

Record-Press

Serving Westfield, Scotch Plains and Fanwood

Friday, February 4, 2005

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INSIDE



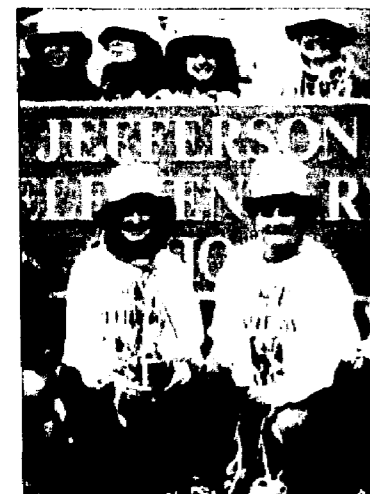
Strong effort not enough

Senior Gavin Ford scored 14 points in a loss to Cranford Tuesday — a defeat that eliminated a tough Scotch Plains team from the post-season. See Sports, Page C-1.



Theater students headed 'West'

The spring musical at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School will be the classic *West Side Story*. For showtimes and ticket information, turn to Community Life, Page B-1.



Happy birthday, Jefferson!

Westfield's Jefferson School is in the midst of a yearlong 50th anniversary celebration, and alumni are invited to participate. For more, see the story on Page A-3.

REMEMBER

Church plans pancake supper

Westfield's First United Methodist Church will host its annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper next week. The event, featuring dinner and live music, will run from 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$5; call (908) 233-4211.

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Kelly sworn in as new Westfield fire chief

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — More than 25 years after he began his career as a firefighter, Daniel Kelly is now in charge.

At the Town Council's Tuesday meeting, Kelly, 45, was sworn in as the eighth chief of the Westfield Fire Department, replacing retiring 37-year veteran John Castellano. A standing-room-only crowd, including a bagpipe and drum corps, attended the ceremony and gave standing ovations to both Kelly and Castellano.

Kelly, described by Mayor Greg McDermott as "a very calm person, a very poised person," first volunteered for the department in 1978. Three years later, he joined the department as a full-time first responder. In

August of 1990, Kelly was promoted to lieutenant, and in 1999 he was given the rank of captain. In 2003, he assumed the duties of deputy chief.

During the ceremony, Kelly referred to the department as "a family." In fact, his firefighting career has family roots. The lifelong Westfield resident originally became interested in the department because of his father's service as a volunteer.

Kelly, who describes himself as very focused on his career, has been educated at nearly 20 institutions and agencies and taken dozens of fire-related courses at Rutgers University and Union, Essex, and Middlesex county colleges. He holds an associate's degree from Union County College and is proficient in investigative work, tactical preparation, and emergency medical pro-

cedures.

The role of the modern firefighter has evolved to meet the changing threats to public safety, Kelly explained in an interview prior to the ceremony.

"When I first got involved, we were responding to fire calls and car accidents," he added. "Now we are called upon to deal with hazardous materials and as a support agency for Homeland Security, law enforcement, and EMS."

To meet these tasks, firefighters must now complete much more training than was the case in past years, Kelly said. Their skills are more diversified, and they take numerous courses to meet the Uniform Fire Code and the department's internal requirements. Despite the workload, Kelly said the profession remains attractive, competitive,

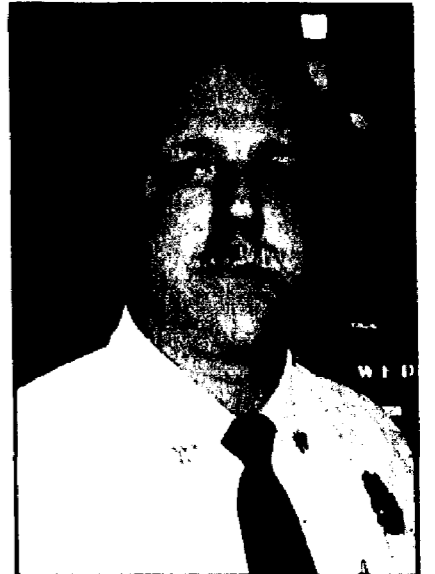
and in demand.

"The benefits and work hours are attractive to many men and women," Kelly said. "The other unique thing is the camaraderie you have in this environment that you don't have in the more structured corporate world."

The primary challenge of administering Westfield's 40 full-time firefighters and 20 volunteers will involve meeting new state and federal guidelines, Kelly said. For example, two officers were recently trained on radioactive monitoring equipment, and the department is gearing up for an interagency cooperation program focusing on security issues this spring.

"Now we have to start thinking outside the box — terrorists are not just going to try to bomb

(Continued on page A-2)



Mayor Greg McDermott praised Kelly's passion for his department and his hometown.



Tasty science at Park School

A group of research scientists from the pharmaceutical firm Merck paid a visit to Park Middle School in Scotch Plains last week to show students some fun, real-world applications of their knowledge. The kids got to make their own slime and disappearing ink, but perhaps the most exciting project was creating homemade "space ice cream."

Above, sixth graders Molly Kildow, Danya Jacobs, Mellissa McKenna work on a project. At right, the students craft their ice cream recipe.



Memorial Park upgrade in town's plans

By GREG MARX
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — The town plans to complete upgrades to Sid Faye and Houlihan fields and the Tamaques Park tennis courts this summer, with a renovation to Memorial Park slated for 2006. Recreation Commission Chairman Jim Marvin told the Town Council Tuesday night.

The commission has been for some time preparing for a project to install artificial turf and new

lights at Sid Faye and Houlihan fields on Lamberts Mill Road in order to maximize use of the facility. Following a public input session in December, plans for the project are now being completed, Marvin said, with ground breaking targeted for June 1, just after the spring soccer season. The new fields should be completed by Sept. 1, he said.

The field upgrade is estimated to cost \$850,000. With the Board of Education planning a similar project at Gary Kehler stadium

over the summer, Marvin said the two agencies would look for ways to save time and money by working together.

The commission also plans to refurbish the tennis courts at Tamaques Park and replace the lights at the facility this summer. Marvin said the project will take advantage of new technology that reduces light spillage and glare. The project's engineers are also exploring the option of installing a computerized remote control for the lights, so they

could be operated from a central facility (The same option is being considered at Sid Faye and Houlihan).

Work on the tennis courts should begin by late June, Marvin said, following the end of the high school tennis season, and be completed by Sept. 1. The project is estimated to cost \$200,000.

Also this year, the commission will begin planning in earnest for

(Continued on page A-2)

Students provide aid to tsunami victims

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

Students in local schools are doing their part to help those left in need following a tragedy that hit a world away, taking to the airwaves, cooking and dancing to raise money for tsunami relief in South Asia.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students are planning a

multi-pronged fundraiser on Saturday, Feb. 26. In one part of the project, student groups will run a telethon, while just yards away, their classmates will conduct a dance marathon and talent show, with proceeds to be dedicated to tsunami relief.

For the telethon, Verizon has agreed to donate cell phones and will offer free service, said Robin Gerson Wong, a parent coordinat-

ing the event. Also, Comcast will provide technical services to allow for live broadcast, she said.

Admission to the event will cost \$5. Students will be contacting area businesses, seeking pledges during the dance marathon. For a given amount of money, students will dance for a half hour, Wong said. Business representatives participating in the telethon will be invited on air

To provide incentives for participation, prizes will be awarded to students who secure the most pledges and last the longest on the dance floor. Prizes range from seats at Broadway shows to tickets for a Wynton Marsalis performance to a week's stay at a ski resort in Boulder, Colo.

"We want for it to be a learning

(Continued on page A-2)

4 percent spending hike seen in budget

Increase would be smaller than in '04

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Township Manager Tom Atkins has released a draft budget calling for a 4 percent spending increase in 2005 spending.

Total recommended appropriations under the draft document are set at \$20.5 million, up \$785,262 from 2004's \$19.7 million. In 2004, township expenditures rose more sharply, climbing by about \$1 million over the previous year.

Describing the budget as "pragmatic" and without luxuries, "in every case it continues the same levels of service to our residents and taxpayers with the exception of a modified program on the spring residential cleanup," Atkins wrote in a memo to the Township Council.

The budget assumes that the council will modify its spring cleanup program similar to the user-based system in place elsewhere in Union County. In the proposed alternate system, residents participating in the program would purchase individual permits for the disposal of up to 750 pounds of waste.

Currently, the spring cleanup program is available to all residents and built into the tax base, but the council may modify the system as early as this month. If the council were to reverse course and maintain the system as currently constituted, Atkins said the 2005 budget would stand at least \$200,000 higher than the recommended spending plan.

Potential tax impact on the municipal portion of township property tax bills was not yet available to the public, though Atkins said the council may be given revenue information next week. At previous meetings, Atkins has described the revenue picture as healthy, in his memo, for example, he noted that 2004 construction code revenue is more than \$300,000 higher than had been anticipated.

A potential stumbling block on the revenue side of the ledger is state aid, which township officials fear could be cut if state legislators are unable to resolve an estimated \$1 billion shortfall.

Closer to home at the council's conference meeting Tuesday, Atkins attributed spending increases to mandated costs, rising health insurance premiums, and contributions to public employees' pension funds.

Big ticket items include a \$204,760 (13 percent) increase in health insurance expenses; a \$183,875 increase in sewer treatment costs; \$152,579 more

(Continued on page A-2)

Wf. board reviews special ed budget

By MATT DEEGAN
CORRESPONDENT

WESTFIELD — The school district's proposed special education budget for the 2005-2006 year includes a 9.6 percent spending increase, according to a presentation to the Board of Education Tuesday night.

Ted Kozlik, director of special services, explained the figures and said the rising cost was due to increased enrollment in the special education program and the number of out-of-district students.

The largest cost increase was for in-district personnel, which grew by 11.5 percent because of the need for one new teacher and four para-professionals in the pre-school handicapped program.

The rising number of special education children is part of a larger trend for Westfield. Enrollment in Westfield schools has risen 27 percent over the past 10 years and continues to grow.

The highlight of the proposed budget is the addition of a new class for students with autism. The six-student class has been proposed because it will be more cost-efficient than sending students out of district. Also, the class will allow more students to attend school in their hometown. Autistic students have been going to pre-school pro-

grams in Westfield but have had to go out of district for schooling beyond that.

Diagnoses of autism among schoolchildren have been rapidly growing. During the 2000-2001 school year, 2,925 New Jersey students were classified as autistic, making the state eighth in the country in cases of autism among students.

Superintendent William Foley said that because of space and financial issues, if the autism class grows too large, the district might not be able to keep all children in Westfield.

Kozlik promoted the autism program and described it as the "way to go," but he advised the board that when other districts want to send their autistic children to Westfield, the class could get large.

"I have to caution the board; build it and they will come," he said, addressing the class size issue. "A lot of other districts have students with autism. There is a possibility for increase."

The proposed special education budget would make up 20 percent of the operating school budget, Robert Berman, the business administrator, said.

"This is the single largest component of our budget besides insurance," Berman said.

Kelly sworn in as new Westfield fire chief

(Continued from page A-1)

a refinery or crash a plane into another building," Kelly said.

While the fire department is preparing for the challenges of the future, Kelly said first responders must still be proficient at skills refined in years past. And the services firefighters are best known for are sometimes the most difficult to provide, he said.

"Anytime a firefighter responds to an auto accident, it has an impact on you," he said. "Extrications are difficult, because when you get the call, you know someone is trapped, injured, and in need."

Kelly, who was assigned to the Union County Fire Investigations Task Force in 1998, was involved in the investigation of four fatal fires.

"It's difficult to deal with," he said. "It reinforces to me the importance of public safety courses and strict code enforcement." To best protect themselves, Kelly said all residents should ensure their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are functional and identify two exits for emergencies.

In describing the department's most memorable distress calls, Kelly gestured to the department's family photo album — rows of framed images depicting houses surrounded by tongues of flame and

swirling smoke. One by one, he described the fires known to every member of the department — each immortalized by a photo on the second floor of the department's historic north side firehouse.

There is a photo of a fire on Ripley Avenue in 1997, another from Hyslip Avenue, and nearby, a weekend Fourth of July blaze on South Euclid. A prized black-and-white photo shows the department's battle against an upper-floor fire on Elm Street, in a commanding structure that served as an inspiration behind "The Addams Family."

"Because of our efforts, a lot of these buildings are still there," he said, with more than a trace of pride.

Memorial Park upgrade in town's plans

(Continued from page A-1)

what could be a major renovation of Memorial Park and the facilities surrounding the municipal pool. The park includes tennis courts, softball fields, basketball courts and more, said Marvin, but "over the years, it's just become in need of some updating and renovating."

The commission will be working to "take a fresh look at that piece of land," he said, to see where upgrades need to be made and where a reconfiguration of space could lead to better use. For example, he said, changing the parking layout could lead to more capacity, and improvements to the softball fields could allow more games to be played at

one time. The pool itself will not be part of the project, Marvin said.

The commission will host a public session later this month to discuss possible directions for the park, Marvin said. After that discussion, engineering firm Hatch, Mott & McDonald will draft plans for several options, which will be presented for review by the public

and, ultimately, a decision by the Town Council. Work on Memorial Park will not start before 2006.

The review of the park will likely also include a discussion of traffic safety. In response to a question by a resident, town officials said the master plan for the park area discusses the installation of sidewalks along Scotch Plains Avenue.

SP-F drops class rank

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Board of Education unanimously voted to eliminate reporting of class rank at its regular meeting last week.

Approval of the new policy, which was introduced earlier last month, means the school district will no longer automatically report class rank on high school students' transcripts beginning in the 2007-08 school year. The district will con-

tinue class ranking based upon grade point averages for internal purposes and will report ranking when institutions require it.

Student GPAs will continue to be used to calculate valedictorians and salutatorians, officials said. Scotch Plains-Fanwood schools join Westfield, Summit, and New Providence high schools in discontinuing the reporting of class rank.

Students provide aid to tsunami victims

(Continued from page A-1)

experience and help the less fortunate," Wong said. "...This is something that just snowballed, and we're very excited about it."

At Coles Elementary School in Scotch Plains, third and fourth grade students are planning a bake sale for the school's "Super Science Saturday," according to Kathy Meyer, director of public information. Coles students will also be selling greeting cards to raise money for tsunami victims,

Meyer added. In Westfield, students at Roosevelt Intermediate School presented a check for \$5,000 to the American Red Cross last week. After returning from Christmas vacation last month, students began a program called "Five for '05," with a goal of raising \$5,000 for tsunami relief.

"We realized if every student and teacher in the school gave \$5, we could donate \$5,000," said Matt Block, who teaches eighth grade history and advises the

student council.

The student council displayed a painted thermometer at the school to chronicle their progress, and teachers and students alike were impressed by the painted mercury's rate of ascent. Perhaps 500 of the school's 700 students contributed to the fundraiser, Block said.

"A lot of kids gave from their personal allowances, which is pretty incredible," he said.

In Westfield's six elementary

schools, students have raised \$4,200 for the Red Cross since January, said Joseph Malanga, principal at Washington Elementary School. In a program called "Dollars for the Disaster, a gift from the heart," students sought \$1 donations from their parents.

Malanga said two students from each elementary school will donate the proceeds from their fundraiser to the Red Cross at a ceremony scheduled for Valentine's Day.

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Exp. 2/13/05

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Exp. 2/13/05

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L 486 514 B8.
Exp. 2/13/05

\$15

4-Shelf Shelving Unit
R 674 141 B1

Spending

(Continued from page A-1)

in police salaries and wages; and a \$106,033 increase to the police and fire retirement funds. The salary numbers could change when the township reaches an agreement on a new contract with the police department.

The budget includes additional funding for the township's leaf collection and removal program, which may evolve into a "structured collection program" conducted on a "neighborhood by neighborhood basis" to meet new stormwater regulations, according to Atkins. Residents will be required to bag leaves only as a last resort. Atkins noted in the memo.

The council could also undertake several major facility upgrades in 2005. A new roof and HVAC system is needed at the municipal building, where strategically-placed plastic buckets are used to collect dripping water after storms. Other looming capital improvements include roof repairs at the DPW building on Plainfield Avenue and a major renovation to the library.

In the midst of a busy agenda at their Tuesday meeting, council members abstained from extended comment over the appropriations figures. The council scheduled a budget meeting for Feb. 16, where the governing body will begin a thorough inspection of expenditures. The council will likely introduce the budget in March.

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Pictured above are Jefferson Elementary School faculty members, sporting their birthday hats in celebration of Jefferson's "Fifty Years of Excellence in Education."

Community urged to join school's celebration

WESTFIELD — Jefferson Elementary School in Westfield is in the process of a year-long celebration to mark "Fifty Years of Excellence in Education." Throughout the year, projects and programs of the school community continue to highlight the school's fifty year history.

In the fall, teachers and staff created timeline shadow boxes that are currently on

display throughout the school. Each teacher focused on a decade and prepared a display of pictures and mementoes that highlight events and activities of that period. The teachers have also been working together to prepare "decade displays" that further highlight the decades of Jefferson's existence.

On April 13, the Jefferson community will celebrate its 50 years with a special

birthday party program. Currently, a list of names and addresses is being gathered of former teachers, staff and volunteers, as well as those who were Jefferson students from 1954 through 1979. To be included in this list, or to provide information about anyone living outside the area who might qualify, contact the school at (908) 789-4490.

SP-F school board reviews special ed spending

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Board of Education turned its attention to the 2005-06 budget process last week, examining special education spending requests.

At the Jan. 27 meeting, Business Administrator Anthony Del Sordi said he was finalizing his overall draft budget, which will need to be scaled back about \$400,000 to fit into state spending guidelines. Last year's \$63.5 million budget rose about 7 percent, requiring property tax increases of 7.5 percent in Scotch Plains and 5.1 percent in Fanwood.

Director of Special Services Thomas Beese presented a special education budget request that calls for a 3 percent increase in tuition costs, a new special education teacher and two new members of the child study team. The total special education budget as presented would cost \$9.9 million.

The child study team request of \$120,000 includes the addition of a learning disabilities teacher and a psychologist. The team as currently constituted is struggling to meet its current workload responsibilities, Beese said. Staff have been working on Saturdays and Sundays and need help, he added.

The special education depart-

ment currently services 872 students and sends 90 more to out-of-district programs. Out-of-district placements are especially costly, rising to an anticipated \$4.6 million for the 2005-06 school year. For comparison, the district spent only \$1.8 million to educate 64 out-of-district students in the 1997-98 school year.

If special needs students require services that school districts do not provide, districts are obligated to pay tuition for students to receive the services in other districts.

Tuition increases are projected to cost \$168,533, and the additional special education teacher is expected to cost \$50,000. The new special education teacher will not

truly amount to a cost increase, however, officials said — the instructor will teach classes that were previously taught by over-extended staff, or teachers covering a sixth period.

Other budget items include \$3.2 million for Resource Center costs; \$369,331 for part time preschool disabled students; \$239,515 for full-time preschool disabled students; \$220,223 for language programs; \$316,754 for an autism program that draws students from other districts and provides some revenue; and \$1.1 million for speech and other related services.

The board's next budget meeting was scheduled 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3.

County taxes set to rise again in '05

SP would be hardest-hit in area

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

In a draft budget released last month, Union County Manager George Devaney presented a \$347.7 million budget calling for a 5 percent spending increase over 2004. The tax impact of the budget, however, will vary by community, with Scotch Plains residents seeking some of the steepest increases.

If the budget is approved as presented, county homeowners will see an average 6.6 percent increase in the county portion of their property tax bill, as the tax levy will climb to \$217.3 million, an increase of \$13.5 million.

Because of the county's complicated equalized valuation system for levying taxes, different communities will see tax increases above and below the 6.6 percent level based upon changes in the real estate market. In Roselle, for example, the county portion of the tax bill is pegged to rise by 16.8 percent under the proposed budget, from an average \$624 in 2004 to \$729 in 2005. By contrast, in New Providence, the tax rate would decline about \$17, from \$1,682 in 2004 to \$1,665 this year.

Locally, Scotch Plains homeowners would see a 9.6 percent increase if the county budget is adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. In 2004, township homeowners paid an average \$1,400 for the county portion of their tax bill, but the 2005 figure is set at about \$1,534.

Meanwhile, next door in Fanwood, homeowners paid \$1,206 in 2004 and could pay \$1,275 in 2005, a smaller

increase of 5.7 percent.

And in Westfield, the county portion of the tax bill would rise from an average \$1,998 in 2004 to an average \$2,126 in 2005, up 6.4 percent.

The discrepancy is caused by fluctuations in the state's formula for determining actual home values, said Union County Finance Director Lawrence Caroselli. As property values increase in certain parts of the county, those homeowners assume a greater share of the county tax burden, he explained. And vice versa — if property values are flat or declining in a given municipality, those community's homeowners will see a lower than average tax hike, Caroselli added.

"Wealthier towns are going to benefit by a boom in property values sooner than an urban town," Caroselli said.

"There has been a housing boom in existence now (in suburban communities) for seven or eight years, where property values inflated," he explained. "In Westfield, property values have kind of leveled off... while in Rahway, their property values have been increasing over the last couple of years, and may increase for another two or three years."

Because Scotch Plains homeowners have seen sharply rising property values in the last year, those residents are shouldering a greater portion of the county tax burden, Caroselli said.

As for the overall spending increase, county officials last week blamed the larger budget on rising salaries, employee benefit costs, and growing debt service costs.

Police Log

WESTFIELD

On Jan. 26, officers arrested Catherine Leigh of Scotch Plains, Lucas Ott of Rahway, and Ashlie Fautz of Morris Plains and charged them with possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute.

About 1:58 a.m., police pulled over their vehicle at the intersection of North Avenue and Crossway Place for allegedly having a rear tail light out.

According to Capt. John Parizeau, authorities observed substantial movement before approaching the vehicle. Officers also reported the smell of burnt marijuana in the vehicle, and further investigation yielded the discovery of more than 50 grams of marijuana.

Police also charged the three individuals with possession of marijuana within a school zone and possession of drug paraphernalia. All three individuals were issued summonses and released.

Aron Netravali, 59, of Westfield was charged with driving while intoxicated after being pulled over at the intersection of Boulevard and West Grove Street Jan. 25. Netravali was released to a responsible party.

Officers arrested Anthony Coles, 27, of Plainfield on charges of possession of marijuana under 50 grams Jan. 27.

On Sunday, a resident of Harrison Avenue reported he parked his vehicle on North Euclid Avenue and returned to find that someone had damaged it.

A Cranford resident reported damage to his car on Sunday. While the vehicle was parked on Grove Street, the passenger side mirror of his Buick was allegedly broken with a rock.

Juan Perez of Westfield was charged with driving while intoxicated on Tuesday.

At approximately 2:04 a.m., police pulled over Perez's vehicle on North Avenue for his alleged failure to maintain a lane and subsequently arrested him.

Officers arrested Thomas Duddy of South Plainfield on charges of driving while intoxicated early Tuesday morning.

Duddy was also held for an outstanding warrant out of Middletown; he was processed and released after posting bail.

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Westfield Memorial Library: February 2005 Events

<p>Adult Programs</p> <p>February 1 at 1:30 PM February 11 at 1:30 PM February 18 at 1:30 PM February 25 at 1:30 PM</p> <p>Children's Programs</p> <p>February 1 & 2 at 9:45 AM February 1 & 2 at 10:30 AM February 4 at 10:30 AM February 5 at 10:00 AM February 7 at 1:30 PM February 8 & 9 at 9:45 AM February 8 & 9 at 10:30 AM February 10 at 4:45 PM February 11 at 10:30 AM February 14 at 1:30 PM February 15 & 16 at 9:45 AM February 15 & 16 at 10:30 AM February 18 at 10:30 AM February 22 & 23 at 9:45 AM February 22 & 23 at 10:30 AM February 26 at 10:00 AM</p>	<p>ICBE: Paul Robeson ICBE: Walt Whitman ICBE: Mount Vernon ICBE: Let's Sing: Music of the 1940's</p> <p>Mother Goose Lapsit Little Listeners Time for Tales Father Goose's Tales Time for Tales Mother Goose Lapsit Little Listeners Roses are Red...Violets are Blue... Time for Tales Time for Tales Mother Goose Lapsit Little Listeners Time for Tales Mother Goose Lapsit Little Listeners Rodeo Round Up with Yosi</p>
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Commentary

Congratulations, Chief Kelly

The swearing-in of new Westfield Fire Chief Daniel Kelly Tuesday night was a gala occasion, with council chambers overflowing with firefighters and well-wishers and a county pipe and drum corps on hand to honor the chief (and shatter some eardrums in the process).

The event underscored both the camaraderie on which a successful fire or police department is built and the respect with which the community regards these emergency workers. It was heartwarming to see friends, family members and residents come out to support the department and to offer standing ovations to both Kelly and retiring chief John Castellano.

Though the evening was in his honor, Kelly remained unflappable throughout — the very picture of what Mayor Greg McDermott called "a very calm person, a very poised person — a person who takes his job very, very seriously." And with his repeated references to the department as his "family," Kelly demonstrated his deep sense of connection to his task and his town.

Those qualities should serve the residents of Westfield well. Much has always been demanded of firefighters, but today's departments take on more tasks than ever before, not least serving on the front lines of defense against a terrorist attack. Fire departments across the country are working to acquire the equipment and skills to meet these challenges — in Westfield's case, while also dealing with a labor dispute. In times of transition, a steady hand and committed leadership is needed. Kelly should be able to provide just that.

State help needed with special education

By coincidence, both the Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood school board reviewed their proposed special education budgets during the past week. While the particulars differ, the common message is clear: special education costs continue to rise and take up an increasing share of school budgets.

In some ways, this is a good thing. For far too many years, most schools did not make a serious effort to educate special needs students, allowing them to flounder alongside their peers and, ultimately, to drop out. Thankfully, that's no longer acceptable, and most school districts make good-faith efforts to educate every child. The problem is, some of those educations cost more every year than tuition to an Ivy League school. In some cases in which students must be sent out of district for special services, the costs approach and even exceed six figures.

When a district suddenly finds itself responsible for three or four more students with those needs, local taxpayers are on the hook. And when parents of a special needs student don't agree with the placement, they often suspect financial considerations are motivating the decision.

There are ways for districts to reduce costs without sacrificing quality. In Union County, Cranford has set the standard with its specialized programs for students with emotional and behavioral disorders, which make money for Cranford while lowering tuition costs for neighboring districts. Westfield has plans to introduce an autism class that could ultimately operate on the same model.

School officials should keep exploring these opportunities — but they're also right to say they should get more money from the state to cover their costs. Though the state is authorized to cover tuition costs exceeding \$40,000, the Legislature every year fails to provide the funding to do so. But educating students with disabilities is a statewide and even a national responsibility, not a local one. The conventional explanation for local funding of schools — that it allows communities more control over their children's education — doesn't hold up in this case. We need to do right by these children, but we need to distribute the burden in a way that makes sense.

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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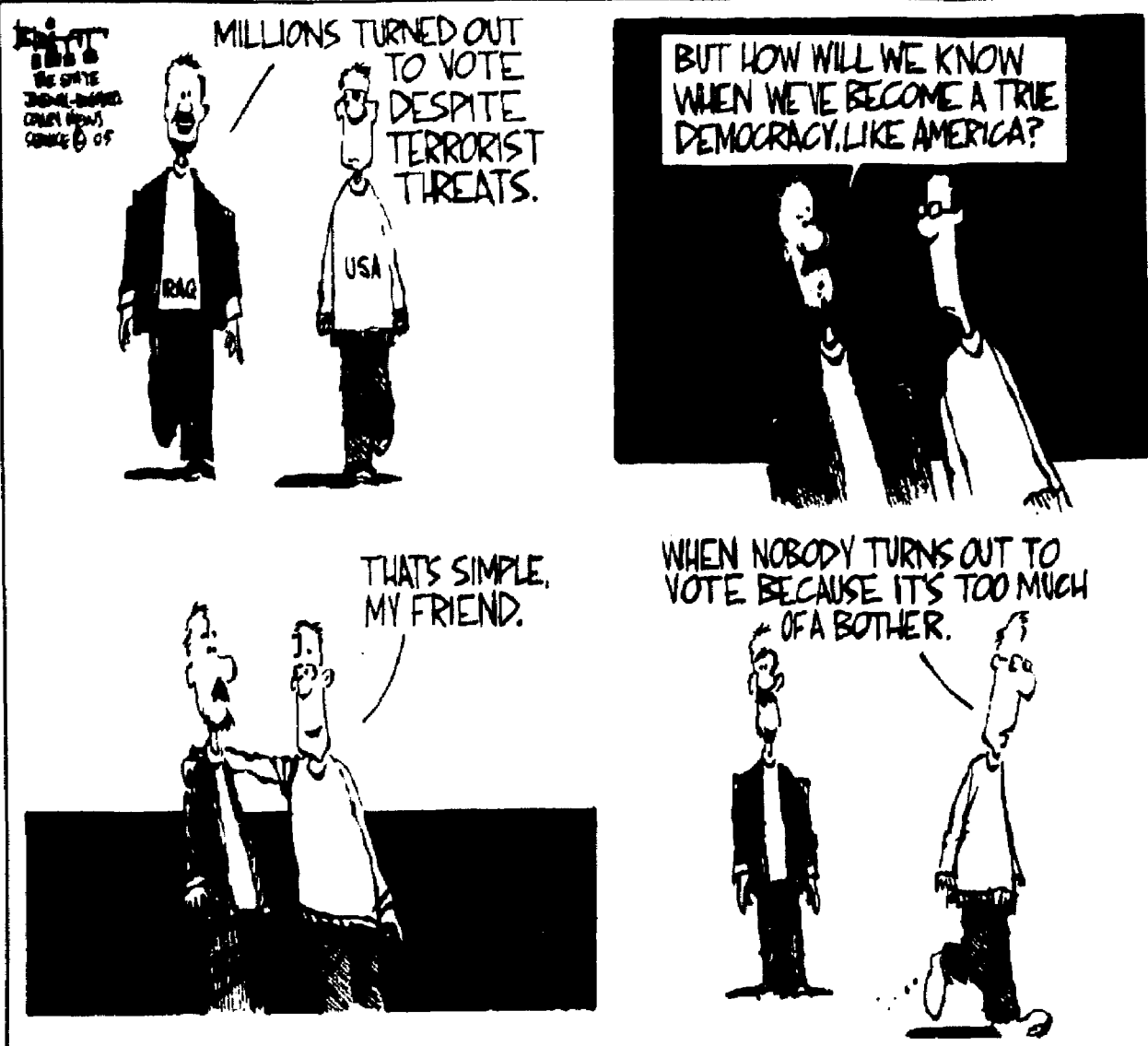
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Letters to the editor

Proposed hunt should be called off

To The Record-Press:
I am writing to voice my opposition to Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks' proposal to conduct a deer hunt in both the Watchung and Ashbrook reservations, possibility this winter.

My husband and I moved to Scotch Plains 15 years ago because of the wildlife here, not in spite of it. Having these animals in our township, as well as the woods and green space, was part of the appeal of residing here.

Since our move virtually every part of Scotch Plains that was not developed has been. The only habitat left for the deer are the reservations and the local golf courses. With no other green space, deer are forced to move into neighborhoods seeking food. The township has systematically taken away the animals' habitats, and when they encroach upon ours, blames them for it by proposing to kill them in a hunt. I believe we should learn to live alongside these animals, not kill them in the areas we have defined for them.

The Humane Society of the United States says on its website that hunting to prevent overpopulation is not effective and can in fact contribute to the growth of deer herds. When an area's population is reduced by hunting, the remaining animals respond by having more young. Heavily hunted states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania are among those experiencing higher deer densities than ever before.

The hunt in the Watchung Reservation has been conducted since 1994, though it was originally presented as a one-to-three-year program.

Hunting has obviously not solved overpopulation, yet will continue again this March.

Mayor Marks has also stated that Scotch Plains may have to share the cost of the hunt with the county or the state. As a taxpayer in Scotch Plains, I am not willing to have my tax dollars contribute to the killing of animals in my township.

The issue of safety for our neighborhoods also concerns me. The reservations are bordered by houses, busy roads and, in the case of Ashbrook, the Vocational-Technical School. The thought of hearing guns go off within earshot is unacceptable and disturbing.

The mayor says he's sorry it's come to this, yet no other measure has been tried. Since the township has overdeveloped the area, elected officials share some responsibility to find a solution that's safe, humane and effective.

Mark Twain once said that a society should be judged on how it treats its animals. It is a sorry day when we begin to look at wildlife in our community as a problem that has to be "solved."

If there are other Scotch Plains residents who do not wish to see a deer hunt, please contact Mayor Martin Marks and tell him so at (908) 322-6700; 430 Park Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ 07066; or at www.scotchplainsnj.com. It's not too late to stop the hunt until the guns go off, the deer are dead and Scotch Plains begins a vicious cycle that lasts for years to come.

ANN BERK
Scotch Plains

A guardian angel lightens the load

To The Record-Press:
Just as the sun appeared after the recent heavy snowstorm, I found my 40-year-old shovel and with trepidation of the damage I would probably sustain on my disc-ridden osteopenic spine, I started to shovel.

Although soft, the 10-12 inch depth per shovelful was much heavier than I had anticipated. I managed to clear out my large front porch, the six wide steps leading to it, and approximately one-fifth of the path leading to the next level of stairs before the sidewalk.

I heard a snow plow close by, so I looked up and saw a young man with a snow plow clearing my front walk. What a welcome surprise. Well, I assumed this was the individual I had hired last year and, although unsolicited, was using good judgment and started the clean-up without being called. Good! I went into the house and prepared his payment. When I returned, he had reached my driveway. Wow, thought I — it's too good to be true. In short order he quickly and efficiently completed most of my driveway and he cleaned off my car. Fabulous!

Then he called, "Hey, Amy, don't you have a path from the driveway to your front door? Where is it?" I was taken aback to be called Amy by a stranger, but okay. And I pointed it out to him. He was young, very handsome, and totally unfamiliar to me. He was doing such a magnificent clean-up that I went back in to be prepared to pay him really well.

I returned in less than one minute, for I estimated that he was close to being finished, but he was nowhere to be found. The streets were heavy with snow. Vehicles were not around. I looked up and down the Boulevard as well as the side street, but there was no evidence of my mystery man. I was greatly puzzled and remain so. My neighbors did not see him.

He appeared and disappeared suddenly, worked efficiently, quickly and quietly. I have not received a bill.

Dear Guardian Angel: Who are you? Are you real? How wonderful to have been relieved of that overwhelming snow removal burden and to have been liberated and functional. Thank you.

AMY SMITH
Westfield

Local groups donate to help needy

To The Record-Press:
We at the Union County Social Services Plainfield site would like to extend our thanks to organizations and schools that participated in our Holiday Drive 2004.

Our agency has been distributing Thanksgiving food baskets, toys and gifts to our clients for the past 20 years. This would not be possible without continued support from local organizations and schools. Our contributors for the year 2004 are as follows: Tricia Nearing of Hearts for Humanity, Girl Scouts Troop 125 of Westfield, Cory Whistler, Colleen Clary, Kim Townsend, Katie Kiefer, Jennifer Ditzell, Weichert Realtors of Westfield, Burgdorf Realtors and Pat Plant, MPV Printing of Fanwood, Tender Joe's of Westfield, Verizon, including Debbie Strain and her coworkers in Plainfield, the Fanwood Scotch Plains YMCA, the PBA of Scotch Plains and Fanwood, Starfish of

Plainfield, Scotch Plains Fanwood High School SCN, Westminster Pre-School in Fanwood, Evergreen School in Scotch Plains, and Park Middle School in Scotch Plains, including a very special thanks to the students and parents who did a food and toy drive.

Phillip Burke, an eighth grader, and the Student Council of Park Middle School also put together a Coat Drive on Jan. 5 which was very much needed during this very cold season.

This year we were able to distribute donations to 800 underprivileged children and 100 underprivileged adults. A total of 250 Thanksgiving baskets were also distributed. Our donations are distributed to the western section of Union County.

Anyone wishing to be a contributor for the 2005 Drive may contact Jacqueline Casey or Chai Werthwein at (908) 791-7000 or (908) 791-7108.

UNION COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN THE SUPER BOWL?



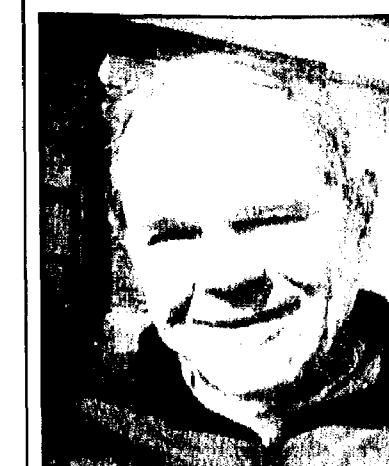
PAULETTE PERNA
visiting Scotch Plains
I don't even know who's playing this year.



AVI ASSOULINE
Garwood
I think New England will cover the spread. You gotta go with the world champions.



ROCKY PATL
works in Cranford
I have no idea, I don't know who's playing. I usually watch baseball and basketball.



PAUL SOWA
Cranford
I believe Philadelphia will win because of the running game.



CHRIS FRICK
works in Cranford
I'm picking the Eagles because I'm originally from Philadelphia. I want to Notre Dame, though, so I'm pulling for Charlie Weis, but in the end 35 years in Philly wins out.

NJ should lead way to sustainability

by MATTHEW POLSKY

Sustainable development (SD) as been described as the key concept of the 21st century, a topic that has gained serious interest in international circles, and as a guide for a growing number of sectors. It is relevant for the development of public policy, the expectations increasing made upon business, and for guiding personal behavior.

This concept simultaneously lends us to the seriousness of problems, tells us that solving them means delving into unfamiliar elds because the world's problems are interrelated, and gives us a set of creative tools with which to approach their solutions.

New Jersey State Government, beginning in the mid-1990s, took some early steps in developing an approach to SD. It (a) set up a pioneering unit to help companies with environmentally cleaner products compete in the marketplace; (b) was developing an initiative to negotiate incentives for businesses in return for achieving levels of performance beyond legal requirements; (c) helped set up the Sustainable State Institute (SSI) to update a report card on the state's performance on several measures of sustainability; and (d) issued innovative recommendations to take sustainability further, among other steps. While state policy and practice were not always consistent with sustainability, it was a start, and New Jersey was a recognized leader. Now, all of this is gone, but it can be regained.

The political leaders who followed this era almost never mentioned sustainability. With the exception of the Board of Public Utilities, no state agency was interested in actively working with the Sustainable State Institute. While some state initiatives arguably were very or partially consistent with a sustainability perspective

Guest commentary

(e.g. renewable energy goals, smart growth), recent administrations have never seen the value of explicitly using it as a guiding approach, or implementing recommendations such as aggressive state procurement of green space. Quite unnecessarily, and with little notice or comment, a lot of momentum was lost.

They were not the only ones to deemphasize sustainability. The environmental community, for the most part, rarely brings it up. The press almost entirely ignores it. Politicians don't seem to know it exists. Major figures from the sustainability field would occasionally visit the state to give talks about new ideas with the potential for creating breakthroughs in approaching problems, such as green design and corporate goals for zero pollution, but there were very few stories, and their ideas were not taken advantage of.

With some exceptions, our business sector is falling behind state-of-the-art thought and practice in the corporate social responsibility (CSR) area, such as doing business in developing countries in innovative ways that improve the quality of life there. Meanwhile, states like Georgia and New York are just getting into the sustainability area and deciding to focus on business. Here, CSR, and how it's evolving doesn't come up.

New Jersey has never had an entity that could let us know that our solutions were not sufficiently integrating environmental, economic, and social considerations; that in key areas, such as our non-sustainable use of oil we could not

keep going the way we were going and that our society is in denial; that we were missing opportunities to move forward; and that certain international trends and events, to which we seemed oblivious, should not be ignored.

If we wish to ignore international problems and think we're safe from melting glaciers, declining fish yields, the indirect effects of again-increasing levels of global hunger, and to shirk commitments like the Millennium Development Goals, one of which is to cut in half the proportion of people without safe drinking water, we do so at our peril — to say nothing of the ethical obligation we forsake. We can't assume the federal government will adequately respond. If a wealthy, sometimes creative state can do our part and lead others by example, why shouldn't we?

There is some hope. Some sustainability-oriented organizations in the education and religious communities have continued their progress. The common sense topic of green buildings is no longer at the fringes. The most recent progress is at the local level, where Montclair and Highland Park are using SD as a guiding principle in orienting their policies and practices.

The biggest opportunity is the re-establishment of the SSI. It just released the third report card on the state's progress, or lack of it, fulfilling a critical need if we're ever going to approach sustainability. Perhaps, the leadership to fill the vacant niches will begin to emerge. And perhaps acting Governor Codey, the Legislature, funders, and others will see and opportunity to build on the renewal of the SSI and reclaim the mantle of leadership in this vital field.

The writer, a Cranford resident, is a sustainability advocate, formerly in state government.

Kean bill would soften state's new spending caps on schools

By GREG MARK
THE RECORD-PRESS

A local legislator has introduced a bill to ease some of the new budgetary restrictions placed on school districts last year, bringing applause from area superintendents but also a request for more relief.

Republican state Senator Thomas Kean of Westfield last week introduced legislation to amend the way school district budget caps are calculated under the controversial state law known as S-1701, which became effective July 1, 2004.

S-1701 lowered the annual spending increase permitted to school districts in most years and eliminated many of the exemptions that allowed districts to exceed the cap due to rising fixed costs. Passed amid a flurry of budget-related bills over the summer, it has prompted an angry backlash from educators.

"We need to argue for restraints. But there needs to be flexibility within those restraints."

— Tom Kean Jr.
state senator

Kean's bill would restore budget cap adjustments for insurance, utility and courtesy buses costs. The bill also makes permanent the three-year budget cap adjustment for the cost associated with liability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, employee group insurance and domestic security preparedness.

In addition, school districts would be permitted to petition the Commissioner of the Department of Education for relief if they face an unanticipated increase in costs, such as a spike in enrollment.

Further, the bill increases the amount of surplus school districts can maintain. Districts had previously been required to maintain fund balances of between 3 and 6 percent; S-1701 put the new figure at 2 percent. Kean's bill keeps the figure at 2 percent for 2005-2006 but raises it to 3 percent for subsequent years.

"We need to argue for restraints," Kean said. "But there needs to be flexibility within those restraints... There were provisions in (S-1701) that went a little bit too far."

Kean, who voted for S-1701, is joined by

Democratic Senator Steve Sweeney of South Jersey and Democratic Assemblyman Joseph Cryan of Union County in pushing the bill in the state Legislature. He said he is optimistic the bill will get a hearing in the Democrat-controlled legislative body. Any changes to S-1701 would have to be made in the next month to have an impact on 2005-2006 school budgets.

Assemblyman Jon Brannick of Westfield voted against S-1701 over the summer. Brannick has been a persistent critic of the state's approach to spending issues.

Westfield Superintendent William Foley, who along with Scotch Plains-Fanwood Superintendent Carol Choye met with Kean in December to push for changes to the law, said he was heartened to hear of the bill. While acknowledging that "there is a legitimate concern about controlling costs," he said, "I would be very supportive of Sen. Kean's legislation. I think it's right on target."

In Cranford, which is also part of Kean's legislative district, Superintendent Lawrence Feinsod said he was "pleased to see that the senator is moving in the right direction," though he argued that the state must do more to support local school districts.

In particular, he argued, even a 3 percent surplus is "still inadequate for the school district to feel comfortable in terms of covering the unexpected." A surplus of 4 or 5 percent would be more appropriate to cover sudden costs related to special education or facility repairs, he said.

Feinsod, though, was full of praise for a separate Kean bill to appropriate \$18.3 million to help pay for special education. The state is authorized to pick up all special education costs that exceed \$40,000 for a single pupil, though the Legislature typically funds only a fraction of that amount.

"I would commend Senator Kean for recognizing the plight that school districts face with spiraling special education costs," Feinsod said. "We need all the help we can get in this area."

Letters to the editor

A call for dialogue within the church

To The Record-Press:

In recent months a group of dedicated, concerned Catholics in Union County has been formed. One of our goals is to offer support to the priests of our archdiocese.

Much has been published in the media about priests and pedophilia. The number of those accused represents a small minority of our good and faithful priests. These are men of integrity who have led congregations to a greater awareness of their baptismal call.

These dedicated men have fostered our spiritual growth. They

show us how we share in Christ's prophetic mission by living out the gospel message. They have introduced us to Marriage Encounter, the Cursillo Movement, Charismatic Renewal, youth ministry, Cornerstone, Ministry to the Homeless and many leaders. They have become our friends who show us the face of Jesus.

We take this opportunity to publicly express our gratitude for their years of service. As members of the newly-formed Voice of The Faithful of Union County, we also offer continued prayerful support "ad nul-

tos annos" (for many years).

We respectfully invite dialogue with diocesan clergy encouraging the faithful to mutual listening, building trust and mutual support to become the Church Vatican II envisioned.

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Deborah thanks donors

To The Record-Press:

On behalf of the Park Union Guild of the Deborah Hospital Foundation, we would like to express our gratitude and a big thank you to all who supported our annual luncheon and fashion show. The event was held at L'Affaire Restaurant in Mountainside in November 2004.

Whether you donated a gift, bought a ticket, or helped at the

luncheon, we appreciate all your help and kindness to make this a success for the Deborah Hospital Foundation. Once again, thank you.

Anyone wishing to join our chapter (you can be from any town) should contact our president, Jane Winter, at (908) 687-1423.

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Some Westfield pool users may see fee increases in '05

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD PRESS

WESTFIELD — The Town Council has introduced an ordinance that will increase selected membership fees at the Westfield Memorial Pool in 2005.

According to Recreation Director Bruce Kaufmann, membership fees will climb for families with full-time child care and nonresident seniors. The increase is the pool's first in three years, he said.

For resident families who require access for their full-time child care providers, the annual cost of pool membership will climb from \$350 to \$443. Non-residents in the same category will

pay \$832. Kaufmann said the family with child care membership category, used by 187 members in 2004, will now amount to purchasing a combined family and individual membership. Resident family-only memberships will remain at \$278, and individual memberships will continue to cost \$165 annually.

Non-resident senior rates will rise from \$120 per year to \$130 per year; resident seniors will continue to pay \$70. Other 2005 fees will remain flat compared to 2004. Resident couples without children will pay \$225, while non-resident couples without children will pay \$437; non-resident individuals will be charged \$310 and non-resident

families will pay \$522.

The increase in the non-resident senior rate will bring the ratio between resident and non-resident membership fees back in line, Kaufmann said. In most categories, non-residents pay between 88 and 94 percent more than residents, while non-resident seniors had paid only 71 percent more than residents. The change will bring the non-resident senior rate in line with the lower portion of that range, Kaufmann explained.

Last year, the pool generated \$1.7 million in revenue, more than enough for the facility to be self-supporting, Kaufmann added. In recent years, surplus revenues have been dedicated to

installing slides, a lap pool and diving tank, and bathroom and roof renovations.

"That's where the surplus goes so we can maintain our membership fees and do these types of major projects without a large increase in membership fees," Kaufmann said. "It amounts to a 40 percent increase in 12 years. If you look at the cost of any commodity from 12 years ago to today usually, it will double or triple."

Operating costs in 2005 are anticipated at \$786,000, down from \$846,000 in 2004. Last year's higher costs included work on the bathroom and roof, not included in the current year's budget. The pool employs five full-time employ-

ees, who manage 9,700 members.

Last year's resident members have the opportunity to renew their membership until April 14. The next day, registration for available spots opens to Westfield residents and non-residents who were members last year. If space remains on May 1, membership is available to any New Jersey resident, but anyone who wants a membership should apply early, Kaufmann said.

"Last year we sold out our memberships in about four hours" on April 15, he said. The town was able to offer 1,300 new memberships in 2004.

Further information about the pool will be mailed to Westfield residents at the end of the week.

Speakers' Forum debuts with panel

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Rotary Speakers' Forum will make its debut with a distinguished panel speaking about "Developing Creative Children" for the Mountain Plains Mothers of Multiples (MPMM).

The program will be held at the Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside from 8-9:30 p.m. Tuesday. Ted Schlosberg, public relations director for the Westfield Rotary Club and founder and executive director of New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, will be the evening's coordinator.

Liz Ensslin, first vice president of programming for MPMM, will give the opening welcome and introduction and Schlosberg will introduce a panel of presenters and provide a brief synopsis of the evening agenda.

Stephanie Kalka will begin the discussion with the benefits of the "Alexander Technique," followed by Fiona Murray of "Music Together." Schlosberg will discuss the "Glen Doman Institute for the Achievement of Human

Potential."

Ginny Tobey, director of The Sundance School of North Plainfield; Carolyn Phinney, early childhood teacher of The Waldorf School of Princeton; and Rosemary Parish, development coordinator, will discuss their programs and how they influence the arts. Schlosberg will also discuss the role of NJWA in the development of the arts and provide the summation.

The MPMM members will have the opportunity to ask panel members questions at the conclusion of the discussion.

The forum was initiated by the Westfield Rotary Club to

help program directors of organizations, clubs, corporations, businesses and others find speakers for their gatherings. Interested groups should contact Schlosberg at (908) 962-6605 for further information.

The Rotary Club of Westfield meets every Tuesday from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the Westfield Area YMCA at 220 Clark St. The public is invited to the weekly lunch-

The forum was initiated by the Westfield Rotary Club to help program directors of organizations, clubs, corporations, businesses and others find speakers for their gatherings.



Fiesta fun!

Donning sombreros and serapes, kindergartners in Mrs. Surace's class at Franklin Elementary School in Westfield concluded their study of Mexico with a fiesta. By the end of this social studies unit, students had learned to speak, count and sing in Spanish, locate Mexico on a map, sculpt authentic Mexican "pinch pots" from clay, and create maracas filled with dried macaroni. During the fiesta, they danced the Mexican Hat Dance, decorated sombrero cookies and munched on quesadillas, tortilla chips, and salsa. The fiesta concluded with the traditional breaking of a piñata, providing goodies for all. Pictured at the fiesta are, from left, (front row) Devon March, Katie Foley, Brendan Glenn and Lea Moynihan; (back row) Kayla Nuzzo, William Swartz, Eric Storms, Parker Yarusi and Alexander Murray.

Scholarship applications are now available

SCOTCH PLAINS — Scholarship booklets and applications distributed by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Scholarship Foundation are now available for all Scotch Plains and Fanwood residents who will be graduating from high school in 2005, or who will be undergraduate students in college during the 2005-2006 academic year.

The booklets and applications

are available to be picked up from the Counseling Services Office at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. In accordance with the instructions found in the booklet, by March 1 all applications must be received by the Foundation President, Ellie Kramps.

For the 2005-2006 academic year, the members of SMAC (Student Movement Against Cancer) are making two \$1,000 awards available to graduating

seniors from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. They have been named the SMAC-Robert Mattar Scholarships in honor of the member of the Class of 2002 and his courageous and successful battle with cancer.

During the past 38 years, the board of trustees of the SPF Scholarship Foundation has administered scholarships through the many gifts given by

current and former members of the two communities.

At the present time, the foundation manages scholarships from 23 established funds and from 24 individuals and organizations that give them money on an annual basis. To contribute to the Dollars for Students Fund, send a gift to the SPF Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 123, Fanwood, NJ 07023.

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AARP to hear about new financial products

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Area AARP Chapter No. 4137 will hold its next general meeting Monday at the Presbyterian Church Assembly Hall on the corner of Broad Street and Mountain Avenue. Guests and potential members are invited.

The social period with refreshments will begin at 1 p.m. and brief business meeting will be held later. Members are reminded that annual dues of \$5 are now due.

The program will begin at 1:30 p.m. Richard Gallagher, a financial service representative, and

will speak on "The Latest Financial Options and Investment Products."

Community Service Chairman Skeets Kuzmuk has requested donations of canned and boxed grocery items to benefit homeless and needy adults and children. Costume jewelry in good condition is wanted for patients at Rumlins Hospital. The Knitting and Crocheting Group are in need of donations of wool of to make scarves, hats, shugs, and lap robes for patients in hospitals and nursing homes.

A few tickets are left for the day trip to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse for a luncheon and the comedy "George Washington Slept Here." A choice of five entrees will be offered with an appetizer, salad, homemade breads, a wide selection of desserts and coffee or tea. The cost of \$59 includes the meal, show, all gratuities and the bus ride. The bus will leave Westfield at 10 a.m. and return at approximately 4:30 p.m. For reservations or information, call (908) 232-1362 or purchase a ticket at Monday's meeting.

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TO SCHEDULE YOUR FREE CONSULTATION, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE BY FEBRUARY 15, 2005.

FUTURE SEMINARS WILL ALSO BE HELD THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. ALL DATES WILL BE NOTICED IN THIS PUBLICATION.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL (908) 272-0200

Fitness, bridge classes on tap at Westfield Y

WESTFIELD — The Westfield YCA has added several fitness programs to its spring schedule.

In Triathlon 101, participants learn the basics to get started on a new adventure. The class covers how, what and where of the triathlon disciplines (running, swimming and cycling), with mini-triathlon during the last six weeks. Class meets from 8-9 a.m. six Sundays: Feb. 27, March 6, 20, April 10 and 17.

Roadride is an advanced spin class for the cycling enthusiast. The class consists of a warm-up followed by 40 minutes of a high-intensity combination of jumps, steady climbs and sprints. Class includes a cool-down and stretch. Fit in 30 is a 30-minute class that combines cardio, strength, endurance, stability, balance and power workouts.

Finally, the Y's Latin Dance workout is designed for people who love Latin dance, but might not have a partner or the time to go to a dance class. It offers a high-energy workout that incorporates salsa, merengue and more.

The Spring 1 Session runs from Feb. 27-April 23. Priority registration for gold and silver individual and family members begins Saturday, February 12. Open registration begins Monday, February 14.

For more information visit the website at www.westfieldynj.org or call (908) 233-2700.

In addition, registration has been extended for the YCA's new Beginning Bridge Class. The class will begin on March 4 and meet from 9:30-11 a.m. Master bridge instructor Susan Schwartz will provide hands-on instruction. This course is designed for both beginners and those who need a bridge refresher. Early registration advised. The fee is \$50 for Y members and \$60 for non-members. Call the Y at (908) 233-2700.

Finally, the Feb. 16 Lunch & Learn program from 12:15-2 p.m. will feature a presentation on "Teaching to Genealogy." Richard Underhill, trustee and past president of the Genealogical Society of the West Fields, will talk about the fun to be found in exploring one's family tree along with some tips on how to pursue the hobby. For additional information, call Mary Ann at (908) 966-9344.

Briefs

Museum; June 2, "42nd Street" at NJPAC; June 9, The Grounds for Sculpture.

The JCC will also offer an AARP driver safety program 9 a.m.-1 p.m. March 17-18. Upon completion of the classroom refresher course, participants will receive a certificate that entitles them to a 5 percent discount on the major portion of their auto insurance and the removal of two points from a license, if applicable. The course must be repeated every three years to maintain the discount. The cost is \$10; participants should bring a check made out to AARP to the first class.

Advance registration is required. The course is open to anyone aged 16 and older; AARP membership is not required.

For more information about these programs, call Nan Statton at (908) 889-8800, ext. 207.

Rotary introduces speaker's forum

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Rotary Club has established a speaker's forum comprised of club members who will provide presentations from 15 minutes to one hour on a wide range of topics.

Interested program directors at corporations, clubs, organizations, businesses and places of worship will be able to select from the following subjects: the Rotary, law, Yoga, downtown Westfield, Westfield Historical Society, Reeve House, Friends of Mindowaskin Park, Visiting Health Services, dentistry, Pedals for Progress, music and musical instrument performances, a Switzerland tour, acupuncture, exercise, metabolism, nutrition, arts management, marketing, fundraising, public relations, becoming a non-profit organization, Israel stamps and learning through the arts.

Interested parties should call Ted Schlosberg for further information and appearance scheduling at (908) 962-6605. The Rotary Club of Westfield meets every Tuesday from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. in the Westfield, YMCA. The public is invited to the \$11 weekly luncheon.

Scrapbooking classes offered at FSPY

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Fairwood-Scotch Plains YMCA has started scrapbooking classes beginning next week.

Designed as an interactive activity for all ages, the program offers different classes geared to parents and children, teens, adults and senior adults. Participants will learn how to care for photos using a variety of scrapbooking techniques and will have access to cropping tools, pens, rulers, decorative scissors, paper and stickers. Students will receive their own photo tape and an album — all they have to bring is the photos.

For the experienced scrapbooker, a three-hour open session each week will offer time, space and assistance for scrapbook makers to work on their albums. Participants may sign up for all 10 weeks of the session or pay a drop-in rate and come only the nights they prefer.

The YMCA is currently holding registration for the early spring session that runs Feb. 7-April 17. For information programs and classes, call (908) 889-8880 or visit www.fairwoodscotchplainsymca.org.

Church hosts series on bullying prevention

CRANFORD — Calvary Lutheran Church, located at 108 Stanman St., will present a three-session focus on bullying awareness and prevention during the church's Adult Forum on Feb. 6, 13 and 20. The Adult Forum is held from 9:45-10:45 a.m. in the lounge of the Education Building behind the Sanctuary Building.

The guest speaker on Sunday, Feb. 13, is Stewart Green, founder and director of the NJ Coalition for Bullying Awareness and Prevention. The Feb. 13 guest speaker will be Ann Marie Francis, character education coordinator at the Cranford Public Schools, who will focus on how the schools and community are addressing the problem. On Feb. 20, members of Calvary's Outreach and Christian Education Ministries will lead a discussion on what community members can do to support anti-bullying effort.

For directions to Calvary Lutheran Church or for more information, call the church office at (908) 276-2418.

Day trips, driving lessons at the JCC

SCOTCH PLAINS — The JCC of Central New Jersey, located at 31 Martine Ave., offers the following day trips for adults: March 10, Philadelphia Flower Show; March 16, Jewish Folkstein Theater on 3rd Avenue; March 30, American Museum of Natural History; April 7, American Museum of the Moving Image; April 19, Princeton University Art



School-level geography bee winners in Westfield included Matthew Catenacci of Edison Intermediate School, pictured at left, and Julian Seltzer of Roosevelt Intermediate School.



Students map out victory in geography bee

WESTFIELD — Do you know where Lake Balaton is? What country would you go to for a visit to the city of Kolkata?

Those were some of the daunting questions facing local students in their recent geography bee competition.

Julian Seltzer, a seventh grader at Roosevelt Intermediate School, and Matthew Catenacci, an eighth grader at Edison Intermediate School, won the school-level competitions of the National Geographic Bee in January. The win marked the third consecutive year that Matthew won the right to represent Edison in the next level of the competition.

And at McKinley School, one of the district's elementary schools, the final took place recently in the school library with all fourth and fifth graders in attendance. This year's winner was fifth grader Thea Mantle.

At the school-level bee, the students answered oral questions on geography, kicking off the first round in the 17th annual National Geographic Bee.

The Westfield students will now take a written test, with up to 100 of the top scorers in each state eligible to compete in state championship bees on April 1. The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the state champions and teacher escorts to participate in the national championship on May 24 and 25.

The first place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship and a lifetime membership in the Society.

This is the 17th year that the National Geographic Society has held the geography contest, which is for students in the fourth through the eighth grades from thousands of schools across the United States and in the five independent U.S. territories, as well as in the Department of Defense Dependents Schools around the world.



McKinley School winners included, from left: (front row) Christopher Ick, Alex Ying and Thea Mantle; (back row) Jason Iabiti and Daniel Connolly.

Westfield YMCA names Paula Ehoff as new COO

WESTFIELD — Paula Ehoff will be joining the Westfield Area YMCA as chief operating officer effective March 1, 2005.

Over the last year, Ehoff served as managing director for education and training for Kintera, Inc., a software-as-a-service provider of knowledge interaction technology to non-profit organizations.

Prior to Kintera, she served for 13 years with the YMCA, most recently as a consultant analyst for the Y Metro Software Product with YMCA of the USA. Prior to that, she served as a branch executive director for the Central Maryland Association. She also held positions as associate and senior associate executive director.

Ehoff was the first family services director for the Central Maryland Association. She was a pioneer of YMCA Family Services, both on the local and national levels.

In addition to her Y experience, Ehoff served as the recreation supervisor for the City of Benicia, Calif.; established and operated PC Ehoff, a computer consulting and education service; and was executive director of the Benicia Education Fund, a city-based philanthropic foundation dedicated to funding educational services not funded by the school system.

She holds a master's and bachelor's in education from Towson University. She teaches at a college near her home and serves on

the boards of several community service organizations.

Her husband Clem is a business/finance professor, an insurance agency CFO and an accomplished musician. They have two grown children, Erik and Katti, and two very spoiled dogs.

"We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Paula Ehoff," said Mark Elsasser, chief executive officer of the Westfield Area YMCA. "In her new position, Paula will be responsible for all program and membership operations for the organization as well as working directly with me on fund development. She brings a wealth of experience and will be a great asset, not only to the Y, but to the greater Westfield community."

Parkinson's meeting planned

WESTFIELD — People with Parkinson's disease and/or their caregivers are invited to attend the next meeting of the Westfield Parkinson's Disease Support Group at 1:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14. The group regularly meets on the second Monday of each month.

At the February meeting, Sandra Frank of the Union County Division of Cultural & Heritage Affairs will provide a "creative break" for caregivers by conducting an arts program focusing on dance. During this time, people with Parkinson's will participate in a separate session, discussing issues of concern.

The meeting, which is free of charge, will be held in Assembly Hall on the lower level of the

Parish House at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Ave. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information call Barbara Ringk at (908) 322-9214 or the church office at (908) 233-0301.

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This week

THURSDAY

FEB. 3 CHANGES IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH a talk on the subject by author and journalist David Gibson for the Union County affiliate of Voice of the Faithful. 7:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, East Broad Street and North Avenue, Westfield. (908) 654-7673 or www.votfnj.org.

FRIDAY

FEB. 4 PAUL ROBESON — a presentation on the multi-talented American hero, a former Westfield resident. 1:30 p.m. Westfield Memorial Library, East Broad Street. (908) 789-4090.

'SPIDERMAN 2' — a screening of the hit movie for the Fanwood Memorial Library's Friday Film Festival. 7:30 p.m. Free. (908) 322-6400.

'PROOF' — opening-night production of the award-winning play at the Cranford Dramatic Club. 8 p.m. 78 Winans Ave., Cranford. Continues Friday and Saturday nights in coming weeks. (908) 276-7811.

SATURDAY

FEB. 5 GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION — fundraiser for the recently re-opened Raphael's Life House, which provides a safe haven for young mothers in Elizabeth. 6:30 p.m. St. Michael's School, Alden Street, Cranford. \$20 admission.

'EXPLORE YOUR SENSES' — a family workshop at Trailside Nature and Science Center in the Watchung Reservation. Discover how animals survive in the wild by playing games such as "raccoon paws" and "camouflage." 10 a.m. No preregistration required. Donation suggested. (908) 789-3670.

BLOOD DRIVE — hosted by the Blood Knights of Columbus. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Council Hall, 37 South Ave., Garwood. For info, call (908) 789-9809 after 4 p.m.

BAG DAY SALE — end-of-winter event at the Westfield Service League's Thrift Shop. 114 Elmer St., Westfield. (908) 233-2530.

'NEW STRATEGIES FOR THE TREATMENT OF ALZHEIMER'S' — a program of the Alzheimer's Association of Greater New Jersey. 10 a.m. Westfield Memorial Library, East Broad Street. (908) 789-4090.

'CRUISE TO NOWHERE' set sail with this evening of dinner and dancing presented by Congregation Beth Israel. 7:30 p.m. 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains. \$59 per person, \$36 for seniors and new temple members due by Feb. 2. (908) 889-1830.

SUNDAY

FEB. 6 COLONIAL VALENTINES a presentation by Evelyn Kennedy

of Westfield at the Miller-Cory House Museum. 2-4 p.m. Feb. 6. 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield. (908) 232-1776.

UNION COUNTY BLACK HISTORY — a talk by author Ethel M. Washington for the Union County Historical Society. Hanson House, Springfield Avenue, Cranford. 2:30 p.m.

MONDAY

FEB. 7 FINANCIAL OPTIONS AND INVESTMENT PRODUCTS — a talk for the Westfield Area AARP. 1:30 p.m. Presbyterian Church in Westfield, Mountain Ave. (908) 232-1362.

ALZHEIMER'S LECTURE — a talk by Amy Matthew of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. 7-8 p.m. Westfield Area YMCA, 220 Clark St. Free, but register at (908) 233-2700, ext. 251.

TUESDAY

FEB. 8 SHROVE TUESDAY PAN-CAKE SUPPER — dinner with live music at First United Methodist Church, 1 East Broad St., Westfield. 6:30-9 p.m. \$5. (908) 233-1211.

HYPERTENSION SCREENING — free clinic for Scotch Plains residents. 10 a.m.-noon. Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Ave.

SIDE-BY-SIDERS — a performance of show tunes and old-time favorites for the 12 O'Clock Club at Willow Grove Presbyterian Church. Noon. Make reservations by Feb. 6 at (908) 322-7892.

WEDNESDAY

FEB. 9 MID-DAY MUSICALES the popular concert series resumes at First Congregational Church of Westfield with a performance by the Westfield High School Chamber Orchestra. Noon. 125 Elmer St., Westfield. Free, with lunch offered for \$5. (908) 233-2494.

THURSDAY

FEB. 10 BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING — conducted by representatives of Overlook Hospital. 6-8 p.m. Westfield Area YMCA, 220 Clark St. Free and no appointment necessary. (908) 233-2700, ext. 251.

JEWISH COOKING CLASS — first of a two-part class at Congregation Beth Israel. 7-9 p.m. 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains. \$10. (908) 889-1830.

SATURDAY

FEB. 12 THE PROBATE PROCESS a talk by Jo Ann Schwab, Union County Deputy Surrogate, for the Genealogical Society of the West Fields. 10 a.m. Westfield Memorial

Library, 550 East Broad St. (908) 276-7104.

SUNDAY

FEB. 13 'LOVE LETTERS' — a performance of the popular play by Leslie and Ann Minski at the Fanwood Memorial Library. 3 p.m. Free.

'B'NAI B'RITH KETUBAH MARRIED COUPLES UNIT' — a brunch gathering at the Kenilworth Inn, off the Boulevard. 11:30 a.m. \$14.95 per person, plus gratuity and tax. RSVP at (908) 232-0062 by Feb. 11.

RESORTS CASINO TRIP — a bus excursion to Atlantic City hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary, VFW Bayleaf Post 6807. Departs Post Home at 221 South Ave., Garwood at 11 a.m. \$20 with \$15 casino credit. (908) 789-0670.

'THE MUSIC LESSON' — a script-in-hand reading of a new play by Loretta Napolitano. 3 p.m. The Theater Project, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Free. (908) 659-5189.

COMING UP

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP — for people with the disease or their caregivers. 1:30 p.m. Feb. 14. Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Ave. (908) 322-9214.

JEWISH COOKING CLASS — second of a two-part class at Congregation Beth Israel. 7-9 p.m. Feb. 17. 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains. \$10. (908) 889-1830.

ART AUCTION — hosted by Ross Galleries to benefit the Union County College Foundation and the UCC Alumni Association. 6 p.m. Feb. 18. Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Admission is \$15. \$25 for two and includes refreshments. Most opening bids \$45-\$300. (908) 709-7505.

SCRAPBOOK FUNDRAISER — charitable scrapbooking event, with proceeds benefiting tsunami victims in Southeast Asia. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Feb. 19. First Baptist Church of Westfield. \$50. (908) 451-5236.

'THE SCIENCE OF GOD' — a discussion of the book by Gerald L. Schroeder, hosted by the Wisdom's Light ministry. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22. First Congregational Church of Westfield, 125 Elmer St. (908) 322-2857.

'MY SISTER'S KEEPER' — teen book discussion group at the Fanwood Memorial Library. 6:15-7:15 p.m. Feb. 22. (908) 322-6400.

DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE — a fun formal evening for girls in Grades 1-5 and their dads, hosted by the Westfield Recreation Department. 6:30-9:30 p.m. March 4. L'Maire, Route 22 in Mountainside. \$40. (908) 789-1080.

WINE TASTING — hosted by the Westfield Junior Woman's Club to benefit Healing the Children. 7:30-11:30 p.m. March 4. Shackamaxon County Club, Westfield. (908) 233-4238.

MS WALK — 17th annual fundraiser for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. April 17. Nomahegan Park, Cranford. (201) 967-5599 or Stephanie@njbmss.org.

STATUE OF LIBERTY/ELLIS ISLAND TRIP — sponsored by the Scotch Plains Recreation Commission and the Community School. Departing 8:30 a.m. April 26 from Park Middle School. \$20-26, plus cost of ferry. Register by Feb. 28.



Families read together at McKinley

Moms, dads, brothers and sisters, daughters and sons and even some grandmothers and fathers came together on a cold Thursday night to participate in McKinley's Family Reading Night. The faculty and staff at McKinley School hosted this event to stress the importance of reading, whether it's a child reading on his own or a parent reading to the child. Close to 200 family members started their night together in the gym, where they were greeted by Principal Claudia Andreski and then treated to a colorful, hands-on presentation entitled, "What is a Character?" composed by reading teacher Denise Miller. Other faculty members joined in the presentation and read descriptions of the ever-popular Winnie the Pooh characters. Next, the families gathered in different classrooms where stories were read to them by guest readers such as fourth-grade teacher Joseph Paradise, top. Also during the evening used book sale was sponsored by the school's community service organization, "Early Act." This club, comprised of students and teachers, raises money throughout the year to benefit needy charities. The group rose close to \$1,000 on the sale (see picture at right).



Miller-Cory House seeks volunteers

WESTFIELD — When you enter the Miller-Cory Museum, you may be greeted by a woman in colonial dress complete with mob cap, apron, laced bodice, pocket and fichu or a man in breeches, buckles on his shoes and a three-cornered hat. These are volunteers who are committed to the success of the museum and the history of Westfield. In 1740, when Samuel Miller built a house for his wife Sabra, Westfield had one church, 14 houses, one blacksmith, one tavern and one schoolhouse. The Millers had 100 acres and their

property stretched from what is now the Miller-Cory museum at 614 Mountain Ave. to the beginning of the downtown of Westfield.

The Miller-Cory house has seen many residents since this beginning. Because it was built so well it stands as a testament to the history of the region. In 1972 the house became a museum and assumed the name Miller-Cory after its first owner, Samuel Miller, and second owner Joseph Cory who bought the house in 1782. The Miller Cory House Colonial Museum has been certified as an historic site and has been entered on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Since its inception as a museum, thousands of boys, girls and adults have been given tours of the house by cos-

tumed docents and have been informed on how the Millers and Cories lived and worked the farm.

A drive is now underway to enlist volunteers who can join in presenting the Miller Cory Colonial programs to the public. Whether it is cooking typical 18th-century recipes in the open hearth method or bringing the past to life for visitors every Sunday and for groups during the week, gardening in the colonial herb and vegetable gardens on the site or working in the gift shop, there are many opportunities to help.

On various Sundays during the year demonstrations of the arts of colonial life such as stenciling, silhouettes, tin piercing, spinning and others are presented. Spots are also available for those who would like to participate in the showcase, an outreach program to local schools. Full training is provided.

For more information or to volunteer, call (908) 232-1776.

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Community Life

Briefs

Submissions sought for film festival

The Fanwood and Scotch Plains libraries are soliciting films from students and residents for inclusion in a local independent film festival scheduled May 6-7.

"Movies in May" is jointly sponsored by the Fanwood Memorial Library, the Scotch Plains Public Library and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District. The festival will be held at both libraries and will feature films made by community members.

Films of any length are being sought, and the deadline for submissions is April 15. The best formats for entry submissions are mini-DVD or VHS; however, other formats will be accepted as well.

An information session will be held 6-8 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Scotch Plains Library to discuss submission guidelines and festival activities. Information is available at both libraries and on the Internet at www.fanwoodlibrary.org/filmfest.

For further information or to volunteer to be a part of the festival, call the Fanwood library at (908) 322-6400 or the Scotch Plains library at (908) 322-5007, ext. 202.

Probate process discussed at library

WESTFIELD — The Genealogical Society of the West Fields will meet in the program room of the Westfield Memorial Library, 550 East Broad St., at 10 a.m. Feb. 12.

Jo Ann Schwab, Union County deputy surrogate, will speak on the importance of making a will, understanding the probate process, and the significance of advance directives or living wills.

Admission is free, and the public is invited to attend the meeting. Refreshments will be served. For additional information, call (908) 276-7104.

Take a tour of SP middle schools

SCOTCH PLAINS — Area residents are invited to attend tours of the two Scotch Plains-Fanwood middle schools.

At 9 a.m. Tuesday, there will be a tour of Terrill Middle School. Also, at 9 a.m. Feb. 15, there will be a tour of Park Middle School. The tours will both begin in the schools' media centers.

These forums, hosted by the SP-F PTA Council, provide an opportunity to meet with middle school administrators and PTA leaders, as well as to view the schools while classes are in session. The tours are open to both district parents and the public at large.

For more information, call Margaret Ames, PTA Council vice president, at (908) 322-5805.

Newcomer's Club seeks new members

WESTFIELD — The Newcomer's Club of Westfield invites area women who are interested in meeting new people and getting more involved in the community to one of its prospective member wine and cheese meetings.

The next gathering will take place at a member's home at 8 p.m. Feb. 23. Prospective members will have the opportunity to meet some current members and learn about the numerous activities that the club sponsors.

If interested in attending this event or for more information, call Michelle Habayeb at (908) 233-7228 or Rachel Munzo at (908) 518-0997.

First Baptist ready for the 'Soup Bowl'

WESTFIELD — This Sunday, youth at First Baptist Church, located at 170 Elm St., will stand at the exits from the sanctuary after the 10:30 a.m. service to collect dollar bills in soup pots. The money raised will be donated to a local charity that helps the hungry and hurting.

The "Soup Bowl of Caring" began in a single South Carolina church youth group in 1990. Last year, 12,000 congregations generated \$3.6 million. For more information, visit www.soupbowl.org.

Take a trip to Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Recreation Commission and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Community School are sponsoring a trip to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island on April 26.

The group will depart at 8:30 a.m. from Park Middle School in Scotch Plains and return at approximately 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 for deli lunch, \$26 for deluxe lunch.

The group will travel together by bus to and from Liberty State Park. Organizers will have box lunches ready for participants on Ellis Island, but for the rest of the day visitors will be on their own at the

National Park Service sites.

Upon arrival at Liberty State Park, participants will purchase their own round-trip ferry ride tickets. These are priced as follows: children ages 4-12, \$5.75; adults ages 13-61, \$11.75; seniors ages 62 and up, \$9.75.

Residents making the trip should bring with photo identification and patience for the extensive security check that occurs before boarding the ferry.

The ride on the ferry features spectacular views of the New York City skyline and harbor views. Participants will have the

option of disembarking first at the Statue of Liberty, where they can take a guided tour of its outside grounds or try for a guided tour of the inside of the statue, which now includes a view through a glass ceiling and takes approximately an hour's time.

The other option is to begin the visit at Ellis Island, where a self-guided tour of the main building and the Wall of Honor outside will take about three to four hours to complete. The main building on Ellis Island is now a museum, tracing the steps of the approximately 12 million

steerage and third-class steamship passengers who entered the country through the port of New York from 1892 to 1954.

Visitors will have to plan their day to be on a return ferry to Liberty State Park in time for a 4:30 p.m. bus departure. Extensive walking is a part of the day and comfortable shoes are recommended.

Limited spaces are available for this excursion. Registration with payment should be made by Feb. 28. Upon registration, residents will receive a list of luncheon choices, which they will need to select ahead of time.



This photo is among several by Briana Falco now on display at the Fanwood Memorial Library.

Library showcases teen's photos

Trip to Italy offered abundant inspiration for budding artist

By BRAD BISHOP
THE RECORD-PRESS

FANWOOD — A family trip to Italy served as the inspiration behind a series of photographs on display at the library throughout the month of February, according to the teenaged artist behind the images.

Briana Falco, 17, a junior at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, said she first became interested in photography in the seventh grade.

"I just started fiddling with a camera, and just decided one day I wanted to do photography," she said.

"It was beginner's stuff, and I was not using a very good camera," she said. "I took a lot of pictures of my dog."

As she gradually learned the craft, Falco received a manual camera and began experimenting with different shutter speeds, aperture settings, and film types. She developed her eye by taking classes at the New Jersey Visual Arts Center in Summit.

Though she has yet to spend an extensive amount of time in a darkroom, Falco said she prefers the texture and process of film to the computer-based method of digital photography.

Falco says her best work came from a three-week family trip to Italy last July. As her family traveled through Rome, Tuscany, and Venice, she was inspired by the people and places that she passed by. The photographs on display at the Fanwood Memorial Library come from that trip.

The pictures range from a single chair reflecting bright sunlight to a monochromatic image of the worn door to an aging stone dwelling. Shadows figure heavily in some of the photographs, drawing out an element of contrast.



Falco finds black-and-white photos to be "poetic." At left, a portrait of the young artist.

"I tend to think black and white photos are more dreamy, and more poetic in a way, while color brings out something different," Falco said.

Also included among the six photos on display is a lion statue photographed against the rust-colored backdrop of a centuries-old Italian building and other unusual scenes that caught Falco's eye along the way.

In addition to her interest in photography, Falco plays volleyball and soccer, and is learning to play the violin.

Her favorite photographers include Annie Leibowitz and Diane Arbus, and like the artists that inspire her, Falco is most interested in fashion or portrait photography. She is hoping to continue her studies at the School of Visual Arts in New York when she graduates next spring.

All members of the community are invited to view the photographs during regular library hours. The Fanwood Memorial Library is located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road in Fanwood. For more information call (908) 322-6400.



February Festivities planned at Trailside

MOUNTAINSIDE — Trailside Nature and Science Center will host a series of adult, family and children's programs during "February Festivities" held during the Presidents' holiday vacation days, Feb. 18-22.

Kicking off the annual festivities is a free workshop for adults ages 18 and older titled "The Role of New Jersey in the Civil War and Songs from the Civil War Era," to be held 7:30-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18. William Gillette, a professor of history at Rutgers University and a McCormick Award winner for his recent book on New Jersey history, will rebut the traditional view of the state as a conservative bastion while focusing on the recruitment camp, combat experience, the home front and

see which animals are visiting the feeding station. The walk will conclude around a warm campfire with some hot cocoa and marshmallows.

"Snakes & Turtles of New Jersey," offered from 10-11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 21 for families with children ages 6 and older, will investigate the similarities and differences of reptiles. Kids will hold turtle shells and feel a shed skin from a snake, then meet live snakes and turtles from Trailside's collection.

"Kindling Kits," for families with children of all ages, is offered 3:30-4:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21. Keeping warm by an open fire has a lot of appeal, but getting the blaze going can be tough. Participants will learn what tinder, kindling and fuel logs are and how they make a

fire successful and also collect sticks, twigs, holly, evergreen sprigs and pinecones to create a decorative kit that will start a winter fire blazing.

Also included in the "February Festivities" programs are two evening classes.

"A Walk in Winter" explores the many strategies of survival used by plants and animals during the winter months. Participants will hike through the nursery to look for deer paths and other animal signs.

Following the presentation, singer/guitarist Heather Mulvey will perform songs from the Civil War era. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required.

Also on tap are a series of family-oriented programs.

Space is limited and classes fill quickly, so pre-registration is required for all programs and workshops. The fee for each program is \$4 per person for Union County residents and \$5 per person for out-of-county residents unless otherwise noted.

"The Journey of Sap to Syrup," presented 10-11 a.m. or 1-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 and again 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21, will allow families with children of all ages to discover how 100-percent real maple syrup is made from the sap of a sugar maple tree.

Participants will discover what equipment is needed to collect sap and take part in a taste test to try to identify the real thing. A short hike will allow participants to see a tap in action on a live tree.

"A Walk in Winter," presented 3-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19 and again 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22 for families with children of all ages,

explores the many strategies of survival used by plants and animals during the winter months. Participants will hike through the nursery to look for deer paths and other animal signs and stop by Trailside's Backyard Wildlife Habitat to

The fee for each evening program is \$5 per person for Union County residents and \$6 per person for out-of-county residents.

"Evening Wildlife Watch," presented 6:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 21 for families with children ages 6 and older, puts a new twist on an old favorite. Participants will tour the museum to discover who the nocturnal neighbors are and take a brief hike to search for signs and sounds of Trailside's night life. The evening will conclude around a campfire.

"Resident Reptiles," offered 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22 for families with children ages 3-5 years old, will take a close-up look at the reptiles that call Trailside home. Kids will learn about these elusive creatures and meet live snakes and turtles from Trailside's collection. Space is limited, so pre-registration is required.

For a complete listing of "February Festivities" programs and children's workshops or for information on upcoming events and summer camps, call Trailside Nature and Science Center at (908) 789-3670. Trailside located at 452 New Providence Rd.

High school theater group taking a trip to the 'West Side'

Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's repertory theater group will bring the classic *West Side Story* to the stage this spring. The show, inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and written by Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim and Arthur Laurents, tells a story of young love destroyed by the strife of youth gangs in Manhattan in the 1950s. Leading the troupe will be seniors Christine Deluca as Maria, Abraham Hitt as Tony and Matt Capodiceca as Riff. Brian Glassett will appear as Bernardo and Sarah Marable as Anita. At right, Deluca and Marable rehearse an impassioned duet in which they grieve over the death of a gang member beloved of both characters. Performances will be on the evenings of March 11-12 and 17-19 and on the afternoon of March 13. Tickets went on sale earlier this week and are available by calling (908) 322-9616. (Photo by Ben Solomon)



Teens find help at Y

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Area YMCA Family Life Department will soon begin offering a support group called Rainbows for kids who are experiencing loss due to divorce or death of a loved one.

A 12-week curriculum takes the participant through the grieving process, with activities designed to help them identify and express emotions associated with significant loss. The Y will offer the program called Spectrum, which was created for youth in Grades 5 and up.

There is no fee for this program. However, pre-registration is required. The program will begin in the next few weeks. Call Linda Christopher at (908) 963-9344 for registration information.

Goellner and guests will perform in 'Conscience' series

The Coffee with Conscience Concert Series of Springfield will present Manhattan-based singer/songwriter Nadine Goellner Feb. 12 at the Emanuel United Methodist Church of Springfield, at 40 Church Mall (near the intersection of Morris and Mountain avenues). Goellner will be accompanied by special guests Natalia Zukerman and Marc Von Em.

The evening will feature an Italian buffet at 6:30 p.m., followed by the concert at 8 p.m. The dinner-concert combo is \$28 (\$22 for seniors) and the 'concert only' option is \$14 (\$8 for teens). Reservations are required of those planning to attend the combo; call the church office at (973) 376-1695 by Feb. 8th. 'Concert-only' attendees need not RSVP and are invited to arrive after 7:30 p.m.

Goellner has been winning over audiences across the country with her unique "acoustic-driven blend of soul and jazz" and "a voice that's hauntingly unforgettable," according to the Arizona Daily Star.

Her newest album, *Sing It to Me Anyway*, has garnered rave reviews, cited by All Music Guide as "one of the strongest indie releases of 2004." Said TimeOut New York, "Nadine Goellner's soul-injected voice and jazzy arrangements color her new album, *Sing It to Me Anyway*, but underneath it all she's got a little of that edgy girl-singer-songwriter thing going on."

Her music can be heard on progressive radio stations around the country and was featured in November 2004 on NPR's All Songs Considered Open Mic, which highlighted the first cut off of her new album, "Thinking About You."

Zukerman has a distinctive style, which has been described by Velvet Park Magazine as featuring "jazzy flourishes, while nevertheless tipping (a) pick to the blues with her smoky slide guitar and sweetly seductive come-hither vocals." She has been acclaimed for her skills as a guitarist, the intimacies of her songwriting and the slinky sultriness of her voice.

Von Em has performed his brand of groove-oriented urban folk in venues large and small along the Eastern seaboard since 1999. On stage, he delivers high energy tales of hardship, homes, and high times. His voice soars with emotion while his solid guitar playing keeps the songs grounded. As one reviewer called his work, "urban folk at its finest; not only is Marc an excellent songsmith but he's got a great signature voice as well."

For more information about the artists, visit their websites at www.nadineg.com, www.nataliazukerman.com and www.marcvonem.com.

In keeping with the mission of the Coffee with Conscience Concert Series, the proceeds from each concert benefit a charitable organization. The proceeds of this concert will be divided between tsunami relief and SEUMC Ministries. Tsunami relief health kits will be assembled by the church and distributed by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

For more information about the Coffee with Conscience Concert Series, the Songwriters in the Round Sub-Series, the upcoming performance, or ways in which to get involved with the series, call the concert hotline at (908) 522-1501 or visit www.coffeewithconscience.com.



"Dear Frankie," starring Emily Mortimer and Gerard Butler, and 20 more new movies will premiere in the Filmmakers Symposium. For information, call (800) 531-9416 or visit privatescreenings.org.

Film series begins next month

Imagine seeing a major motion picture before anyone — then the lights come up, and there in front of you are the creators of the film, ready to answer questions and discuss their work. This unique opportunity will be available to local movie-lovers via the Filmmakers Symposium, which will be held Monday evenings beginning Feb. 28 at Loews Mountaintop on Route 22 East. A second session begins April 11.

The series is open to anyone, but seating is limited, so early enrollment is advised. Subscription is \$151 for six weeks or \$269 for 12 weeks. For information or to register, call (800) 531-9416.

Confirmed films and those under consideration for the upcoming session include *Asylum* with Natasha Richardson, Marton Csokas, director David Mackenzie; *The Best Of Youth* with Luigi Locascio, Alessio Bonni, director Marco Tullio Giordana; *The Confederate States Of America* with Charles Frank, Jon Niccum, director Kevin Willmott; *Crash* with Sandra Bullock, Brendan Fraser, director Paul Haggis; *Dear Frankie* with Emily Mortimer, Gerard Butler, director Shona Auerbach; *Deep Blue* with Michael Gambon, directors Andy Byatt, Alastair Fothergill; *Fierce People* with Diane Lane, Donald Sutherland, director Griffin Dunne; and *Happy Endings* with Maggie Gyllenhaal, Laura Dern, director Don Roos.

Also slated for inclusion are *In Her Shoes* with Cameron Diaz, Toni Collette, director Curtis Hanson; *The Jacket* with Adrien Brody, Keira Knightley, director John Maybury; *Kingdom Of Heaven* with Orlando Bloom, Liam Neeson, director Ridley Scott; *Millions* with Alex Etel, Lewis McGibbon, director Danny Boyle; *Mondovino* with Hubert De Montille, Aimee Guibert, director Jonathan Nossiter; *Monster In Law* with Jane

Fonda, Jennifer Lopez, director Robert Luketic; *Natalie* with Emmanuelle Beart, Gerard Depardieu, director Anne Fontaine; *Proof* with Gwyneth Paltrow, Jake Gyllenhaal, director John Madden; *Rumor Has It* with Jennifer Aniston, Mark Ruffalo, director Rob Reiner; *Turtles Can Fly* with Soran Ebrahim, Hirsh Feysaal, director Bahman Ghobadi; *Undertaking Betty* with Brenda Blethyn, Alfred Molina, director Peter Chelsom; *An Unfinished Life* with Robert Redford, Morgan Freeman, director Lasse Hallstrom; *The Upside Of Anger* with Kevin Costner, Joan Allen, director Mike Binder; *Walk The Line* with Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon, director James Mangold; and *The Weatherman* with Nicolas Cage, Hope Davis, director Gore Verbinski.

Oscar winners and nominees including Danny Aiello, Alan Arkin, James Cromwell, Frank Darabont, Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Richard LaGravenese, John Sayles, Marc Shaiman and Howard Shore will join Dylan Baker, Bob Balaban, Jim Breuer, Al Franken, Ethan Hawke, Famke Janssen, Delroy Lindo, Derek Luke, David Morse, Viggo Mortensen, Mary Kay Place, Kevin Smith, Fisher Stevens, David Strathairn, Henry Thomas and Wendy Wasserstein to share their insights with Symposium participants.

Symposium director Chuck Rose promised, "The series will always be flexible in order to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Wonderful surprises and fantastic celebrities can pop up out of nowhere, so I try to keep the schedule as fluid as possible. In the past two years, we premiered 91 movies which later earned a total of 38 Oscar, 44 British Academy, 39 Golden Globe, and 50 Independent Spirit Award nominations."

Dao joins the staff at NJWA

Loc H. Dao has joined the staff of the The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts in Westfield Music Studio as a violin instructor. Dao received his diploma in violin from the National Conservatory of Music and Drama in Saigon, Vietnam.

He also studied violin at Rutgers University, where he



LOC H. DAO

obtained several advanced science degrees. A violin teacher at the J. S. Bach School of Music in Vietnam, Dao has also been a private violin teacher in the Hunterdon County region. He has had solo performances in many area musical clubs and has performed on national radio and television in Vietnam. In Saigon, he was a member of the National Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of the National Conservatory of Music and Drama.

Dao has played with the New Brunswick Chamber Orchestra and the Tam-Linh Chamber Orchestra in Vietnam, as well as the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank and the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn.

The Music Studio offers children and adults private and group lessons in both instrumental and vocal music. It also gives area residents the opportunity to play in its many bands, symphonies and ensembles.

For more information on the Music Studio, visit the main office at 150-152 East Broad Street in Westfield or call (908) 789-9696. Additional information on other NJWA programs is available by logging on to the web site at www.njworkshopforthearts.com.

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Musical Club performers include, from left, George Toones, clarinet; Mary Beth McFall, piano; and Jenny Cline, flute.

Club to perform at church

The Musical Club of Westfield will perform a public concert 1 p.m. Wednesday at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield.

Momoko Matsumura, violinist, has been invited back to perform an unaccompanied violin solo, "Sonata No. 4," Op. 27 by Eugene Ysaeye.

Pianist John Blasdale will play "Sonata in A minor" by W. A. Mozart. He will also perform "Sonata in C" by D. Scarlatti and an original composition, "Sonata Movement in G Major."

For the vocal portion of the program, soprano Beth Donley Celantano will sing "Gretchen at

the Spinning Wheel" by Franz Schubert, "Allerseelen" by Strauss, "Sleep Now" by S. Barber, "To the Children" by S. Rachmaninoff and "Tell Me, Oh Blue Sky" by R. Giannini.

A trio composed of Westfield's Jenny Cline, flute; Mary Beth McFall, piano; and George Toones of Westfield, clarinet, will perform Michael Webster's arrangement of tunes from "Carmen," "Prelude," "Habenera," "Eguedilla, Entr'acte," "Toreador Song" and "Gypsy Song."

Anyone interested in joining the Musical Club of Westfield should contact Evelyn Bleeke at (908) 232-2173.

Staged reading planned at UCC

The Music Lesson, a new play by Loretta Napolitano, will be presented in a staged reading at 3 p.m. Feb. 13 at the Theater Project, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion with author and cast. Admission is free.

In this quirky comic drama, 16-year-old Bella and her mom drive back and forth between Bella's various piano teachers. Bella hates both the piano and her mom. In the end, this story reveals why.

For further information, contact Mark Spina at The Theater Project, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, New Jersey 07010, by phone at (908) 650-5180, or online at www.TheTheaterProject.com.

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Harold E. Lapp Jr.

SCOTCH PLAINS — Harold Edwin Lapp Jr., 82, died Jan. 24, 2005 at the Peterson Rehabilitation Hospital & Geriatric Center in Wheeling, W.Va.

He was born in Brooklyn and lived in that borough before moving to Scotch Plains in 1965.

An insurance underwriter, Mr. Lapp retired in 1987 after 10 years with the William McGee Insurance Co. in Manhattan. From 1955-75 he was with the Hartford Insurance Group as an adjuster and underwriter for cargo and other freight brought in by container ships. He began his career in Manhattan with the North British Insurance Co.

Mr. Lapp earned his underwriter's license in 1956 from the School of Insurance in Manhattan. He was a member of the Blue Goose, a professional insurance organization.

He was with the Marine Corps in the Pacific during World War II and in China after the war; Mr. Lapp was recalled to active duty during the Korean War as an assistant drill instructor at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He was a former post commander and finance officer with American Legion Post 1356 in Brooklyn. He also was an assistant county commander with the Legion.

Surviving are his wife of 55 years, Dorothy Muriel Clyde Lapp; a daughter, Barbara Rush; three sons, Richard A., Douglas C. and Gordon S.; and four grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday at the Rossi Funeral Home. Burial was in Somerset Hills Memorial Park, Basking Ridge.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, P.O. Box 1947, Quantico, VA 22134.

Pauline Last

WESTFIELD — Pauline "Pearl" Blinder Last, 86, died Jan. 22, 2005 at the Central New Jersey Jewish Home for the Aged, in Somerset.

Mrs. Last was born in Brooklyn and raised on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. She lived in Rahway, Westfield and Monroe Township before moving to Somerset.

She retired in 1984 after more than 20 years teaching Grades 1 and 3 at School No. 18 in Iselin. Mrs. Last was active in B'nai B'rith

and Deborah.

Her husband, I. Herbert, died in 1991.

Surviving are two sons, Fred B. and wife Karen of Thorofare and James and wife Rosita of Edison; and five grandchildren.

Services were held Jan. 26 in the Temple of Israel Chapel Mausoleum at Beth Israel Cemetery, Woodbridge. Arrangements were by the Mount Sinai Memorial Chapels in East Brunswick.

Julia Dudash

SCOTCH PLAINS — Julia Kondla Dudash, 84, died Jan. 25, 2005 at her home.

Born in Czechoslovakia, Mrs. Dudash lived in Union and Clark before moving to Scotch Plains in 1998.

Her husband, Andrew, is deceased.

Surviving are three sons, Joseph of Union, Victor A. of Scotch Plains and Richard J. and

wife Marta of Milford, Conn.; a daughter, Jennie Beck and husband Larry of Mogadore, Ohio; two sisters in Europe; eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

Services were held Saturday at the Krowicki McCracken Funeral Home in Linden. Burial was in Graceland Memorial Park, Kenilworth.

Daniel C. Helms

SCOTCH PLAINS — Daniel Clinton Helms, 82, died Jan. 29, 2005 at his home in Martinsville.

Born in Lansford, Pa., Mr. Helms lived in Fanwood and Scotch Plains before moving to Watchung in 1958. He had resided in Martinsville since 1998.

He founded the D.C. Helms Co. in North Branch in 1960 and operated it until his retirement in 1987. He received a bachelor's degree in economics from Franklin & Marshall College in 1949.

Mr. Helms was an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II and a past president of the Watchung-Warren Rotary Club.

A son, Michael, died in 1974.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Altdorffer Helms; two sons, D. Clinton III of Phillipsburg and Andrew of Martinsville; a daughter, Kathleen Bean of Houston, Texas; a sister, Blanche Bayly of Evanston, Ill.; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Wednesday at the Union Village United Methodist Church, Warren, of which Mr. Helms was a member.

Arrangements were by the Higgins Home for Funerals, in Watchung. Donations may be sent to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, P.O. Box 27106, New York, NY 10087-7106 or the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

D. Holly Bloecher

WESTFIELD — D. Holly Bloecher, 51, died Jan. 21, 2005 at Genesis ElderCare-Holly Manor Center in Mendham.

Ms. Bloecher was born in Plainfield. She lived in Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia, and in Westfield before moving to Cranford in 1983.

She was a documentation specialist with NACA Logistics in Carteret. Ms. Bloecher received a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Colorado in 1975.

Surviving are her companion, Gary Lozier of Cranford; her mother, Virginia of Doylestown, Pa.; two sisters, Heather Kotula of Illinois and Laura Culbertson of Mendham; three nieces and three nephews.

A memorial service was held Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford. Arrangements were by the Bailey Funeral Home in Mendham. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the American Cancer Society.

Joseph Nyars Jr.

FANWOOD — Joseph J. Nyars Jr., 40, died Jan. 28, 2005 at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Conn.

Born in Belleville, he lived in Newark before moving to Fanwood in 1999.

Mr. Nyars was a truck driver with New Century Transportation in Westampton

and more recently with Jevie Transportation in Delanco.

His father, Joseph J. Sr., and a sister, Linda, are deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara Surik Nyars; his mother, Lucy Fern Nyars; a daughter, Allison Williams; two brothers, Anthony and Angelo; three sisters, Mary Brown, Annie Fogler and Lucy Fumicella; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Wednesday at the Rossi Funeral Home in Scotch Plains. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Obituaries

Joan Audrey Slifer

SCOTCH PLAINS — Joan Audrey Slifer, 72, died Jan. 24, 2005 at the Meridian Hospice Center in Brick.

Mrs. Slifer was born in Newark and lived in Kearny before moving to Scotch Plains in 1956. She had resided in Lakewood since 2002.

She was a former member of the PTA in Scotch Plains and the Altar Rosary Society at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church.

Surviving are her husband of 50 years, Gerald; a daughter, Patrice Raneri and husband

Peter of Madison; four sons, Jeffrey and wife Lynn of Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., John and wife Angela of Westfield, Rob and partner Michael Mueller of Spring Lake and James and wife Kim of Fanwood; and 10 grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday at the Memorial Funeral Home, Fanwood, followed by a funeral Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Meridian Hospice, 4900 State Highway 33, Suite 200, Neptune, NJ 07753.

John Earl Rieck

SCOTCH PLAINS — John Earl Rieck, 62, died Jan. 18, 2005 at Mercy Medical Center in Durango, Colo.

Mr. Rieck was born March 12, 1942 in Plainfield. He lived in Scotch Plains and Bridgewater before moving in 2002 to Chimney Rock, Colo.

He retired in 2002 as chief of the Plainfield Fire Department. Mr. Rieck also was a former chief of the Union County hazardous materials unit and for 35 years a fireman with the Martinsville Volunteer Fire Company. In Colorado he was a volunteer fireman with the Pagosa Springs Fire Protection District.

As well Mr. Rieck was an electronics technician in the Navy with the rank of petty officer third class.

His father, Arnett "Whitney," died in 1996.

Surviving are his wife of 25 years, Diane E.; his mother, Jean

Clark Dow of Venice, Fla.; his stepmother, Marie of Bridgewater; a son, John Earl II of Bedminster; two daughters, Judi Ann Cooke of Bloomsbury and Debra Ader and husband Joseph of Somerville; a stepson, Jeff Blazier of Forde; two stepdaughters, Stacie O'Brien of Bridgewater and Jennifer Fitzgerald of New Jersey; a brother, Thomas A. and wife Gena of Boulder, Colo.; four grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, a niece and a nephew.

Services were held Jan. 22 at the Hood Mortuary in Durango with Mr. Rieck's brother officiating. A memorial service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 12 at the Somerville Elks lodge, 375 Union Ave., Bridgewater.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Pagosa Springs Fire Protection District, 191 N. Pagosa Blvd., Pagosa Springs, CO 81147.

Ina Gary

SCOTCH PLAINS — Ina Kaltenhauser Gary, 41, died Jan. 26, 2005 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville.

Mrs. Gary was born in Philadelphia, Pa. She lived in Abington, Pa., Scotch Plains and North Plainfield before moving to Warren in 1986.

She was a dental assistant and the office manager to Wayne Levine, a Warren dentist. Mrs. Gary also was a "cheer mom" for cheerleaders at Warren Township Middle School and Watchung Hills Regional High School in Warren.

As well Mrs. Gary was a class mother in the Warren Township

school system.

Surviving are her husband, David N.; her parents, Karl Ernest and Janice Levy Kaltenhauser of Pocono Lake, Pa.; three daughters, Rebekah, Alissa and Karla, all at home; and several aunts and uncles.

Services were held Monday at the Higgins Home for Funerals, in Watchung. Entombment was in the Somerset Hills Mausoleum, Basking Ridge.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Gary Children's Education Fund, PNC Bank, 45B Mountain Blvd., Warren, NJ 07059.

Milton Sevak

SCOTCH PLAINS — Milton Sevak, 79, died Jan. 26, 2005 at his home in Marietta, Ga.

He lived in his native Linden and in Scotch Plains before moving to Marietta in 2003.

Mr. Sevak was an attorney for 40 years, retiring in 1994 as a partner in the Linden firm Sevak & Posnock. He graduated from the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University and from the Rutgers School of Law.

He was a member of the Union County Bar Association.

Harry J. Huber Jr.

WESTFIELD — Harry J. Huber Jr., 92, died Jan. 24, 2005 at the Bayside Manor Assisted Living Facility in Keansburg.

Born in Newark, he lived in Union and Westfield before moving to Keansburg.

Mr. Huber was with Weston Instruments in Newark for 37 years and retired in 1978 as a foreman. He was a member of St. John's Lodge 1, Free & Accepted Masons, in Mountain Lakes.

Antoinette Petrella

SCOTCH PLAINS — Antoinette Louise Panella Petrella, 77, died Jan. 29, 2005 at her home in Mountainside.

Born in Plainfield, she was a daughter of the late Frank Sr. and Rose Mancini Panella.

Mrs. Petrella lived in Scotch Plains for 40 years before moving to Mountainside in 2001. She was on the staff of the Wardlaw Hartridge School in Edison. She also was a volunteer in Plainfield at St. Bernard School and Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center.

She was a member of the Altar Rosary Society at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church. More recently Mrs. Petrella was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Mountainside.

Surviving are her husband, Anthony F., a daughter, Kathleen A. Sullivan, a brother, Adamando "Sonny" Panella, a sister, Frances Fatin, two grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 8:45 a.m. today at the Higgins Home for Funerals, 752 Mountain Blvd., Watchung. A funeral Mass will follow at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 300 Central Ave., Mountainside. Burial will be in Hillside Cemetery.

Henry Span

WESTFIELD — Henry Span, 36, died Jan. 30, 2005 at his home.

A lifelong Westfield resident, Mr. Span taught courses in property and legislation in 2002-03 as a visiting assistant professor at the George Mason University Law School in Arlington, Va. He earlier was a clerk to New Jersey Supreme Court Justice Virginia Long and an attorney with the Manhattan firm Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson.

His mother, Miriam, is the presiding judge-general equity for the Chancery Division of New Jersey Superior Court in Elizabeth.

Mr. Span published a number of professional articles as a member of the American Political Science Association. At the Yale Law School, from which he earned his law degree in 2001, he was the senior editor of the Yale Law Journal and editor

of the Yale Law & Policy Review. He was an Olin Summer Research Fellow at the Yale Law School in 1999.

He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Wesleyan University, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1990. Mr. Span held a doctorate in political science from the University of California at Berkeley; he was a graduate student instructor in political science at Cal from 1991-96. He was an adjunct professor of political science at San Jose State University in 1998.

Also surviving are his father, Gerald; and a sister, Jenny.

Services were held Monday at Temple Emanu-El. Burial was in Beth Israel Cemetery, Woodbridge.

Arrangements were by the Menorah Chapels at Millburn, in Union. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Wesleyan University, 318 High St., Middletown, CT 06459.

Doris McGinnis

WESTFIELD — Doris P. Sanko McGinnis, 80, died Jan. 29, 2005 at her home in Milltown.

Born in Swoyersville, Pa., she lived in Westfield for seven years before moving to Milltown in 1957.

Mrs. McGinnis made computer ribbons at the Lidal Co. in Milltown in the 1970s. She assembled Army uniforms in a Pennsylvania factory during World War II.

She was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; the AARP; and Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church in Milltown.

Her husband, Edward J., is deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Elizabeth C. Baynon and husband Eugene of Crystal Lake, Ill.; a son, John and wife Linda of Milltown; a sister, Pauline Abbott of Luzerne, Pa.; a brother, George Sanko of Swoyersville; a sister-in-law, Nellie of New Jersey; four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Wednesday at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Entombment was in the Holy Cross Burial Park mausoleum, South Brunswick.

Arrangements were by the Bronson & Guthlein Funeral Home in Milltown.

Ruth Franzinger

WESTFIELD — Ruth M. Haines Franzinger, 90, died Jan. 30, 2005 at Fellowship Village in Basking Ridge.

Born in Newark, she lived in Westfield before moving to Basking Ridge in 1993.

Mrs. Franzinger was a Sunday school teacher at the Mountainside Chapel and a member of the Pioneer Girls.

Surviving are her husband of 66 years, Frank G.; a daughter, Lois Pimentel of Warren; a son,

Frank E. of Sarasota, Fla.; a sister, Phoebe Florance; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

Services were held Wednesday at the Bradley, Smith & Smith Funeral Home in Springfield. Burial was in Hollywood Memorial Park, Union.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Atlantic Home Care and Hospice, 33 Bleeker St., Millburn, NJ 07041.

Alexander Kreutzer

WESTFIELD — Alexander Kreutzer, 86, died Jan. 31, 2005 at the Haven Hospice of JFK Medical Center in Edison.

Mr. Kreutzer was born in New York City. He lived in Elizabeth, Newark and Westfield before moving to Colonia in 1972.

He retired in 1987 after 47 years as a machinist with the Weston Instrument Co. in Newark. Mr. Kreutzer was for 42 years the organist and choir

director at Zion Lutheran Church in Jersey City.

Surviving are his wife of 53 years, Anna Madej Kreutzer; a son, Alan of Pennsylvania; two sisters, Mary Wetzel of Roselle and Martha Duffy of Lawrenceville; two grandchildren and a nephew.

Services were held yesterday at the Gosselin Funeral Home in Edison. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Robert D. Nelson

WESTFIELD — Robert D. Nelson, 85, died Jan. 31, 2005 at the Veterans Affairs New Jersey Healthcare System, Lyons Campus.

He was born in Bayonne and had lived in Westfield since 1921.

Mr. Nelson owned the Robert Nelson Plumbing & Heating Co. in Westfield for 53 years, retiring in 1998. He was with the 4th Armored Division of the Army in Europe during World War II.

He was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11467 and the Disabled American Veterans.

His wife, Ruth, died in 2004.

Surviving are a brother, Fred; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was held yesterday at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Colonial Home. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Westfield Rescue Squad.

Carolyn Wenzler

WESTFIELD — Carolyn J. Steron Wenzler, 73, died Jan. 28, 2005 at Kirkwood Corners in Lee, N.H.

Born in Bogota, Mrs. Wenzler lived in Westfield for six years before moving to Oakland in 1971. She had resided most recently in Somersworth, N.H.

Mrs. Wenzler retired in 2000 after 53 years as a bookkeeper with Goodman's True Value Hardware store in Tennek, which she owned with her husband, Frederick W. She was a member of the women's swimming club at the Ridgewood YMCA.

A daughter, Christine, is deceased.

Also surviving are her mother, Hilda Steron of Tampa, Fla.; two daughters, Catherine of Irvington, N.Y., and Carolyn J. Beirsto of South Berwick, Maine; a son, Frederick W. "Bud" of Hillsdale; a sister, Jacqueline Darrin of Safety Harbor, Fla.; and four grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday at the Bogart Memorial Reformed Church in Bogota. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery.

Arrangements were by the Gray Funeral Home.

Julia O'Connor

CRANFORD — Julia Catherine O'Connor, 102, died Jan. 29, 2005 at the Cranford Hall Nursing Home.

Mrs. O'Connor was born in April 1902 in Dublin, Ireland, and settled in New York state when she came to the United States in 1929. She returned to Ireland in 1971, then moved to Carteret in 1983 and lived in that borough before moving to Cranford in 1996.

She was a housekeeper and saleswoman with Woolworth's in New York state. Mrs. O'Connor was a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Carteret.

Her husband of 42 years, Henry Patrick, died in 1971. Also

deceased are five sisters, Mary O'Shea, Bridget Wynne, Josephine Dobson, Lillian Mooney and Ann Downes, and three brothers, John Downes, Phillip Downes and James Downes.

Surviving are two daughters, Bridget Dohy and husband Robert of Carteret and Mary Rhebeck and husband Jeff of Frontale, Ore.; nine grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; a great great-grandchild; and many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Tuesday at the Costello Greiner Funeral Home, Woodbridge, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Joseph's Church. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington.

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Sports

Lady Blue Devils' future is bright Infusion of freshman talent making team competitive

By PAT McBRIDE
CORRESPONDENT

WESTFIELD — Coming off a winless season in 2003-2004, the Westfield girls basketball team needed something to reverse a trend that had taken the program to the bottom of the highly-competitive Watchung Conference.

Joe Marino, now in his fifth year as head coach of the Blue Devils, was waiting patiently for an infusion of talent and, one year later, it has arrived.

Although Westfield's six wins through January 31 won't make waves across the state and will preclude the Blue Devils from participation in the state tournament, those who follow the program are well aware of the excitement that abounds from within the gymnasium walls. With five talented freshmen joining the varsity team this year, Westfield is not only better, they are competing each game and on their way back up the conference standings.

"We have five freshmen on the varsity this season and they are all contributing," said Marino, a middle school physical education teacher in town. "They all work very hard and play above and beyond their age level. They have stepped in and done a very good job against some very tough competition."

Leading the young guns is guard Erin Miller, who is averaging almost 20 points a game this season. Miller is joined by center Stephanie Slodyczka, Erin Driscoll and Gabby O'Leary.

For those in attendance back on Jan. 6 at Westfield's game vs. Scotch Plains-Fanwood, the signs of Westfield's growth were never more apparent. With SP-F's star center Hillary Klimowicz out of action for the first half, Westfield played evenly with the defending Union County Champions, trailing by just six at the half, 23-17. For a good portion of the first quarter, the Blue Devils held the lead, which is a welcomed change from meetings over the previous two seasons.

"As long as these girls stay together and continue to work hard, I think we have a great future," said Marino. "To

W GIRLS BASKETBALL

know that we have them for three more years is a really nice feeling."

When Marino took over the program five years ago, he knew he needed to build an infrastructure that would not only afford kids an opportunity to play, but within a system that would eventually prepare them to compete on the high school level. This year's freshman class represents the first fruit of Marino's labor. Working through the Westfield Basketball Association, Marino has developed an impressive youth basketball program in town, which affords kids as young as seven years old the opportunity to learn the

game and compete in a positive environment.

"We were able to find a great group of volunteers willing to help out," said Marino. "They have been supportive of the kids with their time and energy. This league allows the kids to play together. It is all Westfield kids, some who have been playing together since fourth grade, and it is starting to pay dividends now."

Marino describes Miller, his steady scoring guard, as a quiet person off the court, but another person entirely when the game begins.

"Erin plays the game possessed," said Marino. "It is amazing to watch her move on the floor. She is equally strong with her left and right hands and has great court awareness. She is also a tremendous playmaker who makes things happen for us on the floor."

Also a strong defender, Miller lit up Linden for 26 points in a recent game while holding their top player to just

nine. It is just one of several outstanding performances from Miller that has kept Westfield in the state tournament picture.

"I think we have played pretty well considering we are a young team," said Miller. "We know that we need to work hard every day in practice and never give up in any of our games."

Such sage wisdom belies her lack of experience at the high school level, but speaks volumes about the source of her success.

"The high school competition is much bigger, stronger and faster," said Miller. "It is a more physical game. As long as I try my hardest and work at it, I know I'll play my best."

Slodyczka is a quick-moving, mobile post player with a good feel for the game. "It is amazing how hard she works to put the ball in the hoop," said Marino.

Marino, meanwhile, has been able to

(Continued on page C-2)

Raiders boys knocked from playoff race, 73-68

Tough team effort never lacked heart

By CHAD HEMENWAY
THE RECORD-PRESS

CRANFORD — Everyone knew the obstacles the Scotch Plains boys basketball team faced at the beginning of the season.

Before a ball was bounced this winter, two of the team's more talented players transferred to private schools and Scotch Plains wasn't expected to do much.

But those left on the hardwood in Scotch Plains weren't

given that memo and competed all year for a playoff berth. Sadly, with a 73-68 loss against Cranford Tuesday night in Cranford, the Raiders were knocked out of playoff contention.

"Hey, anyone who can say they thought we'd be looking at a possibility of the playoffs at the beginning of the season is a liar," said head coach Dan Doherty after the game Tuesday. "We made mistakes this year but I never had to challenge this team's heart."

"This team always left everything they had on the floor and I'm proud of their effort."

Scotch Plains, now 7-11, had to win out the rest of the season to make it to the state tournament.

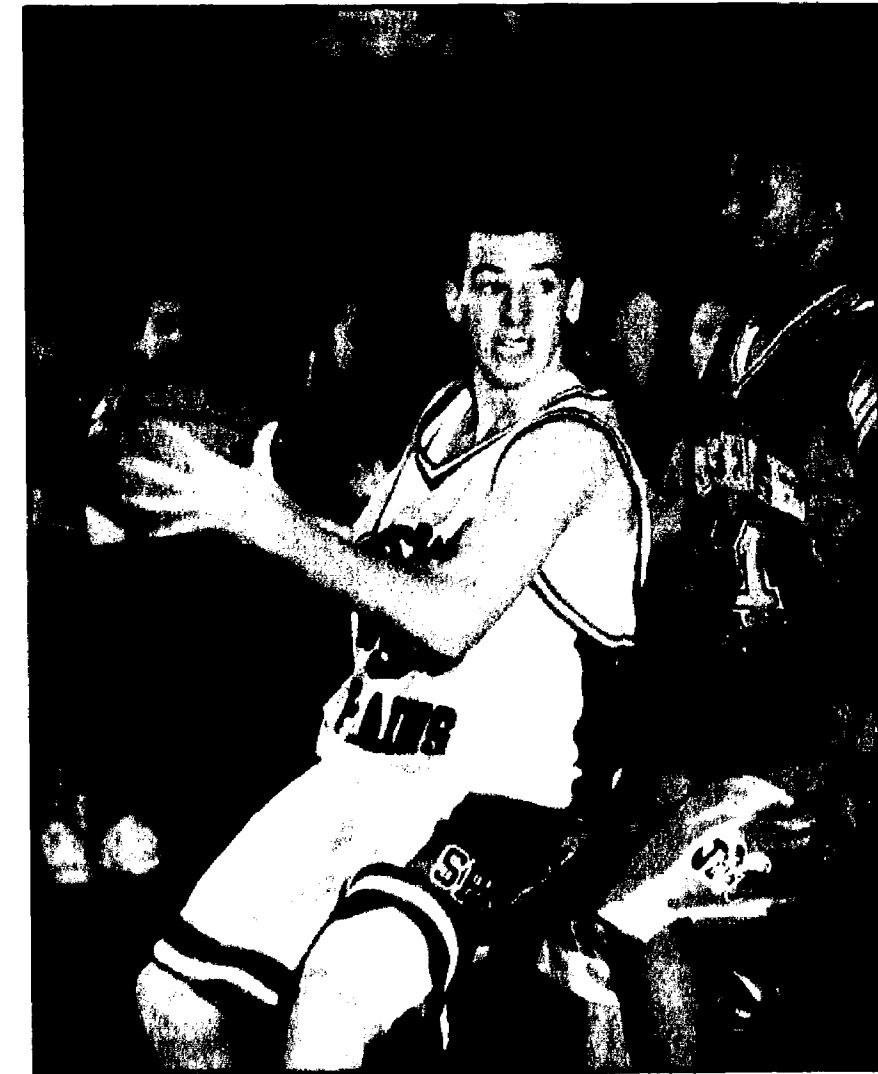
Tuesday, Scotch Plains played Cranford tough once again and displayed a never-give-up attitude that earned the Raiders respect this year.

Down 37-24 at halftime, Scotch Plains, who already beat Cranford earlier this year by more than 20 points, fought its way back into the game thanks to the long-range shooting of freshman Brian Dougher and the senior leadership of Gavin Ford.

Dougher got extremely hot in the second half, draining seven three-pointers — four in the third quarter to get Scotch Plains within eight points, 56-48.

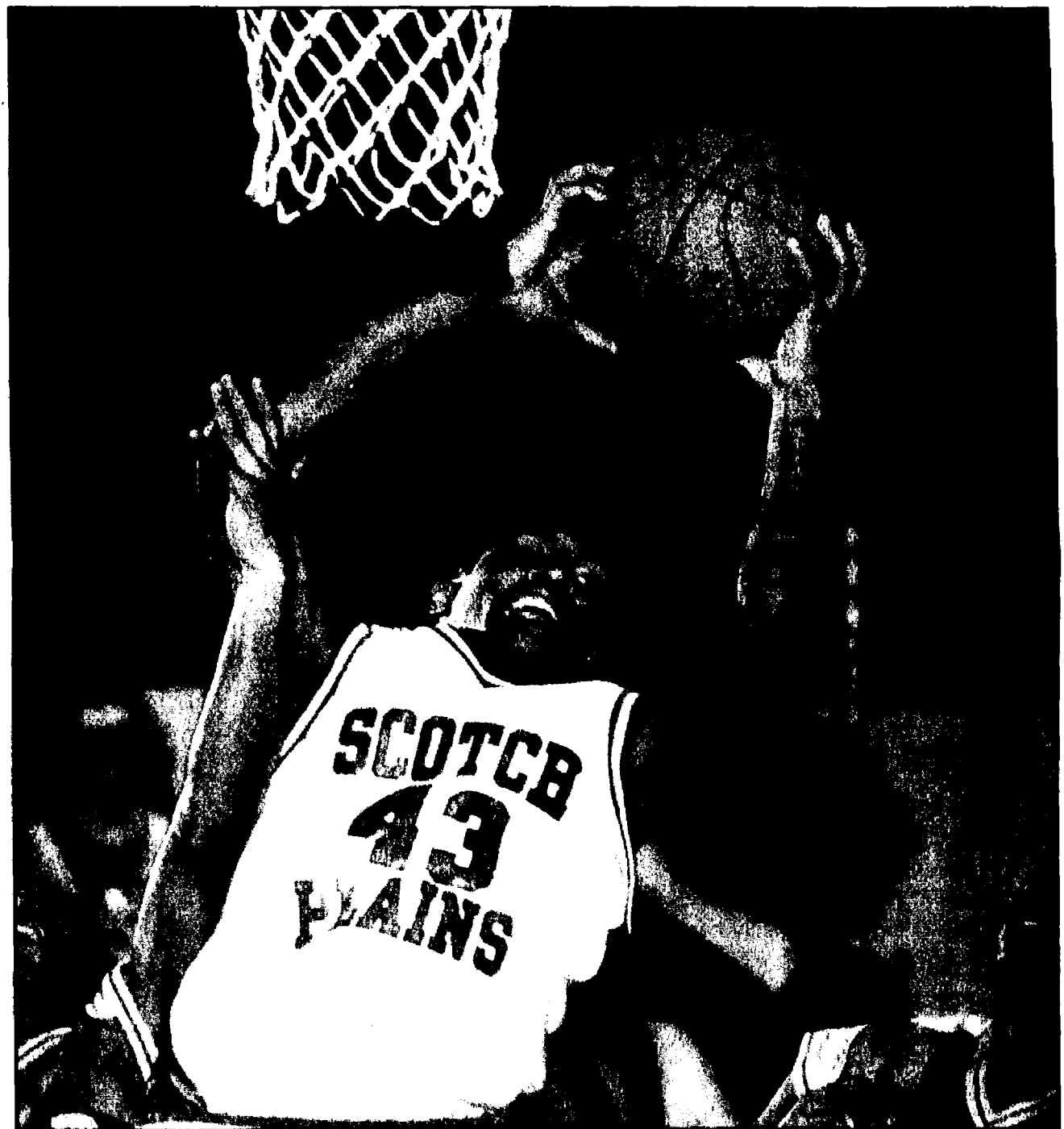
Ford, as he has all year, led the way in the fourth quarter, scoring eight of his 14 points to at one point get the Raiders to within one. His shot with about five minutes to go made it 62-59 and another at 3:10 made it 64-63.

Cranford shot back to a four point lead but that was cut down, 69-68, by a Dougher three-pointer with two minutes left.



LARRY MURPHY/CORRESPONDENT

Freshman Brian Dougher showed off his long-range talent Tuesday night against the Cougars, draining seven three-pointers to get the Raiders back in the game.



LARRY MURPHY/CORRESPONDENT

Senior Gavin Ford, here against Roselle over the weekend, has led the Raiders all year. His fourth quarter burst against the Cougars Tuesday night almost helped pull out a win.

The teams remained scoreless until Cranford hit two key free throws to tie it.

"The kids could have packed it in at halftime and nobody probably would have blamed us because of what we were up against this year," Doherty said. "But there is no quit in this team. These kids are fighters

and have been all year."

Greg Bayard and Sean Young finished with 12 points. Because of his long range ability, Dougher led Scotch Plains scorers with 21.

Scotch Plains 62, Roselle 49 — Gavin Ford led the way with 17 points Saturday in Scotch Plains. The Raiders also

got nine points from Sean Young and seven from Brian Dougher.

Linden 62, Scotch Plains 47 — Last Thursday in Scotch Plains the Raiders received 15 points from Ford but it wasn't enough to beat the Tigers, ranked No. 12 in the state. Greg Bayard chipped in nine points and Sean Young had eight.

Raiders look to defend, Devils eager to make noise in UCT

By CHAD HEMENWAY
THE CHRONICLE

UNION — Scotch Plains looks to defend its Union County Wrestling Tournament title this weekend at Union High School while putting on the mat some of the state's best individual wrestlers.

For Westfield, a tournament where its dedicated wrestlers can achieve personal goals after enduring through a difficult dual meet season, is a sign the best part of the winter is here.

"The guys are very motivated," said Westfield head coach Glen Kutz. "They haven't let the dual meets get them down. They have stayed focused."

The Blue Devils, because of

lack in numbers, had to forfeit seven or eight bouts every match this year, leading to a winless season.

"Our record hasn't affected them," Kutz said. "Since day one we've been stressing this part of the season."

The job for Scotch Plains is daunting. Every team would like to knock the reigning king from his hill and after last year's 1.5 point edging of Roselle Park for the overall team championship, Union County's finest will be gunning for the Raiders.

"We know teams will be out to knock us off our perch but the key is to use that as motivation," said Scotch Plains head coach John Schultz. "A lot has to happen for us to be on top and it's very

difficult to predict how the weekend will unfold."

The seeding meeting was Thursday but surely Scotch Plains' Steve Minceo at 135 pounds is a top seed. Minceo is ranked second in the state at his weight class. Pat Minceo at 140 pounds could also land a top seed as will undefeated heavyweight Marc Fabiano, who might have locked up the ranking after defeating Rahway's Orr in overtime during a match last month. Sal Gano at 149 could also have landed a top seed.

Others from other teams likely to earn top spots are Durian Caldwell of Rahway, ranked the best at this weight class (130) in

(Continued on page C-2)

Westfield girls fight fatigue to win Union County track title

By DAVID LAZARUS
CORRESPONDENT

ELIZABETH — Westfield seniors Anne Onishi and Emily MacNeil were not going to let fatigue get in the way of concluding their indoor county track careers with a flourish.

With each running their third event of the evening over the rock-hard Dunn Center gym floor, they combined with sophomore Erin McCarthy and junior Miriam Becker Cohen to win the mile relay and enable the Blue Devils to defend their team title with 45 points Monday night in Elizabeth.

Westfield was able to outlast Rahway and their superstar LaShonda Carter, who won three

individual events, scoring thirty of Rahway's 41 points on her own.

Four weeks ago at the same venue, the Lady Blue Devils had won the Union County Relay with many of the same cast of characters. Monday's triumph concluded a dominant streak of major wins. The quartet, with Meg Driscoll replacing McCarthy, also won the Group III 1800 relay and MacNeil won the Group III individual 800 but on this night it was Onishi, during center stage with her more celebrated teammates.

"Anne was amazing tonight," recalled coach Jay Buccino. "It was not easy doing all those events but Anne knew how important her points would be

towards winning the team title, so she hung in there."

Onishi's night started in the mile where she stayed close to the leader before holding on for a third place finish and six team points. After MacNeil picked up a second place in the 140 yard run, the two were back in the 940 yard where MacNeil cruised to an easy 231 victory. The fourth attempt 800 yard title in her brilliant career. Onishi picked up six more crucial points by hanging in for third place. At that point Westfield and Rahway were tied with 40 points each.

With Emily Perry adding a third in the high jump and Jen Danielson earning sixth in the

(Continued on page C-2)

Lady Raiders back to winning games

SCOTCH PLAINS — Senior guard Jenny Burke scored eight of her team-high 12 points in the second half to help Scotch Plains (13-5) hold off a late Cranford rally for a 42-33 win Tuesday in Scotch Plains.

The Lady Raiders jumped out to a 13-3 lead after the opening quarter and used a 12-6 edge in the third quarter to build a 34-17 lead

before the Cougars outscored Scotch Plains, 16-8, over the final eight minutes. Cranford's Lisa Leonas led the way with a game-high 13 points, scoring eight of them in the fourth quarter.

Senior center Hillary Klimowicz finished just shy of a double-double, scoring nine points while adding 10 rebounds, five blocks and two assists. Three others, Maura

Gillooly, Elizabeth DeCataldo and Laren Benevengo, added five apiece for the Raiders, while Rebecca Flanagan chipped in with six for the Cougars (9-8).

Scotch Plains 65, Linden 36 — Senior guard Elizabeth Decataldo scored 20 first-half points en route to a career-high 22 as Scotch Plains defeated Linden, 65-36, last Thursday in Linden. Decataldo connected on 9-of-15

from the floor, including 3-of-4 from beyond the arc, and added three rebounds, five assists and three steals in an all-around strong effort. Sophomore guard Allie Zazzali added 12 points, while senior guard Jenny Burke dished out a season-high 11 assists to go along with nine points. Tiffany Smith led SP-F with nine rebounds, adding seven points. Center Hillary Klimowicz was ill and did not play.

Raiders, Devils eager to make noise in UCT

(Continued from page C-1)

the state; 189-pound Shane Mallory of New Providence, ranked second in the state; Cranford's 160-pound Pat Hoagn, ranked fifth in N.J.; Ryan Wilson (112) of Rahway; Joe Blackford (119) of Roselle park and Ross Baldwin (125) of New Providence.

"Five rounds is a lot of wrestling and you never know where the upsets are going to be," Schulz said. "Teams help each other out in that way. We just have to stay focused and continue doing our job."

For Westfield, 152-pound Andrew Shaffer, Dan Whitney at 171 and Mark Boyd at 160 pounds have been waiting to get on the mat when something was on the line. Each will look to prove themselves and represent Westfield wrestling.

"If we're on, we can make some noise there," said Kurz. "There's no reason why we can't. These guys are good, solid wrestlers. I know they're itching to go."

Kurz also said Sam Kramer, a second place finisher last year at 112 pounds, is expected to wrestle in the tournament after being out much of the season with an injury.

Schulz said he has a few of his own that might raise a few eyebrows this weekend. A.J. Watson at 152 pounds has shown some great ability this season as has 145-pounder, Anthony Ferrante and 112-pound Trevor Cannon. Rob Bethca at 171 pounds could flop some opponents on their backs, as he has for almost all his wins this winter.

"If these guys are at the top of their games, something special could happen for them," Schulz said. "These are the guys that will probably make the difference for us. Most of these tournaments are won by guys who get team points in the wrestle-backs."

Last year Scotch Plains owned four individual champions: Derek Francavilla (125), S. Mineo (130), Eric Connolly (140) and Andrew Silber (171) but the team put itself in position to win by scoring points with third-sixth place finishes. When Roselle Park's heavyweight could not pin Orr last year in the last match, Scotch Plains earned the team crown.

Schulz and Kurz said the front runners to win the tournament are New Providence, Rahway, Roselle Park and Scotch Plains. New Providence recently beat Rahway head-to-head, as has Scotch Plains this season. Roselle Park and New Providence are undefeated in dual meets this year.

"We can't be caught sleeping because there are a lot of good teams out there this year and I think it could be another close one," Schulz said.

Lady Blue Devils future is bright

(Continued from page C-1)

enjoy the turnaround and looks forward to continued progress within the program.

"It is rewarding to sit back and watch these kids play together," said Marino. "At this point, everyone is starting to gel and working hard, which gives us the opportunity to do well on game days."

Marino was also quick to praise the veteran players on the team, who have provided a great support system for the younger players. They have been great role models and consummate team players, according to Marino.

With a talented young crop of players, Marino has set his sights on a top 10 ranking in Union County and a strong showing in this year's Union County Tournament.

"We beat Linden, which was ranked somewhere around fifth to seventh in the county," said Marino. "Other than Scotch Plains-Fanwood, I think we can be right up there with the rest of the teams in the county tournament because we have the ability to score points and believe in our defense."

"There are a lot of people behind us and we'd love to go out there and rattle some teams."


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Westfield girls fight fatigue to win Union County track title

(Continued from page C-1)

two-mile run to bring Westfield to 35 points, Buccino figured if the mile relay could finish first it might be enough to put the Blue Devils over the top.

"I was confident that our girls had enough left to finish first," said Buccino. "Our relay runners are a real team. Everybody knows their role and what they need to do."

MacNeil led off with a powerful 65.3-second split that gave Becker-Cohen a healthy lead, which she held on to and handed off to McCarthy. Onishi had a small lead as she took the baton and was able to hold off

her competition to win her heat with a 65.7 split. The time of 4:25.1 held up as the fastest over the two heats.

Led by senior Mary Shashaty, Scotch Plains finished fifth with 22 points. Shashaty was second behind Cranford sophomore Laura Gallo in the two mile that was inadvertently shortened by one lap, when the officials miscounted the laps. The runners wound up running 110 yards less.

In addition to Shashaty's eight points, sophomore Sam Gates was third in the 440 and also anchored the mile relay to

a third place finish, which helped Westfield because the Lady Raiders finished ahead of Rahway.

The Raiders' other two points came from a fifth place finish in the shot put from Kat Berka.

Westfield, SP-F boys finish sixth, seventh

The loss of key personnel proved too much for the Westfield and Scotch Plains-Fanwood boys track teams to overcome as they settled for sixth and seventh respectively at the Dunn Center in Elizabeth last week.

Westfield was missing Rob

Broadbent, who has a stress fracture and will be out until sometime this spring.

"Rob will be out pretty much until we start spring," said Westfield head coach Jack Martin. "It was a sudden surprise at the state relays that intensified at the group meet and then diagnosed the following day."

Martin said he was impressed with John Gagliano and Ameer Rogers, who took fourth and fifth in the 880-yard run and Jay Hoban, who was sixth in the mile. Defending mile champion Jeffrey Perrella finished second after Martin

had rested him for the previous week following the state meet in March, where Perrella had qualified for the Meet of Champions.

The mile relay team of Jake Brandman, Sam Kim, John Aleksandravicius, and Freshman Alex Tarlow completed the scoring, placing fourth.

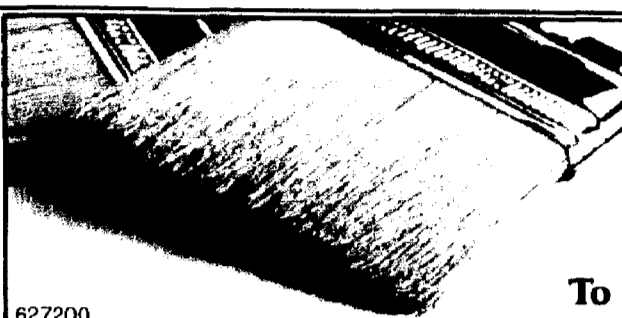
Scotch Plains was missing multi talented Sean Smith, who figured to place in the high hurdles, high jump and 440-yard run but sat out with a sore hamstring.

"I tweaked it in practice," said Smith. "I could have competed but the coaches thought it would be better to be cautious."

The Raider's top scoring performance was a surprise third place in the two-mile run by junior Josh Zinman, who was a mere six seconds out of first place.

"Zinman's race was one of the best he has ever run," said Scotch Plains coach Jeff Koegel. "We were able to adjust his goals for this winter season as a result of this performance."

Also contributing to the Raiders' eleven point performance were fifth places in the high jump from Iceberg Bryant, the shot put from Ted Acosta and sixth place in the mile relay.



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Real Estate

Burgdorff chief: Women, minorities will play bigger role

A huge sigh of relief was heard throughout the state as Wall Street recently handed out large bonuses, indicating that the economy is strong. Consumer confidence remains rela-

tively high, and people are preparing for a promising 2005. One segment of the economy that continues its momentum is the real estate industry. "Real estate is the greatest invest-

ment one can make, and according to a study done by the Consumer Federation of America, homeownership is the surest way to put a buffer between the consumer and poverty," said Pat Hoferkamp, president and chief operating officer of Burgdorff ERA. "In fact, in New Jersey, rent for a two-bedroom, one-bath apartment is equivalent, if not more, than a mortgage payment for a home with the same features. That speaks for itself."

There are many reasons why the New Jersey housing market remains strong. There is a continuous influx of people moving from New York into New Jersey. Immigrants, single women, and minorities are becoming first-time buyers, and are taking advantage of the historically low mortgage rates.

In 2005, single women are expected to play a leading role when it comes to investing in real estate. "Women today have so many options in real estate, not to mention they are savvy and well-informed consumers," said Hoferkamp. "For example, condominiums are a popular choice among the on-the-go young women. It coincides with their lifestyles where they can enjoy the uncomplicated maintenance and affordability that is suitable to their needs."

The country's growing Hispanic



PAT HOFERKAMP

community is also expected to have a strong impact on the buyer pool. The launch of Espanol.ERA.com is the latest element to be added to the existing ERA Hispanic Marketing Program, allowing sales associates to serve the Hispanic market.

Another group impacting the hous-

ing industry is the baby boomer generation, people ranging in age from the mid-40s to late-50s. Since the baby-boomers have been retiring at increasingly younger ages, many are not moving down to Florida, but rather they are staying in New Jersey.

"Many retirees are moving two or three hours away from their old residences because they want to live closer to their friends and family," said Hoferkamp. "The New Jersey shore has become an attractive place to retire. The homes are affordable, and retirement communities are more prevalent than ever. Housing communities catering to those over 55 are being sold at a rapid pace."

Consumers, particularly baby boomers, are purchasing second homes, weekend getaways that are within several hours driving distance from their main residences, Hoferkamp added.

"People have become disenchanted with the idea of having to plan months ahead for a one-week vacation via plane to a tropical destination. Instead, the more appealing option is to own a second home, complete with rest and relaxation amenities," said Hoferkamp. "Furthermore, many second homes, such as shore houses, are rented out when the owners are not using them, making them a great investment opportunity."

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UNION COUNTY MORTGAGE RATES																								
Program	Rate	pts	dn	up	APR	Program	Rate	pts	dn	up	APR	Program	Rate	pts	dn	up	APR	Program	Rate	pts	dn	up	APR	
Absolute Mortgage Co. 877-606-RATE					JPMorgan Chase Mtg. 800-956-5501					Loan Search 800-591-3279					Penn Federal Savings Bank 908-719-2468									
30-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.25	5%	30	5.270	30-yr. Fixed	5.000	3.00	0%	60	5.490	30-yr. Fixed	5.625	0.00	5%	90	5.677	30-yr. Fixed	5.375	0.00	5%	60	5.420	
15-yr. Fixed	4.750	0.50	5%	30	4.770	15-yr. Fixed	4.375	3.00	5%	60	5.130	15-yr. Fixed	4.750	0.00	10%	90	4.811	15-yr. Jumbo	4.875	0.00	10%	60	4.900	
30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	0.50	10%	30	5.510	7-yr. Balloon	4.250	3.00	5%	60	4.970	7/1 ARM Jbo	4.875	0.00	10%	90	5.262	7/1 Jbo ARM	5.125	0.00	10%	60	5.310	
5/1 ARM	4.500	0.00	5%	30	4.520	30-yr. flt/a/c/a	5.125	3.00	0%	60	5.530	5/1 ARM Jbo	4.375	0.00	10%	75	5.306	5/1 Jbo ARM	4.500	0.00	10%	60	4.740	
Lowest Rates! Free Escal Downst! Fees are only \$399. www.absolute-mortgage.com					V.A. & F.H.A. 100% programs available. Free Pre-approvals & 1st time Buyer Programs					www.LoanSearch.com. NJ's Lowest Jumbo Rates!					12-month rate locks available. The lowest jumbo rates!									
Aapex Mortgage 800-344-2739					ditech.com 800-616-8208					Main Line National Mtg. 877-876-3600					The Railway Savings Institution 732-587-1825									
30-yr. Fixed	5.000	1.50	5%	30	5.169	30-yr. Fixed	5.125	2.00	20%	60	5.423	30-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.00	5%	30	5.310	15-yr. Fixed	5.000	0.00	5%	-	5.060	
15-yr. Fixed	4.500	1.50	5%	30	4.787	15-yr. Fixed	4.625	2.00	20%	60	5.129	20-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	5%	30	5.310	3/3/30 ARM	4.250	0.00	5%	-	4.993	
30-yr. Jumbo	5.250	1.50	5%	30	5.412	30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	2.00	20%	60	5.747	15-yr. Fixed	4.750	0.00	5%	30	4.810	5/1/30 ARM	4.500	0.00	5%	-	5.203	
15-yr. Jumbo	4.500	1.50	5%	30	4.768	15-yr. Jumbo	5.000	2.00	20%	60	5.415	30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	0.00	10%	30	5.560	5/5/30 ARM	4.500	0.00	5%	-	5.289	
1.25% loans, 100% financing. Jumbo loan specialists. weekend hours, 100% stated, 100% investment.					Apply online at www.ditech.com. Your mortgage solution. Delivered!					No application fee - no rate lock fee. Ask about our Free floatdown program.					15-yr. ARM Loan. Annuity to \$500,000. Float down options available on ARM programs.									
A Custom Mortgage Sol. 800-259-9510					Investors Savings Bank 800-252-8119					Partners Mortgage 888-RATE-SALE					Summit Federal Savings 732-968-0665									
30-yr. Fixed	4.875	2.00	5%	30	5.020	30-yr. Fixed	5.750	0.00	5%	90	5.759	30-yr. Fixed	4.875	2.00	5%	60	4.920	30-yr. Fixed	5.750	0.00	20%	75	5.795	
15-yr. Fixed	4.375	2.00	5%	30	4.810	30-yr. Jumbo	5.750	0.00	20%	90	5.759	15-yr. Fixed	4.375	2.00	5%	60	4.410	15-yr. Fixed	4.750	0.00	20%	75	4.811	
MTA ARM	1.000	0.00	5%	30	3.900	15-yr. Fixed	5.000	0.00	5%	90	5.014	30-yr. Jumbo	5.250	2.00	5%	60	5.290	10-yr. Fixed	4.500	0.00	20%	75	4.582	
A-D Credit. 80/20 Combo. 90% LTV in Chapter 13. 100% LTV 1 day out of BK. No Doc to \$1M.					Conforming loans to 95% LTV. Loans to \$2.5 Million.					Zero Pts. Zero Fee Loans Available. Free Refinance forever. PartnersMtg@aol.com. Hablamos Espanol.					10-yr. 15-yr. and 15-yr. ARM to \$500,000 depending on downpayment. 60 day commitment. Lock-in at application.									
AHM Mortgage 800-924-9091					Lighthouse Mortgage 800-784-1331					Peapack-Gladstone Bank 908-719-6555					Check mortgage rates daily at: nj.com									
30-yr. Fixed	5.375	0.00	5%	60	5.390	30-yr. Fixed	5.250	0.00	5%	30	5.338	30-yr. Fixed	5.750	0.00	5%	45	5.859	Updated 3:00pm Monday thru Friday						
15-yr. Fixed	4.875	0.00	5%	60	4.890	15-yr. Fixed	4.750	0.25	5%	30	4.838	30-yr. Jumbo	5.875	0.00	5%	45	5.948	Everything Jersey						
30-yr. Jumbo	5.625	0.00	5%	60	5.660	10-yr. Fixed	4.625	0.00	5%	30	4.713	15-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	5%	90	5.247							
5/1 ARM	4.625	0.00	5%	45	4.480	30-yr. Jumbo	5.500	0.00	10%	30	5.588	15/30 balloon	5.625	0.00	5%	30	5.718							
5/1 Jbo. ARM	4.750	0.00	5%	30	4.610	20-yr. Fixed	5.125	0.00	5%	30	5.213	30 lib/ant only	4.250	0.00	5%	90	5.284							
No Broker Fee. 100% Orig or Appl Fee. No Good Ref Avail. Close at Home. Direct Lender. No Income Loans.					Consistently Low Rates. Open 7 Days a week 9-9.					Call For Low Doc Loans														
Information provided by The National Financial News Services. Rates are valid as of January 28, 2005. Contact lenders directly for APR's, additional fees and services. Conforming quotes based on \$130,000 loan with 20% down with no PMI. Jumbo quotes based on \$360,000 all applicable loan fees included. Loan amounts may affect rates. Lock in period in days. Borrowers should compare the specifics of various loan arrangements. Check rates daily on the Internet at www.nj.com. © 2003 NFNS.																								

ERA is rated tops for first-time buyers

The ERA Brokers of New Jersey have announced that ERA Real Estate has been awarded the "Highest Overall Satisfaction for First-Time Home Buyers among National Full Service Real Estate Firms" according to a J.D. Power and Associates 2004 Home Buyer/Seller Satisfaction Study of 4,977 home buyers and sellers.

First-time buyers now account for a significant portion of the real estate market according to a recent National Association of Realtors survey. "Real estate is the service industry, and it is critical to our success that we deliver outstanding customer service to our first time home buyers as well as to our loyal repeat customers," said Scott Lauri, president of the ERA Brokers of New Jersey and broker/owner of ERA Absolute Realty.

"Buying a home for the first time can be an overwhelming experience. Our goal is to help these prospective buyers feel more comfortable and confident about their home buying decisions," said Lauri.

Consumers can obtain answers to more than 90 of the most frequently asked real estate related questions which are featured in ERA's online Answers book. To better service the Hispanic community, the ERA consumer website was recently launched in Spanish and is available at Espanol.ERA.com.

J.D. Power and Associates is a global marketing information services firm that conducts quality and customer satisfaction research based on survey responses from millions of consumers worldwide. The 2004 Home Buyer/Seller Satisfaction Study was conducted during August and September of 2004, identifying key factors of customer satisfaction in the home buying and selling process.

For more information on ERA, contact a local ERA office or visit ERANJ.com.

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WESTFIELD - Move right into this classical 2 bedroom Colonial home. With everything already done for you, you'll enjoy the stylish and efficient renovated Eat-in Kitchen with its extensive cabinetry, granite countertops, and newer appliances. The Living Room fireplace, Dining Room leaded glass windows, and sunny Den provide elegance and comfort. Professional landscaping, including brick walkways and patio make outdoor entertaining fun and the refurbished oversized garage provides for additional storage. There's so much more to discover and enjoy, this well maintained home won't last long at \$429,900.



Revive the Spirit

RAHWAY - Lead a charmed life in this artful renovation of an early 20th century bungalow that melds period details with a well-conceived floor plan, exceptional condition, and a fine-tuned sense of well being. Boasting stained glass windows, deep chestnut trim and oak floors, in addition to a parquet ceiling in the Living Room this 3 Bedroom home is frugal in scale, but zen-like in simplicity. This craftsman style bungalow is hand-crafted down to every delicious detail. It will steal your heart at \$285,000.

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Hutchinson is top agent at Prudential

WESTFIELD — Dana Hutchinson of Prudential New Jersey Properties Westfield office has been named the office's Sales Associate of the Month for December 2004. For the year, she achieved more than \$8.5 million in sales volume.

"Dana is known for her excellent negotiating skills and personally tailored marketing plans," says Marge Cuccaro, manager of the Prudential New Jersey Properties Westfield office. "Her clients appreciate her guidance and sincerity."

Specializing in new and re-sale residential properties throughout Westfield, Cranford, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside, the lifelong Union County resident is a member of the New Jersey Association of Realtors and the Garden State Multiple Listing Service.

Active in the local community, Hutchinson, who lives in Cranford with her husband and two children, is a member of the Cranford High School PTA and involved in activities at Saint Michael's Church.

Hutchinson is also an active member of the community service committee of the Greater Union County Board of Realtors.

For buying and selling needs, or for a complimentary market analysis of your home, Dana Hutchinson can be reached at (908) 232-5664, ext. 118.



DANA HUTCHINSON



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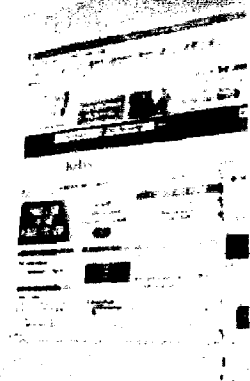
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Classified in-column deadline: Friday at 5 p.m.

Announcements 100

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ADOPTION: Nancy and Vinny dream of sharing their love, lives and home with a newborn. We promise a lifetime of fun, security and opportunity. Please call 1-866-213-1201. Pin 1998.

Announcements 110

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Notice 110

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Personals 140

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FT/PT. Unathletic accounting. Imc. must be detail oriented, computer literate & have excellent communication skills. Fax resume to Diana 973-701-6755

PAINT DEPARTMENT

Of Westfield Lumber and Home Center is seeking counter sales person. Experience preferred. Apply in person to: 700 North Ave. East Westfield, NJ 908-232-8855

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PT. Exp. in a formal setting. 908-479-9811

PT RECEPTIONIST

Kenneth, Mass. Co. Hours. Semi Exp. to handle all incoming phone calls, greet patients, input typing data, send mail, and faxes. Computer skills, a must. Good appearance req'd. Fax resume to: D. Anne at 908-232-8855 or email Dana at 908-232-8855. No phone calls please.

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General Help 240 RECEPTIONIST & ASSISTANT

Wanted. Real estate experience. needed. computer skills a must. 20-25 hrs per wk. Some weekends. State of the Arts Office near Fairwood / Scotch Plains Train Station. Please email or fax resume along with copy requirements to: John Nash Fax: 908-642-2288 or Email: njnash@aol.com

RECEPTIONIST

The Arc of Union County has an exciting, full-time opportunity for a lively, cheerful receptionist to perform clerical duties & greet visitors in our administrative office in Springfield. Position includes some filing. This person will possess good communication skills & the ability to multitask & work independently. HS diploma or equivalent is req'd. Knowledge of Microsoft Office a plus. Interested candidates can apply at: The Arc of Union County, 52 Fadem Road, Springfield, NJ 07081. Email: hresources@arcunion.org Fax 973-315-0002 EOE

SECRETARY

FT/PT. Computer skills req'd. Legal exp. preferred. Call 908-276-0997.

SECRETARY

Part Time small publishing company in Union seeks secretary pleasant voice plus 60WPM flexible hours. Call: 908-206-1270

SECRETARY

PT/FT, experienced secretary for hearing aid center in Edison area. Excellent salary and benefits. Fax resume to: 973-244-1270.

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For Store Evaluations. Get Paid To Shop. Local Stores, Restaurants & Theaters. Training Provided. Flexible Hours. Email required. 1-800-866-9024 ext 6262

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TEACHER ASSISTANT

High School Diploma is req'd. Exp. working w. special needs population preferred. Send resume to: Attn: Staffing Cerebral Palsy League 61 Myrtle Street Cranford, NJ 07016 or fax to 908-709-1334

General Help 240 YARD PERSON

Westfield Lumber and Home Center has FULL TIME year round position available for yard person/driver. Must have valid driver's license. Apply in person: 700 North Ave. East Westfield, NJ 908-232-8855

Medical Help 240 CHILD CARE CENTER NURSE

PT: The Overlook Child Care Center has an immediate opportunity. RN/LPN NJ License required. Flexible schedule. Mon-Fri. Interested candidates please call (908) 273-7040 X204 or fax resume & salary req. to (908) 277-0559. EOE

FRONT DESK

Exp'd front desk position for busy surgical practice. Bilingual necessary. Fax resume to 908-688-3228.

FRONT DESK

person for physical therapy office. Needs to be energetic & outgoing. Mon, thru Thurs., 3:30 to 7:30 Milburn area. Call 732-969-3480

MEDICAL ASSISTANT

Busy New Providence Podiatric office is looking for reliable assistant/ receptionist. Part time some evenings, mornings & Saturdays. Fax resume to: 908-665-0510 or call 908-632-2043 v. msg.

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For physician's office in Westfield. 2 PT positions varied hours. Fax resume to 908-232-0439

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For physician's office. Send Resumes to: PO Box 1323, Summit, NJ 07901-1321

RN/ LPN/ MEDICAL ASST.

FAMILY Practice office in Westfield. Fax resume to 908-232-0439

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RECEPTIONIST

Busy Law Firm in Springfield seeks F/T Receptionist. Insurance & 401K. Fax, Xerox, File, Answer Phones, etc. Fax resume to: (973) 487-9277

RECEPTIONIST

PT 40 hrs/wk. Salary commensurate with experience. Microsoft Word & Excel required. Please send resumes to: Attn: Box M 1100 The Suburban News 121 Rt. 123, Suite 300 Asbury, NJ 08802

FULL TIME CUSTOMER SERVICE / DATA ENTRY

10-6, Friendly Business in Springfield. Busy Phones, Good Computer Skills, Misc. Office Duties. Call Jennifer: 973-467-2291 x120

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Full-Time. Must have good knowledge of insurance billing and collections. Physician office in Summit. Excellent Salary & Benefits. Fax resume to: 732-382-0402

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Full Time for busy, customer service driven local dealership. Experienced with Excel, Word, and internet sales, as well as excellent telephone follow up skills. Previous telemarketing exp. welcome to apply. Good resume to: Maplecrest Auto Group 2400 Springfield Ave Union, NJ 07088 Attn: Chris EOE

Automotive/Classified

Keep Your Family Safe on Winter Road Trips

(ARA) - If you live in a cold, snowy part of the country, you know that winter is good for many things — ice skating, sledding, skiing, and drinking hot chocolate by a roaring fire. However, winter is not good for driving. Ice, snow and sleet can make for treacherous road conditions that require nerves of steel, good reflexes and a dose of common sense.

Although the basics of winter driving safety don't change much from year to year, it's a good idea to refresh your memory (in case you've forgotten last winter). Here are some tips that will help make winter driving less stressful.

Can Your Car Handle the Weather?

Driving a vehicle you trust and that you are familiar with gives you confidence on the road. Make sure you know how your car handles in slippery driving conditions. For example, if your car has antilock brakes, find an empty parking lot or other safe area and test them out to see what they feel like when you brake suddenly.

If you're looking for a new car, you'll want one that can handle winter weather. Four-wheel or all-wheel drive will give you handling control on slippery roads; airbags and other safety features will give you the security of knowing that if something does happen, your family will be protected.

A Winter Checklist

If you haven't given your car a winter once over, now is the time to make sure everything is working properly. Check your brakes, windshield wipers, and defroster to make sure they'll perform as needed in bad weather. Make sure your antifreeze and windshield wiper fluids are topped off.

Add some winter-readiness items to your trunk: a heavy duty ice/snow scraper to keep the windshield clear;



Courtesy of ARA Content

a shovel and a bag of kitty litter to free yourself from snow banks, and jumper cables. You'll also want to have an emergency kit that includes bottled water, candy bars, a blanket, and a flashlight, just in case.

Before You Leave
Whether you're driving to the grocery store or to visit far away family, respect the weather conditions and use your common sense. Don't take chances with dangerous driving conditions — wait until they improve to continue your trip.

Be a courteous and safe driver — clear your car of any accumulated snow, including the roof, so that snow blowing off your car doesn't endanger cars behind you. Make sure your windshield and headlights are clear of all ice and snow for best visibility.

On the Road
Always buckle up, even if you're just going down the street. If travel-

ing locally, leave a few minutes early to give yourself plenty of time — you don't want to be in a hurry or distracted in bad driving conditions.

Keep a safe distance behind other cars on the road; in winter conditions that may be more space than you're used to. This gives you time to react to other drivers and maintain control of your car. Take it slow and steady for safety — no quick accelerations, no sudden braking and no abrupt turns. Rapid movements lead to skids and loss of control. If your car starts to skid on ice or snow, steer the car in the direction that the rear wheels are sliding.

Above all, stay alert and stay calm.

By following your instincts and paying attention to road conditions, you'll arrive at your destination with your nerves and your car intact.

Salerno Duane Welcomes Ford

SUMMIT — Salerno Duane in Summit welcomes Ford to its family of automotive franchises. Effective Jan. 19, Salerno Duane will represent "The Big Three" manufacturers GM, Ford and Chrysler in their own exclusive showrooms. This makes Salerno Duane one of just a few auto dealerships in the nation to handle "The Big Three."

Salerno Duane started out as a modest Pontiac and AMC dealer in 1986 and has grown to be one of New Jersey's largest and most respected automotive dealer groups. Expansion is nothing new to Salerno Duane in Summit. In the past few years GMC Truck and Chrysler became part of the group, now with the addition of Ford, they represent five different car divisions with multiple showrooms, service and parts departments as well as a full service multi-manufacturer body shop.

This is the perfect time for this addition, with Ford introducing new models like the "500" and the "40th Anniversary Mustang." It enables the dealership to offer even more Minivan and SUV choices with "Freestar, Escape, Expedition" and "Explorer, the best selling SUV in

the world." Salerno Duane will also be expanding their huge truck selection with the "Ford F Series" in addition to their already well established GMC Truck selection. Now they will be able to offer a choice of over 130 different models of cars, sport utilities, trucks and minivans.

Salerno Duane has always been about choice, quality products and customer satisfaction. Even as the dealership expands, the sales and service staff still operate as a local, friendly, full service dealership concentrating on personal attention. The customer friendly auto dealership has been awarded the "People Magazine Award" for outstanding sales and service for two separate years. No other automotive dealer in the tri-state area has ever won this award.

For friendly Chrysler, Jeep, Pontiac, GMC, and now Ford sales, leasing and service see the professionals at Salerno Duane Chrysler Jeep Pontiac GMC Ford, conveniently located at 267 Broad St. (just off Route 24) in Summit. For more information call (908) 277-6700.

Winter's Potholes, Icy Roads Can Jar Your Vehicle Out Of Alignment

(ARA) — Each winter, thousands of drivers have at least one encounter with a seemingly bottomless pothole. Others have "minor" collisions with curbs and other obstacles as a result of icy road conditions.

In fact, just one impact can jar the vehicle out of alignment and potentially damage safety-critical chassis parts.

Sure signs that your vehicle's steering and suspension needs to be re-aligned, and could require replacement of one or more steering and suspension parts, include:

- * Steering Wheel off-center
- * Loose steering
- * Steering wander (difficulty holding the vehicle on a consistent path)
- * A pull to either side

- * Chassis vibration at certain speeds
- * Increased road-induced noise, vibration or harshness
- * Uneven tire wear

It's also a good idea to make sure your technician uses a brand of replacement parts in which you can have confidence.

Most professional technicians specify Moog steering and suspension components for their customers' — as well as their own — vehicles. Ask your local service provider if it's time to re-align your vehicle. If he or she recommends replacement of any steering and suspension part, don't hesitate to have the repair completed. After all, your driving safety could be at stake.

Courtesy of ARA Content

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PART TIME Seeking Fencing Instrs., Building Cleaners, Asst. Youth Coach to assist w/Black Achiever's Prog (Wed. 6-8:30pm), Day Care Spvr. (M-F, 12-6:30pm), Mommy & Me Music Instr. Corp. Salary, Elig. for child care mship. Apply Westfield Area Y, Attn: HR Dept., 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090. rcastellone@westfieldny.org or fax 908-232-3306

CONSTRUCTION MGR. ASSISTANT MGR. FOREMAN

Tranton Real Estate Co. renovating several properties looking for take charge individual to oversee multiple projects. Must be detail oriented with excellent organizational skills. Excellent opportunity - salary commensurate w/exp.

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HOUSECLEANING I will do the cleaning & you set the price. Exp., refs. & own car. 908-468-8418

HOUSECLEANING Polish lady, exp. refs, own trans, Margaret 908/429-2095

NANNY WANTED Experienced nanny to care for two children, ages 2 and 5 in Westfield home. Mon - Fri, 8 to 6:30. Non-smoker, fluent in English, driver's license, responsible, creative and fun, references a must. Call 908-928-9675

PORTUGUESE LADY will clean your house or office, own trans, ref. refs. 908-64-8728

LAND FOR SALE Coastal Carolina BUY NOW, BUILD WHEN YOU'RE the best in coastal living with beach clubhouse, near house with marina, pools, tennis courts, walking/biking trails. 27 hole Fred Couples signature Carolina National Golf Course. Between Wilmington, NC & Myrtle Beach, SC. "Prices to sell" homesites from the \$30,000's. Homes also available. Stacks Realty, Inc. 800-711-5263. www.stacksrealestate.com

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Real Estate Advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act and the New Jersey Civil Rights Law, which make it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, marital status, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation or national origin, or on the basis of any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with their parents or legal custodians. Pregnant women and people seeking custody of children under 18.

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Garwood - 2 BR in 2 family hse. C/A, w/d hookup. Avail Now! \$1150 mo + util. 908-233-4892

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In addition to the protections noted 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 ancestry.

The newspaper will not knowingly accept or print any advertising for residential real estate which violates the law.

To report housing discrimination call the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) at 1-800-699-9777. The HUD TTY telephone number for the hearing impaired is (212) 708-1455

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Real Estate Listings

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UNION Berwyn St. spacious modern. 1 BR. LR. Kitchen. Quiet area. \$775 + utls. 973-503-9883

UNION Large 1 BR. apt. on quiet street. 1 track from 1142. 2 car garage. 1 1/2 mo. sec. \$1100/mo. Call 908-272-2570

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BABY FURNITURE: Crib & matching 3 drawer dresser/changing table, white, exc. cond., \$350. 908-931-9723

Beautiful white leather sofa bed, pristine cond., 92 long & 36 wide. \$2000. Dis. call after 3pm. 908-289-1884

BED - \$375 Visco Elastic Memory Foam Queen mattress set as on TV. Value \$1300. 732-288-6890

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BEDROOM SET - 7pc. set w/ cherry wood sleigh bed, chest, dresser & mirror, nite stand. Lvt. \$5500. Can be liver. 1800 732-288-6890

Bedroom Set, antique white twin, 2 dressers, hutch, mirror, night table, desk, chair, exc. cond. \$500. 908-654-0733

BEDROOM SET - Beantit Chest/dresser/mirror, light wood. \$300. 908-608-0388

BEDROOM SET - Brynhill cherry, dresser, trifold mirror, armoire, 2 night stands. \$995. 908-771-0475

Desk, solid maple, vintage. \$195. 908-277-0588

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<p>2001 ALURA 17 2DR \$14,999</p> <p>6 cyl. auto, ps, pABS, air, am/fm stereo, CD, pw, pl, pm, radials, dty wipers, p/trunk, p/ceats, i/glass, sp wheels, tilt, r/crf, cruise, s/roof, leather. 32,186 miles, s/n#102701.</p>	<p>2002 NISSAN ALTIMA 4DR \$14,999</p> <p>4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, air, am/fm stereo, pw, pl, pm, radials, dty wipers, p/trunk, p/ceats, i/glass, sp wheels, tilt, r/crf, cruise, s/roof, leather. 39,339 miles, s/n#7681A, vin#1A006216.</p>	<p>2001 NISSAN SENTRA 4DR \$17,999</p> <p>4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, air, am/fm stereo, pw, pl, pm, radials, dty wipers, p/trunk, p/ceats, i/glass, sp wheels, tilt, r/crf, cruise, s/roof, leather. 39,150 miles, s/n#10109X, vin#1A017223.</p>	<p>2001 NISSAN SENTRA 4DR \$23,999</p> <p>4 cyl. auto, ps, pABS, air, am/fm stereo, pw, pl, pm, radials, dty wipers, p/trunk, p/ceats, i/glass, sp wheels, tilt, r/crf, cruise, s/roof, leather. 42,015 miles, s/n#7711A, vin#1013582.</p>	<p>2004 DODGE DURANGO SRT 4X4 4DR \$24,999</p> <p>5.7 liter 8 cyl. auto, ps, pABS, air, am/fm stereo, CD, pw, pl, pm, radials, dty wipers, p/trunk, p/ceats, i/glass, sp wheels, tilt, r/crf, cruise, s/roof, leather. 39,564 miles, s/n#27378, vin#1B17976.</p>	<p>2004 VOLVO S80 AWD 4DR \$25,999</p> <p>6 cyl. auto, ps, pABS, air, am/fm stereo, CD, pw, pl, pm, radials, dty wipers, p/trunk, p/ceats, i/glass, sp wheels, tilt, r/crf, cruise, s/roof, leather. 39,564 miles, s/n#364005A.</p>
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<p>2001 TOYOTA CAMRY 6 4 cyl. auto, ps, pb, air, am/fm stereo, pw, pl, pm, radials, dty wipers, p/trunk, p/ceats, i/glass, sp wheels, tilt, r/crf, cruise, s/roof, leather. 19,382 miles. VIN#777. \$13,500</p>	<p>2001 HONDA ODYSSEY 6 cyl. auto, ps, pb, air, am/fm stereo, pw, pl, pm, radials, dty wipers, p/trunk, p/ceats, i/glass, sp wheels, tilt, r/crf, cruise, s/roof, leather. 8,251 miles. VIN#777. \$16,995</p>
<p>2003 CHEVY MALIBU 6 cyl. auto, ps, pb, air, am/fm stereo, pw, pl, pm, radials, dty wipers, p/trunk, p/ceats, i/glass, sp wheels, tilt, r/crf, cruise, s/roof, leather. 1,397 miles. VIN#777. \$11,995</p>	<p>1997 MERCURY SABLE 6 cyl. auto, ps, pb, air, am/fm stereo, pw, pl, pm, radials, dty wipers, p/trunk, p/ceats, i/glass, sp wheels, tilt, r/crf, cruise, s/roof, leather. 3,841 miles. VIN#777. \$5,995</p>

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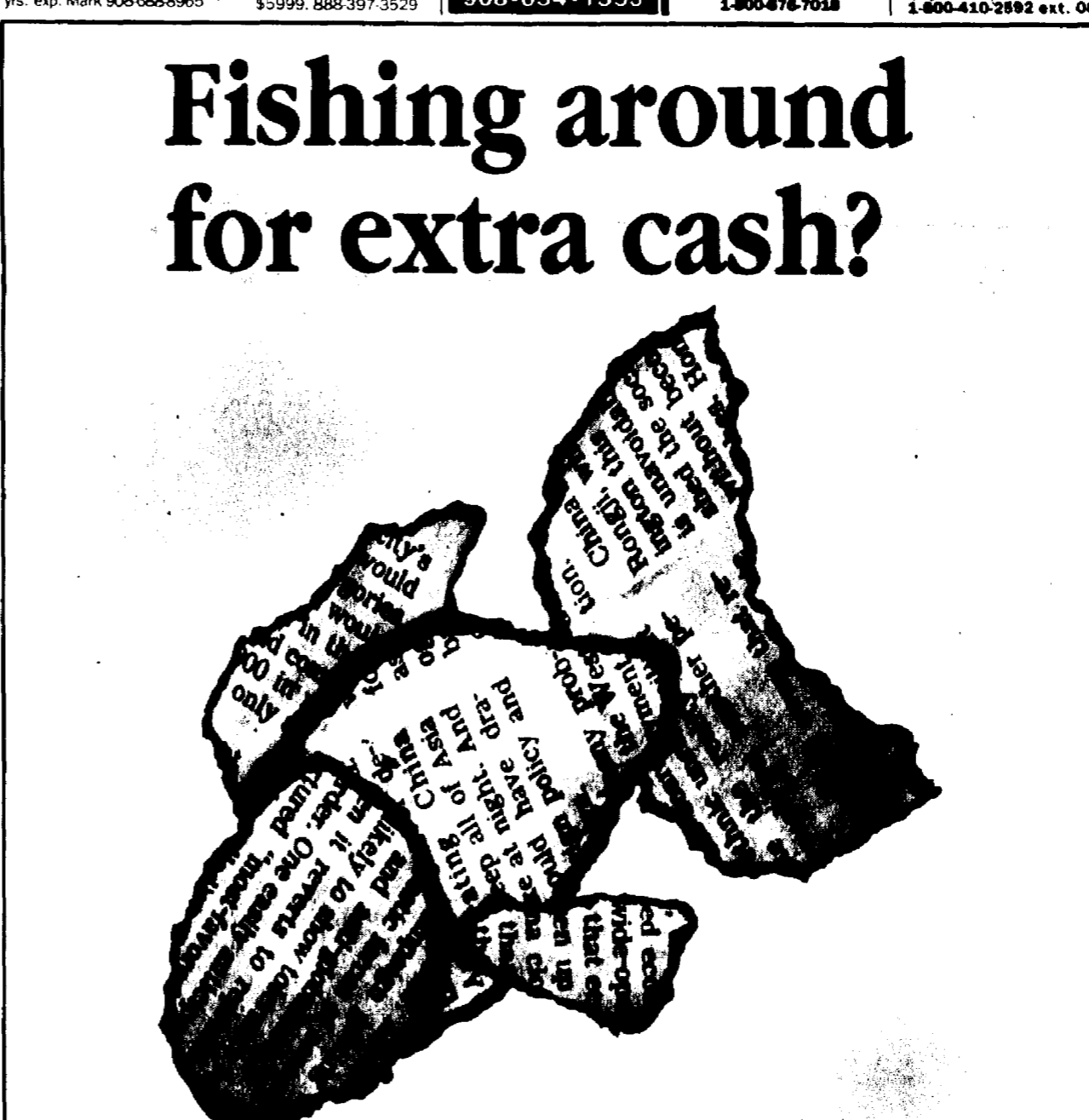
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