

WF BOE Projects \$4 Million In State Aid Cuts for 2010-2011

By MAGGIE DIGGORY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD – The board of education (BOE) meeting Tuesday evening following Governor Chris Christie’s budget address left board members balancing the reality of the state’s fiscal problems and its deep impact on the school district’s budget for 2010-2011.

“The rules changed today. Based on what we heard, our state aid will be cut 92 percent,” said Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan, during her opening remarks Tuesday evening.

Up until today, the district was planning a budget based on state aid decreasing from zero to 15 percent. The

Westfield school district currently receives approximately 6 percent of its operating budget from state aid, according to board member Richard Solomon. The board projects 2010-2011 state aid will be 1 percent, a decrease of \$4,250,000.

The budget for the current school year is \$90 million, \$85 million of which is for operations. Debt repayment, grants and entitlement programs amount to \$5 million. Westfield receives \$5 million in state aid for operations. [Source, Public Notice, *The Westfield Leader*; March 26, 2009 – <http://www.goleader.com/09mar26/23.pdf>].

The district expects to receive the

exact state aid figure today, Thursday, March 18. A public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, at 8 p.m. and the Finance Committee will present a budget using the exact state-aid figures.

Superintendent Dolan has meetings scheduled with the district staff, administrators and teachers unions in the coming days.

“The day of reckoning is here. We need to look through a new lens,” said Board President Ginny Leiz, as she asked fellow board members to share their reactions to the larger than expected cut in state aid.

Board member Richard Mattessich said, “That we don’t lose the quality we’ve built over the years. We bit the bullet last year and made a lot of cuts. We’re in as good a state as we can be.” Board Vice-President Julia Walker described Governor Christie’s budget announcement as “Trenton said, ‘Here are the rules and we’re giving you no money to follow them.’ We were cut loose today. We are self-funded.”

Mr. Solomon summarized how he viewed the district’s options for revising the 2010-2011 budget. “We have a couple of options: one, go to the associations for suggestions and give back [but], that won’t be enough. Second, significant program cuts. Third, raising more money from property taxes. We can go to the public with an amount up to the cut in state aid,” he said. He concluded that a combination of things would need to occur and called for “community-wide discussion.”

One member of the public, Mitch Slater, who is running for a seat on the BOE, remarked, “I’m curious why [the board] couldn’t wait a week to vote on the teachers contract.” The board ratified a three-year contract March 9 with the teachers’ union, giving teachers pay increases of 3.9 percent for each of the next three years.

Superintendent Dolan responded that the board already was aware of the state’s fiscal problems and, in a cooperative effort, the teachers’ union came to the table and “focused on what needs to be done for our schools.”

Tuesday night, the board also ratified the Westfield Association of Educational Secretaries’ (WAES) union contract retroactive to July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2012. As of press time, salary increase figures were not available.

According to the board, the WAES made concessions regarding members’ health insurance by eliminating traditional indemnity insurance, increasing in-office visit co-pays and prescriptions, as well as increasing contributions to members’ health insurance coverage.

The WAES had been without a contract during the current school year. “The secretaries met us, the priorities they came with were met,” Ms. Walker said.

The board asked for an update on the school and administrative buildings after the weekend Nor’easter. Business Administrator Robert Berman said that the board office and the high school took on water.

Water came into the varsity gymnasium and also entered the auditorium stage during the spring drama performance on Saturday evening. The band room in the basement lost a half-dozen ceiling tiles and water soaked into the carpet. The facilities staff worked throughout the weekend to ensure that school would open on Monday.

Mr. Berman said there is “a maintenance budget and [they] can do repair work. These things happen.”

Mr. Solomon suggested looking into using leftover monies from the bond to renovate and expand the high school to repair the Gym 5 roof.

Mr. Berman said he would consult the bond council to make sure they could use the monies in that matter.

The two-hour meeting ended with the board going into executive session, as it did for 20 minutes earlier in the evening.



Courtesy of Nick Karter
THE POWER OF WATER...A youngster at Valley Road in Clark gazes at the flood waters of the Rahway River last Sunday after the storm deluge of Saturday.

Freeholders OK \$900,000 In Contracts for 2010 Elections

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

ELIZABETH — The Union County Freeholders approved \$900,000 in funding for elections to be held throughout the county this year.

B&B Press of Somerville was given a \$149,569 contract to print absentee and provisional ballots for this year’s Primary and General elections. Full Service Mailers, Inc. of Garfield was given a \$65,781 contract to mail sample ballots for this year’s School, Primary and General Elections.

Royal Printing Services of West New York was given a \$474,240 contract to print ballots for School Board, Primary and General Elections, and a \$110,000 contract to print voting authority books, poll books “and all other printing needed to run an election within the county” for the 2010 election cycle.

In addition, the freeholders approved \$40,000 contracts to Liberty

Boards of Educ. Brace For Deep Aid Cuts

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

AREA – School districts are bracing for deep cuts in state aid. *The Westfield Leader* placed calls to local districts at press time for comments. Districts had anticipated a 15-percent cut in aid but now believe the number could be as high as 90 percent.

Mountainside School Business Administrator Roderic McLaughlin said Governor Chris Christie alluded in his budget speech to the fact that the aid cut would result in a 5-percent total budget reduction. Statewide, Mr. McLaughlin said, this would reduce school budgets by more than \$1 billion; locally, Mountainside could stand to lose almost all its \$780,000 in aid.

“It’s scary... You would like to think the state wouldn’t put us that far off the mark [in terms of aid expectations],” he said. “We are waiting with baited breath.”

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Superintendent of Schools Margaret Hayes and Business Administrator Anthony Del Sordi were meeting when *The Leader* called Wednesday morning.

At Tuesday night’s Westfield Board of Education (BOE) meeting, Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan said, “The rules changed today. Based on what we heard, our state aid will be cut 92 percent,” or \$4,250,000.

The Garwood BOE approved a tentative budget Tuesday night. Its budget committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow to recalculate aid numbers, which were to be released yesterday by the Department of Education after press deadline.

Transport of Union, University Van Lines and Princeton Van Service of Ewing to transport voting machines to and from the polling locations.

Freeholder Al Mirabella asked if the county could save money by combining printing contracts. “Maybe we can get a reduced cost?,” he said.

Deputy Clerk Alan Falcone said the Clerk’s Office put out a request for proposals for bids on all three contracts, and noted that B&B, Full-Service and Royal Printing came in with lower bids in the areas they were granted contracts. He said Full-Service also sorts the ballots and brings them to the Post Office.

“Over the years we found this was actually the cheapest way of doing it, was to split it up in this manner and bid it out separately,” Mr. Falcone told Mr. Mirabella.

In other business, the board approved a resolution to have County Manager George Devanney award contracts to agencies under the peer grouping aging grant. A half million dollars will be funded to the county for this grant from the state with additional funds sought for the second and third years of the program.

Human Services Director Frank Guzzo said the state provides peer-grouping monies to counties that either operates a county hospital, as Union county does with Ruml’s Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights, or a county-run nursing home. Those counties that receive these funds are “required to provide only 10 percent of revenues towards home-health services and hospice care,” he said. Mr. Guzzo said the remaining funds from the grant can go into the county’s general fund “and be used for any purpose.” In Union County’s case, up to 70 percent is dedicated to “general human services” including hospice and home healthcare with the remainder going to services such as Paratransit.

“These dollars plug gaps in services that would be unfunded because there are no other dollars to fund them,” Mr. Guzzo told the board.

Under the state’s 10-percent minimum, Mr. Guzzo said the county would only be required to fund \$200,000 for home-health services and hospice care. “With the allocation that we are expecting it is closer to \$2 million,” Mr. Guzzo said.

He said pending legislation would remove the 10-percent requirement, meaning counties would not have to fund anything to home-health and hospice services. “That would surely

break the backs of the social services agencies in this county and others particularly in times as difficult as they have been over the last two or three years,” Mr. Guzzo said.

Mountainside resident Gerry Gallagher of the Center for Hope Hospice said the board awarded Hope Hospice \$204,000 in 2008, \$189,000 in 2009, and \$180,000 this year.

“This is a very important source of funding for those that provide this care. While this year is \$9,000 less than last year, we are grateful for whatever you can provide us,” Mr. Gallagher said.

The board also approved, on second reading, an ordinance to appropriate \$200,000 to construct 10 to 12 bunkers at the Galloping Hill Golf Course in Union. Funds will be drawn from the county’s capital surplus account.

Garwood resident Bruce Paterson said the county took out bunkers years ago to speed up play. He said, by putting them back, golf will be slowed, and revenues would be reduced.

“This [additional bunkers expenditure] is loony,” Mr. Paterson told the board.

Cranford resident Jim Buettner suggested the golf operations staff or prisoners in the S.L.A.P. (Sheriff’s Labor Assistance Program) install the bunkers to save money.

John Bury of Kenilworth announced that as chairman of a budget panel for the Union County Watchdog Association he has developed a review of the county budget whereby he questioned \$5.8 million in expenditures of the \$469-million county executive budget. Among them is \$200,000 in lobbying costs and \$250,000 in legal fees.

The board also approved a resolution, sponsored by Freeholder Chairman Dan Sullivan, that opposes Senate Bill 201, which would require local governments to place all documents on their websites. Mr. Sullivan said he opposes the legislation because no funding has been provided to offset the costs.

The freeholders Fiscal Affairs Committee will hold meetings today, March 18, and next Thursday, March 25, at 4 p.m. to review the executive budget.

Correction

A candidate’s name for the Mountainside Board of Education was misspelled in last’s week’s edition. The correct spelling is Jim Ruban. We regret the error.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY...The Rotary Club of Westfield celebrated the 105th anniversary of Rotary International recently with a visit from their district governor. Pictured, left to right, are: District Governor Alex Cauwels, Past District Governor Dr. D. Michael Hart and Club President Mark Swingle.

Skibitsky, Haas React To Christie’s Budget Talk

By MICHAEL J. POLLACK
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD – Mayor Andy Skibitsky opened Tuesday’s council conference session by referencing Governor Chris Christie’s budget address.

Governor Christie, in his speech, outlined how his administration would seek to combat a \$10.7-billion deficit next year and begin to stop the “madness” that has gone on in terms of state spending and government growth.

The mayor said he was struck by the fact that the state’s total debt (\$51 billion) had tripled since 2002 (\$17 billion).

“Obviously, when you look at the numbers, something had to be done,” Mayor Skibitsky said. “He promised he was going to shake up Trenton, and it looks like he has.”

The mayor said it was “shocking” to read that in 2009 the state had lost 121,000 private-sector jobs but gained 11,300 government jobs.

“Not Westfield, though. In the past four years, the town has reduced or eliminated 27 positions,” he said of his

town.

The Christie administration has proposed a 2.5-percent annual property tax increase cap. Also, the governor alluded to cutting aid to schools by \$800 million and assistance to towns by \$450 million.

“It’s going to be tough,” Second Ward Councilwoman Vicki Kimmins said. “But we need that.”

“There are a lot of difficult decisions that have to be made at the state level... the [town’s] Finance Policy Committee has a lot of work ahead of them,” the mayor said.

David Haas, the vice-chairman of the Finance Policy Committee, told *The Westfield Leader*, “As I said four years ago, I don’t have an answer for fixing the state budget. In fact, six months ago, I’d have said it was unfixable. I want to wait and see what he does.”

Mr. Haas continued, “If he combines [what his speech outlined] with some of the other changes people in Trenton are talking about, such as pension changes, healthcare contributions and reform of the interest-arbitration system, I’d be ecstatic.”




Greg Ryan for The Westfield Leader
STORM DAMAGE...The heavy rainstorm last Saturday downed many trees and flooded basements throughout the area, causing damage to homes, blockage of roads and some loss of electric power. Pictured above, Westfield firefighters rope off the area where a tree damaged a home on the 800 block of Shadowlawn Drive, rendering it uninhabitable. Police and firefighters were kept busy around the clock.

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BOE Unveils \$8.6-Million ‘Preliminary’ Budget

By LAUREN S. BARR
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

GARWOOD — The borough’s board of education (BOE) unveiled a preliminary \$8.6-million 2010-2011 budget Tuesday night. The budget is not final due to Governor Chris Christie’s Tuesday budget address. The spending plan will likely change due to the districts getting their precise state-aid figures today after press time.

First Ladies Is Topic Of LWV April 19 Talk

NEW PROVIDENCE — “View from the White House: The First Ladies from 1920-2010” will be the subject of a talk sponsored by the Leagues of Women Voters (LWV) of Union County at the New Providence Memorial Library, 377 Elkwood Ave., at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 19.

The speaker will be Myra Gutin, professor of communications at Rider University in Lawrenceville.

A teacher in the business and professional speech and interpersonal communications tracks at Rider, Ms. Gutin is the author of “The President’s Partner: The First Lady in the Twentieth Century,” and “Barbara Bush: First Lady of Literacy.” Her research work has included political communications and women in politics.

Professor Gutin’s talk has been arranged by the League of Women Voters of Berkeley Heights-New Providence-Summit in cooperation with LWV chapters in Hillside, Union and Plainfield. It is free and open to the public. Further information is available by calling (908) 464-1988 or visiting lwvnj.org.

Auxiliary Raises Funds For Overlook Hospital

SUMMIT — The executive board of the Overlook Hospital Auxiliary has donated \$177,000 to the hospital. The gift includes \$150,000 for the development of a new Caregivers Center and \$25,000 to re-do the third-floor solarium for cancer patients and their families.

The auxiliary has also initiated a new annual grant of \$2,000 for the Palliative Care Department to provide comfort baskets. Each basket will be individually created so as to provide each patient dealing with end-of-life issues a personal, comforting gift from the hospital.

Funding for this gift was derived solely through profits from The Gift Shop and Bloom at Overlook, a branch of the Auxiliary.

The current budget figures projected a 10-percent cut in state aid over the 2009-2010 school year and an approximately \$300,000 reduction in the operating budget.

Finance Committee Chairwoman Susan Groning said the current budget represents a tax increase of \$139 for a home assessed at \$100,000. She stressed that the current budget is “all tentative,” adding that her committee will meet again tomorrow, March 19, to revise the figures based on actual state-aid numbers. The budget is due to the executive county superintendent on Monday.

The current budget also assumes that Washington School will remain open, and, despite previous discussions, a ballot question on whether or not to close the school is not likely to appear on this year’s ballot.

In order to save money, the district is eliminating a capital projects budget for the 2010-2011 school year. According to Board Administrator William Muzzio, there is still approximately \$250,000 left in the capital reserve account, but no new funds will be added. Last year’s capital budget totaled over \$400,000.

The budget shows an increase of nearly \$50,000 in employee health benefits and over \$100,000 in salaries, both of which are locked in during contract negotiations with the teachers’ union. While the BOE ratified a new three-year contract with the union last year, giving members raises of 4.5, 4.3, and 4.3 percent, respectively, the school board has asked the Garwood Education Association to reopen negotiations to address the rising cost of health benefits. The contract ends June 30, 2011.

A public hearing on the budget will be held Thursday, April 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the Lincoln School cafeteria.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Patricia Puentes, whose youngest child will enter kindergarten next year, asked about the kindergarten class curriculum. She raised concerns over rest time and “movie Fridays,” stating that first grade teachers and parents said that children coming into first grade were not up to par “academically.”

Superintendent of Schools Teresa Quigley responded that the curriculum would not change and suggested that Mrs. Puentes make an appointment to speak with her privately.

The annual school budget election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20. Residents will vote on the tax levy portion of the spending plan at that time.



LAUNCHING...Lon Hosford discusses his Congressional bid for the Republican nomination for the 7th District seat currently held by freshman Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) with Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times Assignment Editor Paul Peyton.

Political Peek of The Week

by Paul Peyton

Christie’s Hands Tied on 7 Percent Hike Given to State Workers

Governor Chris Christie has said he must follow a 7 percent pay hike former Governor Jon Corzine gave unionized state workers last year in the upcoming fiscal year and Mr. Corzine’s agreement bars the new governor from ordering layoffs before January, the *Star-Ledger* reported. Under the deal, a pay raise would kick in if Governor Christie orders layoffs.

“If I could stop it, I would, except the previous governor tied my hands. I cannot lay off one state worker; I cannot furlough a state worker until January of 2011. That was a great election-year deal he made for us. It is an exquisite pair of handcuffs he put on his successor, but I guess he didn’t think he was going to have a successor,” Governor Christie stated.

Two, 3.5-percent wage increases will take effect in July and January. **Wash. D.C. Metro Hires Ex-NJ Transit Chief as Interim Mgr.**

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority’s (Metro) Board of Directors has appointed former NJ Transit Chief Richard Sarles to become its interim general manager for the next six to 12 months, replacing John Catoo who is resigning effective April 2, according to the Associated Press. Mr. Sarles headed NJ Transit from 2007 until January.

According to its website, Metro is facing a \$189.2-million shortfall in its Fiscal Year 2011 operating budget, “due mostly to increased expenses and losses in revenue from lower than expected ridership.”

Senate Considers Bill to Cut State’s Fleet of Vehicles

The state Senate is considering a bill that would reduce the number of

vehicles used to conduct state business, according to the Associated Press. The plan would save \$28 million over five years with another \$2.2 million per year generated from the sale of the vehicles, reducing the state’s fleet to 1,500.

The bill is currently before the state Senate Government Committee.

Manzo Alleges Corruption Arrests Were Done to Elect Christie

Former state Assemblyman Louis Manzo of Hudson County, a defendant in New Jersey’s largest corruption probe, has charged that the investigation and subsequent arrests of 44 persons on corruption charges last July were engineered by then-U.S. Attorney Chris Christie to win him the governor’s office.

Mr. Manzo said prosecutors were contributing to Mr. Christie’s campaign coffers and were receiving job-promises. Mr. Manzo alleged staffers continued to inform Mr. Christie of developments after he had stepped down as U.S. attorney.

Mr. Manzo has pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit extortion.

Gov. Christie Urges Agreement on WTC Site

Governor Chris Christie said the Port Authority (PA) of New York and New Jersey needs to move forward with a counter proposal for the World Trade Center Site.

“We simply cannot delay any longer on the World Trade Center site,” the governor said. “Now is the time for all interested parties to quickly and responsibly finalize an agreement that both protects the memories of those we lost and the overstretched taxpayers of New York and New Jersey. This is a good first step we must all quickly build upon so we can come to a timely and meaningful conclusion.”

Hosford Cites Lance’s ‘Centrist’ Position on Issues

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — What started out as videotaping local Tea Party events has turned into a candidacy for Congress for Alexandria, Hunterdon County resident Lon Hosford.

Members in the Tea Party movement asked Mr. Hosford to run and eventually he opted to take the plunge.

“We realized that there is a movement going on to replace who’s in Congress with people who do not have a political history which he (Rep. Leonard Lance) has,” said Mr. Hosford. He explained that Rep. Lance (R-7) is looking more at “political opportunities down the road” in his re-election bid, while Mr. Hosford eyes this opportunity as a “diversion...to go down there and do what I can do for a couple of years.”

“I don’t look at this as a career. I look at this as a series of iterations,” Mr. Hosford said.

He said the Tea Party movement’s goal is to “reset the Congress to what it was designed in the Constitution...a lean, mean fighting machine.”

Discussing his decision to become a candidate for Congress, Mr. Hosford said, “There was a lot of discussion over the centrist position of Leonard Lance in a lot of the Tea Party movements.”

He said the group visited the Congressman after he was one of a few Republicans to support the cap-and-trade climate control bill. “He lost trust (of conservatives) when he voted for the cap-and-trade. And when you lose trust it is very hard to get it back,” Mr. Hosford said. “He’s become a maintenance item...for conservatives. So, there was a thought that it would be better to run as a conservative,” Mr. Hosford said. “He didn’t vote for [the] healthcare [bill] because we visited him enough times.”

“My personal belief is that he would have found something in that health bill that he could be reached over and grabbed in order to get some sort of record to move forward,” the candidate noted. He referred to the Democrat majority bill as “more of a political bill.” He said the legislation features “10 years of taxes for six years of actual costs.”

The candidate said he supports using the Interstate Commerce clause of the Constitution to attract more competition in the health insurance industry and tort reform to reduce malpractice insurance costs on doctors. Mr. Hosford supports moving healthcare insurance to cover “the catastrophic areas.” He said the healthcare legislation should be de-

cided by states, not the federal government.

“And then you have to negotiate things (such as colonoscopies if not covered by health insurance plans),” Mr. Hosford explained, noting that the use of generics instead of name-brand prescriptions can reduce out-of-pocket costs. “Government has to be pulled out of the health system because it is driving costs up.” The candidate also opposes mandates on insurance companies.

Regarding Mr. Lance’s comments that he supported cap-and-trade because the nuclear industry would get tax credits, which would benefit New Jersey, Mr. Hosford argued, “There are studies out to say New Jerseyans would pay a higher tax rate.”

In terms of immigration, Mr. Hosford said the nation needs “to protect our borders” and remove illegal immigrants from eligibility for federal funding. “That will reduce the incentives to come here,” he said. Mr. Hosford also said the government needs to start enforcing laws dealing with [the] harboring or hiring of illegal immigrants.

On earmarks, Mr. Hosford said, “New Jersey is a donor state” because it sends more federal tax dollars to Washington than it receives back. “So, the money (federal dollars for New Jersey projects) that came back cost more than we sent down,” he said.


“Our (Tea Parties) goal is to get the government out of the process of redistributing money throughout the United States,” he said. “New Jersey should be one of the leading states in the nation in being able to accomplish things on their own. And they shouldn’t be waiting for the federal government to help them.”

Mr. Hosford labeled the Obama Administration’s policies in Iraq and Afghanistan as “non functional,” saying the policies are “not moving us forward and they are not moving us out” and that America is losing its identity as a “nation of freedom.”

Commenting on his quest for the GOP’s organization ballot line, Mr. Hosford said, “If they (GOP) want to take another chance at it than they can go that way (with Mr. Lance). If they want to bring somebody fresh in who identifies with the people no matter who they are – Republican, Independent or Democrat – than they should at least take a look at me.”

Also challenging Mr. Lance are David Larsen of Oldwick and Bruce Baker of Westfield. Democrat Ed Potosnak of North Plainfield is unopposed in his party’s Primary.

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Dental Update

by Kenneth W. Arida, D.D.S.
Family & Cosmetic Dentistry


DRYING EFFECTS

Patients with symptoms of “dry mouth” should notify the dentist. Not only can reduced saliva production lead to difficulty speaking, swallowing, persistent bad breath, and chapped/cracked lips, it can also potentially contribute to cavities, gingivitis, and other dental problems. Once the dentist is made aware of dry mouth, there are ways to measure saliva production and evaluate the problem. Because dry mouth is a side effect of various drugs, a proper evaluation also entails a patient’s detailed description of any medications that he or she is taking. If dry mouth only occurs at night, it may be a symptom of a nasal obstruction that may require further medical evaluation. Dry mouth is also a symptom of some auto-immune disorders.

If you are bothered by this condition, don’t be shy about discussing dry mouth with your dentist. Professional care is always the best course to pursue when unusual symptoms occur. We’re here to offer our patients comprehensive, gentle, family dentistry, including a review of medications being taken, dietary advice, routine maintenance care, complete restorative work, and cosmetic approaches to enhance any smile. All our staff members are exceptional in their care of every patient who comes through our doors. We are centrally located in Westfield at 131 South Euclid Avenue. Please call us at 908-654-6262 for an appointment.

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We Need Healthcare Reform That Gives Control Back to You

By David Larsen
Republican Candidate for Congress
There's no doubt about it – our country's healthcare system is in desperate need of reform. But how we go about those reforms makes all the difference. Each individual should be in control of their healthcare, not the government. Government mandating that all Americans buy health insurance is just another government takeover. We've seen how poorly the government runs large companies. Surely we don't want to let government bureaucrats make more decisions about our personal healthcare.

Forcing people to buy health insurance, either individually or through an employer mandate, could require nearly 100 million Americans to switch to a more expensive health plan. In addition, this would violate President Obama's pledge to allow people to keep their current health insurance. Rather than forcing people to buy health insurance, Congress should make it more affordable by creating inter-state commerce laws that allow people to choose their own plan from any state in the Union instead of just from the state they live in. Breaking up state monopolies on health insurance would increase competition among health plans and provide more options for individuals. It would also increase access to coverage for people currently uninsured, without imposing new taxes or government subsidies.

Also, there are weighty regulations on providers that increase healthcare costs because most providers need to obtain licenses from every state in which they practice. If one state recognized the licensing of physicians and clinicians from another state, this would benefit the consumer. Getting rid of licensing monopolies would provide a greater array of options to consumers by allowing greater competition among providers. Right now the consumers' options are limited because states can hold those options at bay with licensing regulations.

Another major change that would greatly help individuals and families is to allow portability in the purchase of healthcare. One of the problems with the current system is that if you lose your job, you lose your healthcare. With companies paying less and less of their employees' healthcare tab due to skyrocketing costs, we need to give control of healthcare back to employees and individuals. Congress can do

this by reforming the tax treatment of healthcare using large health savings accounts. These health savings accounts would reduce the number of uninsured Americans and free workers to buy health coverage from any source, not just the increasingly limited options that many employers are forced to offer these days. Putting people in charge of their own healthcare dollars would help eliminate wasteful spending as they see exactly what their money is paying for.

Healthcare is a personal issue to be decided between individuals and their doctors. We all know how inefficient and wasteful Washington can be, so let's not naively think "big government" can successfully administer healthcare, which is one-sixth of our economy. The current system needs reform, but it needs reform that gives more, not less control to you, the individual. This is another reason why I want to represent your concerns in Congress. I will make sure you gain control over issues important to you and your family. For more, go to davidlarsenforcongress.com.

Red Cross to Hold Fundraiser in Garwood

GARWOOD – In honor of the Tri-County Red Cross disaster relief efforts during Hurricane Katrina, the chapter is holding a "Fais do-do" Awards Fundraiser at the Westwood, 438 North Avenue, Garwood, on Saturday, May 8, from 7 to 11 p.m.

A Fais do-do is a Cajun party, and the term originated from New Orleans. Marshall's Dixieland Band will provide live music and guests will have the opportunity to meander through a French Quarter Silent Auction.

The event will honor local Red Cross donors, volunteers and supporters. This year's honorees are Assemblyman Joseph Cryan (LD-20, Union), Disaster Action Team Leader Terri Esposito, Freeholder Al Mirabella, and Steven Brower of the Kean University Design Studio.

All funds raised from the fundraiser will benefit the Tri-County Red Cross, which covers 22 communities in Union, Somerset and Middlesex counties.

For more information, visit tricountyredcross.org/gala or contact Corinna Krauskopf at (908) 756-6414, extension no. 20, or krauskopfc@usa.redcross.org.



WILD PHOTOS...The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is looking for amateur photographers, ages six to adult, to take part in the Wildlife Photography Contest as part of Trailside Nature and Science Center's 20th annual Wildlife Sunday event. The deadline is April 9. Prizes will be awarded.

New Birth Certificate Needed for New Jerseyans Born in Puerto Rico

STATE — Beginning July 1, New Jersey residents born in Puerto Rico will have to obtain a new certified copy of their birth certificate under a new law passed by the government of Puerto Rico.

The new law was based on collaboration with the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to address the fraudulent use of Puerto Rico-issued birth certificates to unlawfully obtain U.S. passports, Social Security benefits and other federal services.

New Jersey residents born in Puerto Rico need to contact the Office of Vital Statistics in Puerto Rico to obtain a new, certified copy of their birth certificate. Individuals should contact the government of Puerto Rico at salud.gov.pr or call (787) 767-9120. For additional information, individuals can also contact prfaa.com/birthcertificates for information on how to obtain a copy of their certified birth certificate.

Joseph Komosinski, state registrar of Vital Records, stressed that only those individuals who need to obtain a certified copy of their birth certificate for immediate official business such as obtaining a passport need to request a new birth certificate right away. "People who want to obtain a copy for their records are encouraged to apply at a later date," he said.

The law that passed in Puerto Rico in December will invalidate all exist-

ing certified copies of birth certificates issued in Puerto Rico.

Budget Hearings

ELIZABETH -- The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders Fiscal Affairs Committee will hold meetings today, March 18, from 4 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. and Thursday, March 25, from 4 to 7 p.m. to review the proposed \$469-million executive budget and accompanying \$276 million tax levy.

Agenda and regular meetings will be held following the budget meetings.

Flooded Basements, Roads Reported From Storm

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

AREA — This weekend's storm, which dumped over five inches of rain in Union County, kept local emergency crews busy pumping basements and removing tree limbs from roadways and homes.

Westfield Fire Chief Dan Kelly said compared to storm damage around the state Westfield was not hit that hard.

"I think we came through it pretty well," Chief Kelly said.

He said sporadic power outages were reported town-wide, impacting about a dozen homes. Firefighters pumped out 126 basements of private homes between Saturday and Monday mornings.

Downed trees damaged a home in the 800-block of Shadowlawn Drive and two homes in the 800 block of North Avenue, West. He said the Westfield Municipal Building experienced basement flooding, while flooding also occurred at the North and Central Avenue firehouses in the radio communications area and living quarters, respectively.

St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church experienced flooding, as did parts of Lamberts Mill Road near Scotch Plains' Shackamaxon Golf and Country Club, which was also flooded, as were sections of Boynton Avenue and Vernon Place, Chief Kelly said.

Mountainside Fire Chief Neil Williams said his department responded to over 50 calls for flooded basements. The department also assisted with a downed tree in the 1100 block of Puddingstone Road. The tree, he

said, "wiped out the entire block" by taking down power lines. Some 50 to 60 homes lost power due to this one tree alone, he said.

"So, we were pretty busy," Chief Williams said.

The department also was called for mutual aid into Roselle to assist at its headquarters while Roselle's firefighters were fighting "a huge structure fire."

Scotch Plains Fire Chief Jonathan Ellis said firefighters pumped out 84 flooded basements ranging from six inches of water to levels up to the first floor. In addition, three homes in town were hit by lightning, damaging electrical systems during a hail storm that passed through the area on Sunday.

"Probably the the worst [flooding] was on Farley Avenue," Chief Ellis said.

Scotch Plains Detective Lieutenant Brian Donnelly said the township did not experience any major power outages, although half a dozen roads were closed due to flooding and downed trees during the height of the storm.

"We did alright," he said, although neighboring Edison had extensive flooding and reported a storm-related death on Raritan Road.

Lieutenant Donnelly said Route 22 at Glenside Road was closed overnight from Saturday into Sunday due to flooding, causing police to divert traffic onto local roads. West Broad Street and Mountain Avenue were also closed at times during the storm, which began Friday night and continued into Sunday.

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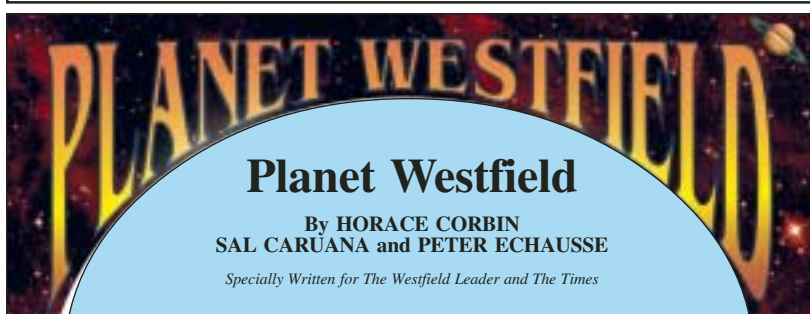
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Interactions of the Enterprise: Spending, Taxes, Debt and Priorities

Preface: Analyzing the fiscal emergency using Westfield as a model – Facing reality with all options open such as union contracts, pensions agreements, rethinking all facets of the schools, municipality and county; given state aid flat or non existent; no politics; no vested interests, “no witch hunts.” This is the first in a series of articles where public participation is sought. See goleader.com/ planet.

The Westfield Leader and The Times enlisted the aid of former town councilmen Sal Caruana and Peter Echausse to develop a measure of the government enterprise of Westfield to assist the public in making informed choices, assigning priorities and analyzing solutions during this period of fiscal emergency in the state.

Westfield was chosen for our model, as it is the largest town in the immediate area, considerable information exists for the town, the town is well run and the model can be extrapolated for the benefit of its neighbors. We have confidence in the figures provided; albeit they may be subject to adjustment.

Messrs. Caruana and Echausse served several years on the town finance committee and are businessmen in the financial profession. The town has a ‘AAA’ bond rating.

The model is designated Planet Westfield because it considers all dominant categories of consequence: municipal and county government, the public school system and the regional sewerage authority (RVSA). Planet Westfield is estimated to be 10 percent of county operations and 14 percent of RVSA.

The model summarizes steady state conditions using the enterprise’s input (revenue), output (expenditure) and accumulation (debt, pension liabilities and cash) broken down by category.

Planet Westfield is a \$175 million a year enterprise based on present figures. The school system is \$90 million, municipal government is \$40 million (including the RVSA) and \$45 million is attributable to Union County (10 percent of a \$450-million budget). The enterprise grows at 4-8 percent per year compounded. For perspective, at a 6 percent compounded growth rate per year, the enterprise doubles in size every 12 years – along with its appetite for revenue.

The model provides ballpark figures of taxpayer liability for unfunded pension accounts, totalling about \$50 billion in the state. Given there are 8.5 million people in the state and Westfield’s population of 30,000 with 10,000 homes, Planet Westfield’s share of the pension debt calculates to be approximately \$180 million, or \$18,000 per household.

INPUT, 175
School Tax, 79.3
School State Aid, 5.3
School Fed. Aid, 2.0
School Other, 3.4
Town Tax, 23.4
Town State Aid, 4.0
Town Other, 12.6
County Tax, 27
County Other, 18

Westfield, The Enterprise	
ACCUMULATION (\$280 MM)	
Bond Debt	
Schools, 28	
County, 28	
Town, 18	
RVSA, 28	
Pensions, 180	
Units = \$million	

OUTPUT, 175
(Breakdown of services will be summarized next week)

’09 Westfield Town Budget Summary, 39.7
Gen’l Revenue, 16.3
—In-Town, 8.1
—Surplus Used: 2.7
—State Aid, 4.0
—Delinquent Taxes, 1.4
Tax Revenue, 23.4
Expense Salaries, 17.3
—Operating, 3.1
—Debt Service, 1.6
—Uncollected Taxes, 2.0
—Fire, 3.5
—Police, 5.5
—Other Salaries, 5.9
Expense Other, 15.8
—RVSA, 3.6
—PERS, 0.6
—PFRS, 1.8
—SS, 0.7
—Unemployment, 0.7
—Library, 2.8
—Health, 3.9
—Other Ins, 0.9
—Utilities, 0.5
—Hydrants, 0.6
—Street Lighting, 0.3
—Misc., 0.14

For Westfield School Budget, see: goleader.com/09mar26/23.pdf

U.S. Census ‘Offends On Many Levels’

I recently received a letter from the U.S. Census Bureau stating that my response to the 2010 Census “is important” because “Results from the 2010 Census will be used to help each community get its fair share of government funds...”

This offends on many levels. For one thing, honest individuals don’t seek to use the iron fist of government to legalize the theft of other folks’ hard-earned money. I don’t want to be provided with others’ income – taken from them via armed threat of prison – simply because

my neighbors and I have filled out some government paperwork. Just as legalized slavery was still slavery, legalized theft is still theft. My fair share of funds is what I earn through my peaceful, economically productive efforts.

To the federal government I say, “Keep your confiscated funds, I don’t want them.” Return those funds to the individuals who earned that income.

Mark Kalinowski, Clifton North Jersey Tea Party Group

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Eve. & Sat. Appointments

Letters to the Editor

Gaston Award Winner Rhodes Gives ‘Appreciation’ to Friends of WML

The Kenneth S. Gaston award was presented to me this past Sunday by the Friends of the Westfield Memorial Library.

This award, named for the first president of the Board of Trustees of the Westfield Memorial Library, has been presented each year since 1979 to an individual or individuals who have demonstrated a sincere interest in the library and who have helped support and further its activities.

It is an honor to be in the company of past recipients and to be recognized by my peers on the Friends board.

We currently have 10 Gaston Award honorees serving on our board and they certainly set the standard for all our board members. This is a group of dedicated hard-working women who have a love for the Westfield Memorial Library and who wish to give back to the library and to their community.

Each year the Friends raise over \$30,000 from the support of more than 450 members and through their Annual Book Sale, coming up April 17 through April 24. All the money raised is donated back to the library in many ways. The Friends present a number of adult programs, the Anne Hale Speakers Series, and the very popular children’s winter programs. We fund the successful Museum Pass Program, which offers free admission to 17 area museums. In recent years, the Friends have contributed funds for the purchase of equipment, materials, and the new children’s room mural. This year, the Friends redecorated the library meeting room and installed framed posters representing the museums in their Museum Pass Program. The Friends also have presented \$26,000 in Scholarships for Future Librarians.

In addition, the Friends sponsor a wide range of community services: the paperback book exchange at the train station, the Friends’ Book Discussion Group, Books-on-Wheels, the Metropolitan Opera Group, and the annual Friends’ Trip to locations of cultural interest.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Friends for this prestigious award, and I would like to recognize the many projects, donations and events sponsored by this exceptional organization.

Linnea Rhodes, Co-President, Friends of Westfield Memorial Library, Westfield

WF BOE Incumbent Leiz Outlays Challenges for Strategic Plan

Last fall, the Westfield Board of Education (BOE) and administration conducted a community survey to understand our residents’ opinion of our schools. The survey results formed the basis for developing a new strategic plan for Westfield’s schools.

Work on the plan began in February, when all BOE members joined a group of teachers, administrators and Westfield parents of current and former students, in a full-day planning conference. Using the survey results and additional ‘state of our schools’ information, the group created visions for the future and stated beliefs about learning, educational excellence and the roles of parents, the community and school staff. The planning group also identified Westfield’s strengths, our schools’ accomplishments, current district challenges and critical issues for our children.

In several weeks the planning group will reconvene. The group will discuss our school district’s mission statement, target goal areas for future activity, and identify action steps to achieve our goals. At that meeting I will highlight the following challenges that deserve critical attention in the new strategic plan.

1) Manage the enrollment bubble as it moves through the intermediate and high school levels. Review the impact of projected enrollment growth at Edison Intermediate School and at Westfield High School. Develop programs to help all students feel included in the life of their school. Identify instruction and support requirements. Assess the impact on co- and extra-curricular activities. Identify the cost impact.

2) Cut expenses and increase revenues. Assess the efficiency of delivering mandated programs and services. Increase

non-traditional funding to replace future cuts in state aid. Assess the impact of creating a tuition-based pre-school program and bringing more out-of-district students back into Westfield classrooms.

3) Prepare students for success in the 21st century. Imbed executive functioning skills (e.g., time management, critical thinking, task organization, self-advocacy, collaboration, leadership and negotiation) into each student’s educational program. Emphasize personal adaptability to changes in individual circumstances, the economy, technology and globalization.

4) Expand and strengthen school-parent and school-community partnerships. Reinforce awareness of school programs through enhanced outreach programs. Extend understanding and deepen pride in Westfield schools as a cornerstone of community vitality and quality of life.

The strategic plan is a road map for the future that reflects the values of the community. The plan will guide the district’s future goals and priorities. Including these challenges as critical goals in the new strategic plan will help Westfield sustain the tradition of academic excellence, which is at the heart of a Westfield education.

Ginny Leiz Westfield



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All of The Rules in Ed. Funding From The State Have Changed Today

I am sure that all of the citizens of Westfield are aware of the state budget deficit. We have made great strides in the Westfield Public Schools to gain efficiencies in the operation of our school district and to control costs. We continue to have a lower than average cost per pupil in the state, we see ongoing savings in our energy conservation program (\$862,000 less spent on electricity and gas), and we will experience \$1 million in health insurance savings as a result of successful negotiations with employees.

Since I am responsible for presenting a budget to the board of education, I have been following the discussions in Trenton on a daily basis and attended the Commissioner of Education’s meeting on March 2, along with members of our board. At that time, districts were told to prepare to lose 5 percent, 10 percent or 15 percent of state aid. For the past few years, Westfield has received approximately \$5 million in state aid on an annual basis. If Westfield had lost 15 percent of state aid, we would

have been cut \$750,000. Although some of the cuts would have been difficult, I had worked with the Finance Committee of the board of education and we had created a budget that anticipated this cut.

In this afternoon’s (March 16) budget address by the governor, he announced that current total budgets of school districts could expect a 5 percent cut. A cut of 5 percent of our total budget is a loss of \$4,200,000 and translates to a 95 percent cut in state aid for Westfield.

As I write this letter on March 16, we are still awaiting the official state aid figures, but we are required to present a budget to the county superintendent by March 23. In short, an additional \$3,450,000 must be cut from the budget in the next few days.

All of the rules from the state have changed today. I am committed to providing quality education to our students as we in Westfield face this unprecedented challenge together.

Margaret Dolan, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

‘The Constitution Does Not Give Fed. Gov’t Authority Over Healthcare’

Editor’s note: This letter was sent to Senator Nicholas Scutari, Assemblyman Jerry Green and Assemblywoman Linda Stender and copied to the newspaper. It was edited for brevity.

I urge you to work with your fellow state legislators to reassert New Jersey’s state’s rights under the United States Constitution. I think everybody can agree that the federal government is trying to exert more control over the states [by linking funding for education, mandated tests and teaching standards or enacting healthcare laws]. Many of us do not want [our lives controlled by Washington].

The United States Constitution was adopted by New Jersey as a way of [limiting] powers of the federal government. This was done specifically to protect the rights that we have (or had) as citizens. Each state has the right to decide for itself how to do things, other than things clearly needed by a central government, such as currency, import and export duties, the Post Office and national defense.

Healthcare is a great example. New Jersey has a specific set of laws which require health insurance to be available for every New Jersey resident who is not eligible for Medicare. Any health insurance company operating in New Jersey

have to offer at least three basic plans. New Jersey’s laws require that policies be renewed regardless of health status; rates cannot be set based on health status or personal situations (other than age); and insurance companies are required to cover pre-existing conditions after the first year of the policy. Now Washington and politicians from all over the country are deciding that what we have ought to be changed.

Washington does not have the authority [for this]. The Constitution doesn’t allow it. The Constitution does not give the federal government authority over healthcare or education. If the federal government doesn’t have to follow the Constitution on this point, what’s to stop it from, say, telling us that states are limited in their taxing authority (because every dollar a state takes in taxes effects “commerce”) or that only certain types of people can be hired for certain jobs (again, because hiring effects “commerce”)?

You, our other state legislators and the governor, should condemn this action by Washington. It is time to start re-asserting our rights as a state. Tell Washington that we will no longer accept its dictates.

Richard Fortunato Scotch Plains

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NJ Assembly Conference Leader
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“Trenton: An Inside Look at State Government Decision Making”
Thursday, April 8 7:30 pm
Town Hall Community Room

Jeff Torborg
Former Catcher & Manager For Major League Baseball & Westfield Native
“The National Pastime: Major League Baseball and Its Players”
Thursday, June 3 7:30 pm
Town Hall Community Room

Dr. Thomas Farley
New York City Health Commissioner
Westfield Native
“Prescription for a Healthy Nation”
Thursday, September 30 8:00 pm
Westfield Memorial Library

Arthur S. Lefkowitz
Researcher and Author
“George Washington’s Indispensable Men: The 32 Aides-de-Camp Who Helped Win American Independence”
Wednesday, November 17 7:00 pm
Westfield Memorial Library
Open to the public. Register on the Library’s website at www.wmlnj.org.
and click Online Calendar, or call 908.789.4090 x 4140.

WF’s Goal is to Provide An Excellent Education Regardless of Enrollment

On March 9, Margaret Dolan, superintendent of Westfield Schools, gave a detailed analysis of projected enrollment for 2010-2011. The takeaway from the presentation is that the size of the student population will remain the same, but the grade totals will be different.

Westfield High School will experience the largest change in population. There are enough classrooms at the high school for the growing population. That work was done years ago with the 2000 bond. The building was designed to house 2,000-plus students. The administration, the school board and the taxpayers made a very wise decision a decade ago. The high school also has a strong administrative team, led by Principal Peter Renwick.

Projected enrollments at the high school for the next eight years are: 2010-2011: 1,842; 2011-2012: 1,894; 2012-2013: 1,936; 2013-2014: 1,996; 2014-2015: 2,072; 2015-2016: 2061; 2016-17: 2,118, and 2017-18: 2,111.

The growing enrollment offers a unique opportunity to look at the high school from a different perspective. Conversation about how to connect with students and deliver curriculum and address different concerns/questions of both staff and students is a daily occurrence. Asking these questions is part of providing a strong program. But all of those questions occur within the structure that currently exists. The really interesting questions are about different ways to “organize” the high school with a 20-percent increase in

the enrollment over the next five years.

Would an advisor system be a good option? Should the students be divided into academies or “houses” to provide an opportunity to meet other students more easily? The process to start a club is fairly easy now, but should it be different? With growing high school enrollment, is there a need for more activities or more opportunities within the same activities or both? Should orientation be different? The transition program is strong, but can a class of 550 be accommodated under this model? What do other high schools of similar size and academic rigor do differently? How are they organized? What about sports teams? What about the fine arts? What about the curriculum offerings?

I don’t know the answer to these questions, but I want to participate in the analysis. I believe finding the answers will be a collaborative process: administrators, staff, parents, board of education members and students will all have to be involved. I bring a working knowledge of the district, having sat on the board for seven years, yet I am able to take a “fresh” look at the high school since our son just started last fall and our daughter is still in middle school.

The goal is to provide an excellent education to each and every student, whether the enrollment is 1,800 or 2,100. I am asking for your vote on April 20.

Julia Walker
Westfield BOE Candidate

Stan Alpert Named to Barron’s ‘Top 1,000 Financial Advisors’

NEW YORK, N.Y. – Morgan Stanley Smith Barney has announced that Stan Alpert, a Senior Vice President, Financial Advisor in the firm’s Short Hills office, has been named to Barron’s annual list of America’s Top 1,000 Advisers: 2010 State-by-State. The “Barron’s Top 1,000 Advisers” is a select group of individuals that is screened on a number of criteria. Among factors the survey takes into consideration are assets under management, revenue produced for the firm and quality of service provided to clients. “I am extremely proud that Stan Alpert is representing Morgan Stanley Smith Barney on this list,” commented Jeffrey Crystal, Complex Manager of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney’s Short Hills office. “This listing recognizes an elite group of financial professionals who are dedicated to providing clients with exceptional wealth management services.”

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agement and wealth management services. The firm’s employees serve clients worldwide including corporations, governments, institutions and individuals from more than 1,200 offices in 37 countries. For further information about Morgan Stanley, please visit morganstanley.com. (Source: Barron’s “Top 1,000 Advisers,” February 20, 2010, as identified by Barron’s magazine, using quantitative and qualitative criteria and selected from a pool of over 4,000 nominations). Advisors in the Top 1,000 Financial Advisors have a minimum of seven years of financial services experience. Qualitative factors include, but are not limited to, compliance record, interviews with senior management and philanthropic work. Investment performance is not a criterion. The rating may not be representative of any one client’s experience and is not indicative of the financial advisor’s future performance.

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WL 03/18/10



Letters to the Editor

Keeping Community Informed, Involved Is Key to Successful Schools

It is with great pride that I announce my candidacy for the Mountainside Board of Education. I feel it is important for me to undertake this endeavor to continue the excellent educational environment in Mountainside and help foster the relationships that exist between the board and the borough.

I bring with me vast experience working with boards of education in the design and renovation of public schools. I have seen first-hand how working together in cooperation benefits us all. That is the belief I will bring with me to the board of education if I am elected. Keeping the community informed and involved is the key to a successful school system.

I grew up in Springfield and attended Jonathan Dayton Regional High School, where I met my wife, Jeanie Perrotta. I graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a degree in Architecture. I am a project architect at The Musial Group in Mountainside and have been employed there for 14 years.

Jeanie is a fourth grade teacher in Roselle Park. We have two children, Sabrina, age 8, and Jimmy, age 6. We settled in Mountainside because of the close-knit nature and the special opportunity it grants us to be near my family in Springfield and Jeanie’s here in town. Jeanie and her family have lived in Mountainside for 40 years, and I feel that these deep roots in the community will offer me special insight into what has made this borough a special place from its beginning. I believe whole-heartedly in small towns and the nurturing environment that they provide their residents.

I have served on the Mountainside Planning/Zoning Board and currently the Construction Board of Appeals. I enjoy coaching my children and yours in PAL Soccer, Mountainside Recreation Basketball and Youth Baseball. I frequently assist my wife at community functions, including the PTA Fall Festival. This year, I have the privilege of being a class parent in Jimmy’s kindergarten class.

The Beechwood School holds a special place for me because I was the project architect for the renovations several years back. It will be an honor for me that candidates’ night will be held in the Beechwood library that I designed. As an architect involved in the design and construction of public schools, I have spent countless hours working with superintendents and business administrators and appearing before boards of education to help make their educational goals a reality. I have seen how boards of education function and interact with the community. As a project architect, my role dur-

Family Law Attorneys To Present Free Divorce Seminars

WESTFIELD – Dulinski & Black, LLP will present two free divorce informational seminars on Tuesday, March 23, at 7 p.m. and again on Saturday, March 27, at 1 p.m. The seminars will be held at the law firm, located at 226 St. Paul Street in Westfield. Light refreshments will be served.

The seminars will cover topics such as retaining an attorney, alimony, child custody, support and parenting time, equitable distribution, arbitration, mediation and attorney’s fees. The informational seminars are free; however, registration is required as space is limited. Please call (908) 233-7400 to reserve your space or to schedule a private free consultation.

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ing design and construction is that of manager, coordinating the work of the contractor with the needs of the owner.

I invite you all to come to Candidates’ Night on March 24. I welcome the opportunity to speak to any person or group and would love to hear any concerns they may have.

Thank you for your all of your support and encouragement.

James Ruban, Jr.
Mountainside BOE Candidate

WF Can’t Lose Site of Issues That Affect Our Children Every Day

This past week, I officially became the only new candidate running against three long-term board of education members in the April 20 election. As I have said in previous letters and statements, I am running to help meet the challenges the board of education is going to face if we are to maintain our tradition of excellence. These issues range from the very complex, soon-to-be-mandated cuts in state aid, to the very basic changes that are occurring within our own guidance department.

The recent resignation of WHS guidance director Colleen White, who assumed the position only last August, should be of great concern to our current board of education. Ms. White’s resignation makes her the school district’s third guidance director in three years. Clearly, something is not right here, and serious questions have to be asked about what went wrong and, more importantly, what can be done going forward.

The job description for guidance director, as I understand it, is to oversee all guidance services for the Westfield school district as well as the high school guidance department. During the past week, I spoke to many parents, and several expressed concern with the lack of stability in our guidance department. Some parents have even resorted to hiring guidance counselors from other towns to make sure their kids get the help they need with course selection and college planning. We can do better than that.

According to the American School Counselors Association (ASCA), the primary goal of a school counseling program is to “enhance student learning through student development.” I believe the goal of school guidance counseling should be to encourage students’ emotional and academic growth — to teach them how to understand themselves and the ever-changing world around them. The first step in that process is continuity in the guidance department.

Westfield has a long history of wonderful and caring guidance counselors. There are excellent men and women in all our schools who are supportive and helpful to our children every day. But it is this candidate’s opinion that we need to get in front of our guidance department problem now — before we have a high school with more than 2,000 students and no one offering effective guidance leadership.

In the coming weeks, we will, no doubt, be discussing budgets cuts and updates from Trenton on state aid for Westfield that could impact us for years to come. I have the financial background and experience to work through that. But, at the same time, we can’t lose site of the ongoing issues that are affecting our children every day. Guidance is just one such issue. We need to get it fixed. And we need to get it fixed soon.

I look forward to discussing my views with you in the coming weeks. Please feel free to contact me with your comments or specific issues you would like to see addressed at slateronboard@gmail.com or on Facebook at Slater on Board 2010 (search under “Groups”).

Mitch Slater
Westfield BOE Candidate

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POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Monday, March 8, Joseph Lockhart, 33, of Linden was arrested at the Essex County jail on contempt of court warrants from multiple municipalities. They included warrants from Westfield, in the amount of \$1,500; Linden, in the amount of \$1,200; Roselle, in the amount of \$500, and Plainfield, in the amount of \$800. He was committed to the Union County jail in lieu of bail.

Wednesday, March 10, Santos Perez, Jr., 29, of Jersey City was arrested at First Street and Trinity Place and charged with hindering his own apprehension after allegedly falsely identifying himself to police. He was committed to the Union County jail in lieu of \$1,500 bail.

Thursday, March 11, a 14-year-old male reported that another male juvenile assaulted him as he walked home along the 800 block of Railway Avenue. The victim, who police said was punched, refused medical attention. No arrest had been made at press time.

Monday, March 15, John Byrnes, 27, of Searan was arrested at Boulevard and Ross Place on a Woodbridge contempt of court warrant. He was released after posting \$250 bail.

Fanwood

Tuesday, March 2, a bicycle valued at \$200 was stolen from the A&P on South Avenue while the victim was in the store for approximately 20 minutes. The incident is under investigation.

Thursday, March 4, Jojo Thomas, 27, of Scotch Plains was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) after an officer observed him sleeping behind the wheel of his motor vehicle at the traffic light at the corner of Martine and Midway Avenues. According to police, the officer witnessed Thomas sit through several red-light cycles without moving, at which time the officer initiated a motor vehicle stop. Thomas was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Friday, March 5, Erick Torain, 40, of Swedesboro was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on LaGrande Avenue for allegedly driving with a suspended license, as well as on an outstanding warrant out of East Brunswick. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting bail.

Friday, March 5, Corey Hewitt, 24, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue on an outstanding Plainfield warrant in the amount of \$150. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Sunday, March 7, Lashon Alston, 33, of Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Terrill Road on an outstanding warrant out of Concord. According to police, he was transported to police headquarters, processed and turned over to the Cranford Police Department for failure to make bail.

Sunday, March 7, Cheryl Fzabo, 31, of Clark was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Martine Avenue on an outstanding warrant out of Florham Park in the amount of \$165. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Thursday, March 11, a resident of the 60 block of Locust Avenue reported that, on several occasions, someone dumped loose trash on his lawn and at his curbside. According to police, there was no damage to his property.

Scotch Plains

Saturday, March 13, Ellen Makely, 49, of Fanwood was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop, at which time the officer smelled the strong odor of alcohol. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Saturday, March 13, Oluwakemi Campbell, 20, of Staten Island, N.Y. was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop. She was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Sunday, March 14, Cornell Davenport, 48, of Newark was arrested and charged with DWI after a motor vehicle stop, at which time the officer smelled the strong odor of alcohol. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released.

Sunday, March 14, a resident of Concord Road reported that she left her credit card at a store and when she returned, it was missing. She also reported that someone had made several hundred dollars worth of purchases without her authorization.

Sunday, March 14, a resident of Evergreen Avenue reported that someone entered his motor vehicle while it was parked in front of his house and removed his cell phone and iPod, valued at \$400.

Sunday, March 14, a resident of Raritan Road reported that someone damaged his motor vehicle while it was parked in his driveway.

Mountainside

Tuesday, March 9, a resident came into police headquarters to report that she was the victim of ATM fraud after receiving a fraud alert from the Bank of America. According to police, \$1,650 was fraudulently withdrawn from her account before the bank froze the account. A new card was issued and the compromised check card was cancelled.

Tuesday, March 9, a resident came into police headquarters to report that he was the victim of ATM fraud after his card was declined at a restaurant. According to police, he contacted Bank of America and was advised his account was frozen due to fraudulent activity in which someone withdrew \$1,012 from his account.

Tuesday, March 9, a resident came into police headquarters to report that he was the victim of ATM fraud after receiving a fraud alert from Bank of America. According to police, a total of \$1,189 was fraudulently withdrawn from his account on several different occasions before the bank froze the account. The compromised check card was cancelled.

Tuesday, March 9, a resident came into police headquarters to report that she was the victim of ATM fraud after receiving a fraud alert from Bank of America. According to police, a total of \$1,806 was fraudulently withdrawn from her account on several different occasions before the bank froze the account. A new card was issued and the compromised check card was cancelled.

Tuesday, March 9, a resident came into police headquarters to surrender six 12-gauge shotguns for destruction. According to police, the items were placed in evidence bags and turned over to the detective bureau.

Tuesday, March 9, a resident came into police headquarters to report that she was the victim of ATM fraud after receiving a fraud alert from Bank of America. According to police, a total of \$806 was fraudulently withdrawn from her account on two different occasions before the bank froze the account. A new card was issued and the compromised check card was cancelled.

Tuesday, March 9, a resident came into police headquarters to report that she was the victim of ATM fraud after receiving a fraud alert from Bank of America. According to police, \$483 was fraudulently withdrawn from her account. When a second attempt was made to withdraw the same amount, it exceeded the daily limit, at which time the bank froze the card. A new card was issued and the compro-

mitted check card was cancelled.

Tuesday, March 9, a patron at a Route 22 restaurant reported that someone smashed the passenger side window of his mother’s car while he was inside the restaurant. According to police, an iPod valued at \$400 was removed. It was determined the scene was contaminated by the victim when he entered the motor vehicle, so no further evidence could be obtained.

Wednesday, March 10, Abdul McKenzie, 23, of Newark was picked up at the Newark Police Department and charged with an outstanding warrant out of Mountainside. He was processed and released after posting bail.

Wednesday, March 10, an attendant at a Route 22 gas station reported that a Hispanic male, driving a red Ford Explorer, came into the gas station and ordered \$30 worth of gas. According to police, the attendant was suspicious of the suspect because of the way he parked his vehicle on an angle facing Route 22, so the attendant wrote down the license plate and a telephone number that he obtained from a “for sale” sign in the window of the vehicle. After receiving the gas, the suspect did flee the scene without paying and the attendant notified police. The incident is under investigation.

Wednesday, March 10, a resident reported to police that he was the victim of ATM fraud after being notified by Bank of America of suspicious withdrawals totaling \$1,000. According to police, the victim has been in contact with the bank, and the matter was turned over to the detective bureau as part of an ongoing investigation into ATM fraud that occurred at Bank of America in the preceding weeks.

Wednesday, March 10, a patron of a Route 22 storage facility reported that he was removing items from his storage unit and overheard a conversation between a white male and a black male, both dressed in suits and ties. According to police, one of the men told the other to “put it back,” while the other responded “he won’t miss it; he has plenty.” On two separate occasions, the victim reported hearing a coin hit the ground and one of the men state, “Yeah, I like this,” according to police. When the victim got home, he looked inside a box that had been cut open with a pen and realized that a 1993 Morgan Silver dollar, valued at \$500, was missing.

Wednesday, March 10, a resident came into police headquarters to report that she was the victim of ATM fraud after receiving a fraud alert from Bank of America. According to police, a total of \$866 was fraudulently withdrawn from her account on two different occasions. The incident was turned over to the detective bureau as part of an ongoing fraud investigation, police said.

Wednesday, March 10, a patron at a Route 22 movie theater reported that after seeing a movie there, he realized he had left his wallet behind. According to police, a subsequent search failed to locate the wallet, and all credit cards were cancelled.

Friday, March 12, a resident came into police headquarters to report that he was the victim of ATM fraud. According to police, a total of \$1,792 was fraudulently withdrawn from his account on four separate occasions. The victim stated that he did not remember using the Mountainside branch of Bank of America since Christmas time, but does use the branch located in Westfield, police reported.

Friday, March 12, a resident came into police headquarters to report fraudulent activity involving his Bank of America account. According to police, the victim reported that a total of \$505 was fraudulently withdrawn from his account. The compromised card was cancelled and replaced, and Bank of America credited the funds to his account, authorities reported.

Saturday, March 13, a resident of Ledgewood Court reported that her garbage can, described as large and black, went missing sometime overnight. According to police, she put her garbage out around midnight and when she looked outside at 7:45 a.m., the can was missing.

Saturday, March 13, a resident reported that he was the victim of ATM fraud. According to police, a total of \$1,506 was fraudulently removed from his account at Bank of America on three separate occasions.

Saturday, March 13, police responded to the report of a tree that had fallen on a motor vehicle in the vicinity of Fox Trail and Deer Path, causing extreme damage to the vehicle. According to police, the tree belonged to the victim and no one was home at the time the tree fell.

Saturday, March 13, police responded to a report of a tree that fell on a residence on Puddingstone Road. According to police, a large tree fell on the left side of the home and a large branch was observed protruding into the living room. The fire department responded and cut the tree off of the roof and placed a tarp as a temporary barrier until the homeowner could repair the damage.

Sunday, March 14, an officer on routine patrol heard a transmission from Scotch Plains police headquarters at 11:44 p.m. regarding a vehicle that had fled a motor vehicle stop and was heading towards Mountainside. According to police, the driver of the vehicle was said to have turned off the vehicle’s lights to further avoid apprehension. The officer positioned himself in the third west-to-east U-turn so that he could have a clear view of both directions on Route 22 and also block traffic from entering the roadway and possibly into the path of the suspect.

The officer observed the suspect’s vehicle, described as an older model, blue, two-door Ford Probe with white lettering or graphics near the driver’s side door, police reported. The officer then activated his emergency lights and attempted to catch up to the suspect, who was thought to be traveling at approximately 90 mph, but lost sight of the vehicle at the Springfield/Union border.

Officer Who Left Gun Won’t Face Charges

WESTFIELD – A Borough of Chatham police officer who last fall allegedly left a loaded .45-caliber firearm in a backpack on a town street will not face charges in Westfield, authorities confirmed this week. Police found Sergeant Roy George, 34, of Clark intoxicated on Elm Street late in the evening last October 12. His backpack was found in front of a Sinclair Place home.

Westfield Police Captain Clifford Aughter told *The Westfield Leader* Tuesday that Officer George will not face charges in Westfield, noting, “there’s no criminal charge for losing a gun.” Chatham referred the matter to the Morris County Prosecutor’s Office, which reviewed it and sent it back to the borough. A hearing on the case is scheduled for later this month.

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Rescue Squad Fund Drive Gets Underway For 2010

WESTFIELD – Westfield Councilman Mark Ciarrocca last week helped announce the start of the Westfield Rescue Squad's 2010 fund drive by proclaiming the month of March as "Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad Month."

Councilman Ciarrocca made the

VFW Announces Trip To Showboat Casino

MOUNTAINSIDE – Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 10136 of Mountainside will sponsor a trip to the Showboat Casino in Atlantic City on Monday, March 29. All are welcome.

The bus will depart at 9:30 a.m. from the parking lot of the Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, located at 300 Central Avenue in Mountainside, and will return at 7:30 p.m.

The cost per person is \$27. Attendees will receive \$30 back. Individuals should bring their casino cards. Checks should be made payable to: VFW No. 10136 and mailed to Eve Vitale, 286 Ravenswood, Mountainside, N.J. 07092. For more information, call Eve Vitale at (908) 789-8568.

Harvest Quilters Plan Show At Willow Grove Church

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Harvest Quilters of Central New Jersey will again educate and entertain attendees at their 27th annual show, "Sharing the Quilts XXVII," scheduled for Saturday, March 27, at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church.

This year's show will feature a broader display of art quilts that will include quilting and an array of other needleart techniques. Among them will be the challenge portrait quilts developed at a workshop in October of 2009 in which a photograph of the quilter, a loved one or a famous personality has been recreated in fabrics with quilt stitches, buttons, lace, embroidery and other embellishments added.

Another of the displays will be a room filled with "Things my Mom and Dad Made," including vintage quilts, crochet work and garments and household items made by parents and ancestors.

In response to the positive reception by the public to the room of quilted decorator items, there will again be examples of table runners, quilted bags and tablecloths, among other pieces.

A special display in the main hall will be a large group of Block of the Month quilts. These are quilts made from blocks raffled off each month at the Harvest Quilters' meetings and stitched into bedcovers by group members. Additionally, some quilts have taken the monthly designs and sewed them up with their own color choices to create still another grouping of sampler Block of the Month quilts.

The needle group at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church will display 15 quilts members have made for the Center for Hope Hospice, which will be presented there after the show.

Demonstrators will be scattered throughout the exhibits to show quilting techniques and piecing as well as to answer questions.

There will be a raffle quilt made in

proclamation at the March 9 Westfield Town Council meeting. On hand to receive the proclamation from Mr. Ciarrocca were squad members Lynn Feldman, captain; Jonathan Delano, deputy captain; Carol Carson, vice-president; Drew Fleyzor, ambulance lieutenant, and Sue Lagano, Membership Committee representative.

The squad's volunteer emergency medical technicians (EMTs) responded to more than 2,300 emergency medical calls in 2009. Now in its 59th year of operation, the rescue squad is funded entirely from private donations. Homes and businesses in Westfield will receive a 2010 fund drive letter within the next week asking for their financial support.

The Westfield Rescue Squad is an all-volunteer organization, with members on duty at the squad building 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Tax-deductible contributions can be mailed to or dropped off at the squad headquarters. The squad headquarters is located at 335 Watterson Street, Westfield, N.J. 07090. To learn more about becoming a volunteer at the rescue squad as either an EMT or dispatcher, call (908) 233-2500.



SQUAD SUPPORT...Members of the Westfield Rescue Squad kick off their 2010 fund drive by accepting a proclamation from Westfield Town Councilman Mark Ciarrocca designating March as "Westfield Volunteer Rescue Squad Month." Pictured, from left to right, are: Squad Captain Lynn Feldman, Councilman Ciarrocca, Squad Vice-President Carol Carson, Ambulance Lieutenant Drew Fleyzor and Squad Membership Committee representative Susan Lagano.

Local Museum to Showcase 18th-Century Kitchen Tools

WESTFIELD – Trammels, peels, reflector ovens...the Colonial cook had various and diverse cooking tools at her disposal. On Sunday, March 21, the Miller-Cory House Museum will feature "Spiders and Salamanders – 18th Century Kitchen Gadgets" between 2 and 4 p.m.

Joan Barna will present a display of unique 18th- and 19th-century everyday kitchen tools and gadgets. She will explain what they were used for and how they made cooking easier for the Colonial housewife. The museum is located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield.

Sunday's program also will include tours of the restored 1740 farmhouse. Members of the cooking committee will demonstrate the skills used in 18th-century open-hearth cooking, using authentic recipes and seasonal foods, as well as many of the items displayed in the special program. Taste samples will be offered to visitors. The gift shop, which carries a variety of Colonial toys, crafts, books and educational materials, also will be open.

Admission is \$2.50 for adults, \$1 for students and free for children under age 4.

Upcoming Sunday programs include "Silhouette Craft for Children" on March 28, "Abraham Clark" on

April 11 and "African Slaves in New Jersey" on April 18. The museum's annual "Sheep to Shawl Festival" will take place on Sunday, April 25, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The Miller-Cory House Museum is a nationally recognized living museum, listed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places and as a site on the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail.

The museum is available for tours for school groups during the week, as well as for scout troops after school on weekdays. For more information, call the museum office weekday mornings at (908) 232-1776 or e-mail millercorymuseum@gmail.com. The museum website is millercoryhouse.org.

Temple Sholom to Present Passover Pajama Party

FANWOOD – Families with children ages 6 and under are invited to a free Passover pajama party and supper at Temple Sholom on Saturday, April 3.

Led by Educator Michelle Shapiro Abraham, the 90-minute program will begin at 4:30 p.m. and will include matzo pizza making, crafts, games, story time and singing. Older siblings are welcome.

"My family really enjoyed the Chanukah pajama party, and we're looking forward to this one," said Ellen Wolff, a member of Temple Sholom. "Last time, the kids loved all the crafts, games, stories and music, and my husband and I had the chance to hang out with our friends and meet some new faces, as well."

"We are looking forward to adding the Passover program to our other programs for young families," said Mrs. Abraham. "It is so exciting to see young families getting involved in the congregation!"

Matzo pizza will be provided and other dishes will be potluck. Interested

persons are asked to call (908) 889-4900 or e-mail sholom@sholomnj.org to say if they will bring a salad, beverage or kosher-for-Passover dessert. (All dishes should be dairy or parve – no meat, poultry or bread). Just for fun, children are encouraged to attend in their favorite pajamas.

Temple Sholom is located in the Fanwood Presbyterian Church at the corner of Martine and LaGrande Avenues. Its chapel is around the corner, off of Marian Avenue. Attendees are asked to enter through the door on Marian marked Temple Sholom. For more information, call (908) 889-4900, e-mail sholom@sholomnj.org or visit sholomnj.org.

Cantata to Recount Jesus' Final Days

AREA – The Choir of Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church will present "The Day He Wore My Crown" on Saturday, March 27, at 7 p.m.

This musical cantata tells the story of the last days of Jesus Christ. Admission will be free. The Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church is located at Stuyvesant Avenue and Chestnut Street in Union.

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- New wellness programs such as *Weigh of Living Weight Management* & *Walk Away the Lbs Walking Club*
- Cultural Arts and Education programs such as the Jewish Film Festival Spring Mini Series & concerts
- Spring and summer Softball & Basketball Leagues
- F.I.T. Zone for kids featuring swimming, cardio fitness & nutrition education

Contact Caren Goldberg, Membership Director,
at 908-889-8800 ext. 236 or cgoldberg@jccnj.org
or visit www.jccnj.org for more information.



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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 9-12

SABATINO LED TEAM IN SCORING AND REBOUNDING

Blue Devil Boys Finished Well In Tough Basketball Season

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Competing with very tough Union County teams, as well as in the Union County League Watchung Conference Division, offensive and defensive punch was what the Westfield High School boys basketball team needed to employ.

Facing such powers as Cranford, Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Linden, Plainfield, Union and Elizabeth, the Blue Devils finished with a respectable, 10-11 season, a 9-3 non-conference record and qualified for the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2 tournament for the sixth time in eight years. The Blue Devils began their season

by winning the Rahway Holiday Tournament for the third time in six years. The Blue Devils exercised an extremely effective offensive and defensive strategy overpowering Rahway, 53-49, and defeated perennial rival Scotch Plains-Fanwood, 43-36, on December 29. The Blue Devils had some key victories, which included a 45-24 victory over rival Cranford on January 7.

One thing special was an opportunity for fans to watch two of the most entertaining local basketball players, Sabatino and Hess, do their thing when the Blue Devils topped the Raiders, 56-50, in their first regular-season meeting before dropping a 57-54 decision, with Raiders Patrick Dougher and Chuck Oliver seizing the spotlight on February 4.

Near perfection was needed to upset the fourth-seeded Farmers of Union, but the fifth-seeded Devils became victims of a defensive scheme resulting in a 44-37 loss in the quarterfinal round of the Union County Tournament on February 20. The Blue Devils quickly rebounded and were quite impressive in the North Jersey, Group 4, Section 2 tournament, ousting Elizabeth in Elizabeth Hillsborough, 50-40, on February 24.

"We got quality minutes from nine guys during the season. We have five seniors and four juniors. The starting lineup included senior center Pat Sabatino, who was our leading scorer and rebounder, and senior point guard Jaraad Rogers, who led us in assists.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



David B. Corbin (Westfield/Cranford game) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
VERY TOUGH ALL AROUND...Blue Devil Pat Sabatino, no. 43, led the team in rebounds with 251 and in scoring with a 14.6-points-per-game-average.

OLIVER LED SPF IN SCORING, JEGEDE IN REBOUNDS

Raider Boys Finished Strong In Rugged Basketball League

By FRED LECOMTE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Surviving in a very strong conference is what the young Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team had to deal with this season. The Raiders exercised finesse combined with quickness in most of the games and finished with a 7-17 record.

The Raiders began its season in the "Butch" Kowal Tournament in Rahway, whipping Holmdel, 5-41, before dropping a close decision to Westfield.

"It was a good hard fought game. They really did a good job, made

some big shots that really hurt us in the fourth quarter with their senior laden team. Overall though, I was happy with our performance. Later on in the season we played a little better with them, so I'm pleased," said Raider Head Coach Dan Doherty.

The Raiders' victory over a strong New Providence squad in the first round of the Union County Tournament (UCT) was an example of how competitive teams were. Facing a Plainfield team in the quarterfinal round, however, proved more than the Raiders could handle, suffering a 67-28 loss on February 17.

"Against New Providence, we had kind of a slow start in that game, but we ended with a big fourth quarter. Patrick Dougher and Chuck Oliver really had a huge quarter as they hit for six 3-pointers, so we were able to pull ahead and away from them in a good game," coach Doherty said.

Reference the Plainfield squad, "One of the top public school teams in the state. As a young team, we were overmatched and they were just too powerful for us."

The Raiders did improve as the season progressed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



David B. Corbin (Westfield/SPF game) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
SETTING SOME PERSONAL RECORDS...Blue Devil Diana Venezia, with ball, scored a personal-best 31 points and tied her personal best with 17 rebounds in a game against Cranford. She finished with 411 points this season.

VENEZIA SCORED 411 POINTS, MARKOWSKI HAD 282

Lady Blue Devils Had Strong Run Toward End of Season

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Since dropping to 2-6 after a 48-40 loss to Cranford on January 12, the Westfield High School girls basketball team turned its season in the right direction, winning 13 of its next 16 games to qualify for the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 tournament and to finish with a 15-9 record.

The Lady Blue Devils avenged that earlier loss to Cranford in a big way on February 16. Not only did they defeat the Cougars, 43-26, but also senior forward Diana Venezia scored a career-high 31 points and tied her career high with 17 rebounds to give Joe Marino his 100th career victory as Blue Devil head coach.

Next on the list was a 47-45 victory over the second-seeded Summit Hilltoppers in the quarterfinals of the Union County Tournament (UCT).

Probitas Verus Honos

After falling to Roselle in the UCT semifinals, the Blue Devils focused on the sectional tournament and defeated Edison, 54-48, before concluding their season with a 57-35 loss to no. 7 Columbia of Maplewood. In that game, Venezia surpassed the 400-point mark for the season at the beginning of the fourth quarter and went on to finish her year with 411 points.

"We never felt we were out of the

mix," coach Marino said. "We practiced hard. We set a goal to shoot for the UCT title and states. We never lost hope. We knew we had to polish up things. Our defense got better. It was contagious. The girls got along well and they stuck together as a team. They believed in themselves. They kept plugging away and things happened."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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David B. Corbin (Westfield/Plainfield) for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*
STRONG INSIDE THREAT...Blue Devil Ryan Hess, right, scored 149 points this season and shot 45 percent from the field.

Blue Devil Boys Finished Well In Tough Basketball Season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Senior Hugo Nolasco was our defensive stopper and a good shooting guard," said Blue Devil Head Coach Kevin Everly, who added, "Junior Ryan Hess was our second-leading scorer and had a great ability in getting to the rim and foul line. Off the bench, senior Drew Margolis gave us great energy and defense. Junior Mark Andronis was smart and aggressive, while his teammate junior Joe Kamarsky was our best 3-point threat, shooting 44 percent from the 3-point line. Additionally, junior Tim Younger played great defense, was solid with the ball and could knock down the three's."

Sabatino had a strong season, especially under the boards where he led the team with 251 rebounds. Addi-

tionally, he led the team in scoring with a 14.6-point per game (ppg) average, a 53 percent field goal average and finished with 25 steals. Rogers, with his quick thinking and speed, added spirit and fire to the team. Offensively, he hit banged in 35 percent of his 3-pointers and led the team in thefts with 42.

Hess had the ability to drive to the basket for lay-ups, as well as hitting jumpers. His tenacious and highly energized approach earned him 149 points and a 45 percent field goal percentage. He also added a veteran touch from the foul line with a 73 percent average and led the team in assists with 59. Kasmarsky added an outside presence with a 44 percent average.



A Devil's Den last fall about some bobble-head-shaking, chest-bumping and hot-dogging by high school athletes brought several interesting responses, including one from very faithful reader, Dr. Ken Cutrer.

The Cutrer brothers – Bob ('67), Bill ('68) and Ken – were very athletic guys, and regulars in the lineup for the legendary Franklin Bowlers softball teams of the late '60s. Having caught seven touchdown passes for the 1968 JV team and a team-best six on the 1969 B squad, Ken was in line for some major playing time on Westfield High School's (WHS) great 1970 football team before his family moved to Woodland Hills, Calif., prior to his senior year.

After attending the University of Kentucky, Cutrer coached freshman football at Boyle County High School in Danville, Kentucky, where his teams went 41-3 over five years. Following another season of freshman coaching in Jefferson, Ind., while attending Seminary School – his team went 8-0 – Cutrer married and moved to Ashland, Ohio, where, after three years of varsity assistant coaching, he retired to devote his full-time attention to the ministry.

Despite 40 years having passed since his days in Westfield, Cutrer remains a devoted disciple of his former coaches in Westfield – Gary Kehler, Dick Zimmer, Pete Lima, Bill Odenkirk and Ed Tirone – and used the techniques and philosophies he learned from them during his nine-year coaching career.

"What happened to the days of 'old school'?" Cutrer wrote, after reading about the shenanigans of some football players last fall. "When I coached, any words spoken to the refs or the opposing team won you a seat on the bench. And I still remember coach Kehler telling us, 'When you score a touchdown, hand the ball to the ref and thank your teammates for getting you there.'"

"I taught that pearl, too, and only had one occasion when that rule was violated. One of my incredibly slow linebackers had a pass deflected in the flat that he picked off and ran in for a touchdown. I knew before he got there that something was about to happen. He held the ball over his head and started to do the Funky Chicken. The crowd laughed, and the team all looked at me to see what I was going to do. I calmly told him, 'Nice play.'

Devil's Den Do The Funky Chicken ... On Your Own Time

By **BRUCE JOHNSON**
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

You must be exhausted from all that dancing, so you can rest on the bench the rest of the game."

"The next practice I put him in the exact same corner of the end zone and told him to do start doing his Funky Chicken and I'd tell him when to stop – which I didn't," Cutrer said. "After about 30 minutes he dragged himself over to the rest of the team and apologized for embarrassing them and taking all the credit for a team play."

"Lesson learned. The word spread and there were never any problems with it again. Even his parents thanked me. Don't you know that I'd probably be sued for that today?"

True. Just saying or thinking these things out loud (or even writing about them) these days gets you immediately pigeon-holed as "old school."

As if that's a bad thing. "I was coached by some of the greatest teachers of all-time, men who understood the balance of discipline and practice, repetition and performance, criticism and praise, pushing you to your limits and both expecting and demanding excellence," Cutrer said. "The game has become too focused on the 'individuals,' which, as you know, was totally foreign to those coaches."

"When we played, we understood that a strong reprimand meant the coaches knew we could do better and that nothing less than 100 percent effort would be acceptable. These are life-long values. Most of the sporting world cannot understand those values today, and we are all the sadder for it."

There is a time and place for everything, even the Funky Chicken. It could be in the locker room after the game, or at a party later that night, when nobody can be embarrassed other than the dancer.

Cutrer closed his e-mail with another "GK-ism," one that "Little Cooch" had put to good use on his Funky Chicken-dancing linebacker. "Never embarrass yourself ... or the other team."

A 'SUPER' GAME
 In late November 1969 the WHS varsity football team was in the early stages of what would become a state-record 48-game unbeaten streak. And that wasn't the only streaking going on down at Recreation Field.

The B squad, comprised of mostly juniors and coached by Bob Martin at the time, had just finished its ninth straight undefeated season and had a 78-game streak going. In their regular-season finale, a 42-0 rout of Hillside, Neil Chamberlin had a 90-yard kickoff return, David (Dee Dee) Scott added a 75-yard TD run, and quarterback Tupper Hillard hit Ken Cutrer with a 92-yard scoring strike.

And the junior varsity team, with mostly sophomores and coached by Pete Lima and Ed Reinoso, had a 28-game streak of its own. Its final game was a 16-0 victory over Livingston, with Greg Braxton scoring two touch-

downs and adding both PATs.

During the week-plus of preparation for the Thanksgiving Day game against Plainfield, the two teams played what *The Westfield Leader* called the "Westfield Super Bowl."

The jayvees were bolstered by the return of injured fullback-linebacker John Kerr, end-safety Chamberlin and halfback-cornerback Bob Byrne, who had each spent most of the year "up" on the B's.

After being dominated in a scoreless opening half, the B's took a 6-0 lead on a short run by Scott. The drive featured two completions by Hillard, to Lee Waring and Grey and a third-down scramble by the quarterback.

The game changed later in the period when Chamberlin picked off a Hillard pass. Six players later Byrne, who also had an interception, scored the tying touchdown.

The B's were forced to punt late in the game and, as the clock ticked down under a minute, the JV's faced a third-and-7 at the B's 40. Alan Deomebeleg then completed his only pass of the day, a 40-yard touchdown to Chamberlin.

With Byrne and Braxton at 4-back, Kerr, Ed Morton and John Kelly at 3-back and Kurt Stiefken at 2-back, the JV's rang up 120 yards on the ground, allowing just 45.

COLLEGE UPDATE
 Mike Murray (WHS, '06), a senior at Wake Forest, is one of 53 Division I catchers named to the watch list for the 11th Johnny Bench Award, given annually since 2000 to the nation's top college catcher.

A four-year starter for the Demon Deacons, Murray brings a career .280 batting average with 14 home runs and 97 RBI into his final season. In

2009, Murray had a .306 batting average to go along with six round-trippers and 37 RBI. Murray posted a .404 on-base percentage, which was second on the team, and a .462 slugging percentage. Murray was also excellent in the field, committing only two errors in 319 chances for a .994 fielding percentage.

Phil Anton ('07), a junior at New York University, swam a 1:02.75 in the 100 breast and a 2:18.54 in the 2-breast at the University Athletic Association championships at Emory.

GRUMPY'S GONE
 Grumpy Greco's is no more. The Frenchtown eatery, owned for the last 13 years by Tony (Grumpy) Greco (WHS, '59), was sold last week. "I'm getting up there (age-wise) ... it was time," Greco said.

The former two-way end on Les Zorge's first WHS football team in 1957 will still be making his famous grape-soaked sourdough bread for the new owner, and that alone makes it worth the hour drive out to the quaint Delaware River town.

IN PASSING
 Classmate John Barnes ('63) died of a heart attack last week at the age of 64. John was a rock-solid middle guard on the 1962 football team that went 7-1-1. He is the third member of that defensive line to pass away, after tackle Randy (Goober) Ellis and fellow middle guard Fred Doerr. John and his wife, the former Diane Barnes ('63), were living in Coast Rock, Colo.

The Devil's Den appears Thursday in The Westfield Leader during the school year. Contact me with comments, complaints and suggestions at bj1019@aol.com. Win or not, WHS4EVR!

Junior Mudturtles Open Their Spring 2010 Season

The Union County Rugby Football Club (UCRFC) U15 and U19 rugby teams played their first matches of the 2010 season recently. The U19 boys hosted Doylestown, Pa. for two matches at Kehler Stadium in Westfield.

The U19 boys A-side beat Doylestown's A-side, 30-10. The scoring was spread around as six players. Brett DeNicola, Brandon Dietz, Jorge Cuisana, Joe Brady, Joe Ondi and Brian Mooney each scored a try.

In the U19 boys B-side game, the home team pulled out an exciting 27-22 victory as Patrick Bergin gathered in a kick from Ryne Morrison and ran 50 meters for the winning try. Mitch Young and Jake Rabedeau each had a pair of tries and Morrison added a conversion.

In the curtain-raiser match, the UCRFC U15 boys ran over Parsippany's U15s, 72-10. In a rebuilding year, the U15s showed great potential as first-year players scored tries. Nick Laface lead the way with three tries and Ryan Farrell, Tom Ross, Matt Weissglass, Jeremy Wise and Alex Hay each had one try. Returning players Brenton Harries, Peter Lovito,

Byran Jung and Will Traver added a try each. Weissglass connected on four conversions, while Michael Dabulas and Kevin King each had one.

In a scrimmage against defending METNY U19 girls' champions, Elizabeth High School, the UCRFC U19 girls struggled, losing 47-5. The team played with great heart and the 10 first-year players got valuable game time. Lucy Dawson scored the only try for the U19 girls and was impressive all over the field. The U19 girls have great potential and will only get better as the season goes on.

WF's Moryan Qualifies For NCAA Swimming

NEW LONDON, Conn. – The Connecticut College men's swimming and diving team placed sixth in the New England Small College Athletic Conference Championship at Williams College on February 26 and 27. Westfield resident Grant Moryan was a member of the 200-yard free relay team that posted a time of 1:23.35, provisionally qualifying for the NCAA Championship with their second-place finish for the Camels.

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OT Goal Sinks Blue Devils In Hockey 2nd Round, 3-2

Westfield Blue Devils ice hockey coach Dennis Doherty had only one regret following his team's 3-2, overtime loss to the Morristown Colonials in the second round of the New Jersey Public A State Hockey Tournament on March 4 at Mennen Arena.

"I wish we could have the first seven minutes of that game back," said coach Doherty after watching

his team fall behind 2-0 on goals by Morristown's Jordan Klotz and Trey Peacock in the opening seven minutes. "We were nervous in the early going, and they took advantage. That was the difference in the game."

Looking more comfortable as the game progressed, Westfield narrowed the gap to 2-1 at 6:42 of the middle period when junior forward Nick

Attanasio completed a nice individual effort with a shot to the top corner of the net. Junior forwards CJ Meyer and Henry O'Brien drew assists on the goal.

The third period belonged to Westfield starting in the first minute of play when Attanasio narrowly missed scoring on a shot that rang off the crossbar. Many in the crowd speculated that the shot may have crossed the goal line. With 2:21 remaining, Meyer knotted the score, 2-2, following a mad scramble in front of the Morristown net. Attanasio and O'Brien earned assists. The Blue Devils outshot the Colonials 9-3 in the period and 27-19 in regulation.

At the 6:51 mark of the overtime period, Klotz pounced on a rebound in front of Westfield goaltender Morgan Bungerz to win the game for the eighth-ranked Colonials, who advanced to play Toms River South on March 6. Toms River emerged a 5-3 winner in that contest.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
WRESTLING ONLY THE BEST...Blue Devil Christian Barber's, front, losses, which were all by one point or in overtime, came from a state runner-up, a state third placer, a state fourth placer, a state eighth placer and a three-time state qualifier.

Lady Blue Devils Had Strong Run Toward End of Season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

This season, Venezia sank 34, 3-pointers and hit 97-for-128 from the charity line for a 76 percent average. She led the team with 241 rebounds, which included 62 offensive rebounds, and also led with 42 blocks, while adding 31 steals and 26 assists.

"Diana started slowly. I think she felt that she needed to carry the team. After a while she relaxed. After that she really started to produce. She was not selfish. She was an excellent leader," coach Marino said.

Senior point guard Amanda Markowski bucketed 282 points, including 15 3-pointers, and was 37-for-53 from the line for a 70 percent average. She also pulled 83 rebounds (28 offensive) and led the team in steals with 94 and assists with 78.

"Amanda is smart, intelligent! She knew how to set the table for others. She was always looking for others. When the opportunity knocked to score, she did," said coach Marino.

Several reserves also got in some court time. Nicole Bilica scored 24 points, 12 rebounds, two blocks and two steals. Gabby Cerami had 13 points, 21 rebounds, four assists and two steals. Sara Nelson had 14 points, 14 rebounds, seven blocks and two assists. Anne Knisley had 12 points, 12 rebounds and three assists. Nikki Aronson had six points, 15 rebounds, three blocks and three assists. Jessica Mondon had 10 rebounds, seven steals, eight assists and one point. Krista Embrett had 14 rebounds, three assists and two points. Erika Jakub had three rebounds, an assist and four points. Kristina Scaglione had two assists and a rebound.

"Danielle Miller, Charlotte, Anne Knisley and all of the other girls on the floor did their share. They had the team concept. There was no individual. They always focused on the team as one," coach Marino said.



David B. Corbin for The Leader and The Times
STRONG DEFENSIVELY...Blue Devil Danielle Miller contributed strong defensive play with 38 steals and 53 rebounds.

Junior forward Katie Ponce added speed and power to the game and made the majority of her 157 points via the lay-up. Ponce was second in thefts with 59 and second in assists with 62. She also pulled 117 rebounds (39 offensive).

"Katie has been playing with us since she was a freshman. She brought a lot of fire and intensity. She pretty much set the pace of how we were going to play. When she's on fire, everybody fed off that and brought the game to the next level," coach Marino said.

Senior guard Danielle Miller contributed mostly defensive skills with 38 steals and 53 rebounds but did score 59 points and dish out 38 assists. Charlotte Lorentzen broke into the starting lineup more and more as the season progressed and finished with 81 rebounds, six blocks and 10 steals, to go with her 61 points and 12 assists.

Doherty singled out Westfield's 6-1, victory over the A.L. Johnson Crusaders of Clark in the semifinals of the Union County tournament as the highlight of the season for the Blue Devils. "We hadn't beaten Johnson for three years. It was great to see us dominate that game the way we did, especially keeping their top guy (Nick Vilaverde) off the score sheet."

Doherty credited the play of his four seniors for leading Westfield to its school record. Co-captains Joe Kramkowski and Dylan Moran anchored the Blue Devil defense, while Matt Wronski and Zander Maslow made solid contributions at forward.

"I'm proud of this group of seniors. They've had the best four-year stretch in the history of our program. All four of these guys will be sorely missed next year," said Doherty.

Meyer finished the season as Westfield's leading scorer with 58 points off 26 goals and 32 assists, edging out Attanasio, who scored a team-high, 33 goals and added 23 assists for 55 points. Junior Henry O'Brien rounded out the top three with 18 goals and 25 assists for 43 points.

BARBER MADE STATES; KALIMTZIS UCT, D11 CHAMP

Blue Devil Matmen Achieved More Than Many Expected

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specialty Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Many expected this year's Westfield High School (WHS) wrestling team to suffer through a dismal season, since WHS graduated a bumper crop of talent last year, but that did not happen.

With a large, athletic freshman class injected into the program, positive thoughts emerged. That positive attitude increased when the Blue Devils defeated Rahway, 38-28, in late December. Since that time, the Blue Devils recorded key victories over Scotch Plains-Fanwood, Piscataway, Linden and, on January 30, they tapped (WHS) wrestling history twice with a 45-22 victory over Elizabeth, making it the 500th win for the program and the 100th career victory for Glen Kurz as the Blue Devils' head coach.

Individually, junior Christian Barber (140 lbs.), a two-time District 11 champ, faced off with some of the most talented wrestlers in the area. Many times this season, he jumped up a weight class or even two to compete against the other team's best wrestler. Barber finished with a deceptive 24-8 record — three very close

losses to Brearley's Dan Ries, who placed eighth in the NJSIAA tournament, and his last an 8-6 decision to Willingboro's James Green, who placed second in the NJSIAA tournament.

"Christian had a tremendous year, but I know he still has another level," Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz said. "I don't know if there's another wrestler in the state who faced as tough of a schedule as he did. His losses, which were all by one point or in overtime, came from a state runner-up, a state third placer, a state fourth placer, a state eighth placer and a three-time state qualifier. He had a number of wins over state qualifiers. I expect him to make the same jump that he did from his sophomore year to junior year. He's already planning his off-season wrestling schedule. If he's not on the podium in Atlantic City next year, it will not be for a lack of work."

Senior Brian Henry (145 lbs.), "the 100percent, six-minute man," wrestled his best in the region tournament with big wins over Rich Weslock (Roselle Park) and Pat Eichner (Governor Livingston of Berkeley Heights). He

finished 19-13.

"Brian Henry is possibly the best example of overachieving we've had. While he came to us with some natural tools, he didn't know how to wrestle and made a lot of mistakes. Over the last two years, he seemed to get better and better every time he stepped on the mat," said coach Kurz. "One of the things we really try to teach is the mental aspect of the sport, and I can't think of a wrestler who has mentally broken more opponents than Brian Henry. He's had so many matches where he fell behind early, but he just kept going after his opponent and wore him down. Even in matches where he lost, his opponents laid on the mat or the floor completely drained. You almost feel sorry for them. That's the way we want all of our wrestlers to compete."

Senior Bill Kim had a banner year and finished 21-12 at 171 lbs., while senior Ryan Jennings (135 lbs.) finished 10-9 and Chris Tomasso (160 lbs.) finished 10-10. Junior Erik Gozdzieski (152 lbs.) contributed some important wins.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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Scotch Plains. Meet the Builders: Joe and Tony Buontempo. Wonderful 5 Bedroom, 4.5 Bath Custom built Colonial on a cul-de-sac. Eat-In-Kitchen with Center Island Granite counters, Central Air Conditioning - 2 Zone, Jacuzzi tub and shower in Master bath, solid oak hardwood floors, gas fireplaces in Family Room and Master Bedroom, In-Law Suite with a Bedroom and Full Bath, open staircase to attic, built-in 3 car garage, sits on 1.1 acres. Directions: Terrill to Cushing to Julia Court #5.

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David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times
FULL SPEED ALL THE TIME...Blue Devil Brian Henry, top, went full speed ahead in all of his matches this season.

Blue Devil Matmen Achieved More Than Many Expected

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

“Ryan Jennings served as an excellent captain and was a true leader on this team. His contributions can’t be measured in wins and losses. He was a hard worker who set a good example and I watched him get better and better as the season went on. He was really finding his groove in February and always left everything he had on the mat,” coach Kurz said. “Bill Kim definitely surpassed the expectations we had for him as a freshman. Last year, Bill helped us out a lot by keeping his losses close and not giving up big points. This year, he was someone, who we counted on for bonus points and he came through time and time again. Bill’s success was no accident. He made himself into a competitive wrestler through his hard work.”

Sophomore Mike Kalimtzi won the Union County Tournament (UCT) and district 103-lb. titles and finished with a 23-7 record.

“I was not surprised to see Mike end his season with a county and district title. His technique came a long way this year,” coach Kurz said. “He’s more of a natural 103 pounder than he was last year, but size still seemed to limit him in the matches he lost. Unless he really grows a lot, I expect him to be back at 103 where he should be competing for a region title.”

Sophomore Troy Skibitsky came very close to making the trip to Atlantic City by placing fourth in the Region 3 tournament at 125 lbs.

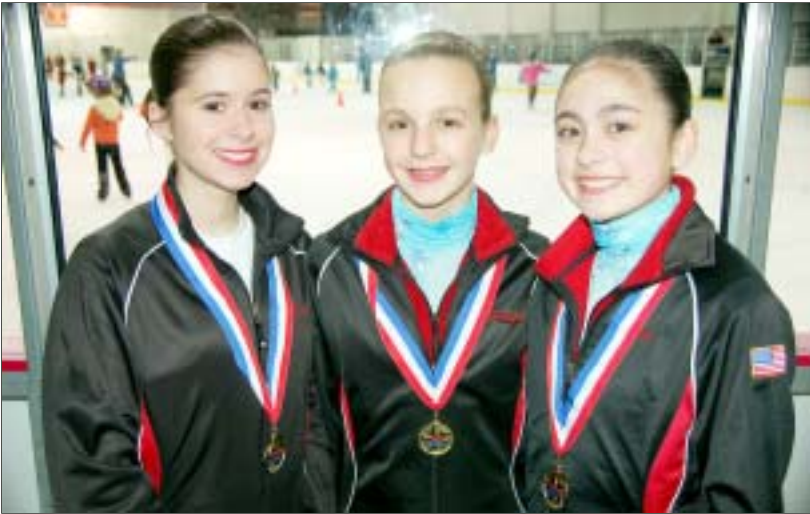
Skibitsky placed second in the district and finished with a 20-10 record.

“Troy definitely had an adjustment period jumping from 112 to 125, but he did his best wrestling at the end of the year, when you want to be peaking,” coach Kurz said. “He had an excellent region tournament and just missed qualifying for the state tournament. I’m sure his loss in the consolation round of the regions will motivate him in the off-season. He and Mike should be joining Christian in AC next year.”

Coming up through the ranks, the Blue Devils won the UCT JV championship and several returned home with medals. Ellis Opoku (140 lbs.), Brian Bulger (145 lbs.), Kieran Cline (171 lbs.) crown and Tom Snyder (215 lbs.) captured first. Kevin Castillo (130 lbs.), Mike DeLouisa (152 lbs.) and Ross Workman (160 lbs.) placed second. Austin Slifer (103 lbs.), Pat Currie (112 lbs.) and heavy-weight Kyle Kania placed third. Jey Yingling (135 lbs.) and Luke Gibbons (189 lbs.) took fourth.

Several of those young matmen have experienced varsity time, so next year it can be expected that the Blue Devils will be an even stronger force.

“Overall, this year’s team came a long way. We started out 2-6, but finished 9-8. We have a lot of returning varsity wrestlers and we had a number of JV wrestlers who are ready to compete on the varsity level. I’m looking forward to getting back to work with this group,” coach Kurz said.



SKATING CHAMPS...The Synchroettes Synchronized Skating organization, representing the Essex Skating Club of New Jersey, returned home last week from the 26th U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships in Minneapolis, MN, with a Gold Medal in the Juvenile Division. Three Westfield members, pictured, from left to right, are: Kate Bagger (Junior Division), Jennifer Bagger (Juvenile Division) and Halle O'Hern (Juvenile Division).

Raider Boys Finished Strong In Rugged Basketball League

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

“Union beat us pretty good the first time, we lost by just three the next time. Westfield beat us the first two times, we then beat them in the third game, so we got better as the year went on. The more times the kids played together, the more they improved and that looks good for us next year,” Doherty said.

In their final game of the season, the Raiders doused Bridgewater-Raritan, 62-58.

Junior point guard Chuck Oliver mobilized the offense and averaged 19.5 points per game (ppg.) from the field.

“He transferred in, so he was new to the system. He has a lot of talent and one of the top players in the county. He’ll be a real solid year player for us next year,” coach Doherty said.

Junior guard Pat Doherty played a significant role on both sides of the ball. “He came on late. Last game of the season, he had a career-high 22 points. He’s well all-around and someone we hardly ever took off the floor. He is our best defensive player, handles the ball well and a good 3-point shooter,” said Doherty.

Junior forward Matt Manns controlled traffic under the glass and really helped inside.

“Very good defender and strong inside presence, so we’re looking for him to get better,” said Doherty.

Sophomore Matt Jegede, at 6’-5”, showed toughness and kept the opponents’ defense on its toes.

“He’ll probably grow a little and

has a real bright future in front of him. He can play inside, outside and had our best rebound average. He had a number of games where he was between 13 and 14 rebounds,” Dougher said.

Senior guard Denzel Clark was the type of kid who did everything that was asked of him. Off the bench, junior guard Tim Bonacum proved to be a solid shooter and is expected to bring lots of good things next year according to Doherty.

“Duran Nelson, a senior and starter for us early in the year was sidelined with an injury in January. He hit some 3-pointers for us and made us more of an athletic team. We also had Alfredo Pawid, a senior, who did kind of everything for us. When people got hurt, he stepped in, played a little guard, a little forward and really had a nice solid year for himself,” Doherty said.

When asked what the Raiders’ most outstanding achievement was, Doherty said, “The 57-54 win against Westfield at home on February 4. It’s always a rivalry; it draws a big crowd and a great atmosphere for basketball. They beat us two previous times, so I thought we really played well as a team.”

As to the teams’ disappointment, he said, “Not making the state tournament. We made the tournament at least seven or eight times in the past nine years. We were close – a couple of tough losses early in the year and that came back to haunt us. We learned from it and definitely, we’ll be in the state tournament next year.”



David B. Corbin (SPF/Westfield game) for The Westfield Leader and The Times
MOBILIZING THE OFFENSE...Raider junior point guard Chuck Oliver, No. 11, mobilized the offense and averaged 19.5 points per game.

Jammers, X-Men Grab Wins In FSPY Men’s 30+ Basketball

The Jammers clipped the Clippers, 59-34, and the X-Men shaved the Razorbacks, 53-46, in Fanwood Scotch Plains ‘Y’ Men’s 30+ basketball League actions this past weekend.

The Jammers jumped to a 36-11 lead at the half. Eric Halpin sank 13 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Marlon Brown had six points and seven rebounds. The Clippers were out-rebounded, 30-21, as the Jammers maintained control of the boards in the second half. Without their leading rebounder, the Clippers totaled only 40 rebounds, while the Jammers grabbed 52. Brown grabbed another seven rebounds, while Halpin finished with 18 points and 12 boards. David Berger bucketed 20 points and

Kubi Koseoglu swiped 13 rebounds for the 0-3 Clippers.

With Jason Holley’s 15 points the ‘Backs had a 10-point lead late in the first half, but Jamal Berry, Sid Jackson and Troy Sims grabbed a total of 18 boards with 27 points and finished the first half with the X-Men leading, 29-28.

In the second half, the score was close for the first few minutes, but the X-Men began to build a lead. Holley added 10 points, Jason Shann (16 points total) hit eight points and Joe Negley pulled down seven of his 10 rebounds, but it was not enough. Berry finished with 25 points and 12 rebounds, Jackson finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds, and Sims added 10 more rebounds.



GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS...FSPY swimmers Marcel Green, left, and Alex Skoog, right, both age 12, finished in the top 10 in each of their seven races at the New Jersey YMCA 12U State Championships held at the Ocean County Y.

FSPY Swimmers Place 10th At 12U State Championships

More than 35 members of the Fanwood Scotch Plains Y swim team qualified for the recent New Jersey YMCA 12U State Championships held at the Ocean County Y. The team finished 10th overall and had some outstanding performances.

Marcel Green and Alex Skoog, both age 12, finished in the top-10 in each of their seven races. Green took first place in three races, including the 100-IM where he set a team record,

and the 50-fly where his 25.59 set a team record but also broke the meet record by more than half a second. His 24.11 time in the 50-free was another team record and put him in second place by one one-hundredth of a second.

Skoog finished seventh or better in each of his races and was in the top five in all but two. His meet opened with a fourth in the 50-back and ended with a second in the 200-free. Skoog and Green teamed with Alex Wang and Jason Steinberg to touch second in the 200-medley relay, and with Enzo Butrico and Matt Auda to touch seventh in the 200-freestyle relay.

Head Age-group Coach Chris Karelus said, “It’s been great working with all these swimmers throughout the year, and to see some of the fine performances by the whole group is very rewarding.”

Several other FSPY swimmers scored points for the team (top 16 individual finishes), including 11-12’s Amanda Banasiak in the 50-free and Sarah Davis in the 50-fly.

The 9-10 swimmers also swam well with points being tallied by Erika Frazier in the 100-breast and the 50-fly (sixth), as well as Julie Stankiewicz in the 50-fly (eighth), Emily Lockatell in the 50-free and Micaela Valli in the 200-free.

Brody Rash placed eighth in the 100-breast, while Colin Sullivan scored in the 100-IM. Rash and Sullivan were joined by Nick Heath and Tyler Daniskas to touch sixth in the 200-freestyle relay.

St. Bart’s Softball Sets ‘Draft Night’

What separates the St. Bartholomew Men’s Oldtimers Softball League from others in the area is that new teams are chosen each year. This makes it easy to meet the 150 players, in what sometimes seems more like a “fraternity” than a softball league. This year’s player draft will be held on Friday, April 23, at 7 p.m. at the St. Bartholomew School Cafeteria, on the lower level.

Sunday practices at LaGrande Park at 10 a.m. begin on April 11. The practices are open to all St. Bart’s players, including rookies.

In an effort to cooperate with the Recreation Department, the league has reduced the regular season by two games. This is because the demand for playing fields has increased. This year the league will try a double elimination playoff format. Based on the results of this new format, the league will decide next winter whether to revert to the old playoff format.

Kids Fishing Derby Set for Echo Lake Park

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club will be hosting its 30th Annual Kids Fishing Derby at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside from April 17 through May 9. Participants must register on Saturday, April 17.

The Newark Bait and Fly Casting Club has been presenting programs for children for almost 100 years. Members are also certified as instructors in the Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs program.

Prizes will be awarded to the winners of various contests. Bait will be supplied and fishing rods will be available. All individuals and youth groups are welcome to attend. Please call Frank Stack, president, at (908) 245-9070 for further information.

UCRFC Mudturtles Erode West Shore United, 32-15

The Union County Rugby Football Club (UCRFC) U19 boys A-side faced a big early-season challenge when they traveled to Philadelphia this past weekend to play West Shore United (Harrisburg, Pa.) in the Saint Joseph’s University High School Showcase.

West Shore was the no. 4 ranked U19 team in the nation in 2009; however, UCRFC rose to the occasion and grabbed a 32-15 victory. The Jr. Mudturtles scored first as Zack Basicio pounced on a loose ball to score a try. Jon Brucia added the conversion, making the score 7-0. Joe Ondi scored on an interception to increase the lead to 12-0.

The UCRFC scrum was dominant all day and this was emphasized as

they took down a lineup and drove over the line with James Brady scoring the try (17-0, UCRFC). West Shore got a try back before halftime.

In the second half, Ondi scored two more tries to bag his hat trick. Ryne Morrison converted one and Brucia added a penalty kick. With 10 minutes remaining, UCRFC led 32-5. West Shore battled to the end and scored two tries.

The U19 boys B-side, the U13 boys and U15 boys were rained out. The A-side U19s will play Parsippany in their first league game. The U19 boys B-side play Essex today and West Milford on March 21. The U15 boys also play Parsippany and the U19 girls head out to play East Hampton in their first league game.

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GROSS LED SCORING, GREEN BOARDS, PACE ASSISTS

Cougar Basketball Boys Won UCC Mountain Division Title

Prepared By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

In 1970, the Kansas City Chiefs won Super Bowl IV, the Weatherman organization planted a bomb that killed three members at a New Jersey military dance, the Beatles disbanded, Apollo 13 made a miraculous emergency return from the moon, the Ohio National Guard killed four student protesters at Kent State University, President Nixon lowered the voting age to 18, the Baltimore Orioles won the World Series and the Cranford High School boys basketball team won a conference title.

Forty years later, the Cougar boys nudged through many very close games, winning some and losing some, but battled to become the Union County Conference Mountain Division

sion champions, finishing their season with a 13-9 record.

The Cougars handily beat the Summit Hilltoppers twice, 48-34, and 50-37, and the A.L. Johnson Crusaders, twice, 79-66, and 85-60. In both games against the Crusaders, senior guard Kendall Grier led in scoring with 22 points and 24 points, respectively. In a 74-56 triumph over North Plainfield, senior Will Green stuffed in a career-high 31 points. The Cougars split with the Roselle Rams, winning the first game, 64-50, but dropping the second one, 70-58.

Senior guard Nick Pace became the game hero when he drove to the basket and rolled in a lay-up at the buzzer to ice the Hillside Comets, 56-54, on January 26. But the Comets returned the ice ball with a thudding,

52-48, punch on February 12. On January 30, the Cougars scorched Metuchen, 61-58, in overtime, but three days later fell by the same score in overtime to the Union Catholic Vikings, whom they had defeated earlier in the season. Another "ouch" came on February 19 when the Governor Livingston Highlanders pinched out a 40-38 victory.

After thrashing the Rahway Indians, 63-50, on December 22, the Cougars appeared to have their number but had to hold on to a 68-67 win in their second meeting. The first real sting, however, came in their third meeting in the opening round of the Union County tournament. With 4:12 remaining in the game, the Cougars witnessed their 42-31 lead to eventu-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MAKING A KEY PLAY IN THE GAME...Cougar senior forward Taylor D'Antico, No. 23, made a key steal and followed up with an alert assist to help break the spirit of the Somerville Pioneers in the sectional championship game.

WEBB, GROSS SCORE 13 EACH; D'ANTICO BUCKETS 9

Cougars Ambush Pioneers For Section Hoops Title, 46-34

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

In 1973, long hair and sideburns were popular, authentic tie-dye shirts were still worn, Richard Nixon was President, the Vietnam War ended, the World Trade Center officially opened, Pink Floyd's *The Dark Side of the Moon* was released, CBS sold the New York Yankees to a man named George Steinbrenner, Secretariat won the Triple Crown, the film *American Graffiti* debuted, The Godfather won the Oscar for best picture, and the Cranford High School girls basketball team won a sectional tournament championship.

Thirty-seven years later, a portion of that history repeated itself when the Lady Cougars basketball team ambushed the Somerville Pioneers, 46-34, to capture the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 championship in Cranford on March 9.

Teamwork played a very important role as six Lady Cougars, including all five starters, pulled, at least five rebounds. Sophomore guard Morgan Miller, who had six points, pulled down 10 rebounds and also distributed four assists. Freshman Kate McGovern grabbed five boards

and had five steals and three points. Freshman Jess McCoy had six rebounds, two points and a blocked shot. Senior center Danielle Gross came through with seven rebounds and two blocked shots, while tying teammate Jamie Webb in scoring with 13 points.

"We were all playing really hard. We all wanted to rebound, because we knew they were a good rebounding team. We really had to box out to get the rebounds," said Gross, who added, "Every time I come back in

this gym to see my brother play, I can look up on the board, see the year I graduated. It's a good feeling."

"We've been working on that a lot, because in order for us to win, we have to play good on defense. We have to box out and get rebounds," Cougar Head Coach Jackie Huber said.

"We were having trouble rebounding the ball, but we think about it more now. Our coach said they have more offensive rebounds than us.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

BIG COUGAR ASSET OFFENSIVELY, DEFENSIVELY...Cougar Kendall Grier, with ball, pushed in 216 points, including 30 3-pointers. He also grabbed 87 rebounds (25 offensive) and added 58 assists, 36 thefts and a pair of blocks.

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Probitas Verus Honos

Burke, Englese Make Track All-American

The Cranford High School winter track team entered six athletes in the Nike Indoor Nationals in Boston, Mass. this past weekend. All-American status was based on the top-six in each event.

Senior Kelly Burke placed second in the triple jump with a distance of 39'6.5". It was her all-time personal record (PR) and a new Union County record. Burke also took seventh in the pole vault with a height of 11'8.5", which was her indoor PR and a Union County record. Junior Natalie Englese crossed third in the 400 meters with a time of 55.95, an all-time PR for her and a Union County record.

Sophomores Rebecca Shimonov and Gillian Burke, freshman Bryanna Grant and Kelly Burke finished 11th in the shuttle hurdle relay with a time of 37.21.

"The kids and coaching staff were very focused and excited for the entire weekend. We had a great time preparing for the competition and the kids stepped up and performed on the biggest stage in the nation," Cougar Head Coach Pete Kane said. "To have these results gets everyone very excited for the outdoor season ahead. We are very proud of the girls."



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MAKING HIS MOVE TO THE BASKET...Cougar senior guard Nick Pace, No. 10, drives to the basket and sinks the game-winning lay-up at the buzzer. The Cougars defeated the Hillside Comets, 56-54, on January 26.

Cougar Boys Won UCC Mountain Division Title

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ally come crashing to the ground, when Kasim Smith banged a 3-pointer with 23 seconds left then snagged an inbound pass and converted it with a lay-up with five seconds remaining to give the Indians a 51-49 victory. The loss seemed to overshadow junior guard Sean Trotter's career-high, 22-point game.

The burning was not quite over. On March 1, the Warren Hills Blue Streaks came rumbling into Cranford for the first round of the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 tournament, and the Cougars pounced on them to seize a 38-25 lead after three quarters. When the Cougars' paws turned to ice, the Blue Streaks blazed with a 25-5 run to win the game, 50-43.

Individually, Green led the Cou-

gars in rebounds with 187 (122 defensive, 65 offensive). He sank 117 lay-ups and hit 46 of 80 from the charity line for 280 points. Green had 18 blocks, 25 assists and 24 steals. Pace, who scored 96 points, led the team with 96 assists, while adding 33 steals, 30 rebounds and three blocks. Grier pushed in 216 points, including 30 3-pointers. He grabbed 87 rebounds (25 offensive) and added 58 assists, 36 steals and a pair of blocks.

Sophomore forward Chris Gross led the Cougars with 323 points, sinking 149 of 288 from the field and 23 of 45 from the line. Gross also led the team with an amazing 48 blocks, and was second in rebounds with 160 (60 offensive). He added 22 steals and 13 assists. Trotter bucketed 194 points,

which included a team-high 35 3-pointers. He was the chief thief with 41 steals, led in taking charges with six, was second in assists with 59 and third in blocks with eight. Trotter had 57 rebounds, which included 22 of- fensive.

Senior Greg Goode put in 70 points including seven 3-pointers, pulled 32 boards, had 34 assists and added 25 steals and seven blocks. Junior Joey Papandrea contributed nine points, 13 rebounds, 11 assists and seven steals. Bryan Fitzsimmons had 27 rebounds, seven points, five assists, five steals and six blocks. Mark Osofsky scored 15 points.

Special thanks to Phil Engel, who contributed the stats throughout the season.



COUGAR ATHLETES OF THE WEEK...The Cougar boys' varsity basketball team clinched the Union County Conference Mountain Division Title. This was the first Cougar boys' basketball conference title since 1970.

Cougars Ambush Pioneers for Sectional Crown

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

That's a key part of the game. If we don't get rebounds, they get second shots," Webb said.

Webb, who seized nine rebounds, snatched three steals and dished out five assists. In two instances in the first quarter, she grabbed a defensive rebound, drove the length of the court and rolled in a lay-up much to the Pioneers' chagrin. Senior Taylor D'Antico, who pumped in nine points, led the team with four steals, while pulling six rebounds and adding two assists. She also made a key steal in the third quarter and quickly relayed to Miller, who coolly drove to the basket, while under pressure, and rolled in a lay-up.

"When I stole the ball, I saw Morgan running down court looking for it, so I knew that I could get it to her in order to get the lay-up," D'Antico said. "She is really good underneath the basket. She is a great all-around player, and she helps out our team a lot. She really has an impact on the game."

"Sometimes I get nervous, because I am the point guard, but I feel good when I see other players on our team do something like that," Webb said. "When that happens, we all are so

psyched, and we know that we have it (victory). We knew that we could come out with a good win. We won by 12!"

"Those are things we work on in practice. We are a big-time transition team. When we get the ball in the middle, minimal dribbling, a lot more passing. That's when we score," coach Huber explained.

The 19-9 Pioneers, however, caught the Cougars off-guard and grabbed a 10-3 lead until Webb came alive and scored seven of her points in a 10-0 Cranford gush.

"In the first quarter, we were down. We were down, 10-3. We were going to come out and work hard. We were never going to give up," D'Antico said.

After an even, 10-10, second quarter, the Cougars won the third quarter, 9-6, to carry a 32-26 lead into the final quarter. The Cougars changed their strategy to a "freeze", which caused the Pioneers to foul, but the 21-7 Cougars, who were 15-for-18 from the charity line, hit eight of nine free throws to put the game out of reach.

"It's an unbelievable feeling. We were here last year, and we couldn't come out with it, but this is our senior year, and we wanted it so badly,"

D'Antico said.

"When I looked up there (on the winners' banner), I said, Whoa! We haven't won that for so long. I am so happy," Webb said.

Last year the Cougars also finished strong but lost to Rumson in the final sectional.

"The feeling is a little different, because Rumson was a team that won it nine years in a row. When you play them, they are very experienced. They are in a big-time conference, big-time ranking in the state. I was more confident this year than I was last year," coach Huber said.

"Now we are even going further than we did last year. We are all excited to continue," Gross said.

Somerville	10	10	6	8	34
Cranford	13	10	9	14	46

Pascack Valley Stops Lady Cougars, 40-23

The Cranford High School girls basketball season came to an end at the hands of Pascack Valley, 40-23, in the Group 3 semifinal round. The Lady Cougars finished their glorious season with a 21-8 record.



GUESS WHO?...Can anyone guess who was the Cougar mascot during the Cranford/Somerville North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 championship game?

Cougar Snacks Will Return in Spring Season

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PUBLIC NOTICE

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

ORDINANCE: NO702-2010

FIRST READING: 2/11/2010

FINAL READING: 3/11/2010

Was introduced and passed on first reading by the Board of Chosen Freeholders at a REGULAR MEETING on February 11th 2010, and said Ordinance has been published with Notice of Introduction thereof and of the time and place fixed for its further consideration and the Board has duly held a hearing thereof and has given all persons interested an opportunity to be heard. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Chosen Freeholders that said Ordinance be and the same hereby is finally passed and adopted, and be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ordinance published herewith has been finally adopted on **March 11th 2010**, and the 20 day period of limitations within which a suit, action or proceeding questioning the validity of such Ordinance can be commenced has begun to run from the date of first publication of this statement.

A copy of this ordinance has been posted on the Bulletin Board upon which public notices are customarily posted in the Administration Building of the County, and a copy is available up to and including the time of such meeting to the members of the general public of the County who shall request such copies, at the office of the Clerk of the Board in said County Administration Building in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Nicole L. DiRado, Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders

CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL BUNKERS AT GALLOPING HILL GOLF COURSE IN, BY AND FOR THE COUNTY, APPROPRIAT-

PUBLIC NOTICE

ING THEREFOR THE SUM OF \$200,000 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM SO APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM CAPITAL SURPLUS OF THE COUNTY.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union, New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. The County of Union, New Jersey (the "County") is hereby authorized to construct additional bunkers at Galloping Hill Golf Course in, by and for the County. Said improvement shall include all work, materials and appurtenances necessary and suitable therefor.

Section 2. The sum of \$200,000 is hereby appropriated to the payment of the cost of the improvement authorized and described in Section 1 hereof (hereinafter referred to as "purpose"). Said appropriation shall be raised from Capital Surplus of the County. The sum of \$200,000 is hereby appropriated from Capital Surplus of the County to the payment of the cost of said purpose.

Section 3. Said improvement is a lawful capital improvement of the County having a period of usefulness of at least five (5) years. Said improvement shall be made as a general improvement, no part of the cost of which shall be assessed against property specially benefited.

Section 4. The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this capital ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders and is available for public inspection.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect at the time and in the manner provided by law.

1 T - 3/18/10, The Leader Fee: \$0.00

Grand Marshal Is Named For Memorial Day Parade

SCOTCH PLAINS – Plans for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood 2010 Memorial Day Parade are now underway. This year's parade will be held on Monday, May 31.

Memorial Day pays tribute to American military personnel of all wars who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in service to their country. For more than 60 years, there has been a tradition of community support from individuals and various civic groups in Scotch Plains and Fanwood in honoring these fallen heroes by marching in the annual Memorial Day Parade.

This year's parade will "Commemorate the Service of All Veterans," recognizing the dedication, commitment and sacrifices of the United States armed forces.

The grand marshal will be Lieutenant Colonel Edward Chrystal, Jr., Commanding Officer of the 1-102nd Cavalry Squadron, 50th Brigade Combat Team of the New Jersey Army National Guard, based at the Westfield Armory. A Scotch Plains resident, Lt. Col. Chrystal served in Iraq from October 2008 to June 2009.

Program to Be Held On Wine Pairings

WESTFIELD – Just in time for Easter and Passover, the Westfield Memorial Library will present "Wine for the Holidays – Pairing Wine with Food and Giving the Gift of Wine" on Wednesday, March 24, at 7 p.m. The library is located at 550 East Broad Street. Mark Censits, founder of CoolVines wine and spirits shop in Westfield, will be the presenter.

This program will be open to Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders. To register, access wmlnj.org and click on the Online Calendar, or call (908) 789-4090, extension no. 4130, for the wine program.

St. Paul's Church Reveals Schedule For Holy Week

WESTFIELD – St. Paul's Episcopal Church invites the community to participate in its extensive Holy Week events beginning on March 28 with the Blessing of the Palms for the 7:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Palm Sunday services. The 9:45 a.m. Eucharist will include the music of Herbert Sumson provided by the St. Paul's Treble and Parish Choirs.

From Monday, March 29, through Wednesday, March 31, Morning Prayer will be held at 9:10 a.m. and Eucharists at noontime in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

Maundy Thursday services on April 1 will include Morning Prayer at 9:10 a.m. The Liturgy for Maundy Thursday will begin at 8 p.m. This ancient Christian liturgy includes the Foot Washing, The Lord's Supper and the Stripping of the Altar, followed by a one-hour Vigil in the Chapel. The St. Paul's Treble and Parish Choirs will sing compositions by Colin Mawby and Franz Peter Schubert.

On April 2, Good Friday will begin with the 9:10 a.m. Morning Prayer. At noon, the Good Friday Liturgy will be held. The St. Paul's Choir will sing works by Johann Sebastian Bach and Peter Hallock. The Children's Liturgy, at 3:30 p.m., will begin in the parish hall and end in the church.

tober 2008 to June 2009.

All area veterans are asked to participate by marching behind the grand marshal (some transportation will be available for those unable to march). To register for special recognition before the parade, call Don Wussler at (908) 889-1709.

The 2010 Scotch Plains-Fanwood Parade Committee invites all community organizations to participate. Interested groups are asked to call Toni Rollis at the Scotch Plains Municipal Building at (908) 322-6700, extension no. 314.

Great Swamp Trips Set Today and March 25

MOUNTAINSIDE – The Greater Watchung Nature Club and the Friends of The Great Swamp will team up twice this month to watch for woodcock at the Great Swamp. Visits are planned today and next Thursday, March 18 and 25.

Interested persons are asked to meet at 6 p.m. at the new Helen C. Fenske Visitors Center, 32 Pleasant Plains Road in Harding Township, in the Great Swamp. Pete Axelrod will give a short talk on the life history and management of woodcock.

Just before the sun sets, Mr. Axelrod will lead everyone out into the fields to listen for the birds calling to initiate their aerial displays. The bridge and gates on Pleasant Plains Road will be open in both directions for these walks. Attendees are asked to bring a flashlight.

The Greater Watchung Nature Club is dedicated to promoting fellowship among those who share an appreciation of the natural world. Annual dues are \$12 for an individual, \$17 for a couple/family and \$4 for students. The public is welcome to attend all club programs and trips.

Holy Saturday on April 3 will start with the Holy Saturday Liturgy at 9:10 a.m., followed by the decorating of the church. At 8 p.m., the Great Vigil of Easter will begin with Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist with the St. Paul's Treble and Parish Choirs. The music of Leo Nestor, Richard Proulx, William Mathias and Thomas Matthews will be featured at this service that begins in darkness and ends in the light of the Feast of the Resurrection with the pealing of the bells of St. Paul's.

Easter Sunday on April 4 will include three services – the 7:45 a.m. Eucharist with hymns; the 9 a.m. Family Eucharist with hymns and the Flowering of the Cross by the children of the parish, and the 11:15 a.m. Festal Choral Eucharist featuring the St. Paul's Treble and Parish Choirs with brass quintet and percussion and the music of Franz Joseph Haydn, Richard Proulx and Gerre Hancock, all under the direction of Charles M. Banks. The Reverend Andrew C. Hamersley, rector of St. Paul's, will preside and give the Easter Message.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is located at 414 East Broad Street in Westfield. For more information, call (908) 232-8506 or visit stpaulswestfield.org.



Ms. Margaret Louise Diggory and Daniel Fram

Ms. Margaret L. Diggory To Marry Daniel Fram

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Diggory of Westfield have announced the engagement of their daughter, Ms. Margaret Louise Diggory of Woodbridge, to Daniel Fram of Franklin Lakes. He is the son of Marshall Fram of Franklin Lakes and Mrs. Irene Biancotti of Bradenton, Fla.

The bride-to-be graduated from Westfield High School, Class of 1998. She graduated cum laude with subject honors from Drew University with a Bachelor of Arts degree

in English in 2002. The future bride also was awarded a Master of Arts degree in English from Rutgers University in 2006. Ms. Diggory is a freelance writer for *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, as well as an adjunct professor in the Developmental English department at Union County College in Cranford.

The future bridegroom is a graduate of Indian Hills High School in Oakland, Class of 1990. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Rutgers College of Engineering, Class of 1995, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Montclair State University, Class of 1997. He currently is employed with an engineering management firm in Morristown.

A wedding is planned for August of 2010 in New Jersey.

Library to Feature Handwriting Expert

MOUNTAINSIDE – The Mountainside Public Library will host a special program entitled "Handwriting Analysis: A Portrait of a Personality" on Monday, March 29, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the library meeting room. This lecture-demonstration by handwriting analysis expert Bernice Krieger will comprise a 30-minute question-and-answer talk about graphology, the science of handwriting analysis, followed by individual analyses.

Registration is required for this program and space is limited. To register, call the Mountainside Public Library at (908) 233-0115. The library is located on Constitution Plaza. For more information about the library and its programs and services, call (908) 233-0115 or visit the library website, mountainsidelibrary.org.

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Blood Drives Are Set In Township April 1-2

SCOTCH PLAINS – New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS) has announced that it will hold blood drives on Thursday and Friday, April 1 and 2, from 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. each day.

The drives will take place at NJBS' Scotch Plains Donor Center, located at 2279 South Avenue. For an appointment or more information, call (800) 933-BLOOD.

Columnist O'Brien to Speak At CWC Benefit Breakfast

WESTFIELD – The College Woman's Club of Westfield will

welcome *Star-Ledger* columnist Kathleen O'Brien as the featured speaker at its annual spring fundraiser on Wednesday, March 24. The event will take place from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Echo Lake Country Club, located at 515 Springfield Avenue in Westfield. Tickets for the breakfast are \$50 and all proceeds will support the club's scholarship program.

Ms. O'Brien has been the *Star-Ledger's* feature columnist since 1996. In her weekly column, as well as in two companion blogs, she offers her perspective on issues both public and personal. She has addressed topics ranging from airport security to fast food to Tiger Woods. A collection of her recent columns can be found at nj.com/obrien.

The annual spring breakfast is the club's largest fundraiser and is entirely underwritten by members, allowing 100 percent of the proceeds from ticket sales and raffle items to benefit scholarships. Tickets are by advance sale only. To order, send a check for \$50 per person to College Woman's Club, P.O. Box 2694, Westfield, N.J.

07091.

Founded in 1917 to further higher education for women, the College Woman's Club awards scholarships to young women from Westfield on the basis of academics, leadership and financial need. Last year, the club awarded more than \$48,000 in grants to seven recipients. For additional information, visit cwclubwestfield.org or contact cwclub@aol.com.



Kathleen O'Brien

Benefit Concert to Aid Victims of Earthquake

FANWOOD – The Chelsea at Fanwood will host an earthquake relief concert on Friday, March 26, from 7 to 9 p.m. to benefit victims of the January 12 earthquake in Haiti.

Reckon So, with Dan Weiss and Mary Olive Smith, will perform, featuring Barry Mitterhoff on mandolin. There also will be a presentation on the earthquake in Haiti.

Admission will be free, but donations will be accepted for earthquake relief. Hors d'oeuvres and light refreshments will be served. The Chelsea is located at 295 South Avenue in Fanwood. Responses are always appreciated and may be made by calling (908) 654-5200.

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Situated in the bend of a quiet street, this Center Hall Colonial charms you with an inviting foyer that flows to the spacious living room with fireplace. The formal dining room opens to the updated kitchen with built-in table, access to the powder room and greenhouse window. The sunny family room with a wall of glass, has a great view of the backyard. The master bedroom has a walk-in closet with stairs to the attic and is joined by two more sizable bedrooms and a full bath to craft an alluring second floor. A patio and superb location complete this ideal setting. Presented for \$629,000. **Dir: E. Broad to Wells to Folkstone**

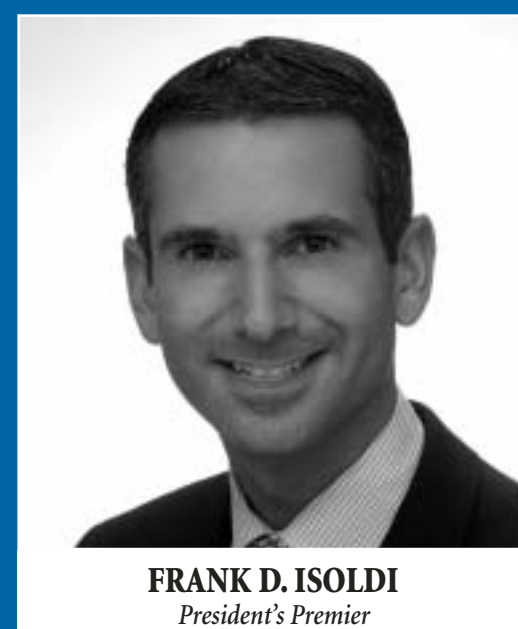


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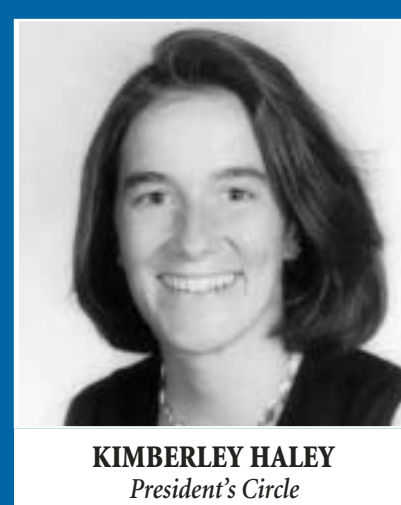
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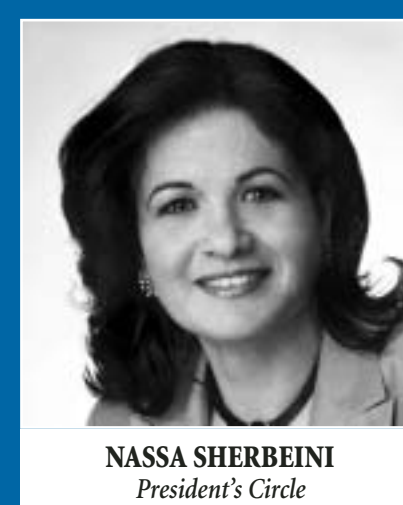
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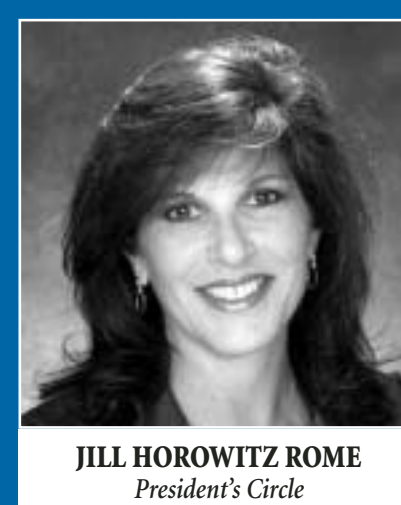
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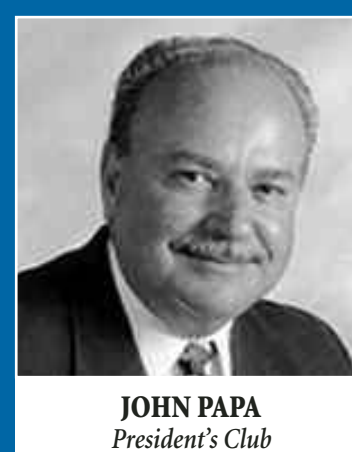
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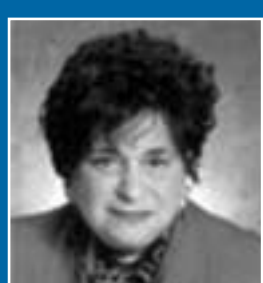
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Michael Scott
Branch Vice President



Alfred Shea, 82, Was Executive V.P.; Navy Veteran and SHIP Volunteer

Alfred Shea, 82, of Westfield passed away on Wednesday, March 10.

Born in Newark, he was a graduate of Upsala College and Fairleigh Dickinson University. Mr. Shea had been an executive vice-president with the Atlantic Companies in New York City prior to retiring. He also volunteered with Seniors Health Insurance Program (SHIP), assisting senior citizens with their health insurance needs.

A member of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, Mr. Shea was a veteran of the United States Navy during World War II and a past commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Westfield. He also was a member of DESA (Destroyer Escort Sailors Association) and the Masonic Lodges of Westfield and East Orange.

Surviving are his wife, Evelyn Kline

Shea; three children, Diane Shea Wohltmann (William) of Whitehouse Station, Linda Ann Crane (William) of Mountainside and Kenneth Alfred Shea (Marlene) of Atlantic Highlands; five grandchildren; a brother, Melvin James Shea of Garwood, and a sister, Malvina Shea Montero of Virginia.

Memorial services will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 21, at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, with interment at the Revolutionary Cemetery in Westfield.

Arrangements are by the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street in Westfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cancer Research Institute, One Exchange Plaza, 55 Broadway, Suite 1802, New York, N.Y. 10006.

March 18, 2010



Alfred Shea

Library Collects Pennies To Help Build Schools

WESTFIELD – Through the end of this month, the Youth Services Department of the Westfield Memorial Library will collect pennies for the Lincoln Pennies for Peace Program.

An initiative of the New Jersey State Library in Trenton, this program honors President Abraham Lincoln, who firmly believed in education and opportunity. To continue his legacy, the State Library has asked libraries statewide to collect pennies.

‘Morning Dew’ to Play Folk Music at Library

GARWOOD – “Morning Dew” will present traditional folk music from Ireland, Cape Breton and the British Isles on Monday, March 22, at 7 p.m. at the Garwood Public Library.

“Morning Dew” features Amy Beshara on fiddle, L. E. McCullough on tin whistle and flute, Pete Ford on guitar and banjo and Steve Wickins on bodhran (Irish hand-drum).

Their instrumental numbers will include jigs, reels, hornpipes and airs, and vocal numbers will encompass an array of American and Irish folk songs.

Registration is required for this event. Interested individuals can register in person at the library’s Circulation Desk, by calling (908) 789-1670 or signing up at the interactive calendar page found on the library’s website, yousemore.com/garwood.

The Garwood Public Library is located at the corner of Third Avenue and Walnut Street, at the back of the Lincoln School complex. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

The pennies will be donated to the Central Asia Institute, which was co-founded by Greg Mortenson, the subject of the best-selling biography “Three Cups of Tea: One Man’s Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time.” Under the auspices of the Institute, he has thus far built 55 schools in remote places such as Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Children can bring their pennies to the coin jar at the library’s Youth Services Desk anytime the library is open. Library hours are 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

The Westfield Memorial Library is located at 550 East Broad Street. To learn about youth or adult programs at the library, visit wmlnj.org and sign up for the e-newsletter “Library Loop.” call (908) 789-4090, extension no. 3, or stop by the library for a copy of its quarterly newsletter, “Take Note.”

Hiking Club Offers Variety of Activities

COUNTY – The Union County Hiking Club offers a regular schedule of various outdoor activities designed to provide wholesome recreation while contributing to physical fitness.

Most events take place in central and northern New Jersey. Membership dues are \$10 per year. Prospective members are invited to try out the club by participating in up to three outings before joining. To request a complimentary schedule, which includes a new member application, call Union County Parks at (908) 527-4900.

Fanwood Presbyterian To Observe Holy Week

FANWOOD – The Fanwood Presbyterian Church has announced its calendar for Holy Week, beginning with Palm Sunday on March 28, which will feature worship at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary and Sunday school at 10:20 a.m.

Morning prayer will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday that week at 7:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday will be observed on April 1 with a service of worship and communion beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Good Friday service of worship on April 2 will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

On Easter Sunday, April 4, there will be a Celebration Service of Worship at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary and Sunday school at 10:20 a.m.

The public is welcome to all of these services. The Fanwood Presbyterian Church is located at Martine and LaGrande Avenues. For further information or directions to the church, call (908) 889-8891 or e-mail fanwoodpress@erols.com.

Obituaries

Joan DeChellis, 71, Active In Schools, Scouting, Squad and Family Business

Joan DeChellis, 71, wife of Anthony DeChellis, of Mountainside, died on Tuesday, March 9, at Overlook Hospital in Summit after a long illness.

Joan attended Westfield High School and Springfield College and was an active alumna of both of those institutions.

Additionally, she had been active in the Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts, as well as the Special Education Committees for Westfield Public Schools.

In her younger years, Joan was an active bowler in the Echo Lanes Leagues and a member of the choir at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, as well as a devoted volunteer for the Westfield Rescue

Squad. She also initiated Neighborhood Watch in her community of Westfield.

Joan was an active participant in her husband’s former business, Westfield Plumbing and Heating, and an enthusiastic supporter of her grandchildren’s school activities.

Surviving are her husband, Anthony; her children, Debbie Dunn, Jeff and Rick DeChellis, and her grandchildren.

The funeral was held on Saturday, March 13, at the Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, 582 Springfield Avenue in Westfield. Interment followed at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

March 18, 2010



LETTERS OF THE CENTURY...A meeting of the Literature Department of the Woman’s Club of Westfield (WCW) was held recently at the Masonic Lodge in Westfield. WCW member Bee Benesh, pictured above, presented a program based on the book “Letters of the Century 1900-1999.” The letters are authentic, and all the writing styles are unique. Some of the writers include Andrew Carnegie, Walter Reed, Orville Wright and Mark Twain. Through the letters, a picture of the times is painted and an image of the author is sketched as well.

UCC Launches ‘Encore’ Initiative for People 50 +

ELIZABETH – Union County College’s Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education is launching an “Encore Careers” initiative to help older “career changers,” those who are 50 years old or older and are interested in exploring new career opportunities in the adult basic education and workforce development fields.

Those interested would move into

Fanwood Earth Day On Tap For April 24

FANWOOD – The Fanwood Clean Communities Committee has announced that the borough’s 21st annual Earth Day cleanup will take place on Saturday, April 24.

Volunteers will assemble at 8:30 a.m. at the south side train station parking area and will be assigned to clean a specific area. Adults and children are invited to become “pick-up partners” and clean litter from the borough’s parks and public areas. The work should be completed before noon. Earth Day T-shirts, work gloves and litter bags will be furnished to all participants.

Public Works Director Clint Dickson chairs the committee and is joined by Bob McCarthy, Greg Cummings, Donna Dolce, Linda Talcott and Dean Talcott. The committee is working in conjunction with the Fanwood Department of Public Works.

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

SHERIFF’S SALE

SHERIFF’S FILE NO.: CH-10001559
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
CHANCERY DIVISION
UNION COUNTY
DOCKET NO. F-40782-08
Plaintiff: WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR CARRINGTON MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST, 2006-2009
BEING KNOWN as LOT 42, BLOCK 320, on the official Tax Map of the City of Plainfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey.
Defendant: EDUARDO TENORIO; MARIA A. SALAZAR
Sale Date: 04/14/2010
Writ of Execution: 02/17/2010

By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public venue, at the UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 10 ELIZABETH TOWN PLAZA, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY, at two o’clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.

The judgment amount is: ***Four Hundred Seven Thousand Six Hundred Forty Two and 72/100*** \$407,642.72.
Property to be sold is located in the City of Plainfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey. Premises commonly known as: 72 Westervelt Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07060.
BEING KNOWN as LOT 42, BLOCK 320, on the official Tax Map of the City of Plainfield.
Dimensions: 100.00 feet x 38.00 feet x 115.77 feet x 19.41 feet x 26.62 feet
Nearest Cross Street: Bay Street
Total Upset: ***Four Hundred Forty Seven Thousand One Hundred Thirteen and 59/100*** \$447,113.59 together with lawful interest and costs.

Subject to any unpaid taxes, municipal liens or other charges, and any such taxes, charges, liens, insurance premiums or other advances made by plaintiff prior to this sale. All interested parties are to conduct and rely upon their own independent investigation to ascertain whether or not any outstanding interest remain of record and/or have priority over the lien being foreclosed and, if so the current amount due thereon. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee’s attorney.

Surplus Money: If after the sale and satisfaction of the mortgage debt, including costs and expenses, there remains any surplus money, the money will be deposited into the Superior Court Trust Fund and any person claiming the surplus, or any part thereof, may file a motion pursuant to Court Rules 4:64-3 and 4:57-2 stating the nature and extent of that person’s claim and asking for an order directing payment of the surplus money. The Sheriff or other person conducting the sale will have information regarding the surplus, if any.

There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale for any length of time without further advertisement.

Ralph Froehlich Sheriff

Attorney: PHELAN HALLINAN & SCHMIEG, PC
400 FELLOWSHIP ROAD SUITE 100
MOUNT LAUREL, NEW JERSEY 08054
(856) 813-5500
4 T - 3/18, 3/25, 4/1 & 4/8/10

Fee: \$193.80

volunteer and possibly paid positions (in instructor, administrator and other roles).

These programs will: 1) provide educational services in basic literacy, GED test preparation, English as a Second Language, citizenship test preparation, basic computer skills, financial literacy, health literacy and occupational skills; and 2) serve a number of adult and out-of-school youth populations, including people lacking a high school diploma, immigrants, unemployed people trying to transition to a new career, people who want to become U.S. citizens and returning inmates.

Those interested will (a) participate in a 12-hour course in April and May that introduces them to the fields of adult basic education and workforce development, (b) engage in an unpaid internship in one or more adult basic education or workforce development programs in Union County, and (c) be introduced to employment and educational opportunities in these fields.

To learn more about this new program, come to a 90-minute information session on the fifth floor of the Kellogg Building, located at 40 West Jersey Street in Elizabeth, this Saturday, March 20, at 2 p.m.

Those attending the information session should bring a valid photo ID and résumé, and will fill out an application. This program will be provided at no charge to participants, but applicants must show that they are willing and able to participate fully.

To register for the information session and for more information about the program, e-mail Velez@ucc.edu. To read more about “Encore Careers,” visit encore.org/ and nytimes.com/2010/03/04/business/04JOBS.html.

SHERIFF’S SALE

SHERIFF’S FILE NO.: CH-10001538
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
CHANCERY DIVISION
UNION COUNTY
DOCKET NO. F-2499-07
Plaintiff: FRANKLIN CREDIT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
VS.
Defendant: STEFAN SHANNI
Sale Date: 04/14/2010
Writ of Execution: 11/18/2009

By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public venue, at the UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 10 ELIZABETH TOWN PLAZA, Elizabeth, New Jersey on WEDNESDAY, at two o’clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.

The judgment amount is: ***Six Hundred Twenty One Thousand Nine Hundred Ten and 85/100*** \$621,910.85.
The property to be sold is located in the Township of Scotch Plains, County of Union and State of New Jersey.
Commonly known as: 1310 Cushing Road, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076.
Tax lot No. 2 in Block No. 15302
Dimension of Lot Approximately: .588 AC
Nearest Cross Street: Leland Avenue
Beginning at a point in the southerly line of Cushing Road, said point being the following two courses and distances from the intersection of the center lines of Leland Avenue and Cushing Road;

Prior Liens/Encumbrances
Taxes Open \$3,122.63
Sewer Open + Penalty \$250.00
Total as of February 2, 2010: \$3,372.63
Total Upset: ***Six Hundred Ninety Eight Thousand Three Hundred Sixty One and 90/100*** \$698,361.00 together with lawful interest and costs.
Surplus Money: If after the sale and satisfaction of the mortgage debt, including costs and expenses, there remains any surplus money, the money will be deposited into the Superior Court Trust Fund and any person claiming the surplus, or any part thereof, may file a motion pursuant to Court Rules 4:64-3 and 4:57-2 stating the nature and extent of that person’s claim and asking for an order directing payment of the surplus money. The Sheriff or other person conducting the sale will have information regarding the surplus, if any.

There is a full legal description on file in the Union County Sheriff’s Office. The Sheriff reserves the right to adjourn this sale for any length of time without further advertisement.

Ralph Froehlich Sheriff

Attorney: FEIN, SUCH, KAHN & SHEPARD, PC
7 CENTURY DRIVE
SUITE 201
PARSIIPPANY, NEW JERSEY 07054
(973) 538-4700
4 T - 3/18, 3/25, 4/1 & 4/8/10

Fee: \$175.44

College Club to Present Fashion Show-Luncheon

SCOTCH PLAINS – The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains will present its annual fashion show-luncheon on Sunday, April 11, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It will take place at the Shackamaxon Country Club, located at 1607 Shackamaxon Drive in Scotch Plains.

Local newswoman Kristen Shaughnessy of New York One News will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Featuring the theme “An Atlantic Adventure,” the show will spotlight three distinctive locations along the East Coast. Included will be fashions appropriate for the beach, an afternoon of shopping and a night out in the city. Lord & Taylor of Westfield will provide the fashions.

The fashion show-luncheon also will feature a 50/50 raffle with three chances of winning; more than 40 Select-a-Gift baskets, and a silent auction. Guests will be able to bid on silent auction items as varied as two nights in a suite at the Manhattan Club in Manhattan, a one-hour tennis lesson and an Italian dinner prepared and served for eight people.

All proceeds from the event will go directly into a scholarship fund for young women in the local community. In 2009, the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains awarded \$25,000 to students about to enter college, as well as students currently enrolled in college. The cost of a ticket is \$40 per person. For reservations, call Marie at (908) 233-3829 or (908) 889-0200.

Trailside Event to Spotlight Reptiles and Amphibians

MOUNTAINSIDE – The world of reptiles and amphibians will be the subject of discussion at Trailside Nature and Science Center on Thursday, March 25, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Department of Parks and Community Renewal, this program for adults age 18 and older will feature the work of Jonathan Kolby, research biologist and photographer.

Mr. Kolby will chronicle his years of studying the beauty of reptiles and amphibians, their homes and the importance of protecting these creatures. He will explain why amphibians are an important component of the global ecosystem as indicators of environmental health and contributors to human health.

Honored by the National Geographic Society for rediscovering a frog species in Honduras that was thought to be extinct, Mr. Kolby also will discuss why there is a drastic decline in amphibian populations worldwide.

“Jonathan Kolby’s engaging images reignite our interest in natural wonders that often go unnoticed in our fast-paced world,” said Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan. “His photographs give us a new appreciation for these beautiful creatures and their habitat.”

The fee for this program is \$5 per person. Pre-registration is not required. For additional information about this program or other upcoming programs and special events at Trailside, call (908) 789-3670 or visit ucnj.org/trailside. Trailside Nature and Science

Center is located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside and is a service of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Comedy Event Tonight To Aid Service Agency

AREA – A stand-up comedy challenge will take place tonight, Thursday, March 18, at Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick benefiting Elijah’s Promise, a local social service agency.

Assemblyman Jon Bramnick, the Republican conference leader, and Democrat comedian Joey Novick will square off against each other in the comedy challenge, beginning at 7 p.m. The Crossroads Theatre is located at 7 Livingston Avenue.

Asm. Bramnick was named the Funniest Lawyer in New Jersey three times in a row after winning contests sponsored by the New Jersey and Essex County bar associations. He often volunteers his services as a comedic auctioneer to help organizations throughout the state.

Founded in 1989, Elijah’s Promise assists low-income people throughout Central New Jersey. The agency runs a soup kitchen that serves hundreds of people daily. It also provides health-screening and job-training programs.

Tickets are \$25 in advance by accessing standup.dojiggy.com and \$35 at the door. There is limited, general-admission seating for the event, so advance ticket purchases are recommended. Doors will open at 6:15 p.m. for refreshments.

Trinitas Slates Open House At UCC For March 23

ELIZABETH – Union County College (UCC) will host a Trinitas School of Nursing Open House for students who are interested in learning more about the LPN to RN and RN programs. This open house is for students who would like to begin their classes at UCC this fall.

The Trinitas Open House will be held on Tuesday, March 23, at 6 p.m. on the Elizabeth campus. It will be held in the lecture hall of the new Elizabeth I. Kellogg Building, located at 40 West Jersey Street. The Trinitas School of Nursing is located on the third floor of the Kellogg Building and is the second largest nursing school in the United States.

The Trinitas School of Nursing is a cooperative diploma program operated by Trinitas Regional Medical Center and Union County College. There are approximately 2,000 nurses enrolled in its programs.

Representatives will be available to provide information on the enrollment process, including admissions, financial aid, student services and student activities. If someone attending is in need of special accommodations due to a disability, call Heather Keith, coordinator of Services for

Hadassah-J Connection Set Service-Pizza Event

SCOTCH PLAINS – Westfield Hadassah Young Women’s Section and J Connection will co-host a free family Havdalah service and pizza dinner on Saturday, March 27, at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey, located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Families with children age 5 and younger, including babies, are invited to come meet other young families in the area. The event will run from 4 to 6 p.m. In addition to the service and pizza dinner, there will be a craft project for the children.

While the event is free, registration is required. Interested persons are asked to respond by Sunday, March 21, with their name and the number of adults attending and the name(s), number and age(s) of the children by calling Mindy at (908) 331-0663.

Hadassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America, is a volunteer women’s organization that works in partnership with Israel to ensure Jewish continuity. The Westfield chapter hosts a variety of events throughout the year.

J Connection, a partnership between the JCC of Central New Jersey and local synagogues and Jewish organizations, provides outreach to unaffiliated and under-affiliated young families throughout Union County.

For further information about this and other upcoming events, call Mindy at (908) 331-0663.

Library Invites Kids To Paws For Reading

GARWOOD – As part of its “Magnificent March” programming, the Garwood Public Library will host a Paws for Reading program on Wednesday, March 24, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Handlers from St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center will be on hand with two therapy dogs that children can read to. Because space and time is limited, there is a limit of 10 children. Garwood residents, ages 6 to 12, are particularly invited to participate.

The children will be paired with a certified therapy dog by its handler, and will have an opportunity to read for about 10 to 15 minutes for one-on-one interaction with the dog. The youngsters benefit from the patience and comfort of the dog’s quiet presence, while getting practice in reading aloud. Children may bring their favorite book or pick one of the library’s specially chosen selections.

Registration can be made by calling the library at (908) 789-1670, in person or at the library’s interactive calendar on the website yousemore.com/garwood.

The Garwood Public Library is located at 411 Third Avenue, at the corner of Third Avenue and Walnut Street. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Dog Adoption Event Set For This Sunday

AREA – People for Animals, a non-profit animal welfare organization serving New Jersey, will sponsor a dog adoption event this Sunday, March 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will take place at the PETsMART store in Bridgewater’s Promenade Mall, located at the intersection of Routes 28 and 287.

Among the pets for adoption will be “Phoebe,” a tan-and-white Italian Greyhound puppy who is less than one year old, energetic and joyful. Phoebe is small in size, spayed. Home Again micro-chipped and current with her routine vaccinations. To adopt or obtain more information, go to pfa.petfinder.com.

For low-cost spay/neuter information, call the People for Animals Clinic at (973) 282-0890. Surgery costs range from \$50 to \$80 and include rabies and distemper vaccinations.

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IT'S A FARMER'S LIFE FOR ME...It was the fourth grade's time to shine at McKinley elementary school in Westfield, when they presented, to family and the student body, "The American Farmer," an original play written by teacher Joe Paradise. The concept for this production was developed to coincide with the fourth-grade social-studies unit about U.S. regions and farming. Thanks to great direction by teachers Mr. Paradise, Ann Minski and Brendan Hickey, the show went off without a hitch. The students would like to thank parents Joanna Weyzik and John Cote for their artistic direction in set design and musical coordination. Pictured above is Zoe Garceau.



The weekly column written by local high school students

Death Soup

By MICHAL SAGAL

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

In Elie Wiesel's Holocaust memoir, "Night," there are two short-yet-captivating sections, one after the other.

Two men are killed. The first dies bravely, refusing a blindfold and condemning his murderers. The second is only a child and is still alive and struggling when the prisoners are forced to walk past.

But what strikes me about these two scenes isn't the poignancy of the event, nor is it the gruesome description of the child (although that haunted me for many nights after I read the passage). What struck me was the soup that Wiesel ate each day.

After the first hanging, the execution of the martyr, the soup tasted better than it ever had before. But after the child's execution, the soup tasted of death.

I've wondered and fretted about the meaning of the soup for a long time. It's clear that the death of an innocent child hurts far more than the death of a brave man who has lived and understands what will happen to him.

But I think there is a deeper meaning to the soup (and my apologies in advance to my fellow students who despise overanalyzing books).

The soup itself – the rough gruel that the inmates of the concentration camps were forced to digest – is death. Racism. Anti-Semitism. Prejudice itself. The flavor of the soup parallels the victim's emotions.

In America today, we create soup. Not just between blacks and whites, or neo-Nazis and Jews, but between people with the slightest difference in their belief system.

It began in 1492 – yes, when Columbus sailed the ocean blue. Whites enslaved the natives. In 1838, President Andrew Jackson forced the Cherokee nation on the Trail of Tears.

How is that long walk any different from the Death Marches of the Holocaust?

In 1890, a massacre at Wounded Knee, South Dakota slaughtered almost an entire Native American Tribe.

WF Students Make Bingham Dean's List

WESTFIELD – Two Westfield students, Rachel Kreutzer and Ross Pohling, made the dean's list for their outstanding academic achievement for the fall 2009 semester from Harpur College of Arts and Sciences at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

The criterion for making the dean's list is achieving a minimum grade point average of 3.5.

Megan Rauch Joins Golden Key Society

WESTFIELD – Megan Kathryn Rauch of Westfield has accepted membership in the Golden Key International Honor Society and was honored at a recent induction ceremony at Boston College.

Golden Key has two million members and over 375 chapters at colleges and universities in seven countries. Membership in the society is by invitation only and is open to students in all fields of study.

Local Student Makes W. Forest Dean's List

WESTFIELD – Wake Forest University has announced Katherine Taylor of Westfield has been named to the dean's list for the fall semester, 2009.

Students who achieve a 3.4 and no grade below a C were named to the list.

Katherine is a junior and pursuing a double major in Communications and Elementary Education. At Wake Forest, she is a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority and serves as an admissions tour guide, as well as a producer for WAKE-TV. She is a 2007 graduate of Westfield High School.

Three WF Students Make BU Dean's List

WESTFIELD – Three Westfield residents have recently been named to the dean's list at Boston University for the fall semester.

Students recognized for this honor include Tara Deieso, Matthew Kamel and Andrew Weiss.

EDISON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Second Marking Period

WESTFIELD – Edison Intermediate Principal Cheryl O'Brien announced the school's second marking period honor roll, which appears below:

Grade 7 Distinguished Honor Roll

Sophie Bass, John Birle, Samantha Bromberg, Theo Brunson, Stephen Bubak, Paige Carlin, Dillon Carrier, Emma Chen, Amanda Cheung, Grace Cook, Lauren D'Amico, Emily Forcht, John Fuller, Gregory Gao, Kyle Giordano, Hannah Goldring, James Hunter, Leah Iosif, Katherine Ko, Alison Krauer, Jorge Ledesma, Ryan Lipschutz, Maria Lizzo, Marisa Lombardi, Jameson Maher, Johanna Mermer, Erica Millwater, Daniel Mitchell, Ariel Moise Kleinman, Megan Mondon, Rita Murphy, Melanie Nettler, Autumn Patterson, Christopher Romano, Noelle Rosa, Jack Rose, Logan Schwartz, Emily Serafin, Caryn Sherbet, Juliette Smith, Kaelyn Smith, Anastasia Smolenski, Melanie Snyder, Lindsey Strauss, Nicholas Tarantino, Dhruv Tikku, Kristen Toth, Dominique Vo, Isabel Wayner, Amy West, Andrew Zale

Grade 7 Honor Roll

Olanrewaju Badmus, Nicholas Barroqueiro, Alexander Bennett, Morgan Biglin, Kelly Bohall, Miranda Bonina, Seth Botos, Valeria Bouhoueva, Julie Brownstone, Michael Bruno, Bianca Buecklers, Jessica Bungerz, Lisa Caello, Christopher Caminiti, Katrina Carlin, Sabrina Cavanagh, Alicia Chapman, John Clancy, Pamela Clavijo, Jeremy Cohen, Caitlin Collins, Alyssa Cox, Benjamin Cymbala, Bianca De Vito, Miranda De Palma, Joseph De Rosa, Joseph Detrano, Daniel Do Campo, Erin Dugan, Amanda Durante, Brennan Erickson, Cassidy Flanigan, Samantha Francisco, Matthew Friedman, Matthew Gaudin, Lyman Gilman, Harry Glasser-Baker, James Goldberger, Jaime Gunchar, Mary Harbaugh, Andrew Harting-Smith, Maria Hernandez, Austin Hong, Isabelle Ick, Kevin Irving, Ansh Jhaveri, Bryn Johnston, Margot Johnston, Matthew Kaczynski, Jacob Kania, Sarah Kasko, Benjamin Kim, Zachary Koch, Koryn Kraemer, Conor Krueger, Jack Lee, John Lindros, Jason Liu, Jian Liu, Rachel Logan, Angel Lopez, Michael Maguire, Julia Marchiano, Natalie Marcotullio, Leandra Margolies, Joseph Messing, Scott Messing, Julian Mone, Sean Moore, Maya Moritz, Christopher Nicholls, Alberto Ortiz, Amanda Pinho, Timothy Plump, Christopher Reilly, Samantha Riley, Kyle Rittendale, Jenna Rizkalla, Ciara Rodger, Michela Sabba, Samuel Salberg, Caitlyn Serafin, Alison Serrico, Jack Siegel, Lisa Simon, Bobbi Snyder, Kevin Sokol, Hermes Suen, Christopher Sullivan, Ben Tipton, Michael Tivenan, Joseph Valles,

Samantha Velez, Stephanie Wells, Joshua White, Emma Williams, Mikayla Williams, Eli Wirtshafter, Katelyn Zelko

Grade 8 Distinguished Honor Roll

Tristen Abaya, Ashley Abbott, Alexander Beals, Matthew Beauchamp, William Bennett, Gabrielle Bleich, Andrew Capuano, Estelle Cervantes, Ida Chen, Abigail Cook, Sarah Cronin, Erika Daniel, Tyler Debbie, Nicole Devitt, Julia Diamantopoulos, Allison Diamond, Jackson Dumont, Rachel Fan, Amanda Fischer, Erica Fischer, Thomas Gerris, Mark Gillespie, Kristin Hauge, Christopher Hogge, Dane Huber, Matthew Jenkins, Alicia Kohl, Rebecca Kraus, Gemma Larche, Bernadette Latimer, Lyndsay Lee, Carly Levine, Lucia Liu, Matthew Luppino, Allison Mc Brearty, Stephanie Milan, Tori Miller, Christina Mosco, Charles Mulrooney, Lauren Nogan, Karina Olivier, Alexandra Palatucci, Daniel Savickas, Lauren Schneider, Amanda Schwarz, Sherry Shenker, Eric Shor, Samuel Sokolin, Andrew Stern, Gabrielle Stravach, Maria Tata, Dara Tucker, John Venezia, Isabella Vergara, Amy Wang, Fraser Weist, Michaela Winberg, Shawn Wu, Jingyao Xiao

Grade 8 Honor Roll

Peter Apicella, Kaylee Baez, Brigid Barber, Anna Bauer, Julia Bieber, Matthew Binkowitz, Anna Bloomfield, Jackson Boyle, Brendan Bruce, Catherine Bruno, Eric Cantor, Philip Chapel, Claire Chen, Kelly Culnan, Conner Cummings, Gabriel Davis, Gianna De Vito, Jennifer De Candia, Jeremie De Dea, Anne De Santis, Erica Di Bella, Brianna Di Dario, Angela Dorry, Michael Esler, Cynthia Farris, Christine Ferraro, Justin Fields, Emmet Flanigan, Elizabeth Fox, Nicholas Gabuzda, Elizabeth Granovsky, David Gruskin, Jenna Helfand, Dalton Herzog, Rachel Holtzman, Andrew Hopper, Michael Hughes, Michael Ionta, Luke Iorio, Sadie Jezierski, Nicole Johnson, Colleen Kelly, Jonathan Kelly, Rebecca Kiefer, Michelle Kim, Michelle Kostyach, Rebecca Kreutzer, Anna Labrozzi, Julia Levine, Alex Loffredo, Theresa Lotano, Charlie Lu, John Lynch, Agatha Magierski, Magda Magierski, Michael Magierski, Morgan Maloney, Leanne Manna, Sarah Margolies, Emily Mastroccla, Brittany Mc Carthy, Christopher Mc Glynn, Marlena Montes, Alexandra Mossawir, Abigail Paone, Julia Penczak, Megan Pinna, Francis Pinney, Elizabeth Ponce, Christiana Psyhojios, Colleen Ridings, Christian Rosa, Elena Scaranio, James Schiano, Zachary Shell, Emily Simpson, Karli Sottung, Allison Sprung, Noah Stiles, Sebastian Trott, Tiffany Tsui, Siniah Wallace, Yixue Wang, Mike Weyzik, Nita Whelan, Francis Wong, Samantha York, Tiffany Youssef, Erin Yucetepe, Azad Zubair



HOLY TRINITY HELPS HAITI...The fourth grade Junior Scout Troop 555 of Holy Trinity Interparochial School is holding the Haitian flag while being visited by Marie Blot, who came to the United States at 22 years of age from Haiti. Ms. Blot is a speech/language pathologist with the Plainfield Public Schools and visited the troop to educate the girls on the customs, lifestyle and language of Haiti. In learning more about world neighbors, the girls are working toward their Bronze Award. Ms. Blot's visit was inspired by the girls wanting to do something to aid the victims of the Haitian earthquake. Troop 555 organized and marketed a hot-pretzel sale to their fellow students during snack time at Holy Trinity Interparochial School. They raised \$403 to be donated to the relief efforts in Haiti.

Youth Art Month Celebrated In Downtown

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Public Schools are celebrating the nationally acclaimed Youth Art Month with colorful and creative displays throughout the downtown area.

Paintings, drawings, sculpture and painted furniture designed by approximately 400 students from Westfield's 10 public schools are displayed by 62 downtown merchants, who volunteered their window space for the month of March. The Westfield Memorial Library also is exhibiting student artwork.

In the Westfield Public Schools, Youth Art Month is traditionally designated to showcase the diversity of artistic talent of students.

"It is not a competition, but a time to celebrate the creative work of our children," said Linda King, supervisor of Fine Arts for the Westfield Public Schools. "The artwork represents children of all levels of age and ability. It is chosen by our art teachers for various reasons: work ethic, commitment to the project at hand, proficiency, emotional uplifting, and appropriate medium for the chosen store."

WHS Grad Named To Albright Dean's List

WESTFIELD – Sean Ferro of Westfield was named to the dean's list at Albright College for academic achievement during the 2009-10 fall semester.

A total of 255 Albright students had to attain at least a 3.75 grade point average to be named to the list.

Sean is a junior business administration/crime and justice major who graduated from Westfield High School.

WF's Kalis Makes Moravian Dean's List

WESTFIELD – Christopher Kalis, son of Charles and Patricia Kalis, of Westfield, earned dean's list standing for the 2009-2010 fall semester at Moravian College.

Students who carry three or more course units during a fall or spring term and attain a quality point average for the term of 3.50 or higher are placed on the dean's honor list.



CREATIVE RECYCLERS...Lower School students at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison put their artistic skills to the test, as well as their motivation to "go green," recently when they crafted dollhouses, mailboxes, board games, vases and other projects from recycled materials. The students received certificates after explaining their projects to their peers during Lower School Lunch on February 18. Pictured, left to right, are some of the recipients: Ricardo Garces, Lillian Helander of Westfield, Alexandra Vargas, Jake Payami of Scotch Plains and Stan DeLaurentiis. Students, not pictured, who were also awarded included: Christopher Shen, Kelly Lawrence of Scotch Plains, Briella Payami of Scotch Plains, Lara Jasti, Shaan Jasti, Dazlyn Erachshaw and Anjali Blow.

Area Students Make Delaware Dean's List

AREA – The following University of Delaware students from the readership area made the 2009 fall semester dean's list. Named to the dean's list are full-time students with grade point averages of 3.33 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester, with no temporary grades:

Erin Bange, a junior Biological Sciences major in the College of Arts and Sciences, from Westfield; Emma Byer, a sophomore Communication Interest major in the College of Arts and Sciences, from Westfield; Chloe Cherin, a junior Fashion Merchandising major in the College of Education and Public Policy, from Westfield; Marlena Cortese, a freshman English Education major in the College of Arts and Sciences, from Westfield; Sophie De Koning-Teasdale, a freshman Marketing major in the College of Business and Economics, from Westfield; Sarah Dobson, a senior Fashion Merchandising major in the College of Education and Public Policy, from Westfield; Renee Ferio, a sophomore International Business Studies and Management double major in the College of Business and Economics, from Westfield; Christopher Franks, a sophomore Political Science major in the College of Arts and Sciences, from Westfield; Kelly Gelber, a junior Elementary Teacher Education major in the College of Education and Public Policy, from

Westfield; Neil Huskey, a junior Chemical Engineering major in the College of Engineering, from Westfield; Julia Korn, a junior Early Childhood Education major in the College of Education and Public Policy, from Westfield; John Meredith, a senior Finance major in the College of Business and Economics, from Westfield; Mairiad O'Boyle, a freshman University Studies major in the College of University Studies, from Westfield; Carolyn Raphael, a sophomore Marketing and Finance double major in the College of Business and Economics, from Westfield; Kathryn Read, a senior Accounting major in the College of Business and Economics, from Westfield; Alex Vanarelli, a junior Mechanical Engineering major in the College of Engineering, from Westfield; Francesca Welham, a junior Foreign Languages and Literatures major in the College of Arts and Sciences, from Westfield; Jason Massa, a senior Civil Engineering major in the College of Engineering, from Mountainside; and Ashley Swick, a senior Elementary Teacher Education major in the College of Education and Public Policy, from Mountainside.

See it all on the Web!
www.goleader.com

GARWOOD'S LINCOLN SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Second Marking Period

GARWOOD – Garwood's Lincoln School announced its second marking period honor roll and honor society designees.

To make the honor society, one must amass straight A's; to earn placement on the honor roll, a student must get all A's and B's.

Grade 5 Honor Roll

Connor Fayard, Emmanuel Flitsanov, Rosario Guerrier, Megan Gunning, Daniella Pacella, Gavin Parkhill, Kayleigh Pender, Alison Price, Jake Siranides, Kelly Sullivan, Samantha Wagner, Ana Isabella Zeron

Grade 5 Honor Society

Elizabeth Archer, Eric Carlson, Martin Herman, Zachary Sluka, Sean Stouffer, Larissa Vena

Grade 6 Honor Roll

Cailey Adamson, Sean Baron, Joseph Brecht, Jacqueline DeFilippo, Anthony Furci, Austin Graham, Karina Joyner, Shaughn Kennedy, Nathan Kramer, Kayla McMillan, Andrew Resetar, Jenna Staines, Angelo Villaraud, Victoria Wagner

Grade 6 Honor Society

Michael Banek, Kimberly Knowles, Emma Neuberger, Gabriella Sluka, Colleen Staba, Michael Witkowski

Grade 7 Honor Roll

Mark Barranger, Michael Basso, Amanda Brown, Jake Burkert, Harry Cancel, Daniel Courtney, Sara Diwane, Nora Duffy, AnneMarie Figiel-Dickerson, Ricardo Hidalgo, Michael Lesniewski, Salma Mahmoud, Joseph Matlosz, Kaitlin McGuire, Amanda Meyers, Giulian Pacella, Vanessa Rosky, Zachary Simanski, Kaylynn Staba, Christina Tempio, Scott Tombs, Caitlin Twaddle, Zachary VanBuren

Grade 7 Honor Society

Monica Archer, Meagan Beriont, Alyssa Beyer, Dayna Gallucci, Katarina Hermanova, Brian Maher

Grade 8 Honor Roll

Samuel Abbatocola, Devin Araujo, Trevor Boart, Meghan Courtney, Kelsey Durkin, Stephen Eid, Karina Hernandez, Juan Hidalgo, Sarah Kramer, Orest Kulchitsky, Diana Marianovsky, Maura Moran, Lindsay O'Donnell, Alexis Popola

Grade 8 Honor Society

Sara Brinkerhoff, Sara Law, Nicole Resetar, Jessica Weissner

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The Wardlaw-Hartridge School
1295 Inman Avenue, Edison, NJ 08820

Wardlaw-Hartridge, an independent co-educational PreK - 12 college-preparatory school, develops students who are ready to lead and succeed in a world of global interconnection.

ADMISSION INFORMATION SESSION:

April 14, 2010
9 a.m.

For more information or to schedule a tour, visit www.whschool.org or call (908) 754-1882, Ext. 155

BABYSITTER AVAILABLE
Experienced and responsible College Student in search for a summer babysitting job. Has a car and many references.
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FREELANCERS WANTED
Strong, detail-oriented writers with professional demeanor needed to cover local government meetings. Must be able to meet deadlines, know how to write a lead, and take an active interest in their beats in order to develop news stories. Please email resume and clips to:
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PUBLIC NOTICE
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT, BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
1035 PARKWAY AVENUE, PO BOX 605
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Notice is hereby given that bid proposals will be received via the Internet until 10:00:59 A.M. on **4/6/10**, downloaded, and publicly opened and read, from Bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.1 et seq.; in the CONFERENCE ROOM-A, 1st Floor F & A Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; for:

Re-Advt. - Maintenance Machine Sweeping Contract, North – 2010, 78/80/280/287, Various locations on Interstate roadways, Counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, and Warren; 100% State; DP No: 10434
Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 N.J.A.C. 17:27. The awarded bidder must provide a completed Contractor Certification and Disclosure of Political Contribution Form(s) according to both P.L. 2205, C.51 and Executive Order No. 117 within fourteen (14) days from the award date. Executive Order No: 117 is effective on November 15, 2008. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, all bidders must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue, Business Registration, as of the date of bids. The awarded bidder must provide proof of valid business registration within fourteen (14) days from the award date. Pursuant to the "Public Works Contractor Registration Act", N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.48 et seq. (P.L. 2003, c. 91), all bidders must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance, at the time of bid. The awarded bidder must provide proof of PWCR within fourteen (14) days from the award date.

The Department, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C., 49 C.F.R., Parts 21 and 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or handicap in the project award.

Plans, specifications, and bidding information for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website www.bidx.com. You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe follow the instructions on the website. Fees apply to downloading documents and plans and bidding access. The fee schedule is available on the web site. All fees are directly payable to Bid Express. Plans, specifications, and bidding information may be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organizations at our Design Field Offices at the following locations:

200 Stierli Court Mt. Arlington, NJ 973-770-5141	Route 79 and Daniels Way Freehold, NJ 732-308-4025	1 Executive Campus Rt 70W Cherry Hill, NJ 856-486-6624
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3 T - 3/18/10, 3/25/10 and 4/1/10, The Leader Fee: \$198.90

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS
INVITATION TO BIDDERS
Invitations are extended to qualified Bidders to bid for the following Project:
USER - FEE BASED SPRING RESIDENTIAL CLEANUP PROGRAM

Bids will be accepted only by mail or in person to the Office of the Township Clerk, Scotch Plains Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains 07076 (attn: Barbara Riepe, Township Clerk) until April 1, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

The Township of Scotch Plains (hereinafter "Township") shall not be responsible for any bid mailed which is lost in transit or delivered late by the Postal Service. At the above time, the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. All bids must be presented in sealed envelopes, which are clearly marked "USER-FEE BASED RESIDENTIAL CLEANUP PROGRAM" 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076. No bid will be received after the time and date specified.

After receipt of bids, no bid may be withdrawn within (60) days after the date of the bid opening except if provided for herein. The bid of any bidder who consents to an extension may be held for consideration for a longer period of time as may be agreed upon between bidder and the Township.

All bids must be on the bid forms provided by the Township of Scotch Plains in the bid package. Specification and bid forms may be obtained at the Office of Public Property, 2445 Plainfield Avenue, Scotch Plains, between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday and purchased for a \$50.00 non-refundable fee. Bid proposals and all required documents must be completed and submitted by the date as set forth above. All documents in the enclosed bid package must accompany the bid proposal.

In addition to the above documents, a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond issued by a responsible bank, trust company or insurance company, payable to the Township of Scotch Plains shall be submitted with each bid as a guaranty that if a contract is awarded the bidder shall execute said contract. The bid security shall be in the amount of (\$500.00) Five Hundred Dollars.

All bid security, except the bid security of the three apparent lowest responsible bidders shall, if requested in writing, be returned after ten days (10) from the opening of the bids (Sundays and Holidays excepted) and the bids of such bidders shall be considered withdrawn.

The successful Bidder shall be required to submit a Performance Bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the amount of the accepted bid at the time of contract execution. A Consent of Surety regarding bonds required

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Spring / Holiday Houses, Apartments and Office Cleaning. Help with cleaning before or after moving.
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Solid References Required.
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Library Trustees To Meet Tonight

SCOTCH PLAINS – The board of trustees of the Scotch Plains Public Library will hold its agenda meeting and regular meeting tonight, Thursday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m.

This meeting of the trustee board will take place at the library, located at 1927 Bartle Avenue. Any actions taken will arise from the agenda as prepared by the library director.

CLASSIFIEDS

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

Gently used top-brand children's clothing at Milk Money consignment shop. We're a small shop with BIG bargains!
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Hours: M,W,F 9-5, Sat 10-2
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Recent Home Sales

Westfield:

Simone A. and Patricia Muscarnera to Edward F. and Kathleen C. Laczynski, 857 Highland Avenue, \$925,000.

Cathleen A. Cahill to Mathew S. and Virginia L. Quinn, 914 Mountain View Circle, \$1,175,000.

Anthony M. and Melissa A. Roth to Jeffrey A. and Sasha P. Nisbet, 414 Birch Place, \$675,000.

Matthew S. and Virginia L. Quinn to Leslie G. Stock, 145 Dudley Avenue, West, \$847,500.

James and Linda Niva to Matthew E. and Samantha M. Hanley, 437 Mountain Avenue, \$515,000.

John and Maria Mastroianni to

Mr. Celardo to Speak To Historical Society

SCOTCH PLAINS – The Historical Society of Scotch Plains and Fanwood will feature a program on the Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission at its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 23.

Free and open to everyone, the meeting will start at 8 p.m. and will be held at the Scotch Hills Country Club, located at Plainfield Avenue and Jerusalem Road in Scotch Plains.

While the Fanwood Historic Preservation Commission is not that old, it aims to preserve and promote the local history of Fanwood. Present Commission Chairman John Celardo will tell attendees the history of the commission, its accomplishments and its "to do" list.

Mr. Celardo joined the National Archives in 1970. He became the assistant director of the Regional Archives in Manhattan, from which he retired in 2005. He continues to work part-time as the archivist for Union County.

Light refreshments and fellowship will follow the program. For further information, call Richard Bousquet, president, at (908) 232-1199.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 10-02-R AND PUBLIC HEARING

An ordinance was introduced by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood on March 9, 2010. Copies of this ordinance can be obtained without cost in the Clerk's Office, at the Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

This ordinance allows the Borough to increase construction code fees.

This ordinance is scheduled for public hearing and adoption on April 13, 2010, at 7:30 P.M., Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey.

Eleanor McGovern
Borough Clerk
1 T - 3/18/10, The Times Fee: \$20.40

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 10-03-R AND PUBLIC HEARING

An ordinance was introduced by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood on March 9, 2010. Copies of this ordinance can be obtained without cost in the Clerk's Office, at the Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

This ordinance amends Chapter 184 of the Borough Code to correct an error in cross-referencing a section of the Land Use Ordinance.

This ordinance is scheduled for public hearing and adoption on April 13, 2010, at 7:30 P.M., Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey.

Eleanor McGovern
Borough Clerk
1 T - 3/18/10, The Times Fee: \$21.93

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT, BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
1035 PARKWAY AVENUE, PO BOX 605
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Notice is hereby given that bid proposals will be received via the Internet until 10:00:59 A.M. on **3/23/10**, downloaded, and publicly opened and read, from Bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27:7-35.1 et seq.; in the CONFERENCE ROOM-A, 1st Floor F & A Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey 08625; for:

Maintenance Drainage Repair Contract, North - 2010, Various locations including and North of Route 57, Counties of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, and Warren; 100% State; DP No: 10422

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127 N.J.A.C. 17:27. The awarded bidder must provide a completed Contractor Certification and Disclosure of Political Contribution Form(s) according to both P.L. 2205, C.51 and Executive Order No. 117 within fourteen (14) days from the award date. Executive Order No: 117 is effective on November 15, 2008. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, all bidders must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Revenue, Business Registration, as of the date of bids. The awarded bidder must provide proof of valid business registration within fourteen (14) days from the award date. Pursuant to the "Public Works Contractor Registration Act", N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.48 et seq. (P.L. 2003, c. 91), all bidders must be registered with the New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Wage and Hour Compliance, at the time of bid. The awarded bidder must provide proof of PWCR within fourteen (14) days from the award date.

The Department, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C., 49 C.F.R., Parts 21 and 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or handicap in the project award.

Plans, specifications, and bidding information for the proposed work are available at Bid Express website www.bidx.com. You must subscribe to use this service. To subscribe follow the instructions on the website. Fees apply to downloading documents and plans and bidding access. The fee schedule is available on the web site. All fees are directly payable to Bid Express. Plans, specifications, and bidding information may be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organizations at our Design Field Offices at the following locations:

200 Stierli Court Mt. Arlington, NJ 973-770-5141	Route 79 and Daniels Way Freehold, NJ 732-308-4025	1 Executive Campus Rt 70W Cherry Hill, NJ 856-486-6624
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3 T - 3/4/10, 3/11/10 and 3/18/10, The Leader Fee: \$198.90

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APARTMENT FOR RENT

Westfield. Attractive 2 BR duplex near town & transp. Updated granite kitchen. W/D, HHW Flrs, CAC. Incl. garage. \$1800/mo.
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Central Ave., Westfield.
700 sq. ft, parking, H/W incl. perf. for retail or office.
\$1450/mo.
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Letters to the Editor
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Watchdog Asks AG If Mirabella Agreement Was Act of ‘Favoritism’

Editor's Note: The following letter includes excerpts from a letter sent to state Attorney General (AG) Paula Dow.

Through a series of Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests it has come to our attention that the Borough of Garwood (GW) signed an agreement with Officer Genarro Mirabella that stipulates he would resign in exchange for having two disciplinary actions dismissed.

A request to the state's AG was made for an investigation into whether favoritism or other improper purpose influenced any officials involved.

a.) The Mirabella incident involved a police officer who is the brother of the Democrat Union County (UC) Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, who was up for election in 2009, the year of the incident and who did not need a negative incident involving a close sibling just months before the election;

b.) UC government at every instance during January 2010 after the incident was resolved internally denied OPRA requests from the public for any paperwork regarding any investigations or determinations involving the freeholder brother's criminal actions, responding that none are in existence. Yet, two letters signed by the UC Prosecutor's Office turned up in the GW files. This, in itself, may prove some nefarious political involvement and cover-up and is of particular concern because the UC Prosecutor's Office should be above such petty political tactics;

c.) The GW municipal clerk also initially tried to deny access to records under OPRA;

d.) The GW borough attorney, Robert Renaud, who was involved throughout this investigation and settlement as an overseer of the process and was involved in the advice to the borough during the incident is the vice-chairman of the UC Democrat Committee who guides the selection and campaign of the democrat freeholders including Freeholder Mirabella, who was up for election. Mr. Renaud's law firm, in which he is a partner, is a UC vendor;

e.) The mayor of GW, Dennis McCarthy, is a Democrat and was put in a position to decide if the borough would pursue further charges of criminal trespass against the brother of a freeholder. He is also a UC vendor. His company, Garwood Auto Parts, receives tens of thousands of dollars annually from UC.

f.) The UC Prosecutors Office, which chose not to prosecute the freeholder chairman's brother, is headed by a Democrat political appointee, Theodore Romankow, who a few years ago was the subject of approved state legislation adjusting his tenure in government in order to bump his pension to approximately \$100,000 per year;

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 10-01-S AND PUBLIC HEARING

An ordinance was introduced by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood on March 9, 2010. Copies of this ordinance can be obtained without cost in the Clerk's Office, at the Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

This ordinance allows the Borough to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits.

This ordinance is scheduled for public hearing and adoption on April 13, 2010, at 7:30 P.M., Fanwood Borough Hall, 75 North Martine Avenue, Fanwood, New Jersey.

Eleanor McGovern
Borough Clerk
1 T - 3/18/10, The Times Fee: \$21.42

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on **APRIL 1, 2010**, at 7:30 pm in the Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains, the Zoning Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing in the first floor Council Chambers to consider the following appeal:

1801 Front Street, LLC, for a Use Variance to convert the single-family dwelling into a two-unit multi-family dwelling (a one-bedroom unit and a two-bedroom unit) at property located at 1801 Front Street, Block 1001, Lot 62, B-1 Zone contrary to the following section of the zoning ordinance: **Section 23-3.9 B-1 Office and Multi-Family Zone, Permitted Uses:**

4. Townhouse developments at a density of not over 12 bedrooms per acre...

5. Garden apartments at a density of not over 12 bedrooms per acre...

Section 23-3.4A, Schedule of Lot, Yard and Building Regulations: Required: One acre; Existing & Proposed: 13,340 square feet.

The file pertaining to this application is in the Office of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, 430 Park Avenue, 2nd Floor, Scotch Plains and available for public inspection during regular office hours.

Barbara Horev, Secretary
Zoning Board of Adjustment
1 T - 3/18/10, The Times Fee: \$29.07

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Franchised Dance Studios

MEDICAL MASSAGE
Westfield - After you have tried everything for your lower back pain (especially Sciatica Pain) but still have pain, come see me. Please call Jason Wang for an appointment at 37 Elm St.
(908) 233-7790 or cell (908) 487-8375

Letters to the Editor
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Watchdog Asks AG If Mirabella Agreement Was Act of ‘Favoritism’

g.) The state AG's Office that elected not to prosecute "in the interests of justice" is a political appointment position under the recently ousted Governor Jon Corzine. The state AG's Office recently had two out of four state attorney generals forced to step down under high profile abuse of power situations, which raises questions of this department's integrity. Since then, former Essex County Prosecutor Paula Dow has taken the helm of the agency;

h.) The Superior Court judge for the final "expungement" hearing is the brother-in-law of Assemblyman Joseph Cryan, a main Democrat political force who oversaw state Democrat elections on higher levels and who works for UC as a high-paid under-sheriff, and who is closely aligned to the freeholders, who are in all appearances his employer.

This is a matter of public safety concern, not only because of the possible deceit of political appointees, government employees and elected officials, Genarro Mirabella, since the record may be now expunged, can work as a police officer again, as the agreement signed by the GW mayor under the consent of the GW borough attorney stipulates that future employers will be told he left in good standing.

Upon this record, I believe that a reasonable member of the public might suspect that Mirabella was spared prosecution due to his status as a police officer and a freeholder's brother and that all participants in this had reason to attempt a cover-up.

Tina Renna, President
UC Watchdog Assoc.
Cranford

‘Gratified’ With WF Teachers’ Contract

I read with interest your lead article in last week's issue about the new Westfield Board of Education (BOE) three-year contract with the Westfield Education Association (WEA). I was extremely gratified to learn that it included agreements that will reduce the BOE's health insurance costs by almost \$1 million for each and every year of the contract.

In this day and age, when healthcare costs are spiraling completely out of control, it is absolutely remarkable that the BOE and WEA collaborated to reach an agreement that achieves such a huge savings in health insurance to the district. The willingness of teachers to accept a healthcare package that costs them significantly more in out-of-pocket payments for healthcare, and that eliminates the superior coverage of indemnity insurance, is a testament to their dedication to this school district.

As a Westfield taxpayer, and as a parent of two elementary school children in Westfield, I applaud the BOE and the WEA for seeking new ways to reduce costs. This reaffirms my belief that the school system in this town is run by responsible individuals who seek to provide the best caliber education in the most cost-efficient way possible. Kudos to all.

Susana MacLean
Westfield

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF WESTFIELD
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

SPECIAL MEETING

The Board of Adjustment of the Town of Westfield, New Jersey will hold a special meeting on April 14, 2010 in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, New Jersey at 7:30 pm to hear and consider the following appeal for preliminary and final major site plan approval and for variance relief from requirements of the Westfield Land Use Ordinance. Formal action may be taken at that meeting:

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey, 215 East Grove Street, Applicant seeks preliminary and final major site plan approval to use the existing office building as a diocesan headquarters, to use the second floor as a residence for its bishops and to use the basement as a meeting space. Applicant seeks 'c' variance relief to allow a maximum all improvement coverage of 66.3% where 50% is allowed and to allow 26 parking spaces where 38 spaces are required. Applicant seeks 'd' variance relief to allow the basement to be used as a meeting space where that use is not allowed.

Premier Communities, LLC (Assignee of Millenium Properties), 1464 East Broad Street, Applicant seeks Final Major Site Plan approval to construct 4 townhouse style condominium units within 2 principal structures.

Variances, waivers or exceptions from certain site plan details or relief from requirements may be sought as appropriate.

The application and plans are on file in the office of the Secretary of the Board of Adjustment, 959 North Avenue West, Westfield, New Jersey and may be seen Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.
Kathleen Nemeth
Board Secretary

1 T - 3/18/10, The Leader Fee: \$41.31



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Alice in Wonderland: Goes Tourist Class

By MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER
2 and 1/2 popcorns

Improper English or not, Alice's estimation of her escapade being "curiouser and curiouser" might also apply to the uneasiness which permeates director Tim Burton's variation of Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland." All the king's horses and all the king's men, artistically speaking, couldn't satisfyingly reconstruct the classic.

Maybe it's a matter of the obvious being too obvious. You would think the existentially gifted Burton is our realm's best choice to convey the signature literary nonsense Mr. Carroll so enigmatically purveyed. But then one might fail to note that the original work is so iconic in its uniqueness that it makes small anything but a literal interpretation.

Granted, while etching his *Alice in Wonderland* from the Victorian author's "Alice" books via an adaptation by screenwriter Linda Woolverton, Burton imparts much less of his imprint than usual. But while doubtless a respectful nod to the hallowed material, it points out his tragic dilemma. Compromise is hardly as tolerated in art as it is in politics.

Hence the only creative option left for the filmmaker is special effects, taken here to the third power through the razzamatazz of 3-D. Everybody's doing it, you know, whether it benefits the effort or not. And indeed there's a lot to be said for the occasionally witty eye-fel of the resurgent craze offers. In this case, it's a new reason to hum the scenery.

Maybe the process is only a fad, like sound or color. Which is all well and good if you've come to the movie house to see butterflies flit right before your nose. However, the film, matched to a narrative hard-pressed to get everything told in a period of time that will suit a PG audience of ever-decreasing attention span, is equal parts novelty and distraction.

Happily, the fantastical portrayals are less difficult to discern from the muddling firmament. Johnny Depp is a pip as the Mad Hatter, realized in a high relief that philosophically matches his wild visual impact. Save that he's an agent of insurrection, the real delight is in not knowing exactly what he is.

Projecting her equally outrageous persona from behind makeup and goth knows what other filmic magic is Helena Bonham Carter as the villainous Red Queen, bulbous head and all. Doing her bidding, Crispin Glover does a good Basil Rathbone as the Knave of Hearts. And Anne Hathaway is appropriately angelic and gossamer as the White Queen.

Managing to keep a semblance of sanity while challenged by the reverie-inspired land at the bottom of the rabbit hole, Mia Wasikowska is just about everything we expect of an Alice. British and upper crust, but too smart to be swayed by convention for convention's sake, her adventure begins when she is expected to marry Mr. So Totally Wrong.

But while conveniently slipping down into the world of white rabbits, blue caterpillars and the other fanciful denizens who inhabit the recurring dream, her stay is somewhat longer this go-round, or so it seems. Years ago, prior to her Dad's passing, she described it to him, explaining that time was quite a different thing in these mysterious journeys.

Whether or not Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, the mathematics professor at Oxford University better known as Lewis Carroll, was on to the theory of relativity or merely prepping us for the psychedelic '60's, there's no denying the radical sentiment. With the Industrial Revolution in motion, social upheaval and new ideas were imminent.

Thus Alice, put upon to wed a dummy nobleman of society's choice, not only escapes said fate, but becomes a catalyst of change in her brave new world. To accommodate the trip, Carroll spins new mores and folkways at every turn. And if the chemists can invent new ways to crack coal for its energy, well, then he can add a word or two to the lexicon.

Pity is, you can almost see the seams between the storyboards as the film conservatively moves its revolutionary message from scene to scene. It lags. But maybe not for its target audience. Going on the theory that children possess natural hallucinogens until which time they fill out a W-4 form, one must not underestimate what they may or may not dig.

Although the rows of urchins I saw it with took a while to settle in, ultimately they were drawn into the one-two punch of rebellion and 3-D. Still, parents should heed the PG rating. While the violence isn't why I cried to go home, kids under 10 are likely to find that, even if served by a great Mad Hatter, *Alice in Wonderland* isn't their cup of tea.

Alice in Wonderland, rated PG, is a Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures release directed by Tim Burton and stars Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Mia Wasikowska. Running time: 108 minutes.

WF Student Performs In Vagina Monologues

WESTFIELD – Kristen Caruana, a freshman at Connecticut College, performed in the college's production of *The Vagina Monologues*, the popular international play that celebrates the sexuality and strength of women.

Kristen, a 2009 graduate of Mount Saint Mary Academy, is the daughter of Sal and Darleen Caruana of Westfield.

This is the seventh consecutive year Connecticut College students have performed the play to raise money for charity.

This year, students donated proceeds from the performance to the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut and the Connecticut College's Women's Center. Portions of the proceeds also went toward stopping sexual violence against women and girls from the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Susan M. Dougherty for The Westfield Leader and The Times
CAUGHT IN THE ACT...Inspector Hubbard (Dickson Lane) calls in his suspicions to Scotland Yard headquarters while Tony Wendice (A.J. Liana), center, catches his wife Margot (Alexandra Drori) in the arms of her lover Max Halliday (Brian Remo) in Westfield Community Players' production of *Dial 'M' for Murder*. The Frederick Knott thriller that was made into an Alfred Hitchcock movie starring Ray Milland, Robert Cummings and Grace Kelly, continues weekends through Saturday, March 27. For tickets, call (908) 232-1221.

Knott's Thriller 'Dial M' Continues at WF Theatre

WESTFIELD – Westfield Community Players (WCP) continues the 2009-2010 season with Frederick Knott's thriller *Dial M for Murder*. The show continues Friday and Saturday evenings, March 20, 26 and 27, at 8 p.m.

This thriller presents A.J. Liana as Tony Wendice, who has married Margot (Alexandra Drori) for her money and now plans to murder her for the same reason. As the arranged murder takes place, Margot survives by killing the murderer.

As Tony seizes the opportunity to twist the story and get his wife convicted for killing the hired killer, a suspicious Scotland Yard team, led by Dickson Lane as Inspector Hubbard and Ken Ludmer of Westfield as Captain Lesgate, investigates.

The 24-hour ticket tape can be reached at (908) 232-1221, and all reserved seating is \$20. The theater is located at 1000 North Avenue West. To learn more, visit westfieldcommunityplayers.org.

Oratorio Singers to Celebrate 30th Anniversary with Gala

WESTFIELD – The Oratorio Singers of Westfield, under the baton of Trent Johnson, will celebrate 30 years of significant choral works performances with soloists and orchestra at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 21, in the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church, located at 1 East Broad Street in Westfield.

The program will feature the premiere of Mr. Johnson's *Concert Overture*, J. S. Bach's *Easter Oratorium*, BWV 249, the premiere of a newly commissioned work for the occasion – *Prayer and Litany for the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi* by Philip R. Dietterich – and G. F. Handel's *Coronation Anthems*.

Soloists will include soprano Rachel Rosales, mezzo Patrizia Conte, tenor Frederick Urrey and baritone Patrick Blackwell. Oratorio welcomes Rev. Dietterich, who will return this year and share the podium with Mr. Johnson as he directs his special commemorative prayer and litany.

It was on March 1, 1970, that Rev. Dietterich, then-minister of music at Westfield's First United Methodist Church, conducted a performance to a sellout audience of the newly discovered Foundling Hospital version of G. F. Handel's complete *Messiah*.

Jr. Musical Club Performs Ensemble Concert, Mar. 20

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Junior Music Club will present its annual Ensemble Concert on Saturday, March 20, at 7 p.m. in the First Baptist Church, located at 170 Elm Street in Westfield. Club members in eighth grade and high school from the local area will play together in duets and trios.

The public is welcome to attend the concert free of charge. Refreshments will be served at a reception following the performance.

During the evening, the audience will hear Debora Wu, clarinet, Yixiao Wang, flute, and Sue Xiao, piano, play *Réverie Russe* by Ernest Cavallini; Joanne Li and Belle Lin, violins, Yixiao Wang and Sue Xiao play *Suite en trio* by Mel Bonis; Anna Dugan, soprano, Deborah Wu, and Maria Niemiera, piano, present *The Shepherd on the Rock* by Franz Schubert; Brenda Li, violin, Bernard Lin, viola, Eddie Chang, piano, play *Presto* from *Sinfonia Concertante* in E-Flat Major by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; Marissa Berlant, Maxim Kachalov and David Mandala, on one piano, play *Carmen*.

High School Musical 2 Arrives at Mother Seton

CLARK – Students at Mother Seton Regional High School, in Clark, will perform in *High School Musical 2* at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings, March 26 and March 27. A matinee performance is scheduled for Sunday, March 28, at 2 p.m.

All performances will be held in the school auditorium. The play is under the direction of Peggy Hak, and Sister Theo Furniss serves as play coordinator.

Locally, Joseph Ventura of Westfield is appearing as Troy, and Hannah Clark of Scotch Plains will portray Sharpay. Catherine Serzan of Westfield is one of the "Sharpettes."

Maddie Holt of Fanwood serves as a stage manager. Cristina Venture of Westfield handles sound production.

Tickets may be purchased at the school from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and will be available at the door for each performance unless otherwise sold out. To learn more, call (732) 382-1952.



THE ENSEMBLE... Junior Musical Club members perform Saturday, March 20, at 7 p.m. Pictured, front row, left to right, are: Brenda Li, Belle Lin and Mary Lambert; at the piano: Amanda Chen and Joanne Li; top, left to right, are: Sue Xiao, Ben Chen, Maria Niemiera, Debbie Wu, Marissa Berlant, David Mandala, Maxim Kachalov, Anna Dugan, Chloe Baron, Yixiao Wang, Rachel Baron, Kevin Madison, Alex Goldschmidt and Jenny Amador.

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Arts & Entertainment



Jenny Krasner, "Good Luck With Your Search"

When Writing Meets Visual Art, 'It's Personal'

By MARYLOU MORANO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

AREA – "It's Personal," a recent exhibit at Union County College's Tomasulo Gallery, put to rest the idea that writing and art are mutually exclusive forms of creativity.

Three artists – Dahlia Elsayed, Jenny Krasner and Amy Wilson – contributed to this exhibit. Each piece of exhibited artwork was composed

not only of the traditional artistic media, like acrylics and watercolor, but also contained the written word as an integral part of its composition.

The incorporation of writing into a piece of artwork creates a dilemma for the viewer, and brings to light questions not normally faced when viewing art.

One of the questions that needed to be answered is how much of the work's impact is due to the writing, and how much is due to the artist's talent, media choice and presentation.

The exhibit also questions if the writing enhanced the quality of the art or detracted from it.

In "It's Personal," evidence of both was found, and it seemed to depend on how much of the writing was incorporated into a particular piece.

Ms. Elsayed's large sweeping pieces contained little writing, save the words, "I'm A Mess" and "I'm A Wreck" swimming in masses of acrylic-produced circles. In this, what the artist defines as an "emotional map," the writing is gigantic as compared to the circles, making each creation more a piece of writing than of art.

The emphasis on art as a vehicle for personal narrative is quite a bit more obvious in Ms. Wilson's work. The tiny and often-difficult-to-read script set in a cartoon balloon fashion takes forever to read. At the same time, however, the writing allows the viewer to experience the multi-dimensional aspect of a piece of art that contains many figures.

This rarely happens in art. Her watercolors explore issues central to women, and many of her pieces are reflective of her own experiences and, therefore, could be considered self-portraits.

Ms. Krasner's acrylic prints are a collage of words and found objects. The dialogue inherent in her work balances out Ms. Wilson's artistic monologue and Ms. Elsayed's paucity of words.

Rocio Aranda-Alvarado, the associate curator at El Museo del Barrio in New York City, curated "It's Personal."

Currently featured through April 17 at Tomasulo Gallery is "Playing Politics," a solo show of the work of Susan Hamburger that addresses contemporary social and political issues.

The Tomasulo Gallery is housed in the Kenneth Campbell MacKay Library, located on the Cranford Campus.

For more information, contact the gallery at (908) 709-7155.



Susan M. Dougherty for The Westfield Leader and The Times
CRACKING THE MYSTERY...At the end of Act II, the principal performers get to kick up their heels in Westfield High School's production *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

Unfinished Business: WHS Actors Finalize Dickens' *Drood*

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD – If you entered the Westfield High School (WHS) auditorium last weekend, you got a taste of London's Music Hall Royale in the 1890s with the presentation of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Even the lobby was bedecked in a lace-curtained ceiling. Costumed ushers mingled with guests and the actors beforehand to create a comfortable, Victorian-vaudeville atmosphere.

The Mystery of Edwin Drood, a musical with book, music, lyrics and orchestration by Rupert Holmes (see lower right), is based on the uncompleted final novel of Charles Dickens.

The musical utilizes two conventions known well to the author and people of England during that time period. A "Principal Boy" (sometimes called the "Lead Boy") – a young, beautiful female impersonating a male role – and British pantomime were popular styles presented in music halls.

The British pantomime, referred to as "Panto," was a musical theatrical production that used buffoonery, slapstick and audience participation. A night in the Victorian theater meant raucous, risqué comedy usually pulled together by a master of ceremonies.

In Holmes' show, which is really a show-within-a-show, Chairman Cartwright (Garrett Verdone) introduces the supposedly famous British actors as they appear on stage.

The assumption is that the London audiences would know and recognize these famous singers. The Chairman tells the audience who will play what and walks them through the Dickens' plot all the while adding clever improvisational comments.

At first, the audience doesn't quite know what to make of the audience/actor interaction with almost a cabaret-like atmosphere. The show is done tongue-in-cheek with asides and glances to the audience who later get in on the fun by hissing and booing at the appropriate moments when the Chairman and his able assistant Jana Throttle/Stage Manager and Barkeep (Colleen McCabe) give them the nod.

The show is named for young Edwin Drood (Sarah Szollar), but also recounts the tale of his uncle, John Jasper (Peter Surace), who is an opium-den-frequenting choirmaster with an unhealthy lust for his pupil Rosa Bud (Catalina Gaglioti).

Since their births, Rosa and Edwin have been betrothed, but she has caught the eye of a hot-tempered man named Neville Landless (Daniel Berman), who comes from Ceylon with his twin sister, Helena (Olivia Ryan).

They are chaperoned in this country by their guardian, the Reverend Crisparkle (Chris Morrissey). After Neville Landless and Drood have a heated exchange on Christmas Eve, Drood disappears under mysterious circumstances, and his bloodied coat is found. Charles Dickens died before the story could be finished, so the intended ending remains a true mystery.

This is where Rupert Holmes, the author of the Tony- and Drama Desk-award-winning show, lets the audience decide upon three aspects of the ending: the culprit, the sleuth and the lovers. By audience vote, two of the three are selected at the end of Act II.

Director Daniel Devlin has assembled a stellar cast of incredible triple threats: actors who can sing, dance and act. Under the baton of conductor/music director Kenneth Horn, the symphony-like orchestra is comprised of mainly students of All-State caliber.

Choreographer Samantha Hahn

keeps the dozen or so dancers lively and spry. "Jasper's Vision," a visual ballet, is especially well done with the hallucinations in black wispy costumes. The scenic design by Roy Chambers, as usual, is Broadway quality.

Each voice in this production is as special as the next. Peter Surace's stirring rendition of "A Man Could Go Quite Mad" is a portent of things to come with his character.

"Moonfall" tops the list of dramatic numbers, with spectacular vocals by Ms. Gaglioti and later in the reprise with Helena (Olivia Ryan), Wendy (Melissa Riegel) and Evelyn (Amelia Morabito).

Princess Puffer (Rebecca Skowron) plays her role with a tinge of "Sweeney Todd's" Mrs. Lovett – wonderfully wielding her fan like Lovett's rolling pin. In "Puffer's Revelation" and "The Garden Path to Hell," she offers an emotional range of hate and poignancy.

When Sarah Szollar (as Drood) and Catalina Gaglioti (as Rosa) join voices in "Perfect Strangers," the audience is spellbound. Likewise, "No Good Can come From Bad" is a harmonious delight by Neville, Rosa, Helena, Drood, Crisparkle, Jasper and Bazzard.

On opening night, the audience was especially fond of Chris Morrissey as Reverend Crisparkle and Adam Ziering as Durdles The Gravedigger, as well as with his sidekick Deputy, played by Chris Mench. A delightful surprise of the show was Matt Lynn's poignantly played Bazzard, whose ballad portion of the song "Never the Luck" could be a theme of anyone who has longed for an elusive spotlight.

The talented ensemble gets to wow the audience by spilling into it and onto the roundabout, the ramp around the orchestra, in "Both Sides of the Coin" and "Off to the Races," which was a takeoff on a favorite of the London audiences.

Even during intermission, the cast members juggled and entertained the audience with their interaction. Supporting the adage, "There are no small parts," Director Devlin has given all cast members their much deserved moments to shine.



Courtesy of Elizabeth Ryan
Rupert Holmes chats with WHS thespians at intermission

A Tale of Two Towns and One Author

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

AREA – Rupert Holmes, writer of both *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and *Curtains*, two musicals presented by Westfield High School (WHS) and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS), got to see both productions this past weekend and was able to speak to both student drama groups.

Before that, however, he had a phone interview on Saturday afternoon with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*, while he was being driven to Westfield for their evening show.

Mr. Holmes' link to the Scotch Plains/Westfield/Fanwood area is through Judy McNickel and her husband Jim, his accountant and longtime friend.

In fact, Mr. Holmes said, there is a reference in *Curtains* to a "Detective McNickel" as a shout-out to the three McNickel children: Maddie, Carlisle and Jimmie.

"I'm their honorary 'Uncle Rupert,'" Mr. Holmes said. "I've known the kids since they were born, so I've always had an interest in things in Scotch Plains. It's a town I care about," he explained.

Additionally, Teresa Jennings, his associate, is from Cranford, so he has visited this area repeatedly.

Curtains was originally conceived and written by Peter Stone, but he died in 2003 before the music and lyrics with John Kander and Fred Ebb were

completed.

Similarly, Dickens died before the completion of his last novel, *Edwin Drood*, which was serialized in magazines. Mr. Holmes rewrote that mystery adding lyrics and music to transform it into a Victorian-vaudeville musical set in London.

At the renowned musical duo's request, Mr. Holmes rewrote *Curtains*. "When I was privileged to be asked to rewrite *Curtains*," Mr. Holmes said, "there were a few unfinished lyrics, and it was my good fortune to be able to collaborate with John (Kander)."

A favorite song of his in that show is "I Miss the Music, I Miss the Song." He wrote the introductory lead to that special song that really "is John's song in honoring the memory of his collaborative partner Fred (Ebb) [who died in 2004]."

From *Drood*, the song "Moonfall," he feels, is one of his best art songs. "A thrill of mine was hearing opera star Renee Fleming sing it in Carnegie Hall. She knew I was in the audience and had me stand to be recognized."

In conclusion, he explained, one of his favorite songs in *Curtains* is "Show People," which he said is "an anthem that sums up why actors realize 'the show must go on.'" He explained, "It's my love letter to musical theater."

And the performances of the two high schools were their love letters right back at him.

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WF's Wicke Announces Young Artist Competition

WESTFIELD – Candace Wicke, executive director of The Continuo Arts Foundation of Westfield, announced the "Young Artist Debut Series." It is designed to promote and present one of the nation's finest young artists in his or her Carnegie Hall debut on November 29, on the "Christmas Time in the City" concert series.

Outstanding young artists, either vocal or instrumental, may apply. Application forms and competition details may be found at continuoarts.com.

From the applications received, the top 10 finalists will be invited to perform live at the Historic Twin Maples Estate in Summit before a judging panel

that will include Ms. Wicke and other professionals of note.

The winning artist will be a featured soloist on November 29, in the second "Christmas Time in the City" concert in Carnegie Hall. Early registration deadline is April 30, and the submission deadline is June 15.

Last November, the Continuo Arts Symphonic Chorus and Orchestra ushered in the holiday season with the world premiere of "A Carol Fantasy" by Stephen James Edwards.

For information about the Young Artist Competition or upcoming events, visit continuoarts.com or call (908) 254-5324.



Photo courtesy of Joan Barron
'HIGH SCHOOL' DRAMA...High School Musical 2 arrives at Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark. Pictured, standing, from left to right, are: Anthony Green, Joseph Ventura, Carlo Austria and Paul Rosato. Below, kneeling and sitting, from left to right, are: Megan Garbarino, Lauren Mateo, Soley Esteves and Takisha Pierre.