolchildren.

The meeting is open to the public. Refreshments and fellow-ship follow the program.

For more information, call Richard Bousquet at (908) 232-1199.

Super Sunday proceeds \$600,000

SCOTCH PLAINS -- Super-Sunday volunteers raised morethan \$600,000 during the Jewish-Federation of Central New Jersey's appeal on March 17.

Volunteers at the Wilf Jewish Community Center campus made phone calls to solicit funds to help the Jewish communities in Israel the former Soviet



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Emma Kowalczyk, 3, walks the balance beam at Healthy Kids Day at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA

Y event focuses on healthy children



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Samaria Mosley, 3, holds onto her mother's hand for dear life after she had her face painted at the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA Saturday.



Update offered on rare ailment

WESTFIELD — The Presbyterian Church in Westfield will host an awareness meeting on a rare genetic disorder that afflicts one of its young members. The ailment, Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva, FOP for short, causes the body to produce not just too much bone, but an extra skeleton that over time immobilizes the joints.

Whitney Weldon of Westfield, a 10-year-old who attends Sunday School at the church was diag-

Union, Argentina and in Central Jersey.

Among those to benefit from local residents' generosity are: • The more than 50,000 new immigrants to Israel, including 240 Ethiopians who arrived in Arad, Israel.

220,000 of the most needy in the former Soviet Union will receive food and home care.
Locally, funds will be used for home-care service requests at the Jewish Family Services and for camp scholarships.

Skating sessions benefit hockey team

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Recreation Department is introducing a Family In-Line Skating program to benefit the Westfield High School Hockey Team.

The Friday night sessions will be held at the Westfield Armory and will feature an open skating session, "Shoot at the Target Goalie," and "Give it your Best Slap Shot" (radar-timed).

The sessions will be held beginning tonight and through June 14. Cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 a child per session.

For more information contact the Westfield Recreation Department at 789-4080.

Lord & Taylor hosts blood drive

WESTFIELD — The Blood Center of New Jersey, an independent, nonprofit organization supplying blood and blood components to hospitals, is holding a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday at the Lord & Taylor parking lot, 609 North Ave. West.

Donors must be 18, but 17 year olds may donate with parental permission. Donors should know their Social Security number and bring a signed or picture form of identification.

Those with a fever or sore throat should wait until they are feeling better before donating. There is a 24-hour deferral for teeth cleanings and fillings. nosed with FOP in April 2001. She is one of 10 people in New Jersey and 200 nationwide known to suffer from FOP.

Gary Whyte of Mountainside, a friend of Whitney and her parents, Hillary and Bill Weldon, is spearheading a campaign to make more people aware of FOP and to raise funds for additional research into the disorder. He will speak at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, May 5, in the Christian Lounge of the Parish House of the church, 140 Mountain Ave. The public is invited.

Whyte also will show a fiveminute, locally produced video about Whitney and research being conducted at the University of Pennsylvania by a team headed by Dr. Frederick S. Kaplan, professor of Orthopedic Molecular Medicine and chief of the Division of Metabolic Bone Diseases and Molecular Medicine at the school in Philadelphia.

Whitney's parents took her to a number of doctors to treat a neck pain before one suggested that they consult Kaplan. An MRI ordered by Kaplan discovered a bone growing in her neck and the diagnosis was made.

In the year since the diagnosis, the bone growth has progressed to the point that Whitney's upper body movement is restricted and she is unable to raise her arms above her head.

At this time, there is no treatment for FOP. Surgery to remove the bone often results in a worsening of the condition. New bone will grow back and further impair mobility.

Two drugs are currently under development which may one day be used to help control extra bone growth. For now, medication is only helpful to manage such symptoms of FOP as pain, inflammation, etc.

In his awareness campaign, Whyte mails letters to individuals, companies, institutions and foundations pointing out the need for further research and for funds to support research. He has raised and turned over to the Weldon family \$33,000 that they have forwarded to Kaplan to help in his research at the University of Pennsylvania.

primetime:

April 18 & 19, 2002

BEST BETS THIS WEEK

B-2

Flemington Crafts Festival this weekend

FLEMINGTON --- The Flemington Crafts Festival, featuring more than 325 exhibitors and showcasing the talent, skill and ingenuity of some of

America's most gifted and crealive fine artists and craftspeople, returns to the Fairgrounds in Flemington for the 32nd time on April 20-21.

Representing more than 22 states and Canada, all work displayed and for sale is entirely designed and hand-crafted by the exhibiting artisan.

II The Festival, one of the **Targest and best attended in the** entire Northeast, is a nationally recognized event and, for the seventh consecutive year, has **(been chosen by** Sunshine Artist, : America's premier show and festival publication, as one of the 200 best art/craft events in the country.

Among the vast array of hand-crafted products on display and for sale, covering a wide range of techniques, styles and **"brices will be: clothing; jewelry;** mottery; stained glass and blown **Mass; leather**-goods; ceramic **Eulpture** and metal sculpture; Ine art, graphics and photogra-""" Wood: accessories, bowls, warvings, clocks, furniture and loys; folk art and country items; Specialty foods; florals; children's "Accessories, clothing and toys; -in-ware; birdhouses; wrought Firon, quilting and much more. The Festival runs from 9 ğ.m.- 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission for adults is \$6; children under **, 12 free.** Parking is free. The **Rairgrounds** is located on Route **31, one mile north of the traffic** dircle of Routes 202 and 31 in Memington.

For more information, call (607)265-3230.

Driving event at Lord Stirling

- BASKING RIDGE ---- The Somerset County Park **Commission and The Friends of ford** Stirling Stable will be hostg their second annual two-day combined Driving Event on Zaturday, April 20 and Sunday, **pril 21** Lord Stirling Stable is ocated at 256 S. Maple Ave. The Combined Driving Event Thowcases a horse and driver's wility through cones, speed on the marathon course, and train**ng** at dressage. The event will **Atract** horses and riders from 🎞ne entire East Coast. Spectators are invited to ttend all phases of the competi-tion throughout both days with Tressage and cones on Saturday mind the marathon event on-Sunday . There will be a sug**geste**d donation of \$2 per person . over age 12. The Friends of Lord Stirling Stable is a non-profit organiza-**Con made up of** junior and Idult volunteers who support the activities of Lord Stirling Stable. The Friends contribute ideas, volunteer time, and donate revenue generated from Tionsoring events that help pro-ride a continuous and expanding program of activities for this **Lopular** facility. Information on the Combined Driving Event may be obtained y calling Kathy at (973) 984-441 or Namey Williams at Lord Stirling Stable at (908) 766-1955. Information on this event and Ther Somerset County Park **Tommission** a divities may be **Bund on the** Internet at ww.park.co.somerset.nj.us/



Ron McCloskey will bring his famed impersonation of Groucho Marx to Dunellen later this month.

Groucho will be coming alive at historic Dunellen Theatre

DUNELLEN — The Dunellen Theater first opened its doors as a silent movie and vaudeville house in the spring of 1922.

To celebrate the theater's 80th birthday this spring. Jorsey Central Theatre Company, which has been in residence at the theater this past season, will offer a tribute to one of the greatest stars ever to emerge from vaudeville, when it presents "Groucho: A Comic in 3 Acts" Friday and Saturday nights, April 26, April 27, May 3 and May 4 at 8 p.m. the Dunellen Theater.

A special matinee performance has also been added on Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m.

A one-man show tribute to the late, great Groucho Marx. written and starring Ron MacCloskey, "Grouch: A Comic in 3 Acts" brings the legend and life of the myth and the man to entertaining, affectionate life.

Classic Groucho moments, from songs to his beloved oneliners, will be included. The highlight of the show is a hilarious ad-libbed reenactment of Groucho's classic TV game show, "You Bet Your Life."

MacCloskey is one of the nation's premier Groucho impersonators, having performed as the comic at such prestigious. venues as Radio City Studios, Harrahs in Atlantic City, Clyde eatty/Cole Brothers Circus, Universal Studios and the Orpheum Theater in Hollywood, the Ted Brown Show and the Uncle Floyd Variety Show

Critics have called the show "a fast cheerful 90 minutes," that "MacCloskey uncannily captures the bemused stillness, the odd mixture of quick wit and unhurried motion that characterized Groucho" and that he gives the audience "a mar velous time."

In keeping with the vaudeville theme, an added attraction will be performers from the recently released CD, "Made In America," singing a selection of classic vandeville songs from 1900-1925.

The Jersey Central Theatre Company, a non-profit organization, is currently in residence at the Historic Dunellen Theater. located at 458 North Avenue (Rt. 28), at the corner of Madison Avenue

Tickets for this production are \$15 per person, students and seniors are \$13.50, groups of 15 or more are \$12 per person, while a special price of \$10per person has been added for children 12 and under.

To make reservations, or for further information, please con

Classic child's story on stage 'Are You My Mother' on Saturday

DUNELLEN - "Baby Bird"

emerges from her shell to find. an empty nest! Where is her mother

The Dunellen Theater continues its schedule of Children's Theatre programming with the production of "Are You My Mother?" on Saturday April 20 at 1 p.m.

In its third hit season, ArtsPower's musical theatre sensation portrays "Baby Bird's search for her mother and the unexpected discovery of what family is all about.

Based on P. D. Eastman's popular book for young readers. Are You My Mothert is an enchanting musical about Baby Bird's journey-a journey that overflows with courage and determination.

During her adventure, Baby Bird meets an array of colorful characters, all of whom have some advice for the lost bird.

Told with humor, sensitivity and a bit of calculated silliness. this touching story shows how loss can be turned into empowerment and how Baby Bird happily finds more than she is looking for. The show features a rich, upbeat musical score, imaginative sets, colorful costumes and will be performed by professional actors, who are members of Actors' Equity Association.

Adapted and directed by Greg Gunning, with music and lyrics by Richard DeRosa and Mr. Gunning. "Are You My Mother?" is approximately one hour in length and is recommended for children in grades K -1

Founded in 1985, ArtsPower has been one of this nation's finest international touring compames, performing at hundreds of theaters, schools, libraries. fairs and leading cultural centers, bringing high-quality, professional children's theatre to thousands of people each year.

Tickets are \$8 per person and are available at the door, or by calling (732) 968-9010 and reserving tickets in advance. The Dunellen Theater offers a full service concession stand and is located at 458 North Ave. (Rt. 285, just west of Washington Avenue.

For more information, please call the box office at (732) 968-9010, or go online to www.jerseycentraltheatre.com.



"Plaza Suite" **Soming** to JCC

BRIDGEWATER --- The Shimon and Sara Birnbaum Jewish Community Center (JCC) Till present Neil Simon's "Plaza Guite" Saturday, April 27 at 8 p.m. This three-act play details the **misadventures** of three very dif**ment** couples as they face crucial moments in their respective lives I in the same hotel room in the Imous Plaza Hotel

🚆 Plaza Suite will be produced mnd presented by Repertory **Theater of America**. Tickets for he evening are \$40 per person and the price includes the show and dessert. Make reservations by pril 19.

For tickets call Laura Eriedman, JCC Assistant Executive Director, at (908)725-**1994 Ext. 2**13 or email **Griedman@ssbjcc.org**

Orchestra will play benefit on April 27

BRIDGEWATER ---- Encore! Part XII, a musical fantasy to benefit Family and Community Services of Somerset County (FCS), will be presenting at 8 p.m. April 27 at the AT&T complex on Route 202/206. The concert features the

Rev. Alphonse Stephenson, former musical director of Broadway's "A Chorus Line" conducting The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea.

"This concert has become a tradition for FCS," said Eric Harris, executive director of the agency, "Each year, Father Stephenson and the orchestra provide outstanding family entertainment for the community and the proceeds enable our agency to help individuals. and families throughout Somerset County."

Founded over 40 years ago, Family and Community Services is dedicated to helping individuals and families who work or reside in Somerset County, The agency offers a wide range of pro-

WESTFIELD — The New Jersey Youth Symphony brings two of its ensembles to Edison Intermediate School, Westfield, for a concert 3 p.m. Sunday, April 28.

Performing are the Orchestra String Training Ensemble, conducted by artistic director Barbara Barstow, and the Flute Choir, conducted by Diana Charos.

tact Jersey Central Theatre Company at (732) 968-9010, or visit them online at www.jerseycentraltheatre.com.



REV. ALPHONSE STEPHENSON

grams in such areas as mental. health and addictions counseling, outreach programs for atrisk teens, school-based services and community education.

Tickets to the concert cost \$40 for general admission and \$80 for premier seating. The

String ensemble musicians

are all in elementary school.

They include Harmony Huang,

of Bound Brook; Kevin Hsieh,

Kenneth Huang, Jennifer Lee,

Joseph Ning, Andrew Wu and

Matthew Wu, all of Bridgewater

Genevieve Chaleff, of Cranford;

Eunice Hee, of Edison; William

Shore and Albert Wu, both of

Warren; and Damon Major, of

Scotch Plains; Karen Tsung, of

evening includes a wine and cheese intermezzo, with a Viennese table to follow the performance.

For information about the agency or for tickets, call (732)356-1082 or visit the agency's web site at www.fcssomerset.org.

Youth Symphony will perform April 28

Watchung.

Flute Choir players are in-Grades 6-9. They include Tiffany Chu and Joshua Lee, both of Bridgewater; Sophia Ahn, of Highland Park; and Gina Sutjiawan, of Warren.

Admission is by a donation at the door. For more information and directions, visit www.njys.org or phone (908) 771-5544.

A classic children's tale is coming to the Dunellen Theatre on Saturday

Taste of Somerset marks 10th birthday

BRIDGEWATER — A Taste of Somerset will be celebrating its 10th anniversary year and plans are now in motion for a celebration that will bring the entire Somerset County business, education and non-profit community together for an evening of gourmet cuisine and fine wines. Sponsored by The PeopleCare Center, the event will again be hosted by the Bridgewater Manor on Monday, April 29 from 6 to 9 p.m.

A Taste of Somerset will be enhanced this year by the addition of more spacious serving. areas for culinary participants and hands on culinary presentations by several of the top chefs in the Garden State. The event will be staged on both the first and second floors of the Manorand the outside patio, with additional cocktail tables and chairs to be provided throughout for our patrons' added comfort. With the two levels, the PeopleCare Center has invited more than 60 area restaurants and beverage companies to participate.

"This PeopleCare Center fundraiser was the first of its kind. nine years ago, and today, is still the most talked about culmary event in New Jersey," said event chairperson John Graf. Jr. of Bedminster. "The biggest thrill for me is bringing together so many varied culinary businesses for an evening of comraderie that raises more than \$40,000 for the human service agencies at PeopleCare.

Making their A Taste of Somerset debut this year include 24 Carrot Catering of Raritan. The Baker's Treat of Flemington, The Dessert Plate of Somerville, Gallo Wine of Elizabeth, Gulf Coast Bar & Grill of Long Valley, Grape Expectations of Bridgewater, Honeydrop Foods of Bridgewater, Hydra Mountain

Spring Water of Fairfield, and The Inn at Mt. Bethel & Grill Master Caterers of Warren. Rounding out the newcomers are Madeline's at Vosseler of Bound Brook, Opah Grille of Gladstone. Red Lobster of Bridgewater, **Rosse's Restaurant of** Martinsville, Soriano's Classic Elegance Caterers of Bridgewater, Sushi House of Bridgewater, T-Bones Tuscan Steakhouse at The Marriott of Bridgewater, Tre Vigne Ristorante of Basking Ridge, and Who Wants Cookies of Hillsborough.

Making their return engagement for the 10th anniversary celebration of A Taste of Somerset include A.V. Imports **b**f Lambertville, Acqua Restauranț of Raritan, Alfonso's Family Trattoria of Somerville, Allied Beverage Group of Carlstadt, Bobby B's Best in Barbeque of Somerville, Bridgewater Manor/Tropea Ristorante, Café Cucina of Branchburg. Christine's at Somerset Hills Hotel of Warren, Costco's of Bridgewater, Dead River Pub of **Basking Ridge, Delicato** Vineyards of Belle Mead. DiPaola's catering of Bridgewater, DoubleTree Hotel's **Tuscany Restaurante of** Somerset, East Star Buffet of Somerville, Fox Hollow Golf Club of Branchburg, The Grain House at The Olde Mill Inn of Basking Ridge, and Il Pomodore of Somerville.

Tickets for the event are \$75 and can be reserved by contacting Marie Hughes at (908) 725 2299 or by sending a mail order to: The PeopleCare Center, 120 Finderne Avenue, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807. Proceeds from the event benefit the PeopleCare Center 2002 Capital Campaign.

April 18 & 19, 2002

primetime!

Rehearsals under way for 'South Pacific'

Key I

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CRANFORD - The classic romantic musical drama, "South-Pacific," with music by Richard Kodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. will be presented next month by the Cranford Dramatic Club

The production is directed by Shayne Austin Miller, Producer is Liz Howard of Cranford. musical director. Tracy Glenn Murray, and choreographer. Sherri Ryan of Plaintield.

Production crew includes Kelly Bender of Plainfield, as the dance captain, with Stary Grobol of Garwood, stage manager; Danielle Einhorn of Kenilworth, assistant stage manager; and Committee Chairs: Mary McGhee set design and decoration, Terry Schultz, set construction, and Art Kusiv, all of Cranford, set painting; with Allison Axelson. makeup, F.J. DeRobertis, Arlene Wachsetin of Westfield, Damelle Einhorn, and Peg Smith of Linden, props. Lez Howard of Cranford, costume coordinator, Ed Wittel of Westfield, sound. Anamarie Llanos of Elizabeth lighting design, and John Duryee of Cranford, lighting

The cast includes Roger Hayden of Westfield, as the wealthy French Painter Emile de Becque, Cindy Jung of Basking Ridge, as Nellie Forbush, the young Navy murse from Little Rock, Arkansas who falls in love with Emile, Anamaria Llanos as Blood Mary, the shrewd Tokmese souvenir dealer who is also trying. to find her daughter, Last, a richhusband, Debra Bassin of New York, as hat, Bloody Mary's young and innocent daughter McNamara. Richard of Springfield, as Lieutenant Joe Cable, the good looking officer who falls in love with Liat. Roy Tornberg of West Orange is Luther Billis, an mediocreentrepreneur with a fust for Indies, Lucia Bacque of Landen and Ella Chamis of Roselle share the role of Ngana, de-Becque's daughter, doseph Majeski of Rahway, as Jerome, de Becque's son, Gabriel Carrizo of Elizabeth, as the islander "Abner" and the Stoker Johnson,

Art exhibit set at library

SCOTCH PLAINS The Scotch Plains and Fanwood Arts Association members will present a free exhibit of mixed media art from April 22 to April

Ed Wittle as Stewpot, Marc Hagman, appeared in the Ricci of Cranford, as Professor, John Duryee as the pompous yet competent officer Capt. Brackett, Matt Nazzaro of Cranford, as Commodore Harbison, and the soldiers are Kevin Kessler of Cranford, as McCaffrey, Charles Deinsco of Hillside, as Quale, John Merkel of Crantord, as O'Brien, Bill Chamis of Roselle, as Hassinger, Nick Duchensky of Rockaway, as Baker, Tony Surace of Scotch Plains, as Buzz Adams, Michael Snizek of Westfield as Tutwiler, and Greg Trimmer of Mountainside as Weaver, with the Nurses portrayed by Donna Faraone of Union, as Lt. Marshall, Carolyn Pender of Cranford, as Ensign Murphy, Joanne Geschickter of Westfield as Ensign Noonan. Samantha-Dango of Cranford, as Ensign Yaeger, Molly Frieri of Cranford as Ensign McRae, Ximenita Gonzalez of Kemilworth as Ensign Smith, Tiftany Wilson of Plainfield as Ensign Velasquez, and Joy Merkel of Cranford, as Ensign Bowman.

"South Pacific" received the 1950 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and for the first time the committee included a composer Richard Rodgers) in that citation. It receive nine Tony Awards including Best Musical. the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, a Grammy Award, a Gold Record, and countless other accolades. Simultaneous with its Broadway run of 1949-54, a U.S. National Tour took South Pacific to 118 cities over five years. The first London production at the venerable Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, featured Mary Martin in her Tonywinning Broadway perfor-(Her son, mance Larry

Featuring:

ensemble and was joined, later in the run, by a young Scottish actor named Sean Connery.) The 1958 motion picture version, filmed on the Hawaiian island of Kauai, starred Mitzi-Gavnor and Rossano Brazzi with the singing voice of Giorgio Tozzi).

Performances will be gin on Fridays, May 3, 10, and 17 and Saturdays on May 4, 11, and 18, all at 8 p.m. A Sunday matinee (Mother's Day) is May 12 at 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$15. The theater is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford, off Centennial Avenue. For further information call (908) 276-7611.

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27 in the downstairs gallery of the Scotch PLains Public Library. 1927 Bartle Ave. The public is invited to view

the works during library hours. and meet the artists at the reception and awards presentation at noon on April 27. Judging the show this year is Ann Swain of Swain Gallery in Plainfield.

For information call Bob Hahn at (908) 233-7458 Admission is free.

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College plans **Earth Week** activities

CRANFORD — Union County College's Garden Club will be observing Earth Week with a series of events from Wednesday through April 26. The theme of the week is

"Practicing Compassion."

•Over the three-day period, a Tibetan sand mandala will be created by the Venerable Lama Tenzin Yignyen.

Sand mandalas are meditations on life and death and are created to purify the environment and its inhabitants and to promote harmony in the world.

:To create the mandala, the artist applies colored sand through thin funnels to create an intricate design representing a symbolic universe intended to nourish the seeds of; enlightenment in the mind of viewers. Building the artwork reinforces the Buddhist belief in emptying the mind and teaching the concept of impermanence. Dismantling the mandala involves ceremoniously sweeping up the sand and pouring it into a body of water to symbolically bless marine life, the environment and all sentient beings.

The events will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the college's Cranford campus, 1033 Springfield Ave. All events are free and open to the public.

For more information, call Vicki R4back at (908) 497-4211 or email her at reback@ucc.edu



The Venerable Lama Tenzin Yignyen is creating a sand mandala similar to one he will design at Union County College in Cranford next week.

A taste of Paris is coming to Cranford

By GREG MARX THE CHRONICLE

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CRANFORD — There's an international invasion of sorts coming to Cranford.

A new Chinese-Japanese restaurant on South Avenue... a

Mexican restaurant coming to North Avenue... and now Café Paris, a crêperie run by an authentic French chef, on Walnut Avenue. Visitors to the café, which will

open Tuesday, can dine on a variety of French foods, from steak to salad. But the specialties will be

NEW JERSEY BOTANICAL GARDENS 1198 DUKE'S PARKWAY W HILL SBOROUGH, N. J.08844 HOURS WED THRUSUN 10 % DURING MAY EVERY DAY 10 5 4,000 VARIETIES SPRING PLANTS ANNUALS VEGETABLES PERENNIALS HERBS MORE

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sweet and savory crépes served up by the chef and co-owner, Paris native Kim Fuller. Fulller has a long history in the

restaurant business, having run eateries in Paris and St. Martin over the last 15 years. She has also had a career in fashion, working in Milan and for the French designer Christian Lacroix — and it shows. The walls of Café Paris have been decorated with murals of the Champs-Elysees, Notre Dame and the Moulin Rouge by her brother, a French artist.

Six years ago, Fuller came to the area to visit her daughter, an exchange student at Kean University She met George Fuller, a Linden firefighter and Union County Mutual Aid Coordinator. The two fell in love, and she fell in love with Cranford.



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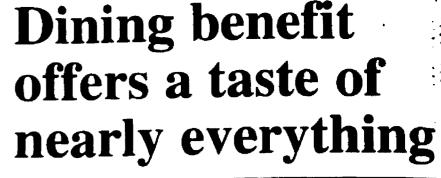
"I was going around the world love the town. People are so nice."

The café, the Fullers said, will try to give diners an authentic French experience without the huge bill that often accompanies French dining.

"In French (cooking), everything is presentation," said George. "We're trying to make a place that is not too expensive, but (that will) give you a French flavor."

The atmosphere, said George, should be calm, relaxed, and "chie." To that end, the Fullers have spent two years preparing for the opening, and have brought much of the café's furnishings directly from France.

And of course, he said, the menu had to be fine-tuned. "I've had to suffer through all her experimenting with the crepes," he joked. "It's been brutal, but someone had to do



By GREG MARX THE CHRONICLE

Area residents will have a chance to eat well Wednesday night, and contribute to two worthy organizations in the process, as Cranford Cares for Kids and Raphael's Life House host their fifth annual Chef du Jour night.

The evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at The Westwood in Garwood, brings nearly 25 local restaurants together to offer tasting menus to patrons. Diners will get to sample a diverse range of culinary offerings, ranging from Cranford's Dim Sum, Buttery Bake Shoppe, and Triestina's, to the Pecos Grill in Garwood, Los Faroles in Elizabeth, and La Catena in Roselle Park.

Even Union Hospital will have a table. "I know people think, 'Oh, it's hospital food,' but it's really good," said Cranford Cares for Kids member Lydia Allen, who is chairing the event.

The entire event is a volunteer effort, Allen said, depending on the restaurants, the Westwood, and local residents. "It's been a real united front," she said. "Everyone has volunteered.'

The groups will also give away prizes, including a handpainted end table and a bicycle from local stores, and a quilt hand-made by a Cranford resident. But because downtown businesses have been hit hard since Sept. 11, Allen said, the organizations did not ask for donations directly. Instead they solicited cash contributions from local woman, and used that money to buy the prizes. "We just got an overwhelming response," she said.

Tickets cost \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. They can be purchased at American Princess and the Chari-Tea Room, both on Alden Street in Cranford, and Crisanti Shoes on Centennial Avenue in Cranford. Ticket-buyers can also call Nora at (908) 272-4974 or Dorothy at (908) 276-7258. The organizations have sold 250 tickets, and hope to sell another hundred.

Proceeds will be split evenly between the two groups. Cranford Cares for Kids, found-

What you can do

Tickets cost \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. They can be purchased at American Princess and the Chari-Tea Room, both on Alden Street in Cranford, and Crisanti Shoes on Centennial Avenue in Cranford. Ticket-buyers can also call Nora at (908) 272-4974 or Dorothy at (908) 276-7258. The organizations have sold 250 tickets, and hope to sell another hundred.

ed in 1993, pays the non-reimbursed medical costs of township children who are suffering from long-term illnesses. Raphael's Life House, founded by two Cranford women the same year, provides transitional housing for homeless pregnant women and new mothers. The Life House is located in the former St. Patrick's Convent in Elizabeth.

Other participating restaurants include Antone's Grill & Pub, Bagel America, Café Rock, the Chari-Tea Room, the Cranford Hotel, Hunan Wok, Marino's Scafood, Mr. J's Deli, Mr. Wraps, Perotti's, and Tony's Café from Cranford, Beana's Mexican Restaurant and Piece of Cake from Rahway; Pinho's Bakery and Taven in the Park from Roselle Park; and the 640 Club Bar & Restaurant from ... Elizabeth.

Orchestra's benefit gala. **Saturday**

WESTFIELD - The annual Westfield Symphony Orchestra benefit gala will be held Saturday at Shackamaxon Country Club in Scotch Plains. The theme of this year's event is Celebrate America. Westfield Mayor Gregory McDermott and his wife, Andrea, are serving as . honorary gala chair with Rahway Mayor James Kennedy and his wife, Lori Kennedy. The highlight of the evening will, again this year, be the live auction conducted by renowned charity auctioneer, Jon Bramnick, a Scotch Plains attor-Jon 🖞 ney, "This year's live auction promises to be extraordinary because of its vast array of travel packages and gift items. There are at least one if not more items in the auction book that our guests will be excited about," said Myriam Gabriel, gala live auction chairwoman. Some of the fabulous jet-setting packages include two plane tickets plus three-night accommodations for two at the Le Meridien hotel in Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro-Brazil, three-days at El Conquistador hotel in Puerto Rico, three days at the famous Atlantis Paradise Island Resort, Bahamas. Closer to home, guests will have a chance to bid on retreater in Steamboat Springs-Colorado, Sundial Beach Resort-Sanibel Island and on a stay at the Red. Lion Inn, Stockbridge, Mass. New York City will spread the welcome mat by treating four guests to Mel Brooks' "The Producers," or by entertaining eight guests with a global eclectic dinner at an exclusive TriBeca loft. Guests may opt to take advantage of a Peninsula Hotel Fifth Avenue weekend package or stay at an Art Deco Lombardy suite apartment. The highlight of the gift items is a bronze sculpture by the 19th century artists Leon Tharel (1858-1902.) Kennedy donated the artwork to the Gala Live Auction Committee. Titled The: Idle Fiddler, it is mounted on a marble base. It was listed in Sotheby's auction book in 1967. "This piece will be the perfect. centerpiece in the living room or* study of a music lover and, Westfield Symphony supporter Gabriel said. For more information about! the orchestra and the gala, call the executive office at (908) 2322: 9400.

non-stop. Now I've stopped to do the restaurant," Kim said. And though her current setting is "very different" than Paris, she says, "I

name you can trust

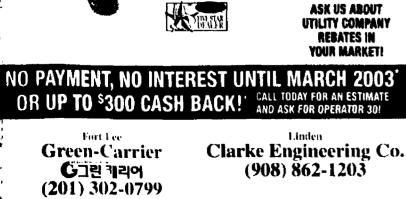


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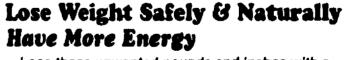
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Record-Press



Bird-watching can be inexpensive therapy

(NAPS)-Bird-watching, physicians say, can be therapeutic for people. It's both calming and educational. By keeping a journal of birds you see every day, you can determine which species come back year after year.

Most birds prefer a feeder to be hung close to trees and shrubs so they have an escape route from predators. You want to hang it where it is easy to refill and you are able to watch the birds feed.

The choice feeder for many bird-watching enthusiasts is called the No/No Bird Feeder: No wood to hold moisture or wear away and no plastic to fade or crack. The wood and plastic found on most feeders are replaced with a durable steel mesh design. This allows rain and snow to whisk straight

through this unique feeder. The feeder collapses to one-inch tall and is similar in design to collapsible wire fish baskets.

No assembly is required, and it holds 2.5 pounds of black oil sunflower seeds. This keeps refill chores to a minimum. Steel mesh is attractive to both clinging and perching types of birds, and there is room for up to 15 birds to feed at one time.

The feeder is available at most retail birdseed outlets, or can be ordered by calling toll-free (866) 864-6447; at www.no-nobirdfeeder. com, or from No/No Bird Feeders, P.O. Box 477, Bloomfield, NE 68718.

Now you can join in on one of America's most popular wildlife encounters: feeding birds. Just install a bird feeder in your back yard and enjoy the activity.



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Drought forces state to issue water use rules

criteria.

tions.

The state has issued the follow- except in the central and coastal ing drought water use restrictions: Serving of water in public eating establishments is prohibited, unless requested.

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Commercial car washing establishments can operate under certain criteria.

Car dealerships can wash vehicles under certain criteria.

Washing boats at dealerships and marinas is permitted under certain criteria.

Washing paved surfaces is prohibited unless necessary to protect human health or for sanitary purposes.

Flushing sewers with potable water is prohibited with limited exceptions.

Use of fire hydrants is prohibited unless fighting fires in the interest of public safety or with written permission from water purveyors.

Only commercial power washing is permitted with established limits. Ornamental outdoor water use

sanitary purposes

is prohibited except for wildlife or Lawn watering is prohibited

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Starry Night, a disease-resistant landscape shrub, exhibits pure-white, sparkling, dogwoodlike flowers. Growing up to six feet in warm areas, Starry Night is great for large plantings and horders.

Planted among brightly colored tulips, irises, and dianthus, Starry Night will create a constellation of blooms all season long. At night, you can watch the white flowers glow under the moonlight as other flowers fade into the shadows.

Love & Peace, a classic hybrid tea, brings color to any garden with its five-inch, golden-yellowedged-with-pink-flowers on long,

(NAPSI) - This spring, you sturdy stems. With enhanced hardy and grow well in containflower and vigor characteristics of its father, the famous and popular Peace, it can be the focal point of any garden.

Growing four to five feet by three feet, Love & Peace is terrific for framing a formal rose garden or creating a striking feature when mixed with other perennials and annuals. Planted alone or with lilacs and scented geraniums, Love & Peace offers a sweet and fruity scent that can transform your garden into an aromatic sanctuary. You can bring a bouquet indoors to freshen up your day.

Both varieties are so versatile that they can be planted in many different areas around the house or in the garden, provided they receive at least six hours of sunlight. These prolific varieties are ers

These exquisite AARS varieties will be available during the 2002 planting season at retail garden stores, through selected catalogs, and online.

All-America Rose Selections is a non-profit association dedicated to the introduction and promotion of exceptional roses. Since 1938, the AARS trial program has introduced award-winning roses, including such popular varieties as Peace, Mr. Lincoln and Knock Out.

For more information on the 2002 AARS Winners, past winners and how to "Create The Garden of Your Dreams," visit www.rose.org.

To request a 2002 AARS Winners' brochure, send a selfaddressed, stamped envelope to



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central and coastal north.

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How to conserve water and still keep your garden growing

(ARA) - With water bans in lawn even if rain is scarce. effect in several states last year and another dry year being predicted, gardeners need to be smart about watering. When it comes to watering, how you do it can be more important than if you do it. In fact, improper watering can do more harm than good, and there are many things gardeners can do to avoid having to water at all.

Here are five tips from Kathy LaLiBerte, a gardening expert from Gardener's Supply of Burlington, Vt., that will allow gardeners to have an abundant har-

1. Prep your soil. Plants need a continuous supply of moisture, which they extract from the soil particles that surround tiny root hairs. If soil is too sandy, water rushes away; if there's too much clay, water collects and can drown roots by keeping them from getting oxygen. To create a rich, crumbly, water-retentive soil, work plenty of organic matter such as composted cow manure or leaves, peat moss, or green manures into beds before you plant. Be sure to prep beds at



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over a wide area.

2. Use mulch. Planting thickly and using mulches helps shade the soil and keep available moisture from evaporating. Chipped bark, straw, grass clippings, cocoa hulls and compost are all effective as mulch. However, when using bark or anything else that does not break down readily, be sure to apply no more than an inch or it may keep water from percolating down to the soil where it's needed. Mulches made from organic materials add valuable nutrients to the soil as they degrade.

3. Plant appropriately. Consider planting varieties that are drought resistant and appropriate to your geographic area and climate. In addition, cluster plants that have similar moisture needs. For example, many herbs, plants with hairy or gray leaves, and sun-loving perennials such as coreopsis and varrow do better in a sunny, fairly

plants like roses and classic perennials such as delphiniums and peonies together in a bed that can be watered more frequently.

4. Minimize wind. Wind can suck moisture out of soil and plant leaves faster than the blazing sun. Plant or set up wind breaks that allow the sun in, but shield plants from strong winds in exposed garden areas.

5. Measure moisture. Before turning on the sprinkler, determine how much water your plants really need. Especially if you've been following the advice above, you might be surprised how much moisture your beds retain, even when it hasn't rained for a week or more. Dig down into the top 12 inches of soil and make sure it's dry before you water. If you do water with a sprinkler, put a bucket out to measure how much water is falling onto the ground.

Water in the morning so plants

face the noontime sun. Watering in the morning also helps reduce fungus and disease problems, because the foliage has a chance to dry before nightfall.

The following tips will also help you conserve water:

1. Water infrequently but deeply. Roots grow where the moisture is. If you only water the top couple of inches of soil, that's where the roots will stay. If you water deeply, they'll extend their reach and be more able to withstand occasional dry spells in the future. Be sure to water long enough for moisture to reach at least a foot into the soil.

2. Put the water where it's needed. Plants take up water with their roots, so this is where the water should go. Build small dams around the base of your vegetable plants to act as catch basins, and direct the hose or watering can onto the ground, not over the top of

grow freely in search of moisture dry bed. Keep moisture-loving have the resources they need to your plants. Apply water slowly so it soaks into the soil, rather than rushing away over the top.

3. Choose a water-wise sprinkler for watering. Sprinklers can waste a lot of water through evaporation and by scattering moisture to areas that may not need it. There are a variety of water-wise sprinklers available, but also consider using soaker hoses for beds and water spikes for individual plants

4. Weed, wait, cultivate. Reduce competition for water resources by keeping your garden well-weeded. Wait until plants show signs of distress, such as limp leaves, before watering; most plants will quickly recover. Break up compacted soil so water will absorb into it rather than run off.

Following even some of these good watering practices can reduce water consumption and time consumption by as much as 50 percent.

Everything you wanted to know about house mice

BY MARTHA MALETTA

RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

invaders, inveterate nibblers, notorious nuisances.

They came to the western hemisphere with the early settlers. Originating in Asia, they are worldwide pests living in all climates and settings. Mice can

survive outdoors year round, but, in the search for shelter, houses are often invaded. There House mice — infamous they may make a real nuisance of themselves foraging for food and nesting materials, creating a mess and causing destruction (not to mention mental trauma) in the process.

The typical house mouse problem is best solved with



traps, the simple snap trap being the preferred weapon. Mice usually eat seeds and grains but are likely to choose foods high in fat, protein or sugar if available. So peanut butter, nutmeats, chocolate, bacon, marshmallows, dried fruit make good bait. The traps must be placed with the trigger end against a wall or stationary object. To increase chances of success, use two traps side by side at each location, and space traps not more than 6 feet apart. Mice (unlike rats) are usually not leery of new objects in their environment and are relatively easy to trap.

There are other types of traps on the market, e.g., "one way" box traps, glue boards. But they have the disadvantage that once the animals are caught they must be "dispatched" in a separate operation, an unpleasant prospect in my opinion. Poison baits are available, too, but are not usually recommended for typical household mouse problems. The main reasons: poisons are potential hazards themselves; odors may develop from mice dying in inaccessible locations. (Having experienced the smell from a mouse that up and died under my refrigerator, I strongly recommend traps!)

A house mouse:

1. Weighs 2/5 - 4/5 oz and eats about 1/10 oz of food per day. 🗐 2. Needs little or no free water to survive

3. Female may have 5 - 10 litters per year; average litter is 5 6 young.

4. Produces 36,000 droppings per year (no wonder they make such a mess).

5. Can climb electric wires and almost any rough vertical surface including weathered sheet metal.

6. Can gnaw through lead and aluminum sheeting, wood, rubber, vinyl, and concrete block.

7. Can jump up to 18 inches and enter through openings as small as 1/4 inch- no wonder it's difficult to keep them out!







With a little bit of thought, you too can become an accomplished bouquet designer.

It's not really difficult to become 'blooming genius' to create bouquets

(NAPSI)-You don't have to be a "blooming" genius to create fabulous floral bouquets in your own home. All it takes is some fresh flowers, a few basic tools and guidelines, and a sprinkling of creativity.

few are shorter, and a few taller to give height to the bouquet.

The style of container you choose can be a great help in flower arranging. "V-shaped" vases, which are wide at the top

such as statice, also provide support for other flowers.

Waterproof florist tape can also be useful. Place strips of tape vertically and horizontally across the container mouth. The resulting grid of small openings, a

For more information, visit

Make sure your garden tools and mower are ready for season

(NAPSI)-Remedy all jealous urges to peek in your neighbor's planting playbook with these tips on the early preparation of lawn and garden equipment.

For openers, choose the tools in your garage that will give you effective and satisfying results. The biggest deterrent from a proactive lawn care plan is tool maintenance. If all the necessary pieces are clean and sharpened before the first dew, you'll be ready to tackle your yard. Recommended items to prepare are lawn mower blades, hedge shears, hand pruners, garden tools, lawn sprinkler and spreader.

Sharpen Mowing Skills

Outdoor power equipment, such as a walk-behind or riding lawn mower, are imperative to accomplishing lawn care chores. However, keeping the equipment in top condition can be a chore in itself. Prepare your mower before grass cutting season by changing the oil and replacing the spark plugs. This simple maintenance will ensure that your mower will be running smoothly all season long.

In addition, make sure that a dull blade isn't damaging the grass, making it susceptible to disease. Sharpening the blade at the onset of the season helps ensure that a cut lawn will be a healthy lawn.

Wearing protective eyewear and heavy gloves, carefully remove the mower's blade and secure it in a vise or clamp. Use a Dremel Rotary Tool with the lawn mower and garden tool sharpening attachment and grinding stone to sharpen the blade according to your lawn mower's instruction manual. The

ly growing grass

 Avoid mowing wet grass. Set blade height between two. and three inches for a healthy cut

Sharp Trimming Tools

Hedge shears and hand primers are essential pieces of many lawn and garden equipment sets. They provide a simple and precise option

Prepare your mower before grass cutting season by changing the oil and replacing the spark plugs. This simple maintenance will ensure that your mower will be running smoothly all season long.

for shaping shrubs and hedges of all sizes. Like lawn mowers, keeping these respective blades clean and sharp makes for a quicker and easier cut. You can use the Dremel rotary tool, lawn mower and garden tool sharpening attachment and grinding stone. This will allow you to tackle both the lawn mower and tool blades at once. While you're sharpening, don't forget the traditional garden tools, such as hoes and shovels.

Additional trimming tips: • Prune in the spring for overall shape; trim lightly to maintain in the summer and fall

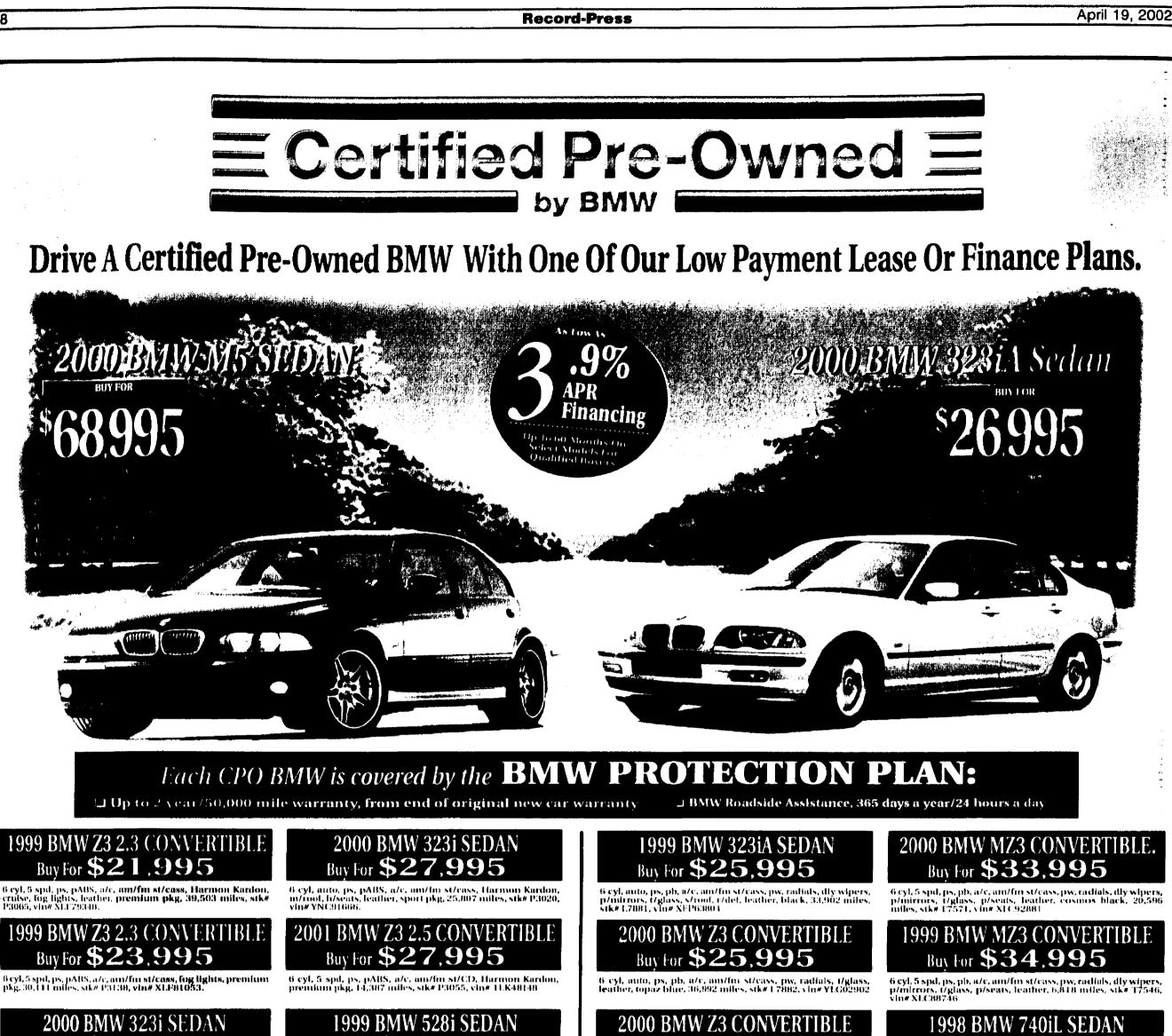
• Prune dead or damaged branches as close to their bases as possible, to keep the plants healthy • Consider long-handled pruning shears for branches less than one inch thick

Watering and fertilizing all areas of the lawn helps prevent dry patches and uncontrolled weed growth. As a general rule, most lawns require about one inch of water per week from rain or sprinkling and about four to five feedings of fertilizer per year. In order to accomplish this, you'll need your trusty, not rusty, sprinklers and spreader to do the job throughout the season. Pull both items from the garage and before using, clean off caked on grass and debris with a hose and Dremel bristle brush accessory

Now that all your lawn and garden tools are clean and sharp you've got yourself a playbook full of ways to get a jump on the season.









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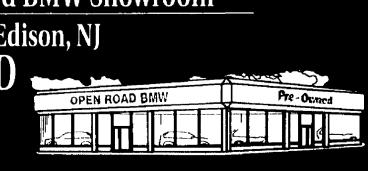
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Record-Press

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Brennan heading to Nyack

By DANIEL MURPHY RECORD PRESS

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High senior Mike Brennan signed a national letter of intent last week to play basketball at Nyack College (N.Y.) next year.

The 6 foot 7 Brennan originally gave a commitment to Felician College, but upon a second trip to Nyack he changed his mind and decided to join the Division 2 program. Nyack plays in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference, where it compiled a 7-13 conference record and a 8-19 overall record last season.

Brennan averaged 15.2 points, 8.3 rebounds and two blocks per game for the Raiders this year and hopes to step in and play right away. He said he chose Nyack because he felt comfortable with the coaching staff, players and the school.

"It's always been a dream (to play college basketball)," said Brennan. "It's a special feeling, knowing you are going to be able to play another four years. It feels real good."



LARRY MURPHY/RECORD-PRESS CORRESPONDENT Ryan Shallcross led Westfield at the Blue Devil Classic Monday, firing a three-over 39 to tie for sixth place.

Devils playing well, looking to get better

By DANIEL MURPHY

RECORD-PRESS WESTFIELD — As scary as it may sound, the Westfield High

golf team has room to improve. The Blue Devils finished

fourth in at the Blue Devil Classic at Echo Lake Country Club Monday with a 257 total, just one stroke behind both Christian Brothers Academy and Wall who tied for second place. Bergen Catholic won the tournament's team title with a 244 total, while Cranford sophomore Jason Occi fired a two-under 34 to win the individual title.

"I hit the ball real well and made some putts for the first time," said Occi. "Everything went real well and the green's putted true.'

Westfield was led by Ryan Shallcross, who tied for sixth with a three-over 39. Erin Cochren tied for ninth with a 40, Jeff Luker shot 41, Adam Karnish posted a 43, Gerritt III had a 46 and Chris Tropeano shot a 48.

"Five of the kids played real well," said Westfield Head Coach John Turnbull, "One kid just had two bad holes. I would be happier if we could have played a little better and finished second. If you count the top four scores, we shoot 163 which is a very very good score.'

Westfield faced a strong South Plainfield squad yesterday, and will take on Hunterdon Central at Shackamaxon Country Club Monday. In Turnbull's tenure at Westfield, the Devils have lost just five matches, two to Hunterdon Central. Westfield will then take on East Brunswick Tuesday.

Westfield has cruised to and undefeated record in matches but Turnbull believes his team has yet to play its best golf, a scary proposition for the Devils' Watchung Conference and Union County rivals. While Westfield has played well, the goal for every team is to peak in time for the Watchung Conference, Union

County tournaments and state sectional tournaments, which are looming closely on the horizon, as all are contested between May 6-13th.

C-1

The top five positions for Westfield's tournament lineup is set, being made up of Ill, Shallcross, Karnish, Cochren, Luker. Over the next two weeks the Devils are looking to keep their undefeated record alive and tune up for the most important week of the season.

"We have three weeks until it all counts," said Turnbull. "There's not much to build on. The lincup is set, the team has tournament experience.

'So far this season we've been playing worse than I thought we would. We've been kind of up and down. I know we can do better. We have to do better. If we can shoot 162 the rest of the year we wont lose a match. But we have to be more consistent.

"If the kids can play well, like they are capable of, and do it consistently we'll be fine."

Depth has Raiders ready to run away with titles

By DANIEL MURPHY

RECORD PRESS

While the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High boys track and field team will try to achieve glory on the strength of its superstars, the girls squad hopes to have similar results in a much different way.

Seniors Jill Koscielecki and Jayme Ferraro have emerged as bonafide stars for the Raiders, but it is the overall depth of the squad that has Head Coach Jeff Koegel hoping they can maintain and surpass the level of excellence of recent years.

Scotch Plains won the Watchung Conference, Union County Relays

and North Jersey Section 2 Group 3 championships last year and tied for second in the county individual championship. This season the Raiders are 3-0 in dual meets, won the Summit Relays Saturday and planning to retain all of last year's titles

"I think this is the best girls team we've had in the six years I've been here," said Koegel. "We've set some lofty goals, but they're all within reach.

"We don't have too many superstars, unlike the boys team, but we do have more depth than the boys team. These girls may not have their names in the headlines, but we're hoping to see our team's name in the headlines. That's more important to us. It's always been that way!

Koscielecki and Ferraro have emerged as the two leaders for the Raiders, each making strong contributions in several events. Ferraro specializes in the 400 intermediate hurdles, and can run the 100, 200, 400 and high jump for Scotch Plains. She also runs the lead leg on the 4x400 relay team.

Koscielecki just broke 60 seconds in the 400 for the first time last week, and has been shaving seconds off the time ever since, splitting 58.0 as the anchor leg of the 4x400 Saturday. She's learning the intermediate hurdles and is the

Raiders best high jumper and long jumper. Koegel will also use her at times in the 200, 400 and 800.

"The two of them really came into their own this winter," said Koegel. "We started pushing them more and the times started dropping. It's not a tough decision when the time comes to choose team MVPs. I'll spend more time writing their names down than thinking about it."

The field events are led by Kerri

Quinn, the Raiders top thrower. Colleen Coyle has also been impressive throwing the discus, cracking 100 feet for the first time last week. Scotch Plains also has a corps of freshman and sophomore sprinters who are coming along quickly to bolster the team's depth.

Scotch Plains won the Summit Relays with 90 points, eight better than second place West Orange Saturday and will compete in the prestigious Blue Devil Invitational Saturday. Scotch Plains won the 4x400 (Ferraro, Rachel Jones, Lauren Perrotta, Koscielecki) in 4:02.2, the intermediate hurdles (Koscielecki, Ferraro, Michelle Regg) in 3:31.6 and the team shot put (Amanda Wells, Quinn) at 57-9 1/4. Scotch Plains also took second in the distance medley (13:53.3), team high jump (9-4), team long jump (28-7), javelin (174-0) and discus (184-3). They finished third in the sprint medley in 4:30.7.



13-run second inning leads to 17-1 rout of SP-F

streak to three games before

Wednesday's meeting with Hunterdon Central. The Devils

host Bridgewater-Raritan today

and will face Watchung Hills 7

p.m. tomorrow in the Greater

North Plainfield Tournament

final at Krausche Field in North

Plainfield and will then travel to

Union 4 p.m. Monday in a show-

down between two teams vying

string of games in which the

Devils have an opportunity to

position itself for one of the top

seeds in the Union County

Tournament - which begins

April 27 - and find out exactly

where they stand in their quest

Monday was the first in a

for the top seed in the county.

By DANIEL MURPHY

RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS - Every opponent of the Westfield High baseball team knows how potent it's lineup can be. It all came together in the second inning Monday for the Blue Devils.

Combining hard hit blasts with seeing eyed singles and taking advantage of its opponents miscues, Westfield sent 18 men to the plate and scored 13 runs in the top of the second inning, opening up a 15-0 lead on its way to a 17-1 win over Scotch Plains. Andrew Garrison earned the win with four innings of shutout baseball, allowing just two hits and one walk while striking out six.

Scotch Plains fell to 3-3 while for the county and sectional

LARRY MURPHY/RECORD-PRESS CORRESPONDENT Andrew Garrison tossed four innings of shutout baseball as Westfield topped Scotch Plains 17-1 Monday.

the victory improved Westfield to titles. 5-1-1 and extended its win

"In all honestly (Monday's game) to next Monday is an eight day stretch with five games that are the five toughest in any one week period," said Westfield Head Coach Bob Brewster. "Hopefully we can come out with a good record out of that group. If we can we're in business, if not we'll have to battle from there.

"We have to make the plays defensively, which we've been doing. If you make the plays and get decent pitching you'll be in the game then it comes down to a couple of bats and I think we have a pretty decent lineup."

The Blue Devils demonstrated the strength of their lineup from top to bottom Monday. After Mike Sofka continued his season-long hot hitting with a two run blast to left field in the first inning, Westfield erupted in the second.

Blair Richardson singled and was sacrificed to second. Ben Koket and John Leonardis followed with RBI doubles, Brett Picaro singled, Jim McKeon and Sofka walked, Jay Cook doubled to knock Scotch Plains started Dave Senatore out of the game and Josh Ludmer walked to complete the first trip through the lineup with five runs scored, a 7-0 lead and the bases still loaded.

Richardson reached on an error, bringing home one more run, Brian Butts walked to score a run, Koket singled home a run, Leonardis struck out and Picaro walked to bring in another run. With the bases loaded McKeon lifted a fly ball to rightfield which was misplayed, allowing three more runs to score. Sofka then singled home McKeon for the final run of the inning. Westfield sent 18 batters to the plate in the inning, Scotch Plains sent 20 for the game.

Westfield tacked on an unearned run in the third and Butts drove in a run on a fielder's choice in the fourth. Scotch Plains broke up the shutout in the bottom of the fifth when Kyle Baker reached on an error and scored on a ground out by Dave Baumwell.

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Late rallies keep Blue Devils on winning track

stretched its wanning streak to five games Tuesday, edging Coloma 2.1 to improve to 7-1 on the leason.

C-2

Nicole DiFabio singled and scored on a single by Caitlin MacDonald to break a 1-1 be in the fifth. MacDonald tossed a two hitter while striking out 10

While MacDonald has been a rock for the Devils, it's been the somewhat surprising production of the offense which has fueled Westfield's Jast start. Westfield rallied for seventh among wars against. Bridgewater and Eduson, two very strong squade

"We've done a much better job (offensively) than I expected we would early in the sensor," said Head Coach Maggae McFadden. "Everybody has been able to put the ball in and make things happen. We haven't blown anybody out, but we're scoring enough to win."

Westfield 7, Scotch Plains 0 ----MacDonald dominated the Scotch

The Westfield High softball team - Plains hitters and Jessica Guerriero and Rachel Wagner keyed the Westfield offense as the Blue Devils defeated Scotch Plains 7-0 Monday

MacDonald struck out 12 and allowed four hits, while Guerriero keyed a three-run second inning rally with a two-run double. Wagner was 3-for-3 with two runs and an RBI

Westfield 6, Bridgewater 5 — Lisa Venezia's bases loaded walk in the bottom of the seventh scored Lauren Gelmetti wit the game winning run to cap a four-run rally Saturday, Wagner, Nicole DiFavio and Gelmetti drove in the other runs in the inning, while MacDonald and Tara Dowling each doubled to spark the inning. MacDonald earned the win.

BOYS LACROSSE

Mike Debrossey returned from injury to score three goals and Billy. Schultz and Jordan Loffredo each had two in Westfield's 13-3 rout of St. Joseph's Metuchen Monday.

HIGH SCHOOL WRAPUP

Devils

Schultz also had two assists as Westfield upped its record to 6-1

Westfield 11, Montelair 3 -Ben Masel, Tim Mansfield and Taylor Hogarth all scored two goals as Westfield routed rival Montclair 11.3 Saturday, Schultz had four assists and Brian Pirot made 17 saves for the Devils

GIRLS LACROSSE

Ashley Kent scored three goals and added three assists as Westfield. scored an impressive victory over Oak Knoll, 10-9 Monday Morgan Long scored three times, assisted on . a goal and signed on to play at William and Mary next year Brittany Miller added two goals for Westfield.

Bridgewater 15, Westfield 5 - The Devils suffered their first setback of the season Saturday, 15.5 to Bridgewater-Raritan. Brittany Miller had two goals for Westfield.

Westfield 18, Phillipsburg 6-Morgan Lang scored five goals to pace Westfield past Phillipsburg 18-6 April 11, Brittany Miller and Ali Pino each added three goals for the

TRACK

In a small preview to the Union County Relay Championships, the Westfield boys track squad tied for third in Division 2 at the Summit Relays Saturday with county-rivid Planfield, scoring 46 points, Uniontook first with 74 points and Scotch-Plains was fifth with 34

Behind Adam Wendel the Devils won the team long jump (42-9-1/2). and high jump (11-8) The Devils also took second in the 4x400 (3:27.1) and 4x800 (8:28.5), fourth in the 4x100 (45.2) and distance medley (11:23.4), and fifth in the team pole vault (19-6).

TENNIS

Westfield cruised to victory over Cranford Monday, winning all five matches without dropping a single.

Westfield 3, Chatham 2 --- Rich Moran (second-singles), Dave Eisenberg (third singles) and the second-doubles tandem of Doug Shineman and Devin Power each won to lift Westfield to a 3-2 winover Chatham April 11.

SCOTCH PLAINS

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High softball team dropped a 7-0 decision. to Westfield Monday Shanava Willis had two of Scotch Plains' four hits

Roselfe Park H, Scotch Laura Manzi's solo. Plains 1 home run was the only run in an 11 1 loss to Roselle Park Friday

Cranford 11, Scotch Plains 1 - Shanaya Willis hit a soc fly to score Lindsey Pennella with Scotch-Plains only run in an 11-1 loss to Cranford April 11.

BASEBALL Scotch Plains fell to Westfield 17-Monday (see C-1) Dave Baumwell, who just missed a home run in the first mning, drove in Scotch Plains only run in the fifth

Rahway 5, Scotch Plains 4 ---Andrew Payoni was stranded at second base with the game tying run inthe seventh anning as Scotch Plans fell to Rahway 5-4 Saturday.

Scotch Plains 4, Cranford 2-Andrew Pavoni hit a two-run twoout double to break a 2-2 tie in the bottom of the sixth inning and lift the Raders to a 3-2 victory over Cranford April 11, Dave Senatore strack out nine and walked three while giving up seven hits to earn the win

TENNIS.

Scotch Plans topped New Providence 4-1 Monday, falling only at first singles

Scotch Plains 5, Linden 0 — 1 The Raiders swept Linden April 10 without dropping a set.



C-3

YOUTH SPORTS

BASEBALL

The Westfield Baseball League Major League Division opened it's season Saturday with several exciting games. The 10 team 10 year-old division plays twice a r gek

Orioles 7, Blue Jays 6 Mets 14, Braves 13 Yankees 5, Cardinals 3 Diamondbacks 14, Angels 3 Dodgers 15, A's 2

GYMNASTICS

Surgents excels The Class 5 Boys Team from Surgents Elite School of Gymnastics in Garwood competed in the 26th Annual New Jersey State Gymnastics Championship held in Clifton on March 23 with outstanding results. All the members of the team in the age 8-9 category qualified for the regional competition to be held at the University of Maryland Baltimore County April 13 Andrew Gialanetta of Westfield placed

in all six events taking fifth in the all-around with a score of 47.8. He took third place in pommel horse and high bar sixth in floor and parallel bars, seventh in rings and tenth in vault Justin Catalance Mountainside placed in all six events taking eighth in all-around with a score of 44.3. He took sixth place in high bar, seventh in parallel bars, eighth in floor, ninth in pommel horse and yaust, and tenth in rings.

Westfield's Bobby Oberlander placed in three events, taking ninth in the all-around with a score of 44.3. He took fourth place in pommel horse fifth place in rings, and tenth in floor Westfield's Kevin Clancy placed in four of the six events and linished eleventh in the all-around with a score of 41.0 He took sixth place in pommel horse. eighth in vault, and ninth in parallel bars and high bars. Daniel Zavaro of Westheld. who faced lough competition in the age 10treategory took ninth in pommet horse his best events, and finished with an a Faround score of 47.8 F-SP qualifying

The Fanwcool Scotch Plains YMCA 'B division gymnastics team attended its final away meet of the 2002 regular season Sunday April 7 at the Madison Area YMCA against South Mountain, Montciair and Westheld YMCAs. Girls from several of the teams competed under USAG Level 8 rules seeking qualitying scores for the Regional Championship meet to be held in June. Since the gymnasts competed under two different sets of rules, teams scores were not calculated and the girls seeking qualifying scores were not awarded ribbons. The girls who competed under regular meet rules were awarded ribbons.

Fanwood-Scotch Plains B division gymnasts Rebecca Keiser Francesca Magda Mierzejwska and Lumelta Samantha Scarinci competed under the Level 8 rules. Keiser: Lumetta and Mierzejewska all earned scores qualifying

them to compete at the Regional Championship meet They will join 'A' division team members who qualified to compele at the meet to be held at Oak Knott School in Summit June 8

Allison Zeller competed in the 11-andunder age group of the gymnasts competing under the modified Level 8 rules Competing in the 12 year old age group. Natalie Szaroleta had a great day, earning ribbons on all four events and in the All-Around Szaroleta's ribbons included fourth place on vault, balance beam and all around and fifth place awards on uneven bars and floor exercise

Karen Lucy, Barie Salmon and Tracy Salmon competed in the 13 and over age group Lucey earned first place on vault with a personal high score Tracy Salmon earned the second place ribbon for her routine on uneven bars.

'A' team members Kate Breuninger and Allegra Kenwell also competed at the meet Both Breuninger and Kenwell earned qualifying scores entering them into the National Championships to be held in Niagara Falls in July

SOCCER

Power surge

For the second straight week the weather was cold, the opposition was a South Mountain team and the Power wonby shutout. That is where the similarities end The Scotch Plans Power a U12 girls.

intercounty soccer team, made the South Mountain Bombers their second consecutive victim in a 4-0 whitewashing at Flood's Hill field in South Orange, Sunday and unlike the tense close first game this was a generally one sided contest

Another difference from the first week was an additional four players who were missed the previous game among the returnees was Nicole Colonieri who fired in a haid 20 yaid shot 10 minutes in to give the Power all the scenna needed. Dana Calcedo made it 2-0 by pulling in a short shot and Danielle Wood scored her second goal of the spring just before halftime. Once again the detense sparkled as fullbacks Mary Henkels, Maña Rivero Lindsay Traiman and Jaciyo Lazarus combined with goalies Allie Thek and Jessica Santes to limit the Bombers' scoring chances. Later Coloneir and Wood showed their versability by aiding the defense. Santos was making her first appearance of the spring and showed senie excellent anticipation in the goal. She was filing in for Chritina DeMonaco the second goalie who was out Wood and Colneri paced the midfield which also included Kristen Lambertson, Caitlin Daly and Calcedo. Wood added her second goal of the game to complete the scoring Many players switched back between posi tions but the main offensive players were Courtney Baines: Avery Boottcher and Cecilia Osterman The Power play their next game Saturday at home against the Springheid Sweepers



The Holy Trinity varsity basketball team won the Catholic School Suburban League regular season and tournament championships as well as the St. Agnes Tournament and Father Whelan Tournament. Back row, from left: Anthony Alvernes, Coach Jerry Hughes, Greg Solimo, James LiVolsi, Matt Stanczak, Coach Tim Dursee, Coach Tony Pastore and Brendan Smith. Front row: Tom Fitzpatrick, Mike Serzan, Drew Bonner, Emmett Marsili, Kyle Gibbons, Andrew Colon, Mike Pastore, Mark Del Monaco.



REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Union County

CRANFORD 46C Parkway Village from Carl Goldenberg to Deidre Smith for \$121,250.

SUMMIT

34 Joanna Way from Cendant Mobility Financial Corp. to Charles J. & Virginia Horton for \$660,000.

10 Rotary Lane from Cynthia G. Levine to Robert & Jayne Myers for \$839,000.

Somerset County

BEDMINSTER

32 Foxwood Court from Jewel Johanns to Carrie Longstaff for \$209,900.

5 Wescott Road from Paula J. Capri to Karen E. Pellicone for **\$145,000**.

BOUND BROOK

50 Franklin St. from Charles Wight to RED Investments L.L.C. for \$120,000.

30 Giles Biondi Court from **Ronald L.** Nowalsky to Frank A. **3hiselli** for \$125,000.

268 N. Metape Circle from Mark A. Lopisz & M.M. Carmody to Robert & Maria Foglia for

\$292,000. BRANCHBURG 128 Readington Road from

Frank & Deborah Praino to Brian Fertig et.al. for \$397,000. BRIDGEWATER

2102 Ackmen Court from Matthew & Linda Ruggiero to Sangho Lee et.al. for \$255,000.

556 Bridgewater Ave. from Linda Waldruff to Ana D. Carides for \$195,000.

1444 Hunter Road from Robert F. & Sara M. Fischer to Bruce T. & Paula Storm for \$285,000.

7 McManus Drive from Eric S. Gold to Michael & Deborah Mele for \$630,000.

84 Pine St. from Joseph & Diane Elmi to Julio & Azura Izaguirre for \$224,500.

61 Shaffer Road from Indu & Salish C. Dutt to David B. & Modene Williamson for \$402,000. 319 Sunnyside Terrace from Ronald & Shari L. Wahl to James F. & Michele R. Gallic for

\$259,000. **GREEN BROOK**

514 Cardinal Lane from Baker Residential L.P. to Rajesh Grover

et.al. for \$461,370. 1411 King Court from Roger W. Counter to Francis J. DeSousa Jr. et.al. for \$172,000.

205 School St. from Ping Tsui to Franco Sorrentino et.al. for \$230,000.

1019 Shadow Lawn Drive from Baker Residential L.P. to Chung H. & Sung C. Oh for \$330,810.

244 West End Ave. from Baker Residential L.P. to Bernadino & Rocchina Caruso for \$488,840.

NORTH PLAINFIELD

117 Delacy Ave. from Mark & Andrea M. Kowal to Brian M. Bloch for \$280,000.

26-28 Fairview Ave. from Thomas S. & Anita M. Klutler to Sheng S. Wang et.al. for \$325,000. 50 Harrison Ave. from Henry & Donna C. DiLello to Robert J.

Hurtz Jr. for \$196,000. 120-124 Meadowbrook Drive from Marya G. Withers to Robin L. Cunningham for \$20,000.

166-168 Netherwood Ave. from Sean M. & Susan B. Dougherty to Larry Wasserman for \$162,000.

42E Regency Village from Ibrahim Hishmeh to Clayton L. Manhattan for \$75,500.

RARITAN

23 Glaser Ave. from Mary Matus to John & Lenore Dildine \$134,900.

for \$152,000 SOMERVILLE

61 Grove St. from J. Carl Hockenbury to Frank Swickel

et.al. for \$139,000.

WARREN

21 Dead River Road from James K. Zilinski Jr. & Karen Zilinski to Richard & Carol A. Keirstead for \$320,000. 71 Hillcrest Road from Laura M. McGowan to Hossein Rahimi

for \$267,000. 42 Roseland Ave. from Joseph H. Presley et.al. to Robert L. & Mary P. Finer for \$325,000.

Middlesex County

EDISON

ili.

Kazimer to Arthur I. & Shanda B. Edwards for \$190,000.

7 Barlow Road from Gloria M. Danforth et.al. to Nipon Prasomuk for \$251,000.

513 Edison Glen Terrace from Salesh & Poonam Gupta to Seehagiri Abbireddy for

11 Lucille Court from Donald A. & Annette McCrystal to Rafi & Uzma Khan for \$425,000.

112 MacArthur Drive from Ahmed E. Abrolisy to Javvardhan Mehta et.al. for \$136,000.

339 Plainfield Road from Ronda Strzalkowski to Saeed Paydar et.al. for \$180,000.

993 Wood Ave. from Peter A. & Denise L. Nicolato to Heidi A. Hoefer for \$245,000.

MIDDLESEX

Cook Avenue from Razzano Construction Inc. to Alfonso Ortiz et.al. for \$179,900.

PISCATAWAY

67 Alcou Ave. from Alexia J. Birchview Properties L.L.C. to Penyak Sr. et.al. for \$125,000.

Prafulla Amin for \$256,472. 242 Grandview Ave. fro William & Sandra S. Stransl

April 19, 200

Gerald & Patric to Williamson for \$325,000. 200 Hampshire Court from

Steven P. & Marjorie Petrase to Frederick C. & Ell Kauffman for \$158,000.

206 Poplar Place from Riccardo McLaughlin to Moir Burns et.al. for \$95,000.

233 Shirley Parkway fron Kimberly M. Gillespie to Lanc Sturdevant et.al. for \$225,000.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD

832 Dominick Court from JSM at New Durham L.L.C. to Agam Vaidya for \$149,990.

1113 Maltby Ave. from Thadeus & C. Lyszczasz tc William J. & Eva G. McKnight for \$225,000.

3120 Park Ave. from Mark McDonough to Elizabeth Villafrade for \$190,000.

305 Pulaski St. from Leon & 30 E. Burgess Drive from Frances Sikanowicz to Joseph

Counseling services are available to potential home buyers

BY JAMES M. WOODARD

OPLEY NEWS SERVICE

ERA

It's tough to buy a home these days. Prices are high and there are more liverse mortgage plans offered by lenders han ever before. How can the average 'amily cope with such a complex maze of lecisions?

An increasing number of families are aking advantage of counseling services often well-prepared, seminar-type preentations available to prospective home suyers at no charge. These counseling services can effectively set the foundation for naking the right home-buying decisions.

Typically, a home bayer education proram includes a sequence of qualified preenters, such as a mortgage lender, title xecutive, appraiser and Realtor. The sesions teach the basics of how to shop for a

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house, determine its value, make an offer, arrange for financing, and assist in a smooth closing. It will also focus on how large a house a family needs, how to determine how much they can afford to pay, and how to save for the needed down payment.

Counseling programs are often produced by private, nonprofit or for-profit entities. Some are held by government agencies. Others are offered by local Realtor firms or title companies. Some are produced by a local association of Realtors.

For example, a particularly successful program in recent years has been offered by the Home Loan Counseling Center of Sacramento, Calif. Their sessions have helped an estimated 50,000 home buyers find and purchase a home of their own.

This group's mission is to help buyers understand the mound of information, such as loan appli-

cations and credit checks, they must wade through when buying a home. "Our goal is to

help home buyers

feel comfortable dealing with the various professionals they'll work with in the process," said Jayna Bower, the group's executive director. "We also help homeowners find down-payment assistance."

This group's program involves three sessions. They cover the buying process, credit and money management, and responsible homeownership. The three courses take about eight hours to complete. The course is free, but there are nominal charges for workbooks.

The counseling industry has become much more professional since the American Homeowner Education and Counseling Training Institute was launched about 12 years ago. This organization was started by real estate groups to train the trainers using a program developed by a wide range of real estate industry players. The organization also conducts outreach programs to promote the use of counseling agencies.

"The majority of home education providers don't have the resources to develop their own complete curriculum," said Karen Hill, the institute's former chief executive. "We've created a four-day

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training program for educators that uses a core curriculum, an exam, and a certification program that identifies the participant as a housing counselor.

Such counseling standards are important to consumers --- particularly home buyers. We are bombarded daily by media messages that make decisions like car and home buying seem simple. But it's not simple. And in the area of home buying, one wrong decision can cost the consumer thousands of extra dollars.

Q. Where can I find viable information about landslide problems on residential properties?

A. Landslides are serious problems for many homeowners. We all want to avoid them whenever possible. A good way to reach that objective is to visit a Web site recently posted by our landslide guru and professor emeritus of civil engineering, Dr. R. L. Handy.

Handy indicates e water is a major player in most landslides. He says friction is lowered and buoyancy increases when soil is saturated.

He also says it is foolish to push sliding soil back uphill, because in its weakened condition the soil inevitably will slide down again and take more with it.

More information about landslides and what to do about them can be found ir Handy's book, "The Day the House Fell," available from Amazon.com and Borders.com. His company manufactures instruments in vented while Handy was ϵ professor at Iowa State University, to measure soil strength and soil pressure.

To learn more about landslides via the Internet, visit Handy's Web site www.handygeotech.com, then click or "Test your landslide savvy here." You'l learn a lot about landslides and what to do, and not do, if you should be so unfor tunate as to experience one in your vard.

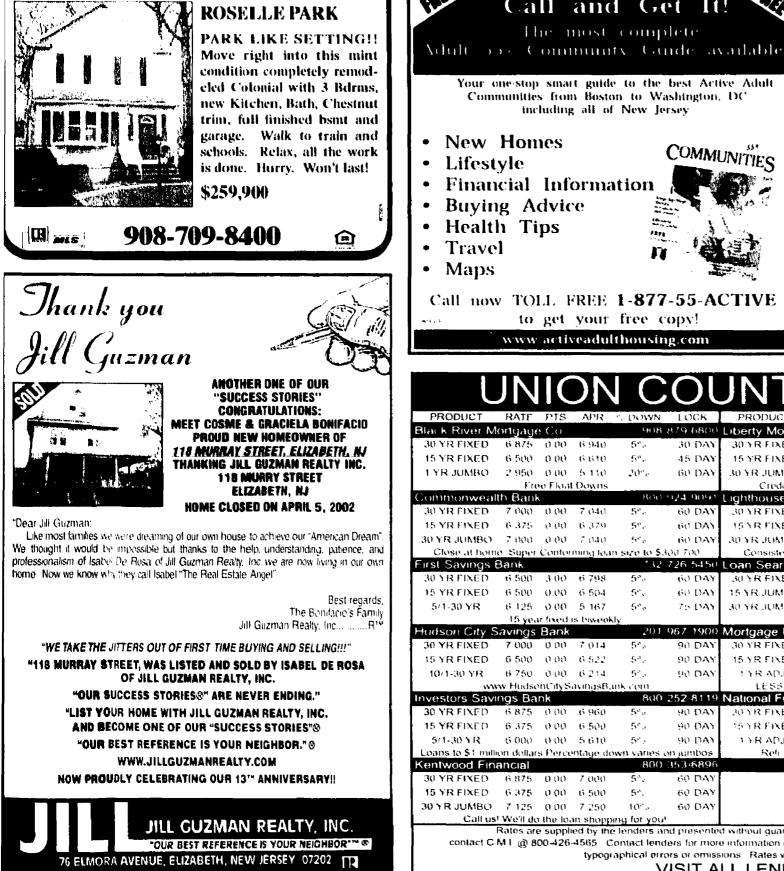
Q. What's being done about mortgage lenders who rip off customers?

A. The courts and the Federal Trade Commission are cracking down or predatory mortgage lenders.

First Alliance Mortgage Corp. recent ly agreed to pay up to \$60 million ir compensation to 18,000 people it is accused of deceiving by concealing extremely high fees and interest rates that rose automatically over time. \square The settlement is by far the largest

reached by the FTC in a case involving

predatory lending.



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Williams earns Legend Award **XX72112**

GREEN BROOK --- The Prudential New Jersey Properties Green Brook office has announced that sales associate Russell Williams has been awarded the prestigious Prudential Legend Award, one of the company's highest honors.

The Prudential Legend Award is presented to sales associates who have received the Chairman's Circle Award five or more times during their affiliation with the Prudential Real Estate Network. Williams was presented the award during special ceremonies at the company's Annual Sales Convention in New Orleans in March 2002.

"We are extremely proud of Russell." said Donna Perk, manager of Prudential's Green Brook office. "To be recognized as a consistent member of Prudential's prestigious Chairman's Circle requires perseverance, dedication and a great deal of hard work. Russell has all of these qualities and

then some." With more than \$14 million in sales-ir 2001, Williams has created a name for himself as a marketing expert, among seller: and fellow Realtors alike. In addition to achieving the company's 2001 Chairman's Circle Gold award, placing him among the top three percent of sales associates nationwide, he also received PNJP's Round Table award, ranking him one of the company't top 40 associates. The office's 2001 Sale Associate of the Year also received the NJAR Million Dollar Sales Club Gold award for the fourth consecutive year Williams also recently garnered third plac company-wide for both closed units an total number of listings for 2001.

With more than 10 years of real estat experience, Williams is Prudential certifie in both buyer and seller relocation. Contac him at (732)968-6565, Ext. 345 or via emai at RussellWilliams@PruNewJersey.com.

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Automotive/Classified

ELexus crossover gets high marks from mother and kids

By LAURA BYRD

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

"Tell them it has really soft. comfortable seats," my 9-yearold daughter said from the rear seat.

"And I really like the way the back hatch opens," she added with emphasis.

"I like this thing," chimed in my 14-year-old, tapping the smooth chrome globe that serves as a shift knob for the 5-speed automatic transmission, "and it's got cool lights in back. Yeah, this is a pretty cool 'car.'

And so it goes.

The SportCross is one of two new designs for the sporty IS 300 and it is the Lexus answer to the BMW 3-Series.

It was a 2001 debutante at the race track in the North American Street Stock Series, and while it might seem most appropriate to cite its 0-to-60 numbers - 7.4 seconds - and driving performance -- fun and sporty – the SportCross has been built with a different audience in mind than the first incarnation of the IS 300.

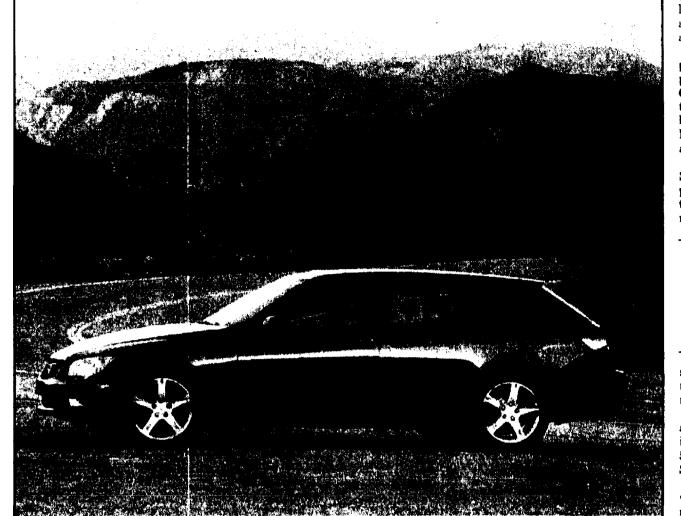
Designed as part of a new breed of crossover vehicles that bridge the gap between station wagons, sedans and sport utility vehicles, we gave the new SportCross a run-through doing exactly what Lexus built it for.

"We" being one fairly hip, female adult, and three observant female children with lots of seat time in new automo- biles. Astute passengers, they know what they like and what works.

And, as part of the entourage that hauls grocery bags, programs navigational systems and is mothered by a woman who won't even sit in a minivan, they're sharp. Between furniture stores,

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The SportCross is one of two new designs for the sporty IS 300 and it is the Lexus answer to the BMW 3-Series.

bulk grocery stores and school drop-off zone, the SportCross got passing marks.

One consistent strength with Lexus is ease of use. The SportCross further solidifies that standard with the same intuitive placement of instrumentation.

From the passenger seat, it doesn't take long to adjust mirrors, seat controls and air conditioning. Even the GPS has a mouse directly under the driver's right hand in the center console.

Without having to lean forward to touch the screen or scroll through functions on the dash, the navigational system is easily reached and programmed from a comfortable seating position.

With the added plus of computer controls that are exclusive to it and have nothing to do with audio or HVAC settings, it works well for small

nimble fingers that are able to easily manipulate the little mouse.

Bottom line: dad hated it. mom loved it. Seating position is low but comfortable with a sporty feel, good visibility and adequate elbow support.

The brushed stainless steel scuff plates on the doorframes, brushed aluminum pedals and chronograph style speedometer make for a sporty ambience. Once on the road, it is clear

the sport package isn't just for looks. Acceleration is excellent. and freeway driving is smooth and quiet.

Sudden acceleration into passing gear is a little disappointing -- the 3.0 liter in-line 6-cylinder engine growled a fittle and hesitated slightly but higher gears shift seamlessly and accelerate quickly and effortlessly.

Handling is tight, with the SportCross demonstrating easy precision and agility through turns. It's a firm, fun ride with minimal noise as long as the

grocories, one child and still had room to spare. The down side of the

SportCross functionality and design is the low profile that facilitates easy loading also means a front air dam that scrapes every single curb when parking and a daunting blind spot on the right side.

Removing the head rest on the right rear seat helped, but SportCross' sporty body lines means a rear window pillar becomes a lane-changing issue requiring stratogic use of mirrors.

Designed as part of a new breed of crossover vehicles that bridge the gap between station wagons, sedans and sport utility vehicles, we gave the new SportCross a run-through doing exactly what Lexus built it for.

sun roof is shut. An open sun roof adds considerable wind noise on the freeway.

Passengers are most comfortable in the rear seat when limited to two people under 5-foot-5. Any taller and the SportCross feels confining.

The rear center seat is set up with a nifty ceiling-mounted restraint that works especially well for child seats. In fact, the SportCross is particularly child- and cargo-friendly.

With a low profile and onetouch hatch release, the rear cargo area is easily reached and loaded by my youngest daughter ("This is so easy!" she exclaimed).

The top of the hatch door can be shut without stretching, and snaps firmly without the muscle required by some rear doors. We loaded it with three unassembled dining room chairs, a small table, two 12by-18-inch mirrors, six bags of

Overall, we adjusted because so much about it worked so well. On top of its utility, performance and comfort, the SportCross looks pretty good, too. We actually got whistles and a thumbs up from a couple of teen-age boys.

Smiling during the din of squealing girls, I couldn't help but think - "Not bad for a station wagon." Price

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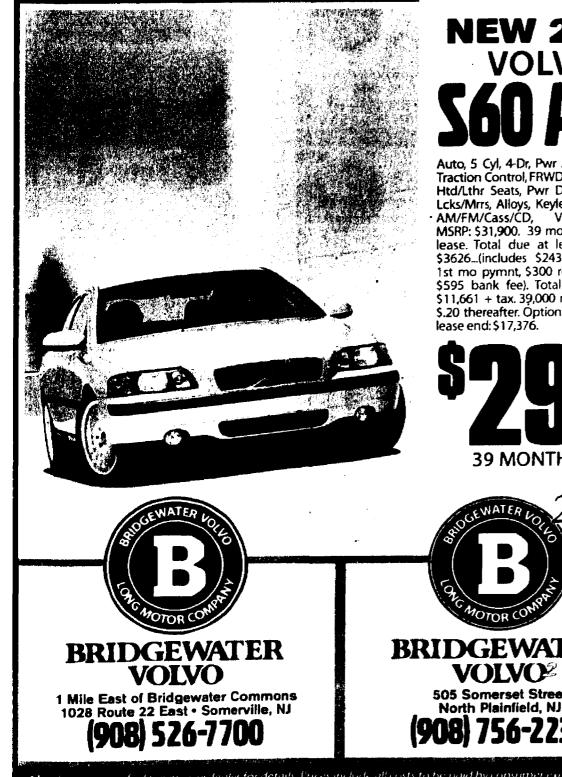
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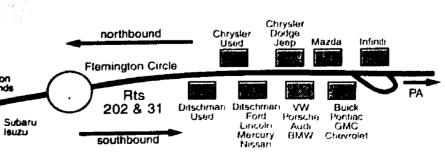
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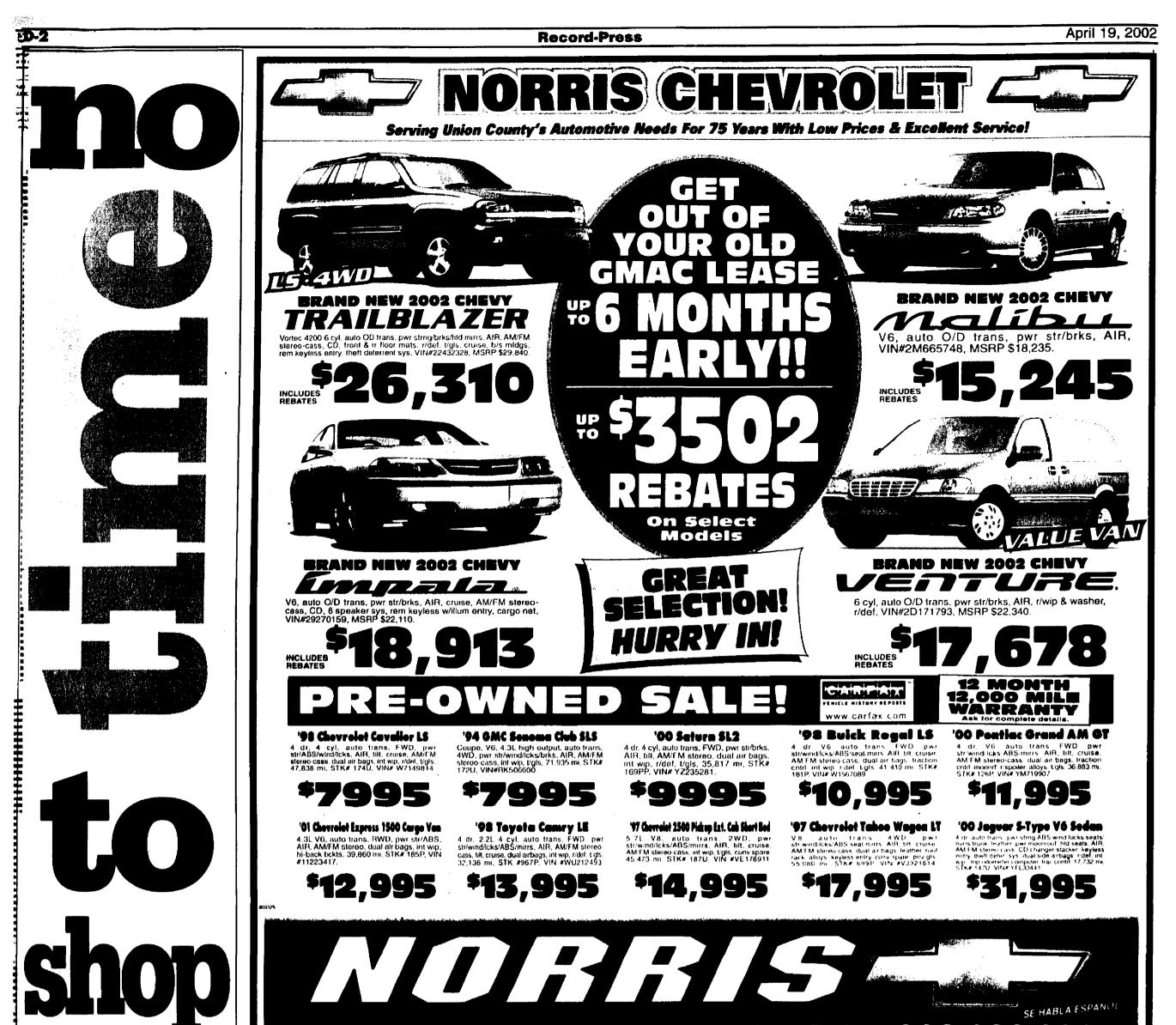


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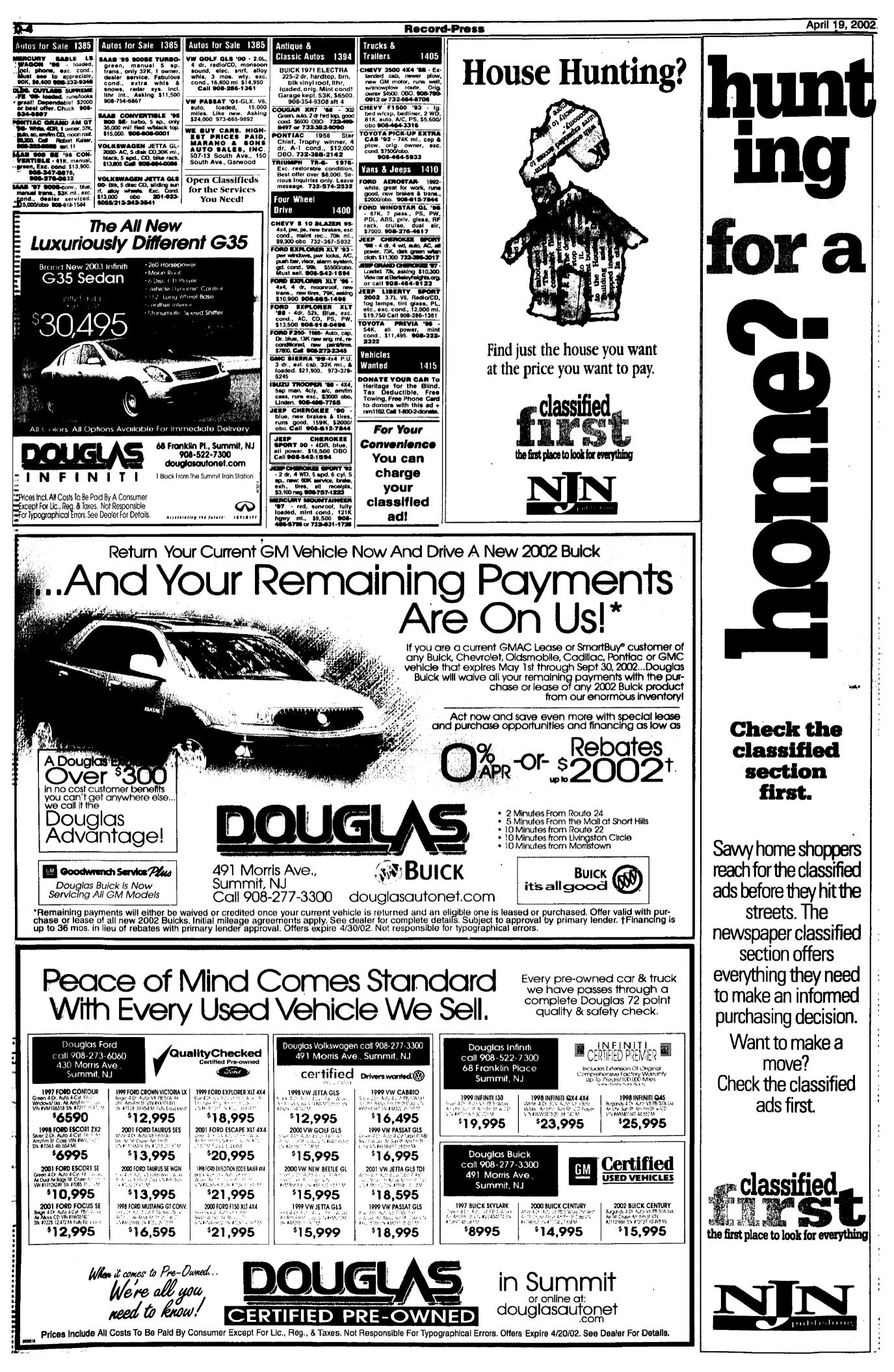
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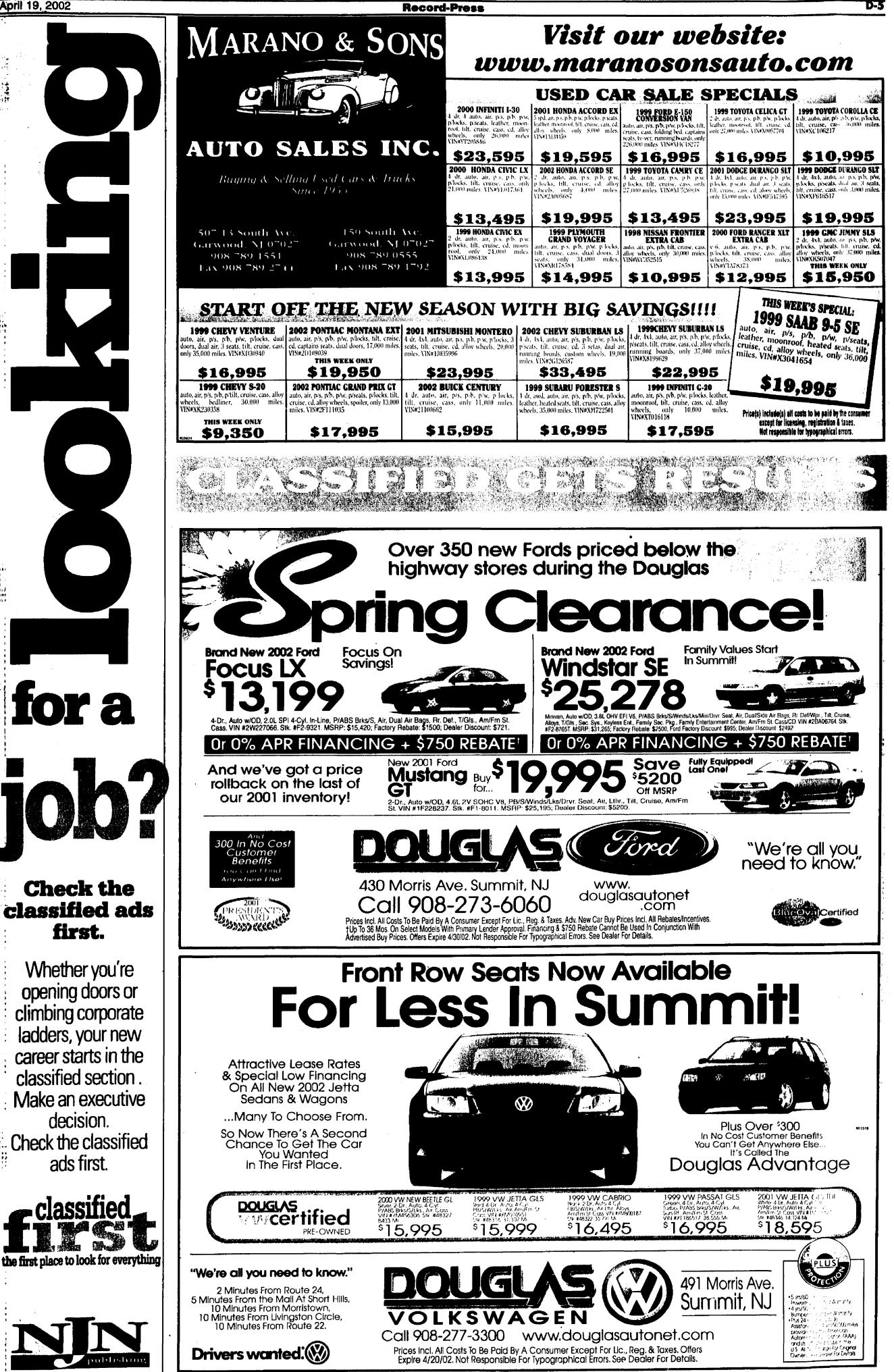
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