

Record-Press

Serving Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood

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INS



In the swing of things

The Westfield High softball team brings back an experienced squad, including junior Brittany Vella, and is looking forward to a winning season after going 8-12 last year. For the story see Sports, Page C-1.



Rugby in Union County?

Rugby may be an unfamiliar sport to most area residents, but the Union County Mudturtles have been taking to the pitch for decades now. For more on the team, which plays its home games at Unami Park in Garwood, see Page B-1.



Temple collects 'Purim Pasta'

At its recent Purim celebration, Temple Emanu-El in Westfield encouraged congregants to bring boxes of pasta. The boxes, which were donated to a local food pantry, also came in handy as the noise-makers traditionally used on the holiday. For more, see Page A-8.

REMINDER

Healthy Kids Day is Saturday

Both the Westfield and Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCAs will participate in the national Healthy Kids Day event from 1-4 p.m. Saturday. The programs, which will feature fun activities and information about fitness for children, are intended to promote a healthy spirit, mind and body.

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Board hopes to put turf field at Kehler

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — At a special meeting Monday night, the Board of Education approved a resolution to proceed with bid specifications for a turf field at Kehler Stadium and renovations at the high school running track. Under the proposal, the district would also refurbish existing grass fields at Edison Intermediate School.

The combined projects would be funded through a bond referendum, tentatively scheduled for Sept. 28. If voters approve the referendum, the district would bond about \$1.1 million over 10 years, at a cost of perhaps one tax point, or one cent per \$100 of assessed value, to property owners.

According to Facilities Committee Chairwoman Kim Rhodes, the running track has deteriorated to the point that if it's not replaced immediately, the high

school track program cannot continue beyond this year. The track last saw major work in 1986, and has outlived its useful life.

District Administrator Bob Berman said work on all three projects would be slated for spring 2005, although renovations would be coordinated to accommodate spring athletic seasons.

The turf field project has been an issue recognized by both the board and the Town Council for some time, as athletic

fields throughout Westfield are overused and require constant refurbishment. A growing number of officials have argued that constructing turf fields, which can absorb more wear and require less maintenance, are the answer to the problem.

Constructing an artificial turf field would also allow for "less maintenance of grass fields because we would get more use out of artificial fields," Rhodes said at

(Continued on page A-2)



JOHN FEI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Tastes good!

Karly Alexander and her brother Jason enjoy the fruits — or, in this case, the matzo — of their labor at the matzo-making class for kids at the JCC of Central NJ in Scotch Plains Sunday. The Jewish holiday of Pesach, or Passover, begins Monday evening.

Board approves \$63.5 million spending plan

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Board of Education unanimously adopted a budget for the 2004-05 school year that calls for an increase in spending of about 7 percent.

Spending increases are normally capped at 3 percent by the state, but the district was permitted to exceed that level based on enrollment increases, capital costs, and rising insurance premiums.

Pending voter approval in the April 20 election, total appropriations for the budget would be set at \$63.5 million, of which \$55.3 million would come from property taxes. That means homeowners in Scotch Plains would face an increase of \$384 for a home assessed at the township average of \$117,000. In Fanwood, the tax hike would be set at \$229 for a home assessed at the borough

average of \$83,000.

The difference in assessments is caused by different methods of taxation in the two municipalities, according to business administrator Anthony Del Sordi. In Scotch Plains, property owners are continuing to pay for capital projects approved by a bond referendum in 2002. Fanwood residents have already paid their share of that tax increase.

Therefore, the tax increase in Scotch Plains would be about 7.5 percent, while Fanwood residents would see a 5.1 percent increase in the school district portion of their property tax bill. Scotch Plains pays 78.6 percent of the tax levy, compared to 21.4 percent for Fanwood.

Due to increasing enrollment — the district expects to see an additional 100 students next year — the district plans to add

(Continued on page A-2)

Westfield board sends school budget to the voters

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Board of Education approved its 2004-05 budget at a special meeting Monday night, and now the fate of the spending plan lies in the hands of voters, who will cast ballots on the issue April 20.

Total appropriations were set at approximately \$71.7 million, up almost 6 percent from last year's figure of about \$67.7 million. The school district portion of the property tax levy would also increase by about 6 percent, resulting in a 19-point tax hike. That means the average home in Westfield, assessed at \$180,000, would see an increase of about \$342 on the school portion of the property tax bill.

Board Vice President Anne Riegel said

that as district enrollment continues to rise, so too do the costs of accommodating students. She noted in the general education portion of the budget, aside from textbooks and training costs, other expenses were kept flat.

"Principals are making do with the same dollars as last year," Riegel said.

Superintendent William Foley noted Westfield students continue to perform at one of the highest levels in the state while officials allocate a per-pupil expenditure rate which is lower than the state average.

The introduced budget includes four new teachers, one resource center teacher and one guidance counselor at the high

school at a cost of \$220,000. The increase will accommodate climbing enrollment at the school.

A limited capital budget was set at \$163,000, including a temporary classroom at either Tamaques or Wilson Elementary School and a partial ceiling replacement at Edison Intermediate School.

The special education budget would rise by about 6.5 percent if the budget is approved by voters, due to an increased number of students requiring out of district placement and the rising costs associated with placing those students.

General education expenditures are up

between 2.5 and 5.5 percent, the rate seen for most budget categories. Insurance costs are an exception to that rate, however, rising by nearly 15 percent. The district is attempting to lower insurance costs by enrolling new staff into a point of service plan, which is cheaper than traditional insurance plans.

Perhaps the most controversial item was the 13 percent increase in the technology portion of the budget. Much of the increase is attributable to the replacement of computers.

Some board members have expressed reservations in particular about a plan to replace approximately 140 laptops for high school teachers, who do not have assigned classrooms. But at a meeting on

(Continued on page A-2)

Planning Board endorses proposal for Fanwood tower

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

FANWOOD — A plan to construct a new communications tower at Borough Hall received a non-binding endorsement from the Planning Board March 24, though concerns expressed by residents who attended the meeting were echoed by several members of the board.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the board voted 7-2 to endorse the tower. Because the hearing was a courtesy hearing, intended to serve as a forum for residents and board members to participate in the process by incorporating their concerns about the proposed tower, a vote against the plan would not have resulted in the tower being denied.

The Borough Council will continue to make adjustments to their plan to construct the communications tower, which would effectively replace another tower on the municipal property. That tower is leaning approximately 20 percent, is considered unsafe and is insufficient to meet the

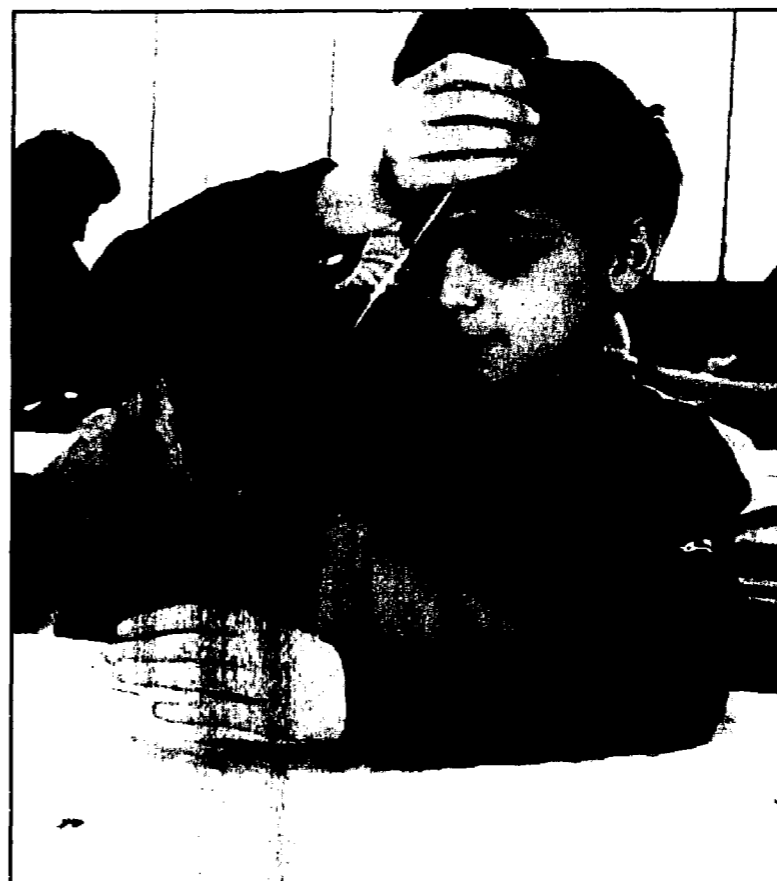
needs of the borough's police and fire departments.

Planning Board officials and residents agreed that some kind of new tower is needed to meet the communications needs of the borough's first responders. But several residents object to the idea of constructing a 120-foot tall tower on the rear of the property, arguing that the tower is unsightly and will have a negative effect on their property values.

"The reality is that I will have to look at that tower as long as I live," said resident Kathy Herschwin, referring to a digital-enhanced photograph on display that depicted the likely appearance of the communications tower.

The proposed tower would be a lattice-style design, a style preferred by Charles Whelan of Salient Associates, the consultant who recommended the tower design to the council. He said the latticed tower would best serve the types of antennas — including cell antennas, potentially —

(Continued on page A-2)



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A stitch in time

Evan Grafas, 11, of Warren, is intent on his sewing at the 11th annual AIDS Babies Quilt-a-Thon at Westfield's Holy Trinity Church Saturday. Volunteers at the event work to make quilts for infants stricken by the deadly disease. For more photos from the event, turn to Page A-3.

YMCA plans to buy church

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Westfield YMCA is planning to acquire a church on East Broad Street and convert it into a multipurpose facility for children, teens, and seniors.

The church, which is located at 422 East Broad Street, is currently occupied by the First Church of Christ, a branch of Christian Scientists. According to YMCA executive director Mark Elsasser, members of the congregation wanted to sell the building because of a small number of parishioners and are planning to move to a new location.

The YMCA, which is a nonprofit organization, will acquire the building through a \$4 million loan from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA), an agency which helps nonprofit organizations secure low-interest loans.

(Continued on page A-2)

Westfield board approves budget

(Continued from page A-1)

March 23, the board decided to keep the laptops in the budget and to purchase less expensive models, which would still meet teachers' needs.

Two residents who spoke at Monday's meeting said the 6 percent increase in the tax levy will contribute to skyrocketing property tax hikes, which they said are forcing residents to leave town.

"People are moving out of Westfield because they can't afford it," said resident Bill Tingley. "If we can't do something (about taxes) we're going to lose a lot of people who have been here a long time."

"I think you need to sharpen your pencils more than you've been doing," agreed resident Peter Murray.

But Board President Arlene Gardner said the budget had been reached after a painstaking process in which many requests for funding were denied.

"We've been growing at a regular pace, and we will continue to grow for another three or four years," she said. Until district population growth subsidies, "I see no possible way to pare the budget down to 3 or 4 percent" growth, she added.

For more details on the 2004-05 budget, check the school's website at www.westfieldnj.com.

Planning Board endorses proposal

(Continued from page A-1)

that are used by the county and borough's first responders.

Planning Board Chairman Gregory Cummings argued that a flagpole design could be cheaper for the borough than the lattice style tower, since the tower's construction could be financed by a private developer. Cummings also said flagpole towers are more aesthetically pleasing, referring to a flagpole tower in Mt. Arlington near Route 80.

Other board members wondered whether the tower should be located in the front of the Borough Hall

property instead of in the rear, as is currently proposed. Locating the tower in the front of the property could require the removal of mature trees.

And borough engineer Richard Marsden argued that the proposed site is appropriate since it is centrally located on the property.

"Where (the tower) is being proposed is the ideal location" since it is "equally distanced from all residents," Marsden said. He suggested instead that borough officials consider planting evergreen trees to serve as additional buffering along the perimeter of the municipal property. That could restrict views of the tower from nearby residents.

Concerns were also raised about the possibility of cell tower companies constructing compounds at the base of the tower which could be required to house equipment. When the planning board approved an AT&T cell tower application in December, it also approved a 10-foot by 20-foot compound.

At a special meeting held March 8, Mahr said the borough has yet to hear from cellular service providers about use of the potential tower. Cummings argued that cellular interest in the tower, however, was virtually assured.

Cell antennas have been at the

center of contentious issues in the borough recently. Residents opposed to Verizon antennas being installed on a utility pole near North Avenue and Oak Court were successful in lobbying the Borough Council to overturn Planning Board approval in November. Verizon has appealed the borough council's decision.

While the cell phone antennas are considered unsightly, the potential of service providers leasing tower space could provide enough revenue to offset the cost of constructing the tower and eventually provide revenue for Fanwood. The tower's construction cost is estimated at \$127,000.

Other concerns include safety issues with children, who often use the property as an unofficial park. Officials plan to construct a fence around the 22-foot square base of the tower to prevent children from using the tower as a jungle gym.

The stark political divisions seen recently on the Borough Council were once again apparent at the meeting. After Herschwin claimed residents had not received adequate notice about the proposed tower, board member John Deitch said he was disappointed that "a party that ran on lower taxes and openness to the public" had introduced a budget containing an 11 percent tax increase and wasn't providing enough notice to residents about a potential tower.

However, discussions about the tower predate the Mahr administration, and all residents who live within 200 feet of the tower were invited to attend a special meeting March 8 in which the police department and Salient Associates explained the need for a new communications tower and invited residents to provide input on the tower's site plan.

Deitch and Cummings voted against the tower at the conclusion of the hearing.

Board approves \$63.5 million plan

(Continued from page A-1)

several staff positions. One teacher will be added at the elementary level and three teachers will be devoted to the middle school level. The district will also hire two new teacher's aides and will add one full time math teacher at the high school.

Four other part-time positions will also be added to the high school staff, where enrollment increases are expected to be the most acute.

Board members said the tax increase is largely attributable to fixed costs. In a budget presentation, board member Edward Saridaki said that 83 percent of the budget increase is devoted to employee salaries and benefits, contract costs the board has very

little control over. Employee benefits are slated to increase by 21.6 percent.

But Saridaki pointed out that despite the many non-discretionary costs increases in the budget, the district continues to have lower per-pupil and administrative costs than county and state averages.

Other notable increases include an 8.2 percent increase in the co-curricular budget, and a 10.5 percent increase in special education tuition, a category on the rise statewide.

Board vice president Linda Nelson said the budget provides the necessary supplies and equipment for classes, professional development for teachers, and sufficient curriculum devel-

opment.

Although no members of the public expressed opposition to the budget, gaining passage from the community has been a difficult task in recent years. In 2003, voters passed the budget by a narrow 218 vote margin, and the passing margin for each of the past three years has been less than 250 votes.

Nelson urged residents to come out to the polls on April 20 and cast ballots.

"If there is one place you can cast your vote and make a difference, it's the school election where turnout is small," she said.

Saridaki earlier noted that school elections typically draw 14 percent of eligible voters in the district.

Board plans to put turf field at Kehler

(Continued from page A-1)

Monday's meeting.

Berman said the district would construct a turf field similar to the field installed at Giants Stadium in 2003, which has synthetic fibers and crushed rubber material designed to cushion falls. He said a number of sports teams would be able to play on the field at Kehler Stadium, which is mostly used by the football team at the moment.

Of the \$1.1 million the district would bond, \$325,000 would be devoted to replacing the track, \$600,000 would pay for the artificial turf field and \$250,000 would be earmarked for the work at Edison. Berman said costs for work at Edison could rise beyond that figure, explaining the \$250,000 figure was a preliminary estimate.

The Town Council is currently debating funding for a lighted turf field project at Houlihan and Syd

Field athletic fields on Gallows Hill Road, and the Recreation Commission hopes to conduct studies at additional sites in town that may be suitable for another turf field.

The Houlihan/Syd Field project is included in a draft of the 2004 capital budget released recently by town officials, but has not yet been approved, despite a vote of confidence from Mayor Greg McDermott and several members of the council.

Westfield Y plans to buy church

Elsasser said the YMCA plans to pay half of the loan within five to six years and will pay down the rest over time. He said the EDA loan offers a much lower rate than a loan obtained from the private sector.

When the YMCA takes possession of the building, it plans to earmark half of the money for renovations. The building will be used for the organization's nursery school program and will renovate the second floor to create a computer center for teens and seniors.

"Basically we'll be doing all you need to do to make a 1941 building usable for today's standards," Elsasser said. Loan funds will be used to modernize the building, including providing handicapped access.

Once the loan and purchase

a formalized, Elsasser said the YMCA would begin work on the church sometime this year. He envisioned a one- to two-year process to bring the project to fruition, but said that timetable is preliminary.

Money acquired through the loan will also be dedicated to renovations at the YMCA building on Clark Street. Elsasser said the work would mostly be done to the building's first floor.

AARP to meet Monday

The Westfield Area AARP Chapter 4137 will hold its next meeting Monday in the newly renovated Presbyterian Church Assembly Hall on the corner of Broad Street and Mountain Avenue in Westfield. Ample parking spaces are available.

The social period with refreshments will begin at 1 p.m. A brief business meeting will start at 1:30 p.m. to be followed by a special program. Guests and potential members are invited.

Three guest speakers will present a program aimed at the needs of the older person. Trudy Karpel of Patient Needs Solutions will speak about the use of home aids and Medicare assistance for home care, Donald Cash of Elder Care Associates will give information about the latest ways to deal with long term care, and Fred Lange of the Plainfield Memorial Society will present comments regarding important matters to be considered by senior citizens.

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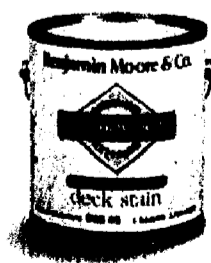
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Burger chain sets sights on Westfield

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — A company which claims to serve "America's Biggest Burgers" may be coming to downtown Westfield.

Cheeburger Cheeburger, a hamburger chain which has locations ranging from Florida to New York State, seeks to open a new restaurant at 251 North Avenue. An application by Warren-based Burgers R Us, LLC, is scheduled to be heard by the Planning Board 8 p.m. Monday.

The restaurant is slated to take over the space currently occupied by the Great Harvest Bread Company and would convert that space into a 77-seat establishment. The company requires site plan approval to increase seating capacity by 47 seats.

In 1984, the Planning Board approved a 150-seat restaurant at the site, but uses since then have been at a lesser seating capacity, according to town zoning officer Kathleen Neville. In her review of the application, she argues that fact substantiates abandonment and would therefore require new approval by the current Planning Board.

Cheeburger Cheeburger, like virtually all downtown eateries, also requires a variance related to parking. The restaurant would be unable to provide parking, while the central business district's land use ordinance would require such a business to provide 39 parking spaces.

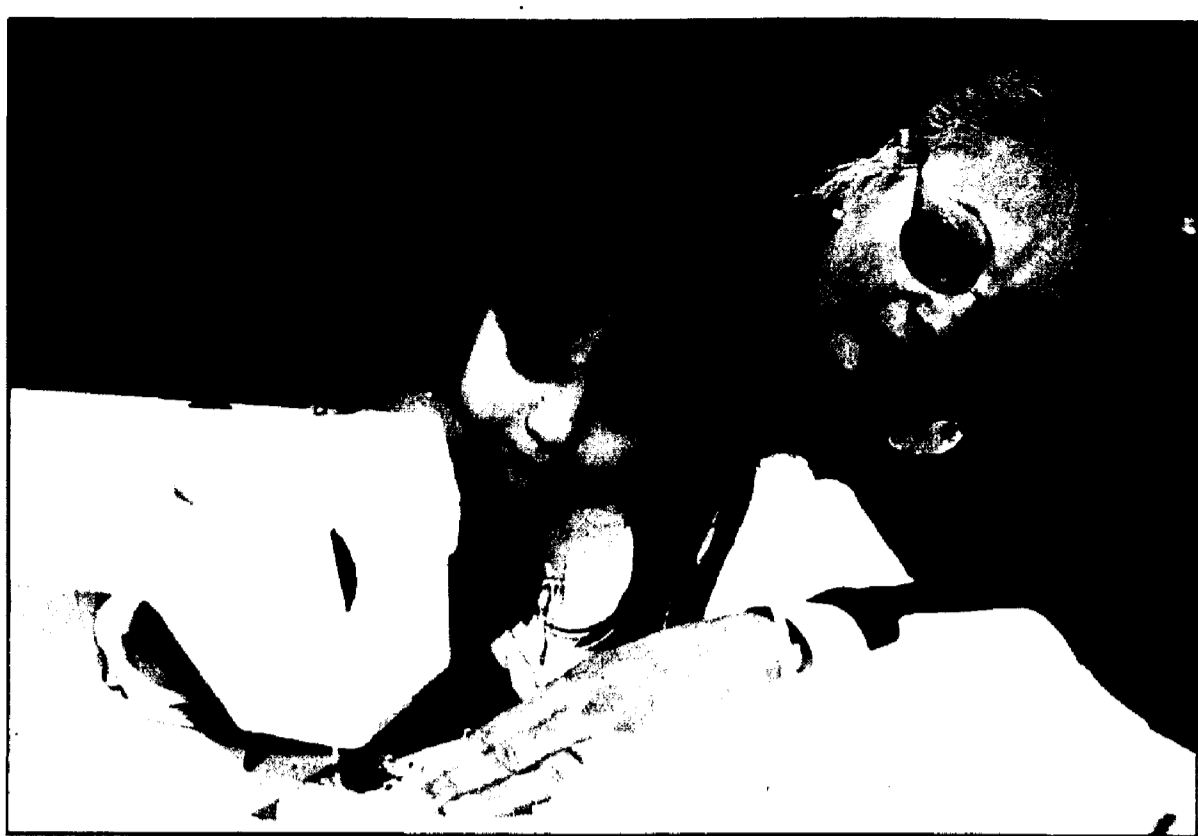
In November, the Planning Board granted parking variances to a company seeking to establish a Wolfgang Puck restaurant at 1 Elm Street.

According to the planning board application, the new restaurant would not make any exterior changes to the building. Also, the applicant seeks to occupy the same space previously occupied by two other food service uses.

Cheeburger Cheeburger's website says the company is on the verge of "an aggressive national expansion." The restaurant's menu is cooked to order, and most items are prepared from scratch inside each restaurant.

The restaurant is particularly famous for its large serving portions. One item called the "Pounder" is a 20-oz. burger which, if completely eaten, wins the conquering diner a photograph on the restaurant's wall of fame. Cheeburger Cheeburger also offers 90 different shakes and a variety of different sandwiches and salads.

Monday's hearing is open to the public.



Quilting for a cause

Mary Steward of Roselle Park, top, gets help from her granddaughter Melinda Calderon, 5, at the AIDS Babies Quilt-a-Thon at Holy Trinity Church in Westfield Saturday. It was the eighth straight year Steward has participated in the event. At right, Helen Bozonellis (left), who originated the project 11 years ago, and Sophie Stappas, this year's chair, look over the completed quilts.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Town backs down on ordinance

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — An ordinance which was designed to protect the town from retroactive affordable housing obligations will likely be short-lived.

At its regular meeting Tuesday night, the Town Council voted 8-1 to introduce an ordinance which would repeal an ordinance adopted by the council on March 2. The first ordinance increased fees for new construction and was introduced because town officials were concerned that potential rule changes by the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) could result in the town being retroactively charged for construction within its borders dating back to January 1.

Proposed COAH rule changes indicate that for every nine new housing units constructed in town, one new affordable unit must be

constructed. In past years, COAH obligations could be transferred to other municipalities by a contribution of approximately \$3,900 for each new unit constructed.

The new rules, which could take effect as early as this summer, eventually could require the town to physically construct new housing units classified as affordable. The March 2 ordinance was designed to pass obligations incurred by development upon Westfield on to developers.

According to town administrator Jim Gildea, the council decided to introduce the second ordinance, repealing the first, because town attorney Robert Cockren no longer believed COAH rules would retroactively affect Westfield.

Also, the town council received a letter threatening litigation on the matter from the New Jersey Builders Association (NJBA), which opposed the March 2 ordinance.

According to NJBA CEO Patrick O'Keefe, the organization was prepared to file suit because they con-

sidered Westfield's action unfair to developers.

"Since the regulations were not yet adopted," O'Keefe said, "there is from our perspective a lack of legal context to implement fees at this point." He said further that there is no evidence that COAH regulations could retroactively affect the town.

O'Keefe said the NJBA became aware of the ordinance by reading a newspaper article and decided to press the issue, but said it was the organization's preference that the Town Council just repeal the ordinance, as it has moved to do.

Fourth Ward councilman James Foerst, who was instrumental in advocating for the March 2 ordinance, cast the lone vote against repealing it.

"We worked very hard on the ordinance, and I hate to backtrack" on the issue, he added. But Foerst acknowledged the threatened litigation put the validity of the ordinance in question, and said votes cast by the rest of the council were based on legal advice from the town attorney.

Westfield resident Brozak selected to challenge Ferguson

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — A local resident and military veteran has been tapped by the Union County Democratic Committee to challenge incumbent Republican Rep. Mike Ferguson in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District.

The district, which includes parts of Union, Middlesex, Somerset, and Hunterdon counties, is widely considered a Republican stronghold, but Steve Brozak says he is not daunted.

"Mike Ferguson is the wrong person for this district," said Brozak, whose candidacy was announced by the county Democrats March 15. "My message is I'm running because I want to be the voice who will ask questions that are not being asked."

Brozak runs a Westfield-based investment banking firm that specializes in working with biotech research companies, a field in which he has been involved for 18 years. He is also a Marine and served in the Middle East following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

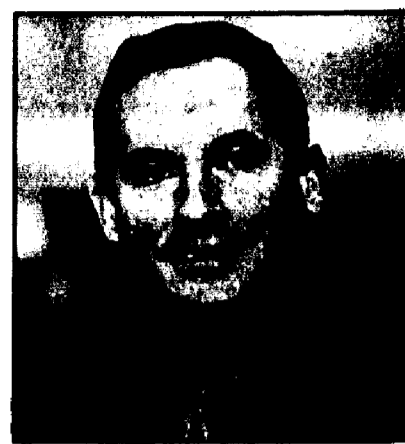
After receiving an M.B.A. from Columbia University, Brozak served on active duty in the infantry and has been stationed in California and overseas in Asia. As a reservist, he served in Bosnia and Haiti as part of United Nations and NATO missions in those areas before embarking on his Middle East service.

He said his priorities if elected would be the economy, health care and national defense, and criticized Ferguson in those areas.

"The issue in this election is leadership," he said. "We need someone who will provide a clear direction, who will go out there and acknowledge that the economy is in its worst condition in decades."

Brozak said current unemployment figures that depict a stagnant job market are artificially inflated since many are no longer looking for work or are making ends meet by working jobs that pay people substantially less than what they were making in years past.

He said that when he came home from Newark International Airport recently, he was driven by a cab driver who was recently laid



STEVE BROZAK

"My message is I'm running because I want to be the voice who will ask questions that are not being asked."

— Steve Brozak

off from his position as a computer programmer. Situations like that, he said, illustrate a job market more dire than some numbers suggest.

Brozak opposed the recent Medicare prescription benefit, which Ferguson supported. He noted that the plan does not allow for reimbursement of drugs which are not recommended by the FDA.

On national defense, Brozak said the military's reserve units are stretched too thin.

"We have to go out there and provide solutions, not just band-aids," he said. "It requires money being allocated correctly."

Brozak also opposes Ferguson's position on reproductive rights and Ferguson's co-sponsorship of a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

"I'm completely opposed to the amendment," he said, labeling the measure "a sideshow raised to detract attention from how weak the economy is."

A formal announcement of his candidacy will take place sometime in the next month, but Brozak said until then fundraising will be his priority. He must first win the Democratic nomination in the June primary, though he is unlikely to face any serious challenge there.

Search is underway for new police chief

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Police Chief Marshall V. Nelson will be retiring on May 1, and the township will soon be deciding who will replace him.

The authority to appoint or promote police personnel, including the next chief, is in the hands of township manager Tom Atkins, who has been aware of Nelson's impending retirement for several years. Nelson will be turning 65, and according to state regulations he faces a mandatory retirement.

Complicating the issue is the fact that the police department's only captain, John C. Shebey, will also be retiring at the end of April. Since police chiefs in New Jersey are required to be promoted from within, it appears the next police chief will skip the rank of captain on the way to being appointed to the department's top job.

Mayor Martin Marks said that Atkins "will be making appointments in the coming months to fill the vacuum" left by the retiring police chief and captain, but noted that the issue is "something that has not been finalized yet."

According to a statement released by Atkins, eligible candidates for further advancement at the police department will be evaluated according to a four-step process.

Candidates must take an examination administered by the New Jersey Department of Personnel, a written essay exercise administered by the township and an oral interview conducted by the township and a consultant. They will also be evaluated based on performance records.

No other information about the search was available at press time.

A dinner will be held in the departing chief's honor on April 16, and is open to anyone who would like to attend. The event will be held at 7 p.m. at Shackamaxon Country Club; tickets cost \$80. For more information contact Birnez Stephens at (908) 322-7106.

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Commentary

Too few turn out for budget hearings

Boards of education across the area held their formal budget hearings earlier this week. These are the occasions when the boards, whose budgets typically make up well over half of the local property tax bill, must explain the proposed spending plan for the coming year — justifying why taxes and spending are on the rise, highlighting new and hoped-for programs, elaborating on the decision-making process. The budget hearings are, essentially, one-stop shopping for information about what's going on in a local school district.

And this year, as in most years, the hearings were met by local communities with resounding indifference.

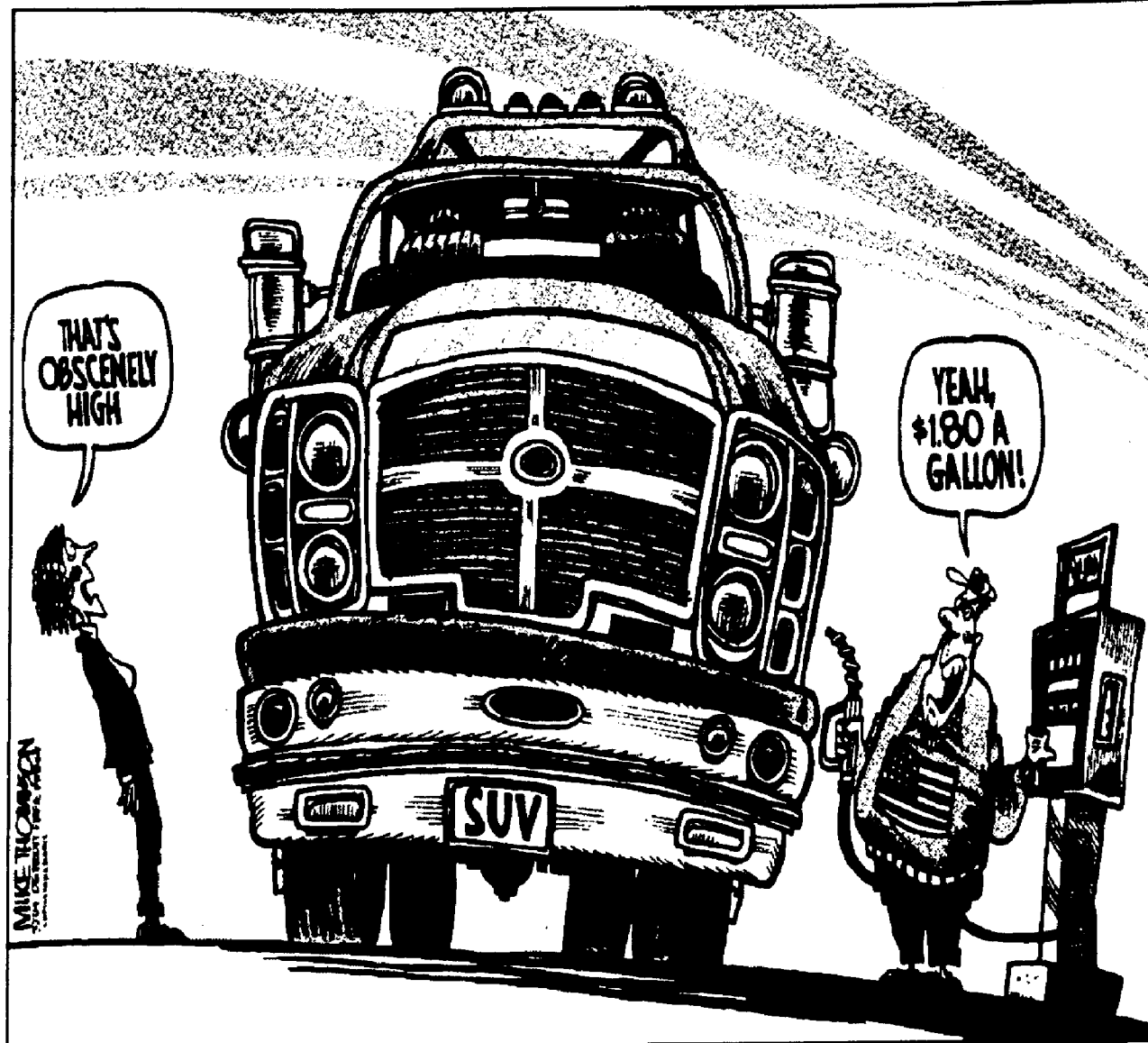
Among the local communities that held budget hearings this week Kenilworth and Westfield led the way, attendance-wise, with about eight residents. In Scotch Plains-Farwood, where the proposed budget calls for a considerable tax increase and a number of new staff members, attendance and public participation was almost non-existent. In Cranford and Garwood, too, the hearings failed to bring out anyone beyond the regular crowd.

This indifference is baffling. By consensus, the high property tax rate (along with auto insurance) is one of the worst things about living in New Jersey. Also by consensus, a strong school system is at the core of a strong community. Boards of education are, often through little fault of their own, largely responsible for high property taxes, and they are entirely responsible for the quality of the school system. But on the boards' most important formal event of the year, few residents can be bothered to come out.

There are some plausible explanations for this: First, many residents do turn out at less formal budget presentation held at neighborhood schools, senior centers and other locations. Also, no matter how eloquent a resident may be in opposition, there is little chance of a change in the board's proposed budget at the formal hearing. But both these considerations should be trumped by the fact that there is no place — not your neighbor, not your gym buddy, not a newspaper article — as good as the budget hearing for getting complete, accurate information.

The more likely explanation is that of the (distressingly few) residents who do vote in the school election, most make up their minds without any information. For some senior citizens and childless residents, and others just fed up with the property tax nightmare, a "no" vote is automatic. For many parents, a "yes" vote is just as automatic.

Generally speaking, any turnout is good turnout. But a decision as important as the annual school budget should be made with all the relevant information. The public hearings have now passed, but that information is still available in newspapers, at board offices and via other sources — here's hoping local residents will avail themselves of it.



Jersey Boy

Mike Deak

Can't get pumped up to leave New Jersey

I don't like to leave New Jersey.

Through and through, I really am a Jersey Boy. I earnestly believe there is no better place to live than Central Jersey (though property taxes and the traffic are starting to stir doubts). I like the change of seasons — especially in April when you can have all four seasons in one week. I cannot look upon the sylvan Sourlands without silently remarking on their modest beauty. The people here are nicer than nice, and we don't speak with any funny accents. This is Beulah Land.

But perhaps the real reason why I don't like to leave New Jersey is self-service gasoline.

New Jersey and Oregon are the only two states in the union which prohibit self-service gas. In the 48 other states, you have to get out of your car — no matter what the weather or if you're headed in a spotless suit to a wedding — to pump your gas, or pay some outrageous amount for a slow-footed Cletus to give you "full service."

That's why I limit my auto forays to half a tank from New Jersey's borders. For example, I know my thrifty Toyota Corolla can make it from here to Washington, D.C., and back across the Delaware Memorial Bridge on nearly a full tank of gas. For any distance longer than that, I begin to sweat when I see the gas tank needle pointing to E.

It's not that I don't know how to pump my own gas; the mechanics are fairly simple. It's just that I'm not familiar with the protocol of self-service. And I find it embarrassing, as a 47-year-old newspaper editor who can distinguish a gerund from a dangling participle at 20 paces, to be taken as a rube when I have to ask the most elementary questions about the ritual of pumping your own gas.

Do you go inside the station first?

Do you wait for a voice to tell you it's OK to start?

How do you pay beforehand if you don't know how much gas is needed to fill the tank?

It is uncomfortable being a stranger in a strange land, especially when next to me is a 67-year-old grandmother handling the nozzle of a gas pump as if it's a cake-icing knife.

(And self-service has spread to fast-food restaurants. We don't think twice about cleaning up after ourselves and obediently returning the trays. And now you have to "pump" your own sodas, but at least you get free refills. Why can't this practice be adopted by bars?)

Viewed at its most benevolent, self-service gasoline is an expression of this country's egalitarian roots. None of us, in a truly democratic and classless society, should be above performing the most menial chore. We are all equal at the pumps, whether we're driving a Hyundai or a Jaguar.

Viewed at its most malevolent, however, self-service gasoline is an expression of how much corporate greed has infiltrated this country. Of course it's cheaper for the oil companies and their franchise owners not to pay people to pump gas, even if they're minimum-wage teens trying to earn enough money to buy their first pickup truck. Just as every drop of oil has to be squeezed out of the Earth, so does every last penny of profit from the Shell station at Crabcake Junction, Md.

Both are probably true. Americans love big profits and Americans love doing things for themselves. Maybe I'm old-fashioned, but I'd rather stay in my car or leave my tray at a table and pay a little more. Maybe I've created a job for somebody — most likely an immigrant who still believes in the American dream — for whom it truly makes a difference.

Letters to the editor

Gift restricted to community centers

To The Record-Press:

There has been quite a bit of public interest since the announcement of Joan Kroc's bequest to The Salvation Army. Certainly, the Army feels blessed to have been entrusted with a gift purported to exceed \$1.5 billion and, as always, The Salvation Army will abide by the specific requests of Mrs. Kroc.

Joan Kroc specified in her will, that half of her gift must be used to build community centers throughout the United States. The other half forms an endowment of which the interest may be used to help fund the centers. It was also specifically stated in her will that the money is to be divided among the four Salvation Army territories in the United States.

Mrs. Kroc's gift is restricted. At no time may any portion of her magnanimous gift be used for any existing Salvation Army program or service to the needy of our communities. Nor can it be used for administrative purposes. When our friends make a donation to The Salvation Army for a specific purpose, we honor that request and only use the funds

for that particular use. The Army will do the same with the gift from Joan Kroc.

The Salvation Army continues programs and services to those less fortunate in our communities, and that will never change. We still need to rely on the public's generosity all throughout the year in order for us to continue our work, helping New Jersey's needy.

New Jersey is one of 11 divisions that comprise the Salvation Army's Eastern Territory. At this time, no decision has been made as to where the new community centers will be located. In fact, it is not known how many centers might be built in our territory. New Jersey may not even be a selected location. Whatever is decided, it may be some time, or years, before any center might be built and ready for use.

I thank you for your continued support of The Salvation Army and hope you will continue as benefactors, allowing us to help those less fortunate in New Jersey.

MAJOR STEPHEN BANFIELD
NJ Divisional Commander

Youth Art Month was a big success

To The Record-Press:

Congratulations to over 500 students who had their artwork selected for display in one of the 50 shops in downtown Westfield for Youth Art Month. A hearty thank you goes to the wonderful art educators who offer a wide variety of curricular activities, to the parents who support the arts and assist with delivering and picking up the artwork, to the store owners for graciously accepting the work of children to be displayed in their windows, and to the community members who stroll through town enjoying and supporting the arts.

What is Youth Art Month? It is a month designated to showcase the diversity of artistic talent in all nine public schools. It is not a competition; it is a time in which we celebrate the creative work of our children. The artwork represents

children of all levels of ability. It is chosen for various reasons: work ethic, commitment to the project at hand, proficiency, emotional uplifting, and appropriate medium for the chosen store. It is not meant to be critiqued and compared from year to year. It is to be admired and appreciated as a month to celebrate the arts and the wonderful creations of our many talented children in the public schools.

As the supervisor of fine arts for the Westfield Public Schools, I am honored and pleased with the work of our fantastic educators, the children whose work is displayed, and the many supporting community members who give of their valuable time to make this event occur.

DR. LINDA M. KING
Supervisor of Fine Arts
Westfield Public Schools

Budget reflects residents' priorities

To The Record-Press:

For the past three months, the Westfield Board of Education has deliberated over what should be included in the 2004-2005 budget to ensure that the school district offers a rigorous and challenging educational program. The desire to provide the best of everything for our children is tempered by our obligation to the taxpayers to be fiscally prudent. The fact that the school system attracts many young families to Westfield attests to the quality of the schools. The fact that our per-pupil costs and administrative costs are lower than the state average is a testament to our efficient use of taxpayer money.

The school budget for 2004-2005 represents an increase of 6 percent over the current year's budget. The budget increase is driven by the need for five additional teachers and an additional guidance counselor at the high school to meet the growing enrollment (another 100 additional students are anticipated in September 2004).

There is a 13 percent increase in the technology budget to pay for computers for third grade, for middle school science and technology labs, for the high school math resource center and replacement laptops for high school teachers. The fine arts and athletic budgets each will increase approximately 5 percent. These increases include the purchase of musical instruments we are unable to lease and four more coaches for interscholastic sports.

These additions reflect the top priorities of the board and the community as noted in the 2003 Community Survey: class size, professional development, and technology. Other budget increases are the result of requirements rather

than choices, such as a 15 percent increase in health insurance costs, signifying an improvement over previous years when increases were more than 20 percent. Our successful negotiations with employee unions and health insurance providers have helped to keep these costs down. Next year we will see a 7 percent increase in special education, with 17 percent of our students identified as in need of these services. Three-quarters of the \$71 million budget reflects staff salaries and employee benefits, which must follow negotiated contracts. Our employee contracts include annual salary increases of 4 percent.

There are many items that we would like to have included in the budget: more coaches, more computers, more professional development, more supplies, more teachers, more counselors. We said "no" because we recognize that without significant increases in state and federal aid, the burden of supporting our school system falls on the locals taxpayers. About 7 percent of the budget is funded by state aid. This equates to approximately \$785 per student out of a total per pupil cost of \$11,196.

This is a community that has historically been very supportive and very proud of its school system. This support is critical if the schools, our children, our families, and our town are to thrive. I urge all members of the Westfield community to show your support for our schools, our children and our community by voting in the School Election on Tuesday, April 20, 2004, from 2 to 9 p.m.

ARLENE GARDNER
President
Westfield Board of Education

The Record-Press is here for you

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

Call Editor Gregory Marx at (732) 396-4219 with story suggestions, questions or comments. For sports, call Daniel Murphy at (732) 396-4202.

Our address: *The Record-Press*, 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ, 07066.

Our fax number is (732) 574-2613.

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

Deadlines

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

The deadline for submitting letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday.

Correction policy

The Record-Press will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to Editor Greg Marx at (732) 396-4219.

Letter policy

Letters may be edited for content, brevity, good taste and libel. Letters should be typewritten and include the writer's daytime telephone number for verification, if necessary.

Send letters to the above address or fax number.



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SHOULD THE WORDS 'UNDER GOD' BE REMOVED FROM THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE?



JUDY GALE
Westfield

I have no problem with it. It's been said for many, many moons now.



ANN TOMASHOW
Westfield

They've been saying it for years now. I think they're making a big deal over nothing.



ELLEN DAVIS CITRIN
Westfield

No, I don't see it as anything of religious significance. It's something I've always said. If someone doesn't want to say it, they don't have to.



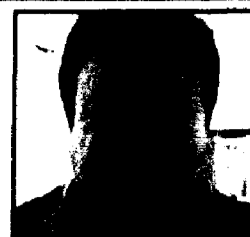
BOB BARANOWSKI
Mountainside

No, because I was brought up Catholic all my life. You start doing that, you start doing other things. Before you know it, there's no freedom.



LAUREN SHUB
Westfield

Yes. First of all, it's someone's literary work — it was not written with those words. It was changed during the Cold War to prove that we were godly and the Russians were not. And I'm a religious person, but I don't think we should have little children declaring religious beliefs.



NEIL KAMLER
Westfield

No. Most people believe in God — I don't think it should be taken out for the minority. Nobody forces you to say it.

Police Log

WESTFIELD

Officers arrested Herbert Sanford of Cranford for driving while intoxicated on March 26.

SCOTCH PLAINS

A juvenile from Westfield Avenue was taken into headquarters on March 26 after he was found in possession of a six-pack of Bass Ale.

A Heather Lane resident reported March 26 that his son's personal property was stolen from out of a locker room at the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. The alleged theft occurred in the locker room while the student was playing baseball.

Police responded to the 1300 block of Martine Avenue after receiving a report of two boys fighting on Saturday. Police arrived and physically removed one juvenile from the premises.

On Saturday, a Hunter Avenue resident reported that someone attempted to obtain her identity by using her information to open credit card accounts. The attempt was unsuccessful.

A Mountain Avenue resident reported that damage was done to his front lawn and a few shrubs on Saturday. The victim stated that vehicle tracks were observed on the lawn.

A Belleville resident reported that the headlights of his 2001 Audi S4 were stolen while the car was parked in the parking lot of Snuffy's restaurant Saturday.

The victim stated that he parked his vehicle at approximately 7 p.m. and returned at about 11:30 p.m. to discover the damage. A hole was punched in the driver's side door next to the lock, and the ignition had been taken out, as well.

A Randolph resident reported that his 2001 BMW was broken into sometime between 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 a.m. Sunday.

The vehicle's door lock was punched out and personal property from the vehicle was removed. The ignition and steering wheel remained intact after the incident.

Making waves: Edison students get lesson in wave technology

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — A father and son duo teamed up to illustrate the properties and principles of sounds and waves at Edison Intermediate School last week.

Dr. Eric Deutschman and his son Andrew used real-life examples of sound waves and radio technology as part of a unit for Barbara Leparulo's sixth-grade science classes. Over the course of their presentation they ran model trains, illustrated points with a computer slide presentation and tried to contact strangers with a ham radio.

"Our presentation is on making waves," said Eric Deutschman, an expert in particular in the use of wave technology for the medical field and a volunteer with Union County Office of Emergency Management. "Our show explains to students how waves are important to their lives."

First, the pair explained basic concepts like wavelength, amplitude, frequency, interference and resonance. Then, they converted those words from theoretical concepts into tangible, everyday examples to a young audience which was more intrigued than one might expect, given the academic subject matter.

To illustrate the concepts of frequency and wavelength, Andrew tightened a guitar string while his father plucked the string. And to illustrate resonance, his father explained that when two notes are in tune with each other, they have the

same wavelength and frequency and therefore resonate.

In an elaborate demonstration of the Doppler Effect, Andrew rigged up a train set and asked his classmates to kneel down beside the train tracks. When the train came by with its whistle blaring, students were able to recognize the unusual phenomenon of an increasingly loud train whistle which quickly fades when the train passes.

Deutschmann said that weather forecasters use the Doppler phenomenon to track the movements of clouds, a use of wave technology which allows them to accurately predict when and where storms will arrive.

Other examples of wave use can be found in the medical field, where special tuning forks can help to heal joint swelling and other ailments by widening blood vessels, which allows blood and oxygen to flow more freely.

Bringing in a guest speaker can be an effective teaching tool, according to Leparulo.

"We try to do it as much as possible," she said — though it is rare to have a guest presenter whose profession matches so closely with the curriculum in any given unit, she added.

And having a student present material to a class is a learning experience on both ends.

"When you teach, you learn," said Principal Cheryl O'Brien, discussing the program's value to both the student audience and the student instructor. "When you explain it, you own it."

Westfield Foundation awards grants

WESTFIELD — The Board of Trustees of the Westfield Foundation recently awarded \$22,355 in grants to local agencies and programs.

First quarter funding was awarded to Union County College, to provide scholarships for Westfield residents attending the college and who are in need of financial assistance.

The Rahway Hospital Foundation received funding to purchase artwork for the oncology unit of the hospital.

Project '79 at Westfield High School received support to fund the Oresteia Project, a multi-disciplinary, drama-based program open to all Project '79 students.

Trustees also approved a grant to support a newly-developed rowing club at Westfield High School. The grant will enable the school to purchase a used boat for practice and races.

The Westfield Symphony Orchestra received a grant which assists them in running an educational outreach program for mid-

dle school and high school students; the Westfield Adult School received funding to promote new courses being offered this spring; and support was provided to help underwrite costs of the Education Fund of Westfield's annual 5K fundraiser.

The foundation was established in 1975 to enhance and support the quality of life of the

citizens of Westfield. The foundation is an independent, non-profit organization funded entirely by contributions. Since its beginning, the foundation has donated over \$3 million to local organizations.

To learn more about the Westfield Foundation or make a contribution, contact Elizabeth Chance at (908) 233-9787.

Blood drive is Wednesday

WESTFIELD — The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross will be sponsoring a blood drive from 3 p.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday. The drive will be held at the Chapter house, located at 321 Elm St.

There will be complimentary cholesterol screening for all who donate. Walk-ins are welcomed. For more information, contact the Red Cross Chapter at (908) 232-7090 or go to the web site at www.westfieldmtside-redcross.org. You can also contact the Blood Center of New Jersey at (800) NJ-BLOOD, ext. 140 for more information.

All donors must present signed or picture ID and know their Social Security number. Donors should also try eat a meal before donating.

Recreation Dept. announces planned spring programs

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Recreation Department offers the following programs for the community:

Golf Class (ages 8 to 13): The class is held on Tuesdays 3:30-5:30 p.m. April 6, 13, 27, and May 4. Classes will focus on education on the golf swing, care of the course, and playing safely. Instructor Bill McCluney, PGA head professional, will hold classes at Oak Ridge Golf Course in Clark. Fee is \$80.

Soccer Squirts (ages 3 to 5): This seven-week course will introduce children to group experiences and basic motor skills through soccer-related activities. High-quality staff from the US Sports Institute will provide instruction. The program runs April 13-May 25. The fee is \$89.

14th Annual Road Race: This event will be held April 24 at Tamaques Park in Westfield. The One-Mile Fun Run will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the five-mile run at 9:30 a.m. Both courses will begin and end in Tamaques Park.

Daddy-Daughter Dance: The annual dance will be held 6:30-9:30 p.m. on April 30. Girls in first through fifth grades are invited with their fathers for a formal evening that includes a DJ to play the hottest tunes, buffet dinner, photographer and dancing. It will be held at The Westwood in Garwood. Fee is \$35 per person.

Sesame Street Live: This

popular children's show with Elmo, the Count, Cookie Monster, Big Bird, Bert and Ernie and all of their funny and furry friends are taking to the stage to share the magical world of music on April 12 at the State Theatre in New Brunswick. The bus departs 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$20 per person.

Woodloch Pines Resort: Enjoy a day at the Woodloch Pines country resort located in the Poconos with many acres of strolling hills, a family style dinner, and a variety show on May 26. The bus departs at 8 a.m. Cost is \$59.

Summer Camps: The Recreation Department offers a variety of summer camp programs. Camps include but are not limited to bowling, tennis, baseball, soccer, basketball, roller hockey, wrestling, multi-sports and the summer playground program.

Memorial Pool News: Registrations are now being accepted from last year's pool members. On April 15 at 7 a.m., in-person registration begins for Westfield residents who were not members last year.

Contact or stop by The Westfield Recreation Department at 425 East Broad St., Westfield or call (908) 789-4080 between the hours of 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday for information, or visit www.westfieldnj.net/townhall/recreation.

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Speaker will discuss Egypt's ancient history

WESTFIELD — The ancient history of Egypt will be the topic of a presentation by Hassan (Sam) Mahmoud at the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society at noon Wednesday at B.G. Fields Restaurant, 560 Springfield Ave., Westfield.

Mahmoud's talk will explore the ancient history of Egypt and the records that go back 7,000 years. He will cover the period from the pre-dynastic era of about 5,000 B.C. until the beginning of the first century A.D.

He will also discuss the achievements of this ancient civilization whether materialistically, socially or spiritually. Mahmoud will show how the records demonstrate the link between that civilization and our current one and its influence on every aspect of our life, even on our beliefs. He will tell how this civilization grew and matured before the ones of the Sumerians, the Babylonians, the Assyrians, the Hebrews, the Indians or the Chinese.

Mahmoud notes we are still being surprised by new discoveries of old objects and remains which still shed more light on that vast and rich history.

Mahmoud came to the United States 34 years ago and has been a resident of Westfield for 11 years. He serves on the board of

trustees of the Westfield Symphony Orchestra and is a member of the Westfield Historical Society.

He is a retired general manager of Nissho-Iwai American Corporation, a Japanese trading company. He has also held other positions in the United States that included managing marine insurance, shipping, international trade and risk management.

His business took him on extensive world travels to Europe, the Far East, Latin America and Africa where he was able to visit many historical sights and museums.

In Egypt, Mahmoud visited the Pyramids, the great temples of Upper Egypt and the

Pharaonic tombs of the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens for deep observations and studies.

Before coming to the United States, he lectured on history, political science, marine insurance, and international trade. In the United States, he has published several articles about history and politics in local newspapers.

Regular attendees to the luncheon will be contacted by a phone committee of the society to verify their reservations. Space permitting, others may attend the luncheon by calling (908) 233-2930 by noon Monday.

Mahmoud will show how the records demonstrate the link between that civilization and our current one and its influence on every aspect of our life, even on our beliefs.



Tar Wars poster contest winners at Franklin School in Westfield were, from left, Casey Schuster (first place), Charles Scott (honorable mention), Victoria Gagliano (honorable mention) and Robin Ince (second place). Johnatan Katz (third place). Not pictured is Johnatan Katz (third place).

Poster contest winners are named

WESTFIELD — Benjamin Franklin Elementary School announced the winners of its anti-tobacco poster contest on March 4.

For the third consecutive year, Franklin School nurse Robin Ince, conducted the anti-tobacco program in the fourth grade over several weeks, culminating in a poster contest called Tar Wars.

Casey Schuster won first place for her poster "Smoking: Don't Be Tricked!" which pictures a magician creating the illusion that cigarette smoking has some benefits.

Tar Wars, a national campaign sponsored by the American Academy of Family Physicians, teaches students the short- and long-term health and financial effects of tobacco use. The program

also helps students learn to resist the pressures influencing youth to smoke or use any form of tobacco by critically evaluating various tobacco advertisements.

At the end of the campaign, fourth graders submitted posters with a "positive message for reasons to remain tobacco-free," which were then judged by a panel of teachers and presented at a school assembly. All fourth-grade participants and winners received prizes for their submissions.

Casey Schuster's award-winning poster will be judged in the state contest in Trenton in April. The state winner will then compete in the Tar Wars National Poster Contest, with a grand prize of a family trip to Disney World.

Area churches announce their plans for Holy Week services

A number of area churches have announced their plans for the upcoming Holy Week services.

Fanwood Presbyterian Church: The church, located at Martine and La Grande Avenues, will hold morning prayers at 7 a.m. April 5, 6 and 7.

Maundy Thursday worship and Communion will take place at 7:30 p.m. April 8. Good Friday worship is planned for 7:30 p.m. April 9.

Easter Sunday services on April 11 will include dawn worship in the garden at 7 a.m. and a celebration service of worship in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. This service will be preceded by special music starting at 9:40 a.m.

For more information about these services, call the church office at (908) 889-8891.

All Saints' Episcopal

Church: Congregants will gather at 8 a.m. Sunday for palm blessing and distribution, the Passion narrative from Luke's Gospel, and Holy Communion. The 10 a.m. service begins in the parish hall.

On Maundy Thursday the 8 p.m. service includes the stripping and cleansing of the altar, setting of the altar of repose, and Holy Communion.

Services at 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Good Friday include the Passion narrative from John's Gospel, a sermon by the rector, the Solemn Collects, and Communion of the pre-Sanctified. Music will be featured at 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday includes the Easter Eucharist at 8 a.m. and at 10 a.m., a Festival Eucharist with the All Saints' Choir directed by organist and choirmaster Michael

Spasov (original music by Spasov), and a sermon by the rector. An Easter Egg Hunt for the children and a special Coffee Hour will follow.

All Saints' is at 559 Park Ave., across from Park Middle School. The Rev. Jane Rockman is rector. For further information call (908) 322-8047.

Presbyterian Church of Westfield: This Sunday, Passion/Palm Sunday includes services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. with a procession of palms preceding the 10:30 liturgy. The Rev. Vicki Ney will preach. The combined children's choirs and the Chancel Choir will sing "Today is the Day" by Garret and "Agnus Dei" (Requiem) by Faure.

Maundy Thursday, April 8, will have a Holy Communion Service at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Chancel and Calvin Choirs will sing "In Remembrance of Me" by Burl Red and "Ubi Caritas" by Maurice Duruflé.

On Good Friday, April 9, there will be a liturgy at noon in the Chapel. The service at 7:30 p.m. in

the sanctuary will feature the Chancel Choir singing John Ferguson's responses to the reading of the "St. John Passion."

The Great Vigil of Easter on April 10 will be at 8 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Thirty-seven Confirmants will be received into the church at that time. It will be a service of Light, Word, Baptismal Renewal and Holy Communion. The Calvin Choir and the Solo Quartet will provide the music.

On Easter Sunday, identical Holy Communion Liturgies will be held at 9 and 11 a.m. The Rev. Dr. Roland Perdue will preach. A breakfast will be held in Assembly Hall between services. The Chancel Choir, assisted by brass quartet and organ, will offer music by Bach, Peeters, Gallus, Wetzler, Mozart, Widor and the "Hallelujah" (Messiah) by Handel.

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church: The worship service on Palm Sunday this weekend will take place at 10:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary. The Chancel Choir, directed by Richard Ney, will present the anthem, "Hosanna to the Living Lord" by Helvey, and Mr. Ney will sing "The Holy City" by S. Adams. Palm branches will be distributed and afterwards all in attendance are invited to an informal time of fellowship and refreshments in Alexander Hall.

In the church sanctuary on Maundy Thursday, at 7:30 p.m. April 8, there will be a service in the Tenebrae tradition with a choral meditation on the Passion of Christ entitled "A Service of Shadows" by Lani Smith. Pastor Betz will serve Holy Communion

and will preach on "The Community of the Towel," referring to Christ's washing of his disciples' feet prior to offering the first Holy Communion. As the service progresses, the lighted candles will gradually be extinguished, and finally the congregation will exit in silence and in darkness.

Easter Sunday, April 11, will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. in the flower-bedecked sanctuary with the Chancel Choir presenting "Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!" by Gordon Young. Pastor Betz's sermon is entitled "Let Easter Take the Period Off Your Life's Sentence!" His text will be John 20:19-29.

Marilyn Thorne, church organist, accompanies the choir and instrumentalists for all musical presentations.

Every Sunday morning the Children's Ark for babies and toddlers is open and staffed. Older children sit with their families in church until the Kids' Chat Time and then go with their teachers for the innovative Sunday School program, "Pathways to the Promised Land," featuring Bible concepts and stories using drama, puppets, art, music, games, science and computers.

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church is located at 1961 Raritan Rd., across the street from the Scotch Plains south side firehouse. All the facilities are handicap-accessible. Large-print bulletins and hymnbooks are available, as are headsets for the hearing-impaired.

For more information, phone the church office at (908) 232-5678.

Briefs

Folk medicine is subject of presentation Sunday

WESTFIELD — The Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Ave. in Westfield, will feature a presentation on the Native American Medicine Man 2-5 p.m. Sunday.

Sherry Lange of Cranford and Janet Murphy of Kenilworth will discuss the folk medicine practices of the Delaware Indians. Visitors will learn about the medicine pouch on display, its contents and uses in the colonies. The knowledge of herbs by the Lenape Indians, and their medicinal value will also be explained.

Tours of the historic farmhouse will take place throughout the afternoon, with the last tour starting at 4 p.m. Eighteenth-century cooking skills will be demonstrated in the Frazee Building by Laurie and Amy Mills, members of the museum's Cooking Committee.

A variety of colonial reproductions, cookbooks, educational items, children's books, and home-made herbal soaps are among the items available for purchase in the museum's gift shop.

Admission to the museum and its grounds is \$2 for adults, 50 cents for students. Children under six are free.

Girl Scout Cookies on sale outside CVS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Brownie Troop 948 will be having a Girl Scout Cookie booth sale 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at the CVS on Park Avenue.

There will be cookies at the sale ready to take home. Residents are invited to stop by after visiting the town egg hunt on the green by the Scotch Plains Municipal Building.

Revenues raised from cookie sales support the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council and individual troops.

Hats on display at Osborn House

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Osborn House Cannonball Museum, located at 1840 Front St. in Scotch Plains, will be open 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

A collection of interesting old hats, covering a period of more than 150 years, will be on display. They will include both men and women's fedora fashions. Costumed docents will give tours of the museum.

Visitors are welcome. There is no admission fee.

Easter bunny visits Ashbrook Center

SCOTCH PLAINS — This Saturday, Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center will host pictures with the Easter Bunny from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Recreation Room.

Donuts, bagels and juice will be served and an Easter basket filled with treats will be raffled. All participants will receive special holiday gifts. There is no cost for pictures or refreshments. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

All interested in attending should RSVP to Ashbrook's Recreation Director Margaret Palmieri at (908) 889-2587. Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is located at 1610 Raritan Rd.

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David M. Stagg Sr.

WESTFIELD — David M. Stagg Sr., 90, died March 29, 2004 at the Father Hudson House in Elizabeth.

Born in Bloomfield, he lived in Union before moving to Westfield in 2003.

Mr. Stagg retired in 1989 as an installation supervisor with the White Machine Co. in Kenilworth. He was an Army veteran.

His wife, Anne Barrett Stagg, and a sister, Doris Mazzolla, are deceased.

Surviving are a son, David M.

Jr.; three daughters, Dianne Small, Patricia Myer and Sharon Cocozello; a brother, Charles; a sister, Hazel Baker; 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Services were held yesterday at the First Baptist Church of Union.

Arrangements were by the McCracken Funeral Home in Union. Donations may be sent to Sandra Stagg Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 38, Oldwick, NJ 08858 or First Baptist Church of Union, 356 Colonial Ave., Union, NJ 07083.

Constance Bree Pearson

WESTFIELD — Constance Bree Murray Pearson, 75, died March 26, 2004 at her home in Point Pleasant.

Born in Glen Ridge, Mrs. Pearson lived in Essex Fells, Nutley and Westfield before moving to Point Pleasant. She spent summers in Spring Lake and Bay Head along with winters in Vermont.

She was a real estate agent with Donnelly Real Estate in Bay Head. Mrs. Pearson once owned a gift shop in Stowe, Vt., and operated the Mothers' Store at the Wardlaw Country Day School (now the Wardlaw-Hartridge School) in Edison. She also was a skiing instructor at the Bromley resort in Peru, Vt.

As a young woman she was a

model with Hattie Carnegie in Manhattan. She held an associate's degree from Union County College.

Mrs. Pearson was a member of the Roosevelt Intermediate School PTA, Westfield Service League and Bay Head Yacht Club. She was a volunteer with St. Gregory's Pantry.

Surviving are her husband of 47 years, David; two sons, Michael of Westfield and John of Basking Ridge; and three grandchildren.

A memorial service will be at noon tomorrow at All Saints Episcopal Church, 500 Lake Ave., Bay Head.

Donations may be sent to Jersey Shore Animal Center, 185 Brick Blvd., Brick, NJ 08723.

Harold Edwards

SCOTCH PLAINS — Harold G. Edwards, 77, died March 23, 2004 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Carteret, he lived in Cranford before moving to Scotch Plains in 1962.

Mr. Edwards retired after 40 years as a printing press operator, most recently with Meehan Tooker in East Rutherford. He was a member of Amalgamated Lithographers of America Local 1 in Manhattan.

He was a Navy veteran of

World War II and a member of American Legion Post 263 in Carteret.

A son, Glenn, died in 1966. A sister, Marian Grohman, is deceased.

Surviving are his wife of 43 years, Barbara D. Formanek Edwards; a daughter, Karen; a son, Mark; an aunt, Elaine Serly; and several nieces and nephews.

Donations may be sent to Children's Specialized Hospital, 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside, NJ 07092.

James Scott Airey

SCOTCH PLAINS — James Scott Airey, 59, died March 27, 2004 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Rahway, he lived in Clark before moving to Scotch Plains in 1973.

Mr. Airey was with Coin Depot Corp. in Elizabeth for 40 years and retired in 2002 as its vice president. He was an outdoorsman and played on three local softball teams.

He was a member of Camp Fire, the National Rifle Association and the Wild Wings Gun Club of Ocean County. Mr. Airey was stationed aboard the USS Wasp and USS Forrestal with

the Navy in the Vietnam War.

A daughter, Katie, and a sister, Mary Jane, are deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Susan Papcun Airey; a son, Scott; three sisters, Joyce Locascio, Eleanor Cosgrove and Dorothy Shank; and a brother, Richard.

Services were held Wednesday at the Memorial Funeral Home, Fanwood, followed by a funeral Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church.

Donations may be sent to ALS Therapy Development Foundation, 215 First St., Cambridge, MA 02142 or The Arc of Union County, 1225 South Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07062.

Jeanne Rahmeyer

WESTFIELD — Jeanne Clark Rahmeyer died March 27, 2004 at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

Born in Trenton, she lived in Monroe Township before moving to Westfield in 1998.

Mrs. Rahmeyer wrote "A Figure Eight Through the Garden State" and other guidebooks for the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism. She also was a steeplechase rider and polo player.

She graduated from the Manhattan campus of the

Katharine Gibbs School. Mrs. Rahmeyer was a PTA volunteer and a teacher of courses on the "Great Books."

Her husband, Reinhard H., is deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Bebbins Yudes and husband James of Westfield; and two grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by the Dooley Colonial Home. Donations may be sent to the Humane Society or any animal rescue organization.

Emilie Pollock

WESTFIELD — Emilie Goodfriend Pollock, 89, died March 27, 2004 at the Greenbrook Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Green Brook.

Born in Plainfield, she lived in Mountainside before moving to Westfield.

Mrs. Pollock was a bookkeeper with ShopRite and Pathmark supermarkets until her retirement in 1980. She was a member of a Conservative synagogue in Linden.

Her husband, Abraham Albert, died in 2000.

Surviving are two sons, Lawrence of Kenilworth and Michael of Wayne; a brother, Daniel Goodfriend of Pittston, Pa.; a sister, Blanche Glasser of Plainfield; and five grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at the Higgins Home for Funerals, in Plainfield. Burial was in United Hebrew Cemetery, South Plainfield. To send a condolence, visit www.higginsfuneralhome.com.

Ann Gannon

SCOTCH PLAINS — Ann W. Wilson Gannon, 81, died March 29, 2004 at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

She was born in Berwyn, Pa., and had lived in Scotch Plains since 1951.

Mrs. Gannon was with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education for 22 years, retiring in 1987 as the secretary to the vice president. She was a volunteer with Meals on Wheels and at the Thrift Shop operated by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League.

A lifelong member of the Scotch Plains Woman's Club, Mrs. Gannon was a member of the Altar Rosary Society at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church.

Surviving are her husband of 59 years, John Joseph; a daughter, Margaret A.; four sons, John Michael, Kevin J., Mark P. and Peter A.; two sisters, Regina Riley

and Emily Dees; six grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

A funeral Mass will be 10 a.m. today at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church, 2032 Westfield Ave. Burial will be in St. Mary's-Stony Hill Cemetery, Watchung.

Donations may be sent to Thrift Shop of Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Scholarship Fund, 1730 E. Second St., Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

Obituaries

Victoria

Bersamira-Cabatingan

SCOTCH PLAINS — Victoria V. Bersamira-Cabatingan, 41, died March 27, 2004 at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

Mrs. Bersamira-Cabatingan was born in the Philippines and came to the United States in 1971. She lived in Ridgewood, N.Y., and Scotch Plains before moving to Bridgewater in 1995.

She was an assistant nursing manager at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, where Mrs. Bersamira-Cabatingan had worked seven years. She earlier was a registered nurse at St. James Hospital in Newark and Elizabeth General Medical Center.

She received an associate's degree from Union County College in 1994 and attended the Elizabeth General Medical Center nursing school. She was a member of the

New Jersey State Nurses Association.

Before going into nursing Mrs. Bersamira-Cabatingan was the lead singer in two bands, Friends of Mine and Island Magic.

Surviving are her husband, Luis M. Cabatingan; her father, Jaime Bersamira; a daughter, Kelsey Shaye B. Cabatingan; two brothers, Antonio Bersamira and Nestor Bersamira; three sisters, Tita Thompson, Fe Punsalan and Aida DeCastro; 15 nieces and eight nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Wednesday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia. Donations for her daughter will be accepted at the funeral home.

Elsie L. Burr

WESTFIELD — Elsie L. Burr, 81, died March 25, 2004 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

She lived in Plainfield before returning to her native Westfield in 1961.

Mrs. Burr was an honorary member of the Missionary Society, Flower Club and Gospel Chorus at the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Scotch Plains.

She also was a member of Martha Chapter 8, Order of the Eastern Star, in Westfield.

Surviving are a son-in-law, Guy Barlow Jr.; a sister, Geneva Darby; three grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held Wednesday at the Metropolitan Baptist Church. Arrangements were by the Judkins Colonial Home in Plainfield.

Annetta Santo Salvo

SCOTCH PLAINS — Annetta Marion Santo Salvo, 70, died March 26, 2004 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Plainfield, she was a daughter of the late Anthony R. and Marion Santo Salvo.

Miss Santo Salvo lived for many years in Scotch Plains. She retired in 1985 after 30

years as an operator with New Jersey Bell Telephone Co.

A brother, James, is deceased.

A funeral Mass was held Tuesday at Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Arrangements were by the Gray Funeral Home in Westfield.

Ralph McCoy

SCOTCH PLAINS — Ralph Jerome McCoy, 45, died March 23, 2004 at his home.

He was born in Plainfield and lived in Scotch Plains for most of his life.

Mr. McCoy was a seasonal employee with the Scotch Plains Department of Public Works for more than 20 years. He played softball with the Jerseyland Bombers softball team.

His mother, Anna Belle McCoy, died in 2000. His father, Albert Casey Jr., died in 2001.

Surviving are three sisters, May Chaney, Chaunelle and Cheryl, all of Scotch Plains; five brothers, Alton, Calvin and James, all of Scotch Plains, Warren of Piscataway and David of Bayville; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; a great-great-niece; and many cousins.

Services were held Saturday at St. John's Baptist Church. Arrangements were by Brown's Funeral Home in Plainfield.

Sebastian Mandell

SCOTCH PLAINS — Sebastian A. Mandell died March 25, 2004 at Clara Maass Medical Center in Belleville.

Born in Brooklyn, he lived in Newark before moving to Scotch Plains in 1985.

Mr. Mandell retired in 2002 after 52 years as a dockworker. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and a member of International Longshoremen's Association Local 1235 in Port Newark.

Surviving are his wife, Connie Fama Mandell; two daughters, Rhonda Prosetti and Brenda Vermeal; a son, Joseph; two sisters, Adeline Guarino and Mary Valli; a brother, Guido Mondelli; and two grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Tuesday at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, Westfield, following services at the Galante Funeral Home in Union. Entombment was in the Fairview Cemetery mausoleum, Westfield.

Karen Mertz-Tabor

SCOTCH PLAINS — Karen I. Mertz-Tabor, 57, died March 23, 2004 at her home in North Plainfield.

Born in Trenton, she lived in Roselle and Scotch Plains before moving to North Plainfield in 2003.

Mrs. Mertz-Tabor was an office manager with Parsons Brinckerhoff in Newark, where she worked 17 years.

Surviving are two daughters, Cheryl L. Adey and Tammy M. Tabor; a brother, Karl Mertz; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Friday in the main lobby chapel at Gateway One, Newark. Arrangements were by the Higgins Home for Funerals, in North Plainfield.

Helen Howlett

FANWOOD — Helen Howlett, 54, died March 23, 2004 at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune.

Mrs. Howlett was born in Newark. She lived in Fanwood, Toms River and Iselin before moving to Jackson in 2001.

She was a data entry clerk for nine years with DPS Data Systems in Lakewood.

Surviving are her parents, Peter and Helen Lehita Knott; two daughters, Rebecca and Christine; a sister, Linda McCleary; and a brother, David Knott.

A funeral Mass was held Saturday at St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church, Jackson, following services at the Quinn-Hopping Funeral Home in Toms River. Entombment was in the St. Joseph Mausoleum, Toms River.



Robert J. Blake, an award-winning author and illustrator of children's books, spent a day at Jefferson Elementary School in Westfield recently.

Author Blake visits with Jefferson students

WESTFIELD — Children's author and illustrator Robert J. Blake spent a day with the students at Jefferson Elementary School in Westfield recently. He delighted the children with humorous stories about his childhood, and he encouraged them to share their stories with him.

During assemblies and workshops with the students, Blake outlined how he develops an idea for a story, writes and illustrates a book, and how he works with his editor to get the book published. Blake shared his experience in writing the book "Akiak," based on a true story about a sled-dog that raced in the Alaskan Iditarod. He recounted his travels to Alaska, where he interviewed and befriended some of the world's best mushers, the men and women who lead the teams of sled dogs.

The children were not surprised to learn that Blake always wanted to be an artist and started keeping sketch-books in the second grade. "I was not the best artist in my class, not even second best, I just wanted it more than everyone else," he said.

Blake, a New Jersey native, now resides in California. Most of his stories are about animals and nature. He is very excited about this next book because it takes place on the carousel in Asbury Park.

Daria Bonavita, Jefferson School's librarian, prepared the students for Blake's visit by reviewing several of his books with them. She encouraged them to pre-order books for him to sign. The author's visit was part of the "Read Across America" program to encourage children to enjoy books.

Pinto promoted at bank

SCOTCH PLAINS — James A. Hughes, president of Unity Bank, announced recently the appointment of Darlene Pinto as assistant vice president/branch manager at Unity's Scotch Plains Office.

Pinto brings more than 20 years of customer service, operations, and banking experience to Unity. She previously worked for Commerce Bank in Fanwood where she was an assistant vice president and branch manager.

To get in touch with Pinto at

the Scotch Plains branch, stop in at the office located at 2222 South Ave. or call her at (908) 233-5115. The branch is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and Sunday 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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Temple celebrates with 'Purim Pasta'

WESTFIELD — Storytelling, merriment, colorful costumes, and fun-filled noisemaking joined forces with the tradition of feeding the hungry to produce an exciting Purim celebration recently at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield.

The holiday of Purim is observed each year by telling the story from the Book of Esther, which recounts how the evil Haman, second in command to the king of ancient Persia, plotted the annihilation of the Jewish people.

Haman's plans were foiled by the beautiful Queen Esther, who implored her husband to intervene. The order was rescinded, and in a reversal of fate, Haman was hung on the gallows instead. During the public reading of the story, it is customary to have fun making as much noise as possible in various ways whenever Haman's name is mentioned.

This year, in keeping with the holidays other theme of "sending gifts to one another and to the poor," parents and children arrived at temple bearing boxes of

pasta to use as noisemakers in place of the traditional "groggers." After the celebration, over 400 pounds of "Purim Pasta" were collected and donated to the Westfield Food Pantry.

Temple Emanu-El has a long history of social action and reaching out to the community at large. In addition to the annual Yom Kippur food collection, it is host to the Mandy Reichman Feeding Program, which works weekly to provide bagged lunches for the hungry in Union County and provides Thanksgiving dinners for the needy.

Twice a year the temple hosts families through the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, partners with St. Mark's Church in Plainfield to help those in need of home repairs, runs the I Have a Dream program and Mitzvah Day, and coordinates numerous other social action initiatives through its youth group, sisterhood and men's club.

For additional information, contact Carolyn Shane at (908) 232-6770.



A young merrymaker contributes to Temple Emanu-El's "Purim Pasta" collection for the Westfield Food Pantry.

Charity boxing event rescheduled for April 24

WESTFIELD — Prominent local leaders will "fight" to support a unique community-based school program next month, joining former professional boxer Gerry Cooney in the ring.

Contenders in the evening of dining and fun will include Westfield Police Chief Bernard "Grandpa" Tracy, Rabbi Doug "Preacher" Sagal of Temple Emanu-El, officers from the Westfield police force and local officials. The event, postponed in December due to a snowstorm, will now be held at Temple Emanu-El on April 24.

Funds raised from the boxing benefit will be used to support the Community-Based Life Skills program at Centennial High School, a Union County facility for students with special needs, located in Westfield.

Developed by Centennial Principal Dan McMullen, Life Skills brings students into local businesses and other venues to gain the real world knowledge they need to lead productive and adult lives. Principal McMullen, a.k.a. "Madman," will also be meeting Cooney in the ring.

The benefit offers a unique

opportunity for area residents to cheer on local leaders and officials who have volunteered to engage in a series of lighthearted bouts with Cooney, a former heavyweight contender. Cooney, who is donating his time and talent to the cause, has also set aside time to train with the "fighters" prior to the event.

Initially scheduled for Dec. 6, 2003, the boxing benefit was cancelled due to a severe winter storm. Food, which had already been prepared, was donated to four soup kitchens and homeless shelters in the area. Richfield Regency, which will also cater the April event, gra-

ciously donated a large portion of their expense as well.

Reservations made for the December date remain valid, and ticket prices are the same. The evening begins with a VIP reception at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7, followed by the matches at 8:30.

Tickets range from \$75 for the dinner and matches to \$200 for the VIP reception with ringside seating.

Temple Emanu-El is located at 756 East Broad St. in Westfield. For information and reservations contact Michael Kenny at (908) 232-6770, ext. 129.

Indoor flea market at the JCC

SCOTCH PLAINS — Area residents are invited to come shop rain or shine at the JCC of Central NJ, located at 1391 Martine Ave., from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, April 18.

This indoor flea market will feature children vendors selling their gently used videos, games, toys, books and other treasures. Browse the many tables and pick up a few "new" items to add to your own collection at discount prices.

The event is sponsored by the JCC's Youth and Family Services Dept. For more details or directions call Jodi Baxter at (908) 889-8800, ext. 235.

This week

FRIDAY

APRIL 2

DRAMATIC PRESENTATION — of the Apostle Thomas, by Jim Hughes. 7:30 p.m. Cranford United Methodist Church, Walnut and Lincoln avenues. (908) 276-0936.

'INTOLERABLE CRUELTY' — the Coen brothers' film kicks off the March series of the Friday Film Festival at the Fanwood Library. 7:30 p.m. (908) 322-6400.

SATURDAY

APRIL 3

HEALTHY KIDS DAY — annual events hosted by the local YMCAs to promote a healthy spirit, mind and body. At the Fanwood-Scotch Plains YMCA 1-4 p.m. 1340 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. (908) 889-8880. At the Westfield YMCA also 1-4 p.m. 220 Clark St., Westfield. (908) 233-2700.

'THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST' — a breakfast discussion of Mel Gibson's new movie. 9 a.m. Willow Grove Presbyterian Church, 1961 Raritan Rd. Scotch Plains. (908) 232-5678.

MEET THE EASTER BUNNY — and get your picture taken, at the Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. 1610 Raritan Rd., Scotch Plains. (908) 889-2587.

SUNDAY

APRIL 4

LABYRINTH WALK — participate in an ancient spiritual practice, updated for modern times. 1-4 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave. (908) 276-8440.

NATIVE AMERICAN MEDICINE MAN — subject of a presentation at the Miller-Cory House Museum. 2-5 p.m. 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield. (908) 232-1776.

HATS ON DISPLAY — check out fashions spanning a 150-year period. 2-4 p.m. Osborn Cannonball House Museum, 1840 Front St., Scotch Plains.

'BEAUTIFUL PASSAIC RIVER' — subject of a talk by historian Charles F. Cummings at the anniversary dinner of the Union County Historical Society. 3 p.m. B.G. Fields Restaurant, 560 Springfield Ave., Westfield. (973) 923-7156. \$20.

TUESDAY

APRIL 6

SAFE BOATING COURSE — conducted by Coast Boating School, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. 6-9 p.m., continuing same time April 7. (908) 709-7600, ext. 3.

COOKIES FOR SALE — the Girl Scouts' famous treats will be available for purchase from Brownie Troop 948. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Outside CVS Pharmacy, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 7

BUILDING SPIRIT THROUGH YOGA — presentation by certified yoga instructor Susan Santoro-Martz for the Union County Chapter of Mothers & More. 7:30 p.m. Westfield YMCA, 220 Clark St., Westfield. (908) 789-8626 or (908) 497-0283.

ANCIENT EGYPT — subject of a presentation by Hassan (Sam) Mahmoud at the First Wednesday Luncheon of the Westfield Historical Society. Noon. B.G. Fields Restaurant, 560 Springfield Ave., Westfield. (908) 233-2930.

BLOOD DRIVE — sponsored by the Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross. 3 p.m.-8 p.m. 321 Elm St., Westfield. (908) 232-7090.

THURSDAY

APRIL 8

ALCOHOL SCREENING — sponsored by Prevention Links. Free. For more information, call (732) 381-4100 or email info@preventionlinks.org.

'TIME TO ABANDON DARWIN?' — a talk on intelligent design by Brown University professor Kenneth Miller. Doors open 5:30 p.m., talk begins at 6. Roy Smith Theater, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

SATURDAY

APRIL 10

EASTER BUNNY — and egg coloring for kids, at The Chelsea at Fanwood. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; register by April 8 at (908) 654-5200. 295 South Ave.

SUNDAY

APRIL 11

PASSION PLAY — Palm Sunday presentation by the Youth Ministry of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, on display at all Masses.

COMING UP

'WHALE RIDER' — part of the foreign film series of the Westfield Memorial Library. 1 and 7 p.m. April 13. Free to cardholders, but register at the library. (908) 789-4090.

INDOOR FLEA MARKET — hosted by the JCC of Central NJ. 2-4 p.m. April 18. 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. (908) 889-8800, ext. 235.

5-MILE MS WALK — 16th annual event to raise funds for multiple sclerosis research at Nomahegan Park in Cranford. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. April 18. (201) 967-5599.

ANNUAL MEETING — of the Planning Committee of the Westfield history societies. 8 p.m. April 21. First Baptist Church, Elm Street.

ONE-STROKE PAINTING — class led by a certified instructor at Crafty Kitchen, Ben Franklin Crafts. 6:30-9 p.m. April 22. 477 North Ave., Garwood. (908) 789-0217.

CHARITY BOXING EVENT — local leaders square off against former professional Gerry Cooney to raise funds for Centennial High School. Rescheduled from Dec. 6; tickets previously purchased will be honored. Begins 6 p.m. April 24. Temple Emanu-El, 756 East Broad St., Westfield. (908) 232-6770, ext. 129.

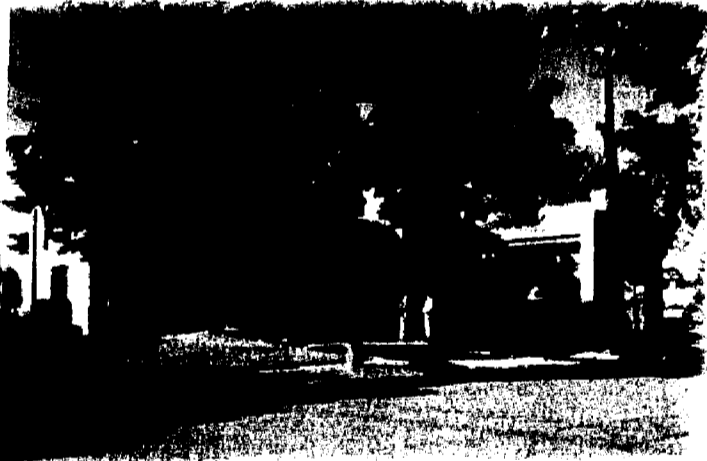
COMMUNITY CLEANUP — annual event organized by Fanwood Clean Communities Committee, held on Earth Day. Meet 8:30 a.m. April 24 at South Avenue train station. Sign up to volunteer at (908) 322-7404.

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Community Life

Briefs

Rotary Club seeks grant applicants

WESTFIELD — Douglas Fasciale, vice president of the Rotary Club of Westfield and chairman of the club's Grants Committee, has announced that Rotary Grant Applications are now available. The deadline to submit applications is April 15.

In an effort to award grants that will serve the greatest number of people in the community, according to Fasciale, Rotary's newly adopted guidelines provide for a generous grant to the United Fund at the Pillar level. Other organizations requesting a 2004 Rotary grant must complete the official application in order to be considered.

He said no applications for capital improvements or operating funds will be accepted and explained, "The Rotary Club, in accordance with its Avenue of Club Service, is most interested in providing grants for programs and projects that directly serve people."

The application form consists of only one page with questions that are simple and direct and should present no obstacle for those with limited resources.

Non-profit organizations may receive a copy of the official application from the Rotary website, rotary@westfieldnj.com, or by calling Fasciale at his office, (908) 232-9944.

April 24 is cleanup day in Fanwood

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Clean Community Committee has announced that April 24 will be the day for the annual borough cleanup.

Volunteers will assemble at 8:30 a.m. at the South Avenue train station parking area and will be assigned to clean a specific area. The work should be completed by noon.

Earth Day T-shirts, work gloves and garbage bags will be furnished to all participants.

Volunteers are asked to notify the Fanwood Public Works Department in advance by calling (908) 322-7404. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Easter Bunny visits The Chelsea

FANWOOD — Join the residents of The Chelsea at Fanwood for the annual Easter egg coloring event and an opportunity to take pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Children of all ages are invited to attend the event 10 a.m.-1 p.m. April 10. Those planning to participate must register by April 8 by calling (908) 654-5200. The Chelsea at Fanwood is located at 295 South Ave., Fanwood.

Learn to swim at the JCC

SCOTCH PLAINS — The JCC of Central NJ is accepting enrollment for American Red Cross Learn-to-Swim Lessons.

Children must be 5 years or older. Weekday lessons are available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at various times beginning April 14. Sunday lessons begin April 18.

All classes meet for a total of five days. The fee for JCC members is \$57; non-members welcome at \$72. Call Rebecca Rice, Aquatics Director, at (908) 889-8800, ext. 219 for specific swim level information and class times.

Thrift Shop plans an Easter drawing

SCOTCH PLAINS — Bunnies and chicks abound at the Thrift Shop, located at 1730 E. Second St. Stuffed animals, Easter decorations and baskets are available for filling. There also will be a drawing for four children's Easter baskets filled with books, candy and new stuffed animals and toys.

The shop is also restocked for spring with men's and women's suits, outerwear and casual clothing, children's clothes and shoes.

The drawing will take place Thursday; the winner need not be present.

Store hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call (908) 322-5420 for more information.

Not a game for the faint of heart



At left, Will Galway of the Union County Mudturtles rugby team tries to break through the tackles of an opposing team at Saturday's friendly match. Below, teammates Chris Clark (right) and Chris Cook take a breather during a break in the action.

Rugby players take a beating on the field, build bonds in the pub

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD PRESS

GARWOOD — It's been called "a ruffian's sport played by gentlemen," and to the untrained eye it appears to contain more of the former than the latter.

Two teams of fifteen players line up on opposite sides of the field, and as the action begins, one lone, brave ball carrier marches forward toward certain doom and the inevitable tackle of a very large — in some cases 300-pound — opponent.

Once that happens — and most often it doesn't take very long — a pig-pile known as a "scrum" develops, and somehow somebody ends up with the ball. After a series of cringe-inducing, savage tackles and countertackles, a player clutching what looks like a misshapen beach ball breaks from the pack, streaking down the field alone or working in tandem with teammates and, diving forward, pounds the ball into the turf at the end of the field.

The player, by the way, is likely wearing little or no padding.

But members of the Union County Rugby Football Club, known as the Mudturtles, say that while their game looks rough, fewer players sustain injury playing rugby than playing American football, a sport rugby predates.

Mudturtles captain Will Galway said that's because rules and tackling techniques between the two sports are just as divergent as the difference seen in the pace of play.

"Our technique of tackling teaches you to bring a player down using his momentum" without coming down on top of him, Galway said. In rugby, the battle to advance the ball a few extra inches is less important than maintaining possession and using teamwork to conserve energy.

There is little contact away from the ball in rugby, and the player carrying the ball is required to run ahead of his teammates at all times, eliminating contact related to blocking. Tackling methods are regulated, restricting contact above the chest area. Also, defenders tend to be more concerned with wrapping a ball carrier up than halting his forward progress at the point of attack.

Still, the sport isn't for the faint of heart.

"It's kind of like the Marine Corps with a ball," Galway joked.

Like American football, rugby includes a kicking game. After scoring the rugby equivalent of a touchdown, a player attempts a field goal from an offset angle, called, appropriately enough, a "try."

Players can also attempt to kick the ball through goalposts (identical in size and shape to American football goalposts) in the run of the game, but that's a rare event. The team with the most points after two very physical 35-minute halves is the winner of the contest.

The Mudturtles are in their 30th year of existence, and, as they have for many years, are playing their home games this season at Garwood's Unami Park. The team

is in a transitional period, according to first-year coach Daryn Henry, who learned the sport at age 5 when he lived in England and Wales.

After winning the Jersey Cup in 2002, some of the team's more experienced players began to make the transition into coaching or retirement, and the Mudturtles have been in rebuilding mode since.

"We have a lot of younger players with heaps and heaps of potential," but they have a lot of learning to do, said Henry. "With the learning curve such as it is, players are learning different aspects (of the game) in different ways."

If last Saturday's friendly competition is any indication, the players are climbing the curve. Facing a team from Wilmington, Del. — rugby clubs travel considerable distances to find competition — the Mudturtles won by a 71-15 margin.

Rugby has been growing as a sport in the eight years Henry has been in the United States. He said public exposure, television coverage and increased participation by people drawn to such an exciting, action-packed sport have made rugby more visible.

"People are realizing that the success of the sport is working on a grassroots level, by promoting the sport to youngsters," Henry said.

This year, the Union County club is continuing its program for younger kids and players at the high school level. Last year, about 30 kids participated in a milder,



low-impact flag rugby program, a number Henry thinks will double later this year.

And the Mudturtles have a high school team made up of players from all over Union County. They are learning the sport and playing well, posting a 3-0 record so far this year, including a shutout of the Wilmington high school squad.

"They're off to a great start," Henry said.

Rugby players have a well-earned reputation of being rough and tumble athletes, but like the deceptive finer details of the sport itself, that label can be misleading.

"Rugby is one of the only games where you can step on the field and try to tackle and beat the ball from someone, and afterward have a beer with them," said Galway. He said that it is traditional for the home team to meet the visitors at a local pub after the game and socialize.

That social element is one of the things that attracted Pat Gorman of Cranford to the sport. Gorman played rugby in college and said some of the players at that level have trouble leaving their disputes, which can get ugly from time to time, on the field. But in the men's league, he said, there is a level of admiration for anyone that plays the game.

"There's a mutual respect for the other guy," Galway explained, describing the internal gentleman's code that governs the sport.

Galway said the sport's pub reputation shouldn't be a deterrent to non-drinkers, and that rugby players welcome anyone, from all walks of life.

"We're trying to promote rugby as a sport anyone can play," he said.

Gorman agreed, explaining that rugby participants come from all different classes of people, ranging from doctors and lawyers to plumbers and construction workers, to people from inside and outside the United States.

That said, the sport can look a little baffling to someone watching a match for the first time. The relentless back-and-forth action; the sometimes dizzying quickness of a team advancing the ball down the field through a series of lateral passes and broken tackles; and the sudden, jarring impacts that can look worse than they actually are can give the impression that rugby is a sport without rules.

But that's not the case, according to Gorman, who's been playing rugby for four years and says the game is governed by a veritable onslaught of regulations.

"I still don't know all the rules," he said with a laugh.

After their home matches at Unami Park, the club's post-con- test gatherings are usually hosted by Butch Kowals Tavern in Rahway. The Mudturtles' next official game is against Princeton on April 10. For more information, check their website at www.mudturtlesrugby.com.



PHOTOS BY JOHN FEICORRESPONDENT
Mudturtle Simon Hooks passes off to a teammate before being dragged down by a defender.

BEST BETS

Auditions upcoming for Plays in the Park

Open auditions for adults for the 42nd season of Plays in the Park musicals will be held 7 p.m. April 23 and noon April 24 and 25. Callbacks will begin the week of April 26.

All auditions are held at the Stephen J. Capestro Theater, formerly the Roosevelt Park amphitheater, the home of Plays in the Park, in Roosevelt Park in Edison. A pianist will be provided. Those auditioning should prepare their best 16 bars of an up-tempo song and bring sheet music in the proper key.

The shows scheduled for summer 2004 include "The Fantasticks" June 30-July 10; "Footloose" July 21-31 and "Kiss Me, Kate" Aug. 11-21.

There are no children's roles available this summer, though it is possible for some dancing roles to be filled by older teenagers. No roles are pre-cast.

The open call consists of singing only; those receiving a callback will be asked to read, sing and dance at the specific callback time.

For more information call the theater between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday at (732) 548-2884 or check the information, including directions, on the theater's web site at www.playsinthepark.com.

Breakfast will help Clark family

On Jan. 19, a terrible tragedy occurred in Clark. The DaSilva family of Dawn Drive lost their home to a gas explosion. Joao DaSilva, 46, passed away as a result of his injuries. Surviving are his wife, Constance, and his sons, Roger and Nelson.

A breakfast to raise funds to help the DaSilva family is planned for 9 a.m.-noon Saturday at Gran Centurions, 440 Madison Hill Rd., Clark. The event is sponsored by Aliperti's, Arena Sports, Cuts Fitness for Men and Gran Centurions. All proceeds will go to "Fund for the DaSilva Family."

Tickets are available by visiting all sponsoring establishments, through all schools in Clark, or by mail to Cuts Fitness for Men, P.O. Box 5578, Clark, NJ 07706. Tickets are \$15 each for adults; \$10 for seniors, and \$8 for children under 12.

For more information call Sheila Whiting at (732) 388-0848 or Steven Kulbaba at (732) 574-1043.

Open Mic Night at Internet Lounge

The Internet Lounge, located at 256 South Ave., Fanwood, will be hosting an Open Mic/Karaoke Night 7 p.m. Sunday. Join in for a cup of gourmet coffee and a variety of organic foods. Participate in an original poetry reading, a stand-up comedy routine or a musical number. There's no cover charge.

Guests can also spend a few hours in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere; make new friends, surf the web or play a game of Diablo2, NeverWinterNights, WarCraft or Counter-Strike. Tournaments are held bi-weekly. For more information call (908) 490-1234 or visit www.theinternetlounge.com.

Art show at Atria puts nature on display

In celebration of spring, landscape artists and photographers from Union County will display works of art at a Cabin Fever Art Show. This art show will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Atria Cranford, a senior living community located at 10 Jackson Drive.

The show will also highlight the works of Atria Cranford's Executive Director, Doug Vocelle. All art will be available for purchase, with 10 percent of the proceeds benefiting Meals-on-Wheels of Union County.

Atria Cranford is an assisted living community that offers help with activities of daily living to seniors who maintain their independence. Engaging activities, meals and a variety of services are offered in a home-like environment to seniors who choose this lifestyle.

For more information about this or future events, contact Fran Monteleone at (908) 709-4300.



Among the photos now on display in the "First Impressions" exhibit at the Union Public Library is "Orange Chrome" by Carolyn Soltys. The exhibit, which was coordinated by Soltys, marks the first time a number of Kean University students have had their photographs displayed.

Exhibit makes a lasting 'Impression'

Kean University students are now displaying a selection of abstract and realistic images in color and black and white in an exhibit titled "First Impressions" at the Les Malamut Gallery, in the Union Public Library at 1980 Morris Ave.

The opening reception was held Saturday. The exhibit features work by Malgorzata Biedron, Brian Chamberlain, Philip Fiorello Jr., Sandy Rhein and Carolyn Soltys, who also coordinated the mounting of the exhibit and the welcoming reception.

The exposition is aptly named, as it is representative of the first time that these students will be showing their photographs, as well as of the images that reflect the individual impressions of life and the unique way in which each photographer

sees it through the camera lens.

"These photographs are not only technically excellent, but artistically meaningful as well," said Dr. Donald Lokuta, professor in Kean's Department of Fine Arts, whom the students regard as their mentor. "They've looked deep inside and have chosen the photographs that have spoken to them, as a reflection of themselves. Each had their own take on how they see the world."

"Bringing these images together has made this display a one-of-a-kind viewing experience," said Soltys, who graduated cum laude with a bachelor of fine arts degree from Kean in 1994.

"Unique to this exhibit is an integration of the individual styles and approaches,

indicative of the photographers' shared passion for exploring the outer edges of the diverse styles they represent," she said.

Although each of the exhibiting students is pursuing an academic degree in other disciplines at Kean, they are by no means newcomers to photography. An oil and acrylic instructor at Union County College, Soltys originally began taking pictures to use them as a reference for her paintings. However, after earning Best in Show for her photos at the Union County Festival on the Green in 1999, she was inspired to pursue this art as its own end.

The exhibit will run through May 5. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Teatro Si presents 'Misa Criolla' at Kean campus

Teatro Si, the premier Hispanic arts theater company in New Jersey, will present Misa Criolla y Mas 7:30 p.m. April 16 and 17, at 7:30 p.m. at Kean University East Campus Theater, located at 215 North Ave. in Hillside.

Visitors will enjoy the New Jersey debut of this world-renowned spiritual interpretation of the folk mass. The concert is arranged and performed by the popular Yas Cortes Duet, along with their special musical friends and the Ceibal Vocal Ensemble. Together they bring the audience this famous synthesis of popular and liturgical styles, written by Argentinean composer Ariel Ramirez in 1963.

The Misa Criolla is a musical work that combines the traditional rhythms of Argentine folklore with texts used in the

Catholic liturgy as it recalls the birth of the Christ Child. The work incorporates traditional tunes and instruments to manifest ceremony through folkloric expressions.

Yas Cortes Duet is the husband and wife team of Maria Cortes and Oscar Yas. They are natives of Argentina and lived and performed in Europe and South America before coming to the United States.

Their repertoire includes the Argentinean tango as well as various Latin-American rhythms. They are recipients of top prizes at Argentina's National Festival of Folk Music in Cosquin as a duet and also as single performers.

Maria and Oscar founded the Ceibal Vocal Ensemble in 1996 and have arranged, conducted and performed La Misa Criolla at Carnegie Hall and St.

The Misa Criolla is a musical work that combines the traditional rhythms of Argentine folklore with texts used in the Catholic liturgy as it recalls the birth of the Christ Child. The work incorporates traditional tunes and instruments to manifest ceremony through folkloric expressions.



The Yas Cortes Duet performs in "Misa Criolla y Mas" in a presentation by Teatro Si April 16-17.

Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

This special concert is preceded by a musical tour that transports the audience from Argentina to the Caribbean Islands via traditional music and dance that celebrates the spirit of Latin America, which should provide a wonderful

evening of family entertainment!

Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by calling the Kean University boxes office, located at 1000 Morris Ave., Union, at (908) 737-SHOW (7469).

For more information call Teatro Si at (908) 301-9496 or visit online at www.teatro-si.com.

Landscape paintings on display at Swain

Frank Ferrante will display his landscape oils in an exhibit titled "Maine to Mexico" from April 3-30 at Swain Galleries in Plainfield. The opening reception is planned for 3-7 p.m. Saturday.

Ferrante considers how painting outdoors, "en plein air," places him as the witness to the orchestration of the elements of "color, mood and atmosphere, of a composition, or painting, from the Richard Wagner grays of a foggy day to the crisp and sunny yellows of a John Philip Sousa march." Such elements are affected by fleeting time and ever-changing light, he says.

He talks about how "one feels in touch with another level — focused and swept up with the moment at hand. When the creative process calls, the painter accepts the challenge and passes from one place to another. This passing to another place expresses my feeling when capturing the drama of nature with oil paints."

The emotional content of his paintings is honest and vital. "I can feel the bitter cold in my fingers on a snowy morning, the

"When the creative process calls, the painter accepts the challenge and passes from one place to another. This passing to another place expresses my feeling when capturing the drama of nature with oil paints."

— Frank Ferrante

dampness of the ocean mist against my face and the sun baking my back while I struggle with the mood and subtle atmospheric changes of the painting itself."

With a bachelor's degree in marketing, Ferrante began his creative career producing educational programs for industry. He also studied fine art design and composition at the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts and spent part of his career in advertising.

Always attracted to art, drawing, pastels and oils, he finds pleasure in capturing the three basic painting elements — color, light and composition in his year-round, outdoor oil painting sessions in the eastern part of the U.S. and in Colorado and Mexico.

His work has appeared in numerous shows including the Allied Artists of America Juried Show in New York, the New Hope Juried Exposition in Pennsylvania, many New Jersey galleries and shows and in Colorado Springs, Colo. He is represented in private collections as well. A resident of Westwood, he teaches oil painting and has presented oil painting demonstrations throughout the state.

Ferrante is a member of the Allied Artists of America, the New Jersey En Plein Air Artists, Community Art Association in Allendale, the Ringwood Manor Association of the Arts and the Ridgewood Art Institute, where he studies landscape painting with John P. Osbourne.

"Maine to Mexico" continues on view Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays until 4 p.m. at Swain Galleries, 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, now in its 136th year as a family-owned enterprise.

Trailside offers a host of activities for area families

Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside invites area residents to take part in a number of upcoming activities:

On April 3, from 10 a.m.-noon, help Trailside clear the area behind Little Seeley's Pond of invasive exotic plants, build brush piles for wildlife and replant the area with native shrubs and wildflowers. Meet at Little Seeley's Pond parking lot. This Habitat Restoration is for families with children aged 4 and up and does not require pre-registration. Gloves, tools and refreshments will be provided.

On April 6, from 10-11:30 a.m., students in Grades 1 through 5 may attend a drop-off program, Green Wonders, and learn some fun facts about trees and plants. Find out about the oldest, tallest living organisms on earth. Act out the role of a squirrel in search of food and shelter. Help build a tree and hike the Orange Trail to identify a variety of green plants that help wildlife and people. The program, which requires pre-registration, is \$8 for Union County residents and \$10 for out-of-county residents. Call Trailside at (908) 789-3670 for space availability.

ability.

Trailside will celebrate "Diversity: The Nature of the Watchung Reservation" during its annual Earth Awareness Week, April 3 and 6-9. The Watchung Reservation is a 2,000-acre preserve rich in geologic and human history, as well as home to a multitude of flora and fauna. Special programming throughout the week will focus on topics including nesting birds, habitat restoration, bats, plants, eco-art for kids and much more. Call Trailside at (908) 789-3670 for information and fees on this and other Earth

Awareness programs. Pre-registration may be required, so call ahead for space availability.

Discover the unique characteristics of birds and learn how they are adapted for flight at Nesting Birds on April 3 from 1:30-3 p.m. Play Migration Madness to experience the hazards encountered by migrating birds. Take a hike in search of resident birds and put out nesting material along the way. This pre-registered program is for families with children aged 5 and up accompanied by an adult. The fee is \$4 for Union County residents and \$5 for non-

county residents. Call (908) 789-3670 for space availability.

Take a Sensory Sunset Walk on April 3 from 5-6:30 p.m. As the sun sets, experience nightlife on the wild side; listen to the calls of coyotes, owls and other animals, and try to identify silhouettes in the evening shadows. The program is for families with children aged 5 and up. The fee is \$4 per person for Union County residents and \$5 for non-county residents.

Trailside Nature and Science Center is located at 452 New Providence Rd. in Mountainside.

Adler stars in 'Come Fly With Me' at Forum

He sang, he danced, he told jokes, played the piano, (a little), lead sing alongs, schmoozed with the crowd and — all the while — traced more than 50 years of writing songs. Sammy Cahn was one of the most prolific songwriters of our time and as portrayed by Bruce Adler, Mr. Cahn's career is brought to life in a unique, exciting way. Adler's show at the Forum Theater Company of Metuchen, "Come Fly With Me" is an outpouring of classic American tunes that everybody knows, or ought to.

Cahn wrote almost 900 published songs in his career, earned 30 Academy Award nominations and won four Oscars with composers Jimmy Van Heusen, Jule Styne, Saul Chaplin and others. His career spanned the 1950s through the 80s, and many of his songs are still in regular airplay.

Songs such as "Three Coins In The Fountain," "My Kind Of Town," "High Hopes," "All The Way," "Love And Marriage" and "Time After Time" are just a sampling of Cahn's incredible catalogue of musical hits and are all on display in "Come Fly With Me." Joining Adler is a trio of singers accompanied by musical director and celebrated pianist Michael Larsen.

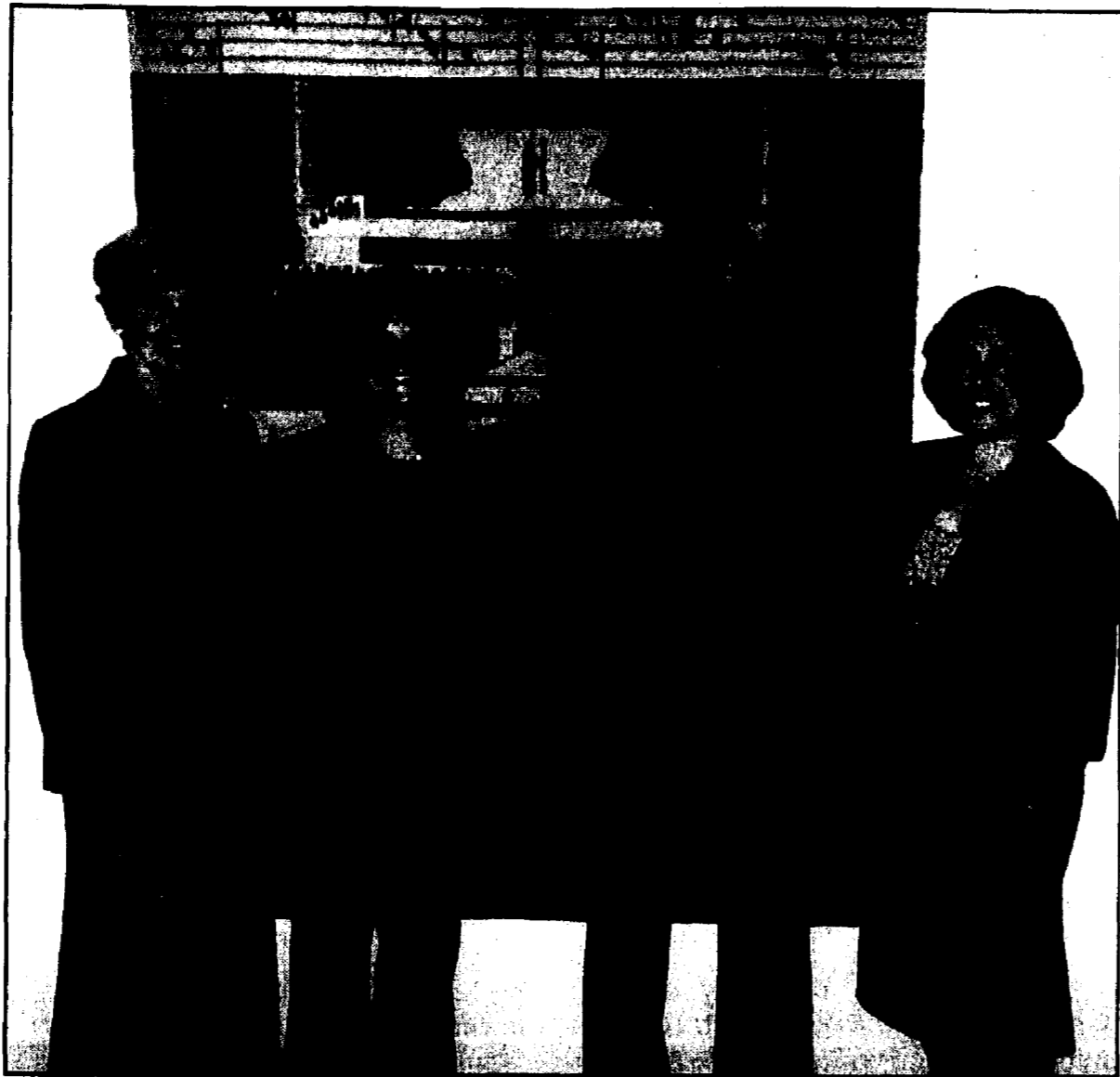
Adler starred on Broadway in the Tony Award-winning Gershwin musical "Crazy For You," for which he received both the 1992 Tony and Drama Desk Award nominations as 'best featured actor in a musical.' Prior to that, his performance in "Those Were the Days" (1991) earned him a Drama Desk Award as well as a Tony nomination in the same category. He has also been featured in the Disney animated films "Beauty and The Beast" (the voice of Gramps and Dick) and "Aladdin" (he sings the opening song 'Arabian Nights').

His television appearances include NBC's "Law and Order" and the sitcom "Here and Now." Among his many Broadway credits are "Rumors," "Sunday in the Park With George," George Abbott's "Broadway," "Oh, Brother!" and the 1979 revival of "Oklahoma!" He has also starred around the country playing Nathan Detroit in "Guys and Dolls," Bill Snibson in "Me and My Girl," Luther Billis in "South Pacific," The Cowardly Lion in "The Wizard Of Oz," Hysterium in "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum," Alfred P. Doolittle in "My Fair Lady," J.P. Biggley in "How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying" and Hucklebee in "The Fantasticks."

Born into a theatrical family, Adler began performing at the age of 3. He is the son of Henrietta Jacobson and Julius Adler, and is the third-generation descendant of the noted Jacobson-Adler family. His maternal grandparents Joseph and Bessie Jacobson began the family tradition of Yiddish theatre at the turn of the century, and it was continued by his parents as well as by his uncles Hymie and Irving Jacobson, who were all stars of the Yiddish theatre. Bruce has also continued that tradition over the years by starring in several shows celebrating the Yiddish theater and Yiddish culture, such as "Those Were the Days," "The Golden Land," "On Second Avenue," "Bagels and Yox," "Raisins and Almonds" and most recently "Greetings... Sholom Aleichem Lives!" with Theodore Bikel and Judy Kaye.

His many other credits include leading roles in national tours of "Cabaret," "Fiddler On The Roof," "Come Blow Your Horn," "Little Shop of Horrors," "They're Playing Our Song" and "Don't Drink the Water."

"Come Fly With Me" plays April 29 through May 16. Performances are Wednesday and Thursday matinees at 2 p.m., Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets can be ordered by phone with any major credit card by calling the Forum Box office at (732) 548-0582 Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are discounts for groups of 20 or more as well as senior and student discounts. A complete performance schedule is available on the web at www.forumtheatrecompany.com.



Shown at the kick-off meeting for the gala are from left, Alice Dillon of Westfield, Judy Cohen of Berkeley Heights, Eric Pryor, president of the NJCVA, and Marite Robinson of Summit, who serves as co-chair of Images 2004.

NJCVA plans its annual gala

The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit will hold its 23rd annual Images Gala, the center's principal fundraising event, on April 24 at the Hilton Short Hills in Short Hills. Nancy Y. Taylor, vice president and general manager of Neiman Marcus Short Hills, will serve as Images Corporate Chair.

Dubbed "Images 2004: A Glitterarty Party," the event will feature art adventures, dining and dancing to the music of The Party Dolls and silent and live auctions. Proceeds from the

evening will benefit the center's education and community outreach programs. For reservations and further information call NJCVA, Betsy Smith, (908) 273-9121.

The non-profit New Jersey Center for Visual Arts is a nationally-accredited educational institution with museum status, celebrating 71 years of access to art. The center, located at 68 Elm St. in Summit, is open seven days a week for classes and exhibitions. For more, Call NJCVA at (908) 273-9121.

Exhibit spotlights golf pro Shippen

A new exhibit titled "Little Known Black History Gems of Union County: John Shippen and the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club," opened last Sunday in the Gallery of the Drake House Museum in Plainfield.

The multimedia exhibit, on loan from the John Shippen Memorial Foundation, contains photographs, documents, books, paintings, sculpture, trophies and other ephemera pertaining to the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club and John Shippen (1879-1967), the first American-born professional golfer and the first black person to compete in the U.S. Open Championship.

Shippen's professional career began at the Shinnecock Hills golf course on Long Island when he was 17 years old. Members encouraged him to enter the 1896 U.S. Open being played at Shinnecock; he placed fifth with a prize of \$10.

The Shady Rest Golf and Country Club (1921-1964) was the first documented black-owned country club. Shippen was the golf pro there from 1924 until his retirement in 1960. Photos of tennis champion Jeff Craig of Plainfield and Shady Rest, are also included in the exhibit, which is curated by Ethel Washington.

The John Shippen Memorial Foundation was established in 1991 to commemorate and promote the historical significance of Shippen. This exhibition enhances the public's knowledge and appreciation of diversity and functions as a history

The multimedia exhibit contains photographs, documents, books, paintings, sculpture, trophies and other ephemera pertaining to the Shady Rest Golf and Country Club and John Shippen, the first American-born professional golfer and the first black person to compete in the U.S. Open Championship.

lesson for students, educators, researchers and the general public. The foundation promotes projects and events designed to develop and increase minority youth interest in golf.

The exhibit has been made possible in part by a Heart (History, Education, Arts

Reaching Thousands) Grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and by the John Shippen Memorial Golf Foundation.

The Historical Society presents programs through the Elizabeth Keating Educational Program, which is made possible, in part, by the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State; the Plainfield Foundation; the McCutchen Foundation; and the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of Cultural Affairs in the Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

The Drake House, located at 602 West Front St., Plainfield, is open from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sundays, and by appointment for school groups and others. For information about programs and services offered by the Historical Society, call (908) 755-5831.

For more information about the exhibit, contact Jesse Levine, NJ Program Associate, The Drake House Museum, 602 W. Front St., Plainfield, (908) 755-5831; or Thurman P. Simmons Sr., Chairman, John Shippen Memorial Golf Foundation, 1597 St. Ann St., Scotch Plains, (908) 322-2986.

Guild highlights text and textures

The Arts Guild of Rahway will present "Take 5: Text and Textures," an exhibit of fiber/fabric art by five New Jersey women, from Sunday to April 16. An opening reception will be held n 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

"Text and Texture," curated by West Orange artist Rayna Gillman, brings together original collage-style mixed media works by Gillman and four New Jersey women. The show turns the artistic spotlight on fiber — a substance that has been called "the new glass," an art material that is coming into its own and is being sought by museums, collectors, galleries, and for display in public buildings.

Each of the women featured in "Text and Textures" comes from a different art-form background and brings to bear her unique approach to image-making for this show.

Helene Davis is a colorist and ceramic artist who translates her great sense of color from glazes and abstract designs to her work on cloth, while Barbara Pucci is a printmaker and photographer who projects a surrealist sensibility with graphic elements and paint.

Joanie San Chirico uses stitches in her highly textured abstract explorations of ancient artifacts and nature. Joan Dryer's training is grounded in experimentation,

and Rayna Gillman herself employs a variety of image transfer and printing techniques to play in her creations on cloth.

The works in this exhibit feature text in many styles, both for its own sense as words and its decorative or formal sense as a motif. Each of these artists use an exciting collage mentality in the production of alluring, powerful and beautifully-colored mixed media art.

Gallery hours for this exhibit, sponsored by Merck & Co., Inc., are Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 1-4 p.m. and Thursday from 1-3 and 5-7 p.m. Appointments are also available for schools and large groups. For further information call (732) 381-7511, e-mail the guild at arts-guild1670@earthlink.net, or visit the website at www.rahwayarts-guild.org.

The Arts Guild of Rahway is a non-profit center for the arts which presents visual art exhibits featuring emerging New Jersey artists, a music series and art classes and workshops for adults and children of all levels of experience.

The Arts Guild is located at 1670 Irving St. in downtown Rahway. Its mission is to present high quality arts programs for the Central and Northern New Jersey areas.

Tony Kushner talks at Kean

Kean University will present "An Evening with Tony Kushner" 8 p.m. Thursday, April 1 in Wilkins Theatre, 1000 Morris Ave., Union.

The Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright is best known for his play "Angels in America," which Newsweek has called "the broadest, deepest, most searching American play of our time."

He will also express his thoughts on moral responsibility in politically oppressive times, Jews in America, and contentious

debates over the Middle East. Leonard Lopate, host of WNYC public radio's popular mid-day talk show, will preside.

Kushner will be available after the program to sign price-reduced copies of his books.

Tickets are \$15 for the general public. Students, faculty and staff with valid Kean University identification may receive one free ticket per person. Call the Wilkins Theatre Box Office at (908) 737-SHOW (7469) to reserve a ticket or request more information.

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We want to include news of your arts and entertainment event into the PrimeTime section of the Cranford Chronicle and Record-Press.

There are numerous ways to get your information to us: mail it to 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ 07066; fax it to (732) 574-2613; or email it to union@njnpublishing.com.

Items should arrive by Friday for the following week's edition.

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GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE
9 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
(732) 246-7717;
www.gsponline.org

"Tick, Tick ... Boom!" 80's musical by Jonathan Larson ("Rent"). To April 18. Admission \$52-\$28; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

Brookside Dr., Millburn
(973) 376-4343;
www.papermill.org

"Baby," area revival of 80's musical. To May 9. Admission \$67-\$30; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Route 28, Branchburg
(908) 725-3420; www.rvccarts.org

"Welcome to the Moon and Other Plays" by John Patrick Shanley. 7:30 p.m. April 1, 2. Adults \$7; students, seniors \$5.

SOMERSET VALLEY PLAYERS

Route 514, Hillsborough

(908) 369-7469;
www.svptheatre.org

"Barefoot in the Park," local production of 60's stage/movie comedy. 8 p.m. April 2, 3; 3 p.m. April 4. Admission \$13; discounts available.

COMING UP

CROSSROADS THEATRE

7 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick

(732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu

"Fortinbras," Dutch comedy by Lee Blessing. 8 p.m. April 9, 10, 13-17; 2 p.m. April 11, 18. Admission \$20-\$10.

For Kids

THE ADVENTURES OF PETER RABBIT

10 a.m. April 3, 4
Paper Mill Playhouse, Brookside Dr., Millburn
(973) 376-4343;
www.svptheatre.org

Based on the stories of Beatrix Potter's beloved bunny. Admission \$10, \$9.

SESAME STREET LIVE

April 7-12
State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11; www.statetheatre.nj.org

"Everyone Makes Music" with Big Bird and his crew. Admission \$24-\$10; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

Events

COUNTRY FOLK ART CRAFT SHOWS

New Jersey Convention Center, Raritan Center, Edison
(732) 417-1400; www.countryfolkartshows.com

Spring edition of touring craft

show, 3-9 p.m. April 2, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. April 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. April 4. Admission \$7.

Sky Shows

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Route 28, Branchburg

(908) 231-8805;

www.raritanval.edu/planetarium

Family laser concert, 3 and 8 p.m. April 3, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22. Admission \$5.

"Spring Skies and Venus," 2 and 7 p.m. April 3, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22. Admission \$4.50.

Concerts

JOHN BUNCH

8 p.m. Friday, April 2

Watchung Arts Center, Watchung Circle, Watchung
(908) 753-0190; www.watchungarts.org

Jazz pianist performs as part of a duo. Admission \$13.

VALENTINA JOTOVIC/YEVGENY MOROZOV

Noon on Friday, April 9

Kirkpatrick Chapel, Rutgers

University, New Brunswick

(732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu

Flutist (she) and pianist (he) in a Good Friday recital. Free admission.

Dance

GISELLE

7 p.m. Saturday, April 3

Raritan Valley Community College, Route 28, Branchburg
(908) 725-3420; www.rvccarts.org

Performed by the New Jersey Ballet Company. Admission \$25, \$20.

SWAN LAKE

8 p.m. Thursday, April 1

State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick

(877) STATE 11; www.statetheatre.nj.org

Tchaikovsky standard performed by the Moscow Festival Ballet.

Admission \$40-\$20. Related lecture 7 p.m.

TOM SAWYER

1 and 3:30 p.m. April 4

Raritan Valley Community College, Route 28, Branchburg
(908) 725-3420; www.rvccarts.org

Based on stories by Mark Twain; performed by the New Jersey Ballet Company. Admission \$9.

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"Art at Lunch," 12:15 p.m. April 7.

"Something to Treasure" in children's book art, to April 18.

"Public Appearances: Manipulating Images of Power," to June 27.

"Beyond the Botanical: Organic Imagery in Print," to June 27.

"A World of Stage: Russian Designs for Theater, Opera and Dance," April 3-June 27.

Soviet propaganda posters, to July 6.

Theater posters "Beyond the Limits of Socialist Realism," to July 31.

"Transcultural New Jersey: Currents in the Mainstream," April 4-July 31. Related program 5:30 p.m. April 1.

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Sports

MURPHY'S LAW

Nobody to root for? Root against

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD-PRESS

This weekend's Final Four can boast a pair of premier matchups and a couple of high-profile programs doing battle, but with brackets busted, office pools already clinched and tiny, feel-good St. Joseph's eliminated, it lacks some of the juice the casual fan looks for.

Sure, there is that tiny matter of a national championship to be decided, but what's that got to do with me?

Many drowned in the deep end of their office pool after last weekend's games and the early exits of Kentucky and Stanford. And unless one of the Final Four is your alma mater it could be hard to find somebody to root for.

There is no Cinderella traveling to San Antonio this year, no St. Joseph's or Gonzaga, no team seeded higher than third.

But, if you can't find somebody to root for, you don't have to look far to find somebody to root against. While there is no tournament sweetheart to root for, you can root against the tournament's wicked stepsister. Yes, I'm talking about Duke.

(Of course, I realize most of the people I'm preaching to are Yankee fans, who may never understand the idea of rooting against evil empires who pull in unspeakable amounts of new talent every year, over-hype their players and promote a bunch of front-running, bandwagon hoppers as their die hard fans but I'll try anyway.)

If you root for Duke you probably rooted for South Bend Central at the end of *Hoosiers*, Johnny to beat up Daniel at the end of *The Karate Kid* and Shute to pin Loudon Swain in *Vision Quest*.

As a Maryland alumnus it is difficult for me to put into words how much I hate Duke. During my time in College Park I witnessed many heartbreaking losses to Duke and since graduation have seen many more. Duke has put together a dynasty. I can't argue against the success they've had over the past 20 years.

But it is not Duke's success that bothers me, but the way in which they carry it. Dukies walk around with a high-and-mighty, pompous air about them, feeding off the blind, overbearing hype of the college basketball media, led by Dick Vitale, and promoting themselves as God's gift to college hoops.

But apparently conference and national championships aren't enough for the Blue Devils; they also need the unquestioned love of everybody in the nation. More and more people are now rooting against Duke and that makes their head coach sad. Well, boo-friggitty-hoo.

In a Washington Post article by John Feinstein, a Duke alum, Mike Krzyzewski rants about the ABD — Anybody But Duke — mentality and its unfairness to his players. "It's one thing to root for your team to win," Feinstein quotes him as saying, "it's another thing to root for a favorite to lose."

Hello. Earth to K. Isn't rooting against a favorite one of the drawing points of the NCAA Tournament and sports in general? Maybe that is why he is now too good to do his own half-time interviews — he needs to escape to the locker room as quickly as possible to avoid any further jeers from the crowd, taunts they probably learned from the widely beloved Cameron Crazies.

Championships aren't enough for Duke. They also need the occasional group hug.

There are a gazillion other reasons to root against Duke that space prohibits me from listing here. But if all of your rooting interests in the NCAA tournament have been eliminated there is at least one team left worth rooting against.

And believe me, it is OK to root against them.

Rebuilt Devils ready to rock

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE RECORD-PRESS

Last season the Westfield High softball team was a young squad going through a rebuilding season, replacing six starters from the previous year.

Now the Blue Devils are rebuilt.

Westfield returns six starters from a team that went 8-12 last year, but lost five games by one run. Last year's squad was talented but inexperienced, now the Devils have both pieces of the puzzle in place and are looking forward to a much-improved season.

Westfield opens the season Monday, hosting a rebuilding Cranford squad at 4 p.m. The Devils will then host Shabazz Wednesday and will play in the Rahway Tournament, pitting Watchung Conference teams against Mountain Valley Conference squads, April 10.

"We have a lot of girls back in the same spots as last year," said second-year head coach Tara Pignoli. "We expect to do much better this year."

"Last year we just didn't have a lot of experience, and it was my first year as head coach. We should be better all around — pitching, defense and offensively. Now we just have to be able to pull out the wins."

Junior left-hander Lauren Gelmetti worked hard on her pitching in the off-season and has shown vast improvement since last year, her first as a starting pitcher.

"She's picked up some speed and has a couple more pitches she can throw," said Pignoli. "The biggest thing is she is a lot more confident. Last year was her first year pitching, and it is not easy to do that at this level. She's throwing harder, has better control and she is a lot more confident this year."

Senior co-captain Lauren Musachia returns behind the plate for Westfield, where she has developed a strong chemistry with Gelmetti and will be an important bat in the heart of Westfield's order.

"She'll really help us with her bat this year," said Pignoli. "She got a lot of clutch hits for us last year and has hit the ball well so far in our scrimmages."

Senior Jen Frost is back at first base and brings not only a strong glove but good leadership to the infield. Sophomore Kristina Fietkiewicz is back at shortstop after starting and batting leadoff as a freshman.

Two newcomers to the varsity round out the infield where junior Katie Smith should get the nod at second base and sophomore Marilyn Mench takes over



NICOLE DIMELLA/THE RECORD-PRESS

After posting an 8-12 record during a rebuilding season last year, Brittany Vella and the Westfield High softball team have the experience and talent to return to their winning ways this spring.

at third base.

Senior co-captain Jess Guerriero moves from rightfield to leftfield with sophomore Mary Kate Flannery returning to centerfield. Senior Danielle Palantchar and sophomore Abby Chazanov are vying for the starting job in rightfield.

Seniors Danielle Coleman and Brianna Gioranella and junior Brittany Vella will provide the depth for the Blue Devils.

Musachia and Gelmetti will provide the punch in Westfield's

lineup, batting third and fourth and Smith has shown some pop in the preseason. While Pignoli is still working on the order, she expects Fietkiewicz, Flannery and Chabanov to provide plenty of RBI opportunities for Westfield's sluggers.

In the preseason Westfield has also seemed to cut down on the strikeouts problems that plagued them last year. Combining that with improved pitching and defense, the Devils should be able to pull out some of the close games

they dropped last year.

"We've been much more aggressive on the bases and we're putting the ball in play," said Pignoli. "We've got strong pitching, now we just have to play good defense and get some timely hitting."

"I may be a 'one game at a time' type of coach but I think this team feels the same way. We haven't set any goals in terms of our record, counties or states. At this point we just want to get comfortable and get used to each other."

Multi-talented Smith leads deep SP-F squad

By DAVID LAZARUS
RECORD-PRESS CORRESPONDENT

Rich McGriff was a junior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School in 1983 when the Raiders last lost a dual meet.

McGriff, who shares head coaching duties with cross country and indoor coach Jeff Koegel, is hoping an influx of talented athletes from one of the most successful athletic seasons in school history keeps the streak going another year and makes up for a disappointing indoor season. The Raiders are also hoping to defend their Watchung Conference title and regain the state sectional title.

"We have a lot of fine athletes joining us. There is a lot of potential out there," said McGriff.

The top all around athlete is junior Sean Smith, one of the bright spots of the indoor season. After missing the entire cross country season with a stress fracture Smith was the team leader in the hurdles, the high jump and the 400 meters and could be even more dominant if he could compete in all his events.

"One of our biggest problems will be limiting Sean to four events," said Koegel. "He can excel in every running event from the 200 to the 800, both 400 intermediate and 110 high hurdles, the long jump, triple jump, and high jump, the javelin and the relays. He could also be a good pole vaulter and discus thrower."

"We will be drumming him up as a potential decathlete when it comes to recruiting time when he is a senior. He is a very athletic person, so he has a number of coaches pulling at him."

Pushing Smith in the 400 hurdles will be senior Pete Liss and Nehemiah Burney-Porter who is also a top triple jumper.

The most well known and one of the most talented multi-sport athletes is sophomore basketball star Lance Thomas, who used his leaping ability to lead the team in the long jump and high jump last year. He also shows great potential in the 400 meters. Another lanky basketball star, Mike Walker, will also compete in the jumps along with indoor star Iceberg Bryant.

The strength of the team should once again be the distances where Union County indoor two-mile champion Brian Kopnicki will be pushed by fellow senior Zack McGuire. McGuire who ran 1:59.8 in the 800 and 4:23 in the mile sat out the indoor season to try and fully recovery from a leg injury suffered during cross country season. Kopnicki's bests are 4:26 and 9:41, both ran this indoor season.

Freshman Mike Miller, who has already lettered in cross country and swimming and sophomore Josh Zinman give the Raiders a deep and balanced distance corps.

The weight events, coached by Ken Hernandez and traditionally a strong point of the team, face the difficult task of replacing graduated county champion Chris Feighner in the shot put and discus. Football players Marc Fabiano and Tim Karis will push junior Ted Acosta, the current leader who also competed indoors. Freshman John Badala will also contribute in the shot put and discus, where Karis is the top returnee. Smith is currently the leading javelin thrower.

Pete Kane, a 1997 Scotch Plains graduate and a 15' pole-vaulter in college, is hoping that Max Carow and a large group of talented underclassmen can continue a long high school tradition of excellence in the pole vault.

"We have an incredibly large number of freshmen boys out," said Koegel. "Pete Kane and Jon Stack (weights and sprint coach) are the frosh football coaches, and they had about 40 kids on their team this fall. They got most of them out for track. Many will be throwers, some will be multi-event. A few of them seem to be extremely athletic," said Koegel.

The turnout has been so great that it has caused a shortage of uniforms. Koegel ran out of the 55 on hand. The other administrative challenge is less pleasant for Koegel to discuss.

"The condition of our track is pathetic," said Koegel. "Every other sports team has had work done on their facilities, including new baseball and softball fields. Even as successful as our track team has been over the years, our trophy case is full, we cannot get our track re-surfaced."

SPORTSCENE

Westfield to host Golden Gloves

The Westfield Police Athletic League will be sponsoring one of the New Jersey Golden Gloves events April 10 at Westfield High School, 550 Dorian Rd., Westfield. The doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the boxing will begin at 8 p.m.

This is the first time that The Golden Gloves Tournament has been held in Westfield and we are looking forward to making this an annual event. The tournament consists of boxers from various boxing clubs from North Jersey to Central Jersey. There are various weight classes as well as various ages of male and female competitors.

These competitors will be vying for the chance to be named Golden Gloves champ and to receive a pair of 14K Golden Gloves. They will also have the opportunity to compete in the USA Boxing Association Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri in May, 2004.

The Westfield P.A.L. is interested to know if there are youth as well as adults that might be interested in getting involved with a non-competitive boxing club. The club would teach the techniques of boxing, the disciplines, self-confidence and it would be another positive activity that is not offered in town. For those who might want to be involved in a competitive way, the P.A.L. would get them involved with Shadow Boxing Club, which is local.

The cost of tickets are \$25.00 for all ringside seats, \$15 for general admission. Children 12 and under and senior citizens cost \$5. The tickets can be purchased at the Westfield Leader Store, 109 East Broad St., D&E Phone Services, 200 Central Ave., Plainfield or call the Westfield P.A.L. office at (908) 233-7105.

St. Bart's softball draft
Teams will be selected in a player draft Tuesday, April 13 at 7 p.m. at the St. Bartholomew's School's cafeteria in Scotch Plains.

Sunday practices will be held 10 a.m. at Forest Road Park beginning April 4. The practices are open to all

St. Bart's players, including rookies.

The league would like to thank Tom Rutkowski for his contributions as a captain during the past few years. Mark Romaine will take his place in 2004.

A few more boys and girls are needed to keep score at the games. A salary and performance bonuses are available. If interested please call Nick Barattucci at (908) 332-8649.

This year marks the 26th season for the St. Bartholomew's Oldtimers Softball League. For more information about the league, visit www.stbartsoftball.com.

Slow-pitch team needed

The Union County Women's Slow-Pitch Softball League has openings for teams to play in the league. Games are played Wednesday evenings at Warinanco Park in Roselle.

Please call Kathy Mahon, League Director, at (908) 925-6178.

Soccer Peanut Program

The Cranford Soccer Club has introduced its Peanut Program. The program is an introductory soccer program designed for children ages 3, 4, and 5 who live in Cranford or the surrounding area. Training services will be provided by Victory Soccer Academy, the same professionals who run the CSC's Monday night Rec Clinics and who will be training our kindergartners beginning this season.

This is a 6-week program that will begin Friday, April 23. It will be held on Fridays from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Sherman Field in Cranford. The children will be divided into the appropriate age groups and will participate in six 10-minute sessions, rotating to the next station after each session. There will be a water-break at the 30-minute mark. Rain dates will be added to the end of the session, on Fridays from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., if needed.

This 6-week program, which includes an Adidas Soccer Ball and a t-shirt, is available for only \$60! Fun is the key to this program!

To register for the program please visit www.cranfordsoccer.com.

HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

(all times p.m. unless otherwise noted)

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

Baseball

Westfield vs. Middlesex, 4

Softball

Scotch Plains at Bridgewater-Raritan, 3:45

Tennis

Westfield vs. Shabazz, 4

Scotch Plains vs. Cranford, 4

Golf

Westfield vs. Union, 3:30

Scotch Plains vs. Wardlaw, 3:30

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Baseball

Scotch Plains vs. North Hunterdon, 11 a.m.

Girls Lacrosse

Westfield vs. New Providence, 11 a.m.

Track

Westfield at Kearny Flays

Scotch Plains at SATCOA Relays, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 5

Baseball

Westfield at Cranford, 4

Scotch Plains vs. Shabazz, 4

Softball

Westfield vs. Cranford, 4

Scotch Plains at Shabazz, 4

Boys Lacrosse

Westfield vs. Hillsborough, 4

Girls Lacrosse

Westfield at Mendham, 4

Tennis

Westfield vs. Summit, 4

Golf

Westfield vs. St. Benedict's, 3:30

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

Track

Westfield at Scotch Plains, 4

Tennis

Westfield vs. Metuchen, 10 a.m.

Scotch Plains at Bridgewater-Raritan, 10:30 a.m.

Golf

Westfield vs. Wardlaw, 3:30

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

Baseball

Westfield at Shabazz, 4

Scotch Plains at Linden, 4

Softball

Westfield vs. Shabazz, 4

Scotch Plains vs. Linden, 4

Tennis

Westfield at Scotch Plains, 4

Golf

Westfield at Shabazz, 3:30

Author-illustrator team visits Town Book Store

WESTFIELD — This weekend, The Town Book Store of Westfield will host a meet and greet author appearance.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, author and illustrator team Danny and Kim Adlerman will be in the store to promote their new book, "Rock-a-Bye Baby."

After working at a children's publishing house in New York, the Adlermans turned their story book marriage into the business of fairy tales. While on a family trip with their 18-month-old daughter asleep in the back seat of the car, Danny and Kim started coming up with weather related rhymes, working them into the meter of "It's Raining, It's Pouring."

Kim wrote their words on the only piece of paper available — an envelope (which they still have). That envelope soon became "It's Raining, It's Pouring," written under the pen name Kin Eagle. (Kin Eagle is derived from their first names, and Adler is German for eagle).

Since then, the Adlermans have produced "Hey Diddle Diddle," "Rub a Dub Dub" and "Humpty Dumpty" (all under their pen name with illustrations by Rob Gilbert), "Africa Calling, Nighttime Falling" (with three-dimensional collage artwork by Kim), and "Songs for America's Children" (patriotic songs featuring artwork by children across the U.S.)

Stop in and meet this interesting team or call and reserve a signed copy. For more information, call The Town Book Store at (908) 233-3535.

Club raises funds to help local child

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Welcome Club recently raised \$2,550 for Patrick Higgins and the Fight SMA cause.

Patrick is a 6-year-old Westfield resident afflicted with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). SMA refers to a group of diseases that affect the motor neurons of the spinal cord and brain stem. These important cells are responsible for supplying electrical and chemical messages to muscle cells. Without the proper input from the motor neurons, muscle cells cannot function properly. Patrick is currently confined to a motorized wheelchair.

The Westfield Welcome Club was happy to help raise awareness and funds for Patrick's important cause. The scientific community has recently isolated the gene responsible for SMA and is researching the manner in which this gene might be altered to provide therapeutic treatment

in the next three to five years, and someday even find a cure. Donations like those made through the Club's effort are instrumental to this endeavor.

Lisa DeCicco and Bobbi Sgro were the fundraising committee chairs. Both worked tirelessly organizing the drive and soliciting area vendors to contribute items and gift certificates. Countless hours were spent gathering items for raffles and preparing raffle baskets for the Club's annual progressive dinner.

The Westfield Welcome Club is a not-for-profit organization that offers various activities to women and their families in Westfield and surrounding communities. Club activities include monthly dinners, ladies' nights out, children's events, couples events, movie nights and book discussions.

Those interested in learning more about the club can visit www.westfieldnj.com/welcome or call Jen at (908) 317-5871. To learn more about SMA, visit www.fightSMA.com.



Members of the Westfield Welcome Club pose with Patrick Higgins, a local resident battling spinal muscular atrophy. The club members recently raised \$2,550 for Higgins and the Fight SMA cause.

Westfield named one of top 100 communities for music education

An annual survey by a partnership of leading music and educational organizations recently named Westfield as one of the "Best 100 Communities for Music Education in America for 2004."

Linda King, supervisor of fine arts for the Westfield Public Schools, who received the news, said, "It is an honor to receive this distinction. It is a testimony to the talent and commitment of our teachers and students and the support of the Westfield community."

Under King's leadership, the music department, with 23 instructors, plans 23 choral and instrumental concerts per year. There are 1,448 students enrolled in the instrumental instruction program. Students at the intermediate and high school level have been awarded placement in regional, all-state, all-eastern, and national bands, orchestras and vocal groups.

Representing 30 states, the roster of the "best 100" was chosen through a survey conducted jointly by several organizations devoted to music and learning. The American Music Conference joined MENC: the

"It is an honor to receive this distinction. It is a testimony to the talent and commitment of our teachers and students and the support of the Westfield community."

— Linda King

National Association for Music Education, the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, the Music for All Foundation, the Music Teachers National Association, the National School Boards Association, Yamaha Corporation of America and VH1 Save The Music Foundation in creating the survey and interpreting the results.

For the fifth year in a row, Perseus Development Corp. of Braintree, Mass. donated its time and expertise to implement the web survey and to analyze the data it generated.

In a recent nationwide Gallup Poll, 93 percent of Americans said that schools should offer musical instruction as part of the regular curriculum. The mental

and physical benefits of active music-making have been well documented over the last decade.

The College Entrance Examination Board has found that students in music appreciation scored 63 points higher on the verbal and 44 points higher on the math sections of the SAT than students with no arts participation. U.S. Department of Education data on more than 25,000 secondary school students found that students who report consistent high levels of involvement in instrumental music over the middle and high school years show "significantly higher levels of mathematics proficiency by grade 12."

In addition, a 1999 study published in Neurological Research showed that 237 second grade children who used piano keyboard training and newly designed math software scored 27 percent higher on proportional math and fractions tests than children who used only the math software. Similar studies continue to emerge.

For the fifth annual survey, thousands of public school and independent teachers, school and district administrators, school board members, parents and community leaders, representing communities in all 50 states, participated in the Web-based survey during January and February.

Participants in the survey answered detailed questions about funding, enrollment, student-teacher ratios, participation in music classes, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, participation in private music lessons and other factors in their communities' quality of music education. The responses were verified with district officials, and the sponsoring organizations reviewed the data.

"We congratulate those communities that have consistently supported quality music programs in their public schools," says Anne L. Bryant, Executive Director of the National School Boards Association. "They recognize the relationship between academic achievement and active participation in a music program. Moreover, in those communities, the support goes beyond providing financial resources; there is a broader matrix in which students know their achievements are recognized, valued, and publicly honored. This kind of community engagement creates a climate in which student achievement rises to new levels."

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<div> M. & R VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 5⁹⁹ </div>		<div> M. & R VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 5⁹⁹ </div>		<div> M. & R VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 5⁹⁹ </div>		<div> M. & R VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 5⁹⁹ </div>	
<div> G. & D VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 11⁹⁹ </div>		<div> G. & D VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 11⁹⁹ </div>		<div> G. & D VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 11⁹⁹ </div>		<div> G. & D VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry 11⁹⁹ </div>	

CONTACT We Care recognizes volunteers

WESTFIELD — CONTACT We Care, the 24-hour Crisis Hotline serving callers throughout the state of New Jersey, honored its more than 100 volunteers at a Volunteer Recognition Dinner March 5. Sponsors for the evening included over two dozen area restaurants and businesses who donated food platters for the buffet and floral decorations.

Volunteers at CONTACT We Care staff the hotline telephones, place outreach calls to the homebound elderly and disabled in the Care Ring Program, and support the office staff with many projects. "Last year volunteer support of our programs totaled 10,000 hours, 8,500 hours on the hotline telephones alone," said Katie Feeks, executive director. "It is very gratifying to have so many area businesses respond so positively to our request for donations and support as we celebrate the dedication and commitment of our volunteers."

While the evening acknowledged the important role that all the organization's volunteers have in providing reassurance, support and crisis intervention services to the community, there were a few volunteers who received special recognition for passing major "milestones" as a CONTACT volunteer.

Special awards for 500 volunteer hours were presented to

Gene Bloomwell of South Plainfield, Grace Bradley and Mary Kelly of Rahway, Mary Delohery of Westfield, Nancy Levine of Fanwood and Judy McGrath of Roselle. Ellen Anthony of Basking Ridge received a standing ovation as she was recognized for 3,000 volunteer hours.

The following sponsors contributed to the buffet: Clynne & Murphy, Fuji, Mojave Grill, Northside Trattoria, Panera Bread, and Vicki's Diner of Westfield; Rice Inn of Fanwood; Highlander Restaurant, Hung's Shanghai, John's Meat Market, My Town Bakery, Nuts 'N' Plenty, Salt & Pepper and the Swiss Pastry Shoppe of Scotch Plains; Beana's Mexican Restaurant of Rahway; Kings of Short Hills; and Margie's Cake Box of Plainfield. The flowers came compliments of Scotch Plains florists Apple Blossom, Scotchwood Florist and Sanguiilamo; Christoffers Flowers of Mountainside, 1-800-Flowers of Clark and The Green Room and Vance Florist of Westfield also donated. Special awards were made possible by the Stage House Inn of Scotch Plains and the Spanish Tavern of Mountainside.

To learn more about the programs and volunteer training classes, call the group's office at (908) 301-1899.

Babysitting classes on tap

The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross will be hosting a "Babysitter's Training" course. This course is for teens ages 11-15 years old and teaches them what it takes to be a safe and responsible babysitter.

There will be two individual classes offered this month. The first class will be Tuesday, April 6 from 9:15 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; the second will be Saturday April 24 from 9:00 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Some of the topics covered included age-appropriate activities, handling emergencies, keeping everyone safe inside and outside of the home, how to make

good decisions, basic child and infant care (feeding, diapering, burping infants), breathing emergencies and basic first aid. The course stresses the importance of being a safe and professional sitter.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. Participants will receive a small first aid kit and a babysitter's handbook.

Interested individuals should call the Chapter at (908) 232-7090 or email Linda at johnsonl@crossnet.org.

To view the Chapter's new web site for additional health and safety courses, go to www.westfieldmtside-redcross.org.

Cummings will speak on 'Beautiful Passaic'

WESTFIELD — Charles F. Cummings, Newark historian and assistant director of the Newark Public Library, will be the guest speaker at the 13th anniversary dinner of the Union County Historical Society, at B.G. Fields at 3 p.m. Sunday.

He will speak about "The Beautiful Passaic River." The river, unlike other rivers in New Jersey, rises in the Great Swamp, flows through the canyon of the Passaic at Long Hill Township, forms the western border of Union and Essex Counties, drops 70 feet at Paterson to form the Great Falls and finally flows into Newark Bay, which is shared by Newark and Elizabeth. Cummings' talk will be illustrated by colored slides.

Cummings, who is in charge of the New Jersey Information Section of the Newark Public Library, is a frequent speaker on New Jersey history. He also conducts tours through the area. He has co-authored several books on New Jersey and he has assisted many authors in finding the material for their books.

The Union County Historical Society was organized by the leading gentlemen of Elizabeth to preserve, collect and write the history of the area. For nearly 100 years the society occupied a room in the Union County Courthouse. When the room was needed for the courthouse staff, Alice Barney Kean arranged for the society to meet at the St. John's Parsonage. Since then the society has moved its office to the Dr. Carl Hanson House, 38 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

In addition to Cummings, Robert Fridlington, a retired history professor from Kean University, will speak about the history of the society. Fridlington is a past president and a present trustee of the society.

Persons interested in attending may contact Jean-Rae Turner at (973) 923-7156. The cost is \$20.

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- Sunday, April 11, 10:20 am—celebrate the resurrection! (childcare available for all services)

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Good Friday - April 9

3:PM - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & Death

Holy Saturday - April 10

8:00 PM - Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday - April 11, 2003

7:30-9:00-10:30 AM & 12:00 Noon

Film series set to resume

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Memorial Library's Friday Film Festival continues throughout April with four popular movies. The series remains completely free, and as always, all films start at 7:30 p.m. at the library.

Tonight, the month begins with "Intolerable Cruelty" (PG-13, 100 min.) It's another mad-cap outing for the Coen Brothers (and comic gold as two of Hollywood's most dazzling stars, George Clooney and Catherine Zeta-Jones, light up the screen in this romantic comedy about men, women and everything that can go wrong between them.

The series continues on April 16 with "Anger Management" (PG-13, 106 min.) Dave Buznik (Adam Sandler) is usually a mild-mannered, non-confrontational guy. But after an altercation aboard an airplane, he is

remanded to the care of an anger management therapist, Dr. Buddy Rydell (Jack Nicholson), who could probably use some therapy himself.

On April 23 the library will show "Matchstick Men" (PG-13, 116 min.) Director Ridley Scott delivers this crime/drama/comedy. A phobic con artist (Nicholas Cage) and his protégé are on the verge of pulling off a lucrative swindle when the con artist's teenage daughter arrives unexpectedly.

The month concludes April 30 with "Mona Lisa Smile" (PG-13, 117 min.) In 1953, Wellesley College is a bastion of academic excellence and conservative values. Katherine Watson (Julia Roberts) is a novice art history professor with a lot to teach about life and romance.

For more information call the library at (908) 322-6400.

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Area garden center enters spring season with a new name

SCOTCH PLAINS — One of the area's largest garden centers has unveiled a new company name, Parker Gardens. The former Parker Greenhouses Farm & Garden Center is greeting a new spring season with a more extensive, vibrant selection of flowers, trees, plants and shrubs, and garden and home accents and accessories,

according to Steve Parker, owner of Parker Gardens. The facility has been in operation for over 50 years.

"For sure, Parker Gardens is shorter and easier to remember than our old name," said Parker. "It also represents a fresh start to a new spring season during which we are increasing our assortments of unique plant varieties to satisfy the more varied preferences of our customer base."

"We look forward to another successful year of serving our customers with the area's best quality shrubs and plants to enhance any home's landscape indoors or outdoors," Parker said. "Many colorful annuals are already blossoming in our greenhouses, creating a spectacular garden show for customers who visit this time of year."

The Parker Gardens staff is available to assist with plant selection, design and maintenance, as well as help in choosing landscaping accessories, home accents, planters, hanging baskets, fountains, garden sculptures, containers, birdhouses and many other antique, vintage and

one-of-a-kind finds. Free gardening seminars are scheduled throughout the spring and summer seasons, and the center will present an updated website in the near future.

Parker Gardens is located at 1325 Terrill Rd. For more information, call (908) 322-5555 and press extension 5 for directions and 6 for special events.

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JMK BMW initiates new program to help Children's Hospital

SPRINGFIELD — JMK BMW on Route 22 East is running a four-month-long event called "Help Us Help The Children."

JMK BMW will donate \$100 for each new and certified pre-owned vehicle sold and delivered from April 1 through Aug. 1.

With the funds, JMK BMW will help build a complete, all-new Children's Learning Center for children with learning disabilities at Children's Specialized Hospital. This will be the first learning center for disabled children since the hospital opened in 1891. Children's Specialized Hospital is

the nation's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital in the country that treats children from birth to age 21. CSH is very excited that a local small business was stepping in and doing this for the children.

Bob Leib, general sales manager at JMK BMW, is thrilled to be a part of

this endeavor and hopes to accomplish more in the future. "Giving back to the community is very important," according to Leib, "and being here for 38 years, we are happy to make this donation to them and create this all new learning center for the children. "I wanted to do something for the

children from the dealership, and what could be better than this — helping a hospital for children with disabilities that provides professional medical care with innovative, expert and loving care for each and every child who comes through the door. We kick off this event on April 1 and we are very excited!"

Deadline Noon
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Real Estate

Prudential inducts associates into the Circle of Excellence

Prudential New Jersey Properties recently announced its 139 inductees into the New Jersey Association of Realtors (NJAR) 2003 Circle of Excellence. The awards are presented annually and recognize outstanding listing and sales achievements by Realtors who have reached the height of their profession.

Statewide, Prudential New Jersey Properties' membership roster boasts five Platinum Level, six Gold Level, 42 Silver

Level and 86 Bronze Level winners.

"All of the company's sales associates are dedicated to the utmost level of quality service," said William O. Keleher Jr., chairman and CEO of Prudential New Jersey Properties. "These outstanding Circle of Excellence achievements are a reflection of everyone's efforts to exceed clients' expectations."

The company's 15 Union County Circle of Excellence members are comprised of two

Gold Level, seven Silver Level and six Bronze Level winners. The Union County winners, by office, are:

New Providence office: Gold Level - Martha "Sue" Pierson. Silver Level - Virginia Belson and Lynn Boyer. Bronze Level - Rilla Klacik and Jeanne C. Schulz.

Summit office: Gold Level - Peter Fife. Silver Level - Teresa Brannin, Kim Crites-Carloto, Dianne E. Sample and Lucy Thompson. Bronze Level - Sara

Parker Henderson and John Robb.

Westfield office: Silver Level - Patricia Greiff. Bronze Level - Marjorie Cuccaro and Carol Cushman.

In addition, 22 Union County sales associates were awarded membership in Prudential New Jersey Properties Multi-Million Dollar Club for achieving more than \$2 million in sales volume each.

Those winners are: New Providence office: David

Faitoute, Ingrid Gruetemann, Denise Hryniewicz, Sophie Klejmont, Martin Miles, Barbara Mulcahy, Aristedes "Steve" Polychronopoulos, Claire "Mimi" Romeo and Mary Ann Walsh.

Summit office: Robert Barlow, Dana Day, Janet Laing, Robert Lowery, Thomas McDonough, Richard Nelson, Janet Remig and Diane Terry.

Westfield office: Dana Hutchinson, Maria Leonardis, Patrick A. Manfra, Jr., Sherrie Natko and Barbara S. Rothman.

Based in Somerset, Prudential New Jersey Properties offers relocation, mortgage, title, moving, insurance, fine homes and resort properties services. With more than 600 real estate sales associates serving 10 counties — Essex, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, Union and Warren Counties — it is the second largest independently-owned residential real estate company in New Jersey.

Sank-Davis is agent of the month

WESTFIELD — Anne Sank-Davis, a Realtor at the Westfield Office of Burgdorff ERA, has been honored with Sales Agent of the Month for February with six units

sold and a dollar volume of over \$4.5 million.

Sank-Davis has received many distinguished awards and is a member of the New Jersey

Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence Sales Award 2002-2003 having earned the Bronze Level. Sank-Davis was also awarded the Million Dollar Sales Club in 1999-2001. She is also a member of Burgdorff's President's Club 1999-2001, and has received her Seniors Real Estate Specialist designation. She has been a New Jersey real estate professional for six years and resides in Scotch Plains.

Sank-Davis can be reached at her direct line t (908) 233-6313 or via email at Anne-Sank-Davis@burgdorff.com.

George Kraus, vice president/manager of the Westfield office, stated, "We are extremely proud of the production that Anne has achieved. Her high energy, great instincts, and market knowledge have put her at the top of the industry."

The Burgdorff ERA Branch office is a full-service real estate center located at 600 North Ave. West, Westfield. For real estate assistance, or to inquire about a career



ANNE SANK-DAVIS

in real estate, call the office at (908) 233-0065. Visit on the Web at www.burgdorff.com to learn more about the Westfield office and the market area served, individual web pages for each sales associate, electronic listings and directions to the Burgdorff ERA office.

Founded in 1958, Burgdorff ERA is the nation's top producing ERA real estate firm in sales dollar volume. The company consists of 740 sales associates and 16 offices. The international ERA real estate network includes more than 2,500 independently owned and operated brokerage offices with more than 28,000 brokers and sales associates in all 50 of the United States and 28 other countries and territories.

Village Green office wins top recognition

The ERA Village Green Realtors office in Clark was recently recognized as one of the nation's top offices by global real estate leader ERA Franchise Systems, Inc.

Anthony J. D'Agostino, broker and owner of ERA Village Green Realtors, has been invited to attend the company's annual President's Circle Conference at the Breakers in West Palm Beach, Florida. The President's Circle Conference is an exclusive event for the brokers of the top 200 offices in the ERA network of over 2500 offices.

"This is an excellent opportunity for our brokers to renew and make connections with their colleagues from all over the country," said Brenda W. Casserly, president and COO, ERA Franchise Systems, Inc. "Anthony is one of our top brokers, and his company's recognition is a reflection of the quality that ERA Village Green Realtors offers to homebuyers and sellers in Clark."

Also honored at another "by invitation only" conference are two of ERA Village Green's top sales associates, Fernando "Freddy" Rivera and Melanie Selk. These associates have been invited to attend the Beyond Excellence conference to be held in Charleston, SC in July.

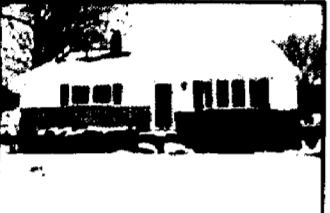
"This event allows top-producing ERA Associates like Freddy and Melanie to come together with other top producers across the country to lend their support and share techniques. It's just one of the unique programs the ERA Franchise offers to associates to help them plan their business strategies," said D'Agostino. "I am very thrilled that we have been honored with invitations to both conferences."

Located at 35 Brant Ave. in Clark, ERA Village Green Realtors has over 20 sales associates serving home buyers and sellers throughout Union County and northern Middlesex County, and can be reached at 1-800-864-3681 or via their website at www.ERAVillageGreen.com.

ERA Franchise Systems, Inc. is a subsidiary of Cendant Corporation and part of its Real Estate Franchise Group. The ERA real estate network includes more than 28,000 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 29 other countries and territories. Each ERA office is independently owned and operated.


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30-yr. Fixed	4.750	2.25	5%	30	4.978	30-yr. Fixed	5.500	0.00	5%
15-yr. Fixed	4.000	2.50	5%	30	4.424	15-yr. Fixed	4.750	0.00	5%
1-yr ARM	2.000	0.00	5%	30	5.750	10-yr. Fixed	4.375	0.00	5%
30-yr. Jumbo	4.875	2.00	5%	30	5.040				
15-yr. Jumbo	4.125	2.125	5%	30	4.424				
American Home Mortgage 800-924-9091						Investors Savings Bank 800-252-8119			
30-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.00	5%	30	5.290	30-yr. Fixed	5.500	0.00	5%
15-yr. Fixed	4.500	0.00	5%	30	4.540	30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	0.00	20%
30-yr. Jumbo	5.375	0.00	5%	30	5.390	15-yr. Fixed	4.625	0.00	5%
5/1 ARM	3.750	0.00	5%	30	3.790	5-yr. ARM	4.375	0.00	5%
5/1 Jbo. ARM	3.750	0.00	5%	30	3.790	10-yr. ARM	5.125	0.00	5%
eMortgage Services 800-234-5659						Kentwood Financial 800-353-6896			
30-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	5%	45	5.380	30-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.00	5%
15-yr. Fixed	4.375	0.00	5%	45	4.620	15-yr. Fixed	4.500	0.00	5%
30-yr. Jumbo	5.625	0.00	5%	45	5.680	30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	0.00	10%
30-yr. FIANA	6.000	0.00	3%	45	6.570	15-yr. Jumbo	4.750	0.00	10%
5-yr. fixed pmt	1.950	0.00	10%	45	3.500	20-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	5%
First Rate Mortgage 800-887-9106						Lighthouse Mortgage 800-784-1331			
30-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.00	5%	45	5.310	30-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.00	5%
15-yr. Fixed	4.500	0.00	5%	45	4.587	15-yr. Fixed	4.375	0.00	5%
30-yr. Jumbo	5.625	0.00	5%	45	5.687	30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	0.00	10%
3/1 ARM	3.375	0.00	10%	45	3.410	10-yr. Fixed	4.250	0.00	5%
Loan Search 800-591-3279						Partners Mortgage 888-RATE-SALE			
30-yr. Fixed	5.375	0.00	5%	60	5.410	30-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	5%
30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	0.00	5%	60	5.540	15-yr. Fixed	4.125	0.00	5%
10/1 Jumbo	4.750	0.00	25%	90	4.460	30-yr. Jumbo	5.125	0.00	5%
7/1 ARM Jbo	4.500	0.00	25%	90	4.210	15-yr. Jumbo	4.500	0.00	5%
20-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	10%	90	5.176				
New Millennium Bank 732-729-1100						The Mortgage Group 888-841-0048			
30-yr. Fixed	5.375	0.00	5%	60	5.380	30-yr. CRA	4.875	0.00	3%
15-yr. Fixed	4.625	0.00	5%	60	4.630	30-yr. Jumbo	5.375	0.00	10%
30-yr. Jumbo	call	call	5%	60	call	30-biweekly jbo	5.250	0.00	10%
3/1 ARM	3.375	0.00	5%	60	3.380	20-yr. Jumbo	5.250	0.00	10%
Northeast Financial Corp. 800-922-0606						15-yr. Jumbo	4.750	0.00	10%
30-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.00	5%	30	5.310				
15-yr. Fixed	4.500	0.00	5%	30	4.560				
5/1 ARM	3.750	0.00	5%	30	3.420				
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5/1 Jumbo	4.000	0.00	5%	30	4.060				
Summit Federal Savings 732-968-0665									
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1-yr. ARM	3.000	0.00	20%	75	3.000				
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30-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.00	5%	60	5.310				
15-yr. Fixed	4.500	0.00	5%	60	4.630				
30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	0.00	5%	60	5.630				
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6 cyl. auto, ps, pABS, a/c, am/fm/st/CD, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, leather, grey, w/fin avail. 32,104 miles, s/n#5159A, vin#1H802648

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2001 HONDA CIVIC EX 2DR 4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm/st/CD, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, black, w/fin avail. 19,102 miles, s/n#4747A, vin#1H501350	2001 HONDA CIVIC EX 4DR 4 cyl. auto, ps, pABS, a/c, am/fm/st/CD, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, black, w/fin avail. 30,919 miles, s/n#4755A, vin#1H501350	2001 HONDA ACCORD EX 2DR 4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm/st/CD, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, black, w/fin avail. 17,847 miles, s/n#5159A, vin#1H802648	2001 HONDA ACCORD EX 4DR 4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm/st/CD, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, black, w/fin avail. 17,847 miles, s/n#5159A, vin#1H802648	2001 HONDA ACCORD EX 2DR 4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm/st/CD, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, black, w/fin avail. 17,847 miles, s/n#5159A, vin#1H802648	2001 HONDA ACCORD EX 4DR 4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, a/c, am/fm/st/CD, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, black, w/fin avail. 17,847 miles, s/n#5159A, vin#1H802648
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2001 TOYOTA COROLLA S 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 34,000 miles. VIN#1C428118	2000 CHEVY TAHOE 4DR 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 35,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2000 TOYOTA RAV-4 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 35,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	1999 ISUZU TROOPER 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 35,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2002 BUICK LESABRE 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 35,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141
2003 CHEVROLET TAHOE LS 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 20,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2000 BMW Z-3 2 dr. convertible, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 20,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2001 CHEVY BLAZER LT 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 20,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2002 CHEVY TRACKER 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 20,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2001 CHRYSLER CONCORDE 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 20,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141
2003 FORD TAURUS SES 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 20,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2001 NISSAN SENTRA SE 4 dr. 3 speed, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 20,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2003 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5S 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 20,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2001 NISSAN ALTIMA GLE 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 20,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2002 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, 20,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141

GREAT SELECTION OF CONVERTIBLES FOR SPRING!!!

2003 TOYOTA CAMRY LE 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, only 13,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2003 CHEVY IMPALA LS 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, only 13,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2000 FORD TAURUS SE 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, only 13,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2001 SATURN SL-1 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, only 13,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2001 SATURN SC-2 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, only 13,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141
2003 FORD MUSTANG 2 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, only 13,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2000 HONDA CIVIC EX 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, only 13,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	1999 HONDA CIVIC EX 4 dr. auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, only 13,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2001 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, only 13,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141	2003 CHEVY SUBURBAN LS 4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, only 13,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141

2003 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR

4 dr. 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/l, m, radials, dly wipers, t/glass, p/trunk, tilt, r/del, cruise, alloy wheels, only 13,000 miles. VIN#1G4Y3E141

\$42,900

Bedroom Set pecan, 2 night dressers, triple dresser, dresser, headboard, call 908-233-6806

Bed, twin size, brand new, firm mattress, paid \$399, will accept \$150 908-222-4041

BR Set pecan, very ornate, triple dr., armoire, 2 nite stands, 2 mirrors. Best of fr. **Solid Maple Hutch** 908-241-4737

CHINA CLOSET - Teak, beautiful, 6 drawers, Dressing Table, 4 chairs, & ornate chair. Call for details 908-654-1330

COUCHES - leather, \$400 2 others \$150/each. **Dining Rm Chairs** - Bk lacq. designer. \$1,000 negotiable. Bar cart \$50. 908-23-6687

DESK - Pedestal, walnut, 7 yd. w/old, 16" deep, \$250 908-789-4867

Dinetto Set, 5 pc. glass top, looks like new. \$150. Singer sewing machine, new, never used, does everything! best offer 908-551-9180

Dining Room, mahogany set, \$1000. Orientals, 10x14, 5x8 & 8x10, \$100 to \$600. Sofa, loveseat, chairs \$50 to \$100. **China cabinet**, \$300 to \$500. 908-233-2141

DINING ROOM SET - APC glass, mirror wall unit w/table & chairs & 2 glass tables. \$1500 908-233-1657

DINING ROOM SET, 8 pc., Stanley, washed oak, incl. table pads, good cond., asking \$900 908-233-9977

DINING ROOM SET 9 pcs. traditional, pecan w/pads, exc. cond. \$850 908-789-4727

Dining Room Set Banquet size table w/pads & 6 chairs, chandelier, must see! \$400. Call 908-726-9027

Dining Room Set, hutch, credenza, table, 2 leaves, pads, 8 chairs, \$500. 908-241-4468

DINING ROOM SET, mahogany, Duncan Phyfe, 6 chairs, china cabinet, buffet, wall hanging, mirror, \$3500. 2 matching bookcases, 1 w/bottom doors & 1 w/screetery. Large storage, all in exc. cond. Best offer \$3200. 908-789-4555

Dining Room Set - Solid, golden oak pedestal table w/6 chairs & lighted hutch. \$900/OBO. Kasten Oriental rug. Call 908-654-3774

DINING ROOM SET - Table, 6 chairs, 3 extra sections. Bk walnut \$650/OB 908-241-0132

Dining Room Table - Thomasville w/4 chairs, expandable w/2-20" leaf. China Cabinet, table pads & extra seat cushions. Exc. Cond. used infrequently. \$900 OBO 908-654-1893

DREXEL HERITAGE DR - it crotch mahogany, breakfast, double pedestal table, 4 side, 2 armchairs & table pads incl. orig. \$25,000, asking \$8,500 neg. 908-273-4084

DR SET - All wood, 72" incl. table, 2 leaves, 3 chairs, china cabinet \$300/OBO. Must see! 908-272-9681

DR TABLE - Antique French Oak Inlaid - w/side board & 6 chairs, \$5500. 2 Couches, 8ft. Chenille, \$500/each. All in ex. cond. 908-273-0052

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER 3 pc. beautiful maple w/ glass drs., Q. sz. metal & poster bed. \$575/ea. 908-301-0077

ETHAN ALLEN CAMEL BACK SOFA 69" \$500 2 matching wing back chairs \$350 ea. cherry coffee and side tables \$200 ea. 973-701-0966

ETHAN ALLEN Heirloom cherry buffet and china cabinet, 50x16x16, 47" h. Condition like new. \$1,150. 908-233-2964

ETHAN ALLEN QUEEN ANN DINING ROOM TABLE cherry wood, rectangular, 68"x43", 2 arm chairs & 6 side chairs, 2 extensions and custom pads. Asking \$1750 973-701-0966

FORMAL DR SET solid wood, oblong table, 6 chairs, china cabinet, buffet, sideboard. \$1,999 973-382-7538

INFANT SET, 2 pc. crib & dresser w/changing table, exc. cond., \$500. Bob 732-669-1982

Italian Marble Dining Room Table w/inlaid design 79" x39" w/ pedestal base matching end tables, sofa table, & coffee table. \$1900 for all. Will Sell Separately 908-389-1546

KITCHEN CABINETS - Solid oak incl. knee-hole desk unit and counters \$300/OBO 973-375-8599

Kitchen table w/leaf & 4 chairs \$150. Coffee table, 2 end tables \$50. Bunk Bed w/matching dresser \$150. Captain's Bed w/dresser & mirror \$250. 908-709-0885

Living Rm Set, 6 pcs., inc. table & chairs, exc. cond., neutral color. Ask \$500. SOLD SOLD SOLD

LIVING ROOM SET - Excellent condition. Sofa, loveseat, chair & ottoman \$700. Call anytime. Leave message 908-323-9783

LR Set - Spanish style, couch, loveseat, chair & ottoman, exc. cond. cream w/blue & brown. \$500. 908-709-9218

Moving Sale - Exc. cond. freezer, Bar, set (Queen), bed w/ mattress, matching LR table, chairs, oak & beveled glass. 908-587-2046

Oriental Rug - green floral Bx10 Asking \$1000 973-701-0966

SECTIONAL SOFA, blue decorator fabric asking \$900. Glass coffee table, \$100. Computer desk \$75. Call 908-522-0537

SECTIONAL SOFA - with full size sleeper & chaise, 3 years old, \$500. Call 908-464-0187

SOFA - "Domain" floral slipcover, 82", excellent condition, loose pillows, 3 yrs old, \$400. Westfield. 908-389-1878

Sofa & Loveseat, neutral color, good cond., \$275. Washer & Dryer, Whirlpool, good cond., \$225. 908-654-1330

Table & Chairs, 42", light oak, round, round back chairs w/chairs, great cond., \$275. 908-298-8573

WALL UNIT - 3 pcs., black lacquer, lighted, 102"L, holds 27" TV, \$300/OBO 908-298-8573

WICKER FURNITURE SET - LANE, 4 piece w/chairs, sofa, 2 armchairs, ottoman like new. Great for spring. \$700/OBO SOLD

Woods Under \$500 (1) WEB TV, w/ color printers \$50 each. Call 908-245-5194

Air Conditioner, 6000 btu, \$650. Word Processor, 17" monitor, \$50. Both like new. 908-688-7222

BABy CLOTHES (girls) Some new, some gently used, 0-2T. Some GAD. 908-486-7232

CONN ORGAN small, exc. cond., \$100. OBO. Call 908-245-5194

COUNTRY COCKTAIL TABLE Oval Washed Pine & glass. Excellent. Asking \$75.00 732-382-2477

DINING ROOM - China hutch & matching chairs, dark wood, \$50. Both for set. 908-317-0507

Formica China Closet, \$25. 908-862-2404 or 908-925-9748

High chair \$99. Metal 4 shill bookcase. \$20. Microwave \$35. Wooden bookcase \$35. 973-731-7480

Loveseat - new, but slightly damaged, coral color w/white pillows. \$100. 908-686-4498

TICKETS (2), Brittany Spears, Sat. 4/10. Continental Arena. \$50. each. 732-382-9577

WASHING MACHINE - whirl pool Heavy Duty Super Cap. 2 speed, 9 cycle. \$99 973-564-8047

General Merchandise \$99

ABSOLUTELY NO COST. POWER WHEEL CHAIRS, SCOOTERS, AND HOSPITAL BEDS. ABSOLUTELY NO COST. CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-708-9301

Breakfront, 90"W, 3 pieces, black & walnut, asking \$300. 732-396-9735

CUSTOM DRAPES like new! Sage, green, tone-on-tone stripe, on cornice, 2 pair, 42Wx96L, \$75 each, 1 pair 128Wx96L, \$99. Cream, tone-on-tone stripe 3 pair, 42Wx96L, \$60 ea. Other valances, curtains, assorted blinds, shutters. 908-889-9059

EXERCISE BIKE - New LIFE CYCLE \$200. Call 908-267-7858

GUN SHOW AT THE DAYS INN 1946 Scranton/Carbondale Hwy., Scranton, PA Open to the public April 3rd 95 April 4th 93 For info 717-697-9938

Hallett Davis Piano & Original Bench, traditional, up-right, walnut finish, w/orig. hammers, installed damp chaser, excel. cond., great for beginners. \$400. 908-276-3067

HOT TUB / SPA Must Sell! Deluxe 7 ft. lounge, gorgeous hardwood cabinet, new used, \$2500. 908-242-0294 or 908-296-6420

HOUSE SALE - baker's rack, sofa, china cabinet, Christmas items, picnic items, slay bed, women's shoes size 9. Traveling bags. 908-241-6678

Maytag Washer, Sears dryer, exc. cond. call 908-347-1315

Moving, Must Sell, Solar Flex Machine, \$450. Call 973-376-5121 after 5pm.

NAUTILUS Tread Climber TC5000. Like new, used less than 10 times, orig. \$2200. Asking \$1800. Purchased 10/03. 908-789-3429

POOL TABLE slate, 8.5' mint cond., top quality, full accessories. Best offer. 908-654-7548

POWER WHEELCHAIR JAZZY MODEL 1105 w/accessories. Very sturdy - 0 to 4.5 mph. \$2,000 908-687-3307

Sears Lifesaver Weight System, Must Sell, ASAP, inc. leg ext., butterfly, roman chair, lat pull down & more. Asking \$250/OBO. 908-917-4838

Sofa & Loveseat, pastel print, exc. cond., matching area rugs & window treatment & painting. \$750. 12 mirrored panels \$175. 732-388-6721

Sofa (recliner) with massage & phone jack. SOLD. Twin bed w/frame. \$100. Area rug 9x12 \$45. Zenith 205" 1050 BTU AC. \$350. Shop vac. \$45. 908-231-0580

SPA & HOT TUB COVERS \$99 & UP. Cover lifters \$169. 888-772-7810

STEEL BLDGS. 50-75' OFF! 40x60, 80x100, 75x140. Must Sell. Call Delivert Charlie (800) 506-5160.

Books & Fortifiers \$49

LANDSCAPERS / GARDEN CENTERS Complete line of nursery stock container & in B&B, specializing in Gold Thread Cypress, P.M. Oiga, Weeping Conifers & rare & unusual varieties. 908-735-7488

PIANO - Winter's NY brand. Console. Excellent condition. \$900 732-388-1046

TROMBONE - Bach, very good cond., \$150 908-771-0634

Berkeley Heights Fri and Sat, April 2 and 3, 9-3PM. 30 Delmore Ave. **DIRECT SALE** Delmore. **ITEMS:** Furniture, yard tools, paintings, HH items, lamps, dishes, books & more.

CHATHAM TWP. TAG / MOVING SALE Saturday April 3rd 9-12pm. Toys, Furn, Radial Arm Saw, tools, kitchen ware, books & much more! Southern Blvd. to #69 Glenmeade Dr

CRANFORD Multi Family Sat 4/3, 9am-3pm. 218, 221, 228 Locust Drive, off of Orange Ave. No early bird! Toys, clothes, h.h., sport equip., etc.

FANWOOD April 3rd, rain date 4/4, 9 to 4. Toys, clothes, HH items, books, 79 Helen St.

Garwood, Estate Sale, Sat. 4/3, 9am-4pm. Contents of house. Priced to Sell! 420 Beech Avenue off Center Street.

NEW PROVIDENCE Fri. April 2nd & Sat. April 3rd 9am-3pm

Scotch Plains 4/3 & 4/4 10 to 2 LR set, freezer, DR set, leather couch (sectional) lawn & office furniture, etc. HH goods. All exc. shape. 427 Stout Ave

Scotch Plains, Contents Sale, 4/3 & 4/4, 9-3, 409 Acadia Rd. off Mountain Ave. Decorators & dealers will love this sale! Furn., 1920 DR set, wrought iron sets, tons of pottery, linens, early art, etc. water colors, modern art by listed artists, collectibles, basement full, tons of costume jewelry, tools & much more.

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VW JETTA GLS '00 - 5 spd, silver, leather, snr. CD, full power, 39k, ext. war., exc. cond., \$12,500 908-277-3624	VW JETTA GLS '01 - 5 spd, 2.0 4-cyl, leather, moon roof, lux pkg. Very sharp car 34.5kmi. \$12,200 908-233-6373	VW PASSAT GLS - '99 V6, man. silver, loaded, bk. leather int. CD, ext. warr. (07/05), 61kmi., exc. cond. \$10,300 908-931-0312	WE BUY CARS. HIGHEST PRICES PAID. MA-RANO & SONS AUTO SALES, INC. 507-13 South Ave., 150 South Ave., Garwood	CHEVY '88 Stylemaster 2 dr. mid restoration, great father/son project, comes w/custom cover, \$5900. Call 908-413-3018	DODGE '48 4 dr. PARTS CAR. exc body, does run \$950/obo. 908-789-1151	FORD '66 Mustang hard-top , black w/red int., 92k mi., runs great, passed inspection. New pony seats, tires & brakes, \$6500. Westfield 908-377-6761.	FORD '98 Explorer XLT 4x4 , grey, extras, good cond., 75k mi., \$9750. 908-337-6346	
FORD '98 Explorer XLT 4 dr. , V6, loaded, am/fm CD, 99k, mint. cond. \$7500. 908-654-1873	FORD '99 EXPLORER-EDDIE BAUER Loaded, 43k mi., excellent condition in and out. Asking \$15,000/obo 908-337-1522 or 908-272-4315	FORD '99 RANGER XLT 4x4 , V6, X-CAB Auto, A/C, 68k mi., step-side, bedliner \$8200/bk 908-638-3101	FORD AEROSTAR '92 , 4 litre 4x4, runs well, needs mech. & body work 500/b.o. 908-875-3868	MERCURY '97 Mountaineer 70,994 mi., white, A/C, leather, sunroof, AC am/fm cassette, \$9000. 908-654-6968	NISSAN '00 PATHFINDER LE, bk. lthr, 82k highway miles, fully loaded good cond., new tires/brakes, \$15,500 FIRM 908-665-8413	1999 Citation trailer , 27', A/C, awning, seats 4 cond. asking \$14,000. Call 732-257-8715 or 732-238-8573	FORD '99 F150 New tires, radiator, waterpump, brake line, tuneup \$2500. 908-591-5845	
FORD '92 F-150 4x4 , Ext Cab, 8' bed, 118k, many new parts, tires, \$5500/obo. 908-494-2069	FORD '93 EXPLORER XLT V6, AUTO, 4WD, AM/FM/CD, ALL POWER LOADED, 200K HIGHWAY MILES, BLACK GREY INT. TERIOR, GOOD CONDITION \$3,000 CALL 908-464-6300	GMC 2000 Sierra V8, AT, AC, alloy wheels, 36,000 mi., cap, towing pkg. \$14,000. 080 908-301-1640	CHEVY '87 ASTRO VAN Rebuilt motor and trans. Runs great. Asking \$900 908-389-1443	CHEVY '99 ASTRO LT Clean, 48k mi., well maintained, full power, 6-cyl, 2-tone green & silver. \$10,200 908-272-1010	DODGE '89 Van 141k , white runs good, \$750. Call John 908-688-8535	FORD '96 Windstar 75k, ext cond, asking \$4,000 908-277-1937 eves	FORD '98 WINDSTAR XL 54k mi., hand-capped equipped front passenger seat, assists person in and out of vehicle. Also has a rear curb side wheel chair lift. \$8,500 908-687-3307	
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Automotive/Classified

Prepare a car for pregnancy

METRO — Just as new parents childproof their homes with outlet caps to prevent fingers from getting caught in electrical sockets or safety gates to prevent tumbles down stairs, they must play it safe with their cars, too.

"New attention is being paid to styling, safety, interior space and performance in the automobile industry," said Brian Chee, an automotive expert from Autobyte Inc., an online car resource. That's good news for families who are expecting and parents — they can expect more from new cars.

For pregnant drivers, there are a few extras to look for when buying a new car or add to the car(s) you already own. They include:

Adjustable foot pedals: They allow you to sit back 3 inches from the wheel.

A tilting steering wheel: A pregnant belly can obstruct your turning capabilities or cause you to sit back further than is pru-

dent, so a tilting wheel is important once you reach the third trimester. Tilting steering wheels are standard on newer models, but if you're driving an older car, inspect its steering gear.

Airbags: "The airbag has been toned down since it first came out," said Brendan Tobin, an independent consultant who trains workers in the automotive industry on how and why their products work. If you are concerned about an airbag's impact, look for a car with dual-stage airbags which have sensors that determine whether to send out a single- or dual-stage reaction, tempering how much force will be applied when an airbag is deployed.

Safety belt specs: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration notes that during an accident, safety belts redistribute impact to the stronger parts of your body and slow your body's movement. They recommend that pregnant



Safety is crucial, especially when driving for two.

drivers place the lap belt under the belly and across the hips, with the shoulder strap across the center of the chest.

If you're looking to modify a car that you already own, you can try the dealership where you bought your car or talk to your car's manufacturing company about specifics. But if you want to research on your own, here are

a few places where you can get what you need to make your car pregnancy- and baby-friendly.

After pregnancy, there's a whole new set of road rules. When kids arrive, safety and comfort are still top priorities. Here are a few things to look for:

Test the tailgate or trunk. Pay attention to whether you're comfortable toting a stroller, toys

and baby gear.

Ask about childproof features. Back-door locks and window-lock options will keep child's hands from opening doors while the car is in motion or fingers from getting caught in automatic windows. These features are often standard on newer "family" cars like SUVs and station wagons.

A top 10 care list for cars

NAPSI — No matter what it says on the calendar, winter may still be having an effect on your car. The grit and grime from demanding driving conditions may still be lingering under your hood.

Here is a 10-point spring check up to revitalize a car:

1. Change your oil and oil filter.
2. If it's been more than two years or 24,000 miles since you've changed your automatic transmission fluid and filter, change that now, too.
3. If you have a front-wheel-drive vehicle, check the condition of the CV boots. If torn or cracked, replacing them now could save you hundreds of dollars in repairs.
4. Make sure your tires are properly inflated and rotate your tires.
5. Make sure your shocks and struts are working properly. Look for oil leaks and other signs of damage.
6. Check all lights and bulbs—headlights, brake and tail lights, turn signals and license plate bulbs.
7. If your windshield wipers are streaking and smearing, replace them.
8. Replace your air filter and the fuel filter, the PCV valve and the breather filter.
9. Add a bottle of fuel system cleaner at your next fill-up.
10. Top off all fluid levels, including windshield washer fluid, brake fluid, power steering fluid and antifreeze. Don't forget to check all cells of your battery and top them off with distilled water.

This has been a big year for new cars

PRNewswire — The world's automakers have pulled out all the stops to make 2004 the most amazing year ever for new vehicle introductions, and Central New Jersey residents can get a look at the latest ones at the 2004 New York International Automobile Show from April 9 to April 18.

"There are more all-new cars and trucks coming to the 2004

Show than we've ever seen before," said John LaSorsa, auto show chairman. "From the bold, new Ford Mustang, and Pontiac Solstice to the fun and flexible MINI Convertible, the Javits Center will be overflowing with completely new and restyled 2004, '05, and even '06 model year vehicles."

Here's a look at some of the

latest production models at this year's show:

Mercedes-Benz's new CLS-Class is an all-new model that blends the style and character of a coupe with the comfort and functionality of a sedan. With its modern styling, exclusive appointments and ground-breaking technology, the CLS-Class appeals most strongly to driv-

ers for whom cars and motor-ing are a true passion.

Chevy Cobalt — The 2005 Cobalt is an all-new premium small car that offers a diverse selection of body styles, interiors, Ecotec four-cylinder engines, smooth-shifting transmissions, precision-tuned suspensions and dynamic wheels. The Cobalt family includes two models, sedan and coupe,

and a total of eight trim levels.

Chevy Corvette — Marking the sixth generation of its legacy, the 2005 Chevrolet Corvette delivers more power, passion and precision to reach a new standard of performance car excellence. A new LS2 6.0-liter small-block V-8 delivers an estimated peak output of 400 horsepower and 400 lb.-ft. of torque.

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