

TAKING TWO

The Westfield High School ice hockey team defeated Scotch Plains-Fanwood for the second time this season last week. For more on the game, and for other high school sports results, see Sports, Page C-1.



SHE'S A WINNER

Kaavya Krishna Kumar, a third-grade Brownie from Troop 82 in Fanwood-Scotch Plains, designed the winning logo in a contest to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Washington Rock Council. For a better look at her design, see Page B-4.



MUSIC FOR ALL AGES

The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra will present the first of its two winter concerts Saturday evening in Cranford. For that story and more arts and entertainment news, see Prime Time, Page B-2.

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Friday, January 19, 2007

Fanwood woman, 20, killed in crash on Route 22

By **Theresa Stultz**
THE RECORD-PRESS

A 20-year-old Fanwood woman was killed Saturday morning when her car struck and severed a utility pole on Route 22 in Mountainside, authorities said.

Chantal Mueller of Forest Road was traveling westbound at approximately 12:40 a.m. when her green 1999 Acura suddenly left the highway near Sheffield Street, said Mountainside Police Capt. Richard Osieja.

Police believe excessive speed caused the accident. According to Osieja, one witness said no other car played a role in

the crash. Police are still searching for other witnesses.

Osieja said Tuesday that Mueller was most likely heading home when the one-car accident occurred and that authorities have not been able to determine where she was coming from. With incidents of this type, authorities have to try and piece together the last 24 hours of the victim's life, said Fanwood Sgt. Howard Jarvis.

Mueller was not wearing a seat belt, and the force of the collision ejected her from the vehicle after the car struck the utility pole, Osieja said. The mid-section of the pole flew more than 75 feet. There was no evidence Mueller attempted to

brake, Osieja said.

"I've never seen an accident like that. It was some impact," Osieja said in a report in the *Star-Ledger*. "The car was demolished."

Osieja said police will have to wait about a month for the results of a toxicology report to determine if alcohol was a factor in the accident.

Fanwood police notified Mueller's parents about the crash. Mueller, a graduate of Union High School, was attending Union County College. An obituary appears on Page A-8.

Theresa Stultz is a staff writer for the *Record-Press*. She can be reached at (732) 396-4204 or tstultz@njpublishing.com.

School bond vote is set for Tuesday

Westfield residents will decide on \$9.4M in expansions, renovations

By **Oleg Marx**
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Local voters will go to the polls next Tuesday to decide the fate of a \$9.4 million school bond referendum that, if approved, would reshape the district's elementary and intermediate facilities.

The centerpiece of the referendum is nearly \$6 million to renovate Lincoln School, which is currently leased to a county agency, as an "early childhood learning center." The proposal also includes \$3.2 million to refurbish and expand parts of Roosevelt Intermediate School; the balance of the funds would be used to install energy-efficient windows in some areas of Edison Intermediate School. Voters will have only one choice: approve the entire package, or reject it.

If approved, the bond would cost the average household \$80 a year for 20 years, above and beyond regular school taxes. But about 36 percent of the project costs have been deemed eligible for state assistance; if future state Legislatures authorize appropriation of those funds, the cost to the average local household would drop to about \$50 a year.

District officials have said that while the proposal is not a guarantee that redistricting will not occur in the future, it

is the most comprehensive, cost-effective strategy to maintain current class sizes, improve outdated or unsafe facilities and create appropriate spaces to deliver the curriculum.

The creation of an early childhood center at Lincoln School would allow the district to centralize the kindergarten classes, which are currently distributed across the six elementary schools. In so doing, the district would free up a total of 11 classrooms at those elementary schools — three at McKinley; two each at Tamaques, Jefferson and Franklin; and one each at Wilson and Washington. Those classrooms would allow for at least some dedicated spaces for art and music instruction and could also alleviate rising class sizes in the elementary grades, district officials have said. Westfield's policy calls for class sizes of 18 to 25 students, and surging enrollment has pushed classes at several schools to the upper end of that range. This year's first grade is the largest in more than 30 years.

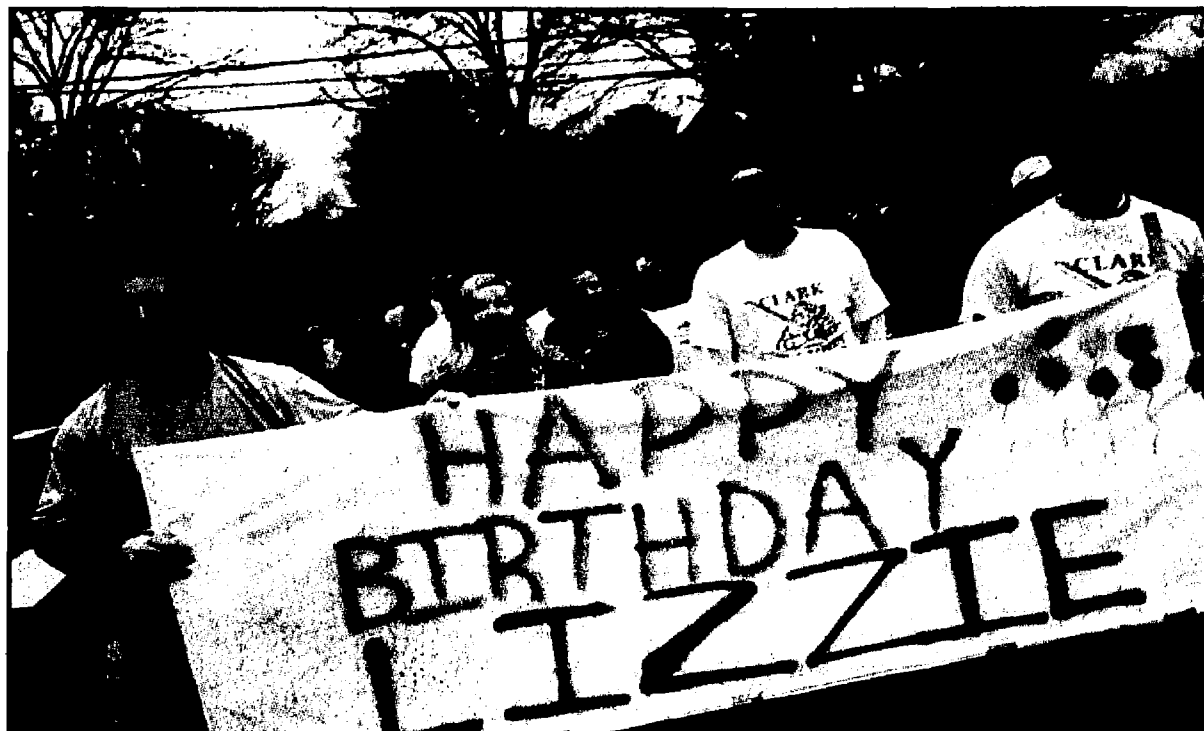
Some parents have objected that centralized kindergarten runs counter to Westfield's traditional emphasis on "neighborhood schools," but board members and administrators have said (Continued on page A-2)

A GREAT BIRTHDAY GIFT FOR LIZZIE



Nearly 1,000 people gathered at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Sunday morning to take part in a three-mile walk to support Lizzie Chern, a 1-year-old Scotch Plains resident who has been diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. In addition to Scotch Plains, teams of walkers came from Clark, where Lizzie's parents Malread and Chris grew up, and Bloomfield and Nutley, where they now teach. A simultaneous fundraiser walk took place in Ireland. Local organizers included Heather Cejovic, Jamie Tibbals and Linda Grim. The event was held on the first birthday of the guest of honor, shown at top in her mother's arms.

BROOKS GRANDALL/
CORRESPONDENT



Westfield detective alleges sex harassment

By **Theresa Stultz**
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — Former Police Chief Bernard Tracy subjected her to inappropriate sexual advances and then retaliated when she refused, Detective Sandra Chambers alleged in a lawsuit filed last month in Superior Court.

Chambers also alleged that she has received "disparate treatment" from the department because she is an African-American woman.

In the suit, filed Dec. 4 and first reported last week in the *Westfield Leader*, Chambers alleges that Tracy, who retired in 2005, confided to her about personal matters, including family and marital issues, under the auspices of a friendship he developed with her during his leadership of the department.

Chambers alleges that over the course of a two-year period, Tracy regularly called her at home and on her cell phone during non-working hours and late into the evening, inviting her to do the same. "By all appearances, Chief Tracy and Detective Chambers had a very close personal and professional relationship," the suit claims.

The relationship went sour in 2003, when Chambers spurned Tracy's advances for "inappropriate sexual conduct" during a convention in Washington, D.C., where she

had accompanied him at the town's expense, according to the lawsuit. Chambers alleges that while at the convention, Tracy told her "she was not spending enough time with him, and he felt that she had 'abandoned' him."

When Tracy hinted at a sexual relationship, Chambers "reminded Chief Tracy that he was married, and she maintained a professional relationship with the Chief for the duration of the convention," according to the suit.

According to the lawsuit, Tracy subsequently "reminded Detective Chambers that he supported her during an earlier sexual harassment-hostile work environment claim she had with the Westfield Police Department, and that there were several people in the department who were not happy with the outcome of the dispute." The lawsuit also claims that Tracy developed a friendship with the harasser, who has been promoted to lieutenant.

"There was a precipitous drop in the frequency of personal phone calls that Chief Tracy made to Detective Chambers, and he made it clear to Detective Chambers, through his words and actions, that he (no) longer considered her to be a good friend," the suit claims. (Continued on page A-2)

As King is remembered, the theme is forgiveness

By **Theresa Stultz**
THE RECORD-PRESS

WESTFIELD — At the town's annual celebration of the life and times of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., local residents gathered at the Presbyterian Church of Westfield Monday to join hands and hearts and remember the legacy of the slain civil rights leader.

A diverse crowd packed the wooden pews to hear local officials repeat the words of Dr. King, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and advocate for nonviolent protest who was assassinated nearly 40 years ago.

This year's interfaith celebration, the 20th annual, was devoted to the theme forgiveness. Participants were reminded of King's words: "We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love."

The Rev. Leon Randall, former pastor of St. Luke's AME Zion Church and president emeritus of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Association, read from a 1956 speech in which King chronicled important Supreme Court rulings that defined the course of race relations up to that time, and also called for renewed vigilance in a time of radical change.

From the 1857 Dred Scott decision that decreed that a slave was his master's property and African-Americans were not citizens, to the Plessy v. Ferguson ruling in 1896 that established the "separate but equal" segregation policy, King said, "Living under these conditions, many Negroes were left to lose hope."

Nevertheless, King urged in his speech, "We are about to enter a new age... an exciting age filled with hope where a new social order is emerging... We must act out to do a good job irrespective of race... If we retaliate with (Continued on page A-2)



www.nj.com/recordpress

REMINDER

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Westfield's \$9.4 million school bond referendum to construct an early childhood learning center and renovate parts of Roosevelt and Edison schools will be decided by local voters Tuesday. Polls are open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at regular polling locations.

INDEX

CommentaryA-6
Community LifeB-1
SportsC-1
ObituariesA-8
Real EstateC-3
Police LogA-3

Detective files sexual harassment claim | Shop at Blue Tulip, support CONTACT

(Continued from page A-1)
According to the lawsuit, Tracy then used his influence to retaliate against Chambers, seeking her termination after he ordered her suspended in March 2005 for having a parking ticket unlawfully voided. Additionally, the suit claims, Tracy falsely stated to others that she was a lesbian in an attempt to portray her in a negative light.

Chambers was the subject of a disciplinary hearing in which she was found guilty on five of seven charges for fixing the parking ticket, which had been issued to her son. Two charges of lying about the case during an internal affairs investigation were dismissed, and she was allowed to keep her position within the department.

Tracy was among the witnesses who testified during that hearing. Chambers' attorney at the time, Hassen Abdellah, claimed that the former chief brought the charges against Chambers "after their social relationship changed."

Tracy, who could not be reached for comment this week, denied those charges at the time.

During the hearing, Chambers received support from several members of the community, who especially praised her work with local youth.

The suit alleges that Chambers continues to be ostracized by the supervisors of the police department and that she has not been returned to her former assignments or received any new assignments that reflect her rank and seniority.

In addition to Tracy, the town and police department are named as defendants. Besides sexual harassment, the suit alleges retaliation, defamation and a hostile work environment, and seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages.

Chambers could not be reached for comment this week. Eric Pennington, her new attorney, declined to comment.

Town officials also had little comment about the suit. Town Administrator Jim Gildea said an attorney has been assigned and the case has been turned over to the town's insurance representative for review. The attorney is now in the process of preparing a written response to the suit in compliance with the 35-day timeframe.

John Parizeau, who replaced Tracy as police chief at the start of 2006, said the case has not had a negative effect on the department. "There hasn't been any comments or change in morale," said Parizeau. "Morale has gone up since we changed some procedures, and with the new PBA contract (approved last week) that was a fair deal for the town and officers." Parizeau said he learned about the lawsuit two weeks ago.

Theresa Stultz is a staff writer for the Record-Press. She can be reached at (732) 396-4204 or tstultz@njnpublishing.com.

WESTFIELD — Blue Tulip will host a shopping event on Jan. 28 to benefit CONTACT We Care, the Union County-based crisis hotline.

Visitors to the new Quimby Street gift and stationery shop that evening can enjoy wine and cheese, courtesy of ShopRite Wines, as they shop for Valentine gifts between 5 and 8 p.m. Blue Tulip will donate 15 percent of the evening's proceeds to CONTACT.

By mentioning CONTACT when they make their purchases that evening, or by bringing in the special promotional flyer

now circulating around town, shoppers can support CONTACT's listening service.

The volunteers of CONTACT, known as Union County's "mental health rescue squad," have been listening to those who are lonely, depressed, or despairing since 1975. They field over 8,000 calls a year from callers in emotional distress in a primary service area that covers Union, Essex, Middlesex, Somerset, Morris and Passaic counties.

CONTACT is also a call center for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, (800) 273-

TALK. It is a United Way agency and is supported additionally by grants from private and public foundations, houses of worship, service organizations, corporations and individuals.

Blue Tulip's Quimby Street store in Westfield opened in September 2006. ShopRite Wines and Spirits, located on South Avenue, offers a wide selection of wines, spirits and gourmet food items.

For more information about the event, or about volunteer opportunities at CONTACT, call (908) 301-1899.

Pool fees rising in Westfield

WESTFIELD — At its meeting Tuesday night, the Town Council introduced an ordinance that will increase certain membership fees for Memorial Pool.

Under the new fee schedule, the cost for a family membership will rise to \$350, while a family with full-time child care must pay \$530. Married couples without chil-

dren or a single parent with a child under 12 will each have to pay \$270. It will cost individuals \$180 for their membership, and seniors \$75.

Councilman Jim Foerst said the increases are a result of two components — first, a recommendation by the Recreation Commission, and second, the state Legislature's decision to extend state sales tax to municipal fees such as pool memberships. The tax is built into the rates listed in the new ordinance. A majority of council members opposed the sales tax measure in a formal resolution last year.

Also Tuesday, the council unanimously approved two ordinances that clarify the composition of the police and fire departments. According to the ordinances, besides the chief of the police department will have no more than two captains, seven lieutenants, nine sergeants, eight detectives, 34 patrol officers and 15

special law enforcement officers. The fire department will consist of a fire chief, two deputy chiefs, four captains, nine lieutenants, 24 firefighters and 75 volunteer members. The ordinances also explicitly outline the roles and responsibilities of the chief in each department.

Municipal engineer Ken Marsh announced that town officials are conducting repairs after a small sewer main break at the center of Seneca and Forest. Currently, the break is affecting only one household in the area, he said.

Finally, Eagle Scout Thomas Hogaboom presented a donation of various military flags to the town. Hogaboom is also responsible for leading the effort to erect the World War II monument in the center of town. Deputy Mayor Mark Ciarrocca received the flags on behalf of the council.

— Theresa Stultz

School bond vote will be held Tuesday

(Continued from page A-1)
that by freeing up classroom space and relieving enrollment pressure in the elementary schools, the early childhood center will actually preserve the "neighborhood" experience for grades 1 to 5.

The early childhood center would also be home to the district's pre-school handicapped population; those classes are currently held at Edison School. Because more space would be available at Lincoln School, officials believe fewer special education students will have to be sent out of district, potentially saving more than \$200,000 a year.

To get students to Lincoln School, which is located on Westfield Avenue not far from the high school, the district would provide bus service to and from Franklin, Washington and Wilson schools.

At the intermediate level, the bond referendum would pay for refurbishment of

Roosevelt Intermediate School, where the main building is more than 80 years old. District officials have said the corridors and stairwells must be renovated and the breezeway connecting the old and new wings should be enclosed. The worn stairwells and the open breezeway amount to safety and security hazards, according to school officials.

In addition, the bond would pay for the expansion of the Roosevelt cafeteria and library. Roosevelt has seen some of the most dramatic enrollment growth in the district, and the common spaces are now too small for the school, according to district officials. Students have only 20 minutes for lunch, which amounts to about 10 to 15 minutes to eat, and only one class at a time can use the library.

Though the Board of Education has devoted many of its meetings to the topic in recent months, few residents have spoken about the bond

referendum at public sessions. In letters to local papers, critics of the proposal have said the board should have found other ways to cut costs and should not have bundled all three projects into one question.

Board members have said they decided to present only one question to voters in an effort to treat the referendum as a community-wide solution rather than a series of remedies for separate problems. And, they have said, new state legislation that prevents school districts from building up a surplus makes it impossible to complete major facilities projects without resorting to special referendums.

For further details, visit www.westfieldnj12.org/bond. Polls are open 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday; residents should vote at their regular polling locations.

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As King is remembered, theme is forgiveness

(Continued from page A-1)
hate and bitterness, the new age would be a repeat of the old.

One of the most poignant contemporary examples of that theme, Randall said, was the response to the shocking

shooting at an Amish school in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania last year. In one of many acts of forgiveness, the schoolhouse was torn down to remove the memory of the tragedy.

"We're living in a land where every opportunity is available to everyone," said Rev. Randall in his closing message.

Throughout the service, attendees were treated to riveting renditions of songs that echoed the struggles and triumphs of African-Americans in their quest for social and economic equality.

That's a quest that long-time Westfield resident Pamela Panton believes has yet to be attained. "We've gone past the structural and visible barriers. But there are still some innate prejudices and biases that exist today that we still need to overcome," Panton said after the service.

Asked about the memorial service, she said, "I think it's wonderful. It brings people out and (emphasizes) the idea

that love and peace and diversity can co-exist."

Panton's daughter, Allyson, received first place in a school contest for her essay about Dr. King, which she read to the congregation. In her essay, the Edison Intermediate School seventh grader recalled a time she was followed by an employee while shopping in a local store. Allyson said the incident made her feel like an outsider in her own community.

"Even though she did wrong, I found through prayer a way to forgive her and that she may find a way not to judge a person by their looks," Allyson read.

The service ended with Randall passing the torch as pastor at St. Luke's Church to the Rev. Robert H. Taylor Sr. Then, the entire audience joined hands to sing "We Shall Overcome."

Theresa Stultz is a staff writer for the Record-Press. She can be reached at (732) 396-4204 or tstultz@njnpublishing.com.

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1 2 3 ABC

A fixture in town hall for 50 years

Clerk Barbara Riepe has served Scotch Plains for half a century

By **TERESA STULTZ**
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — One month after she graduated from the local high school, Barbara Riepe accepted a job as a clerk's stenographer for the township. William Sampson was the mayor of Scotch Plains, and the position paid \$2,000 — annually. "I remember that well," she said.

Nearly 50 years later, Riepe is still working for the township. Over the years, her title has changed, from stenographer to clerk principal to registrar of vital statistics, and, in 1987, to township clerk, the post she holds today. On July 1, she'll mark half a century of service to the township — the longest record in the history of Scotch Plains.

During a recent interview, Riepe reflected on some of her fondest memories over the years. She dug out photos from an extensive personal collection that shows just how much the times have changed. Riepe's albums include a picture of Carolyn Sorge, who recently completed a stint on the Township Council, as a 4-year-old.

She also remembers when Frank Terri, the owner of a local zoo that has since closed, would stop by the clerk's office with an assortment of animals just to say hello. "That was a nice experience. He would bring them by to see us — tigers, chimps and a baby elephant. We've had lions come up the stairs in the old building... I love animals, so it was quite a thing to see."

Her love for animals is also displayed in the large photo collection of dogs that have come into her office to have their licenses renewed. "I like when the dogs come in. I give them biscuits. Some of them like to stand on the counter," said Riepe.

While the job has provided plenty of light-hearted moments, it also entails plenty of work. As clerk, it is Riepe's responsibility to maintain the township's records and keep abreast of the ever-changing rules and regulations. She must also be recertified every two years.

"You have to learn a lot. No matter how long

you have, they change the laws everyday," she said, showing off a plaque from the state's Department of Community Affairs. "You always have to be up on everything."

"The work has quadrupled since I started," Riepe added. "The needs and demands of the community have changed."

With change and growth comes a tendency for government to become more impersonal, but Riepe has strived to bring a human touch to the municipal building. She has a tradition of dressing up for Halloween to greet residents and neighborhood children who come into her office, and has been the Cat in the Hat for the last three years.

"She's very dedicated to her job and everything that is expected of her," said Vallorie Grauso, one of her co-workers.

"It's an incredible record," said Riepe's boss, municipal manager Thomas Atkins — a record he jokingly said he will not try to beat. Atkins said he is impressed by Riepe's ability to keep up with all the new state-mandated requirements.

"She's seen a lot change, and knows a lot of the history of the township which can be very helpful. She's an incredible person," said Atkins, who said Riepe has probably worked with 30 different mayors and 100 different council members.

"She is probably the sweetest person I have ever met, which makes my job as mayor even more pleasurable," added Mayor Martin Marks.

"Barbara could have retired several years ago with a full pension, but she turned it down to continue working for the township. That is a testament of her character," said Marks. "I admire anyone that can serve at 50 years at any position and in any capacity, especially in government, where you have to serve the people."

After a half-century of public service, Riepe is planning to leave her post later this year. When asked why she will retire now, she responded, "Don't you think after 50 years you just need time for yourself?"

Riepe plans to volunteer or work part-time with children once she retires. "I really love kids. I've always seen myself working in a gift shop," she said.

Theresa Stultz is a staff writer for the Record-Press. She can be reached at (732) 396-4204 or tstultz@njnpublishing.com.

Cops: Burglar tried to run over police

FANWOOD

Frederick J. McBrinn, 27, of Jersey City was arrested on Jan. 12 on charges he tried to run over Union Township police officers after committing a burglary at a borough home.

At about 12:30 that day, a Louis Place resident reported that her home had been broken into and several items had been stolen.

After an investigation, Fanwood police issued a county-wide alert for a vehicle suspected to be involved with the burglary, and authorities discovered that Union police were also in pursuit of a vehicle fitting the same description.

According to Fanwood Lt. Richard Trigo, when Union police located the vehicle, McBrinn fled, crashing into other cars, and then attempted to run over two Union officers. After he was apprehended, a search of the vehicle revealed the jewelry stolen from the Fanwood home, authorities said.

McBrinn was charged with two counts of aggravated assault on the Union officers and also with burglary and theft, authorities said.

Gregory S. Williams, 21 of Fanwood, was arrested on charges of obstruction and possession of marijuana at 1:13 p.m. Jan. 12 after being stopped at the intersection of Second Street and Berns Way. Williams was released on his own recognizance.

WESTFIELD

Albert Chong, 20, of Belle Mead was charged with pos-

session of under 50 grams of marijuana following a motor vehicle stop at 12:37 a.m. Jan. 12 in municipal lot #5. Two juveniles were also arrested, police said.

Caitlin Bludgus of Westfield was charged with underage possession and consumption of alcohol following a motor vehicle stop at the Presbyterian Church of Westfield at 9:04 p.m. Saturday.

Bludgus was released to a responsible adult on her own recognizance pending a Jan. 18 court date. Three male juveniles were also taken into custody and released to their parents, police said.

Thomas C. Mone and Wilbert A. Vetter, both of Lyndhurst, N.Y., were charged Saturday with theft by deception after allegedly attempting to perpetrate a chimney scam.

Mone was also arrested on traffic warrants from several Bergen County municipalities. Both men posted bail on all the charges and were released.

A Dakota Street resident reported Sunday that his 2006 Honda had been broken into and that a double-screen DVD player was taken from the car while it was parked in his driveway.

On the same day, a Boulevard resident reported that her 2007 Chrysler minivan had been broken into and that an iPod Nano MP3 player was stolen. She also stated that the contents in her glove compartment were rifled through.

A representative of Millennium Properties report-

ed Monday that on two separate occasions, unlawful entry had occurred at one of the new homes under construction on Davis Court and construction tools had been stolen.

SCOTCH PLAINS

The traffic bureau is investigating a hit-and-run motor vehicle accident that occurred Sunday on Myrtle Avenue.

The suspect struck a parked vehicle and then drove away from the scene, police said.

On Jan. 10, a Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School student reported that someone removed her cell phone, valued at \$250, from her locker.

On the same day, a Fanwood resident reported that his bicycle, valued at \$300, was stolen at the Scotch Plains Public Library.

An employee of a Route 22 business reported being a victim of theft on Jan. 11. He told police that someone entered his vehicle and removed several items, including money.

On Jan. 12, a Tussell Lane resident reported being the victim of identity theft after she was notified by her bank that an account had been opened in her name. She told police she did not know how the suspect obtained her Social Security.

On Jan. 12, the manager of a store on East Second Street reported that someone had taken items left outside during a delivery. There was no forced entry to the building, the manager said.

SPF board skeptical of enrollment forecast

By **TERESA STULTZ**
THE RECORD-PRESS

SCOTCH PLAINS — The district can expect a modest rise in overall student enrollment over the next five years, with a slight decline at the elementary level, according to a new demographic report presented at the Board of Education's Jan. 11 meeting.

However, board members and district officials were skeptical about the conservative projections — and even if the numbers are accurate, they said, the district will have to cope with an enrollment "bubble" working its way to the middle and high schools.

According to projections by Richard Grip, executive director of Statistical Forecasting in Secaucus, NJ, the district will gain between 292 to 316 students by the 2011-2012 school year, for a total of 5,625 to 5,649 students.

As of Oct. 15, 2006, the district's enrollment stood at 5,333 students, Grip said, a gain of 906 students since 1999-2000. Those figures represent an average gain of 2.9 percent per year.

The report also forecast a projected decline at the elementary level, with a loss of 84 to 132 students over the next five years, due primarily to a decline in the number of births in both communities. There are currently 2,247 students enrolled from Pre-K to fourth grade.

Using data provided by the New Jersey Center for Health Statistics, Grip said he analyzed the birth rates in the township and borough to capture what enrollment picture would look like over the next five years. Grip said 76 percent of children born will enter kindergarten 5 years later. In Scotch Plains, the drop in birth rates "is very telling — enrollment will be going down in the kindergarten," Grip told the board.

"In Fanwood, it's not exactly clear cut," he added. "The rates) have been vacillating back and forth." In 2006, there were 309 births in Scotch Plains and 115 births in Fanwood. The district experienced its largest number of kindergarten students, 354, in 2005.

The local middle schools should expect an enrollment gain of 285 to 311 students by the 2011-2012 school year, and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School enrollment is projected to rise by about 115 from its current level of 1,476 students.

"There is a bubble that's going to move through from the middle to the high school," said board President Thomas Russo. "Obviously, this is an issue that needs to be addressed. We don't have

the facilities to accommodate that growth."

Grip credited the growth to a surge of people moving into the district after their children were born. Board members Linda Nelson said the quality education provided by the district continues to make the communities attractive to homebuyers with school-age children.

Grip also discussed the impact of development in both communities. There are no large-scale subdivisions planned in Scotch Plains, but there continue to be applications for demolishing existing homes on oversized lots and erecting two or more homes in their place. "According to township construction officials," Grip said, "as a worst-case scenario, 10 homes could be demolished and 20 erected in their place in a given year."

In Fanwood, proposed downtown development consists of up to 50 townhouses and 60 to 70 two- to three-bedroom apartment units above commercial establishments across from the train station. Twenty-six of those apartment units, referred to as the Messercola, Ling, and Marcovecchio projects, are under construction, while environmental approvals are still needed for 24 luxury townhouse units at the former Dean Oil site. Board members were surprised to learn that despite the scale of all the construction plans, "Planned housing developments in both communities should not have a significant impact on district's enrollment," Grip said.

"There's so much variability," responded board member Betty Anne Woerner. "I have a very hard time accepting your projections that in total, between now and 2012, that we'll have only 300 students. We've seen 300 in the last two years."

"We're the experts in our community. I think that our observations and analysis are as valuable as the statistical trends," Woerner said. "Every time I've heard enrollment projections going five years forward, we've been told that we're going to be okay. That's never been the case," added Nelson.

While most of the board shared their concerns, two members spoke positively about the validity of the report. "I'm really concerned with our thought process," said board Vice President Trip Whitehouse. "It depends on what window you're looking out of. That's why I think it's important we rely on the science."

Business Administrator Anthony Del Sordi said the board's Facilities Committee met with architects and mid-

dle school administrators prior to the meeting and added that he would report back to the board about the issue in the beginning of February.

Fanwood Councilwoman Donna Dolce also attended the meeting and urged the board to take a broader look at the demographics. According to Dolce, 22 percent of the Fanwood's population is senior citizens, and the effect of the planned development may be mitigated by the borough's appeal to seniors.

Theresa Stultz is a staff writer for the Record-Press. She can be reached at (732) 396-4204 or tstultz@njnpublishing.com.

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Post Office schedules passport fair

WESTFIELD — In light of the January 2007 changes in travel requirements, Postmaster Frank Pace announced that a special Passport Fair for the general public will be held at the Westfield Post Office from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Jan. 27.

The Passport Fair will feature additional personnel to accept passport applications to accommodate the increase in demand.

The Departments of State and Homeland Security recently announced that citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda to need to present a passport to enter the United States when arriving by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere as of Jan. 23.

The United States Postal Service can accept both first-time passport applicants and passport renewals, Pace said. With the emphasis now placed on enhanced travel security, passports are the prime accepted identification for travelers. "Our customers are the reason we're in business, and providing them with an extra service like passports is an opportunity for the Postal Service to serve the needs of our community," said Pace.

Pace also offered these tips for applying for a passport:

- Fill out the passport application (DS11) before you come to the post office. You can download it from http://travel.state.gov/download_applications.html.
- Bring proof of U.S. citizenship and current photo identification with you.
- Postal officials can take the necessary photographs.
- All information on passport applications, procedures and fees can be obtained by contacting the Westfield Post Office at (908) 233-1168 during regular business hours or by going online to www.usps.com. Click on the government links page; then click on "Get a passport."

Homemade for the holidays



At Wilson Elementary School in Westfield, dozens of parent volunteers came together recently to coordinate the annual holiday craft fair in the school's gymnasium. Hundreds of families participate in this fair, where the children make crafts for themselves and to give to others. Above, Caroline Kacmarsky is shown creating a one-of-a-kind decoupage vase.

Osceola Nursery School will host open house

Osceola Church Nursery School, which meets in the Osceola Presbyterian Church, located at 1689 Raritan Rd. in Clark, will hold an open house on Tuesday.

Parents and their children are invited to come to visit our facility and meet with the teachers anytime between 9-11 a.m., 12:30-2:30 p.m. or 6-8 p.m. Registration for classes for September, 2007 will begin at the open house and continue until all places are filled.

Now entering its 43rd year, the school offers two-day-a-week classes (morning and afternoon) for 3-year-olds and three- or four-day-a-week classes (morning or afternoon) for 4-year-olds. To be eligible, children must be 3

or 4 years old by Oct. 1.

As a co-operative nursery school, at Osceola parents work in the classroom, and therefore are able to take part in their children's education.

The program includes musical experiences, physical activities and visits to special "child-oriented" places in the community, as well as activities that promote readiness for school.

The facility has a large, secure parking lot and a keypad entry system to provide increased safety for our children and families.

For further information about the school's programs or registration, contact Judith Burlew, director, at (908) 272-3668.

WESTFIELD BRIEFS

Explore 'Winter's Wonders' at Miller-Cory

WESTFIELD — Despite the recent unseasonably warm temperatures, families can still enjoy "Winter's Wonders" at the Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave. This program will be held 2-4 p.m. Sunday, with a snow date of Jan. 28 if necessary.

The focus throughout the afternoon will be on snow, winter birds and pine cones. Craft activities will include a bird feeder bagel for our feathered friends, as well as a "snazzy snowman" refreshment to assemble at the museum and take home.

The program is most suitable for children ages 3-7. The fee is \$3 per child; adults are admitted free.

Upcoming events at the museum include "Historic Valentines" on Feb. 11 and "A Tribute to George Washington" on Feb. 18. For more information, call the office weekday mornings at (908) 232-1776.

Moving Meditation classes begin Monday

WESTFIELD — Moving Meditation classes will be held at First Congregational Church at 7 p.m. on three consecutive Monday evenings, Jan. 22 and 29 and Feb. 5.

Classes will be held in Room 21 on the second floor of the church's McCorison Christian Education Building at 125 Elmer St. The classes are designed for beginners and open to everyone.

Moving Meditation is a gentle, graceful movement based on ancient Asian Qigong wellness systems. Benefits include stress reduction and flexibility. The practice is performed standing, and ordinary street clothing is appropriate. Group practice is led by Laura Berzofsky, a certified Integral Tai Chi and Qigong instructor.

The program is sponsored by the church's Board of Christian Education. Free will offerings will benefit Heifer Project International, a non-profit organization working to end world hunger by giving cows, goats and other food- and income-producing livestock to impoverished families around the world.

For additional information or to register, contact Laura Berzofsky at (908) 232-0169. Drop-in students are always welcome.

Sign up now for temple's Pre-K classes

WESTFIELD — Registration is underway for Temple Emanu-El's Early Childhood Education Program.

Registration is currently being accepted from all interested applicants for the next semester of "Baby Steps," an interactive class with baby and parent (or caregiver). This eight-week session will be offered on Monday mornings from Jan. 22 through March 19. It is for children from birth through 12 months and includes playtime and facilitated parent discussions.

Other classes that will begin in early February for the spring semester include "Me and My Shadow," for children 13-23 months and their parent/caregiver, and "Ready, Set, Go..." for children 24-plus months who are ready to independently explore their environment.

Registration for the 2006-07 school year has also begun. Classes are offered for children 2 years old through kindergarten. Temple Emanu-El offers a state-of-the-art full-day kindergarten program taught by a certified head teacher and an assistant.

These programs are open to all members of the community. For information regarding any of Temple Emanu-El's early childhood programs, contact Jill Cimafonte, director of Early Childhood Education, at (908) 232-6770 ext. 126. Temple Emanu-El is located at 756 East Broad St.

Ritter takes first prize in French contest

WESTFIELD — Westfield High School sophomore Samantha Ritter won first prize in her age group in a contest celebrating National French Week. The awards ceremony was held at the French Institute Alliance Francaise, which sponsored the event in partnership with the French Embassy, the American Association of Teachers of French, and DISH Network — TV5MONDE.

Two thousand, five hundred students in the tri-state area submitted projects on the French Impressionists. One hundred students, from kindergartners to high school seniors, were invited to attend the awards ceremony as semi-finalists. Categories included photography, short videos and digital design, poetry or short stories, sculpture, and drawing and painting. Ritter submitted a "claymation" film titled "Le Beret Egare," or The Runaway Beret. She was awarded a \$500 scholarship.

Ritter's teacher, Marie-Laure Hollander, also attended the ceremony, as did Westfield High School junior Cindy Wang, who was a semi-finalist in the 11th-12th grade category.

Half-price sale planned at Thrift Shop

WESTFIELD — The Hope Chest Thrift Shop at 26 Prospect St. will be holding a half-price clothing sale on all women's, men's and children's clothing from Jan. 20-27.

Also available will be a wide selection of fine jewelry, handbags and accessories. The unique section of household items features paintings, china, crystal and many items to decorate the home.

The Hope Chest is operated by volunteers from the Center for Hope Auxiliary. All proceeds help the hospice care to families dealing with end-of-life issues.

The Hope Chest is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For directions, call the shop at (908) 233-9973.

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247

WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD BRIEFS

LOC offers a free look at 'Hansel and Gretel'

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Public Library will present an interactive introduction to the opera 'Hansel and Gretel' at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

This free program is produced and presented by the Young Artist Program of the Little Opera Company of New Jersey, a division of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts.

All programs at the library are free and open to all interested participants. The library is located at 1927 Bartle Ave., one block from Park Avenue in the center of town.

CSH hosts workshop for struggling parents

FANWOOD — Do you need help managing your child's challenging behavior? Are you struggling with your child's high activity level, impulsivity, defiance, talking back, and tantrums?

If you answered yes, then an upcoming parent workshop may be for you. Dr. Jennifer Piscopiello, a licensed clinical psychologist on staff at Children's Specialized Hospital, will lead the six-week workshop series.

The goals of the program are to improve understanding of the causes of childhood behavior problems; to learn skills to manage problem behaviors; and to improve your child's cooperation and your family's harmony.

To receive the full benefit of the program, attendance at all of the workshops is strongly encouraged. Registration is required; call Tina DeJarnette at (908) 301-2600, ext. 2205.

Schiff receives Prudential CARES grant

SCOTCH PLAINS — Township resident Barry Schiff, a compliance director for Prudential Law, Compliance and Business Ethics, recently received a Prudential CARES Volunteer Grants Award of \$250 for the Summit Animal Rescue Association.

Schiff dedicated 300 hours of service to the Association in 2005. On Adoption Day Saturdays, Schiff helped find suitable homes for cats, and on Wednesdays he tended to the cats at Petco by feeding them and cleaning litter boxes.

Chelsea will host chocolate tasting, lecture

FANWOOD — The Chelsea at Fanwood, an assisted and independent living community located at 295 South Ave., will host a lecture on the history of chocolate, along with a truffle tasting, from 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The free event is open to the public. Those interested in attending are asked to register by Monday to Linda Caminiti, The Chelsea's community relations director, at (908) 322-5200, ext. 511.

Programs offer tips on applying to college

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Public Library will present two free workshops for students and parents facing the college application process.

The first, at 7 p.m. Jan. 29, will address "What to Expect When You Are Applying." The focus will be on topics such as the timeline throughout the high school years, potential conflicts and how to avoid them, parent and student expectations and a general guideline.

The second workshop, at 7 p.m. Feb. 6, will address "Owning the Application Process."

The seminars will be led by Lisa Bleich, president of College-Bound, and success coach Donna Gerhauser.

The presentations will be held in the Community Room and are open to all interested participants. The library is located at 1927 Bartle Ave., one block from Park Avenue in the center of town.

Get 'Lost' at the Scotch Plains Library

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Public Library will screen the first season of the hit television show "Lost" on Monday nights in February, March and April.

Two episodes of the show's first season will be shown on each night: Feb. 5, 12, and 26; March 5, 19 and 26; April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, and May 7.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. each night. No registration is required.

The presentations will be held in the library's community room. All programs at the library are free and open to the public.

The library is located at 1927 Bartle Ave., one block from Park Avenue in the center of town. For more information or directions, call (908) 322-5007.



Hazel England (left), director of education and outreach for the Great Swamp Watershed Association, listens as Gene Harrison (right) describes his dream house to participants in a Project WILD workshop offered at Trailside Nature and Science Center in 2006.

Trailside will host trio of teacher training workshops

The Union County Freeholder Board will offer three teacher-training workshops at the newly renovated Trailside Nature and Science Center as part of the winter 2007 adult program series.

Certified instructors teach each workshop. Participants are eligible for six state Department of Education professional development credits. The curriculum guides, included in the registration fees, are correlated to New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and highlight educational tools which can be used in the classroom to teach students from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Each of the three workshops runs from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. and includes morning refreshments. Doors open 15 minutes prior to the program. Pre-registration is required for each workshop because space is limited.

The first workshop, "Project Learning Tree" or "PLT," offered on Jan. 31, for a \$10 fee, is an activity guide that provides educators with tools for increasing students' environmental awareness.

"Healthy Water, Healthy People," offered for the first time on Feb. 22 for a \$10 fee, encourages investigation of the connections between water quality and human health.

The third workshop, "Project WET," offered on March 24, for a \$25 fee, will focus on water, a natural resource that is often taken for granted.

Interested participants should call Trailside at (908) 789-3670 or visit the Nature Center on the Web at www.ucnj.org/trailside for additional information on these workshops.

Trailside is located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside.

NEWS FROM TRENTON

State poised to put stricter regulations on school food

SCOTCH PLAINS — Legislation sponsored by Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D-Dist. 22) to help children practice healthier eating habits by requiring improvements in the nutritional content of foods available on school property has passed the State Assembly.

The bill was previously passed in the Senate and now awaits the signature of Governor Jon Corzine.

"Our schools are places where young people learn to care for both their bodies and their minds," said Stender. "Selling junk food in hallways and cafeterias undercuts valuable lessons about health and nutrition taught in the classroom."

The new rules will prohibit schools from selling or serving all forms of candy during school hours, as well as all other foods or beverages that list sugar as a first ingredient.

Schools must also reduce trans fats, total fats, and sugar in foods, beverages and snacks in cafeterias, a la carte lines, vending machines, snack bars, school stores, fundraisers, and publicly funded after-school nutrition programs.

"Obesity is a public health crisis, but it is a preventable one," said Stender. "We can turn it around by working together and being consistent. Our schools must support parents in their efforts to instill good nutritional habits at home."

Schools could play a significant role in reducing obesity rates among young people, Stender said. Habits that have been permitted at school, such as drinking sugar-added beverages, are all thought to contribute to weight gain among children and teens.

Children can suffer serious health consequences from being overweight or obese, including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, Type 2 diabetes, orthopedic problems, liver disease and asthma.

According to the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the percentage of children who are overweight has more than tripled since 1980.

Overweight children also jeopardize their future health as adults, Stender noted. One study found that 80 percent of children who were overweight in adolescence were obese as adults at age 25, she said.

In adults, overweight or obesity is linked to hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, gallbladder disease, osteoarthritis and respiratory problems, as well as cancer of the uterus, breast and colon.

The new legislation exempts certain foods that are served in connection with school celebrations, curriculum-related activities, or health care provided by a school nurse.

Individual school boards may impose stricter standards than the new state rules require.

The new rules will also cover nonpublic schools that participate in the Child Nutrition Programs as defined by the Department of Agriculture.

Large advertisement for 'New Today' featuring a woman's face and the text 'Find your next job in the possibilities of online recruitment'.

A grid of 12 job advertisements including categories like Employment, Child Care, Drivers, Career Opportunities, C.S./Billing, Food Service, Kennel Attendant, Movie Extras, Production Supervisor, Child Care Supervisor, Driver, Deli Help, F/T Office Manager, Hygienist, Immediate Job, Excellent Career Opportunity, Companion/Aide, Cooks, Entry Jobs, Exercise Physiologists, Hair Dressers, Hair Stylists, Help Wanted, Library Assistant, Legal Secretary, and Receptionist.

Commentary

The sickness in health insurance

At a meeting of the Westfield Board of Education Tuesday night, Bob Berman, the school district's business administrator, reported that the district's health insurance costs are projected to rise by 8.6 percent, or about \$850,000, during the 2007-08 school year.

In the bizarre world of public-sector health insurance, this is treated as very good news.

District officials pointed out that at a time when medical insurance costs often rise by 15 percent annually, an increase in the single-digits counts as a victory. If Westfield were to experience the "average" increase in medical costs next year, the district would be out an additional \$630,000. The district realized this relative savings by steering its employees into a cheaper point-of-service plan, requiring contributions for employees who remain in a traditional plan, and shopping around for carriers that could deliver lower costs.

At the same time, school officials noted, it's hard to be cheery about a cost increase of "only" \$850,000. In keeping with Governor Corzine's recent statements, Westfield has set a target for a total budget increase of 4 percent, or about \$3.1 million. Despite the district's best efforts, more than one quarter of that amount has already disappeared to cover rising health insurance costs.

As school districts across the area begin their budget reviews over the next few weeks, the same story will likely be heard in other towns. Along with a few other factors, such as special education expenses and pension contributions, rising health care costs eat up all the wiggle room in every school budget. And that's not a problem that can be solved by voting down the budget at the school election — one way or another, those premiums will have to be paid out of property tax dollars.

The typical response to this situation is frustration and resentment: Why should teachers get such generous benefits at our expense, when those of us in the private sector must deal with higher premiums and/or lower coverage every year?

It's a good question, because the current situation is untenable. Through an accident of American history, the small class of workers who are still represented by unions have outstanding health insurance. Unfortunately, well-insured workers in the private sector mostly work for companies that have been crippled by their obligation to pay for spiraling medical costs. In the public sector, it's the taxpayers who have borne those crippling costs.

Meanwhile, non-union employees receive fair to poor health care, and the unemployed often don't receive any at all. The tide of medical expenses is rising, but some of us have leaky boats.

The current system is inequitable — the quality of your health care shouldn't depend on whether or not you have a job, and it shouldn't depend on what your job is. Even worse, the system has profound impacts on other public policy decisions, because it constrains budget choices.

What's to be done about this? One solution would be to find a way to drive down medical coverage for teachers and other public employees to the prevailing standard in the private sector. That would be fairer, strictly speaking — but it would also be a textbook case of cutting off our collective nose to spite our face.

Instead, we should set as our goal a universal health care system that serves patients well at a reasonable cost and doesn't discriminate between professions. That's a long way off and it even may seem impossible, but it's been achieved in other countries, and if we can overcome cynical arguments and entrenched interests such as the insurance companies, there's no reason we can't achieve it here.

There are other good arguments to end employer-based health insurance in favor of universal coverage, which, if done right, would improve care and reduce hassle for most Americans. But, with the debate about health care heating up in Congress and in state Legislatures around the country, we should remember that one good solution can address a number of problems.

Correction

A story about a Planning Board application for a new business at 235 Elmer St. in Westfield contained several inaccuracies.

The correct name of the business is Annie's Gourmet Kitchen, LLC. According to owner John Miller, there are six different meal prep restaurants in New Jersey, not six franchises of Supper Solutions, as was incorrectly stated in the article.

In addition to its meal prep programs, Annie's Gourmet Kitchen will also provide personal chef service and delivery. For more information, visit them on the Web at anniesgourmetkitchen.net.

Record-Press

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Letters to the Editor

Bond offers 'broad-based' solution at reasonable cost

To The Record-Press:

For the past 12 months, the Westfield Board of Education has actively sought the opinions of hundreds of local residents about how to respond to current elementary school overcrowding and intermediate school enrollment imbalances. These conversations took place at meetings of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Enrollment, school PTOs and local civic groups, in pre-school auditoriums, local coffee shops and many private homes. The response to these discussions is the proposal in the Westfield School Bond Referendum.

There is no one perfect solution to the situation now facing the Westfield Public Schools, but we believe the compromise proposal being offered provides the best opportunity to preserve what is most highly valued in a Westfield education.

We have been on the Board of Ed for a combined total of more than 13 years and have evaluated and constructively criticized proposed solutions to many quandaries faced by the district. The problems facing us today are complex, but after evaluating the alternatives, we believe that this bond is the most appropriate way to address our students' needs, respect overburdened taxpayers, preserve the distinction of a Westfield education and sustain the demand for and value of Westfield home properties. The bond referendum offers a broad-based solution with benefits for many, but the overall cost is much more reasonable than many of the alternatives considered.

Many have asked us why we can't cover these costs in our regular operating budget. In prior years we were able to "save up" for major building renovations and maintenance costs, but recent state legislation has imposed budget growth caps and prohibits us from holding more than a 2 percent reserve fund. As a result, we can no longer pay for major repairs or improvements in an operating budget or reserve budget funds for future use.

Each year's operating budget is highly scrutinized. The good news is that in state comparisons reviewing district total costs per pupil, recent Westfield school budgets have been notable for keeping spending below average. And, we have applied this same mindset of frugality in establishing the budget contained in the bond, which enables us to amortize these costs over 20 years.

Many have also asked why we haven't given them a choice of proposals. We are community officials elected to provide citizen governance for what our schools need and what our

community wants, but we are also responsible for ensuring that Westfield taxpayers get the most for their tax dollars. Each part of the bond proposal contributes to the current needs of Westfield schools in a fiscally practical way.

Continuous improvement in our schools is a positive reflection on our community's strength and property values. Two of our children are no longer Westfield students, but they benefited from past bonds paid for by many of our friends and neighbors. In turn, we will pay for the opportunity of future generations of children to benefit from this bond. A thriving community must stand together to give continued financial support to its public schools. What do we stand to gain? What is the value of a Westfield education? What is the value of a thriving community where real estate remains in demand by young families seeking a Westfield education for their children?

I hope you will join us by voting "Yes" for the school bond referendum on Jan. 23. Polling hours are 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Vote at your regular voting location.

ANNE RIEGEL, President
GINNY LEIZ, Vice President and Finance Chair
Westfield Board of Education

Board should have sold Elm Street office building

To The Record-Press:

This month marks the 10th anniversary of the Westfield Board of Education vote to spend several million dollars on the administration building at 302 Elm St. at a time when Westfield's students were going to school in trailers and the nine school buildings were shabby and in disrepair. Despite protests and opposition, the school board has done just that. Reasoned and researched proposals for the sale of 302 Elm St. have been ignored. The minority board members who have had the intelligence and courage to see the wisdom of converting the building to an asset deserve our respect and gratitude.

Why does the Board of Education refuse to use this financial resource? Board offices do not need to be moved to Lincoln School, although it was a logical step at the time.

How can Westfield continue to ignore this financial asset and revenue stream? Why are the taxpayers being asked to continue to compensate for this unnecessary deficit? How can we have confidence in the financial decisions of the Board of Education when we go to the polls Jan. 23?

JOANNE HONE
Westfield

If bond fails, schools 'will begin to deteriorate'

To The Record-Press:

I am the parent of a 3-year-old preschool student and a 5-year-old kindergarten, and I am volunteering my time on Westfield's Citizens for Education Committee. The committee's goal is to educate Westfield residents on the upcoming Jan. 23 bond referendum. The goals of the bond are to create space in our overcrowded elementary schools, especially grades 3-5, and to create a safe environment at Roosevelt Intermediate School.

In order to create space in the elementary schools, a centralized early childhood learning center, including kindergarten would be developed. This would free up space in all elementary schools, keeping class size at 18-25 and provide the very important opportunity for an art and/or music room in all elementary schools.

The key benefits for the learning center are numerous, including a strengthened program with targeted expertise for the pre-school handicapped and kindergarten children. It is important to note that the learning center provides the opportunity to bring out-of-district placements back to Westfield, resulting in cost savings.

I toured Roosevelt Intermediate School and was horrified. In addition to unsafe and deteriorated stairwells and dimly-lit hallways, I was distressed to learn that many of our town's children eat lunch in less than 20 minutes (more like 10 minutes, actually). The cafeteria is too small to accommodate a full grade in a period, necessitating the need for a split-period lunch. Did you know the size of the library is below state standards? This limits the types of resources available to our children. Last but not least, because the breezeway is not enclosed and the school doors need to be locked, foot traffic resulting from diverting children to use the upper "enclosed bridge" is a nightmare. Enclosing the breezeway will allow for less congested hallways and a safer environment.

I have decided to work on helping to promote this bond because if it is defeated, I believe our children will suffer as overcrowded classrooms will adversely impact the quality of their education. If this bond does not pass, class sizes will be increased, art/music on a cart will continue and the music and art rooms at Franklin will be jeopardized, more redistricting will occur, and Roosevelt students will be educated in a sub-optimal environment with 10 minutes to eat lunch. The bottom line is, Westfield's school system will begin to deteriorate. I want more for my children and their future and hope you feel the same.

Support our town, our schools, and our future by voting "Yes" from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Jan. 23 at your usual polling area.

GINA TOTINO
Westfield

Contacting the Record Press

We welcome letters to the editor, press releases, photos, wedding announcements and story suggestions. The following information should help you get your ideas and community news into the Record Press.

For news, call editor Gregory Marx at (732) 396-4219. For sports, call sports editor Joe Serzan at (732) 396-4202.

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

Our fax number is (732) 574-2613. Our e-mail address is union@njnpublishing.com. Visit us online at nj.com/recordpress.

Deadlines. The deadline for submitting articles and press releases to the Record Press is 5 p.m. Friday. The deadline for submitting letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday.

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

Photographs. Conventional photographs should be mailed or dropped off at our offices. Digital photos should be sent via email as JPEG attachments. Do not print out and mail in digital photos.

Correction policy. We will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to editor Greg Marx at (732) 396-4219.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Munoz: 'Early childhood center' is 'educationally sound'

To The Record-Press:

As principal of Jefferson School, I would like to briefly elaborate on three very good reasons why we should help to support the early childhood learning center.

Westfield has always delivered programs that are educationally sound. The early childhood center is a fine example of this. Through the center, educators in the district will be able to support a common goal, that of early childhood learning. Additionally, this will help to support related services at one location. Occupational therapy, speech and support counselors will all be on hand for early detection of speech delays and possible learning disabilities and will help to provide early intervention strategies. The shared resources at one location will enable educators to focus on materials targeting this developmental period.

It is educationally sound to place our pre-school students in age appropriate settings.

By placing the kindergarten and pre-school students in a centralized location, more needed space will become available in the elementary schools.

The Westfield Board of Education is proactive in its quest to address increasing enrollment issues. If we do not, today's class size will not be the size of the future. Jefferson School is only one of the six schools experiencing "space impossibilities." The elementary enrollment has increased steadily since 1996, affecting room availability at Jefferson School and other elementary schools. First grade enrollment this year is the highest since 1970. There are no music or art rooms at five of our six elementary schools and no space for additional classrooms.

This spring, very difficult decisions were made by principals in the district, moving incoming kindergartners to locations other than their home school. If our elementary school classrooms continue to be full, we will be forced to continue this process and families will be uncertain as to which school their kindergartners will attend. Wouldn't it be better to know that all kindergartners would be attending the same school together? Without freeing up space in our elementary schools, we will be faced with crowded schools, instructional overload and families not wanting to call Westfield "home."

Westfield residents have supported a strong sense of community. By creating an early childhood learning center, children and their families will begin their educational endeavors district-wide. This will support a commitment to "our town," not just "our side of town." Children and families will continue their relationships throughout their educational careers.

Please consider supporting the early childhood learning center and the vote to support education on Jan. 23.

JEANETTE MUNOZ
Principal
Jefferson Elementary School

The AAA Clubs of New Jersey support this bill and urge you to contact your state senator. Unless we take action now, more teens will die on our roadways.

PAM FISCHER
Vice President, Public Affairs
AAA New Jersey Automobile Club

Bond will help preserve Westfield's property values

To The Record-Press:

How does the bond benefit me?

We frequently get asked this question, and here is my answer:

The bond benefits every person, young and old, who resides in Westfield. Our town prides itself on an excellent educational system. It is one of the main selling points for potential buyers; it's why most of us move to Westfield and why many people move back to raise their families.

In order to maintain our signature excellence we must continually meet higher standards in our curriculum, replace outdated technology and upgrade our facilities. Like us, many towns are finding themselves in similar situations of increased enrollment while still trying to maintain smaller class sizes, increasing numbers of special education students and the desire to keep them in-district, the loss of music and art rooms and inevitably the aging of facilities.

But Westfield has an opportunity to address these issues at a very reasonable cost. We, unlike other communities, have a building which we can renovate to create a state-of-the-art early childhood learning center, a step many communities are taking.

We can also answer the call of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to make long overdue renovations to Roosevelt's aging facility, expand its cafeteria and at the same time extend that addition to add much-needed additional instructional space in the library. We can address security issues by enclosing an open breezeway.

Many communities are seeking bonds much larger than ours. We truly have put together a plan that meets the needs of our children and is respectful of the taxpayer. So while you may not have a child who may actually use the building that is being renovated, you certainly will reap the benefits in the long run when people are looking to settle into our community, not just because it is a great town to live in but especially because it is a great town in which to raise our children.

JANE CLANCY
Westfield Board of Education

Volunteers, sponsors made first 'Family Night' a big success

To The Record-Press:

The Westfield Recreation Department and the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce would like to take this opportunity to thank the community, the volunteers, and "Top Hat Sponsors" for making our first annual Family Night a huge and safe success. Over 900 adults and children from the community enjoyed the event. It took the collaboration of the Westfield Recreation Department, the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce and our dedicated volunteers to operate this wonderful event safely and smoothly.

The event was successful thanks to the following "Top Hat" Sponsors: Century 21 Taylor & Love, CitiBank, The Optimist Club of Westfield, PBA Local 90, Fred Defazio of Creative Sales and Jeff Brandes of Protuff. Thanks to Abrakadoodle Art and Just Babies Daycare for supplying activities throughout the evening for participants. Thanks to Mayor Skibitsky, the Town of Westfield's Department of Public Works and Paul Rios of the Westfield Army for their tremendous support in making the event possible.

Special thanks to the following volunteers for their hours of dedication the night of the event: Steve and Lorraine Wereley, Kim Caster, Pat Gray, Fred DeFazio, Kelly Gray, Bruce Gavurnik, Diana Bruder, Matt and Kyle Monaghan, and Denise Morrell. You made this community project a success.

The above organizations, along with the many community members who volunteered, are to be commended for their efforts and dedication toward community-oriented programs. Thank you, and wishing everyone a happy and prosperous 2007!

NAOMI McELYNN
Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce
TRACI KASTNER
Westfield Recreation Department

Local residents work to keep trails clear



PHOTO BY JIM LOWNEY/COUNTY OF UNION

In a ceremony held in December, several area residents were recognized for volunteering their time and talents to the Union County Parks and Recreation's Adopt-A-Trail program in the Watchung Reservation. Above, Union County Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski (third from right) presents resolutions to trail stewards (from left) Damian Butters of Fanwood, Richard Sulzer of Scotch Plains, Bill Wallis of Scotch Plains and Jennifer and Christopher Ames of Westfield.

Holy Trinity will hold several open houses

WESTFIELD — Mayor Andrew Skibitsky recently met with students of Holy Trinity Interparochial School and signed a proclamation honoring Catholic Schools Week, which runs from Jan. 28-Feb. 2.

Noting Holy Trinity is now in its 91st year, the proclamation reads, "The school and its students are a source of value, pleasure, and pride" to Westfield.

Dorothy Sztot, principal, announced that the week-long celebration of Catholic Schools Week would begin with Masses celebrated at the three co-sponsoring parishes.

Our Lady of Lourdes in Mountainside will hold their School Mass at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 28, followed by an open house and registration for Pre-K and kindergarten at the Mountainside campus, 304 Central Avenue.

St. Helen's School Mass will be said at 9:15 a.m. Jan. 28. Holy Trinity's School Mass will be celebrated at noon, followed by an open house and registration for grades one through eight at the Westfield campus, 336 First St. Students from the school will be participating in the Masses.

Parents may also obtain more information about enrolling their children for the 2007-2008 school year by calling (908) 233-0484 for grades one-eight and (908) 233-1899 for children in Pre-K (2½) through kindergarten. Parent classroom visitations will be available from 9-11 a.m. Jan. 30 at the Westfield campus. Parent classroom visitations will be available at the Mountainside campus from 9:15-11:15 a.m. Jan. 31 for Pre-K 3 & 4 (a.m. classes) and kindergarten. For Pre-K p.m. classes, the visitations will be from 12:15-2:15 p.m.

There are many events planned for both the students and teachers the entire week, including special breakfasts, pizza parties, pep rallies, school volleyball and movie time.

At the conclusion of the week, the teachers will celebrate with a special luncheon, and the students will enjoy a private afternoon skating party at U.S. Skates in Woodbridge.

"Catholic Schools Week offers an opportunity to celebrate the goodness of Holy Trinity Interparochial School and to recognize all who contribute to the success of this fine school," said Sztot.

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Time for state to tighten restrictions on teen drivers

To The Record-Press:

That three more teenagers have died while driving New Jersey roads is becoming all too common morning reading. The most recent deaths occurred Jan. 10 in Monmouth County. Perhaps excessive speed was a cause, perhaps not. Perhaps the teen driver was violating Graduated Driver License (GDL) provisions, which govern when and with whom teenagers may drive, perhaps not. What is not in question is that inexperience did play a part. Exacerbating this tragedy is the death of a school transport vehicle driver, a grandmother, who died in the same crash.

Without a doubt, it's long past time to revisit New Jersey's GDL law. Luckily, the New Jersey Legislature is considering a bill (A-617/S-1982) that will do just that. Our respective General Assembly representatives have passed this bill unanimously. The AAA Clubs of New Jersey applaud their efforts to promote traffic safety. Our state senators, however, have not. The AAA Clubs hope they'll move quickly on this opportunity.

This bill — the Teenage Driver Safety Study Commission bill — would empower New Jersey to enhance the state's GDL law, giving it teeth by allowing a complete reassessment of teen driving laws in the Garden State. In addition, it may also spur the state Motor Vehicle Commission to finally and fully implement New Jersey's GDL law by tracking GDL driver progress and violations.

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MEMBER FDIC

Wf. Library to host teen study hours

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library invites teens to study for finals from Jan. 22-24. During this time the library will offer a designated study room and refreshments from 7-10 p.m. nightly to high school students in grades nine-12.

The library's upcoming programs for adults are listed below. Unless otherwise noted, registration is not required and programs are free and are open to Westfield and MURAL cardholders.

TGIF: Lucille Ball. If you loved Lucy — and who didn't? — learn more about her at 1:30 p.m. Friday.

Alzheimer's Association: Clinical Trials Program. This free program, at 10 a.m. Saturday, will provide an overview of prevention and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. Contact the Alzheimer's Association at (973) 586-4300 to register.

TGIF: Ellis Island. At 1:30 p.m. Jan. 26, learn about the historic landmark that embraced millions of immigrants.

Business & Investment Resources Online. This hands-on class, set for 10 a.m. Jan. 30, will cover the basics of ReferenceUSA, NetAdvantage and Hoover's. Participants must know how to use a mouse and a keyboard. Registration is required.

The library's upcoming events for children are listed below. With the exception of Children's Chess, registration is open to full-service Westfield Library cardholders only.

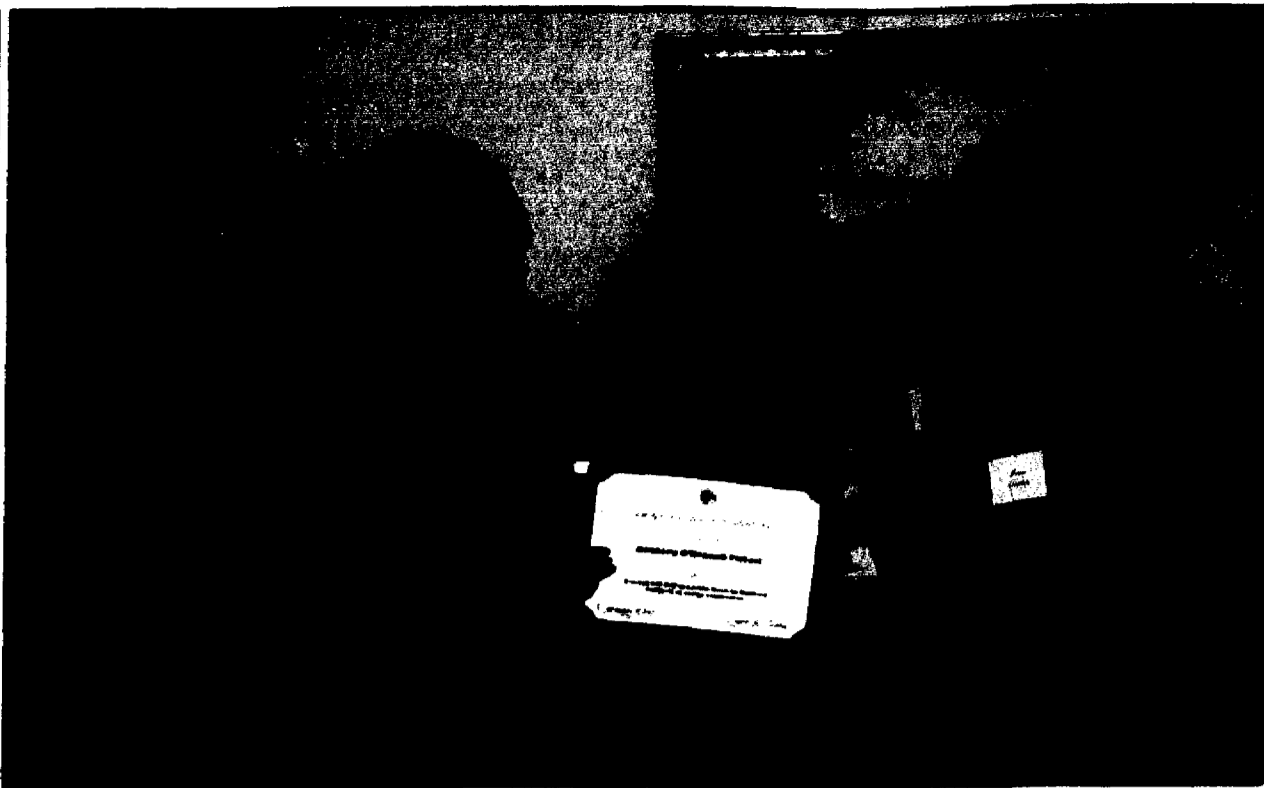
Preschool Storytime. Children ages 3½ to 5 listen to stories and do an activity at 10 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Jan. 24 and 31.

Tots' Storytime. Children ages 2½ to 3½, accompanied by a caregiver, listen to stories and do an activity at 10 a.m. Jan. 19 and 26.

Mammal Mania - Tales of the Wild. Children enjoy a live animal show at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 27.

Children's Chess. Bring a friend to play chess every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Registration is open to the public.

For more information call (908) 789-4090, visit the library's Web site at www.wminj.org or stop by the library at 550 East Broad St. for a copy of the quarterly newsletter.



Pictured from left are Bernadine Liebrich, mentor for Girl Scouts striving for the Gold Award, Onnolee Alleri, president-elect of the Garden Club of New Jersey, Kimberly O'Donnell-Pickert and Jane Curtis, president of the Garden Club of Westfield.

WHS senior is honored by Garden Club

WESTFIELD — Kimberly O'Donnell-Pickert received an Award of Distinction at the Jan. 9 regular meeting of the Garden Club of Westfield.

After reading about Kim's Girl Scout Gold Award Project in the newspaper, the club members felt she should be recognized for her efforts, in addition to the Scout award in energy conservation she received last spring.

The project evolved as an energy conservation forum addressing what people can do to protect the environment. Four speakers discussed the benefits of solar energy, hybrid automobiles and energy-efficient home

appliances.

Kim is a senior at Westfield High School, where she participates in basketball, cross-country and dancing. She is also a peer minister at St. Helen's Church and a summer camp counselor.

Kim is waiting to learn the results of her college applications and plans to pursue communication and environmental studies.

The Garden Club of Westfield is a member of the Garden Club of New Jersey and the Central Atlantic Region. Environmental concerns are a key component of the education agenda of these organizations.

Church will host lectures on ethics of war

WESTFIELD — Dr. Martin L. Cook, a renowned authority on professional military ethics, will deliver a series of lectures from Feb. 3-4 at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located at 140 Mountain Ave. All three lectures on Christian ethics and war will take place in the Parish House and are open to the public.

The church's senior pastor, the Rev. Sr. Ray Roberts, called Cook "probably the finest, most interesting and engaging teacher I have ever seen." The pastor added, "He's clear, informative and knows everything about the subject. He gets people thinking. I saw him lead a men's retreat. When free time came, nobody wanted to leave."

Cook will lead a three-session plenary with the first session in the church's lower-level assembly hall at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 3. The two final sessions will be held in the chapel at 9:15 a.m. and 1 p.m. Feb. 4.

Cook will introduce his subject by discussing Christian thinking about war. Then, depending on world events, he will talk about the situation in Iraq and lead a more general discussion of America's responsibility in the world as the sole remaining superpower.

A leading authority on ethics and war, Cook currently is department head and professor of philosophy at the United States Air Force academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. Earlier, he taught ethics at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa.

Before joining the Army War College, Cook was a professor at Santa Clara University in California and taught at the Graduate Institute of St. John's College in New Mexico, The College of William and Mary in Virginia, Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota and St. Xavier College in Illinois. He also has taught military ethics to senior military officers around the world.

Cook serves on the editorial boards of *Parameters*, the scholarly journal of the Army War College, and *The Journal of Military Ethics*. He has written numerous articles and recently authored a book entitled *The Moral Warrior: Ethics and Service in the U.S. Military*. Copies of his book will be available at the front desk of the church prior to his appearances.

For more information regarding this event, visit the church Web site at www.westfieldpc.org.

OBITUARIES

William H. Imgrund

William H. Imgrund, 73, died Jan. 10, 2007, in Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County, Berkeley Heights, after a long illness.

Born in Newark on Jan. 5, 1934, he grew up in West Orange and graduated from West Orange High School in 1952. Mr. Imgrund lived in Watchung before moving to Westfield in 1978.

Mr. Imgrund attended Seton Hall University and, after graduating in 1956 with a political science degree, entered the U.S. Navy. He was accepted into Officers' Candidate School in Newport, R.I., and after being commissioned he proudly served aboard the USS Brister as the engineering officer. Stationed in Pearl Harbor, the USS Brister followed the DEW Line to Alaska. His Navy years remained among of the fondest memories of his life and he maintained lifelong friendships with many of his fellow officers and men of the Brister.

After his Navy service, Mr. Imgrund entered New York Law School. Admitted to the New Jersey Bar in 1966, he maintained a law practice in

Westfield since 1970.

A member of the New Jersey Bar Association, Mr. Imgrund was also a member of the American Legion Walkberg Post 3 in Westfield, the Tin Can Sailors Association and the U.S. Naval Institute.

He was active in the Somerset County Republican Club for many years and the Lions Club of Westfield, and he was a member of the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.

Mr. Imgrund is survived by his wife of 29 years, Carmen; two daughters, Marcy Viguers and Sydney Johnson; two sons, Mark Imgrund and Christopher Imgrund, and a stepdaughter, Robin Ratkowski of Westfield. He is also survived by two brothers, John Imgrund and Robert Imgrund; two sisters, Jean Milone and Mary Lou Hart, and six grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was offered Monday in Holy Trinity Church. Arrangements are by the Dooley Colonial Home, Westfield. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Donations may be made to the American Lung Association.

Chantal Mueller

Chantal Mueller, 20, died suddenly on Jan. 13, 2007, in Mountainside.

Miss Mueller was born in Elizabeth and lived most of her life in Union before moving to Fanwood.

She was a 2004 graduate of Union High School, where she was the manager of the wrestling team.

In junior high school, Miss Mueller was a cheerleader for the Pop Warner Squad. She attended dance schools all her life, and dancing was one of her favorite things to do.

Miss Mueller was attending Union County College, where she was studying child psychology. She worked as a

teacher's assistant at the YMCA of Eastern Union County-Josephine and John Jacobsen Child Care Center in Elizabeth for three years. Previously, she worked for the after school program and was a camp counselor during the summer at the YMCA.

Surviving are her parents, Charles W. and Silvania Mueller; her brother, Charles S.; her sister, Andrea; maternal grandparents, Jose and Yolanda Ibanez, and many aunts, uncles and cousins. Her paternal grandparents, Sigmund A. and Margaret M. Mueller, predeceased her.

Services were held Wednesday at the Rossi Funeral Home, Scotch Plains.

Robert C. Nawrocki

Robert C. Nawrocki, 81, died Jan. 11, 2007, at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

Born in Newark, he was raised in Irvington and lived in Westfield before moving to Fanwood 44 years ago.

A World War II veteran, Mr. Nawrocki served as a corporal in the U.S. Marines from 1943 to 1946. He received his degree in engineering from the Stevens Institute of Technology in 1951.

At the time of his retirement in 1990, Mr. Nawrocki was employed as a mechanical engineer with Airco/BOC in Murray Hill.

Mr. Nawrocki was predeceased by his wife, Virginia, in

January 2006. He is survived by his daughter, Janet A. Baliko of Flower Mound, Texas; his son, Roger M. Nawrocki of Monks, Md.; two brothers, Theodore of Millburn and Victor of Edison, and four grandchildren, Ryan and Melissa Baliko and Robert and Matthew Nawrocki.

Services were held Tuesday from the Memorial Funeral Home, Fanwood, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Bartholomew the Apostle R.C. Church, Scotch Plains. Interment was in Graceland Memorial Park in Kenilworth.

Donations may be made to the Fanwood Rescue Squad, 218 Forest Rd., Fanwood, N.J. 07023.

Barbara S. Flynn

Barbara S. Flynn, 61, died Jan. 9, 2007, at her home in Westfield.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Flynn lived in Hillside before moving to Westfield 35 years ago.

She was an art teacher at Westfield High School for the past 20 years and, earlier, at Hillside grammar schools. She was responsible for reshaping the Westfield High School computer program.

Mrs. Flynn earned a bachelor's degree in art education from Montclair State College and a master's degree in technology in the arts from Jersey City University.

She was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, an international honorary organization for women educators, and an offi-

cer of the Westfield Education Association for the past 10 years.

Surviving are her husband, David M. Flynn; daughter, Lauren E. Flynn; parents, Aniela and the late Stanley Skwirut, and sister, Brenda Manders.

A funeral Mass was offered Saturday from Holy Trinity R.C. Church, Westfield. Arrangements were by the Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, Westfield. Interment was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Donations may be made to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, 1275 York Ave., New York, NY 10131-0112, Attn: Sort 8400-Memorial Gifts.

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HealthLink Radio

Saturday, January 20 at 8AM - WSOU 89.5 FM
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Sunday, January 21 at 8:00AM - WMTR 1250 AM
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Sunday, January 21 at 8:30AM - WFUD 89.1 FM

After the shows air, they are archived & can be heard at www.theuniversityhospital.com

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IN PRIME TIME

The NJWA Concert Band, which continues to expand its repertoire, will take on the works of Czech composer Julius Fucik in a performance Sunday afternoon in Kenilworth. See the story on Page B-2.

Community Life

Section
B

January 19, 2007

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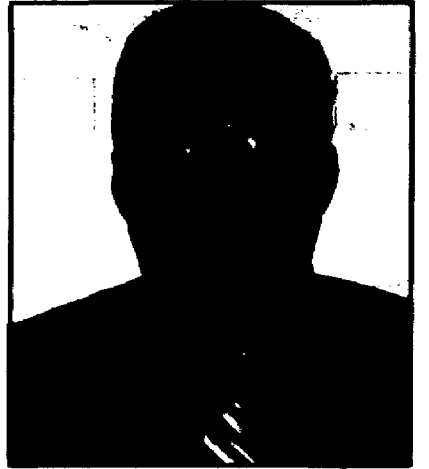
Girl Scouts kick off annual cookie sale



Girl Scouts in Westfield and Fanwood-Scotch Plains recently hit the streets to begin selling this year's batch of those famous Girl Scout cookies. Above, Fanwood-Scotch Plains Scouts pose with Jean De Jesso of the Double-Dipper Café to promote the cookie sale. At right, Westfield Scouts stopped by the recently-opened Earthchild, where they posed for a photo with Casey Horgan and Susan Markowitz. For more information on the sale or to purchase boxes of any of the eight varieties of cookies, contact the Washington Rock Council at (908) 232-3236.

James Cerasa honored by Center for Hope Hospice

The Center for Hope Hospice & Palliative Care will host its 21st annual Charity Ball on Saturday, Feb. 24 at L'Affaire on Route 22 East in Mountainside. At this annual fundraiser, the staff and supporters of the Scotch Plains-based center take time to celebrate their achievements and pledge support to the future of quality end-of-life care.



JIM CERASA

Each year, one individual is honored at the dinner with the Coloney-Hudson Award for embodying the mission of the Center for Hope — to provide terminally ill patients with the natural, humane care known as hospice, and to provide their families and loved ones with physical, emotional, and spiritual support during their time of need, without concern for race, ethnicity, religious affiliation or ability to pay.

James V. Cerasa Jr. has been chosen as this year's honoree. Cerasa has worked for the Clark Police Department since 1985; he was promoted to sergeant in 1988 and to lieutenant in 1996.

Cerasa has been a member of the volunteer department at the Center since 1988. He has been a tremendous asset to the annual golf outing and still finds time to spend at Camp Starbright, the Center's children's bereavement camp. Over the past 10 years his dedication to the annual Super Bowl raffle has resulted in contributions totaling more than \$75,000. Cerasa was also honored by the Center for Hope in 2005 during National Volunteer Week at the annual volunteer dinner. He was awarded Volunteer of the Year for his ongoing efforts.

When asked to explain his involvement with the Center for Hope, Cerasa's response was simple. "I help the Center because cancer does not discriminate. I wanted to be involved somewhere that accepts every person in need regardless of their circumstances; their creed, race of religion."

"Bob Coloney, president of the Center, has written many thank you letters to me which make me feel as though I am making a difference. I truly feel like part of the family of the Center for hope."

Added Coloney, "I have never seen Jim without a smile on his face and am most grateful for all the love and genuine compassion he exhibits whenever he is around."

The Charity Ball will run from 7:30 p.m.-midnight. Tickets cost \$75 and full-course dinner, wine, beer, soda and dancing to the sounds of the David Aaron Orchestra. For tickets or ad journal information, call (908) 889-7780.

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY, JAN. 19

BLOOD DRIVE — Westfield PBA Local 90 hosts this drive in the Community Room of the Westfield municipal building, 425 East Broad St. 2:30 p.m. Jan. 19. Donors must bring a photo or signature ID and know their Social Security number. (800) 933-2566.

SATURDAY, JAN. 20

YMCA PRE-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE — Parents of children who will be ages 2½-5 as of Sept. 1 are invited to check out the Westfield Area Y's preschool open house, set for 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Bauer Family Branch, 422 East Broad St. (908) 233-2700.

BOOK CLUB MEETING — the Women's Book Club at First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St. in Westfield, will discuss "My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult. 10 a.m. Newcomers welcome, and you may attend without having read the book. (908) 233-2278.

'HANSEL AND GRETEL' — an interactive introduction to the opera, courtesy of the Little Opera Company. 10:30 a.m. Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Ave. Free and open to the public; children should be accompanied by an adult. (908) 322-5007.

SUNDAY, JAN. 21

MOTHER/DAUGHTER MATINEE — girls in grades 3-6 and their moms are invited to see "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" at the JCC of Central NJ, 1391 Martine Ave., Scotch Plains. \$10 per family; register by Jan. 17. (908) 889-8800, ext. 235.

WINTER'S WONDERS — a seasonal program for kids ages 3-7 at the Miller-Cory House Museum, 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield. 2-4 p.m. \$3 for kids; adults admitted free. (908) 232-1776.

MONDAY, JAN. 22

MOVING MEDITATION — the first of a three-part series of classes at First Congregational Church, 125 Elmer St. in Westfield. 7 p.m.; continues same time Jan. 29 and Feb. 5. Drop in or register at (908) 232-0169.

LINE DANCING PROGRAM — hosted by the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains in the Forest Road Park Recreation building, Fanwood. 8 p.m. No partner required. (908) 233-2948.

TUESDAY, JAN. 23

NURSERY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE — Osceola Presbyterian Church, located at 1689 Raritan Rd. in Clark, will host an open house for parents and children. Stop in between 9-11 a.m., 12:30-2:30 p.m. or 6-8 p.m. Registration for September classes will begin at the open house. (908) 272-3668.

BASKET-WEAVING WORKSHOP — learn basic basketry techniques in this event for adults age 18 and up at Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. 7-9 p.m. \$30 for county residents; \$35 for non-residents. (908) 789-3670.

'ASK THE DOCTOR' — the National Alliance on Mental Illness will host this program with psychiatrist Jeffrey T. Apter, an expert in the area of psychopharmacology. 7:30 p.m. Osceola Presbyterian Church, 1689 Raritan Rd., Clark. (908) 233-1628.

ALL ABOUT FUR COATS — Tim Truedson will lead this program for the Historical Society of Scotch Plains-Fanwood. 8 p.m. at Scotch Hills Country Club. Free and open to the public. (908) 232-1199.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24

DIGITAL PHOTO WORKSHOP — Jenny Lichtenwalner, reference librarian at the Scotch Plains Public Library, leads this session, at which participants will learn about online photo sharing and printing services. 7 p.m. at the library, 1927 Bartle Ave. Free.

(Continued on page B-4)

Girl Scouts will offer new day camp at Jerseyland Park

For the first time in its 50-year history, the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock Council (GSWRC) will operate a Summer Day Camp for girls entering grades 1-8 (as of the fall of 2007) in Scotch Plains.

The camp will take place at the Jerseyland Park Community Center on Jerusalem Road in one-week sessions beginning on July 9 and concluding on Aug. 3.

GSWRC has partnered with the Community Center, which has a host of modern amenities. Campers will be able to unleash their creative side with arts and crafts, use their bodies with a wide variety of outdoor sports and expand their horizons on camp trips and by taking in presentations of guest speakers and visitors.

Most of all, said Scouting officials, the camp will aim to build girls of courage, confidence and character by



Jerseyland Park in Scotch Plains features modern playground equipment.

delivering quality Girl Scout-based programming.

The camp day will from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the cost is \$125 per session. An Early Bird discount, available to those registering for all four sessions and paying in full by May 15, is offered at \$450. A four-session discount, available to those registering for all four sessions and paying in full by June 29, is offered at \$475.

To request more information including a camp brochure, call (908) 232-3236 or visit www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts.

GSWRC is in the midst of its 50th anniversary celebration. The council serves 11,000 girls and adults in its 24-community jurisdiction. The council service center and adjoining full service shop are located at 201 Grove St. East in Westfield.

Facilities upgrades underway at Highland Swim Club

SCOTCH PLAINS — Highland Swim Club recently began construction of a new multipurpose building as part of a major renovation of the pool, facilities and grounds, scheduled for completion by Memorial Day 2007.

The renovation, which

began last fall, includes construction of a new club entrance and bathhouse with a full-service concession, first-aid area, and offices for the lifeguards and pool manager.

The renovation project will also incorporate a complete resurfacing of the baby pool,

a new filtration for the main pool and new coping finishing. Final touches will include new decking throughout the pool area and redesigned landscaping of the club grounds.

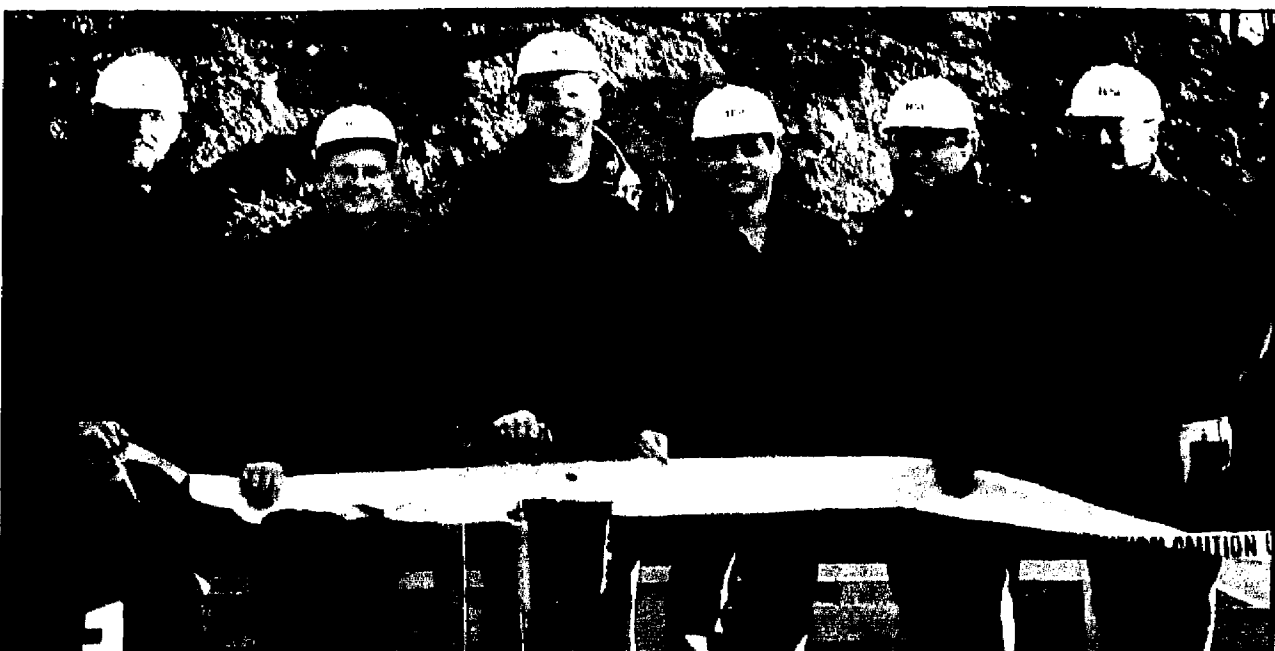
"The renovation will completely transform the swim club with modern facilities

that cater to families and individual members," said John Foley, president of the swim club's board of governors. "One of our goals in accomplishing this project was to use local contractors who understood our objectives. A. Pigna and Sons and Triangle Contracting are leading the build-out with skilled masonry services and project coordination."

Highland offers members adult lap lanes, a bathhouse, diving boards, a gated baby pool, shaded picnic grounds, grills, basketball courts and a playground. In addition, members can take advantage of free swim lessons for children, a competitive youth swim team, private swim lessons and a variety of social activities throughout the summer.

Established in 1953, Highland Swim Club is located at 1235 Martine Ave. in the heart of the township. Limited memberships are currently available; to apply, contact Highland Swim Club at (908) 889-4804 or by e-mail at Hsepool@aol.com.

For more information, visit the club's Web site at <http://members.aol.com/hsepool/highland.htm>.



Highland Swim Club recently broke ground for a new bathhouse as part of a major renovation of the pool, facilities and grounds. Club members on hand included, from left, Paul Kolterjahn, Chris Zucosky, John Foley, Steve Giacona, Pat Hogan and Steve Skaar.

Highlights and hot spots

— LOCAL ARTIST FRANK FALOTICO will demonstrate techniques for drawing heads and portraits at the Scotch Plains & Fanwood Arts Association meeting at 7 p.m. Jan. 18 in the Scotch Plains Public Library, 1927 Bartle Ave. Relying on his extensive background in anatomy, Falotico will show participants how to construct faces on top of the underlying structure of the human head.

Falotico has been the director of the DuCret School of Art in Plainfield since 1985. He has been teaching anatomy for over 30 years and also teaches life drawing, painting and sculpture. Falotico has a B.A. from Monmouth University and is a graduate of the DuCret School of Art., the oldest private art school in New Jersey. He also studied at the Art Students League in New York under famed anatomist Robert Beverly Hale.

Falotico's professional experience includes work in animation with both Adventure Cartoons and Paramount Studios, and design and illustration for the Point-of-Purchase publication display field. He has exhibited in numerous shows in New York and New Jersey, and his work is in many private and public collections.

The demonstration is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Tom Yeager at (908) 322-5438.

— "THE UNDERSTANDING," a new play by Rachel Rubin Ladutke, will be featured in a script-in-hand performance by the Theater Project of Union County College at 3 p.m. Saturday. Arlene Schulman will direct.

In the play, amidst growing civil unrest in the aftermath of Argentina's "Dirty War," a prominent Buenos Aires physician is implicated in 21-year-old war crimes, and long-hidden secrets threaten to engulf his family and destroy his life.

The presentation will be followed by a discussion with the playwright, director, actors and audience in the Union County College Student Commons, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Admission is free. For more information, call the box office at (908) 659-5189, or visit the Web site at www.TheTheaterProject.com.

— SOLID BRASS, one of the premier brass groups in America, will perform at 2 p.m. Jan. 28, at the First Baptist Church of Westfield.

Solid Brass, 10 brass players and a percussionist, is the only ensemble of its kind in North America and includes some of the New York area's finest musicians, many who have performed with the Metropolitan and New York City Opera orchestras, Broadway shows, movies and television. Members of Solid Brass have also performed numerous times in the Westfield area, including worship services at First Baptist.

Since the church sanctuary is set "in the round," this performance presents a unique opportunity to experience Solid Brass while practically sitting with the musicians.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and are available by calling (908) 233-2278 or emailing firstbaptist.westfield@verizon.net. First Baptist is located at 170 Elm St.

— JOHN PIZZI will be the headline performer at the Kenilworth Knights of Columbus' third annual comedy night on Feb. 24 at the council hall at 191 Market St., Kenilworth. The doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 9 p.m.

Pizzi has appeared on "The Daily Show," "Good Morning, America" and "Late Night with David Letterman." He will be joined by Mike Egan from Caroline's and WJUX 103.1 and Mike Morse, best known for his stand-up, song parodies and props.

Tickets are \$25 per person. For more information, call (908) 389-9663.

— "DRAWN TOGETHER," an exhibit featuring the works of the Figure-Drawing Group of the Westfield Art Association, is on view through Jan. 30 at the Westfield Art Gallery, the storefront venue at the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, 150-152 East Broad St. in downtown Westfield.

The dozen artists in the group meet at 9:30 a.m. Thursdays in the Community Room of the Westfield municipal building to draw from clothed models. After several quick warm-up poses, the main pose of the day continues to 12:30 p.m., long enough to complete a finished drawing, pastel or watercolor. Reflecting the different media, some pictures in the exhibit are black-and-white, and some have high color.

The non-taught sketch class has a drop-in format and welcomes newcomers. For information about the class, call Barbara Uhr at (908) 317-2983 before 9 p.m. or Eileen Willoughby at (908) 232-5046. Regular viewing hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, 6-8 p.m. Thursdays, and 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays. Admission to the exhibit or reception is free. For information about "Drawn Together," call Linda Kolar at (908) 753-1154.

Choral Art Society presents 'Elijah'



The Choral Art Society of New Jersey (above) will perform Mendelssohn's "Elijah" at 8 p.m. Saturday at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, located at Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street. James S. Little, musical director of the Society, will conduct the evening's performance. Soloists include Andi Campbell, soprano; Luthien Brackett, alto; Mark Biecke, tenor; and Dale Livingston, bass, as Elijah. The Choral Art Society Orchestra will accompany the chorus. Admission is \$20 at the door, \$15 for seniors and students. Tickets are available at boogiestickets.com. For more information, call (908) 654-5737.

Jahn will lead a class in portrait painting

Timothy W. Jahn will lead a demonstration of portrait painting in oils at the Westfield Art Association's meeting on Sunday.

The meeting will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Springfield Free Public Library at 66 Mountain Ave.

Jahn started his art career at the age of 10, long before he even knew what the word "career" meant. He sketched and painted his way from Middlesex County Arts High School in Edison, to The National Academy of Fine Art and Design and the Art Student's League in New York, to the La Coste School of Art in LaCoste, France. Jahn is also a graduate of the duCret School of Art in Plainfield.

Since 1995 Jahn has exhibited at such places as the Swain Galleries and the Fink Gallery in Plainfield, the Salmagundi Club Group Show



Timothy W. Jahn, whose work is shown here, will lead a class on portrait painting on Sunday in Springfield.

and National Academy in New York, the Somerset Art Association in Bedminster and the Mountain Art Show in Bernardsville. He has won

numerous awards along the way.

Jahn is the gallery coordinator at Swain Galleries and a mural painter at Classical Art Studios. He teaches at duCret School of Art and is the founder/creator and director of Academy duCret.

Jahn's belief in the old masters' academic art training led him to form the Academy duCret, where students are taught to study the rudiments of drawing and painting as they did in the French Academy 100 years ago. They learn to draw the figure in all its detail, working from models and casts in pencil and charcoal before advancing to oil painting as the end goal.

Sunday's meeting is free and open to the public. The room is handicapped accessible. For more information, call Tobia L. Meyers at (908) 687-2945.

NJIO's winter concerts begin on Saturday

The New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra's winter concerts will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Cranford High School, 201 West End Place in Cranford and again at 3 p.m. Jan. 28 at Columbia High School, 17 Parker Ave. in Maplewood. All NJIO concerts are free and open to the public.

"The featured work at this concert is Dvorak's 9th Symphony, also known as the 'New World' Symphony," said NJIO Music Director Todd Van Beveren. "The symphony was written on a visit to America where Dvorak fell in love with Iowa."

"The piece conveys the majesty and grandeur of the American heartland as seen through the eyes of a Czech



NJIO Music Director Todd Van Beveren will conduct the chamber ensemble at the winter concerts scheduled for Jan. 20 and 28.

composer. This is one of my favorite pieces because it's so beautiful and it fits in with the artistic vision of NJIO, which is to present serious classical repertoire that is more familiar to the audience."

Other works on the program include Mozart's 25th Symphony (the famous piece from the film "Amadeus") and works by Bach and Vivaldi.

NJIO was formed in 1993 to allow musicians of all ages and abilities the opportunity

to experience the joy of making music together. Members have ranged in age from age 6 to 92.

NJIO allows developing musicians to interact with and learn from more experienced players in a friendly, non-competitive environment. The orchestra performs several times a year in Union County venues and travels to locations such as Lincoln Center Fountain Plaza, the United Nations in New York, and Washington, D.C. for special performances.

NJIO will be holding open registration for its spring session on Feb. 1 and Feb. 8. Membership is open to players of all ages and abilities. For further information, visit the NJIO Web site at www.njio.org or contact Susan Peterson at info@njio.org or (908) 522-0100.

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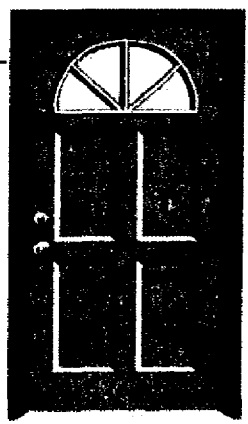
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COMING UP

The Westfield High School bowling team will face off against Scotch Plains-Fanwood at 3:45 p.m. on Tuesday at Hyway Lanes.

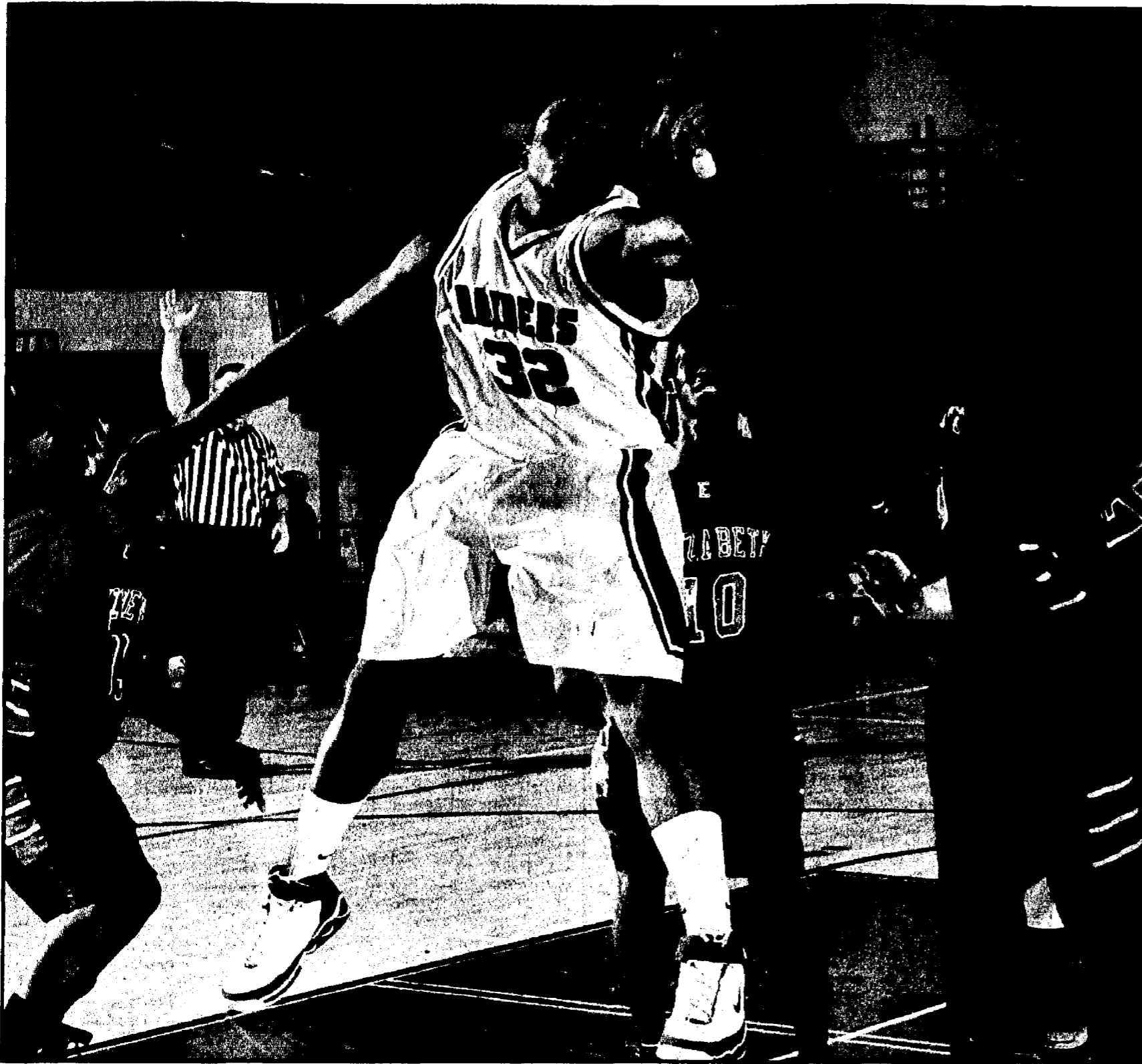
Sports

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TOUGH STRETCH



Above: SP-F's Lordley Okarter reaches for the rebound during the Raiders' 62-40 loss to Elizabeth Saturday at home. Below: Raider Kevin Mahoney grabs the basketball away from Minutemen defenders near the baseline.

JOHN FEI/CORRESPONDENT

SP-F boys basketball team ends two-game slide

By **JOE SERZAN**
SPORTS EDITOR

Things were looking pretty good for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team two weeks ago. The Raiders had stormed out of the Christmas break with two straight wins, the first being an uplifting double overtime victory over rival Westfield High School, and came into their Jan. 9 home game with Irvington with a 6-2 record for the season.

But SP-F head coach Dan Doherty and his team both understand that with a Watchung Conference regular season schedule comes little room for feeling good, a sentiment the Raiders certainly weren't experiencing following Saturday's 62-40 home loss to Elizabeth, which dropped them to 6-4 for the season.

"You just don't get a break in this league," Doherty said following the Elizabeth game. "You can be 6-3 one second and 6-9 the next."

The Raiders are making sure that things don't come to that as they prepare for yet another tough stretch of games coming up (at Plainfield and versus Union) next week.

SP-F looked to get back on the winning track on Tuesday, when they faced off against Kearny at Kearny High School. And they did just that, downing the Cardinals, 72-49, at Kearny High School.

The Raiders outscored Kearny 26-8 in the third quarter to break away from the Cardinals, who fell to 3-7 for the season. Junior guard Bryan Dougher, SP-F's leading scorer this season, had an effective outing with 17 points while Greg Bayard scored 14 in the win as well. Kevin Mahoney contributed 10 points in the victory.

"You can't feel sorry for yourself," Doherty said. "We have to fix ourselves and we need some people to look to step up and it is everybody, not just one person."

The person Elizabeth keyed on during Saturday's game was Dougher. The Minutemen hounded Dougher and his teammates with a full court press and man-to-man half court defense, causing turnovers and easy buckets for Elizabeth.

"Obviously they are going to go after Bryan," Doherty said. "Bryan's got the name and he has to get used to that and the other guys have to look to step up as well."

Dougher finished with 13 points for the Raiders, who also got 10 points from forward Lordley Okarter and nine from guard Reggie Solomon, who played well for the Raiders in a reserve role during the fourth quarter.

"Lordly was active on the boards and he got some tips,"



Doherty said. "Reggie is playing pretty well. He is going to push people for playing time with the way he is performing."

The way the Raiders were performing during the first quarter probably led those who were in attendance to think that Elizabeth was going to have a tough time of it. Both the Minutemen and the Raiders struggled from the field in the quarter, which featured great defensive efforts and many hustle plays. After one period, SP-F trailed 10-9.

Unfortunately for the Raiders, their shooting never got going while Elizabeth started to hit on all cylinders during the second quarter. The Minutemen used a 17-5 run during the quarter to take a 34-19 lead at halftime. Elizabeth's Curtis Myers was the high man at the half with 10 points.

And things didn't get much better for the Raiders during the second half either. SP-F struggled to put anything in the basket and could not keep up with the speed and athleticism of the Minutemen.

"We just didn't play well," Doherty said. "Their athleticism gave us some trouble and they beat us to every loose ball and they physically manhandled us."

The boys will be back in action on Saturday when they take part in the 13th annual "Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless Basketball

(Continued on page C-2)

Wf, SP-F track and field athletes compete at county and state meets

By **DAVID LAZARUS**
CORRESPONDENT

It was a whirlwind week for the area's winter track and field athletes as they took part in both the county relays last Monday and Wednesday nights at Dunn Arena in Elizabeth and the state championship relays on Saturday and Sunday at Jersey City Armory.

Although neither Westfield High School nor Scotch Plains-Fanwood won any overall team titles, the SP-F boys and girls shot putters continued their strong efforts, winning three of four possible titles.

The Raiders swept the Union County titles with junior Mike Alleman and seniors John Badala and Jon Birnbaum pacing the boys, while junior Erin Rossi and senior Lauryn Adams led the girls.

In the county meet, Rossi recorded a meet-best throw of 35 feet, 10½ inches and Adams registered a 33-9 for the Raiders, who finished first overall in the shot put and third overall as

Although neither WHS nor SP-F won any overall team titles, there were many individuals from both schools who performed well during the meets.

a team. Sophomore runner Brittney Veeck also starred at counties, helping the team to place third in both the distance medley and 4x400.

In the Group 3 championships, Adams exploded for a personal best 36-7¼ as the team won with a combined 69-4¼ to outscore Bergenfield. On the running side, the Raiders wound up with 11 points for ninth overall in the team standings with the foursome of junior Cassidy Valdes, sophomore Kim Shelus, senior Kim Appezzato and Veeck combining to run 13:02.35 for sixth in the distance medley.

At the counties, Alleman, Badala and Birnbaum combined for a meet-record 146-0¼ in winning the shot put. The former three-man mark of 142-3½ was set by Union in 1999. The shot put had been a four-man competition prior to 1996. The performance was also a school record.

Alleman, the county shot put champion last winter and spring, had the top throw of the meet with a 54-9¼. Badala

(Continued on page C-2)

Wf hockey skates past SP-F for second time

By **JOE SERZAN**
SPORTS EDITOR

In the first meeting between Westfield's and Scotch Plains-Fanwood's varsity ice hockey teams on Dec. 22, the Westfield offense had a tough time scoring; thanks to effective defense by SP-F. However, in their second meeting last Thursday, SP-F could not stop the Blue Devils.

Westfield scored seven goals during the final two periods and defeated the Raiders 9-2 on Jan. 11 at home at the

Woodbridge Community Center. Jimmy Bender and John Attanasio each had three goals in the game for the Blue Devils, who improved to 6-5-2 overall with the victory.

"We got contributions from everyone tonight," said Westfield head coach Dennis Doherty. "We got scoring from all of our lines, which is what you want. You want to try and develop depth in the lineup."

Westfield received three goals from its first line (Bender, captain Brian Davidson and Craig Esposito), three from its second (Attanasio, Seth Davidson and Mike Foley) and two from its third (Jeff Mysel, Evan Einstein and AJ Cunningham).

"If all of our lines come to play we are going to be a tough team to beat," said Attanasio after the game. "We haven't had that many games in which all our lines have come to play consistently well, but that's what happened tonight."

Attanasio got the scoring started for Westfield early in the game as he shot one past SP-F goaltender Chris Bauer less than two minutes in. Cunningham added another goal less than two minutes after that and Westfield held a 2-0 lead with 12:56 remaining in the first period.

But SP-F would also get some offensive scores during the first. Assistant captain Nick Rykasen answered the Blue Devils' scoring surge when he put a short-handed goal past Westfield starter Adam Becker with 9:20 left in the first. The Raiders would draw even a minute later when Rykasen fed Eric Kaufman for a goal off of a face-off in the Westfield zone, tying the game at 2-2. After the first ended, the score was still tied at 2-2.

Westfield opened the scoring in the second with another quick goal, when Bender followed his own shot and put it in the net after it had trickled off the boards. After the goal, Westfield led 3-2 with 13:43 left in the second.

Bender's goal eventually proved to be the game winner as Westfield's defense took care of the SP-F offense during the game's final two periods. Becker finished the game with 20

(Continued on page C-2)



Westfield's John Attanasio skates down the ice during the Blue Devils' 9-2 victory Thursday night.

KAREN CLARKSON/CORRESPONDENT

(Continued on page C-2)

WHS BASKETBALL

Girls, Boys defeat Union

The Westfield High School girls basketball team defeated Union 43-39 in Union Tuesday afternoon to improve to 8-3 on the season. Junior guard Erin Miller had 20 points, four assists, four steals and four rebounds and Keri Pringle chipped in with eight points, six rebounds and five steals while Gabrielle O'Leary had eight assists and five steals for Westfield. Diana Venezia's bucket with 1:48 remaining stopped a Union 12-2 run and helped ice the game for the Blue Devils. For the boys, senior guard Mike Venezia scored 21 points and the Blue Devils defeated Union 71-62 at home. Dan Pritzker added 14, Tom Bonard had 12 and Santo Nardi contributed 11 in the win.

SPORTSCENE

Wf, SP-F track and field athletes compete at county and state meets

(Continued from page C-1)

had a 47-5% and Birnbaum a personal-best 43-8%. The Raiders also placed well in the two-mile relay, where junior Pat Doliber, senior Tim Salibury, junior Dan Sapienza and junior Mike Ragan took second.

While many of the area's indoor track competitors have gotten off to subdued starts, Alleman has quickly built on his fantastic spring 2006 finish when he finished second in the Meet of Champions.

Until last weekend Alleman was at the top of the state shot put performance list with his personal best 56-11 1/2 achieved at Drew University.

The duo of Alleman and Badala tasted defeat for the first time at the Group 3 state meet as the hot-throwing duo of Pat Park and Kyle Goodman from Toms River South exceeded their effort. Alleman threw 53-11 and Badala 47-10.

In the Group 3 distance medley, the Raider foursome of junior Patrick Doliber, senior Kyle Rowbotham, junior Mike Ragan and senior Adam Biner combined to finish fifth in 10:57.14.

The Westfield foursome of junior Alex Tarlow, senior Connor Davis, senior Brent Souders and junior Evan Friedman finished fifth in the distance medley in 10:53.14.

Senior shot putter Erik Anderson had the sixth-best performance with a throw of 47-11 as Westfield tied for sixth. Junior high jumper Adam Bergo led the high

jump duo to a fifth place finish with a 6-04 leap, the fourth best in ultra-competitive Group 4, which featured a winning jump of 7-00.

And the Westfield girls 4x400 team, despite running in the last and slowest heat at the county relays, nearly won its event, settling for second.

"I had timed the previous heats and I knew we could crack in for medals if we raced the watch," said Westfield coach Jen Buccino. "The girls listened and we ended up with a good result."

Like others, Buccino is no fan of the unyielding surface of Dunn and planned her lineup to avoid injuries.

"We do not enjoy racing at Dunn Arena," Buccino said. "I give a lot of consideration as to how I plan my line up when we race there. Some kids run very well there, and others really struggle on the surface and the tight turns."

"No matter who you are, that track takes a lot out of your legs. I am hopeful that we find a new venue some day soon."

Westfield was scheduled to compete in the Valentine Invite, which took place on Wednesday at Drew University. The results from this meet were completed too late for this edition.

Members of SP-F will continue to compete in the upcoming weeks as they take part in the Ed Church Invitational, which is scheduled to take place on Feb. 1, according to www.spfk12.org/spf_sports_winter.htm.

Wf hockey skates past SP-F for second time

(Continued from page C-1)

defense for Westfield while Joe Kramkowski and Will Uhr also played well in front of him. The same could not be said for the Raiders though, who tried hard but could not keep Westfield off of the scoreboard.

"We didn't play as well defensively this time around as we did the first time we played (against Westfield)," said SP-F head coach Peter Haubruck. "The first time we really concentrated on checking and clogging up the neutral zone - and that's what our game plan was - but we got away from it and there were a lot of defensive breakdowns. We still need to learn as a program that we need to take care of our zone first."

The Raiders fell to 5-8-1 for the season following the loss to Westfield, but is in the hunt for a playoff berth with much of the program's first-ever varsity season still to go.

"We have some games coming up against teams we've been competitive with and beat already so our goal is still to be .500 and make the state playoffs and that's what we are looking forward to," Haubruck said.

SP-F will look not only to Rykasen and Kaufman but also to Dan Jones, Alex Bromley, Mike Rivera and Jeremy Kaufman to lead them forward toward the states.

Westfield is also looking toward making the playoffs this year with a strong end to its season. But according to Attanasio, the team is taking things one game at a time.

"We are thinking about each game individually," Attanasio said. "We think we have a good chance of making it but we have to play each game as it is. We have some tough games coming up and we have to keep playing well."

Both the Raiders and the Blue Devils were in action on Tuesday at Warinanco Park, as SP-F skated against Cranford and Westfield played Summit. Westfield fell to Summit, 2-0, while the SP-F game was completed too late for this edition.

SP-F boys basketball

(Continued from page C-1)

Classic" at the Dunn Arena in Elizabeth. SP-F will be playing against St. Mary's High School of Elizabeth in the first game of a triple-header. The game is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

SP-F GIRLS

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls basketball senior co-captain point guard Allie Zazzali's career-high 28 points helped the Raiders defeat Kearny, 50-36, Tuesday afternoon at home at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. The Raiders outscored the Cardinals 27-12 during the second half en route to the win. With the victory, the Raiders improved to 6-5 for the season. SP-F will play host to Plainfield on Tuesday. Gametime is scheduled for 4 p.m. at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School.

SP-F boys playing in Coedition Tournament
ELIZABETH—For the 13th year in a row, New Jersey's best high school basketball teams will battle for ranking and improved conditions for local homeless people during the annual "Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless Basketball Classic" on Saturday at the Dunn Arena in Elizabeth, N.J.

This year, the classic high school tripleheader will be played beginning at 5 p.m. The 5 p.m. game features St. Mary's High School of Elizabeth versus Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. The 6:45 p.m. game pits Elizabeth High School against South Brunswick High School. The 8:15 p.m. game places St. Patrick's High School of Elizabeth versus St. Joseph (Metuchen) High School.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for students. Tickets are available at participating schools and at B.B. Miller, 283 North Broad St., Elizabeth. For ticket information, call 908-352-7300. If not sold out, tickets will be available at the door of the Dunn Arena on the day of the game.

B boys swim team beat Hunterdon County YMCA on Saturday, Jan. 6th, 109-98. Westfield capitalized in the individual medley event with Andre Benz, Nicandro Donadio and Michael Rizzo taking firsts in their age groups. Jordan Hickman, Connor Moore and Brian Carr placed second and Garrett Williamson and Matt Trinkle brought in thirds for the team.

The Devilfish garnered more firsts in the freestyle event with Jack Naughton for ages 8 and under, Alec Penn for ages 9-10 and Robert Lockatell for ages 11-12. Tim York captured second for ages 13-14 and, in a tight race, Justin Lo brought home second for Westfield's 15-18-year-olds. Evan Moore, Griffin Whitmer and Brendan Oster placed third in their classes.

Jack Naughton, Brandon Leuthold and Michael Rizzo swam for first in the breaststroke event while Stefan Crigger, Andre Benz, Nic Donadio and Sean Clark brought home second place for the team.

In the backstroke event, four touched for first: Noah Bram, for 8 and under, Griffin Whitmer, for ages 9-10, Dan Myers, for ages 11-12 and Michael Pesin, for ages 13-14. Evan Moore, Connor Moore and Justin Lo placed second for their age groups and Nicholas Cannone and Tim York came in third place.

Jack Naughton had another first in the butterfly event along with Alec Penn, Dan Myers and Michael Pesin. Jordan Hickman, for ages 9-10, and Robert Lockatell, for ages 11-12, placed second with Aedan Collins, for 8 and under, and Rich Polini, for ages 15-18, coming in third. Westfield capped off the meet by winning four of five of the medley relays and winning 109-98.

For more information on the Westfield Area Y's Devilfish swim team, call Paul Casazza at (908) 233-2700 x253.

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Umpires Association, in cooperation with the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, will conduct its annual softball umpires training program beginning Tuesday, Feb. 20.

The training classes will take place from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday evenings from Feb. 20 through March 27 at the Union County Administration Building in Elizabeth. The cost of this six-week umpiring course is \$125.00. The classes are open to men and women, 18 years of age and older, who are interested in umpiring softball games.

For more information and registration details, please contact the Union County, New Jersey, Amateur Softball Association office of Keith Benvenuto at (908) 313-0983, email: commissioner@assofballucnj.org; or Bill Smith at (908) 259-0154, email: willsmith43@comcast.net; or you can log on to: www.assofballucnj.org.

Union County winter golf schedule
Golfers are known to take to the fairways whenever they can. Rain, heat and even snow do not deter the most dedicated "golfer." However, the change in season does bring schedule adjustments to the three public golf courses operated by Union County.

"We seasonally alter our course hours according to the change in daylight hours," said Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella. "But golfers should note that the Oak Ridge Golf Course in Clark and the nine-hole course at Galloping Hill in Kenilworth will be closed for the winter season. Each year we give some of our fairways a chance to rest. The closures will occur from Dec. 25 and continue until Mar. 3, weather permitting."

Eighteen regulation holes will continue to be available this winter at Ash Brook in Scotch Plains, and 18 of the 27 holes at Galloping Hill will be operational, weather permitting. Determination of playability will be made by the Supervising Greenskeeper of the course. Winter hours of operation at both courses (through Mar. 3) will be 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Golfers are reminded that even if they are not playing a round of golf during the winter, all of the County's clubhouses are open. Identification card purchases and renewals.

"Beginning Jan. 1, golfers should renew their ID cards at one of our courses," explained Mirabella. "Early renewal will help avoid delays in the spring when everyone wants to take to the links."

All golf ID cards purchased in 2006 will be de-activated by the computerized photo ID system on Dec. 31. Golfers should keep these cards and bring them when renewing for 2007.

When purchasing a new card or renewing a 2006 card, golfers must show proof of Union County residency through two forms of identification: a driver's license and either a current lease, tax, utility or credit card bill, or a bank statement. Non-residents who own property in Union County may also purchase ID cards upon providing a current tax bill showing the address, lot and block number of the property. All ID card renewals or purchases must be done in person.

For further information about the winter schedules for Union County's golf courses or identification card purchase, please contact Oak Brook (908) 758-0414; Oak Ridge (732) 574-0139; or Galloping Hill (908) 686-1556.

Flag football at Giants Stadium

EAST RUTHERFORD—Registration is open for the first New York Football Giants Snow Bowl Flag Football Tournament to benefit Special Olympics New Jersey, scheduled for Feb. 10 in Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, N.J.

The six-on-six, light blocking format guarantees three games played on the field of Giants Stadium.

A \$100 deposit is required to participate in the event. Checks may be made payable to Special Olympics New Jersey. Please send registration form along with payment to Special Olympics New Jersey, 3 Princess Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

For additional information on The New York Football Giants Snow Bowl for Special Olympics New Jersey please contact Liz Hertneck at emh@sonj.org or visit the website at www.sonj.org.

Special Olympics New Jersey provides free year-round sports training and Olympic-type competition in 22 sports for more than 15,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities or other closely related develop-

mental disabilities. For additional information on Special Olympics New Jersey please call 609.886.6000 or visit our line at www.sonj.org.

Baseball clinic in Cherry Hill

CHERRY HILL—There are so many arms and so little time for Mike Marshall to show pitchers how to protect their most valuable asset.

But Marshall, the most durable relief pitcher in the history of Major League Baseball, is trying.

"I am looking forward to speaking at the Be the Best You Are Clinic," Marshall said. "I wish I had more time. But in four hours I hope I can explain how coaches can help eliminate all pitching injuries while improving pitch variety, pitch quality and release consistency."

The Be the Best You Are annual baseball clinic will be held at the Crowne Plaza (formerly the Cherry Hill Hilton) on Jan. 18-20. The clinic targets college, high school and youth baseball coaches. For more information contact Jack Hawkins at PO Box 570, Bristol, NJ, 08730 or visit the website at www.bethebest.com or e-mail the clinic at bethebest@bethebest.com or call the clinic office to request a brochure (732) 528-5382.

Marshall, who set the major league single season records for innings pitched by a closing relief pitcher (208) in 1974 and holds the record for games pitched by a relief pitcher (106), consecutive appearances by a pitcher (13, since broken), games finished (84) and won a Cy Young Award in the process.

But he is just part of the 34th annual clinic.

Trey Hillman, who led his team - the Nippon Ham Fighters - to their first Japanese championship last season, explains the process of building relationships between coaches and players. Don Slaught, the hitting instructor for the Detroit Tigers, gives step-by-step instructions on how to build a better hitter.

A cavalcade of college coaches who have enjoyed unmatched success joins them.

The legendary Skip Bertman, who built the program at LSU into the strongest in the land, explains how to mold a team by motivating them, building the spirit, so to speak. John Cohen came to the University of Kentucky and taught his players how to build big innings. How well did it work? In three short years he led them to uncharted land, an SEC championship.

Howie McCann offers insights from a different view. He is a coach and a father. How he made the two mesh is part of his session. He found a way to make one of his sons a Major League All-Star and the other a top prospect through a program that built them mentally and physically for the challenges that were ahead.

Andy Baylock, a regular for 33 years, will open his notebook for the 1,000-plus coaches that annually attend the clinic, giving his favorite drills. Bill Ripken, who has his own baseball school along with his brother Cal, will be there to uncover the secrets of solid infield play starting with footwork and including proper positioning. Jeff Meyers of Old Dominion has a teaching plan for pitchers that he will share, and Jim Penders of UConn has inside information on opening the line of communication with catchers.

UC Hall of Fame Dinner Feb. 11

The Union County Baseball Association will induct three new members into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame during award ceremonies on Sunday, Feb. 11. The three inductees will be honored for their outstanding contributions to our national pastime on the baseball diamonds of Union County.

Al Ashmont of Clark, Chuck Femicola of Mountainside and Rich Pender of Elizabeth will be honored at the 71st Annual Hot Stove League Baseball Dinner which begins at 1 p.m. at the L'Affaire Banquet Center, 1099 Route 22 East, Mountainside. The dinner is sponsored by the Union County Baseball Association, in cooperation with the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities.

The special guest speaker at the awards dinner will be Johnny Blanchard, the former New York Yankees catcher and outfielder who was an important member of the 1961 World Series championship team.

"We're very pleased to have Johnny Blanchard as guest speaker at this year's Hot Stove League Awards Dinner," said Freeholder Al Mirabella. "We hope that family members and friends of all the award recipients will enjoy the Sunday afternoon ceremonies and support youth baseball and the new inductees into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame."

In addition to the new Hall of Fame inductees, the Hot Stove League Baseball Dinner also will honor young athletes and local baseball teams for their achievements in 2006.

Tickets for the dinner are \$35, with proceeds going to help fund the Union County Summer Youth Baseball League for youngsters 8 to 15 years, and the Fall Teen League.

Since 1937, the annual Hot Stove League Dinner has been the primary fund-raising effort for the Union County Baseball Association's summer and fall programs. Over the years, the awards dinner has honored many local and national baseball luminaries - including Joe Collins of Union, Phil Rizzuto of Hillside, Don Newcombe of Elizabeth, Jeff Torborg of Mountainside, Willie Wilson of Summit, Jake Wood of Elizabeth, and Elliott Maddox of Union.

Tickets for the 71st Annual Union County Baseball Association Hot Stove League Dinner on Feb. 11 are available for \$35 and may be obtained by calling (908) 527-4910.

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Real Estate

View the Davis Court collection in Westfield



The Davis Court collection, two new luxury homes minutes from downtown Westfield, is available now, announced Century21 Prime Network. Starting at approximately \$1.3 million and less than five minutes from downtown, these homes, created by Millennium Properties, feature nine-foot ceilings, hardwood floors, energy-efficient multi-zone gas heating and central air conditioning, hard-wired intercom, fire/smoke alarms, underground utilities, extra large two-car garage, a walk-up finished attic with oak staircase and hand rails, a spacious finished basement with full bath, an office/workout room and recessed lighting throughout the house. To schedule a personal presentation, call Dan Black at (908) 358-8151 or Century21 Prime Network at (973) 487-8787.

McEnerney attends top Coldwell retreat

WESTFIELD — Mary McEnerney, a sales associate with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Westfield, recently attended the company's Elite Retreat, a three-day conference held at Hyatt Regency in Chicago, Illinois. This marked the 11th year that McEnerney has earned a trip to this prestigious event.

Trips to the Elite Retreat are awarded to the Coldwell Banker sales associates who have earned membership in the company's International President's Premier and Elite sales clubs. During the event, sales associates hear from inspirational speakers who address the latest trends in industry technology, as well as a superstar panel that offers valuable insights into the practices of top real estate industry leaders.

"We are proud to honor Mary McEnerney and we value her affiliation with the Westfield office," said Ronnie Laiken, president and chief operating officer at Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey and Rockland County, N.Y. "The individual members of the President's Premier and Elite represent the very best of the Coldwell Banker system."




Mary McEnerney, right, attended Coldwell Banker's Elite Retreat in Chicago.

A real estate veteran of 31 years, McEnerney is a consistent top producer in the Westfield office. She is a Previews Property Specialist, one of 250 among the approximately 3,900 sales associates in the company's New Jersey/Rockland County sales region. McEnerney also holds the SRES (Seniors Real Estate Specialist) designation, which qualifies her to advise seniors in her service areas about their homes and rental properties, and is a Certified Relocation Specialist and Certified Residential Specialist.

"Mary earned membership in the International President's Premier by achieving a high volume of sales and providing exceptional service to all of her clients," said Michael Scott, manager of the Westfield office. "She upholds our tradition of excellence while guiding her clients through the complex process of buying or selling a home with ease."

For information on buying or selling a home in the Westfield area, contact McEnerney at (908) 233-5555. The Westfield office is located at 209 Central Ave. View the company's listings on the internet at www.coldwellbankermoves.com.



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Brockway is accredited as a buyer's rep

WESTFIELD — Laura Brockway of Burgdorff ERA in Westfield has received accreditation as a homebuyer representative from the Real Estate Buyer's Agency Council.

To earn the Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR) designation, Brockway completed an extensive training program on buyer agency practices and procedures, passed a written examination and demonstrated practical experience as a buyer representative. To maintain her accreditation, she must be a member in good standing on the Real Estate Buyer's Agency Council and the National Association of Realtors.

"In today's fast-paced, buyer-centric market, successful real estate professionals must have the tools and training to assist each homebuyer in meeting their specific needs," said Brockway. "Homebuyer's accreditation is an important credential for every residential real estate professional."

The Real Estate Buyer's Agency Council is the oldest and largest association of real estate professionals addressing all aspects of consumer representation in buying a home.

Brockway can be reached at (908) 233-0065 or by visiting the Burgdorff ERA Westfield office located at 600 North Ave. West.

Founded in 1958, Burgdorff ERA was the top producing ERA real estate firm in dollar volume nationally in 2005, with 15 offices and over 700 sales associates in New Jersey. The ERA real estate network includes more than 38,700 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 29 other countries and territories.

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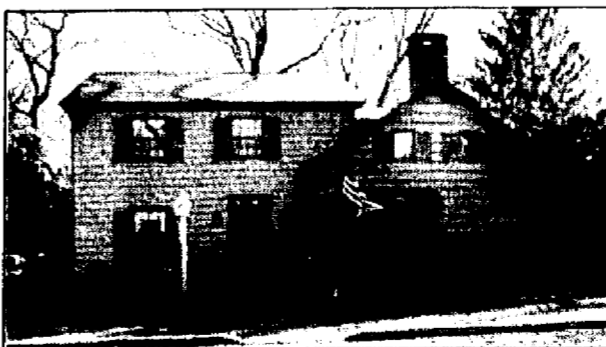
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Private hilltop setting & many updates including roof, furnace, security system & more. Tons of space, near everything. WSF0685



MOUNTAINSIDE **\$799,000**
Wonderful custom home on an especially wonderful street. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, family room, den, eat-in kitchen. Over 1/2 acre. WSF0782



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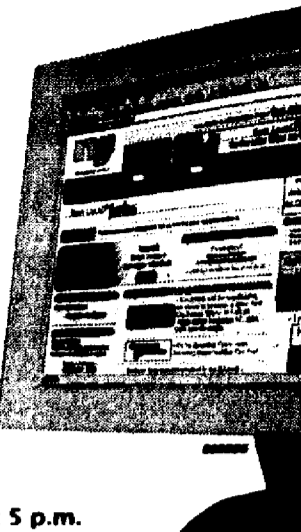


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Announcements 119

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Announcements 119

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Announcements 119

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Announcements 119

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Lost & Found 119

FOUND: Woman's bracelet on 12/28 in Tamaques Park. Call 908-233-8206

Lost Dog. Last seen Dec 12 near Roselle Park train station. Brown, approx 45lbs, black mouth, white patch on chest. Red collar. 908-397-2066

Personals 149

PSYCHIC MRS. D *TARDY CARD* GIFTED READER 908-785-3043 Call for free sample reading

Employment 220

Child Care 222

CHILD CARE Caring energetic person needed in our Millburn home for our 3 year old. Full day or after school care. M, W & F. Call: 973-378-4881

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CHILD CARE Fanwood, 3 children, M-F, 3:00-5:30. College student welcomed. Valid NJ DL. 908-323-0482

MOTHER'S HELPER

11-7pm Mon-Fri. Helping with 5yr old twins & 2 month old. Light housekeeping, cooking and some driving. Must speak English and have car. Call 908-967-4018

NANNY P/T \$15-\$18/hr. Exp. and car req'd. 908-317-3100. www.NannyLine.com

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General Help 248

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CLERK

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The Arc of Union County, serving individuals with developmental disabilities for over 55 years, is seeking a production supervisor. The position is responsible for ensuring the efficient production and quality levels for all production contracts work throughout the Arc's day programs. The incumbent will develop production workflow & quality specifications for all production contract work to assure that customers' specifications are being met, as well as oversee inventory and supplies. Will also supervise the Production Driver. Experience in production mgmt, scheduling, and quality control required. Knowledge of piece work, training staff in production techniques, supervisory exp and exp working with adults with disabilities desirable. Requires HS diploma or equiv and current, valid NJ driver's license with ability to meet agency insurability requirements. Send resume to: The Arc of Union County, HR Dept., 52 Fadem Rd., Springfield, NJ 07081. E-mail: resumes@arcnj.org or fax: 973-315-0022. EOE

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FT for busy medical practice in Millburn. Must be pleasant and personable with exceptional phone skills. Computer skills essential. Health benefits available. EMAIL RESUME TO: hudsonye@hudsonye.com

RECEPTIONIST

For bright, friendly, pediatric specialty office. Part-Time, 2-3 days/week, 9-5. Must have prior medical office experience for fast-paced office. Verifiable work references required. Fax Resume to: 908-273-8658

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Office Manager Needed for Medical Office in Westfield. Full-time position with flexible hours. Medical billing experience preferred. Friendly working environment. Benefits available. Send resume to: The Suburban News, 171 State Route 173, Suite 300 M-1577, Asbury, NJ 08802.

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Receptionist/Office Assistant (2) Positions Available Part Time Position(s) Morning Hours: 8am - 12:30pm Afternoon Hours: 12:30pm - 5pm Answer and direct incoming telephone calls, clerical/administration support for management and various departments. Computer skills a must. Knowledge of Microsoft Office. Please submit your resumes to: PO Box 5355 North Branch, NJ 08876 Fax: 908-704-1026

Medical Receptionist/Patient Coordinator Full time position available in Plastic surgeon's office. Must be bright and well spoken with excellent people skills. Experience in Medical Office operations and knowledge of computers required. Competitive salary and excellent benefit package. Fax resume to Diane: 908-654-6504

Receptionist/Office Assistant (2) Positions Available Part Time Position(s) Morning Hours: 8am - 12:30pm Afternoon Hours: 12:30pm - 5pm Answer and direct incoming telephone calls, clerical/administration support for management and various departments. Computer skills a must. Knowledge of Microsoft Office. Please submit your resumes to: PO Box 5355 North Branch, NJ 08876 Fax: 908-704-1026

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PT: Mon, Wed, Fri, for small office in Kenilworth. Computer literate, detail-oriented, and good customer service skills are highly desired.
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Family Shoe store in Millburn. Experience preferred.
Call: 973-378-0781

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| 2003 TOYOTA TUNDRA 4DR 4DR 6 cyl. auto, ps, pABS, a/c, am/fm stereo, pw, pl, pm, radials, dly wipers, p/steering, cruise, shock, 44,031 miles, sk#70021A, vin#3Z229077. \$16,622 | 2005 JEEP COMPASS LIMITED 4DR 6 cyl. auto, ps, pABS, a/c, am/fm stereo, pw, pl, pm, radials, dly wipers, p/steering, cruise, shock, 21,657 miles, sk#70501A, vin#50819676. \$17,988 |
| 2006 FORD LINCOLN SUV 2DR 8 cyl. auto, ps, pABS, a/c, am/fm stereo, pw, pl, pm, radials, dly wipers, p/steering, cruise, shock, 42,157 miles, sk#13014, vin#1CA58973. \$19,967 | 2006 HONDA CRV SI 4DR 4 cyl. 6 speed, ps, pABS, a/c, am/fm stereo, pw, pl, pm, radials, dly wipers, p/steering, cruise, shock, 25,767 miles, sk#70722A, vin#4TD89399. \$20,988 |
| 2004 FORD MUSTANG GT 1 DR 8 cyl. 5 speed, ps, pABS, a/c, am/fm stereo, pw, pl, pm, radials, dly wipers, p/steering, cruise, shock, 37,943 miles, sk#12991, vin#4F135131. \$21,686 | 2006 GMC SIERRA 1500 4DR 8 cyl. auto, ps, pABS, a/c, am/fm stereo, pw, pl, pm, radials, dly wipers, p/steering, cruise, shock, 30,610 miles, sk#13007, vin#5E113439. \$22,988 |
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Automotive/Classified

AAA offers 10 tips for keeping your teen crash-free

Traffic crashes are the number one killer of American teenagers. Nowhere does that fact seem more evident than in New Jersey where a recent rash of car crashes has claimed the lives of teens, their passengers and other motorists, from Morris to Monmouth counties.

The AAA Clubs of New Jersey remind parents of new drivers that teens have the highest collision rate of any age group, and teens who have driven a year or less have the worst crash rates. Behind the wheel, teens endanger not only themselves but everyone else on the road. In fact, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that pedestrians, passengers and occupants of other cars account for nearly two out of three fatalities in teen crashes.

So what's a parent to do besides lose sleep? While you can never absolutely, positively crash-proof a new driver, AAA offers parents the following 10 tips to help reduce the risks.

1. Size up your teen's maturity. In assessing your teen's readiness to drive, the ability to make good decisions counts more than age. Academic performance can serve as a good yardstick, but socialization is an even better indicator. Experts point out that social skills have a direct correlation to the psychomotor skills required behind the wheel. That's because driving is a social activity — you need to know the rules, respect others' rights and control your temper to stay out of trouble on the road as well as in life.

2. Drive the way you expect your kid to drive. According to a recent study sponsored by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, teens involved in crashes are much more likely than crash-free teens to have parents with bad driving records, as measured by the number of tickets and collisions. This means that a teen's driving behavior is a reflection of his parents' driving behavior, regardless of the parents' educational level or socio-economic status.

3. Practice, practice, practice. Your teen needs you even more after getting a learner's permit and starting driver education. Become your teen's practice coach; schedule regular over-the-road sessions, know the specific skills and techniques covered in your child's dri-

vered curriculum, reinforce them during practice (correcting mistakes calmly), and provide plenty of praise when your teen does well.

4. Just say no to peer passengers and night driving. Statistics overwhelmingly identify the two biggest risk factors for teens as driving at night and having other teens as passengers. The more passengers, the higher the risk. New Jersey's Graduation Drivers License (GDL) law prohibits teens on a provisional license from transporting more than one non-family member passenger. Consider setting even limits tougher than the law. Stricter curfews and prohibiting

Stricter curfews and prohibiting all non-family teen passengers for the first few months of driving are ways to give your teen the chance to log valuable solo time in lower-risk conditions.

all non-family teen passengers for the first few months of driving are ways to give your teen the chance to log valuable solo time in lower-risk conditions.

5. Limit other distractions. Cell phones, CDs, iPods, fast food, mascara — the list of potentially dangerous, behind-the-wheel distractions goes on and on. Of course, you can't monitor your teen's behavior every minute in the car. But you can model safe behavior by avoiding such distractions yourself. And insist that your teen not eat, use a phone, root around for CDs or scroll through iPod playlists while the vehicle is moving.

6. Set clear consequences and stick to them. Just as traffic-law violations earn tickets and other penalties, violations of family driving rules should bring consequences, too. Depending on the offense, they might run from doing extra chores around the house to reducing the number of driving hours per week. But don't forget to reward good behavior, too.

7. Put everything in writing. You and your teen should agree upon the conditions and restrictions for driving privileges (and the consequences for

violating them) and write them down. The agreement should cover seat belt use, avoiding alcohol and drugs and obeying the law, as well as his or her responsibilities to maintain the vehicle and pay for driving expenses. A written contract hammers home the point that driving is serious business. (AAA offers a free brochure, "Driving Contracts," that offers specific guidance and sample provisions for a parent-teen agreement.)

8. Schedule Sunday summits. According to the AAA Foundation study, parental communication ranks as one of the most important traits separating crash-free teens from crash-prone ones. Consider holding regular "Sunday summits" around the kitchen table to review your teen's driving performance and dole out rewards and implement consequences.

9. Get high-tech help. You can't ride everywhere with your teen, so consider having an event data recorder (EDR) or "black box" installed in your vehicle to keep track of maximum speed, acceleration rates, instances of hard braking and other parameters that indicate aggressive driving. Be sure to tell your teen about the device and review the data it gathers regularly. And consider using an EDR to monitor your own driving behavior. That way, everyone will view the black box as a family safety check, not just a tool to snoop on your kids.

10. Let your teen use the safest car. The least experienced driver should use the safest car, but often the family's oldest car becomes the hand-me-down "teenmobile," even though it may not be the wisest choice. Size matters in a collision, and large sedans make up in crashworthiness what they lack in cool. The latest safety technology — side airbags, anti-lock brakes and stability control, for example — helps, too. Absolutely avoid small, high-powered sports cars, convertibles (which have higher injury rates) and SUVs (which tend to roll over).

To learn more about teen driver safety, log on to www.AAA.com.



VIP Honda and the North Plainfield Fire Department enjoy a cooperative relationship.

Firefighters train inside VIP Honda's old building

Before The New VIP Honda, located on Route 22 East at Somerset Street in North Plainfield, demolished its old building to make room for overflow parking for its new facility, the dealership made the old building available to the North Plainfield Fire Department. Firefighters were able to use the building to train for real-life emergencies, an opportunity they don't often find.

The building housed VIP Honda for many years. When the dealership constructed a gleaming new facility just across Somerset Street, the old building had outlived its purpose — but not its value.

"We knew the building would be razed, but decided to put it to good use one more time," said VIP Honda General Sales Manager John Pearce. "We have a great relationship with the fire department here, and saw this as a chance to give back to the community in a 'concrete' way — pun intended!"

Pearce noted that fire department officials were grateful for the use of the building, which represented a typical commercial environment in the city. Firefighters could train under conditions that would mirror an actual situation, preparing them should a fire ignite in a local business.

"The building's gone now," said Pearce, "but it left a legacy in the valuable training the firefighters were able to gain."

Located at 700 Route 22 East at Somerset Street in North Plainfield, The New VIP Honda features the full line of 2007 Hondas, as well as a large selection of pre-owned vehicles. The new VIP Honda showroom is open 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday. VIP Honda can be reached by phone at (877) 47-HONDA.

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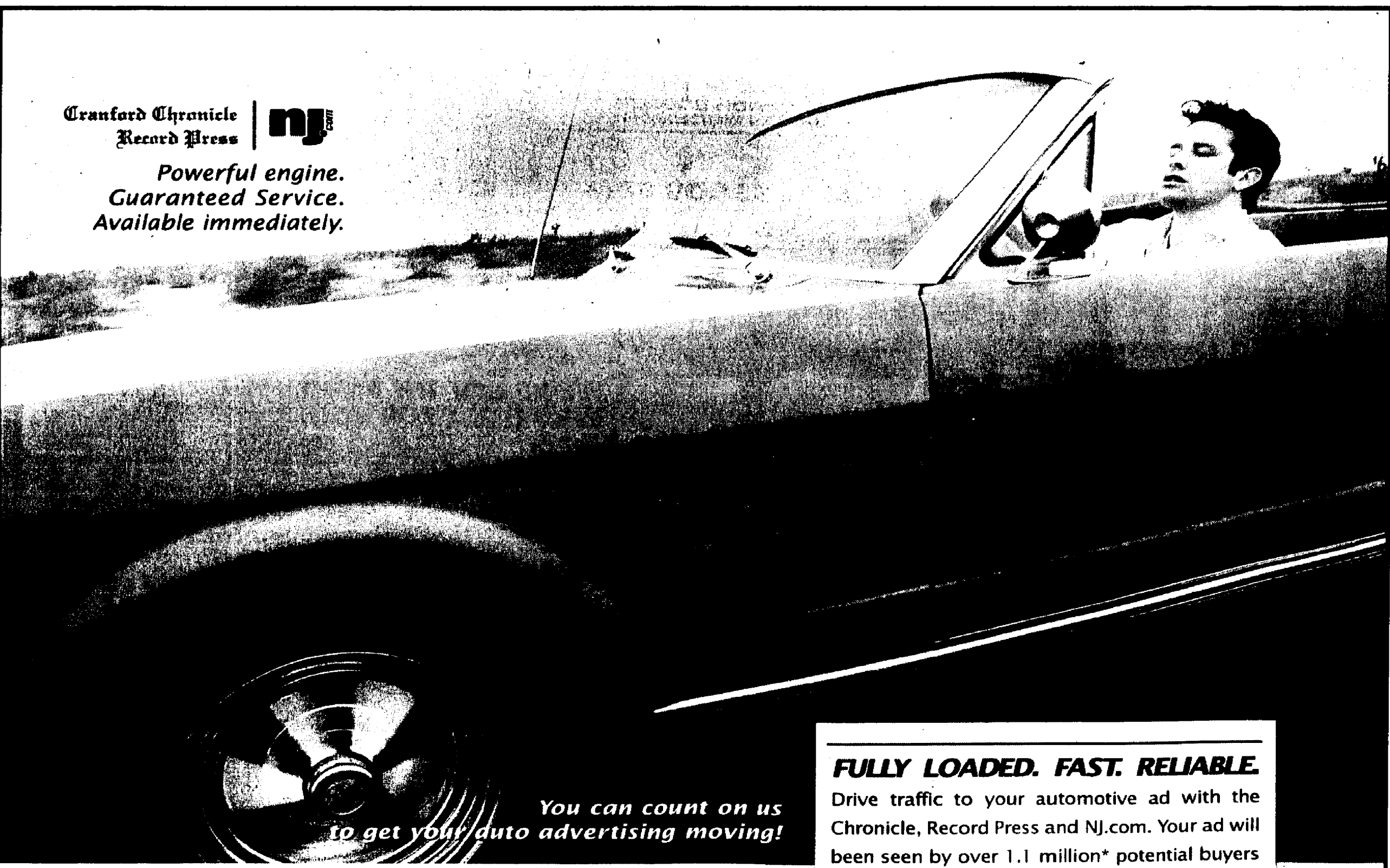
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