

Board supports plan

(Continued from page A-1)

prevented developers from upgrading their properties.

MacDonald also decried what he called a government-driven process, arguing that the free market should initiate development.

"The problem I have with this is that it seems too grandiose," MacDonald said. "...I'm very leery of the government getting involved with picking winners and losers and telling (the private sector) that this is what's going to be in place."

But council liaison Jack Molenaar said the new plan eases the impact of government on redevelopment by improving the existing zoning standards. He said the imposition of zoning laws in the 1950s rendered high-density downtown development more difficult to achieve.

"If you're the owner of a property on South Avenue and you knock down your building, you would have to put up a smaller building in its place," Molenaar said. By superseding zoning regulations, the new plan will allow existing market pressures for development to take hold, he explained.

In approving the plan, board members attached amendments to improve the appearance of trash enclosures and required back entrances to the Martine Avenue buildings. Also, the board tweaked the language of the plan, which allowed large sidewalk displays outside of retail outlets.

The borough council will revisit the redevelopment plan at its regular meeting Feb. 8.

Service at Emanu-El

(Continued from page A-1)

been done wrong," McDermott said.

Superintendent William Foley

Record-Press

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said the Board of Education is implementing measures to close the achievement gap between white students and black students in Westfield schools.

"Closing the achievement gap in Westfield does not need to be a dream deferred," Foley said.

The Rev. Leon Randall, 12-year president of the Martin Luther King Association, said the Westfield community and political leadership have been instrumental in raising awareness about issues facing the black community. The forthcoming Martin Luther King monument is being installed to honor that continuing effort, Randall said.

"People in Westfield have combined together to show the rest of this state and anyone who wants to find out that we are making an effort to live the Martin Luther King dream," he said.

Garden yields massive harvest for charity

WESTFIELD — The Rutgers Master Gardeners of Union County completed their most successful harvest in 2004, with more than 1,300 pounds of vegetables distributed to county agencies throughout the summer and fall.

Located in the Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension experimental garden area at Trailside Nature and Science Center in the Watchung Reservation, the garden is planted and maintained by Rutgers Master Gardener volunteers.

Larry Verdicchio of Sterling, who has received his status as a

Lifetime Master Gardener, started the seeds in the greenhouse in February. Plantings began in April under the direction of Certified Master Gardener Norma Cohen of Berkeley Heights and Master Gardener-Educator Cathy McKernan of Clark.

Distribution began with the first harvest of lettuce in May and was coordinated by Dina Stellwagen of Mountainside. The half-ton of tomatoes, peppers, cauliflower, cabbage, green beans, cucumbers, escarole, beets, carrots, lettuce, chard, kale, collard and mustard greens were wel-

comed by several non-profit organizations including St. Joseph's in Elizabeth, the Special Wishes Foundation in Union, the Second Presbyterian Church in Rahway, Covenant United Methodist Church in Plainfield, and the SHIP Senior Program in Summit.

The Master Gardener program, located in 46 states and Canada, is a two-part educational effort in which avid gardeners are provided many hours of intense home horticultural training and they, in return, assist local university extension agents through vol-

unteerism. Union County Master Gardeners are trained at the Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension office in Westfield, where educational programs are offered to all without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status.

Charitable agencies interested in receiving a portion of the 2005 harvest should call the Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension at (908) 654-9854 for more information.

DECA students excel at regional competition

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) DECA Chapter, an association of marketing students, participated in its annual regional competition on Jan. 6 at Middlesex County College.

DECA students spent the day taking tests and preparing and presenting their business skills through role plays to judges of 19 different team and individual event categories.

Competing against a large number of high school students, 29 from SPFHS walked away with awards that qualify them to attend the DECA State Conference. The annual competition will be held in

Cherry Hill from March 16-18.

Awards were won in 12 of the different categories by sophomores, juniors and seniors. Outstanding competitors included E-Commerce Management team Chris D'Annunzio and Jason Krueger, Food Marketing Management individual Rob Lasher, Quick Serve Restaurant Management individual Briana Berry and Retail Merchandising Management individual Terrence Charles. All of these seniors won first place awards for overall performance.

In the Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team event, Dan Ragan and Gary Herzberg finished with a second place overall award. Chris Ryskase and Brian Allen also placed among the top eight E-commerce Management team event qualifiers.

In the Travel and Tourism team event, Jeremy Sanders and Stefano Gaetano won second place overall, Ben Vogel and Mike Baumwoll won third, and Becky Lundgren and Katherine Paseka placed among the top eight qualifying teams.

In the Financial Services team event, Chris Doremus and Kyle Rzonca took home an award for placing second overall. And in the Hospitality Services team event, Dan Birnbaum and John Monti placed among the top eight qualifiers.

Council to weigh reduced rates for commuters

(Continued from page A-1)

windfall of these extra revenues... for purposes of offsetting operating costs. That's not why the fee levels were increased," Goldman was not present at Tuesday's meeting.

At the time of the initial proposal, Echausse said he was "hesitant" to reduce the fees because of budgetary concerns. He took a different approach

Tuesday night, though after the meeting he pointed out that his perspective represents one vote of nine.

"We're going into the 2005 budget cycle starting this weekend," Echausse said. "In late March or early April when the Finance Policy Committee presents the budget to the council it will be discussed then."

"From my perspective, if we're looking at rolling back

rates then we can't go back to where we were," Echausse continued, noting that under current rates, commuters pay about \$58 per month to park in town lots.

"Whether we go from \$58 to \$40 I can't answer right now, but I'm open-minded about rolling back rates to a reasonable level."

Neither Goldman nor Echausse have proposed a refund to commuters for revenues accrued in recent years was "wrong," Ratner said, and not to lower the fees at this point would be "unconscionable."

not yet clear whether a majority of the council would support a rollback of any sort.

Earlier Tuesday night, two residents attacked the council for not yet lowering the fees. With the deck off the table, Robert Ratner said, the raised fees amount to a tax on a certain segment of the population. To not provide a refund to commuters for revenues accrued in recent years was "wrong," Ratner said, and not to lower the fees at this point would be "unconscionable."

Added Maria Zamarelli, "I feel it's in order that anything that's in reserve and not been spent be refunded to permit holders... I ask the council to do the right thing (and) not wait for a public outcry."

While he was open to a reduction in fees, Echausse also noted that the ordinances raising the rates had not stipulated the new revenues would pay only for the deck, but instead described more general improvements to the downtown parking system. The town is continuing to make those other improvements, he said — for example, on Tuesday the council awarded a contract to purchase more of the pay stations that have already been installed in some downtown lots.

Cleanup

(Continued from page A-1)

oversight, and law enforcement costs. "This is a very hard decision — this is a program people enjoy in this town," he said.

Marks argued if the council changes the program it will be burdensome and more expensive for some homeowners, but will cost virtually nothing for those who never used the program to begin with.

"A hard decision would have been to scrap it versus to keep it," Marks said. "...This is just a matter of changing the routine."

"I think this is a necessary evil — we have to give up the way we're doing it," agreed Councilwoman Nancy Malool. "It's just too expensive."

If the council decides to modify the program on Feb. 1, an ordinance would likely be introduced at the council's regular meeting Feb. 8.

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Scouts deliver 'A Box of Fun' to kids in need

Members of Girl Scout Troop 461 recently presented their creation of "A Box of Fun" to St. Joseph's Social Center in Elizabeth. The box was built, decorated and filled with toys and games for children visiting the center. The Scouts are, from top right: Elizabeth Smith, Katie Miller, Kim Shoback, Liz L'Sooey, Julia Watkins, Troop Leader Diana Shoback and Allie Tunis.



PHOTO BY DIANE WATKINS

New SAT won't mean major changes in test prep

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

Despite substantial revisions to the SAT, local test preparation directors and school officials say only minor changes will have to be made to classes in anticipation of the new test.

Next week, test sites will administer the standardized college admissions test in its well-known form for the last time. Beginning in March, a score of 1600 may not inspire the awe that it used to.

This spring, the SAT will include three sections — Writing, Mathematics, and Critical Reading. The previous test included one verbal and one math section; test takers received a combined score between 400 and 1600. In the new three-section test, students will score between 600 and 2400.

Perhaps the most meaningful structural change is the addition of a written essay, which will be part of the Writing section of the test. Students will be required to compose a persuasive essay within 25 minutes, which will be scored holistically. For a top score on the essay, a student must state a position and use reasoning and examples to support that position.

In Math, quantitative compar-

isons have been eliminated, and upper-level math, including Algebra II, will be part of the test.

The simple fact that the new test will be about 35 minutes longer than its predecessor means that prep classes will require more time in the classroom, said Shelly Grobe, director at Sylvan Learning Center in Cranford.

"Our program had to be redesigned to reflect the changes...it's about six hours longer because of the writing section," Grobe said. "The hardest part is that students have to pre-think, organize, and produce something with a developed theme and substantial detail in 25 minutes."

Test centers have been aware that the new focus on writing was coming for several years, said Elaine Stegal of the Enrichment Center in Westfield. But writing skills have long been a part of SAT II preparation, and the new PSAT has included a writing section for a few years now, she said.

In school districts, developing writing skills has long been a point of emphasis, said Margaret Hayes, assistant superintendent in Scotch Plains-Fanwood. The district has a focus on writing that starts in the early grades, and school officials have been aware of the addition of a writing

component to the SAT for some time, she said.

"Our teachers have been focusing on getting students to write a coherent response to open-ended questions within a certain time period because that's what they'll need when they take the SAT," Hayes said.

The Mathematics section will now require students to demonstrate aptitude in Algebra II, which could be a problem for high school students who take the class in their junior year.

"It's very hard to do a review class when you haven't even finished the course," said Stegal. "For some kids, this is going to be an issue."

According to Lloyd Leschuk, superintendent in Kenilworth, about one-quarter of borough students currently take Algebra II in their sophomore year. Inclusion of advanced math on the SAT will probably mean more students will be taking difficult math courses earlier on, he said.

"We already require students to take four years of math to prepare them for both the SAT and the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA)," he said. "Not everyone needs to take calculus, but (everyone) will need probability, algebra, and statistics."

Hayes said Scotch Plains-

Fanwood schools will try to strike a balance when determining which track students follow in math.

"Obviously the vast majority of parents would like their children to be in the course that will challenge them best," she said.

None of the test center directors think the new SAT is either more or less coachable than the previous test. For the old SAT, about one-third of coached students received the same score or a lower score than they would have without the help, according to the College Board, which administers the test.

Though she is confident her test preparation course will adequately prepare students for the new SAT when it makes its debut in March, Stegal is gently persuading her pupils to take the SAT in May and June.

"Just because this is the first time they're giving (the test) I would hate to see anyone be a guinea pig," she said.

At Park School, learning is not just fair-weather activity

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Students at Park Middle School demonstrated the application of weather equipment into the science curriculum at the Board of Education's agenda meeting last week.

At the Jan. 13 meeting, a group of sixth-grade students navigated through a series of informational websites, explained weather terms and described the measurement of everyday weather phenomena.

As part of the sixth grade science curriculum, classes include a unit on meteorology. Unlike previous years, however, students are able to apply the lessons they are learning to anecdotal observations of the conditions around them. This year, weather sensory equipment was installed at the high school and the data it collects is available across the school district's network.

In the course of the unit, students learn the real-world implications of terms like barometric pressure, wind speed, and relative humidity, among others. The school's network allows students to graph weather data by the hour, day, or month. And information is accessible over time: about 40 months of data can be stored on the network, said Margaret Brown, a sixth-grade teacher who spearheaded the project.

With use of a password, the weather network and weather data are accessible from a remote location, Brown added. "This will help more teachers take advantage of it," she said.

During the course of a 30-

minute demonstration, students expertly navigated through the menus, graphs, and statistics produced by the weather equipment.

Sixth-grade student Landon Park briefly explained the process of condensation during the meeting, identifying the difference between cumulus, stratus, and cirrus clouds.

On a cloudy day, you are actually walking through a stratus cloud, explained student C.J. Carpell, who also gave a brief weather forecast.

The weather curriculum became particularly timely in a year that saw heavy hurricane activity, Brown said. Using the school's interactive storm tracker, Park student Bernard Farrell tracked the course of the five major hurricanes that made landfall in the continental United States.

Use of weather equipment in class does far more than just expose children to technology, explained Trisha Camp, supervisor of the science curriculum.

"As science and technology advance, we want to shift the curriculum from kids being able to obtain data to kids being able to assess that information," she said.

In complementing Brown and her students, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Margaret Hayes said their progress is a strong example of the district's teaching staff bringing the board's technology goals to life.

"The very best teaching happens when teachers are facilitators so students can maximize their own learning," Hayes said.

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1.75 liter	1.75 liter	1.75 liter	1.75 liter
JACK DANIELS	JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK	ABSOLUT Vodka 80° Flavors	GORDONS
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1.75 liter	1.75 liter	1.75 liter	1.75 liter
1.75L CROWN ROYAL	1.75L CUTTY SARK	1.75L GREY GOOSE	1.75L BEEFEATER
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1.75L EARLY TIMES	1.75L WHITE HORSE	1.75L KETEL ONE	1.75L SEAGRAMS GIN
15⁹⁹	21⁹⁹	33⁹⁹	15⁰⁰
1.75L CANADIAN MIST	1.75L BLACK & WHITE	1.75L STOLICHNAYA	1.75L SEAGRAMS GIN
13⁹⁹	21⁹⁹	29⁹⁹	Regular • Lime Twist
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12⁹⁹	15⁹⁹	Sterling Vodka 80°	11⁰⁰
1.75L JOSE CUERVO Gold • Classic Tequila	1.75L GLEN-DOOR MANGO	1.75L SKYY Vodka 80°	1.75L LEEDS
32⁹⁹	33⁹⁹	28⁹⁹	9⁰⁰
1.75L PATRON Silver Tequila	1.75L BELVEDERE or CHOPIN Vodka 80°	1.75L SVEDKA Vodka 80°	1.75L TANQUERAY 10
33⁹⁹	24⁹⁹	16⁹⁹	23⁰⁰
1.75L GREY GOOSE Vodka 80°	1.75L JOHNNE WALKER RED	1.75L GORDON'S Vodka 80°	11⁰⁰
24⁹⁹	24⁹⁹	13⁹⁹	1.75L CAPTAIN MORGAN Original Spiced Rum • Parrot Bay Rum
1.75L KETEL ONE Vodka 80°	1.75L JOHNNE WALKER BLACK	1.75L FISCHMANN'S Vodka 80°	22⁰⁰
16⁹⁹	16⁹⁹	10⁹⁹	1.75L MIKE'S Hard Lemonade
1.75 liter	1.75 liter	1.75 liter	21⁹⁹
ROLLING ROCK Nips	BUCKLER Alcohol Free	AMSTEL	Corona
8⁹⁹	13⁹⁹	20⁹⁹	22⁹⁹
1.75 liter	1.75 liter	Bottles	Bottles
COORS LIGHT Nips	MILLER Hi-Life 30-Pack or BUSCH 30-Pack	BUCKLER	MODELLO
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1.75 liter	1.75 liter	Bottles	Bottles
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1.75 liter	1.75 liter	Bottles	Bottles
CORDIALS	CHAMPAGNE	HEINEKEN Nips	MIKE'S
750 ml KETEL ONE	750 ml CHAMPAGNE	15⁹⁹	Hard Lemonade
750 ml CUTTY SARK	750 ml CHAMPAGNE	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
750 ml JOHNNE WALKER	750 ml CHAMPAGNE	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
14⁰⁹	30⁰⁹	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
1.75 liter	1.75 liter	Bottles	Bottles
750 ml JOHNNE WALKER BLACK	750 ml CHAMPAGNE	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
17⁹⁹	30⁰⁹	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
1.75 liter	1.75 liter	Bottles	Bottles
750 ml JOHNNE WALKER RED	750 ml CHAMPAGNE	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
17⁹⁹	30⁰⁹	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
1.75 liter	1.75 liter	Bottles	Bottles
750 ml JOHNNE WALKER WHITE	750 ml CHAMPAGNE	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
17⁹⁹	30⁰⁹	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
1.75 liter	1.75 liter	Bottles	Bottles
750 ml JOHNNE WALKER GOLD	750 ml CHAMPAGNE	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
17⁹⁹	30⁰⁹	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
1.75 liter	1.75 liter	Bottles	Bottles
750 ml JOHNNE WALKER SILVER	750 ml CHAMPAGNE	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
17⁹⁹	30⁰⁹	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
1.75 liter	1.75 liter	Bottles	Bottles
750 ml JOHNNE WALKER GREEN	750 ml CHAMPAGNE	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
17⁹⁹	30⁰⁹	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
1.75 liter	1.75 liter	Bottles	Bottles
750 ml JOHNNE WALKER BLUE	750 ml CHAMPAGNE	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
17⁹⁹	30⁰⁹	15⁹⁹	12⁹⁹
1.75 liter	1.75 liter	Bottles	Bottles
750 ml JOHNNE WALKER BROWN	750 ml CHAMPAGNE	1	

Commentary

A way to get off the island

The controversy about proposed development on the Cooper Road island in Scotch Plains presents a genuine ethical dilemma.

AT&T, which has owned the property since 1946, is trying to sell the property to a developer, who plans to build a home on the site. The general consensus is that this is a very bad idea. Neighborhood residents are understandably in uproar about traffic safety hazards and the encroachment of development on what has long been a forested, lightly-used piece of land. Though they can't say so publicly for legal reasons, it's clear from their actions that at least some members of the Township Council and the Board of Adjustment agree.

Fortunately for opponents of the project, the lot is short of the minimum required size (by just how much is unclear). So if the Board of Adjustment doesn't look kindly on the project, it has justification to deny the application.

But that's where the dilemma lies. AT&T no longer requires the property. But because the property does not quite meet the expansive lot size called for in the zone, there is no possible development that complies with the township's land use ordinance. If the application is denied, AT&T is stuck paying more than \$5,300 in annual property taxes on a piece of land it can't use and can't sell. That's not a lot of money to such a gigantic company, but it's still unfair.

There are two potential ways out of this dilemma. The first is for the township to sell a portion of the neighboring municipally-owned lot to the company to bring the AT&T lot into compliance. But the company has also made a proposal along these lines and been rebuffed. Moreover, that solution would pave the way for a new home that is being opposed with good reason by neighbors.

The second solution is for the township to purchase the property and rezone the entire Cooper Road island for conservation use. The lot is currently assessed at \$63,800, with the small repeater facility on the property assessed at an additional \$12,200. No doubt AT&T has a contract to sell the site for much more than that to a developer — but the company will never see that money if the application is not approved. It might well be worth it for the company to sell the property for less than the market would bear — say, at the assessed value. While that cost is certainly not negligible from the township's perspective, it still amounts to less than one tax point. And that's not counting the legal expenses the township will surely incur fighting an appeal should the Board of Adjustment reject the current application.

It's a messy situation. And it's up to the Township Council, along with the cooperation of AT&T, to find a way out.

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 Chad Hemenway at (732) 396-4202.

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Letters to the editor

More time needed for review of bills

To The Record-Press:

The legislative process in Trenton should be improved. The standard operating procedure does not provide enough time for legislators to review new laws prior to the vote on the assembly floor.

Presently, lawmakers receive between 30 and 50 laws four days before the voting session. The laws can be extremely complicated and may have impact that is difficult to predict without significant study. The constituents that may be affected must be contacted and must have time to voice their support or opposition.

The constituent groups that have a full-time Trenton lobbyist carefully watching the program are the only groups with some chance of influencing the vote. The media has little chance to provide citizens with information concerning the new laws.

Floor amendments are routinely made that dramatically affect the laws without further committee

study or citizen input. I would hope that the media would join with me and call for an immediate change that permits time for reflection and public debate prior to a vote.

I have asked that the rules be amended to provide sufficient time for review and debate. The majority party is sympathetic to my concerns but does not appear ready to embrace change. We also spend time honoring citizens before the voting session, but there is never a time when the public can speak before the Legislature. It would truly be a real honor to our fellow citizens to permit a period when the public could address the Legislature on issues of concern.

I hope the public and media will join me and demand serious change to a flawed system.

JON M. BRAMNICK

Assemblyman, Dist. 21

The author's legislative district includes Westfield.

A call to arms for America's vets

To The Record-Press:

The politically-motivated removal of Congressman Chris Smith from the House Veterans Affairs Committee should be viewed as a warning shot by America's veterans community.

Smith has served on the committee for 24 years, the last four as chairman, and has been a strong and effective advocate for veterans during his entire tenure.

It is disconcerting that Republican Party leaders have denied Congressman Smith the final two years of his chairmanship because of his refusal to aban-

don the principles he applied to veterans-related issues. It appears that the Bush Administration and House leadership are planning to set a new course for veterans issues, and their removal of Mr. Smith is a clear message that veterans can only interpret as less than benevolent.

Veterans across this great country had better prepare to engage in the conflict that is sure to evolve on the veterans' benefits front as a result of this move.

JAMES VIALARD

New Jersey State Commander

The American Legion

Guard, Reserve need more funding

To The Record-Press:

It was nice to see an editorial supporting higher military spending in the paper last week. Since we are in a war, it is nice to know we have your support.

The National Guard and Army Reserve usually get about 35 percent of an active unit's funding, but now that we are needed to deploy we need that extra funding to properly do our job. Many people have said we should not have to deploy. If the last administration had not cut the equivalent of eight active Army divisions I do not think we would have to.

Just after 9/11, I remember a woman on a college basketball team who would not stand for "The Star-Spangled Banner," and when interviewed said she wished the military had to have a bake sale to get money for equipment.

Many liberals like her are now blasting the present administration about the lack of equipment, but they complained about military spending too much before. It is easy to see that these people are just being disingenuous with these attacks.

CHRISTOPHER D. SANDS

Cranford

Thanks to those who donated toys

To The Record-Press:

On behalf of the Westfield Coldwell Banker Office and the families served by Family and Children's Services, we want to thank those of you who supported our annual Toys for Tots drive and distribution program.

Your generosity was truly amazing and helped to serve over a thousand children. These children are among the most disadvantaged and include those who have been abused, removed from their fami-

lies, live in domestic shelters, experienced domestic violence, or live in the county's foster homes.

We trust that you have all enjoyed your own holidays a little more, knowing that you have given something very special to brighten the lives of children in the community. Again, we sincerely appreciate your most thoughtful generosity.

KATHY SHEA, FAITH MARICIC

MARGARET MAQUIRE

Westfield Coldwell Banker

DO YOU BELIEVE YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS WHEN YOU RETIRE?

ANDREA KUNYZ
Scotch Plains

No, I don't think Social Security will be there if Bush is trying to get rid of it -- I think another president would have to bring it back

MICHAEL MacMANUS
Scotch Plains

I think Social Security will probably be privatized, and there will probably be a lot of corruption when it gets privatized. People will take their money and waste it, and not use it for what it was meant for

LINDA HOELTJE
works in Cranford

I think Bush needs to keep his nose out of Social Security and leave well enough alone. There's a lot of other problems for him to worry about

Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

Still waiting to grow up

Editor's note: This column has previously appeared in this space.

The happiest day of my adolescence came on steamy Friday afternoon in May when I suddenly got a hot putter.

It was 31 years ago and I was a 14-year-old freshman on the varsity golf team of Somerville High School. We were playing our dreaded rival, Bound Brook, at Green Knoll, and on the last four holes of my nine-hole match I sank putts of at least 12 feet for a 3-0 win. The team won that day, too; any victory for Somerville was an upset, but this was doubly delicious because we had edged Bound Brook. The sweet elixir of victory soaked my heart and there was this incredible moment, in my brother's ear on the way home from the course when the radio was playing The Doors' "Love Her Madly," when I thought life could not get any better.

But that was a rare moment in my adolescence. The memories of those years are kept in the Transylvania of my soul, a place where dark clouds roil about empty castles and lightning bolts kill innocent sheep grazing in the fields. These were the unhappiest years of my life, and I remember being frustrated at the insidious drip of miserable time until I grew up and life would be so much simpler and free of the anxiety that stalked me every day.

Of course life has not gotten simpler. Life has become increasingly complicated; the more you learn about the subtleties of "real life," the more the black-and-white issues dissolve into a fuzzy gray. You realize the power of mitigating circumstances to provide acceptable exceptions to the rules and no longer do you rush to harsh or cynical judgments. But, through experience, you've gotten better coping with the curveballs — and the occasional spitball — that life throws at you. And the anxieties have gotten bored and, like an old hound dog sleep most of the time, but are still ready to stalk their prey when the scent of fear arrives.

There are too many times these days when I wish the complications would melt and collect in a puddle that I could stomp about in while singing a happy song. But that's not going to happen. In 10 or 20 years, when I am eased into my twilight years with good grace and dignity, perhaps the only problem I will have is deciding how much to eat at the buffet table at an Atlantic City casino. But that time is far, far into the future and I am again experiencing the twinge of adolescent frustration at the tedious march of time. Perhaps it really is true; the early 40s are a second adolescence but much more dangerous than the first, because you are armed with knowledge and the money to do foolish things.

There is another memory I have of that day. I got home just in time to gobble a ham sandwich, then rushed out of the house with the youth group of the Neshanic Methodist Church to catch a presentation of "Jesus Christ Superstar" at Princeton Theological Seminary. I don't remember much except the familiar anthems and that everything was loud and unorganized. But one moment sticks in my mind like a grasshopper encased in amber: Off to one side of the stage was a slender but shapely girl, about my age, in a tight T-shirt dancing alone to the music. The dancing I began to feel did not come from the spirituality of the music, but from a much bigger and more incomprehensible force. I tried to quiet the stirring by reminding myself this was a religious function and such stirrings were not allowed, but the mix of the clichéd sacred and profane, the complicating contradictions, was just as intoxicating as the victory on the golf course. It was a signpost leading into the tunnel to the future. I'm still looking for the next signpost.



Second grade students at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School learn the step-by-step procedures of origami from Westfield resident and guest speaker Kumiko Spitz. The lesson was part of a six-week unit on various geographical locations including Mexico, Japan and Africa.

PHOTO BY SUSAN DOUGHERTY

Westfield resident shares Japanese culture with students

Sometimes it's great to have a friend who knows something first-hand. That's how Westfield resident Bev Fantini felt when she asked her neighborhood friend Kumiko Spitz, formerly of Japan, to speak to her class of second graders at the Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison about Japanese customs and culture.

"How lucky am I?" said Fantini of her acquaintance. "We are doing a six-week unit on Japan, Mexico and Africa. Kumiko agreed to come and do origami with the children, and two of my other friends from Mexico and Africa will come to speak as well."

To start the Jan. 11 afternoon presentation, Spitz asked the children, "Who knows Pokemon?" She informed them that the popular comic originated in Japan. From there she spoke of the importance of numbers, especially odd numbers. "March 3 or 3/3 is Children's Day in Japan," she explained.

The children's books she brought in for display were in Japanese; the children were able to deduce that the characters were written vertically, not horizontally. Spitz explained that another difference is that the Japanese language is written and read from right to

left.

With loads of artifacts and mementos from her own life and childhood, she showed the class bamboo dolls, shoes and games. Since the students were just at the beginning of their unit of study, they had a myriad of questions on customs, food and clothing.

Spitz brought a kimono for one lucky student to model. Rida Aziz got to experience the feel of the silk apparel that belonged to the former Japan native's sister.

Then it was time for origami. Not only did the guest speaker display and give the class flowers she

had made from colored paper, but she also gave the students a crane. When she was younger, she and her sister made and sent 1,000 cranes to their sick grandfather; the Japanese believe that cranes in that number will bring good health.

Next, each child got newspapers to try out origami for him or herself. "I decided to use the large paper for the younger children to accommodate their dexterity at that age," said Spitz, who herself is a teacher. Step by step, they folded the paper as they were instructed to make hats that were then worn and proudly displayed.

ATTEND A FREE SEMINAR EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DIVORCE

The Law Firm of Dughi, Hewit & Palatucci is pleased to announce that Mario C. Gurrieri, head of its Family Law Department, and April L. Katz will present to the public a free Seminar entitled "Everything You Need To Know About Divorce" at The Westfield Inn in Westfield on Thursday, January 20, 2005 and Saturday, January 22, 2005. Mr. Gurrieri, who has specialized in matrimonial law for over thirty-two years and Ms. Katz, for twelve years, will review the law, explain the legal process and answer your questions concerning separation, divorce, custody, visitation, alimony, division of assets and post-divorce Court review of alimony and child support as well as the new law governing **Domestic Partnerships**.

Information will also be provided on **Divorce Mediation**, an alternative to the traditional contested proceeding. Divorce Mediation offers the potential for significant savings while assuring that your rights are fully protected by avoiding the expense, stress and delay involved in Court proceedings.

If you are experiencing marital difficulties and contemplating divorce, or if you are simply curious about your rights in a separation or divorce, this Seminar will be of value to you. If you are already divorced, the Seminar may be of value in explaining post-divorce rights and obligations of former spouses.

Where: Westfield Inn
435 North Ave. West
Westfield, New Jersey
(908) 654-5600
When: Thursday, January 20, 2005 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 22, 2005 from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Reservations required (no names needed)
Call 908-272-0200

Book group at First Baptist

WESTFIELD — The Women's Book Club of the First Baptist Church of Westfield, 170 Elm St., will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday to discuss "The Five People You Meet In Heaven" and "Tuesdays with Morrie," both by Mitch Albom.

Refreshments will be served. For information, call (908) 233-2278 or e-mail the church at first-baptist-westfield@verizon.net.

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Legislators praise Chertoff pick

Senator Tom Kean, Jr., Assemblyman Eric Munoz, and Assemblyman Jon M. Bramnick, representatives of the 21st District, which includes Westfield, issued a statement of support recently after President Bush announced that former Westfield resident Michael Chertoff would be his new Homeland Security chief.

"I have known Mike for a number of years on both a personal and professional level," said Kean. "He is a talented and experienced public servant who will uphold the highest standards of honor and integrity that is required of him in his new post. I am confident that he will do an outstanding job as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and that he will be an asset in America's efforts as we wage war against terrorism at home

and abroad."

Munoz said, "I am honored that a resident of the 21st District was selected to serve in President Bush's cabinet as head of Homeland Security. Mr. Chertoff's academic background, legal experience, and commitment to the cause of justice make him a strong candidate for this position."

"President Bush's decision to select a citizen of New Jersey to head the Department of Homeland Security reflects the administration's commitment to our state," said Bramnick. "The tri-state area was greatly impacted by the events of 9/11. I am sure Mr. Chertoff will not only serve our country well, but he will also have a keen knowledge of the importance of addressing homeland security issues for the state of New Jersey."

Bill aims to clarify cable billing rates

Assemblywoman Linda Stender of District 22, including Scotch Plains and Westfield, recently introduced legislation requiring cable television providers to clearly disclose terms and conditions of introductory rates on cable bills to new and existing customers.

"Customers lured by introductory rates are commonly unaware of when these rates expire or how

to terminate their service before being billed at significantly higher rates," said Stender. "By requiring this information to be included on their cable bill, consumers will be less likely to exceed their introductory rate period and be surprised by higher bills."

Assembly bill A-3716 directs the Board of Public Utilities to require cable television providers to disclose particular information

on cable television bills to new and existing customers who accept the introductory rates. Under the proposed legislation, information that must be disclosed on the cable television bill includes the number of months the introductory rates are in effect, the date when they are scheduled to expire, and the procedure by which the customer may terminate the service without penalty.

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Mary Irene Orostek

SCOTCH PLAINS — Mary Irene Orosag Orostek, 91, died Jan. 10, 2005 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Born Aug. 30, 1914 in Hungary, she lived in Scotch Plains before moving to South Plainfield in 1975.

Mrs. Orostek was retired from Acme Markets in Cranford. She was a member of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in South Plainfield.

Her husband of 72 years, Joseph W., died in 2003.

Surviving are two daughters,

Rosa Ventimiglia

WESTFIELD — Rosa Ventimiglia, 91, died Jan. 13, 2005 at the Greenbrook Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Green Brook.

Born in Sicily, she lived in Westfield before moving to Piscataway in 1993.

Mrs. Ventimiglia was a seamstress with Helten in Linden.

A daughter, Sara D'Agostino, died in 2004.

Surviving are two daughters,

Celia Kickenweitz

SCOTCH PLAINS — Celia "Mickey" Kickenweitz, 88, died Jan. 17, 2005 at Rennells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

She was born in New York City and had lived in Scotch Plains since 1952.

Mrs. Kickenweitz worked in the housekeeping department of the Westfield Convalescent Center. She earlier was a proofreader with RCA Corp. in Clark.

Melvin Ehrich

FANWOOD — Melvin Ehrich died Jan. 17, 2005 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Born in Newark, he lived in Roselle Park before moving to Fanwood in 1969.

Mr. Ehrich was the retired director of environmental services at St. James Hospital in Newark. He was an Army veteran of World War II and graduated from Bloomfield College.

He was a volunteer at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City and delivered

Barbara A. Podpora and Maureen Hibble, both of South Plainfield; a brother, Frank Orosag Jr., and a sister, Anne Carroll, both of Pennsylvania; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Services were held Jan. 13 at the McCriskin Home for Funerals, in South Plainfield. Entombment was in the Holy Redeemer Mausoleum, South Plainfield.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Haven Hospice, JFK Medical Center Foundation, 80 James St., Edison, NJ 08818.

Surviving are two daughters,

Record Press

Obituaries

Earl Lambert Sr.

WESTFIELD — Earl Stanley Lambert Sr., 73, died Jan. 13, 2005 at his home.

Born in Vauxhall, he was a son of the late Harry and Olive Peniston Lambert.

Mr. Lambert lived in Plainfield before moving to Westfield in 1958. He was with the Westfield Police Department for 25 years, working in the Traffic Safety Division and the Narcotics Division before retiring in 1986 with the rank of sergeant.

Services were held Monday at the Higgins Home for Funerals, in Plainfield. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Donations may be sent to Westfield Rescue Squad, 335 Watterson St., Westfield, NJ 07090. To send a condolence, visit www.higginsfuneralhome.com.

Lawrence Gibson

WESTFIELD — Lawrence R. Gibson died Jan. 11, 2005 at Northwest Hospital Center in Randallstown, Md.

He was born in Long Island City, Queens, and had lived in Westfield since 1982.

Dr. Gibson was an oral and maxillofacial surgeon with offices in Westfield and Sparta. He also was on the staff of Overlook Hospital in Summit.

He graduated from Hofstra University and the New York University College of Dentistry. Dr. Gibson earned his specialization in oral surgery at the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University, located in Manhattan.

He was a member of the

American Dental Society, the American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, the New Jersey Dental Society, Delta Sigma Delta, the Westfield Rotary Club and the Echo Lake Country Club.

His father, Lewis H., is deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Janet; his mother, LaFern; a son, Brad; and two sisters, Sandy Perrin and Pat Bowditch.

Services were held Saturday at the Evangel Baptist Church in Springfield. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains.

Arrangements were by the Carmen F. Spezzi Funeral Home in Parlin.

Frances Macrae

WESTFIELD — Margaret Frances Macrae, 100, died Jan. 8, 2005 at the Kingsland Hills Care Center in Kingsland, Texas.

She was born in Irvington and lived in Westfield before moving in 1997 to Horseshoe Bay, Texas.

Mrs. Macrae and her late husband, Walter L., owned the Macrae Gifts shop in East Orange. She later was a receptionist with White Laboratories in Springfield and retired in 1969.

She also owned a Newark delicatessen and was an operator with New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. Mrs. Macrae was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America.

Charlotte Gregory

WESTFIELD — Charlotte B. Gregory, 91, died Jan. 13, 2005 at her home in Salisbury, Md.

Mrs. Gregory was born in Elizabeth. She lived in Cranford, Westfield, Whippoorwill and Basking Ridge before moving to Salisbury in 2000.

She retired in 1967 after 10 years as an executive secretary at Jefferson School in Westfield. Mrs. Gregory earlier held a similar post with the National Geographic Society and the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies.

She graduated from the Katharine Gibbs School and was a member of the Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church.

Lambert was an Army veteran of the Korean War and awarded a Purple Heart.

Surviving are his wife, Ernestine "Kippy" Keets Lambert; a son, Earl S. Jr.; a daughter, Cyriese Lambert-Downer; three brothers, Howard, Harry Jr. and Joseph; two sisters, Margaret Vaughan and Thelma; his mother-in-law, Lillian Page; and five grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at the Higgins Home for Funerals, in Plainfield. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Donations may be sent to Westfield Rescue Squad, 335 Watterson St., Westfield, NJ 07090. To send a condolence, visit www.higginsfuneralhome.com.

At the board's agenda meeting Monday evening, attorney Robert Kraus — representing his own development partnership — presented a concept plan for several properties up the hill to the east along South Avenue. At the Fanwood Plaza, Kraus wants to expand an existing parking lot, and across the street he proposes to build two commercial structures.

The Fanwood Plaza building uses the property across the street to meet its parking needs, but Kraus has acquired a separate lot behind the Fanwood Plaza, which fronts on Old South Avenue. His partnership will need a use variance from the Planning Board to pave the lot into a parking area. With parking contained on the north side of the busy thoroughfare, the lot across the street could be redeveloped.

At the concept hearing — an informal, non-binding advisory session — Kraus presented a plan to build an 8,000-square foot day care center and a 2,000-square foot bank building next door. The two new structures would share a parking lot in the rear and do not appear to require parking variances from

Borough board reviews plan for 2 commercial buildings on South Ave.

the board, Kraus said.

Two structures currently stand at the site, and they are proposed to be demolished. The buildings are currently used by Children's Specialized Hospital for administrative purposes, but the hospital would like to move those offices over to the Fanwood Plaza, Kraus said.

The new structures on the south side of South Avenue would include Victorian architectural elements to meet the borough's aesthetic preferences, according to Kraus. And the plan would actually increase the amount of on-site parking available at Fanwood Plaza.

"I like the concept, and I like the idea that people won't have to cross South Avenue to get to the building they're working in," said board member Dan Zuckerman.

Board members were generally supportive of the idea, though member Andrew Mac Donald said he wanted to hear more about the possible environmental impact of the site before endorsing it.

Others were hopeful that the parking lot would not have access from Old South Avenue, which is zoned for residential use. Kraus said there are no plans to establish access from Old South Avenue, though limited access could be permitted to the parking lot for safety considerations.

Board chairman Greg Cummings asked Kraus to consider the impact of other planned developments near the site.

No formal application has been filed with the Planning Board at this point, though Kraus said he may seek a board hearing as soon as March.

Kraus presented a plan to build an 8,000-square foot day care center and a 2,000-square foot bank building.

Man is charged with shoplifting handbags

WESTFIELD

An employee of a business on North Avenue West reported a black male entered the business and allegedly removed numerous Coach handbags Jan. 13.

The man was later arrested by Scotch Plains police and identified as Daryl Lofton, 36, of Irvington.

Lofton was charged with shoplifting.

Jason Ryan of Westfield was arrested and charged with defendant trespass Jan. 12.

Officers arrested Suzanne Marks of Westfield for driving while intoxicated Jan. 13. Marks, who was arrested at Palsted Avenue and Hort Street, was released to a sober adult.

On Jan. 13, officers arrested Lawrence Maher of Cranford for driving while intoxicated at Springfield Avenue and East Broad Street. Maher was

Police Log

released to the custody of a sober adult. ***

Officers arrested Philip Uhl of Scotch Plains for driving while intoxicated Jan. 14. Breath test results were .11 percent and .12 percent of blood alcohol content. ***

Officers arrested Joseph Wisniewski, John Zaccarino, Kenneth Bogen, and David Rudnicki, all of Westfield, for possession of controlled dangerous substances Saturday.

All four were arrested following a motor vehicle stop at North and Edgewood avenues, and were processed and released.

On Sunday, officers arrested Michelle Tesman, 19, of Union and Emanuelle Grau, 21, also of Union for possession of marijuana under 50 grams and possession of controlled dangerous substances Saturday.

Tesman and Grau were arrested following a motor vehicle stop at the corner of North Scotch Plains Avenue and Cumberland Street. They were processed and released.

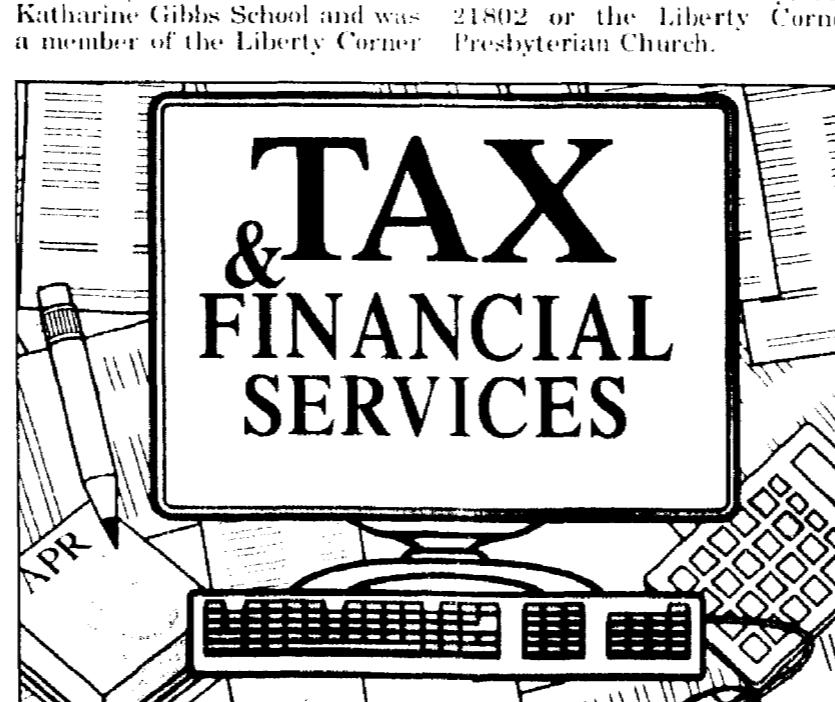
Officers arrested Anthony Fischetto, 34, of Summit for violation of the Intensive Supervision Program in the 400 block of East Broad Street Monday.

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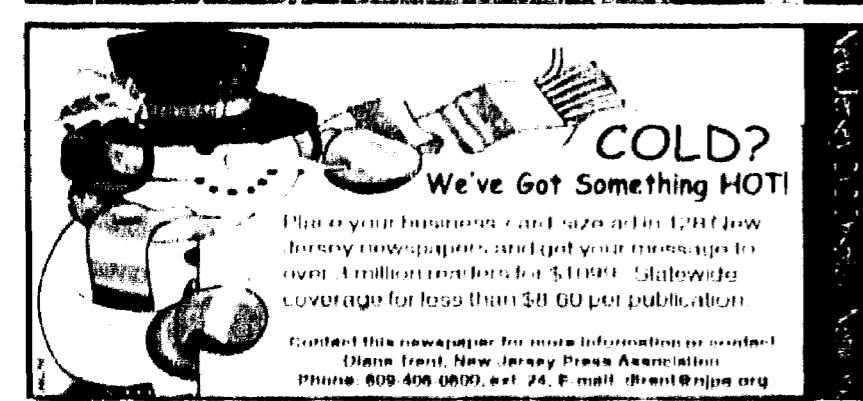
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Community Life

Briefs

Miller-Cory celebrates Groundhog Day

WESTFIELD — A program titled "Wake Up, Mr. Groundhog! Do All Animals Hibernate?" will be presented at the Miller-Cory House Museum from 2-4 p.m. Sunday. The museum is located at 614 Mountain Ave.

Patricia D'Angelo of Westfield will conduct a program on hibernating animals, including the groundhog. There will be several crafts and a bird feeder project for children to make and take home. Also, visitors will hear the story of the groundhog and learn why we celebrate Feb. 2.

The Miller-Cory House Museum is staffed by a volunteer core of costumed docents dedicated to bringing the past to life in the 18th century dwelling.

Admission to the museum is 50 cents for students, \$2 for adults; young children under 6 are admitted free of charge. For information, call (908) 232-1776.

Policing Alliance will meet on Feb. 23

FANWOOD — The Community Policing Alliance will hold its next monthly meeting 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23. The meeting will be held at the Forest Road Park Community Building.

In 2004, the Fanwood Police Department organized a Community Policing Alliance. The CPA invites all residents and those working in Fanwood to join the alliance. The goal is to create a link between the police and the community to address a wide array of topics, including crime prevention, child safety and community issues and events. The CPA meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the same place and time.

International show planned at Edison

WESTFIELD — On Friday, Jan. 28, Edison Intermediate School will hold its first International Talent and Fashion Show from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the school auditorium at 800 Rahway Ave.

"This program will help raise awareness of the many cultural differences in our schools and community," said guidance counselor Gloria White-James.

The program will consist of songs, dances, fashions and international booths and is open to Westfield residents and surrounding communities. Music and dancing will include selections from China, Ireland, the Ukraine and India.

A fashion show featuring Nigerian, Japanese and American attire will also be held that evening. Adult members of the community and students will be performing. Tickets will be available at the door and also on sale starting Jan. 24 at Edison.

The ticket price is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children.

Fanwood seniors plan trip to Virginia

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Senior Citizens Club is sponsoring an overnight trip to Virginia Beach and Williamsburg April 26-29.

Round trip transportation is by deluxe motorcoach with accommodations at an oceanfront hotel. The trip includes three full breakfasts and a dinner cruise through Broad Bay.

The group will visit MacArthur Memorial and the Naval Station in Norfolk and other points of interest and may want to stroll on the three mile boardwalk. A self guided tour of Colonial Williamsburg is planned. For information and reservations, call Art Buduhn at (908) 889-4494.

Board to discuss curriculum, projects

WESTFIELD — At the Tuesday meeting of the Board of Education, the agenda will include a discussion of the proposed 2005-2006 school budget with special emphasis on curriculum and capital projects.

The meeting will be held in Room 105 of 302 Elm Street at 8 p.m. All Board of Education public meetings are taped. They can be seen on Channel 36 on Tuesdays at 8 a.m., 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. and Thursdays at 8 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Westfield announces winners of MLK contest

WESTFIELD — On Monday, January 17, a community-wide service in Westfield was held at the Temple Emanu-El to honor Martin Luther King Jr. The following Westfield Public School students were awarded prizes for essays, poems and art that reflected this year's theme, "Fear and How To Conquer It."

High School Essay: 1st place, Ravi Netravali, 9th Grade; 2nd Place, Yuchen Zhang, 11th Grade; 3rd Place, Alissa Eisenberg, 11th Grade.

High School Poetry: 1st place, Rachel Charatan, 11th Grade; Honorable Mention, Gregory Greifeld

, 10th Grade and Hannah Weisman, 9th Grade.

High School Art: 1st place, Cindy Wang, 9th Grade; Honorable Mention, Maggie Lee, 12th Grade and Shane Strano, 10th Grade.

Intermediate School Essay: 1st Place, Jessica Harris, 8th Grade, Edison; 2nd Place, Andrew K. Deutchman, 7th Grade, Edison; 3rd Place, Olivia Ryan, 6th Grade Edison and Cassie Simcox, 8th Grade, Roosevelt.

Intermediate School Poetry: 1st Place, Shannon Murray, 8th Grade, Roosevelt; Honorable Mention, Maddy Archambault, 6th Grade, Edison.

Intermediate School Art: 1st Place, Alex Goldin and Carla Ralston, 8th Grade, Edison; Honorable Mention, Dominique Gillyard, 8th Grade, Edison and Amelia Morabito, 6th Grade, Edison.

Elementary School Essay: 1st Place, Sarah Chandler, 5th Grade, Washington; 2nd Place, Rebecca Sarkos, 5th Grade, Washington; 3rd Place, Dean Schiopow, 5th Grade, Jefferson.

Elementary School Poetry: 1st Place: Jeff Marino, 4th Grade, Wilson.

Elementary School Art: 1st Place: Henry Hershey, 5th Grade, Tamaqua; Honorable Mention, Matias

Werner, 5th Grade, McKinley.

Prizes for the contest were savings bonds ranging from \$50 to \$500 denominations at the various grade levels and categories. Those students awarded Honorable Mention received gift certificates from the Town Bookstore.

Ninth grader Ravi Netravali, who won a \$500 savings bond for his essay, wrote of Dr. King, "His methods of love embraced mercy and forgiveness, promoted life and community, and let people reach out to other members of their community. I feel that today we need leaders who can preach and practice these methods of love."

Library will host talk on P. Robeson

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library will host the following programs for adults and children during the week of Jan. 31.

TGIF: Paul Robeson: On Friday, Feb. 4, at 1:30 p.m., visitors to the library will explore the life of actor, singer and civil rights activist Paul Robeson, who spent part of his early years as a Westfield resident. Light refreshments will be served.

Storytimes for Children: All storytimes are drop-in, but attendance is limited so visitors should arrive early and sign in at the Children's Desk. Children must have a valid Westfield Library card to participate.

Mother Goose Lapsit: On Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:45-10:05 a.m., children age 10 to 23 months and their parents or caregivers are invited to share time together as they are exposed to language, books and playful activities. Cardholders can come bounce, sing, clap, listen to stories and more. This is a "drop in and enjoy" program, but attendance is limited to 10 children. Older siblings will not be permitted due to the size

limitations of the room. Children must be Westfield Library cardholders to participate.

Time for Tales: In this program for kids ages 3½ to 5 years, held on Mondays from 1:30-2 p.m. and Fridays from 10:30-11 a.m., children go into the story room without an adult to listen to stories and watch a video of a picture book. Adults are not permitted to accompany the child, but are asked to stay in the library during the program in case of emergencies.

Little Listeners: In this program, for kids ages 2 to 3½ years, held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:30-11 a.m., children must be accompanied by an adult. Infants will be permitted, but older siblings will not due to size limitations of the group. The library requests that children attend this program only once per week so that as many children can participate as possible.

For more information, call (908) 789-4090, visit the library's website at www.wmlnj.org or stop by the library for a copy of the quarterly newsletter.

Prospective Scouts invited to tournament

WESTFIELD — Boy Scout Troop 78 will be holding a crab soccer tournament for any boys in fourth, fifth and sixth grades who are interested in joining the Boy Scouts.

No previous Cub Scouting experience is necessary. The event will take place from 8-9 p.m. Jan. 31 in the Franklin School Gym at 700 Prospect St.

Interested boys will be placed on teams at the event. Parents and siblings are invited to watch the fun, enjoy snacks and ask questions of the Troop 78 parents and Scoutmasters.

Troop 78 is sponsored by the First United Methodist Church on East Broad Street. The Troop meets at the Methodist Church from 8:30 p.m. Monday nights during the school year.

During the meetings, the Scouts work on challenging merit badges such as Personal Fitness, Communications, and Citizenship. They also learn basic Scouting skills such as map reading, knot tying and fire-building and compete in skills competitions at the end

of the meeting.

The troop also participates in tent and cabin camping, backpacking, whitewater rafting and ski trips. They have also visited historical sites such as Valley Forge, Gettysburg and USS New Jersey Battleship.

Troop 78 attends summer camp in the Adirondacks for a week of high adventure. The week includes activities such as water sports, overnight camping under the stars, climbing towers and shooting and other outdoors merit badges. The boys are responsible for preparing their own food for all meals during that week.

Older scouts have participated in summer canoe and hiking treks, attended the Philmont ranch in 2004 and are planning to hike the White Mountains in New Hampshire this coming summer.

Questions about Troop 78 may be directed to Mark Rhodes at (908) 518-9523 or Tim Wardell at (908) 654-0273.

'Love Letters' penned at the Fanwood library

FANWOOD — In celebration of Valentine's Day, the Friends of the Fanwood Memorial Library will host a production of the play "Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney on Feb. 13, at the library.

Originally produced on Broadway and starring Jason Robards and Colleen Dewhurst, "Love Letters" is composed of correspondence exchanged over a lifetime between two people who grew up together, went their separate ways, but continued to share confidences. In this evocative and frequently funny play, what is implied in the letters is as revealing and meaningful as the words the actors actually recite.

Fanwood residents and professional actors Leslie and Ann Miroski will star in this production. The husband and wife troupe were both recently appointed to poets in Fanwood cultural organizations. Ann has joined the library board of trustees, and Leslie is a member of the Cultural Arts Committee.

The two act on the set of a regional production of "Guys and Dolls," he played Sky, and she played Miss Adelaide. Leslie claims he has been a angel since age 3, when he opened up to sing "Zippity Do Da." Ann teaches in Westfield.

The Fanwood production is scheduled 3 p.m. Feb. 13. Refreshments will be served at intermission. Admission is free on a first come, first served basis. All adults are welcome.



Pictured from left at the Woodstock event are JCC President Marcia Wasser, co-chairs Ellen Zimmerman and Amy Kaufman, JCC Executive Director Richard Corman and co-chair Sheri Finver.

Woodstock fundraiser raises \$29G for Scotch Plains JCC

SCOTCH PLAINS — More than 275 people came clad in tie-die t-shirts, rose-colored glasses and funky pants to socialize, satisfy their munchies and groove to the riffs of the Brother John Brown band at the annual winter "Woodstock" fundraiser held Jan. 8 at the JCC of Central New Jersey.

Between tapping kegs and showing off knowledge of rock band genealogy — prompted by original album cover centerpieces — guests participated in the grand raffle drawing, live auction, Pandora's box and Chinese auctions. The sum of \$29,000 was netted after expenses, making this one of the most successful winter fundraisers to date. A portion of the money will be used towards the new JCC playground, to be completed later this year.

Volunteers who donated their time include fundraiser committee co-chairs Sheri Finver, Amy Kaufman and Ellen Zimmerman; board liaison Jenifer Wirtshafter and the entire

Woodstock Committee. Also helping out were auctioneer Steve Katz and JCC Cultural Arts & Education Director Susan Lemerman.

The musical theme continues next month at the JCC with Music on Martini!, a showcase of up-and-coming bands that usually play in urban venues.

The first of two concerts will be held 8-11 p.m. Feb. 12. The opener is Westfield's own Pick An Exit, followed by headliner Jonah Matranga. Matranga, the ex-front man of Sacramento, Calif.-based emo band "FAR," is just back from touring with "Jimmy Eat World." Another concert is scheduled for Saturday, March 26.

Net proceeds will benefit Jewish charity "Meir Panim, Soup Kitchens in Israel." There is very limited seating available, so call now to reserve a spot. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door if tickets remain. Contact JCC Teen Services Director Mike Goldstein at (908) 889-8800, ext. 218 for tickets and information.

Take an 'Owl Prowl' at Trailside

MOUNTAINSIDE — An exciting new line-up of "Dusk to Dark" evening family workshops will be offered this winter at Trailside Nature & Science Center.

Trailside's location in the Watchung Reservation provides an outdoor classroom in which kids can have fun while learning about the environment and the natural world around them. "Owl Prowl," intended for families with children ages 6 and older, will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 26 from 7-8 p.m. Participants will learn about the screech owls, great horned owls and barred owls that reside in the Watchung Reservation. They'll also listen to the calls of these nocturnal birds, feel a real owl talon and

discover the special adaptations that allow these animals to survive in the wild.

The event includes a brief slide presentation depicting the habits and habitats of these often elusive creatures and a short hike to known owl prowling grounds. Kids will search for owl pellets and feathers and listen for owls calling.

"Night Hike," offered on March 16 and again March 30 from 7-8 p.m. for families with children of all ages, will take visitors on an evening exploration of the reservation. Participants will practice night vision using "owl eyes" to look for homes and hideouts of local wildlife. They'll also investigate fields and forests in search of tree houses, burrows, nests,

tracks and other signs that animal neighbors have been here. Participants may see some nocturnal animals on our hike.

All "Dusk to Dark" programs require pre-registration, because space is limited. The fee for each program is \$5 per person for Union County residents and \$6 per person for out-of-county explorers.

For additional information on Trailside's "Dusk to Dark" programs or for a complete listing of winter programs and upcoming special events, please call Trailside at (908) 789-3670.

Trailside Nature & Science Center is located at 152 New Providence Rd. and is a facility of the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Cozy and comfortable

Storyteller Maryjane Finne reads to her granddaughter Hannah Panessa, 4, at Sunday's "Tales in the Grove" program at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church in Scotch Plains. The hour-long program is held 7 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of every month. For more information about "Tales in the Grove" or any of the church's other activities, call the church office during business hours at (908) 232-5078 or e-mail wlgv@netzero.com



NJIO will present its winter concert Jan. 30 in Cranford

The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) will perform a free concert 2 p.m. Jan. 30 at Cranford High School, 201 West End Place, Cranford. The concert will also be performed on at 7:30 p.m. this Saturday at Summit Middle School on 272 Morris Ave. in Summit.

The concert will feature the Nouveau, full Symphony Orchestra and Chamber groups. Selections will include the Shaker Hymn, Vivaldi's "Gloria," "Overture" and "Pastoral Symphony" from the Handel's *Messiah*, Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by Bach, "Trepak" from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*, Bizet's "Farandole," Haydn's "St. Anthony's Chorale" and "Hornpipe" from Handel's *Water Music*.

One of America's most unique ensembles, the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra is

composed of more than 100 musicians who have ranged in age from 6 to 93. Founded in 1994, NJIO has performed at the World Conference on Aging in Madrid, Spain, the United Nations, the Lincoln Center fountain plaza, the Generations United Conference in Washington, D.C. and other venues in New Jersey. Media coverage has included features on CBS and NBC and in the New York Times as well as in such magazines as Family Circle, American Profiles and Savvy Living.

NJIO's mission is to bridge the generations through a common love of music. By bringing the different ages together, NJIO promotes mutual growth and understanding through the language and experience of musical performance.

Todd Van Beveren, NJIO's conductor and musical director, says the concert's program reflects the

growing reputation of both the orchestra's musical acumen and mission: "NJIO as an orchestra reflects the perfect union where the young and the young at heart share experiences through music and through their love of performing together," he said.

"Through the years our audiences have witnessed NJIO's expanding musical versatility. This concert is our personal thank you to all those who support NJIO and its unique musical expression. And to those who are just learning about NJIO, we want to welcome you with rousing musical experience."

Funding for the winter concerts has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural & Heritage Affairs and also in part by the Cranford Public

Schools. The NJIO winter concert is also sponsored in part by Target stores.

A highlight of NJIO's 2004-05 season is a special fundraising gala that will feature Peter Schickele and the music of P.D.Q. Bach on May 21, 2005. A reception will follow the performance. Tickets will become available Feb. 1.

Musicians of all ages and abilities are invited to join NJIO. The orchestra will register new members for its spring season Feb. 3 at the Cranford High School chorus room. Those with fewer than two years experience are invited to join the Nouveau Group at 6 p.m. All others should arrive to register from 6:30 to 7.

For more information about registration, visit the NJIO website at www.njio.org or contact Alan Campbell or Susan Peterson at membership@njio.org or (908) 656-0097.



PHOTO BY CHERI ROGOWSKY
Len Avdey of Westfield and his stand partner, Gabe Friedman of New Providence, perform in the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra. The group will play Jan. 30 in Cranford.

'Contact collages' on view at Pearl St.

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders presents an exhibit by Christine Dolinich of Rahway in the gallery space at the offices of the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, located at 633 Pearl Street in Elizabeth.

"The solo exhibit of award-winning multi-media artist Christine Dolinich can be seen now through March 15 at the Pearl Street Gallery," said Freeholder Chairman Rick Proctor. "We are honored to display her beautiful artwork."

Dolinich recently exhibited her works in Singapore at Orita Sinclair International Front Room Gallery in an exhibition entitled "Contemporary American Artists: Dolinich, Lukota, Macarol." Other recent exhibitions include "Celebrating Excellence," the Union County / Merck 2004 Juried Art Show; "Meditations on War," at the National Association of Women Artists Gallery in New York; and the national traveling exhibition "Mirrored Echoes."

Dolinich's recent works are evolved photographic images. At the core of each of these works is a straight photographic image, chemically altered to bind with other media. Combining monoprint and drawing techniques, the artist describes the medium as "contact collage."

Dolinich's work balances on a tightrope between the technical and the intuitive. The inspiration for works in the recent series, which were shown in Singapore and are included in the Elizabeth show, came to her in a dream.

A graduate of Rutgers University, Dolinich also studied

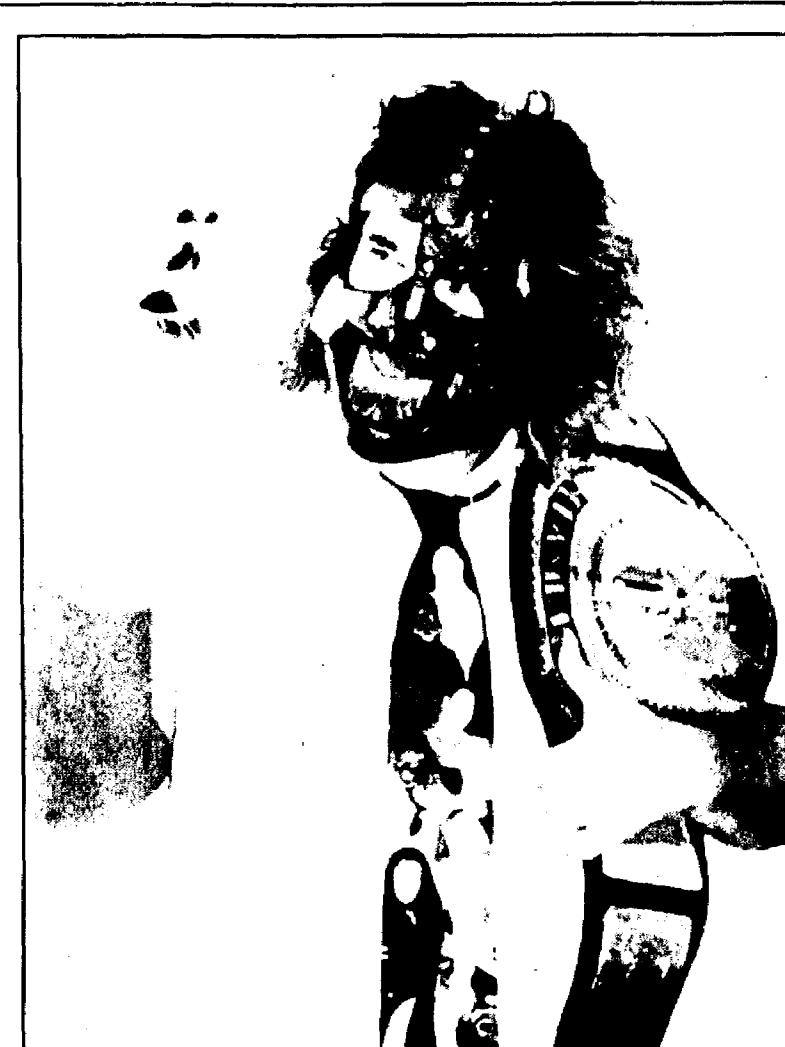
at Oxford University in England and St. George University International, and completed a Ph.D in Fine Arts at InterAmerican University. She has served on the faculties of Felician College, Prince George's College, and Union County Conservatory of Art and Music in Rahway, which she founded and currently directs.

She was one of four artists selected from the United States to design and create Millennium Arts Time Capsules for the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center in Maryland. The four time capsules were exhibited during 2000, then sealed and stored to be opened in the year 3000.

Dolinich has been the recipient of three H.E.A.R.T. Grant Awards from the board of freeholders. These grants resulted in site-specific installations of her work, one of which is a Union County Arts Millennium Time Capsule, a mixed media construction. This, her second time capsule, has been permanently installed in the Union County Administration Building.

Dolinich's artwork is on display at the Pearl Street Gallery through March 15. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Union County artists (whose works can be hung on a wall) interested in exhibiting in the gallery are welcome to apply. For more information about the Pearl Street Gallery, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202, by telephone at (908) 558-2550 or by e-mail at culturalinfo@ucnj.org.



Wrestling star Mick Foley will make a special appearance in Kenilworth this weekend.

Wrestling star Foley headed to Kenilworth

KENILWORTH — WWE hardcore wrestling star and children's book author Mick Foley, also known as "Mankind," will be live and in person in the borough this weekend for a special autograph signing.

The event will take place 1-3 p.m. Saturday at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 191 Market St.

Foley will be signing autographs and meeting with his many wrestling fans throughout the area. He is well known for his entertaining, often hardcore style of wrestling, which has thrilled fans around the world.

Foley has wrestled in various organizations, including ECW, WCW, and most recently, in the WWE, where he has gained notoriety for his ring wars with superstars Triple H, The Rock, Undertaker, and many contemporary younger stars.

Pre-sale tickets are available at a discounted price prior to the event by contacting Lenny Tripodi at (908) 447-9012. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$20, along with additional items, pictures, and Foley's infamous "Mr. Socko."

Doors will open at 11:30 a.m., with all pre-sale ticket holders entering first on line.

This show is recommended for children aged 7 to 14.

Wilkins Theatre is located at 1000 Morris Ave. in Union. Tickets are \$25 for the general public; \$21 for seniors and \$17 for children.

This show invites audiences to step into any one of four MGM movies such as "Legally Blonde," "Agent Cody Banks," "Pink Panther" or "Rocky," and presents a show that will offer children a unique educational entertainment experience.

Characters Crash and Professor Pruvitt will present a hands-on introduction to movie science, with the audience assisting with production as sound mixers and gaffers as well as lighting, camera and special-effects operators, or even actors and movie directors. Working together, each participant will take part in creating a short movie using the very latest in Hollywood technology.

Wilkins Theatre is located at 1000 Morris Ave. in Union. Tickets are \$25 for the general public; \$21 for seniors and \$17 for children.

For more information or to reserve tickets, call (908) 737-SHOW (7469).

Children's dance group will tell African epic

Batoto Yetu, a dance company comprised of more than 40 6-18-year-olds, will perform "The Birth of Nzinga," an epic tale of a young African princess leading her father's kingdom to freedom in the 16th century, at Kean University's Wilkins Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 28.

Taking its name from the Swahili phrase meaning "our children," Batoto Yetu has been sharing the joys of traditional West African dance and original songs with audiences across the globe since 1991.

For more information or to reserve tickets, call (908) 737-SHOW (7469).

Classic film comes to state at Wilkins

A live-theatre presentation of "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" will bring the rambunctious energy of the popular MGM original film to Wilkins Theatre at Kean University at 3 p.m. Feb. 6.

Adapted by Lawrence Kashan and David Landay, this stage version of "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" is all boisterous fun and romance, hearkening back to the glory days of the movie musical.

New songs have been added to a melody-drenched classic film score that includes wistful ballads and charming comic turns, setting off rousing, show-stopping dances.

Wilkins Theatre is located at 1000 Morris Ave. in Union. Tickets are \$25 for the general public; \$21 for seniors and \$17 for children.

For more information or to reserve tickets, call (908) 737-SHOW (7469).

Association plans trip to Dali exhibit

Dali with the first comprehensive retrospective of his work in more than two decades. The exhibition embraces every aspect of Dali's creative life as a painter, writer, object-maker, theater designer, filmmaker, theorist and self-publicist. The exhibition will include about 200 works

of art, many of which will be shown in the U.S. for the first time.

The bus will leave Scotch Plains municipal parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and return at approximately 5 p.m.

The cost of the trip is \$45 and includes bus, museum admission and audio tour cassette. Payment must be received by Jan. 30.

To reserve a space or for more information, call Mrs. A. Gibbons at (908) 232-2331.

COUNTRY FOLK ART CRAFT SHOW

January 28-30 • Edison NJ Conv. & Expo Center

For more information, call (908) 232-2331.

For directions or visit www.CountryFolkArt.com

For more show information, call (908) 232-2331.

For free parking, call (908) 232-2331.

Show hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

For directions or visit www.CountryFolkArt.com

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For free parking, call (908) 232-2331.

Show hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

British farce continues at Westfield theater

"There Goes the Bride," a British farce by the prolific team of Ray Cooney and John Chapman continues 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the WCP Theater at 1000 North Ave. West in Westfield. Residents should call the box office at (908) 232-1221 for tickets at \$15.

Directed by current president Naomi Yablonsky, the play tells the story of a society wedding that is threatened by the romantic hallucinations of Timothy Westerby, who believes he is in love with a character he created for an advertising campaign.

Polly Perkins (Valerie Micke of Cranford) is the flapper who appears with every knock on the head that sends Timothy back to 1920s London at the same Savoy Hotel where his daughter is to be married. Will he snap out of it in time to walk his daughter down the aisle, or will the groom's family abandon the wedding entirely?

Husband and wife team John and Linda Correll of Winfield play the Westerbys, who are driving their daughter Judy (Vikki Massulli of Gillette) to distraction on her wedding day.

Timothy McGovern of Cranford plays the admiral's partner who desperately tries to keep the groom's father (Chuck Azen of Madison) occupied before he cancels the wedding.

Also featured as the bride's befuddled grandparents, Gerald and Daphne, are Stan Kaplan and Linda Giuditta, both of



"There Goes the Bride" cast members include, from left, Valerie Micke, John Correll, Chuck Azen and Linda Correll.

Westfield.

As a reminder, WCP now has reserved seating, so guests should make their preference known when calling the box office for seats.

The producer is Letty Hudak. Jerry Yablonsky is the assistant director and Barbara Goldstein is the stage manager for

the show.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

County announces grants in support of the arts

Forty-eight Union County organizations will receive a total of \$112,395 from the 2005 Union County Arts Grant Program.

"That sum represents the majority of the grant of \$195,840 awarded by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs," said Freeholder Chairman Rick Proctor. "The remainder and a cash match provided by the board of freeholders will enable the division to hire staff, coordinate the Teen Arts Program and the Senior Citizen Art Show, present technical assistance workshops and provide other services for the benefit of Union County artists, cultural organizations and residents."

Phyllis Brociner, chairwoman of the Union County Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board, explained that the applications were initially

evaluated by professional panels and then were reviewed by the Arts Grant Committee in a highly competitive process before being acted upon by the entire Advisory Board.

"We are very excited by the quality and variety of programs available to Union County residents through these programs," Ms. Brociner said.

Organizations, artists receiving grants, and other cultural groups participating in programs administered by the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs were recently honored by the freeholder board at a reception hosted by Schering-Plough Corp. in Kenilworth. The evening also celebrated National Arts and Humanities Month.

For information about the grant program and other services, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202, at

(908) 558-2550 or culturalinfo@ucnj.org. Relay users dial 711.

Local organizations receiving awards include:

Cranford

Celebration Singers, which presents popular music programs performed by adult and children's choruses. \$2,550

Cranford Public Schools, presenting the NJ Intergenerational Orchestra of seniors and students. \$3,470

Cranford Housing Board, which presents a musical stage show for seniors by other seniors. \$1,300

Rahway Valley Jerseyaires, performing, preserving and expanding the quality of barbershop singing, including a Youth Outreach Program. \$2,600

Fanwood

Children's Specialized Hospital, which runs an instrumental enrichment program for children with disabilities. \$2,300

Kenilworth

Kenilworth Public Library, which runs a multi-disciplinary series of family oriented programs. \$800

Scotch Plains

Garden State Cultural

Association, which runs an East Indian-American Cultural Fall Festival, "Durga Puja." \$1,800

Westfield

Chinese American Cultural Associations, which offers performances and classes in Chinese and American choral music. \$1,700

Choral Art Society, general operating support leading to public performances. \$2,400

Community Players of Westfield, general operating support for a season of theatrical productions. \$3,450

First Congregational Church of Westfield, for the "Mid-Day Musicales" series of half-hour concerts. \$1,900

Holy Trinity Parochial School, to support an after school drama club fostering an appreciation for theatre arts. \$1,800

New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, for the The Little Opera Co., which performs two operas a year with an intergenerational cast. \$2,700

Union County Educational Services Comm., for performing arts classes by WYACT (a youth acting group) for students in alternative high school setting. \$3,300.

CDC will present 'Proof' in February

The Cranford Dramatic Club (CDC) will present David Auburn's 2001 Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning drama "Proof," opening Feb. 4, for three weekends.

"Proof" made its mark as the longest-running Broadway play since Harvey Fierstein's "Torch Song Trilogy" when the drama closed at the Walter Kerr Theatre on Jan. 5, 2003 after 918 performances and 16 previews.

The play is part mathematical mystery, part family drama and part contemporary romance. One of the most acclaimed plays of recent years, "Proof" explores the complexities of love as much as it does the mysteries of mathematics.

On the eve of her 25th birthday, a young woman (Catherine) who has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father (Robert) must deal not only with him, but also with the arrival of her estranged sister (Claire) and with the attentions of a former student of her father's (Hal) who hopes to find valuable work in the 103 notebooks that Robert has written.

As Catherine confronts Hal's affections and Claire's plans for her life, she struggles to solve the most perplexing problem of all: how much of her father's madness — or genius — will she inherit?

CDC's production team includes veteran director Peter Clark and producer Art Kusiv, Danielle Shepard and Richard Sibello, both of whom starred in CDC's fall production of "Company." are cast as Catherine and Hal. The role of Robert is filled by area veteran John Correll, with Tracey Randinelli taking the part of Claire. Understudies Patty Maurer and Paul Bettys round out the cast.

Show dates are Fridays and Saturdays, Feb. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19, all at 8 p.m., with reserved tickets priced at \$15. Information and reservations can be obtained at the box office at (908) 276-7611 or on the web at www.cdctheatre.org.

The theatre is also offering mini-subscriptions for this show and its season closing musical, "Into the Woods," for \$30, a savings of \$5. "Into the Woods" plays May 6-21.

The CDC Theatre is located at 78 Winans Ave. in Cranford, just off Centennial Avenue near Exit 136 of the Garden State Parkway. The theatre features a newly-constructed handicapped accessible restroom in the first floor lobby in addition to the upper lobby facilities.

Six young musicians to perform at Crescent

such as the Piano Teachers' Society of America, Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey, and the Music Educators' Association of New Jersey.

After starting piano at the age of 6 in China, Jianan Hu continued her studies in America with Beatrice Long. She has won the Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey, the Music Educators Association of New Jersey, and the CACA-Young People's Music Program.

Courtney Kaita was the first prize winner in the New Jersey Music Teachers' Association Young Artists Competition.

Bradley Robinson has played the French horn for eight years and has been a member of the New Jersey Youth Symphony for four years.

Tickets, which may be purchased at the door, are \$15 general admission, \$10 for seniors, and \$5 for students. For concert information, call the Crescent Avenue church office at (908) 756-2468.

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Parents need to support kids in developing skills for school, life

By SHELLEY GROBE

SYLVAN LEARNING CENTER

Try to remember. When you were a student, did you ever ask, "What good is grammar (or geometry or social studies) going to do for me later in life?" Be honest.

Now, return to today. When was the last time you took notes at a meeting? Or prioritized your "to-do" list? Or organized a proj-

ect from start to finish? The skills you use to do such tasks at work and at home today are the same skills you learned and honed in English class (and geometry and social studies). Now, your children are developing those skills that will enable them to read analytically, write and speak expressively and think strategically. And when they ask, "What good is this going to do me?" you know that it

all starts with taking notes in history class, studying for that bio exam and juggling time to accommodate school, sports and social calendars!

Organization, time management, note-taking, test-taking and strategic reading are all essential study skills that are first introduced to young people in the classroom, but ultimately transfer far beyond school. To help your

child develop these skills in a way that is meaningful to them — mainly applying them to their "job," which is school — here are some tips that parents can follow:

Organization and Time Management. Have your children use a planning calendar to track daily, weekly and monthly assignments and responsibilities. Encourage children to break down large, complex tasks into manageable pieces.

Have children prioritize homework and other tasks when they get home from school, then complete the tasks in that order.

Note Taking. Don't panic if a child's notes look sloppy and disorganized. It's often just a sign of

a child with active mind organizing things in ways that work best for him or her.

Encourage children to review their notes and even rewrite them if necessary to be sure they make sense. As they review their notes, have children identify the most important points and highlight them.

Test Taking. Urge a child to study over a period of days and weeks instead of cramming the night before. Be sure they go in to the test with the right equipment, whether that means a calculator, class notes, textbooks or simply a pencil.

Encourage them to answer test questions they know first and

then go on to the more challenging questions.

Reading. Encourage young readers to use all the clues available to them while reading, such as headlines, pictures, captions, charts, tables and graphs.

Studies show that the more involved parents are with their children's education, the better the children do in school. What the studies don't say is that this involvement is not just with the children's school but with the children's lives.

Shelley Grobe is the Director at the Cranford Sylvan Learning Center. Contact her at (908) 709-0202 for more information or visit www.educate.com/info.

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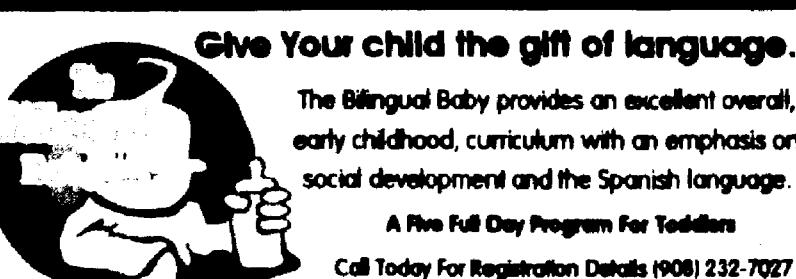
SCOTCH PLAINS — The Union County Vocational-Technical High School will once again offer free technical education to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors on a shared-time basis for the 2005-2006 school year.

Shared-time means that students attend their home high school for part of the day, taking required academics, and UC Tech for the remainder of the day, majoring in a technical program.

Each school year, hundreds of Union County public high school students choose to begin their "professional careers" while in high school by enrolling in one of UC Tech's program areas. Students can choose from a variety of technical programs including allied health, auto collision, auto technology, baking, building trades, carpentry/construction, child development, commercial art, computer aided drafting & design, computer repair, cosmetology, criminal justice, culinary arts, electrical technology, horticulture, graphic communications, masonry, office occupations, office systems technology, supermarket technology and welding.

"Parents and guardians should realize that there is no charge to a student's family to attend UC Tech. In addition, the student's home high school district responsible for transporting the student to and from the Scotch Plains campus," states Barbara Kaczmarek, UC Tech Counselor.

UC Tech is currently accepting shared time applications for the 2005-2006 school year. To receive an application or learn more about how your child can enroll in UC Tech, call (908) 889-8288.



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Sports

Fabiano, Gano, Mineo brothers lead Raiders



Steve Mineo, Scotch Plains-Fanwood's 135-pounder, is about to lock his hands to complete a pin of Cranford's Chris Ridente Jan. 12 in Cranford. Saturday Mineo went 3-0, including a pin and technical fall, during a quad meet in Randolph.

CHAD HEMENWAY/RECORD-PRESS

By CHAD HEMENWAY
THE RECORD-PRESS

RANDOLPH — Saturday the Raiders wrestlers traveled to Randolph to take part in a quad meet between the District 2 and Section 1, Group IV champions Rams, West Morris and Hanover Park — three of the more elite teams in Morris County.

After dropping a 39-29 decision to Hanover Park and a close 40-31 match to Randolph, Scotch Plains-Fanwood earned a victory against West Morris, 45-28, to avoid a sweep.

Hanover Park impressed many by steam-rolling through all three teams, crushing Randolph in the final match, 48-21.

Senior heavyweight Marc Fabiano came away with three wins on the day and said he and the team are looking forward to some key matches in the week to come.

"The teams we wrestled today were tough but I think wrestling good teams will make us better in the end," said Fabiano after Saturday's action. "Everybody's been working hard to get on the right track."

Fabiano ended the Hanover Park match-up by defeating Tom Ottiano, 8-0 but the match had already been decided. Unfortunately he was in the same position against Randolph but it didn't stop from mauling the Rams' Adam Conger for a pin in a mere 15 seconds. West Morris forfeited the last two matches to end Fabiano's day, 3-0.

WRESTLING

"I happy with the way I've wrestled so far this season," Fabiano said. "I'm looking forward to my match against Orr (of Linden). That should be my first real test of the year."

Fabiano said the team is looking forward to the match with Roselle Park this Saturday in Roselle Park at 7pm. Last year Scotch Plains took the Union County Tournament crown from the Panthers.

The sentiment was echoed by 140-pound state contender Steve Mineo.

"We'll be looking to work hard

all week for the match against Roselle Park," he said. "We came a little short today but it was against maybe the two best teams in Morris County. It should prepare us."

Mineo also received a forfeit in the final match against West Morris after dropping Matt Calabro of Hanover Park in just 49 seconds and coming one point shy of a technical fall versus Vince DeCaro of Randolph, 20-6.

"I tried working a little more on my feet today," Mineo said. "Once guys come out and see me a few times they think they know what to expect of me so I try to change things up."

Steve's brother Pat won all three of his matches as well. Pat pinned his first two opponents in 2:47 and 1:57, respectively, before battling to a 5-4 decision over Jeremy Adickes of West Morris.

Scotch Plains was aided in victory with a 27-6 run against West Morris in the final match beginning with a forfeit in favor of Sal Gano at 119 pounds. Gano recorded a 14-3 decision in his first match and a 9-4 victory in this Randolph match-up.

(Continued on page C-3)

Devils boys finish third

By DAVID LAZARUS

CORRESPONDENT

PRINCETON — Although they finished a strong third in the NJSIAA Group III Track and Field Championships at Princeton University's Jadwin Gym Sunday, the Westfield boy's track team knows how close they came to winning the team title.

Only Randolph and Morristown, which is coached by Westfield resident Paul Buccino, finished ahead of the Blue Devils' 18 points.

Robert Broadbent finished a close fourth in the 800-meter run. All-State cross country star Jeffrey Perrella was third in the 3,200-meter run and Mike Woods was just edged out for first by six inches in the pole vault. Woods finished second with a jump of 13 feet.

Broadbent, Perrella and Woods qualify for the Meet of Champions with their performances.

maces.

"All three boys were in a position to win their events," said Westfield head coach Jack Martin. "They gave it their all and came up a little short."

Perrella blamed a faulty strategy for his third place finish with a time of 9:53.39.

GROUP III TRACK AND FIELD

"I know I could have won the race had I just stayed connected to the leader (Geoff McGrane of Randolph)," said Perrella. "The first and second place guys just got away from me with a little less than a half mile to go, and I know if I had never let that gap form, I could have out-kicked them."

Broadbent's time in the 800 was just .35 seconds behind the leader.

Scott Steinberg (400-meter),

Kris Kagan (800-meter), Jay Hoban and Ameer Rogers (1,600-meter), sprinters Jake Brandman and Sam Kim, high jumper Tyler MacCubbin and pole vaulter Alex Kao also participated.

Multi-talented Sean Smith of Scotch Plains qualified for the MOC in one event, the 55-meter hurdles, where he finished second to Tyrell Ross of Clearview. Smith qualified fifth in the preliminaries but improved on his time in the finals, running 8:10.

Smith also finished tenth in the high jump, clearing 5 feet 10 inches. Teammate "Iceberg" Bryant was tied for 20th at 5-6.

Adam Biner (1,600-meter), Josh Zinman (3,200-meter), sprinters Nehemiah Burney-Porter, Rob Ventura and James Alfano and 400-meter runner Kyle Rowbotham also competed for Scotch Plains.

The Raiders finished 15th in the team standings.

MacNeil wins 800m run

By DAVID LAZARUS

CORRESPONDENT

PRINCETON — When Westfield's Emily MacNeil is feeling good at the 600-meter mark it is usually bad news for the other 800-meter runners.

Taking command in the final

200 meters, MacNeil pulled away from a strong field to win the Group III 800-meter title Sunday at the NJSIAA Group III Track and Field Championships at Princeton University's Jadwin Gym.

It was MacNeil's first individual indoor 800 title after finishing fourth the past three seasons. It was also the first individual state title for a Westfield girl and came a week after MacNeil had anchored the Westfield 4x800 relay to the Group III relay title at the same venue.

"I just wanted to go hard and try and stay out near the front with the girls and then kick hard for the last 200," said MacNeil. "I felt real good for the last 200 so I just ran hard and was able to pull it out."

MacNeil's time of 2:19.65 was all more impressive since the first two laps of the four-lap

race were run at a moderate pace. MacNeil reached the 400 in 70.8 and was in a pack but she was the only one of the leaders to run her second lap faster, finishing in a blistering 68.8.

"I was pretty surprised to go sub 2:20 because I usually don't break that this early in the season," said MacNeil.

Also finishing strong was Westfield senior Annie Onishi, who passed two runners in the final 60 yards to finish sixth, which also qualified her for the Meets of Champions. MacNeil and Onishi scored all eleven of the Blue Devil's points as they finished eighth overall well behind the winner Franklin, which scored 48.

The best finish for the Scotch Plains girls was senior Mary Shabazz, who took eighth in the 3,200-meter run with a time of 11:48.46.

Talented three making noise for thin Westfield team

By PAT MCBRIDE

CORRESPONDENT

WESTFIELD — With talented grapplers Andrew Shaffer, Dan Whitney and Mark Boyd leading the way, one would expect the Westfield wrestling team to be among the best in the area.

But when the Blue Devils start each dual match unable to fill weight classes with six forfeits and a 48-point deficit, it is a tough deficit to overcome, to say the least.

"We start the match already down by 48 points and the most you can gain is 36, so it is frustrating," said head coach Glen Kurz. "My biggest challenge this season is to keep the kids positive and not let the circumstances affect their attitude. We can't focus on wins and losses in dual meets because we are in an

impossible situation."

In its Jan. 14 match with Irvington, the two teams were able to wrestle just six of the 14 matches, with each winning three points and the dual match win. Kurz was encouraged by the efforts of the aforementioned trio.

Shaffer, a junior wrestling at 152 pounds, registered a tech fall over Eric Votor by the score of 21-0, while Boyd, just a sophomore, pinned Derek West in 1:00. Whitney, also a junior, followed with a pin of Mark Smith in just 1:00. Those efforts, while impressive, are just not enough for the Blue Devils to compete in dual competitions.

"I think (Shaffer, Boyd and Whitney) have a chance to make some noise in the county and districts," said Kurz. "All three are getting better every day and working hard to improve in the wrestling room."

With low numbers here in the program and little chance for a team victory this season, Kurz is closely watching recent discussions

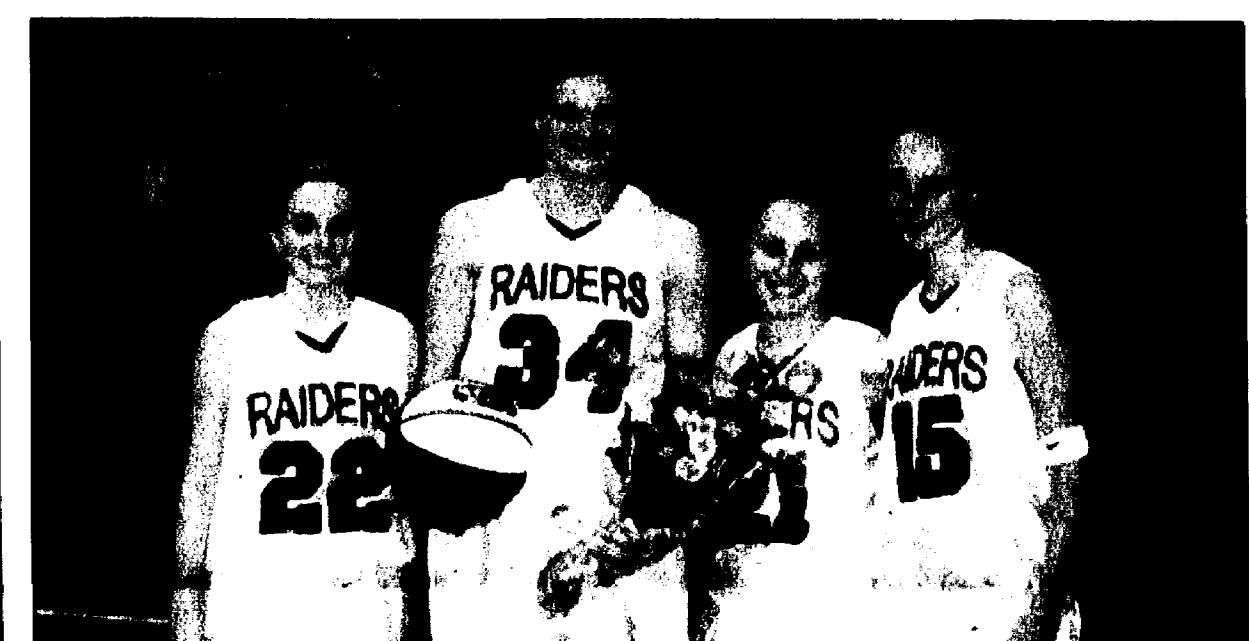
within the high school wrestling community to cut back the number of weight classes. With just 20 kids on the varsity and junior varsity level, it is difficult to fill all the weight classes and a reduction would suit not only Westfield, but several other schools, quite well.

"We have several kids who fall in the 152-160 pound weight bracket, so we have some talented kids on the bench while weight classes are unfilled," said Kurz. "I know that several other schools are having the same problem; this isn't only a situation here at Westfield."

"Except for those top tier schools, very few can fill all the weights. It's amazing to look at the paper during the week and see how many forfeits there are across the state."

For the time being, the focus of the team has turned towards individual efforts and on that level, Kurz is pleased with his team. With a strong junior varsity group, the future looks promising for the Blue Devils, according to Kurz.

Shaffer and Whitney lead the team with a 10-2 overall mark, while Boyd owns a 4-4 mark.



Hillary Klimowicz (#34) is presented with a commemorative basketball by senior teammates (L-R) Elizabeth DeCataldo, Jenny Burke and Maura Gillooly at the game Tuesday, the first at home for Scotch Plains since Klimowicz broke the record Dec. 21.

Raiders win 8th straight

SCOTCH PLAINS — After exchanging baskets in the opening minute, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls basketball team (9-3) scored 19 unanswered points to close the first quarter with a 21-2 lead en route to a 73-7 win this afternoon in Scotch Plains. In the first home game for the Raiders since Dec. 21, all 11 varsity players scored at least two points, led by freshman Brianne Mahoney, who pumped in career-high 13 points, all in the second half. Seniors Hillary Klimowicz and Maura Gillooly added 13 and 11, respectively, in just nine minutes of action.

The Raiders built a 32-4 lead at the half, using 16 first-half turnovers to limit Eastside to just two baskets. Back-to-back three pointers from Mahoney increased the Raiders' lead to 54-4 with 5:28 remaining while a baseline-to-baseline lay-up from fellow freshman Kendra Spady upped the lead to 64-7 before a 7-0 run closed out the scoring.

Klimowicz led the way with eight rebounds, while Lauren Benevengo and Lauren Mains added six each. Junior Lori Kaye (seven points), registered a team-high four assists, while Elizabeth DeCataldo and Gillooly had three.

Scotch Plains 55, William Allen 37 — The Lady Raiders traveled to Upper Nazareth, PA on Saturday where DeCataldo led the team with 15 points as Scotch Plains shot an impressive 65 percent from the floor.

Klimowicz recorded another double double

with 13 points and 13 rebounds, as well as five blocks. Gillooly also bucketed 13 points. Jenny Burke added six points and sophomore Tiffany Smith chipped in seven.

Scotch Plains 62, Elizabeth 43 — Sophomore guard Allie Zazzali tied a career-high with 12 points, including 10 in the first half, as Scotch Plains registered its fifth-straight win with a 62-43 victory last Thursday (Jan. 13) in Elizabeth.

Elizabeth held a 10-8 lead at the first break, as forward Deonna Overton accounted for six points in the opening quarter of action. In the second half Zazzali caught fire, hitting all three of her shots, including a three-pointer and a pair of free throws to carry the Raiders to a 27-22 lead at the half. Trailing 14-13 with 5:35 remaining, SP-F went on a 7-0 run, punctuated by a three-point play from senior Klimowicz to seize control of the game.

In the second half, the Lady Raiders used the inside presence of Klimowicz, who scored 18 of her game-high 25 points after halftime, to wear down Elizabeth. An inlet pass from Zazzali, which led to a Klimowicz lay-up at the end of the third quarter gave Scotch Plains a 45-33 lead, its biggest of the game to that point.

Klimowicz led all scorers with 25 points on 12 of 19 shooting from the floor and added 16 rebounds, seven blocks and two steals. Smith added eight points and six rebounds and Benevengo contributed seven points.

GIRLS
BASKETBALL



Raiders

(Continued from page A-1)

West Morris earned a pin at 125 pounds but Dakim Gaines returned the favor at 130 pounds, pinning Kevin Karsich in 1:57. The forfeit and the decision won by the Mineos put the Raiders up to stay, 27-12.

West Morris got within four points, 33-28, after winning the 189-pound bout but Nick Giannaci and Fabiano's matches were forfeited by the Wolfpack to earn Scotch Plains the victory, 45-28.

January 12, Scotch Plains knocked off Cranford, 43-24. Cranford's hopes were dashed by 215-pounder Giannaci, who defeated Matt Costello to seal

the win. Trevor Cannon and Sal Gano rattled off back-to-back pins at 112 and 119 followed by Ricky Olson's 8-2 decision over Steve Chencharik of Cranford. Steve Mineo quickly pinned his man in 1:26 and Pat Mineo out-wrestled Chris Taglia for the 1:1 major decision.

"I'm very impressed with the way we wrestled all throughout the lineup," said Raiders head coach John Schulz. "We lost some guys to graduation last year but we've been wrestling our butts off."

Jeb Dennis wrestled at 145 and got the 4-0 shutout followed by a pin by A.J. Watson in 2:58 in the 152 pound bout to give Scotch Plains a 34-6 advantage.

Scotch Plains also pounded Shabazz, 76-0 last Friday.

SPORTSCENE

Kevin Boyle Basketball Camp

CLARK — The Kevin Boyle Basketball Camp is happy to be back again for its 2005 Summer camp and Spring Boot Camp Program. The camp is under the direction of Coach Kevin Boyle, who is in his 17th season as head coach of the national power St. Patrick Celtics of Elizabeth. Coach Boyle has earned his reputation as one of the nation's leading high school coaches playing the toughest high school schedule in the country year after year. He has developed such players as Al Harrington (Atlanta Hawks), Samuel Dambrot (Philadelphia 76ers), as well as six St. Patrick Celtics presently playing on full scholarship at Division I colleges. Coach Boyle has been a member of the Elite Team Jordan of the Nike Grassroots Basketball Program for the past eight years. Coach Boyle has been a member of the prestigious coaching staff at the exclusive Nike All-American Camp for eight summers running.

Coach Boyle can be found everywhere — stopping by with Diane Sawyer on Good Morning America with the Celtic Team, invited to coach the 2004 Nike Asian All-American Camp in China, speaking to hundreds at the NBA All-Star Weekend while putting on a clinic with the entire Celtics' team, coaching LeBron James in the Jordan Capital Classic, receiving an award from Michael Jordan himself! You can see him coaching the St. Patrick Celtics on ESPN Feb. 11 as

well as on MSG on Jan. 30 this season. Kevin Boyle is a "hands on" camp director demanding the best from his top notch staff of coaches each and every day at all of his camps. He runs KBBC with the intensity and passion that he does when he coaches the St. Patrick Celtics working with all of the campers each week in stations and lectures. Respect is the first thing spoken about at camp as well as dedication to school and basketball.

Kevin Boyle is the other half of this basketball family and the operational director for KBBC. Kelly's philosophy for KBBC is that "Quality is Paramount" and the Boyle family camp motto has always been, "Every child is like our own and we give them only the best." She wants parents to know that they can expect the best in basketball training, but can also trust that KBBC will insure a safe fun week for their son or daughter. The staff members and the coaches at KBBC are the best of the best in basketball and would not be there if they weren't. There is a well structured schedule with no long periods of down time. The campers get two full sessions of drills and station work each day and three or more games with an official clock, scoreboard and referee at every game. There is a full-time trainer on staff as well as an agility specialist who trained for the Atlanta Summer Olympics. There are specialty coaches such as shooting guru Dave Hopkins and Ernie Hobbs. The camp offers free early drop off and a great concession and lunch service for the campers. The free ice cream on Fridays is a

great way to end the week after the awards ceremony, complete with awards for every team member of a division championship. The Kevin Boyle Basketball Camp also makes available a scholarship program offered for academics and for kids who do volunteer and service work.

The Boyle family is proud to be back in Kevin's hometown of Clark for another great year of basketball at KBBC. Detailed information can be obtained by calling Kevin Boyle (732) 574-9733 or on the website www.coachboylecamp.com. Email is kboylecamp@msn.com.

The Spring and Summer Camp 2005 dates are as follows. The Spring Boot Camp Program for boys/girls ages 9-17 begins April 11 for six weeks at Hettitry School, Clark, Mondays. The first week of Summer Camp, The Summer Kick-Off Slamfest is for boys and girls grades K-8 out early from school on June 20-24 at St. Michael School in Cranford, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily.

The Free Super Sessions in Clark will be Week 1: June 27-July 1, Week 2: July 11-15, Week 3: July 18-22, Week 4: July 25-29, Week 5: Aug. 1-5. The camp is for girls/boys ages 6-17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily at A.L. Johnson H.S. Clark. This is for the serious player committed to personal basketball development. It will be an exposure camp with recruiting services and scouts in attendance. If requested, a report will be forwarded personally by Coach Boyle to Div. I and Div. II head coaches. Admittance to this special week of camp is by invitation, referral by trav-

el team or AAU coaches only for boys entering sixth grade in fall 2005 up to high school only. Aug. 8-12 at A.L. Johnson High School.

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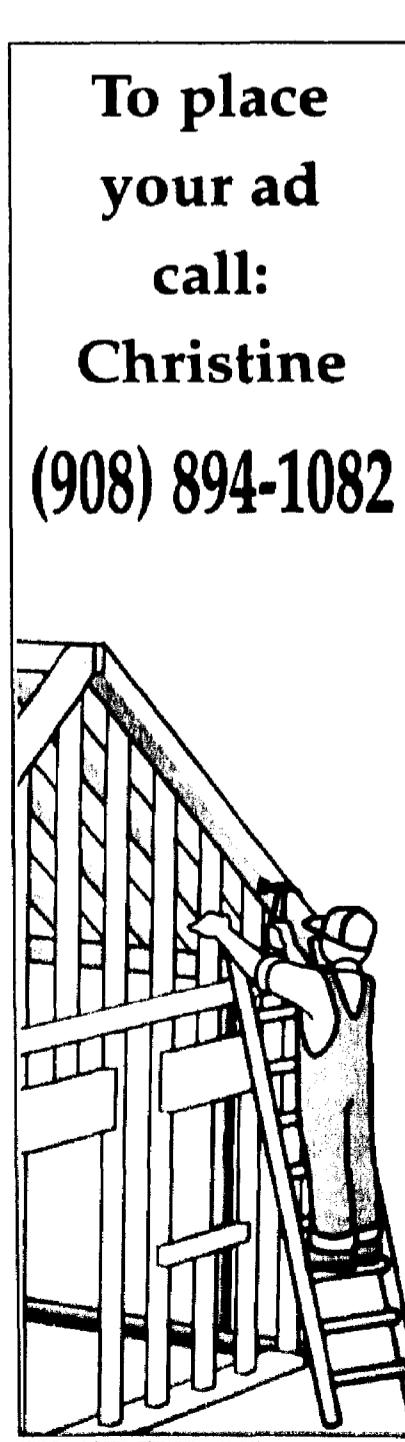
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Real Estate

These tips can help you save energy, cut costs at home

By KATERI CALLAHAN

THE ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY

(ARA) — As the old adage goes, "neither rain, nor snow, nor heat, nor gloom of night" prevents the postman from his duties, which unfortunately includes the delivery of your monthly home energy bill.

American consumers have been stung by rising home energy bills, which are averaging more than \$1,600 annually. The Alliance to Save Energy projects home energy costs increasing by 9 percent by 2010. This bigger bite

out of the average household wallet each month leaves fewer dollars to cover other important expenses.

According to the National Fuel Funds Network, 30 million American households each year cannot afford fully to heat or cool their homes.

You and every other consumer have the power to lower your energy bill by making a few simple changes. Small, inexpensive ways to cut down energy usage during household tasks like washing laundry can add up to significant savings.

Tide Coldwater and the Alliance to Save Energy, one of the world's premiere energy efficiency organizations, dare consumers to take the ColdWater Challenge and wash their laundry in cold water. This change can save up to \$63 a year for the average consumer. To reduce home energy bills throughout the year, the Alliance suggests these easy tips:

— Take the plunge! Switch to washing your clothes in cold water with a detergent specially designed to clean in colder tem-

peratures. You could save up to \$63 a year!

— Do full loads of laundry and dishes to avoid wasting energy and water. Air dry dishes for additional savings.

— Clean the dryer lint filter after every laundry load to improve air circulation and quicken drying.

— Dry towels and heavier items separately from lighter-weight items when doing laundry.

— Take showers instead of baths, and install a low-flow showerhead.

— Fix leaky faucets around the house. Consider water-saving faucet attachments.

— Insulate your hot water pipes and water heater with approved insulation materials.

— Listen to your mother.

— What do you think — we own the electric company?" Turn off everything that's not in use: lights, TVs, computers, electronics.

— Four for the planet. Replace your four most used incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.

— Clean or replace AC/heating-system filters monthly.

For more information on money- and energy-saving tips, check out www.ase.org or www.TideColdwater.com.

Kateri Callahan is the President of the Alliance to Save Energy, a coalition of business, government, environmental, and consumer leaders who promote the efficient and clean use of energy worldwide to benefit consumers, the environment, economy, and national security. This article is printed courtesy of ARA Content.

Obtaining a new mortgage doesn't have to be stressful

(NAPSD) — Buying a new home can be an exciting time, but going through the process of getting a mortgage can be stressful. Fortunately, it may be easier than you think to find the loan that's right for you.

Here are some tips on getting the best mortgage experience:

— You can smooth the approval process by gathering as much documentation as possible before you apply. Some important things to have are W-2s and income tax returns from the last few years, copies of pay

stubs, a copy of your credit report and bank statements for all accounts (checking and savings) for the last several months.

— Compare lenders before you make a commitment. You don't get a bonus for speed — in fact, haste could cost you hundreds or even thousands of dollars over the life of the mortgage. Be sure you're comparing loans with equivalent terms and other considerations.

— Get as much information as possible. Talk to friends and relatives who have recently secured mort-

gages or look for books and websites that can help you find out more about the process or certain lenders.

— See if a shorter term is right for you. Don't just assume that a 15- or 20-year mortgage will send your payments sky-high — make the comparison, and you may find you can afford to more quickly pay off your mortgage.

— If you're only going to be in the house for a short time, less than five years, an adjustable-rate mortgage may be better for you. The initial rate is lower, and you can arrange for

increases to take effect after you've moved.

— Look at lenders' customer satisfaction ratings as well as their terms. You want to minimize aggravation as well as costs.

One of the nation's fastest growing lenders, Opteum Financial Services, now promises to deliver a "five-star experience" when you close a loan with them, and gives borrowers a phone number and e-mail address to easily contact them for a \$500 check if they don't. To learn more, go to www.opteum.com.

Kallner accredited as buyer's rep

SCOTCH PLAINS — Magnus Kallner of ERA Suburb Realty has been awarded the Accredited Buyer Representation (ABR) designation by the Real Estate Buyer's Agent Council, Inc. (REBAC) of the National Association of Realtors (NAR).

"Today's real estate brokers and agents want to provide a full menu of services for their clients, whether they are sellers or buyers," said Terrence M. McDermott, president and CEO of REBAC. "The ABR designation, the benchmark of excellence in real estate buyer

representation, demonstrates to clients that the agent has taken steps to continue their education in the field of buyer representation, and has the proven experience and training to deliver ethical and professional service to real estate buyers."

Kallner joins more than 30,000 real estate professionals in North America who have earned the ABR designation. All were required to successfully complete a comprehensive course in buyer representation and an elective course focusing on a buyer representation specialty, both in addition to sub-

mitting documentation verifying professional experience.

REBAC was founded in 1998, is currently the world's largest association of real estate professionals focusing specifically on representing the real estate buyer.

For any of your real estate questions or concerns, Magnus Kallner can be reached at (908) 322-4434, ext. 162.

ERA Suburb Realty Agency is located at 1773 East Second St. in Scotch Plains. For more information, visit them on the web at www.erasuburb.com.



MAGNUS KALLNER

Morgensen, Craco are named top agents

CRANFORD — Stefan Oppermann, CEO of Real Estate Consultants, L.L.C., has announced that Linda Morgensen has been named the top selling agent for December for the Cranford region.

Morgensen was born and raised in Union County and began her real estate career here. Since that time, she has accumulated 14 years of sales achievements including being named a residential market specialist by Better Homes & Gardens.

Also, once again Marisa Craco has been named Real Estate Consultants, L.L.C.'s top listing agent for December in the Cranford region.

Craco has over a decade of real estate experience in the Cranford market. She is a Union County resident and a Montclair State University graduate.

Real Estate Consultants, L.L.C. offers virtual tours of all homes listed with the firm and currently serves 13 Counties in Northern and Central New Jersey. The agency is able to offer options and flexibility with commission as low as 2 percent.

To learn more about Real Estate Consultants, contact Morgensen or Craco at (908) 276-3331 or (908) 464-5590 or log on to the web site at www.reenj.com.

Water, mold can do serious damage if left unchecked

(ARA) — This year, Mother Nature has proven she's a force to be reckoned with. Hundreds of households across the country have suffered water damage as a result of severe weather.

Five hurricanes and two tropical storms have made landfall in the United States this year, bringing with them destructive winds, torrential rains and flooding in Florida and 14 other states. And according to the 2004 Global Register of Major Flood Events, non-tropical systems have caused notable flooding in 17 states, including New Jersey.

In the aftermath of all the storms, viewers seen pictures of flood victims wading through their living rooms, salvaging what they can and putting the rest of their water-logged possessions out on the curb.

But, "In many cases, the damage you see is just the tip of the iceberg. In homes that aren't dried out completely within 48 to 72 hours after a flood event, there will be mold growth," said Seth Norman, of Mold Free, a nationwide mold inspection and remediation service.

Dampness in basements, walls, carpets, and wood caused by flooding provides an environment for mold to flourish. If left unchecked, it can cause disease, trigger allergic reactions, and continue to damage materials long after the storm.

Firefighters in Palm Beach, Fla., were forced to evacuate their fire station in October 2004 after conditions there were deemed unsafe. Mold had started growing inside the building after Hurricane Jeanne's storm surge left the carpets saturated. Water that seeped in through the roof and some windows didn't help matters.

Mold is also to blame for shutting down dozens of school and government buildings and even homes in other parts of the country, and not only because of catastrophic weather. In some cases, rain water is to blame. In most, leaky pipes, roofs and windows get the blame.

"Any home that has ever experienced dripping water, a backed-up toilet, a roof leak — any situation in which water collects in their home — likely has a mold problem," says Norman.

"Any home that has ever experienced dripping water, a backed-up toilet, a roof leak — any situation in which water collects in their home — likely has a mold problem."

If you can answer "yes" to any of the following questions, there could be hidden mold in your home or building:

— Can you see a substance that you suspect is mold?

— Is there a musty smell in the building?

— Are there visible signs of water damage anywhere?

— Does the building suffer from constant moisture or poor circulation?

— Has the building ever suffered a roof, plumbing or basement leak?

— Has the building ever suffered a sink or sewer overflow?

— Has the building ever suffered other water problems?

If you think you may have a problem, you have a couple of options. You can hire a mold inspection service to come and inspect your home, but that can be expensive. Most companies will charge between \$500 and \$2,500 to conduct an environmental assessment. Or you can buy a test kit and conduct the inspection yourself.

The kit can be used three different ways: it can take a direct topical sample, it can be taped to an air vent to test your air duct system, or simply exposed to the air in a suspect room. Once the test is complete, you seal it in the enclosed bag and place it in a dark, warm place for two to three days. If your environment tests positive for mold, you have the option of sending the kit to TMS Laboratory's lab to have the type of mold identified.

"Once you discover the presence of mold, the key to preventing it from spreading is controlling excess moisture," said Norman. He recommended homeowners use exhaust fans to vent moisture from bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry areas outdoors; be sure the clothes dryer vents outside the home; repair water leaks promptly and either dry out and clean or replace any water damaged materials.

Lowering the humidity in the home with the use of an air conditioner or dehumidifier also helps prevent condensation problems.

"Mold is something you need to be concerned about even if you've only had a brief exposure. All it takes is a drop of water in the wrong place at the wrong time to lead to a big problem," said Norman.

For more information about indoor air quality and mold growth, contact your local health department or log on to www.homeandmoldtest.com.

This article is published courtesy of ARA Content.

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Automotive/Classified

Madison Honda Sponsors Taste Of Madison

MADISON — Madison Honda will be the presenting sponsor at the fourth annual Taste of Madison event, scheduled for Feb. 7 at Dolce's Hamilton Park Conference Center, Madison Honda General Manager Dwight Dachnowicz announced. As Presenting Sponsor, Madison Honda is the top contributor and will enjoy an exclusive position at the event.

The Taste of Madison, presented by the Madison Downtown Development Commission, the Madison Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Madison, features 36 restaurants, 25 wineries, and several beer and spirits distillers, all under one roof for three hours, offering their very best to discriminating consumers around the region. Janice Piccolo, Downtown Manager, who developed the Taste of Madison concept with the Downtown Development Commission, expects 800 visitors to attend the event this year.

In addition to promoting the town's dining attractions, the Taste of Madison serves as a fundraiser for the Downtown Development Commission, the Chamber and the Rotary Club. The proceeds help fund business development and marketing efforts for the community, both locally and regionally, and support other Madison-area not-for-profit organizations.

"The Taste of Madison creates a wonderful cam-

aderie among our restaurant owners, and heightens the level of community participation," explained Janice. "I'm delighted to have Madison Honda as our Presenting Sponsor, especially as their support brings this event to the next level, promoting a strong partnership between the public and private sectors in Madison."

From 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., guests will be able to sample cuisine and beverages. A key draw of the evening will be the "Iron Skillet" competition among top chefs, open exclusively to Platinum VIP Guests who purchase \$100 entry tickets. Along with priority parking, they will have first admittance to the event, allowing them to taste the culinary delights in an uncrowded atmosphere. VIP Guests, holding \$85 tickets, will be admitted for the second "seating," followed by Guests with \$60 tickets.

While Madison Honda receives top billing in all the Taste of Madison promotional activities, the dealership will also "drive for its supper," providing chauffeured shuttle service for visitors — in brand-new 2005 Honda Pilots and Honda Odysseys — between parking areas and Dolce's Hamilton Park Conference Center.

"Madison is well-known in the region for its fine restaurants," said Madison Honda's Dwight Dachnowicz. "The Taste of Madison is just the kind of event that brings new visitors to the town, helping the community grow. We're

committed to that growth. It's always our policy to give back to the communities that support us, and now, on our 20th anniversary, as we are about to begin construction on our all-new facility, we have a lot to be grateful for. Sponsoring the Taste of Madison is a perfect way to say 'thank you' to the people of Madison and the surrounding areas."

Madison Honda, part of the Bill Vince Auto Group, is located at 280 Main St. in Madison, minutes from Short Hills Mall, and features the full line of 2005 Hondas plus a large selection of certified pre-owned Hondas. Madison Honda is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and can be reached at 973-822-1600.



AAA Cautions Motorists With Four-Wheel Drive To Slow Down In Wintry Weather

Icy, snowy roadways make driving conditions hazardous for all vehicles, including those equipped with four-wheel drive, cautions the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club.

Sport utility vehicles (SUVs), minivans, and pickup trucks account for more than one third of all vehicles on the road today. With severe winter weather predicted to strike over the next 24 hours, AAA is urging the owners of these vehicles to guard against over-confidence on the road.

"While a key advantage of four-wheel drive is enhanced winter-weather mobility, SUV owners must adhere to the same traffic safety rules that apply to cars," said Pam Fischer, the Club's vice president of public affairs. "Although an SUV's traction and four-wheel drive get you on your way easier,

they don't provide much advantage in stopping, particularly in icy conditions. For this reason, maintaining a greater following distance, regardless of your vehicle type, is critical on wet or icy pavement or when visibility is reduced."

AAA reminds motorists that the center of gravity for an SUV is higher than in most cars, making them more vulnerable to rollovers. Although rollovers don't occur as frequently as other types of crashes, particularly when roads are icy or wet, the result is often serious injury or death.

The higher center of gravity also affects steering, making sudden, jerky movements more likely to cause loss of control, especially in slick driving conditions.

Fischer added an additional caution regarding four-wheel drive vehicles. "Most of them have rear-wheel drive (when four-

wheel drive isn't engaged) making them prone to skidding because they have less weight over the wheels."

AAA urges all motorists driving in wintry conditions to slow down. The tell-tale sign of over-confidence on the road is driving faster than others when weather conditions slow traffic. Traveling at higher speeds is a proven recipe for crashes, particularly when roads are icy or wet. If you're passing by all other vehicles on the road, it is time to slow down," Fischer stressed.

The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, through offices in Clark, Florham Park, Randolph, Springfield and West Orange, provides automotive, travel insurance, financial and educational services to residents of Essex, Morris and Union Counties.

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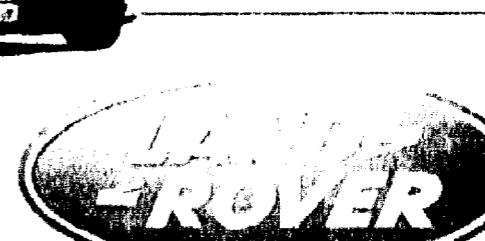
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Announcements 110

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TANNING
WOLF TANNING BUDS AF
FORDABLE CONVENIENCE
Tan at Home. Payments from \$29. month. FREE
Color Catalog. Call Today
1-800-832-1303
www.wolftanning.com

Lost & Found 135
FOUND ADULT PERSONAL
MALE CAT. In the vicinity of
Westfield area. 908-
233-7218

Persons 140

Persons 140

Employment

Education 201

Child Care 202

Child Care 202

Drivers 230

Drivers 230

Drivers 230

Drivers 230

Board Help 240

**TAROT CARD *
& PSYCHIC
READINGS**
★ BY SUZAN ★
Guarantees to repair broken
relationships & resolve
all problems of life.
CALL FOR ONE
Free Question
908.272.9791

Employment

Education 201

Child Care 202

Child Care 202

Drivers 230

Drivers 230

Drivers 230

Drivers 230

Board Help 240

P/T SCHOOL NURSE
The Overlook Child Care Center has an immediate opportunity for a part-time School Nurse. RN/LPN NJ License required. Flexible schedule. More info/interested candidates please call 908-272-7040 or fax resume & salary req. to (908) 277-0553. EOE

Employment

Education 201

Child Care 202

Child Care 202

Drivers 230

Drivers 230

Drivers 230

Drivers 230

Board Help 240

**Part-time Teacher/
Asst. Teacher**

A leader in early childhood care and education has immediate openings for part-time teaching positions available at our Springfield and Berkeley Heights school locations. Afternoon hours, 2:30pm-6:00pm, Monday-Friday. No certification required. Training provided. Require own transportation.

Interested candidates please call
(908) 273-7040
x202 or x201
OR FAX RESUME
908-277-0559

Substitute Teachers

Nannies

Drivers 230

Board Help 240

Lead Teacher/Teacher Ass.

Responsible, enthusiastic
individuals needed to teach
in our preschools at Santa Fe
Center. Please resume or
call 908-464-3940 or
908-464-3848

WANTED
After school care in Summit, NJ.
Great for college students or
teachers must have car, drivers
license and references.
Call: 908-277-3039

WANTED

DRIVERS

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Board Help 240

needed to teach in
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General Info 204

INSURANCE AGENCY

Gold, Energetic, Friendly, Commercial Lines CSR, Mgrs., Experience, Excl. sal. Benefits & Comm., Sal. to: 908-233-1336, or at roger@insuranceagency.com

MINTENANCE

overnight hours at
mit YMCA. Includes
an men's locker
im. Call: 908-273-3330
application

MINTENANCE II & Part Time

ion County with me
ical abilities & some
mbing skills. Able to
rk mainly maintaining
d residential houses
d apartments through
Union County. Own
is required. Company
ware is provided. Must
be good driving record
HS diploma. Pt positi
20 flexible hrs./week.
nd resume to SERV Be
oral Health Systems,
Human Resources
380 Scotch Rd., W
ington, NJ 08626 or fax:
9406-1920. EOE

MINI BUS AIDE

ring individual to moni
student during trans
between home and
ool. Transportation Care Co.
Clark, NJ
1-800-675-0522
Ask for Mr. Charles

NANNY

take care of infant M-F,
30-6:30. Need to have
no cleaning/ cook
req'd. 908-665-2755

LOW HIRING! RESTAURANT

ards, bussers, cooks, food
rers, dishwashers, host staff,
perience and references re
ired. Upscale restaurant
Call: 908-692-6428

OFFICE MANAGER

inside area. Various
spousal benefits including
customer service, Billing
R. and A/P. Knowledge
Peachtree and MS Of
ce req'd. Competitive
alary/benefits/401k. Fax
sume: 908-232-4220 or
mail: matt@kelly.net

POSTAL POSITIONS

120 - \$39.00/Hour. No
perience necessary/
paid training & Bene
ts. 877-265-2181. An
nouncement #2-670

PT Receptionist

ersity in Union, NJ & Fri. 9-5. Phones
ight clerical. Good
ommunication skills, exp
ferred. E-mail resume
to: Pat116@aol.com or
ix resume to: 908-686
171, attn: HR Dept.

REAL ESTATE

Prudential New Jersey
roperties is seeking full
ime agents for our West
field Office. Corporate
Training Program. One-on
one office training.

Ask for Margie
908-232-5684 Ext 103

RECEPTIONIST

nted. Real estate exp
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lls a must. 20-25 hrs per
k. Some weekends. State
the Arts Office near Fan
ood / Scotch Plains Train
ation. Please email or fax
ume along with salary re
uirements to: John Nash
908-642-2269 or Email:
jsellahon@aol.com

RECEPTIONIST & ASSISTANT

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jsellahon@aol.com

RECEPTIONIST / Clerical

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munication skills and a
leasant, professional
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tionist. Must be willing
to perform all office du
ties. Few hrs. per week
11-12 & 1-3 days T, W, Th.
1-3 days T, W, Th. Sub
mit resume and letter
starting 2 hrs./days
available to work to:
Attn: **Marie, 788**
Morris-Essex Turnpike,
Short Hills, NJ 07078,
or fax to 973-376-3492 or E
mail: marie@andromed.us
No calls please.

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Part Time Jobs 200

PART TIME
Seeking Asst. Youth Coordinator to assist with Black Achiever's Prog. (Wed., 5:00-8:30pm). Bidg. Security (Wknd Hrs.), B-4 Care & PM Counselors. Cust. Serv. Lobby. Reception (Mon., Tue., Th., 4:45pm-9am). Day Care. Serv. M-F, 12:30pm-6pm. Fishing & Fishing Guide. Camp. Sales. Fly. for child camp membership. Apply. Westfield Area Y. Attn: HR Dept., 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. castellone@westfieldnj.org or fax 908-232-3306.

Professional Jobs 200

ACCOUNTANT
Per Diem. Crawford CPA firm. Individual with 3-5 yrs. exp. to prepare corporate & individual tax returns. Call: 908-278-8837

INSURANCE

Growing property/casually agency seeks licensed specialist. Minimum 20 hrs/wk. flex hrs. salary subject to experience. Fax resume to:

Joe Borgna
908-451-0001 or shell to:
bip@meritnet.com
Insurance Offices
PO Box 1658
Crawford, NJ 07016

Trades 270

AUTOMOTIVE
TECHNICIAN

Like to work on cars?
Hate working Saturdays?
Give me a call...
973-927-0134

Shirtless Wanted 200

Affordable COMPANIES
★ Agency SLOVAKIA★
Live in/out: 908-654-5569

CAREGIVER

2 yrs exp. live/in/out 5 days
Slovak/Eng. 908-764-3692

CLEANHOME LADIES - hon-
est, exp. rel. reliable
supplies incl. houses &
apts. Free res. Call Elsa
908-414-0403

ELDERLY CARE

Exp. English speaking
European Women live in, live
out. Agency 908-354-5367

EUROPEAN CARE

• Caregiver

• Housekeeping • Child Care
Live-in Rel. Reliable
Bonded. 973-77-0426
WWW.LEKON.NET

Experienced Polish Women

Clean your house or your apt.

Call 908-347-1702

HOUSCLEANING

I will do the cleaning & you
set the price. Exp., rels.,
& own car. 201-284-2270

HOUSE CLEANING

Polish lady, rel. own
trips. Margaret
908-429-2095

IRONING

I pick up clothes & deliver
within 2 days, good prices

908-303-1314

Live-in Helper/Companion

for elderly women. Drivers
license, own trans. and
ref. reg. 732-710-2719

Polish Woman looking for

live-in/welder, exp. &

ref. call Heather

★ 732-388-2224★

Real Estate Sales

Auctions & Lots 200

GO! LAND? BUILDING
HOME(S)? BUILDING SYS-
TEMS LIQUIDATION. Must
sell. ReadyBuild. Homes
Factory Disposal. 4 brand
new pre-cut packages. East
assembly. Superinsulated
panels. Details: 1-866-636
9339. SACRIFICE!

HOLLAND TWP/HUNTERDON
92 acres, major sub-division
w/final approval. 14 lots,
views of PA. \$3,000,000
Call 917-749-8633

HUNTERDON/KINGWOOD

Two 3 acre lots. \$235,000
per lot. 917-749-6633

PUBLISHER'S
NOTICE

All residential real estate
advertising in this news
paper is subject to the
Federal Fair Housing Act,
the New Jersey Law
Against Discrimination and
Pennsylvania Human
Relations Act. These laws
prohibit discrimination in the
sale, rental or financing of
dwellings.

The Fair Housing Act
makes it illegal to advertise
any preference, limitation
or discrimination because of
race, color, religion, sex,
handicap, familial status
or national origin or intention
to make any such
preference, limitation or
discrimination. Familial status
includes children under
the age of 18 living with
parents or legal guardians,
pregnant women, and
people securing custody of
children under 18.

In addition to the practices
banned above, New
Jersey law prohibits
discrimination based on
creed, ancestry, marital
status, affectional or sexual
orientation, or nationality,
and Pennsylvania law
prohibits discrimination on
the basis of age, disability
or ethnicity.

This newspaper will not
knowingly accept or print
any advertising for tenancies
that limit rentals which
violate the law.

To report housing discrimination
call all the offices of the
Housing and Civil Rights
Division of the NJ Dept. of
Housing and Public Safety at 609-292-3722.
The 1-800 telephone
number for the housing
complaint is 1-800-799-1499.

In New Jersey call the
Division of Civil Rights in
the Department of Law and
Public Safety at 609-292-3722.
In Pennsylvania, call
the Pennsylvania Human
Relations Commission at
1-800-347-3440 or the Fair
Housing Council of
Philadelphia at 215-660-4311.

 Equal Housing Opportunity

Indoor \$50
DINNING ROOM SET: Temple Stuart colonial pecan table 2' x 3' (6'L), 6 chairs, 64" breakfast, 42" server. Asking \$1500. Call 973-701-8123

LIGHTED OAK CHINA CABINET 56" w/20" h/18'D. \$800/obo. Call 908-276-7026

MATTRESS SET Full or w/white, new in plastic w/warranty. \$120. 732-255-6690

MATTRESS SET Queen, pillow top, brand name new w/warranty. \$135. 732-255-6690

OAK DR. SET. Round w/Leaf, 6 Tapestry Chairs & Lighted China Cabinet. Like New! \$500. *908-233-0363*

Sofa Beige w/maroon, blue & green accents. Good Condition. \$100. 908-653-0268

SOFA *Solid Wood Frame* Sectional, 2 pc., \$250. Call days 908-687-9120 or even. 908-277-1953.

STEAMER TRUNK - Cedar closet, sofa, needs minor repair. 2 dressers w/mirror. Best reasonable offer accepted. \$800-977-3071, 908-485-8949

WALL UNIT 3 pc. solid pine, crown molding, glass shelving w/recessed lights. 4 large cabinets + TV cabinet. Great cond. \$2000. Asking \$350 OBO. 908-789-3134

WALL UNIT / ENTERTAINMENT CENTER Beautiful, very ornate, mahogany, light beige lacquered, beveled glass doors, lighted mirrored back, glass shelves, decorative molding on top, center section holds 36" TV, plenty of storage for all entertainment needs. \$750/obo 908-723-0844

WALL UNIT white, 2 sections, w/bar area, glass doors, exc. cond. \$150. 908-954-1415 after 5pm.

Wing Chairs Pair, blue tufted back, upholstered exc. cond. Asking \$500/par. obo. 908-313-9448.

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40K mi exc. cond, auto ps, pw, ac, cd, alarm, 96K, \$2950 neg. *908-397-6145 or 908-508-9223

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Nissan Quest '96
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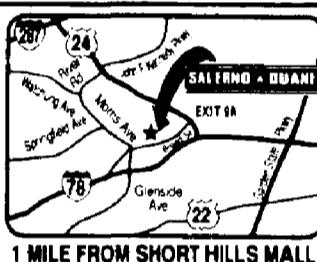


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